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

Annual Progress Report
2020

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2020

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International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

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Report

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About ICARDA

Established in 1977, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is a non-profit, CGIAR Research Center that focusses on delivering innovative solutions for sustainable agricultural development in the nontropical dry areas of the developing world. We provide innovative, science-based solutions to improve the livelihoods and resilience of resource- poor smallholder farmers. We do this through strategic partnerships, linking research to development, and capacity development, and by taking into account gender equality and the role of youth in transforming the non-tropical dry areas.

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Abbreviations

AETTGD	Agricultural Extension and Technology Transfer General Directorate of Sudan
ARC Sudan	Agricultural Research Corporation - Sudan
ATTS	Agricultural Technology Transfer Society
AUW	Ahfad University for Women
AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget
CACILM	Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management
CDU	Capacity Development Unit
CIHEAM Bari	Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes - Bari
CLCA	IFAD Project: Use of Conservation Agriculture in Crop-Livestock Systems in the Drylands for Enhanced Water Use and Soil Fertility in NEN and LAC Countries
CNA	Capacity needs assessment
CoC	Community of Commitment
CoI	Community of Interest
CoP	Community of practice
CCU IFAD	Central Coordination Unit for IFAD Co-Financed Projects of Sudan
CPIU IFAD	Consolidated IFAD Programs Implementation Unit of Moldova
CWANA	Central and West Asian and North Africa
ENA Meknes	National School of Agriculture – Meknes
FAIR	Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
IAV Hassan II	Agronomic and Veterinary Institute
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INRA	National Agricultural Research Institute
KM	Knowledge Management
KP	Knowledge Portal
KS	Knowledge Sharing
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MARDE	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning
MENARID	Strengthening and Scaling-up Integrated Natural Resource Management across the Middle-East and North Africa
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of Morocco
MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Sudan
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NC	National Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NFFM	National farmers federation of Moldova
ONCA	National Office for Agricultural Extension
Procasur	Corporation for Regional Rural Development Training
R4D	Research for Development
SAUM	State Agrarian University Moldova

SC	Steering Commitee
Selectia	Research Institute of Field Crops "Selectia"
SKiM	Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe
SKS	Sudan Knowledge Society
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation IFAD Approach
UofK	University of Khartoum
USARB	Alecu Russo State University of Bălți

1.Introduction

Knowledge sharing and management for public institutions, as well as NGOs, community-based organizations and the private sector, is a key element to ensure effective dissemination and maintenance of knowledge and to build the capacity and development effectiveness in rural areas. Lessons-learned and scaling-up of results for enhanced impact in agricultural development must be undertaken to ensure that knowledge gaps are identified, and then filled, so that public institutions and organizations in-country can benefit and grow the required capacities for long-term knowledge management.

The grant "Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe" (SKIM), led by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) together with its international partners Virginia Tech, the *Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM-Bari)*, the Corporation for Regional Rural Development Training (PROCASUR), and national partners in Moldova, Morocco, Sudan, was signed in June 2018. The project facilitates and supports knowledge management and capacity development activities in three selected countries (with the possibility of extending to an additional two). Increasing the capacities of participating public institutions in this work by providing necessary structures and systems at a country and regional level will ensure that knowledge being developed can be effectively managed for longer-term growth and development.

The project website was created with related information at https://mel.cgiar.org/projects/SKiM. This website describes background information, project team in more details, partners and stakeholders engaged, key documents and proposal, goals and objectives, impact pathway, focus countries, resources uploaded on website, news and events calendar.

The total cost of the project is estimated at USD 2,115,000 over four (4) years (2018–2022) of which IFAD contributes USD 1,800,000 (85 per cent), while cost sharing from in-kind contributions will come to USD 315,000 (15 per cent). USD 115,000 are contributed by International Partners while the remaining amounts are sustained by national intuitions partnering in the project. The official starting date is 8 June 2018, the project completion date is 30 June 2022. From January 1st to December 31st, 2020, the amount disbursed by IFAD to ICARDA is USD 403,847. ICARDA and its partners utilized in the reference period of this report USD 248,045 equal to 55% of the second year AWPB from IFAD contribution. Project implementation in 2020 was affected by global COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Executive Summary

This document reports about implementation of the project "Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe" (SKIM), detailing the progress made and activities implemented across different project components in 2020.

The second year of implementation focused on all components of the project, starting from separating project management into separate Component 0 to address coordination, M&E and selection and organization of mid-term evaluation. One of the key documents prepared is M&E plan that attempted to list indicators and ways to measure them for monitoring purposes, and moreover tried to map outputs of the project into higher objectives of IFAD, ICARDA and CGIAR strategies that overall contribute to reaching several of SDG goals. The Steering Committee organizational tasks are integrated as part of Component 0. Formalizing agreements with stakeholders in target countries were also integral part of management component.

Several activities under Component 1 continued in 2020, including assessment of knowledge with partners and IFAD projects in target countries, development and finalization of Approach paper. While developing Approach paper the project team capitalized on existing resources and collected information to delve into synthesis analysis methodology to make an attempt to reveal interventions in variety of projects and programs that worked well for knowledge management in project's focus region. Follow up report is planned to be finalized in 2021. Establishment of Communities of Practice (CoP) under Activity 1.4 didn't conclude with regional workshop in 2019. The project team maintained providing support to the country stakeholder groups with developed ToR on how CoP should be staffed and lead, and provided support for focal points to facilitate stakeholder exchange and interaction between each other. One of the key documents under preparation in Morocco is developing collaboration agreement between 4 institutions to formalize such interactions.

Several trainings were organized in 2020 as part of Component 2. Due to COVID-19 pandemic physical event was converted to online mode and was delivered over the course of 5 days in June-July 2020. Follow up on-demand courses were delivered to Moldova and Sudan participants in November 2020. Resources saved from logistics fund allocations due to travel restrictions were effectively utilized to provide additional trainings and were very much appreciated. Similar situation with travel restrictions was with the Learning Route, originally planned to be held in Sudan. Due to epidemiological restrictions and difficult situation in Sudan this event was converted to virtual mode and was delivered through massive learning campaign with recorded messages and interviews explaining best practices described beforehand in a Sourcebook.

Component 3 work focused around fine-tuning and linking KM portal with stakeholder information and knowledge and several modifications of the portal commenced in 2020 and will be completed in 2021. However, portal is a living and constantly evolving resource and further improvements will be made as needed. Symposium planned with Sudan stakeholders unfortunately could not be conducted as planned and tentatively prepared with concept note. More efforts therefore were given to production of knowledge materials, especially with good linkage to the Rural Solutions Portal to which 7 solutions compiled by ICARDA were submitted for review. Several proposed solutions originate from previous projects of IFAD in Moldova and Sudan, hence the linkages and analysis of project document allowed to extract successful innovation demonstrated within IFAD projects in target countries.

In terms of finances, the second year Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) from the IFAD grant was

USD 449,148 of which USD 8,979 correspond to the 2% CSP contribution. Up to 31 December 2020, the amount disbursed by IFAD to ICARDA was USD 588,471 and 2% CSP (12,006) contribution. By December 31, 2020 total expense is USD 690,491 including in-kind commitments USD 85,750.

3. Objectives, and target groups

3.1 Goal

Develop effective and long-term knowledge management-related capacities in target countries.

3.2 Objectives

(i) Assess capacity and enhance knowledge management skills of key rural institutions and other stakeholders in Moldova, Morocco, Sudan (with the possibility to include two more countries);
(ii) Foster and promote knowledge exchange across in-country, cross-country and trans-regional partners to foster knowledge uptake, transfer and management.

3.3 Target groups

The direct target group are in-country institutions dealing with agricultural and rural solutions. However, within these institutions it is anticipated that men and women, particularly young professionals, are targeted. More specifically, primary beneficiaries include public institutions involved in IFAD and other international organization-funded project portfolios that target rural development, natural resources management and agricultural production.

