

SKiM

**Strengthening Knowledge Management
for Greater Development Effectiveness
in the Near East, North Africa,
Central Asia and Europe**



SKiM 2023 Steering Committee Meeting

Mihaela Cojocaru
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IFAD Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit (CPIU IFAD)

14th -15th March 2023



Procasur



2022 KM Activities Summary & Timeline



PARTICIPANTS

Research Institute of Field Crops “Selectia”

State Agrarian University of Moldova

Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) “Viitorul”

IFAD Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit (CPIU IFAD)



COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

For participating and conducting activities within the Project





Research Institute of Field Crops “Selectia”

Public Institution – Selectia Research Institute of Field Crops is one of the leading centers in the field of crop science and agriculture in the Republic of Moldova

Selectia Research Institute of Field Crops was founded in Balti in January 1944 in former USSR under the initial name Selectia - Experimental Station of SSR Moldova.

In 1956 on the base of this Station in Balti and the section of Crop Science which belonged to the Academy of Science of Moldova the Moldavian Research Institute in Agriculture was founded.

In 1961 the institute was transformed in the Moldavian Research Institute for Crop Breeding, Seed Production and Technology of Field Crops. In 1972 it was transformed in the Research Institute of Field Crops.

During the whole period of activity (during 75 years) in the SRIFC “Selectia” 357 varieties and hybrids were bred, including 163 varieties and hybrids registered in Moldova and abroad.

Participant



State Agrarian University of Moldova

The State Agrarian University of Moldova has trained over 55 thousand specialists, including 2 211 as masters in agriculture, engineering, and economic sciences.

Currently, over 4,000 students are studying at the State Agrarian University of Moldova in 6 faculties comprising 25 specialties in the first cycle, 22 specialties in the second cycle, and 24 scientific specialties in the third cycle.

The institution has a valuable intellectual potential and a rich infrastructure for teaching activities, scientific research, and provides students with good quality social, cultural, and sports services.

The results of scientific research conducted in the fields of horticulture, viticulture, poultry, agricultural engineering, sanitary-veterinary, food safety, pharmaceuticals, etc., contained in a large number of monographs, manuals, scientific articles, patents, have been largely implemented in production - by developing new plant varieties and hybrids, by creating crossbreeds of birds and animals, by developing technologies in plant culture and animal husbandry.

Participant



Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) “Viitorul”

IDIS is an independent think tank, established in 1993 as a research and advocacy think tank, incorporated by Moldovan laws on non-for-profit and NGOs.

IDIS is combining social, political and economic research with solid advocacy components.

Institute consists from a number of cluster-fields (economics, taxation, decentralization, foreign policy, regional development, social and educational policy), where teams of dedicated experts conduct research, train or advocate for policy changes, with outstanding knowledge and expertise.

Training and Technical support to the Local and Regional Governments in Moldova, in municipal services delivery, access to budgetary information (open public budgets), creating labor and social opportunities to the people in need from the rural areas.

Participant

IFAD Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, the specialized agency of the United Nations, founded in 1977 as a multilateral international financial body.

The objectives of the International Fund for the Development of Agriculture are to provide financial assistance for the development of rural areas, in order to eradicate poverty and ensure food security in underdeveloped countries.

IFAD Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit (CPIU IFAD) was created by the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the implementation of IFAD programmes, after the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the International Agricultural Development Fund in 1996.

The components of the IFAD Programmes are implemented in accordance with the procedures established and approved by the IFAD in agreement with the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Summary of 2022 KM Activities

- National Technical Committee (online meeting 16th February 2022)
- Brainstorming on knowledge products and collaborations
- Communications with the representatives from SKiM about IFAD projects in Moldova and exploring synergies with SKiM project
- National Technical Committee (online meeting May 2022)
- [Agroindustrial complex: milestones for investment and export growth in Moldova study by Viorel Chivriga, economic policy expert, IDIS Viitorul \(english\)](#)
- Implementation of drones in precision agriculture. Politics recommendations for Moldova study by Dorin Afanas, expert, IDIS Viitorul (romanian)
- Knowledge and Innovation Transfer through Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs): Approaching the Entrepreneurship support through the design of business laboratory, training 03-07 October 2022
- Morocco Learning Route, period 19-26 June 2022

2022 KM Activities In Detail



Agenda

Round table: “Options and ideas for smart agriculture in Republic of Moldova”

Date: November 18, 2022, 10.00 a.m.

