Services to enable learning, technology transfer and scaling-up of sustainable land and water management innovations.

MENARID Gateway

Information Resources. Monitoring and Evaluation. Project Validation and Synthesis.

ICARDA
Science for Better Livelihoods in Dry Areas

GEF

IFAD
Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

Services to enable learning, technology transfer, scaling-up and monitoring and evaluation of sustainable land and water management innovations.

Countries, international development programs and NGOs invest hundreds of millions of dollars each year in rural development programs, activities and technical assistance that aims to improve the livelihoods of people in rural areas of developing countries.

A wealth of knowledge is exchanged between these experts, government agencies, development programs and rural communities. They address solutions, for example, to reduce land degradation, improve efficiency of irrigation and water use in communities, improve cropping system performance, rangeland management, crop-livestock systems, protect biodiversity, or develop value-added farming products that bring more income to families and communities.

Rich and useful knowledge is generated in hundreds of rural development projects and initiatives across the Mediterranean-North Africa region. These examples and practices can benefit thousands of communities beyond their target project areas. But very few of these experiences are captured and shared in a way that others can use.

Some examples: Land degradation interventions in Morocco can benefit communities in Iran. Community management initiatives in Yemen or Uzbekistan can help their counterparts in other countries address the challenges of climate change at village level. Water-saving olive irrigation practices in Jordan can also improve livelihoods and income for communities across the region. But the results and successes of these innovations are rarely shared or packaged in a way that encourages their wider use and scaling-up – or transfer to other regions and regions.

The Menarid Gateway and knowledge sharing services: adding value to rural development projects

Over the past three years, the Menarid Knowledge Management initiative has tested approaches to knowledge sharing, learning, monitoring and evaluation for sustainable land and water management in the Mediterranean-North Africa region. It has developed approaches to the packaging and synthesis of materials, engaged a community of practitioners in government agencies across six countries, and created an information platform – the Menarid Gateway.

The result of these efforts is a platform and services that can benefit all IFAD rural development projects, and others, to encourage technology transfer and scaling-up of successful interventions and a common approach to monitoring and evaluation.

The Menarid Knowledge Management Initiative has delivered the proof-of-concept for a knowledge sharing process that can initiate learning, monitoring and evaluation across rural development projects and programs. Its knowledge sharing approach also supports technology transfer and scaling-up of project innovations that were successful in one area, for wider use in regions and countries with similar agro-ecosystems that face similar problems.

The Menarid Knowledge Management initiative offers three services that will improve the effectiveness and wider use of IFAD projects – and potentially other rural development initiatives active in sustainable land and water management:

- **Menarid Gateway knowledge sharing platform:** a web-based service designed for the sharing of useful information on sustainable land and water management projects and can serve as a forum for sharing of ideas and experience between project managers and rural development specialists in different countries. The current Gateway community brings together managers from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Iran, Yemen and Jordan. It can serve any number of users and projects and be used as a library for land water management project innovations related information. This can be a one-stop-shop for all IFAD sustainable land management projects and information and for other materials. https://menarid.icarda.org/Pages/Welcome%20Page.aspx

- **Menarid learning and technology transfer process:** the process tested by Menarid and documented in the ICARDA-Menarid Working Paper encourages the learning and review of rural development innovations across projects and between managers of programs. This process is a pathway for technology transfer and scaling-up of innovations across countries facing similar land degradation problems. Useful innovations are profiled in project syntheses on the platform and the 'successes' brochure.

- **Menarid monitoring and evaluation process and tool:** the tool created by the Menarid Knowledge Management initiative allows the tracking and measurement of the effectiveness of rural development projects. It also facilitates the capturing and sharing of useful learning as part of the project management process. The results of evaluations can be shared on the Menarid Gateway in a special M&E library and database, where users can generate reports based on their evaluation criteria. The Menarid platform also provides project technical support on evaluating project outcomes and impacts – critical elements of delivering results based management. https://menarid.icarda.org/MAE/SitePages/Home.aspx

MENARID Gateway

Strengthening and scaling up Integrated Natural Resource Management across MENA

Contact:

To learn more about the Menarid Gateway services, contact: Aden Aw Hassan at ICARDA
Tel: +962 5 903120
Email: a.aw-hassan@cgiar.org

Funded by:

Global Environmental Facility
The International Fund for Agricultural Development

Executed by:

The International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)
with participation from local and regional stakeholders and National Government Agencies involved in INRM in MENA countries