3.4 Target countries

At the initial phase there are three focus countries – Moldova, Morocco, Sudan (Figure 1). There is the possibility to include two more countries based on IFAD decision.
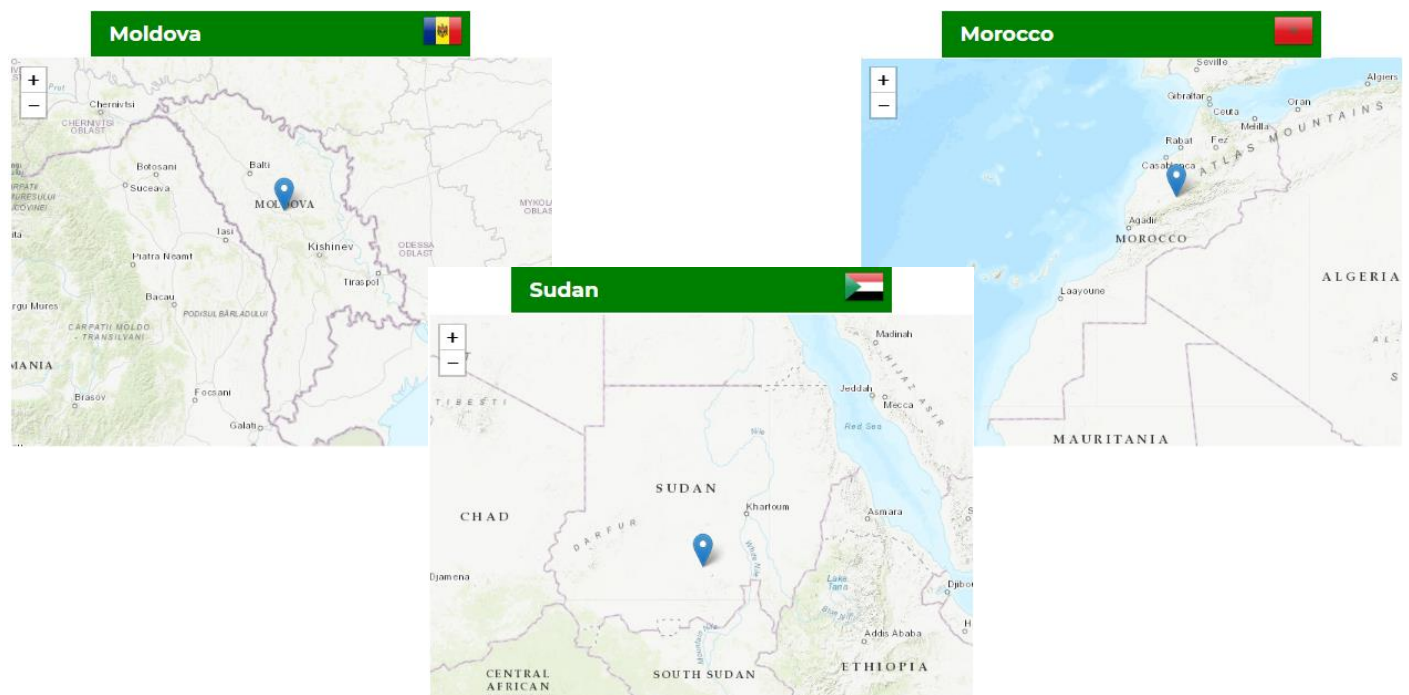
Figure 1. Maps of Moldova, Morocco and Sudan (Source: Leaflet | Tiles © Esri — Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, iPC, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community).

4. Changes in grant implementation context and grant design that occurred during the reporting period

In 2020, three national focal points were selected for Moldova, Morocco, and Sudan. Moldova focal point is part of the CPIU-IFAD, Morocco focal point is part of the key partner Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV). Sudan focal point was finalized in the second half of the year, this was due to difficulties in the country, change in management of the lead center the Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC) (contract was offered but the person was removed from his position). Search and selection of Sudan focal point proceeded in close consultation with ARC and member of the Steering Committee Dr. Mekki, new focal point was in place from November 2020 onwards. Project team strived to engage and support leading role of women candidates, all focal points are female.

In consultation with IFAD grant manager, for the Annual workplan and budget (AWPB) in 2020 the coordination and project management activities were separated into separate Component 0. This was done in order to have clear separation of activities dedicated for the co-implementing partners as well as national stakeholders, and to allocate coordination process into stand-alone activity that included coordination, mid-term evaluation, Steering Committee meetings, audit etc.

Minutes from the Steering Committee are available here: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12269.

5. Progress and performance by component

5.1   Component 0 – Project Management

Component 0 was not present in the original project proposal, it was introduced in the second year of implementation AWPB, in order to better operationalise and account for project national and overall coordination, M&E processes for the external evaluator selection and start of the mid-term evaluation (MTE), the enabling and realisation of the annual steering committee (SC) meeting. Component 0 accounting has helped the project programmatically, in planning for and work through the global restrictions and diffused disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Activity 0.1: Project Coordination

Progress Overview

Table 1. Progress Overview, Project management reporting and agreements established with national stakeholders

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
100%	50%	98%

Indicators planned vs. achieved during reporting period as per Log-frame and overall workplan

Table 2: Project management reporting and agreements established with national stakeholders; Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator/Activity Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence
Planning and implementation of project activities, technical and financial reporting	AWPB 2020	Technical report (1) Financial reports (2)	Complete	SKiM – Annual Progress Report 2020 SoE 6 month (Jan-Jun) and 1-year
Development and follow-up of agreements with co-implementing partners and national partners in focus countries	AWPB 2020	Total of 7 with co-implementing partners + national partners	Complete	Agreements with partners SKiM - Memorandum of Agreement with National Stakeholders - Package SKiM - Agreement with Project Implementing Partners - Package

Budget planned vs. utilized for the reporting period

Table 3: Project management reporting and agreements established with national stakeholders; Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Plan	40,463	29,540	0	0	0	10,923
Reported (until	33,603	24,658	0	0	0	8,945

December 2020)					
Difference	6,860	4,882	0	0	0	1,978

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period.

Table 4: Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of December 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
0.1	Project coordination	Finalize AWPB 2020, annual report, overall coordination, liaison with stakeholders, organize events	40,463	0	Completed COVID-19 Impact: The activity has been planned with 25% Coordinator time as expected activities in March (Sudan) and June (Moldova) were postponed and follow up events will be online.

*Co-funding includes international and national partners

Narrative

During the Steering Committee meeting in 2019, project partners voiced to formalize collaboration with each engaged institution through signing an agreement. Accordingly, agreement templates were developed with clear roles and responsibilities, such as representing country in the Steering Committee, focal point and general participating member of the SKIM project. The process of confirmation of agreement template and following signatures with the national partners was carried throughout year 2020.

A total of ten (10) agreements have been reached during the reporting period, exceeding the original target of seven (7), including all of the project target countries:
1. Procasur – co-implementing partner for the Learning Route in Sudan
2. Moldova – State Agrarian University of Moldova (SAUM)
3. Moldova – Research Institute of Field Crops "Selectia"
4. Moldova – Institutul Pentru Dezvoltare și Inițiative Sociale IDIS "Viitorul"
5. Morocco – Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire (IAV) "Hassan II"
6. Morocco – National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)
7. Morocco – Office National du Conseil Agricole (ONCA)
8. Morocco – National School of Agriculture (ENA) Meknes
9. Sudan – Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC) Sudan
10. Sudan – Sudanese Knowledge Society (SKS)

Several more agreements are planned with institutions in 2021 that have expressed interest in the project activities and to expand project outreach.

Activity 0.2: Monitoring & Evaluation / Financial Audit

Progress Overview

Table 5. Progress Overview, Formulation of MTE terms of reference, evaluator selection, M&E plan finalization

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
50%	40%[1]	7%*

*largest expense was allocated for mid-term evaluation, due to delays with contracting, payment shifted to 2021

Indicators planned vs achieved during reporting period as per Log-frame and overall workplan

Table 6: Formulation of MTE terms of reference, evaluator selection, M&E plan finalization, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence
AWPB 2020	AWPB 2020	1	Complete	SKiM – AWPB 2020
MTE Terms of Reference and Selection Report	AWPB 2020	1	Complete	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/10891 Mid-Term Evaluation Selection Report
M&E Plan	AWPB 2020	1	Complete	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12103

Budget planned vs utilized.