Address: Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, Iacob Hîncu 10/1 str., second floor, headquarter Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) „Viitorul”

	<p>Liubomir Chiriac, Executive Director, Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) „Viitorul”</p> <p>Mihaela Cojocaru, Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist, UCIP IFAD</p>
10.10 – 10.30	<p>Agro-industrial complex: benchmarks for investment and export growth of the most profitable branches of agriculture</p> <p>Viorel Chivriga, expert at Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) „Viitorul”</p>
10.30 - 10.45	<i>Q & A session</i>
10.45 – 11.05	<p>The use of drones in the development of smart agriculture</p> <p>Dorin Afanas, associate expert at Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) „Viitorul”</p>
11.05 – 11.20	<i>Q & A session</i>
11.20 – 12.00	Comments, conclusions and recommendations

2022 KM Activities In Detail



Agroindustrial complex: milestones for investment and export growth

A study by Viorel Chivriga, economic policy expert, IDIS Viitorul

Chisinau, 2022

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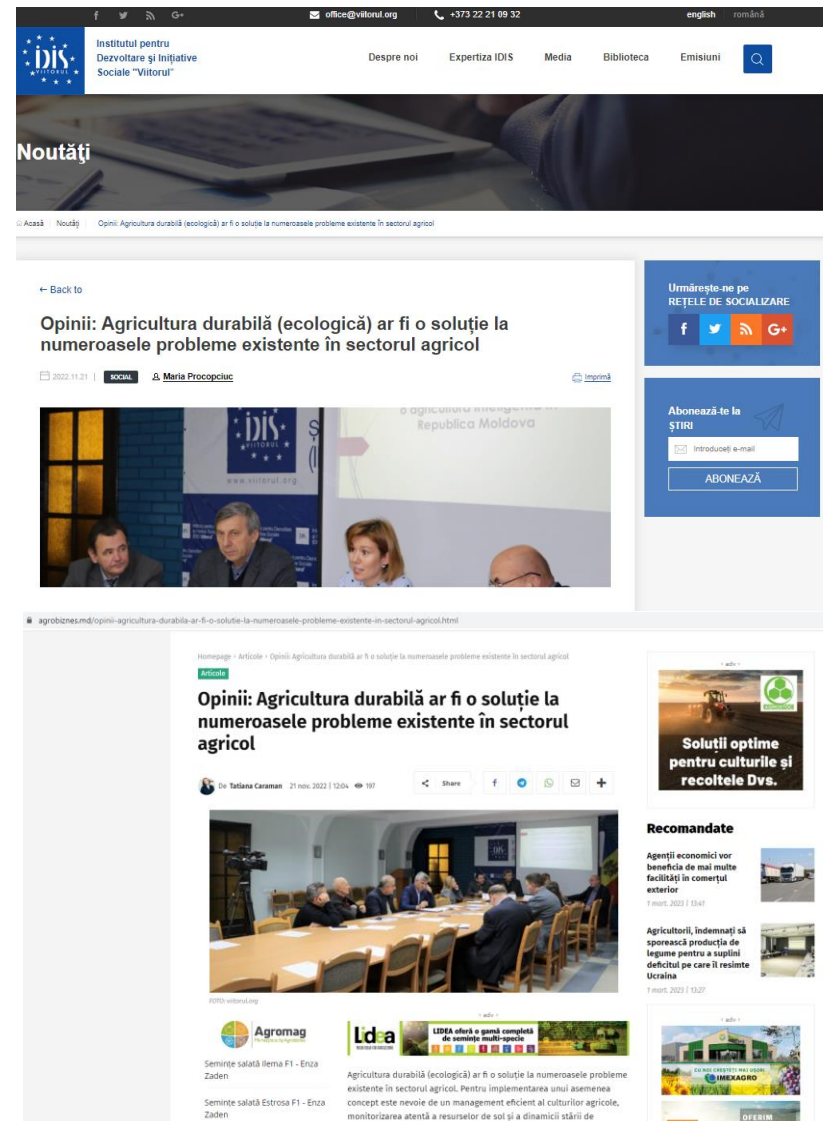
Implementarea dronelor în agricultura de precizie. Recomandări de politici

Dorin Afanas, expert asociat IDIS "Viitorul

Chisinau 2022

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2022 KM Activities Dissemination & Media



2022 KM Activities

Dissemination & Media

Media takeovers:

www.noi.md Agricultura ecologică ar fi o soluție la problemele existente în sectorul agricol - opinie (noi.md)

www.moldovenii.md Ultimele știri - Agricultura ecologică ar fi o soluție la problemele existente în sectorul agricol - opinie (moldovenii.md)

www.news.yam.md Agricultura ecologică o soluție pentru sectorul agricol - News.yam.md

www.agroexpert.md Agricultura ecologică scapă sectorul de probleme (agroexpert.md)

