

System-based Options by Context



A tool for better investment
decisions in agriculture and
rural development

Monthly Report

Project: Impact evaluation of SLM options to achieve land degradation neutrality

Month Covered in this Report: May 2017

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Organization Name: ICARDA

Date of submission: From 25th April to 1st June 2017

Report overview

This report details my activities as a junior officer with ICARDA in Amman, JORDAN for the period of 25th April 2017 to 1st June 2017, under the supervision of Dr. Quang Bao Le, Senior Scientist, Social-Ecological Systems Science, ICARDA and Mr. Enrico Bonaiuti, Research Program Coordinator for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), ICARDA.

Overall plan of work

Activities report for the last month (Please attach in the annex relevant photos, videos, tables, maps or other graphics for your deliverables)

Deliverables	Tasks related	Activities status	Comments	Lessons learned
Updated MEL project website	4- Conduct relevant activities needed for project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning using the Dryland Systems MEL platform	Done: Uploading the materials of the training and the workshop done in March under the training material of the training and the workshop (presentations) (Annex 1.)	The access for this material is blocked for the moment due to issues with the MEL. The developer's team is working on this. I will update as soon as this issues is fixed.	Any training material (presentations and blogs) should be shared at max two weeks after the event. This is too late. I will make sure that it won't happen with the next workshop.
Support to the establishment of two consultancies in Tunisia.	4- Conduct relevant activities needed for project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning using the Dryland Systems MEL platform	Done: Establishment of the two contracts (budget + Administrative arrangement +	-	It was interesting because it was the first time to witness the whole process of drafting a consultancy

		contact with the consultants)		(from an idea to a contract)
Enhancement of the GeOC tool	4- Conduct relevant activities needed for project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning using the Dryland Systems MEL platform	Ongoing: Checking the SLM Form to enhance the different features of the website of the SLM submission. The different check in were shared among the team during this month for potential feedbacks.		It was interesting because it was my first time to learn about designing a website .
Financial Summary	4- Conduct relevant activities needed for project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning using the Dryland Systems MEL platform	Done: Financial summary was done to see the status of the expenditures of the project. This financial summary will be shared with the team members once the realignment of the budget is done by the project admin on OCS.		It was interesting to understand how we should the grant properly and how to reconcile the budget system of ICARDA (OCS) with the approved budget from the donor.

Activities report for the next month (Please attach in the annex relevant photos, videos, tables, maps or other graphics for your deliverables)

Deliverables	Activities status	Comments	Lessons learned
Support for GeOC tool online	The GeOC tool in its current version needs enhancement. I will support this process with a Codeobia developer.	This will be an ongoing activity for the whole month of June with focus of the SLM form enhancement, the import/export functionality and the webpage of the SLM.	
Recording the GeOC tutorial videos in multiple languages. There are 5 videos.	The interns with supervision of Dr Le delivered videos in English. We will be based on these revised scripts for the translation.	The languages planned for the tutorial videos are : Arabic/ French/ Spanish/ German.	It will be my first time to record a tutorial video.

Conclusions/ Final comments/recommendations

Through this month, I had learned new things in terms of project management. It was interesting to participate in the discussion for the consultancy offers, to do the financial summary and do the quality insurance of the GeOC. This definitely improved my communication skills and also my knowledge in managing projects. I continue also on drafting blogs and this is a good thing for me to get used to write.

The challenges that I faced as a junior officer is to be always updated about the status of the different activities in the project and this requires a high level of focus which can be stressful sometimes. However, it is always a good opportunity to strengthen my skills.

Annex 1: MEL reporting page

Link to the Mel reporting page: <https://mel.cgiar.org/reporting/dashboard>