Table 7: Formulation of MTE terms of reference, evaluator selection, M&E plan finalization, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	30,000	0	24,000	0	4,000	2,000
Reported (until December 2020)	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000
Difference	28,000	0	24,000	0	4,000	0

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period.

Table 8: Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of December 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
0.2	Monitoring and evaluation / financial audit	Detailed M&E plan with indicators to measure progress. Screening Mid-term evaluation applicants in March-April and schedule MTE during the last quarter of 2020; AWPB 2020	30,000	15,000	Completed, apart from actual MTE to happen in Q1/2021. COVID-19 Impact: The mid-term evaluation postponed to Q1/2021. Pandemic had impact on the consultancy and workshop budget. The staff time from Enrico Bonaiuti (10%) is provided in-kind.

*Co-funding includes international and national partners

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[1] 2021 and 2022 AWPB to be produced accordingly.

Narrative

In consultation with IFAD and considering Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, AWPB was modified in reiterative process to reflect risks and assumptions.

M&E Plan was developed with objective to provide project stakeholders an overview of the design and implementation of M&E processes in the context of the project's Results-Based Logical Framework. The plan integrated project outputs into the strategic frameworks of ICARDA, CGIAR, and IFAD. The document outlines indicators for project results and explaining how they will be measured, how data is collected, and the associated knowledge management strategies for data treatment. The plan, to be updated throughout the project life, also details the iterative processes of reflection, learning and adaptation in order to continually improve M&E measures in the context of the project's objectives. The implementation structure of the monitoring processes is also described, outlining the roles and responsibilities of key personnel and the organizational structure for reporting. Lastly, plans are presented for greater integration of M&E measures into project annual planning and for improving feedback mechanisms, concluding in action points for follow-up.

Preparations for mid-term evaluation started early on in 2020, with outlined ToR. Announcement and selection of candidates was conducted in coordination and synergy with other ongoing IFAD projects implemented by ICARDA. Due to covid situation suggested workplan by selected candidate was reviewed and updated to reflect travel restrictions. Contracting took longer than expected and inception report is expected early 2021. Project team has already met with evaluator and provided all necessary information, clarifications, access to documentation and contact details of national stakeholders.

Activity 0.3: Steering Committee

Progress Overview

Table 9. Progress Overview, Steering Committee

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
100%	50%[2]	0%*

*funds were allocated for Steering committee organization in Moldova, due to travel restrictions meeting was held online, thus budget not utilized.

Indicators planned vs achieved during reporting period as per Log-frame and overall workplan

Table 10: Steering committee, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence
Steering Committee	AWPB 2020	1	Complete	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12269

Budget planned vs utilized

Table 11: Steering committee, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	24,000	0	0	0	24,000	0
Reported (until December 2020)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	24,000	0	0	0	24,000	0

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 12: Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of December 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
0.3	Steering Committee	SC committee meeting, virtual review AWPB on a quarterly basis. Finalize engagement of national focal point to support CoP actions (Activity 1.4). Focal points will support coordination at national level for Symposia in 3.2.	24,000	3,250	Completed, organized online. COVID-19 Impact: Steering Committee was expected to take place in November (Moldova). Due to travel restrictions meeting was held online, thus budget not utilized. Staff time for the activity was planned to be provided in-kind by project partners, since the meeting happened online no in-kind contribution is reported.

Narrative

The SKiM Steering Committee meeting for 2020 was held virtually on the 17th of December 2020. The

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[2] 2021 and 2022 Steering Committes to be held accordingly.

meeting was organised with an aim to bring together the multi-stakeholder platform to examine project implementation, discuss way forward, review suggested workplan for the next year 2021 as well as familiarize with KM practices. The Steering committee meeting was presided over by the members from the implementation partners, the donor, and delegates from the participating countries, with the responsibility to communicate the state of development and progression toward the pre-assessed knowledge management needs and the newly identified improvable areas.

The Steering Committee meeting saw the exchange of following:
- Presentations by the stakeholders of the yearly initiatives on KM, activities, policies, and practices.
- Presentation of the annual progress and proposed activities for 2021.
- Discussion, agreement and finalization of the Plan of Work and Budget document.

5.2 Component 1 – Knowledge Management capacity assessment for enhanced formulation of learning needs

Activity 1.1: Assessment of knowledge management capacity gaps and learning needs

Proposal Narrative

Undertake an assessment of the current state of knowledge management, knowledge sharing, and learning needs, in target organizations to determine the project baseline. The first step of this analysis will include an institutional KM mapping exercise which will identify the key players in rural development to be targeted by the project. On the basis of this mapping exercise, inventory-taking of stakeholder capacity gaps and learning needs will be carried out. This activity will also provide a diagnosis of present practices and benchmarks for improvement.

Assessment of KM capacity gaps within key public institutions including ministries, departments, and agencies, as well as among other stakeholders, will involve interviews with a cross-section of staff, a questionnaire (and subsequent analysis), qualitative measures to observe organization activities, and a review of documents and reports produced by stakeholder organizations. As an output this activity will produce a formulated response to address identified gaps, considering ongoing and planned KM capacity development initiatives undertaken by national and international partner institutions.

Progress Overview

Table 13. Progress Overview, Assessment of knowledge management capacity gaps and learning needs

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
100%	100%	77%

Indicators planned vs achieved during reporting period as per Log-frame and overall workplan

Table 14: Assessment of knowledge management capacity gaps and learning needs, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence
Reports from institutions during SC, their commitment to the project	AWPB 2020	3	Completed	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12259 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12260 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12265
Report on IFAD Projects x countries with Knowledge Entry point	AWPB 2020	1	Completed	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12283

Budget planned vs utilized for the reporting period

Table 15: Assessment of knowledge management capacity gaps and learning needs, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	14,400	14,400	0	0	0	0

Reported (until December 2020)	11,144	11,144	0	0	0	0
Difference	3,256	3,256	0	0	0	0

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 16: Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
1.1	Assessment of available knowledge, identification of knowledge management capacity gaps and prioritizing learning needs	Reports from institutions committing to integration of KM, active projects. EV has planned 100% time in this activity.	14,400	0	Completed 1) Reports from institutions during SC, their commitment to the project; 2) Report on IFAD Projects x countries with Knowledge Entry point.

Narrative

The institutions from project target countries- Morocco, Moldova, and Sudan have provided an overview of the project activities held in each institution. The presentation reports include the partners' institutional contribution to achieving SKiM targets, activities executed in 2020 and activities planned for 2021. The main constituents of the report were provided by the SKiM National Focal Points in each target country on the following:

- *Moldova: Establish the interaction between Institute – farmers - entrepreneurs – researchers is the key; Disseminate the result of the laboratory work of the Institute to a wider audience; To create a database with all manuals/publications/articles/ developed by the Institute; Promoting the Institute at the national level in order to showcase the varieties created in the laboratory, developed a brochure (catalogue) on the variety of seeds from the producer, tested in time. Create an online database (scanned) with all manuals/publications/articles/ developed by the Institute. Create an online database (scanned) with all manuals/publications/articles/ developed by the Institutes.*
- *Morocco: Developing framework agreement among key country institutions to formalize exchange and dissemination of knowledge. Participation in 2020 SKIM Learning Week "Knowledge management and capacity development best practice: Valorization and transfer of research results". From 29 June to 3 July (virtual event). Contributions to SKIM newsletter. Documenting innovations for IFAD rural solution portal. Attendance in Virtual Learning Route and engagement in National Coordination toward KM developments and KM Portal implementation.*
- *Sudan: Participation in 2020 SKiM Learning Week, Contribution to SKiM Newsletter, Virtual Learning Route on Knowledge Management, Sudan Knowledge Symposium concept note, Knowledge identification for KM-savvy repackaging, Contribution to IFAD Rural Solutions Portal, Online engagement to prime the University of Khartoum DSpace online repository.*

Report on IFAD Projects x countries with Knowledge Entry point explains the efforts to strengthen linkages with ongoing IFAD activities in SKiM target countries Morocco, Moldova, and Sudan. The exercise is performed to promote good outputs from current and completed IFAD projects in focus countries for

stakeholders to have access to uptake and scale-up. The activity is to collaborate with contact points in these target countries, to scale up and scale out good practices by replicating them to bridge the gap between knowledge providers and knowledge seekers. The process followed to study of the project documents, select impactful outputs which we could package lessons/ success stories (in the form of brochures, videos, infographics, success stories, lessons learned, blog entries) from each project in the target countries. Potential products are then contributed to knowledge product development in Activity 3.3.