2022 KM Activities Collaborations & CoP

At the round tables have participated 20 persons, the main participants at the event were:

- Academia (for example from Tehnical University of Moldova, this year the Agrarian University merged with this University; Institute of pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection);
- Former agriculture minister Vasile Bumacov, now director of CNFA Moldova,
- Civil society representatives and international organizations (NGO BIOS, IDIS; CALM, Helvetas), farmers (for example: farms' federation);
- Mass media (for example: NTV, Agrobisness).

2022 KM Activities

Feedback & Lessons Learned

At the round tables were discussed the following moments:

1. Sustainable (organic) farming could be a solution to the many problems in the agricultural sector.

The implementation of such a concept requires efficient management of agricultural crops, careful monitoring of soil resources, and of the dynamics of crop growth. *All this would be possible if drones were applied.* The views were expressed at a round table focused on options and ideas for smart agriculture in Moldova.

After the round table, the author made last modification on policy proposal to government and the paper was send to the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and was published on IDIS webpage [Agricultura de precizie. Recomandări de politici.pdf \(viitorul.org\)](#)

2. Authors of both studies made the last modifications and the Country Knowledge Note and An analysis regarding the identification of highlights for investments and the increase in exports of Moldovan agricultural products (28 pages) was translated, published [Agroindustrial complex](#) report [EN.pdf \(viitorul.org\)](#) / [RO](#) and disseminated nationally.

Ongoing KM Activities Overview & Objectives



According to the expert, Viorel Chivriga, organic agriculture in the Republic of Moldova is a sector with great potential, but it has not developed properly.

According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, in 2020 there were 152 registered ECO producers, cultivating 71 ECO agricultural crops, producing 53 ECO products. In 2019, their number was 144 entrepreneurs, 87 crops and 65 ECO products.

The area of ECO crops in the last two decades had an unstable evolution and varied from 80 ha in 2003 to 29,352 ha in 2020.

The forecast for the expansion of areas for organic agricultural production, according to the National Program on organic agricultural production, approved in February 2006, the current indices are lower than the forecast for the year 2010, when 31100 ha were estimated.



Agroindustrial complex: milestones for investment and export growth

A study by Viorel Chivriga, economic policy expert, IDIS Viitorul

Chisinau, 2022

Ongoing KM Activities Overview & Objectives



According to Dorin Afanas, IDIS "Viitorul" associate expert, who presented the study on the use of drones in the development of smart agriculture, sustainable agriculture could be one of the solutions to the many problems in the sector today.

It aims at production with competitive results, with an environmentally friendly attitude, using integrated systems based on the scientific, balanced use of all technological components.

The expert also stated that the implementation of such a concept requires efficient management of crops, careful monitoring of soil resources and the dynamics of the vegetation state of crops, and depending on the needs identified, plants can be provided with the optimal amounts of water or chemical inputs (e.g. fertilizers and pesticides).



**Implementarea dronelor în
agricultura de precizie.
Recomandări de politici**

Dorin Afanas, expert asociat IDIS "Viitorul"

Chisinau 2022

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2022 KM Activities In Detail



Knowledge and Innovation Transfer through Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs):
Approaching the Entrepreneurship support through the design of business laboratory

Location: Moldova
03-07 October 2022

Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia, and Europe (SKiM) is a grant project led by ICARDA and funded by IFAD. The project also involves international partners such as CIHEAM-Bari, PROCASUR, Virginia Tech as well as NARS, governments, academic institutions and agri-extension services in Moldova, Morocco and Sudan.

SKiM priority objectives include the following approaches to the development of partnerships and implementation of activities:

- Support the partners' sharing and dissemination of existing knowledge and rural solutions tested and proven as "best practices" by farmers in local contexts, with a focus on strengthening capacity and their capability for autonomous knowledge transfer;
- Strengthen public institutions' capacities in knowledge management across the target regions, connecting stakeholders to meaningful networks and communities of practice, linking results for sustainability in regional development and SSTC;
- Knowledge interventions are modelled to affect three key thematic areas - financial inclusion of rural women and youth; natural resource management and climate resilience; productive agricultural technologies - relevant to the strengthening of development effectiveness in the target countries, through tailored activities aimed at meeting the needs assessed in the thorough, preliminary SKiM Capacity Needs Assessment study.



