

ISSUE 2

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# SKIM PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater  
Development Effectiveness



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## A YEAR IN REVIEW

2019

## National Writeshops

Three regional writeshops were organized in project target countries to develop innovation plans for improved knowledge management (KM) frameworks tailored to the needs of participating institutions.



(1) Sudan Writeshop, 22 October 2019

The events were divided into two parts: 1) basic introduction to KM 2) workshops that helped stakeholders from participating institutions identify needs related to KM processes and opportunities for capacity development.

June

August

October

November

## Capacity Needs Assessment

After the regional inception workshop in 2018, the SKIM team launched a process to understand the current state of KM and knowledge sharing within target organizations to determine the project baseline. The assessment identifies KM capacity gaps in need of improvement.

## SKIM Regional Workshop

This workshop was designed to bring together key stakeholders from each target country and launch communities of practice around key thematic in order to facilitate cross-regional knowledge exchange and support the development of KM best practices in Moldova, Morocco and Sudan.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020:

## Training Courses

Starting in 2020, face to face or online courses on KM will be offered in each SKIM target country (two have been planned for this year). Specific thematic content will be tailored to each country based on the Capacity Needs Assessment.

## Learning Routes

In collaboration with project partner PROCASUR, at least one learning route will be implemented in each partner country during the project (the first learning route will be planned in 2020) in order strengthen the KM networks of local institutions.



(2) Dr. Akramkhanov at Moldova Writeshop  
15 October 2019

## What is the value of knowledge management?

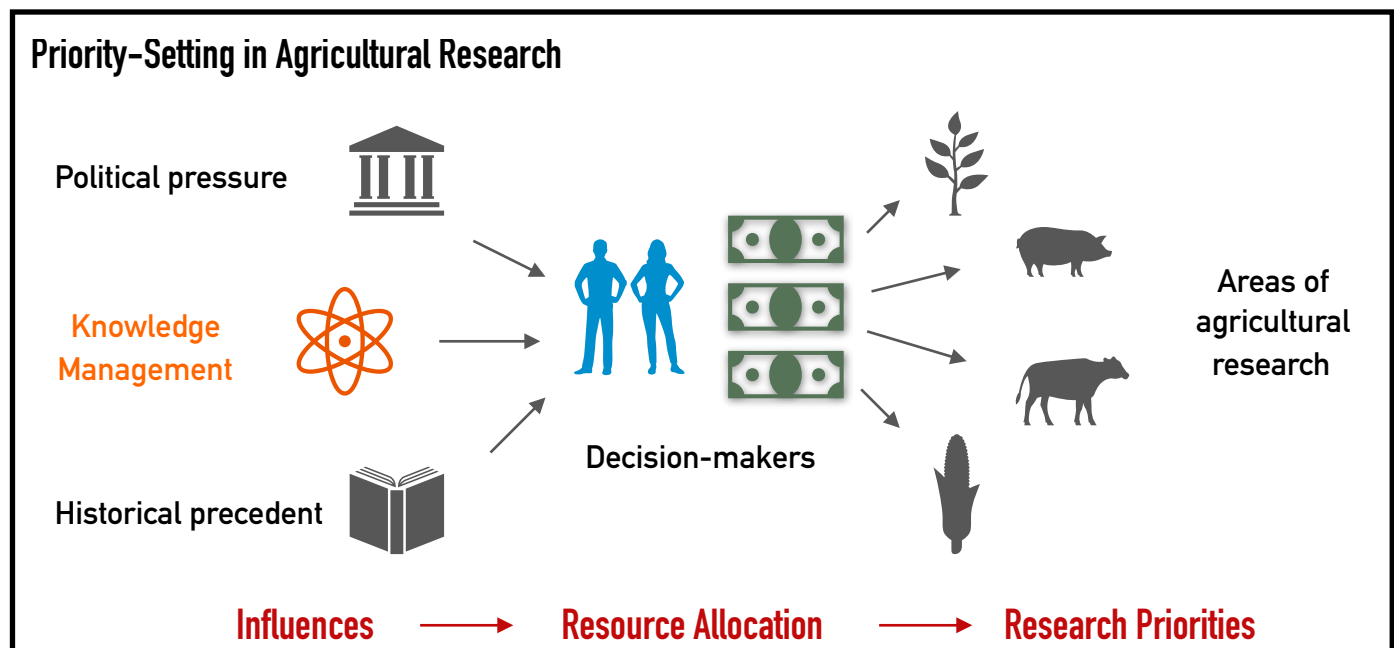
In 2020, Professor Jeffrey Alwang of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University will conduct an impact assessment study as part of the SKIM project framework. His goal is to assess the economic value of knowledge management (KM). Decision makers may be reluctant to invest in KM without understanding the value to them or their institution of such investments. KM creates economic value in two main ways:

- (i) By **reducing the time and other costs of obtaining knowledge** needed for decision making.
- (ii) By **reducing the uncertainty** associated with decision options.



(3) Professor Jeffrey Alwang, Virginia Tech

To first demonstrate the value of KM in helping institutions make **informed decisions**, Professor Alwang will focus his study on **agricultural research priority setting**. He will use his results to show how enhanced KM facilities help decision-makers to allocate resources to research areas that bring about the best economic benefits for their country.



Starting in Sudan in **April 2020**, Professor Alwang will conduct workshops and interviews with key stakeholders on the country's agriculture research portfolio. Then, he will use this data and economic modeling to calculate the benefits from these research investments, and how changes in the research portfolio might result in gains/losses for producers and consumers. Second, to see how this knowledge influences priority setting in agriculture research, Professor Alwang will present his results to the Ministry of Agriculture. By measuring the impact of his information on decision-making, he can evaluate how enhanced knowledge management can influence the allocation of resources in agriculture research, maximizing benefits for producers and consumers in the target country.



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

SUDANESE KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY LAUNCHES  
CITIZEN SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM SERIES

Starting in November, the Sudanese Knowledge Society launched a series of “Citizen Science” symposiums. According to one of the symposium co-organizers, the goal of the initiative is to facilitate “the democratization of science, presenting an opportunity for all sections of society to contribute to, and benefit from, the knowledge of science.”



(4) Citizen Science Symposium Part1, November 2 2019

The first symposium focused on establishing a common understanding of citizen science, related policies and applications in Sudan and beyond. The event featured a roundtable of stakeholders from various public and private sectors (including academic and civil society organizations) followed by discussion among participants and presentations of local projects related to citizen-engagement in science. The second symposium, taking place in February, will build upon these concepts by helping participants crowd-source knowledge and obtain other knowledge management techniques for their institutions’ research projects.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## International Seminar: Agriculture Facing Climate Change

Hosted by IAV Hassan II (Morocco) , March 15- 22, 2020 - find event details [here](#)

## African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage

Hosted by IAV Hassan II (Morocco) , March 16- 19, 2020 - find event details [here](#)

## Citizen Science – Part II

Hosted by the Sudanese Knowledge Society, January 25th and February 1st, 2020 - find event details [here](#)

Missed the first newsletter? Find it [here](#)

## SKIM PROJECT IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



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