Activity 1.2: Formulation of Approach Paper on knowledge management and communication strategy

Proposal Narrative

Approach paper will be based on a combination of consultations, desktop studies and field visits to develop approach paper for each participating country. This document will build on the assessment of KM systems, as well as capacities and the learning needs of target countries. The document will reflect needs, gaps, and opportunities that are also used to develop knowledge management and communication strategies included in the paper. Providing the baseline and evaluation framework, the paper will also consist of key evaluation questions and the timeframes for expected change, as well as a description of the core learning partnership, the skills needed, and proposed communication and learning activities. Learning activities could also include practical write-shops to integrate the systematization of lessons learned and good practices, including training on analysis of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) data to reflect changes. The approach paper is also the stage at which key evaluation partners are identified and the specific evaluation methods and techniques for data collection are defined. Follow up studies on the effectiveness and impacts of the changes implemented in the KM system and KM capacity development will be carried out to show the value of these changes on rural communities.

Progress Overview

Table 17. Progress Overview, Formulation of Approach Paper on knowledge management and communication strategy

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
100%	100%	100%

Indicators planned vs achieved during reporting period as per Log-frame and overall workplan

Table 18: Formulation of Approach Paper on knowledge management and communication strategy, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence
KM Approach Paper Developed	Project proposal Section IV-E	1	Completed	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12252 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12253

Budget planned vs utilized

Table 19: Formulation of Approach Paper on knowledge management and communication strategy, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	23,775	0	22,500	1,275	0	0
Reported (until December 2020)	19,817	0	19,817	0	0	0
Difference	3,958	0	2,683	1,275	0	0

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 20: Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of July 2019) Remarks/Assumptions
1.2	Approach Paper on knowledge management and communication strategy	Approach Paper	23,775	1,275	Completed In addition to Approach paper, additional analytical work is proposed together with methodology looking at evaluation synthesis. https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12253

*Co-funding includes international and national partners

Narrative

SKiM is a comprehensive project designed by several features that can inform IFAD knowledge management investments and their evaluations in a unique way. By building on the strength of different proposals and the co-design process facilitated by IFAD, SKiM design combined innovative ways of KM capacity assessment for enhanced formulation of learning needs, capacity development, knowledge systematization and enhanced regional exchange.

The countries SKiM operates, and the diversity of the characteristics of partners and key stakeholders provide a rare chance to compare the influence of different contexts and different stakeholder landscapes in terms of the effectiveness of KM projects supported by IFAD. The Approach paper documents the SKiM Approach systematically and strives to provide inputs to the programming of KM interventions by IFAD.

Activity 1.3: Formulation of capacity development and innovation plans for the target countries

Proposal Narrative

Based on the assessment of knowledge management capacity gaps and identified needs, the team will design a capacity development needs assessment, and knowledge management and communication strategies to enhance in-country institutional capability. Capacity development will be based on innovation plans developed jointly with each participating organization, taking into account their priorities and feasible changes for better knowledge management. To incentivize further steps of developed plans, a selected number of innovation plans will be considered to receive initial support to be integrated within ongoing IFAD projects in the country for full implementation. Substantial expertise will be provided by partner institutions CIHEAM-Bari and VT.

Progress Overview

This activity is completed and was not planned to continue in year 2020.

Activity 1.4: Regional workshop to kick-start implementation plans and Community of Practice establishment

Proposal Narrative

Organize a regional workshop after the first year to introduce implementation plans in participating countries and bring together people working in thematic areas to establish Communities of Practice (CoP). Conduct preliminary communications to identify active practitioners with relevant and valuable experiences. The workshop will include administration personnel from participating organizations where CoP will be contributing to, in order to demonstrate to the management, the benefits from CoP. It will also identify the scope for CoP, including critical problems to solve, the context within which to operate and develop the strategy, the support provided to run CoP, and agreement on coordination roles and the selection of a coordinator.

Progress Overview

Table 21. Progress Overview, Regional workshop to kick-start implementation plans and Community of Practice establishment

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
75%	80%	52%

Indicators planned vs achieved during reporting period as per Log-frame and overall workplan

Table 22: Regional workshop to kick-start implementation plans and Community of Practice establishment, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence/Notes
ToR and Action Plans (#3) for CoPs (or innovation platforms)	AWPB 2020	1	Completed	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12275 National Technical Committee meetings in target countries
National working meetings (#1) in country to evaluate institutional knowledge "value"	AWPB 2020	1	Postponed	Live meeting has proved not possible due to global pandemic and national local dynamics in target countries (i.e. Sudan oil shortage)

Budget planned vs utilized

Table 23: Regional workshop to kick-start implementation plans and Community of Practice establishment, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	44,820	0	34,500	4,320	6,000	0
Reported (until December 2020)	33,372	900	16,248	15,374	849	0
Difference	11,448	-900	18,252	-11,054	5,151	0

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 24: Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
1.4	Regional workshop to kick-start implementation plans and Community of Practice establishment	ToR and Action Plans (#3) for CoPs (or innovation platforms);	44,820	2,500	Completed Activities in countries support Innovation plans. Regular National Technical Committee meetings took place throughout 2020
		National working meeting (#1) in country to evaluate institutional knowledge "value"			Postponed

Narrative

SKiM project has committed to establish or support Communities of Practice (CoP) for enhancing the national knowledge management systems. These CoPs represent knowledge management platforms (KMPs), they might focus on a sector of interest and will be a bridge between National Technical Committees (NTC) in target countries of the SKiM project and multi-stakeholder's innovation networks for the selected sectors. Developed document is essential document for supporting implementation of CoPs/KMPs. It describes the objectives of the CoPs/KMPs, the composition of CoPs/KMPs and describes the roles and responsibilities of different individuals and entities involved in the implementation of CoPs/KMPs. SKiM project continued supporting stakeholders in Moldova, Morocco and Sudan to operationalize CoPs/KMPs to strengthen the organizational capacity in 2020. During the course of the year, SKiM also provided on demand support to requests from NTC/CoPs.

National working meeting planned to be held in one of the countries was not possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. The purpose of the workshop was to share approach to evaluate institutional knowledge "value". Survey of the institutional knowledge value is currently focusing on ARC Sudan, time and restrictions allowing report will be available in 2021.

Progress towards component objectives

Most of the activities of Component 1 were completed in preceding implementation year, apart from Approach paper that was the only pending deliverable remaining as significant output. In 2020 the project team put efforts together to finalize Approach paper, but also maintained other relevant activities of Component 1, namely, to make inventory of available knowledge, and continue supporting CoPs established during 2019. Those select activities included maintaining engagement of research fellow to assess available knowledge with particular emphasis on IFAD completed and ongoing projects in target countries. Several outputs from such activity packaged as knowledge products are reported in Activity 3.3.

Approach paper is finalized and submitted. Additional idea with Approach paper was proposed to continue in 2021 with focus on evaluation synthesis to collect evidence of what worked from previously implemented projects and programs by IFAD in the region of interest for SKiM project.

Support to established CoPs in 2019 was important decision to continue in 2020 and onwards to ensure operationalization and facilitate knowledge exchange within country stakeholder groups. For this purpose, funds were made available from the project to support engagement of focal points in each of the target country and support to conduct regular National Technical Committee meetings as a form of formal interaction to encourage CoPs operationalization.