5 days of lectures and technical visits as well as simulation activities where lecturers will present the different topic

Ghenadie Sandu	CPIU IFAD
Aurelia Braguta	National Association of Young Managers from Moldova (ANTiM)
Andrei Zbanca	SAUM

Ongoing KM Activities Overview & Objectives

Objective

In accordance with the SKiM framework and its Capacity Development and Innovation Plans, and following the last training organized by CIHEAM Bari, this training brought focus on the “the goal of technology transfer office that should be to encourage entrepreneurship: stimulate students and researchers to enhance their knowledge through the creation, also in collaboration with the private sector, of new businesses: start-ups or spin-offs.

2022 KM Activities In Detail



Learning Route Agenda

Morocco, 19-26 June 2022



Day	Time	Activity
Monday 20.06.22	09h -11h30 Rabat	Welcome <u>Study case 1: Institutional arrangements in knowledge management for Moroccan agricultural sector (10 min speech for each of IAVHII, ONCA, INRA, ENA)</u> 40 min: study case 1 discussion.
	11h30-13h30	Departure Rabat-Kénitra and lunch
	14h-15h30 Kenitra	<u>Study case 2: Success implementation of APIA national company for the promotion of local products: honey and cosmetic product.</u> Visit of APIA company (part 1)
	16h-18h Kenitra	Visit of avocado/red fruit farm
Tuesday 21.06.22	8h30 Kenitra	Departure to Ouazzane
	11h30-13h30 Ouazzane	<u>Study case 2: Success implementation of APIA national company for the promotion of local products: Olive, oil, dried fruits.</u> Visit to APIA company (part 2). 40 min: study case 2 discussion.
	15h -17h	Departure to Chefchaoune
Wednesday 22.06.22	09h30 – 11h30 Chefchaoune	Visit of Provincial Agricultural Direction (presentation of agricultural activities in the region and focus on Canabis regulation and measures)
	13h30 -18h Rabat	Departure to Rabat

2022 KM Activities In Detail

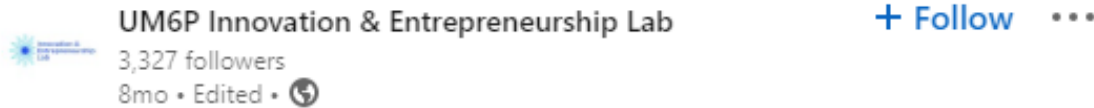


Thursday 23.06.22	09h-11h Settat	<u>Study case 3: Genetic resources conservation: a tool for sustainable agricultural development</u> Visit of the genetic bank https://www.inra.org.ma/sites/default/files/docs/genebank.pdf 40 min: study case 3 discussion
	14h- 16h 30 Benguerir	<u>Study case 4: Community engagement and entrepreneurship in agriculture (incubators, startup, agribusiness master)</u> Visit University Med VI polytechnic de Benguerir: Quinoa startup 40 min for study case 4 discussion
	16h30 – 17h30 Benguerir	Departure to Marrakech
Friday 24.06.22	09h30-11h20 Marrakech	<u>Study case 5: Development of the value chain of the aromatic and medicinal plants in the Marrakech-Safi region (Cluster Menara)</u> Visit of Marrakech cluster for aromatic and medicinal products" Marrakech, Health & Beauty Valley". 40 min for Study case 5 discussion
	11h40 - 13h Marrakech	<u>Study case 6: Extension services benefiting to Women empowerment in agriculture</u> Visit of a women cooperative 40 min for Study case 6 discussion
	17h-18h Marrakech	Visit of water Museum Marrakech
Saturday 25.06.22	09h - Rabat	Departure to Rabat, PCR test, free time

2022 KM Activities In Detail

Name	Position	Institution
Mihail Rurac	Associate professor at the Agronomy and Environment Department. Trainer in Conservative agriculture	SAUM
Andrei Zbanca	Associate Professor in Business and Administration Department, trainer in Business plan, Initiation, and development of business consulting courses	SAUM
Dorin Cebanu	Scientific researcher at the Department of Farming Systems	Selectia
Ghenadie Sandu	Value Chain Development Coordinator	CPIU IFAD
Carolina Ungureanu	Deputy Director, Project Manager	IDIS Viitorul
Natalia Manea	Financial Services and Rural Development Specialist, Youth Focal point	CPIU IFAD