Links, if any, with other IFAD-supported activities and/or other partners

Project team is constantly engaging IFAD country staff and activities in events organized by SKIM. Close contacts and involvement in project activities are happening in connection with Moldova CPIU office as well as Sudan CCU office. Knowledge management personnel from offices in Moldova and Sudan are regularly informed during planning and are integrated in supporting project implementation.

More specific integration with IFAD projects in all focus countries is condensed in the report on Ongoing IFAD projects in focus countries that was used to develop linkages. The project team collected information about IFAD projects in focus countries, project reports and information was used to extract and develop a synthesis report of actions that can be implemented with these projects in order to provide KM "support". The knowledge entry points from projects were used to produce knowledge products that are presented in the above-mentioned report.

Lessons learned and knowledge shared

Following the analysis of the Ongoing IFAD projects in the target countries Moldova, Morocco, and Sudan, the following knowledge products were packaged in the form of Rural Solutions.
- Moldova:
    - Rural Solutions document on "Establishment of forest curtains to tackle soil infertility by contributing to the protection of agricultural land and increase agricultural production'.
    - Rural Solutions document on "Efficiency of application of minimum tillage technologies for Conservation Agriculture".
- Morocco:
    - Blog entry is being drafted on the Rural Development Programme in the Mountain Zones programme where there is collaboration with project partners, including agricultural advisory and research organizations. This entry point was selected for the knowledge product as the innovations transmitted through knowledge networks pertain to value addition, water and natural resources management, and basis for successful collaborations - could be used for various capacity development activities for Moroccan and international stakeholders.

- Sudan:
    - Rural Solutions document on "Community Initiative Fund - a matching grant formula, to finance groups to set up small scale productive enterprises".

5.3   Component 2 – Capacity development and knowledge systematization

Activity 2.1: Delivery of on-demand training courses in knowledge management and capacity development best practice

Proposal Narrative

The project will organize a series of tailored capacity development interventions in the form of training courses based on the capacity need assessment undertaken in each country. Courses will be provided as face to face and online (Moodle), in order to ensure reuse of the material after project completion by national partners. The courses will be organized in local languages and/or English using ICT support such as web and mobile-based applications. Key country partner organizations identified in each region during the initial phase will be the primary beneficiaries of the trainings, along with IFAD projects in target countries. Particular emphasis in developing training course materials will be given to improve organizational processes and strategies to deliver solutions for thematic areas covering the financial inclusion of women and youth, and natural resource management for climate change adaptation and agricultural productivity. The trainings will target officers from participating institutions, both collectively and individually, and will be tailored to reflect the knowledge and competence of participants, who can then transmit innovative ideas to develop businesses that help women and young people become integrated into society. The trainings will combine daily lectures (on innovation processes: the design and development phases of an innovative idea; networking and cooperation among innovation actors; mapping and analysis of innovation chains; methods and tools to effectively communicate entrepreneurial ideas, working with senior enterprises and investors, and the financial aspects of managing a business) with practical applications, simulating the realization of an idea based on country needs. Each training module will last one week.

Training materials will be developed, including manuals for trainees, guides for trainers, and visual aids. Workshops will deliver conceptual learning in all countries followed by case study materials pertaining to the context of each participating country. The format of delivery of case study trainings will be in-person for a group of stakeholders, as well as recorded lessons on selected topics for distribution purposes and better access for trainers and trainees. Recorded lessons will also be used to deliver courses through distance learning modes (through web, self-training with coaching, on DVDs). Courses will be prepared and delivered in different languages (e.g. Russian for Moldova), depending on audience composition.

Progress Overview

Table 25. Progress Overview, Delivery of on-demand training courses in knowledge management and capacity development best practice

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
100%	60%	92%

Indicators planned vs reported

Table 26: Delivery of on-demand training courses in knowledge management and capacity development best practice

Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence
Number of KM training courses organised	Log-frame	1	1 +2 additional trainings	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766.1/b76eaa https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12274 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12271
MOOC/MOODLE	Log-frame	1	1	https://mip.iamb.it/index.php/training/
Develop curriculum for on-	AWPB 2020	1	0	Postponed to 2021

demand training course on KM.				

Table 27: Delivery of on-demand training courses in knowledge management and capacity development best practice, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	41,750	0	5,000	36,750	0	0
Reported (until December 2020)	33,250	0	0	33,250	0	0
Difference	8,500	0	5,000	3,500	0	0

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 28: Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
2.1	Delivery of on-demand training courses in knowledge management and capacity development best practice	One training course organized (at least 20 participants; >=80% satisfaction/ effectiveness rate) + 1 MOODLE module;	36,750	3,250	Complete (1 + 2) - Learning Week training, and - 2-day training course Sudan - 2-day training course Moldova
		Develop curriculum for on-demand training course on KM.	5,000		Postponed to 2021

*Co-funding includes international and national partners

Narrative

- The main training was planned in Moldova but due to Covid-19 pandemic it was re-organized and proposed as an online course. The trainings combined lectures – on networking and cooperation among innovation actors; mapping and analysis of innovation chains; methods and tools to effectively communicate research and entrepreneurial ideas; implementing best practices; results and findings of the writeshops on knowledge management systems – with practical applications, simulating the realization of an idea based on participating institutions needs in order to improve their knowledge management capacity and valorisation of research results. The Course has been packaged and uploaded on the Learning Platform (Claroline) to allow to a larger number of staff from the institutions partners to have access to the material. Besides, it will ensure the reuse of the material by the national partners even after the project completion by.

The training was organized in 5 daily sessions of lectures and related discussion, participatory and interactive activities followed by Q&A. The detailed agenda is in annex 1. During the virtual breaks, there was a space to do further discussions, some practical applications through co-working and other relevant approaches as presentation of case study, questionnaire distributed and therefore discussed, new tools applied such as Mentimeter and Jamboard. The main language for delivery and exchange was English. All the activities were compliant with current regulations on COVID-19, compliance with specific countries regulation lies with the participants. For the complete activity overview, see the full report https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11941.

- On-demand follow up training in Sudan. The experience of the "lock down" due to COVID 19 has paradoxically exalted positively, despite the drama of the event, the importance of systems for

carrying out various remote activities through recent online technologies on the Web (smart working, e-learning, web meetings, webinars, etc.). The objective of the training was to answer the partners needs for capacity building and to extend on demand the session E-Learning and Remote Technical Assistance (RTA): the experience of CIHEAM Bari that was advanced during the training above mentioned. Those tools are mainly used for Knowledge sharing that is one of the knowledge management main processes. In this follow-up, the general principles of distance information and training, the management methodologies of information systems, the criteria for the presentation and delivery of content and some technological applications for web meetings and webinars were presented (Annex 1). Training a limited number of participants is only the jumping off point and the trained persons at their turn will share their knowledge with others. For the complete activity overview, see the full report https://repo.mel.cgiar.org/handle/20.500.11766/12274.

- On-demand follow up training in Moldova. During several events in the frame of SKiM project, Moldova State Agrarian University (SAUM) has shown an interest in capacity building activities related to entrepreneurship. It is a transversal discipline in all the faculties. For that reason this follow up was tailored on demand as the partner has requested it at the end of 2020 learning week. It aims to transmit innovative ideas to develop businesses that help graduated students to take initiatives and become integrated into society by becoming participatory in the economy. It meets the project thematic area 'financial inclusion of rural women and youth' through sharing the knowledge regarding the entrepreneurial culture and its challenges. A smart café project is incubating at the SAUM that will be a ring in the chain of knowledge management as it is a tool for sharing knowledge where people can have good discussions, dialogue, and externalization of innovative ideas.

The proposed training course aims at providing key knowledge to those who are running entrepreneurship support programs or are set to create one, to tailor the programs according to the ecosystems where they operate and to the typical users they are trying to support. At the end of the course they possess the tools that could be used for self-assessment of the entrepreneurial idea besides becoming familiar with the different services that should accompany each phase of the idea development. Training a limited number of participants is only the jumping off point and the trained persons at their turn will share their knowledge with others. For the complete activity overview, see the full report https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12271.