2022 KM Activities Dissemination & Media

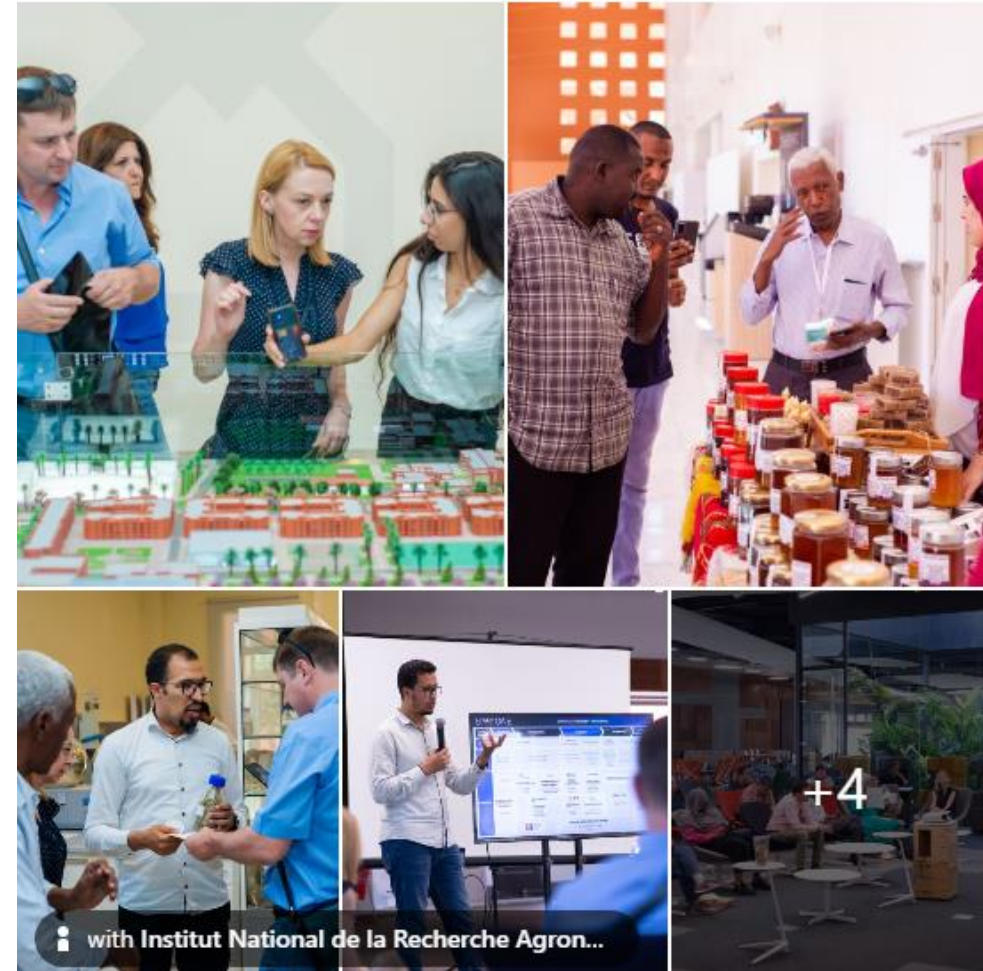


On June 23, 2022, as part of the SKiM project activities and the "Morocco Learning Route", we were pleased to host representatives from the Moroccan Agency for Agricultural Development (ADA), the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute Of Bari (CIHEAM Bari), the [International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#), the [ICARDA; International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas](#), the National Office of the Agricultural Council (ONCA), the National Institute of Agricultural Research of Morocco, the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy & Veterinary Medicine, the [National School of Agriculture](#) of Meknes as well as delegations from Sudan, Moldova, Italy and Uzbekistan.

It was an excellent opportunity for the delegations to learn about [UM6P - Mohammed VI Polytechnic University](#) and its efforts to promote community engagement and foster entrepreneurship among agricultural students and researchers.

Many thanks to Mr. [Ahmed Dahbani CFTe MSTA](#) and Ms. [Kenza Ait el Kadi](#) for making this visit possible!

[#engagement](#) [#agriculture](#) [#entrepreneurship](#) [#project](#) [#community](#)



with Institut National de la Recherche Agron...

2022 KM Activities Dissemination & Media



KM Gaps & Country Objectives

SKiM-II Potential Activities

Main country **objectives**:

All partners will focus on and make an impact on the results, due to the fact that almost every partner has a point of contact, is the domain of Conservation Agriculture (CA).

Digitalization – high potential for impact on agriculture

Potential Activities:

Digitalization training and development

SKiM

**Strengthening Knowledge Management
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Thank You



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