Activity 2.2: Organization of at least 3 learning routes in the target countries

Proposal Narrative

Screening successful cases of learning routes across three thematic areas for selection in several learning routes. These learning routes will be based on, but not limited to the successful knowledge gained from the previous projects of ICARDA and its partners. There could also be indigenous knowledge, which will be identified in relevant activities. Sources of information for best practices will include field visits and contacts with country partners through ICARDA country/project offices, as well as publications prepared by a number of organizations such as IFAD, ICARDA, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and PROCASUR on the thematic areas of these projects. The key knowledge to address the thematic areas could include but are not limited to the previous learning routes from ICARDA's experience on: (i) successful water management in Egypt, (ii) drought tolerant cereals and legumes crop varieties in Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA), wheat seed systems in Ethiopia, sustainable land management in Central Asia, salinity management in Egypt and Central Asia, rainfed agriculture in Morocco, irrigated agriculture in Uzbekistan, and fiber value chains in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Strong emphasis in the selection process will be given towards cases with strong governmental backing or those initiated by governments or local communities, along with those funded from development assistance programs. Handbook material will include specific learning objectives of selected case studies. At least one learning route will be organized in each of the three initially selected countries, with the following learning routes to be organized in either the same countries, or in two more countries added later. A mix of participants to include decision makers, practitioners, project staff, and regional and international representatives will be involved to promote the cross-regional exchange of experiences.

Thematic areas applied in each country incorporate those domains in which countries have advanced experience, for instance rainfed agricultural systems in Morocco (including climate smart agriculture such as supplemental irrigation, conservation agriculture, stress tolerant varieties of cereals and legumes, field-water harvesting, agroforestry, and livestock). Thematic areas in Sudan and Moldova could include agro-pastoral ecosystem management, water management, gender inclusivity and youth socio-economic empowerment focused on financial inclusion. Resource persons will guide participants, especially from communities to develop innovation plans to share with their communities and implement in local conditions. Learning routes should emphasize technical innovations, as well as organizational change (such as better-defined objectives and tasks, internal processes, and management and governance). Projects will facilitate close communication with local champions of successful cases. The partnership of ICARDA with PROCASUR would ensure the quality of the learning routes, thanks to their wide experience of both organizations on the ground. In particular, PROCASUR will enhance in-country institutional capabilities on knowledge management by methodological training on peer- to- peer knowledge transfer and scaling up of innovations to change agents of partner organizations. The experience of PROCASUR' s methodological training to IFAD funded projects in Sudan will be considered as reference for this activity.

Progress Overview

Table 29. Progress Overview, Organization of at least 3 learning routes in the target countries

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
100%	33%[3]	51%*

*funds allocated for logistics were not spent, LR was held virtual

Indicators planned vs reported

Table 30: Organization of at least 3 learning routes in the target countries, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence

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[3] Moldova and Morocco Learning Routes to be deployed accordingly.

Number of Learning Routes organised	Log-frame	1	Complete	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766.1/b920be https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12256

Budget planned vs utilized

Table 31: Organization of at least 3 learning routes in the target countries, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	112,532	3,659	0	60,000	46,167	2,706
Reported (until December 2020)	60,210	4,320	0	52,452	0	3,439
Difference	52,321	-660	0	7,548	46,167	-733

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 32. Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
2.2	Organization of at least 3 learning routes in the target countries	• Number of learning routes organized (target=1; at least 25 participants, >=80% satisfaction/ effectiveness rate)	112,532	9,000	Completed Sourcebook prepared, physical event was replaced to online mode, due to covid-19 organized as virtual campaign Workshop logistics funds were not spent.

Narrative

In alignment with the Grant Design Document, emphasis in the selection process of cases was given to best practices with strong governmental backing along with those funded from development assistance programmes. In practice for the first (of potentially three) Learning Routes this meant using an IFAD Sudan Country Programme lens to focus on thematic areas such as Natural Resource Management, Agriculture and Livestock Production (representing e.g., water management, drought tolerant crops, and sustainable land management, and rainfed agriculture), and inclusion of Women and Youth by identifying a mix of most effective, efficient, and sustainable, hence best practices in KM tools, assets and approaches.

The PROCASUR Learning Route approach for the Sudan thus focused on such KM tools which facilitated uptake of change by early innovators, increased outreach at scale, and which have demonstrated the potential for institutionalization. The choice of best-fit KM tools for the Sudan Learning Route was informed by the IFAD Sudan COSOP (Country Strategic Opportunity Programme) and IFAD's Country Knowledge Management Strategy which set the context. IFAD's corporate Knowledge Management Strategy (2019) complements these two reference policy documents with its clear Theory of Change. In addition, findings of the IFAD Sudan Country Level Evaluation became available in 2020 in support of the focus on Best Practices in Knowledge Management.

With the State of Emergency called for by the extensive floods and inundations, the general unrest in the Country in the wake of the 1st Year of the Revolution and its resulting internal travel restrictions, as well as the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, a presential Learning Route was deemed to no longer be possible. In consequence, late August/early September it was proposed by PROCASUR and ICARDA that the Learning Route be held in a virtual way later in Q4 2020 to which IFAD had no objection.

All the LR best practices have been made available open access, including the publication of the Sudan Country Source Book, one introductory interview, four Case Studies and a Learning Survey that has allowed participants to connect directly with the knowledge providers, enabling circular knowledge exchange and

triangular cooperation. This new approach has contributed to spread awareness on the importance of knowledge management to a wider audience, thanks to its social media outreach.

The SKiM partners have coordinated a multi-stakeholder effort to realize Virtual Learning Route campaign - from 29 November to 4 December 2020 – themed on the agricultural challenges and knowledge expertise in the Sudanese context. The national resource persons of the Sudan Source Book and the IFAD Country Director and Country Programme Officer (CPO) would present the essential highlights of the Introduction and the respective case study by a video presentation in form of a 15' guided interview. The five webcast video interview presentations would then be accessed by the above-mentioned audience.

The Case Study elements of the virtual Learning Route (VLR) are:
VLR Introduction: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12118 (93 views as of March 2021)
VLR Case 1 - Learning Routes https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12119 (90 views)
VLR Case 2 - Gender Action Learning Systems https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12120 (97 views)
VLR Case 3 – Community Knowledge-based Peer Networks https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12121 (71 views)
VLR Case 4 - Natural Resources Governance https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12122 (538 views)

The Social Media Campaign informing the SKiM development partners had an outreach of approx. 22 institutions. The week-long web posting of the Sudan Source Book and the video interview presentations attracted moderate number of viewers with the exception of Case 4 – Natural Resources Governance which was viewed well over 500 times.

A total of 15 respondents, of which 10 pertain to SKiM staff, its partners, or Steering/National Technical Committee members, used the opportunity to request additional information ranging from 'how to do a KM Strategy', 'more on IFAD projects' to 'getting in touch' and 'how to scale up'. Procasur redirected each query to contact relevant case study presenter.

Progress towards component objectives

Training planned to be delivered as face-to-face was converted into online mode and savings from logistics allocations were used to deliver additional follow up on-demand course. This was good gesture from CIHEAM Bari and increased training delivery from planned 2 to deliver of 3 trainings of varying length + 1 Moodle course. Good partnership dynamics. On trainings delivery Activity 2.1 is on track.

Despite 2020 pandemic situation, Learning Route was successfully introduced as knowledge management and learning methodology to the Sudan in the context of the IFAD Country Programme. Planned delivery of one LR in 2020 was reviewed and delivered in Virtual mode which proved to be effective to widen the reach. Resources are open access and continue to be accessible even after the event is complete. The effect is confidently long lasting and knowledge shared is findable and shareable. Activity 2.2 is on track.

Links, if any, with other IFAD-supported activities and/or other partners, Lessons learned and knowledge shared

The Learning Route tapped into IFAD implemented projects where best practices were identified and successfully tested on the ground. The following 4 case studies are directly linked to IFAD and partners' supported activities:
1. Virtual Learning Route Introduction- The Sudan country programme has made important strides in building assets and tools for knowledge management. This is evidenced by knowledge systematization and cross-learning between the projects, particularly around natural resource management and governance, and women empowerment. Collaboration with international and/or national entities, e.g. CGIAR, Agricultural Research Center (ARC), Universities or similar research and academic agencies was also mobilized : https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12118
2. Virtual Learning Route Case 1 - Learning Routes- Sudanese development stakeholders started abroad with Learning Routes on Best Practices in Natural Resource Management, Agricultural Productivity and Women Empowerment. Then insights were modified and successfully applied to the Sudanese project contexts and have significantly contributed towards greater development effectiveness: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12119
3. Virtual Learning Route Case 2 - Gender Action Learning Systems- The introduction and mainstreaming of Gender Action Learning System (GALS), a women empowerment methodology based on empowerment through knowledge mobilization and transfer, in the IFAD portfolio in Sudan has led to remarkable economic, social, environmental, and political impacts: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12120
4. Virtual Learning Route Case 3 - Community Knowledge-based Peer Networks- Establishing good natural resource management governance frameworks was identified as priority by local communities. The establishment of knowledge-based peer Community Networks in At Tasab provided an important impetus as well as a concrete indicator of community empowerment and the institutionalization of social change processes : https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12121
5. Virtual Learning Route Case 4 - Natural Resources Governance- Non-conducive land legislation and the abolishment of the Native Administration put communal land rights in conflict with modern laws. A new bottom up Natural Resources Governance Framework and policies governing co-management of stock routes were informed by multi-stakeholder consultations fostered by IFAD co-funded projects: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12122

Lessons learned and knowledge shared

A Social Media Toolkit has been designed to promote the Virtual Learning Route (VLR) event, as part of an

overall Delivery & Communication Plan for the activity.

A Social Media Toolkit provides guidance for project partners to promote materials and disseminate information through popular social media websites. The guide breaks down the building blocks of format and content of messages, provides instructions on proper dissemination depending on the social media platform. The objective is that by using the toolkit, project partners can save time in communication tasks and maintain a cohesive tone and image across social media platforms. Sourcing the content from the toolkit standardizes product promotion, ultimately increasing the clarity of the message to the target audience. The Toolkit has proven successful with extensive engagement of partners and target audience.

2020 Virtual Learning Route Delivery and Communication Plan: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12250
SKiM - 2020 Virtual Learning Route Social Media Toolkit: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12124

The virtual Learning Route as implemented in the Sudan has demonstrated that KM and learning by distance is doable and potentially powerful. An even wider uptake of KM tools for technical innovations for social inclusion might have been accomplished had timing and situation of 2020 pandemic year been more user friendly. The end-of-the-year timing combined with the compressed timeline of the Social Media Campaign may have restricted wider circulation and preparation of potential interested participants. Furthermore, a more interactive exchange modality would have fostered dialogue between interested parties by means of a 'live' virtual Question and Answer session by an expert panel. Procasur planned to organize recorded responses to questions collected through survey, however, decided to redirect questions to contact case study providers.

5.4 Component 3 – Enhanced regional knowledge exchange

Activity 3.1: Set-up and regular maintenance of online portal that builds upon previous tools and capacities

Proposal Narrative

The project will ensure that an information-sharing mechanism based on the experimentation outlined in activity 1.3 is created (note: experimentation activity was designed in original proposal, which was later removed, current activity 1.3 is not the one referred to in this text). The project will then ensure that the mechanism (e.g. joint online portal) is available and sustainable for all involved partners, allowing them to store the information and data using international standards (i.e. Dublin Core, FAO Agrovoc, ISO) in order to facilitate data sharing. Such a mechanism will have interoperable functionalities (i.e. API and Webservices) to interact with other institutional systems and mobile applications.

The online portal will be part of a communication strategy and will be capacitated with relevant expertise for upgrading and maintaining the knowledge management infrastructure (e-platform and network, databases, GIS mapping and audio-visual content). A website will be aimed at delivering practical results of the projects, in different types and grades of information prepared specifically for use by the key target audiences. Links to other useful and interactive sites (such as IFAD's Rural Solutions Portal, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) will be integrated.

Progress Overview

Table 33. Progress Overview, Set-up and regular maintenance of online portal

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
100%	90%	61%*

*development funds allocated for portal 2020 modifications were commissioned but not completed

Indicators planned vs reported

Table 34. Set-up and regular maintenance of online portal, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target*	Progress	Evidence
Online interoperable repository and portal established	Log-Frame	1 portal developed with 5,000 views/downloads of linked materials and pages	Completed	https://knowledgemanagementportal.org 6,000+ views (updated 17th December), calculated via Google Analytics

*AWPB 2020 the target was planned by "Indicator 3. Dissemination of knowledge products", after the finalization of the SKiM Monitoring & Evaluation Plan, the target has been corrected with "Indicator 12. Online interoperable repository and portal established".

Budget planned vs utilized

Table 35: Set-up and regular maintenance of online portal, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	35,041	0	17,350	7,691	0	10,000
Reported (until December 2020)	17,370	0	17,360	0	0	10
Difference	17,671	0	-10	7,691	0	9,990

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 36. Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs Planned*	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
3.1	Set-up and regular maintenance of online portal that builds upon previous tools and capacities	Fine-tune, maintenance and integration of tools, populate with knowledge products, increase the use frequency	35.041	0	Completed

*AWPB 2020 the target was planned by "Indicator 3. Dissemination of knowledge products", after the finalization of the SKiM Monitoring & Evaluation Plan, the target has been corrected with "Indicator 12. Online interoperable repository and portal established".

Narrative

The "Knowledge Portal" (KP) stimulates the synthesis of knowledge and evidence, the production of information products, and their dissemination to target audiences. The Open Access "knowledge portal" webpages are structured to enhance the outreach of the research for development efforts of the included institutions, delivering practical results, in different types and grades of information for the use by key target audiences. The inner part (accessible with login) of the platform is an online "knowledge platform" which acts as a repository of information. The portal information is stored using international standards (Dublin Core, FAO AGROVOC, ISO) to facilitate data sharing and interoperable functionalities (API and web-services) to interact with other institutional systems and mobile applications.

The development has been informed by the successful application of previous IFAD-supported initiatives managed by ICARDA including: MENARID Gateway and the CACILM Knowledge Sharing Platform (http://www.cacilm.org/en/).

The KP has so far:
- Reached the planned project goal of 5000 visits.
- Contributed to the planned yearly project goal of 3000 views and 600 downloads of SKiM knowledge.
- Provided a channel to showcase SKiM stakeholders' activities and results, and a database for storage.
- Fostered the understanding and interest of the national stakeholders is implementing same or similar platforms for knowledge management, effectively strengthening their KM capabilities.
- Acted pivotal for the "KM Platform" SKiM Community of Practice establishment.

Activity 3.2: Roll-out of five knowledge symposia

Proposal Narrative

The project will support national partners to organize a series of knowledge events where partners are able to share best practices on knowledge management and dissemination with specific emphasis on the three project areas. Knowledge symposia will be organized to integrate the concept of a share-fair, covering all three thematic areas where innovations are presented from information booths to visiting audiences in free mode without time restrictions. Such thematic workshops and regional symposia bring together international and national expertise, on: innovative approaches for women and youth inclusion, natural resource management and climate change, agricultural productivity increase through crop varietal improvement (supplementary irrigation, drought heat and salinity), integrated crop-range-livestock production systems, soil and water conservation linked to sustainable land management, and food security.

Symposia will be a platform to exchange and organize regional policy dialogue forums informed by the results of the analysis of case studies. Such conventions will help organizations devise new ways of exchanging and disseminating knowledge and provide ideas to organize relevant national and regional meetings to facilitate the improved exchange of experiences and uptake of viable knowledge use and transfer options.

Progress Overview

Table 37. Progress Overview, Roll-out of five knowledge symposia

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
25%	40%	25%

Indicators planned vs reported

Table 38: Roll-out of five knowledge symposia, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence/Notes
Number of Symposia organised at the country level	Log-frame	1	0	The concept of Symposium was agreed and developed together with SKS. However, event could not be carried out due to restrictions (e.g. COVID pandemic, Sudan oil shortage, difficult situation in Sudan) https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12251

Budget planned vs utilized

Table 39: Roll-out of five knowledge symposia, Budget planned vs utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	15,691	0	0	7,691	8,000	0
Reported (until December 2020)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	15,691	0	0	7,691	8,000	0

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 40. Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Description	Outputs	Budget	Co-finance	Status (as of 2020)

		Planned	(USD)	(USD)	Remarks/Assumptions
3.2	Roll-out of five knowledge symposia	At least one national symposium organized by national partners.	15,691	0	Primed

Narrative

The following steps in Table 41 and plan was agreed with the Sudanese Knowledge Society to organize symposium with Sudan stakeholders. The event was planned for early December 2020, however, due to covid related restrictions and difficult economic situation in the Sudan event could not be carried out. Converting this event into online mode was not possible and effective, this is due to difficulties with internet connection for participants and additional time required to mobilize audience and prepare online format.

Table 41. Two stage symposium concept culminating in TEDx event

Timeframe	Activity
1st week	Meeting with Partners to introduce the plan and kick-off the preparation activities
2nd week	Orientation Meetings/visits for the partners to headhunt potential participants
3rd week	Approve final program and confirm event venue and logistics
4th week	Sharethon Event (two days event with a writeshop)
5th week	Encouraging partners to do "Peer Assist" to support learning from each other. Plus, support visits from SKS to all partners.
6th week	National Technical Committee meeting – Follow up on partners' progress
7th week	TEDx Event

Symposium will be reviewed and discussed within NTC Sudan to modify as needed to fine-tune and conduct in feasible format in 2021.

Activity 3.3: Development and dissemination of knowledge products

Proposal Narrative

This includes packaging knowledge into easily accessible products that facilitate increased uptake of sustainable water, land, forest and agriculture management related to cropping systems, rangelands, livestock- and crop-improvement; in relevant languages. Dissemination knowledge products will include infographics, 'how to' recommendation booklets, short promotional video-infographics etc. The practices of national partners, such as regular TV programs by IDIS Viitorul in Moldova could be replicated to address three thematic areas in all countries.

Synthesized case studies with descriptions will be consolidated in a compendium, structured according to the three thematic areas. A compilation of synthesized best practices will be made freely available online in different languages to facilitate wide dissemination. Each case study will be documented in a consistent and structured format, and will include the following information: location context, an explanation of the innovation, the role of women and youth, impacts, and an analysis of strengths and weaknesses. An online version of the compendium will use graphics and present innovations in a series to facilitate browsing.

Materials developed will be disseminated via a variety of resources to provide greater visibility and accessibility. Documented and recorded training courses (Moodle), videos and communication materials will be promoted through ICARDA web resources, and IFAD web resources, including the Rural Solutions Portal, which is currently being developed.

Progress Overview

Table 42. Progress Overview, Development, and dissemination of knowledge products

Progress Towards the Reporting Period	Progress Towards Project's End Date	Budget Utilization in the Reporting Period
100%	50%	60%

Indicators planned vs reported

Table 43: Development and dissemination of knowledge products, Indicators planned vs. reported

Indicator Name	Source	Target	Progress	Evidence
Dissemination of knowledge products	AWPB 2020	Frequency of use of knowledge products (target = 600 downloads per year and 3,000 visits per year)	Completed	3,000+ views and 3,000+ downloads (as of 31st December) of SKiM knowledge calculated via MELSpace
Number of knowledge products generated	AWPB 2020	7	16	See Annex 1

Budget planned vs utilized

Table 44: Development and dissemination of knowledge products, Budget planned vs. utilized (USD)

	Total costs	Salaries and Allowances	Consultancies	Goods and Services	Workshops	Operating Costs
Proposal Plan	25,091	0	0	7,691	13,000	4,400
Reported (until December 2020)	11,430	0	0	5,500	0	5,930
Difference	13,661	0	0	2,191	13,000	-1,530

Reference to Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020) to demonstrate chronology of project implementation and progress during reporting period

Table 45: Reference to approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (2020)

Activity	Sub-Activity	Outputs Planned	Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Status (as of 2020) Remarks/Assumptions
3.3	Development and dissemination of knowledge products	Newsletters; at least 7 communication products originating from stakeholder knowledge base	25,091	0	Completed
*Co-funding includes international and national partners					

Narrative

Over 2020, a total of 16 key products have been generated by ICARDA and implementing partners out of 77 created overall, counting 25 presentations, 17 videos, 8 Newsletters, 6 reports, 6 templates, 1 blog, 1 brochure and 1 dataset. The knowledge has been reported on Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL), ensuring Open Access fruition within Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) principles.

The number or capacity development activities implemented has generated a high volume of knowledge exchange during the events by the participants. Special attention has been given to success stories, investing in the narrative to promote a shared understanding of Knowledge Management in addition to boosting the outreach of the CapDev events. The project newsletter and the Knowledge Portal in particular are expected to keep the partners informed and foster additional outreach of future products and participation to future activities.

List of core products are presented in Annex 1.

Progress towards component objectives

The project team has focused on the remote support and production of knowledge material, with the formulation of online and virtual interventions, learning opportunities and dissemination, doubling the number of knowledge products reported against the planned number (16 reported against 8 planned). The development of a Symposium terms of reference has the project team resume its implementation in 2021. The SKiM Knowledge Portal has scored its planned overall goals, while contributing to the annual knowledge sharing goals and synergizing for sustainability of KM strengthening interventions.

Links, if any, with other IFAD-supported activities and/or other partners

The SKiM project team has been in constant contact with the partners, where inputs from the partners were crucial for the creation of the knowledge products including presentations, articles for SKiM newsletters, packaging of videos, posters, and reports.

Lessons learned and knowledge shared

SKiM partner institutions were more than interested to use the SKiM team expertise to help them package their knowledge into various knowledge products. The products packaged were : Newsletters; Lessons Learned Template, 2020 Rural Solutions Package: Moldova, 2020 Rural Solutions Package: Morocco, 2020 Rural Solutions Package: Sudan, 2020 Rural Solutions Package: Uzbekistan-Tajikistan; Virtual Visits Videos Package, Selectia Crop Catalogue (Moldova), Rahad Agricultural Scheme Research Poster (Sudan), SKiM engagement videos: Writeshop, Symposium and CoP, SAUM Youth Engagement Video, SAUM Entrepreneurial Success Story A, SAUM Entrepreneurial Success Story B; SAUM Entrepreneurial Success Story C, IDIS Guide for KM Practitioners (Moldova), KM Protocol Paper draft.

6.Implementation arrangements

6.1   Annual Workplan and Budget

Annual Workplan and Budget in 2020 is following calendar year from January to December. Also, additional Component 0 was made separate dedicated for project management activities, including coordination, M&E, mid-term evaluation and the Steering Committee organization.

6.2   Partnership agreements

Partnership agreements to implement mutually agreed activities are finalized with CIHEAM-Bari, Virginia Tech (represented by Professor Jeffrey Alwang) and Procasur. Details of activities were discussed and agreed with each partner.

As requested by the project partners in target countries, the project team has worked to formalize participation of partners in the SKiM project via agreements, including MoA for Extension and Technology Transfer and General Administration. A draft template of the agreement was sent to project partners to be discussed, agreed, and signed to formalize the participation in the SKiM project. The following partners have signed the agreement: ARC-Sudan, ENA Meknes, IAV Hassan II, IDIS, Selectia, State Agricultural University of Moldova, ONCA, SKS, INRA. The agreements with following are in discussion- CCU-IFAD, University of Khartoum, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ahfad University for Women, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and Alecu Russu University of Balti.

6.3   Project management

As per recommendation from the Steering Committee, efforts were made to ensure a balanced coordination across the three countries with a national focal point in each target country and the overall coordination with the Project Leader, currently based in Tashkent.

Simultaneously, the project focal points in focus countries were identified and offered part-time engagement with the project to help conducting country activities. The project facilitator in Moldova has been onboard since April 2019. Morocco and Sudan focal points were in place in 2020 and greatly supported project activities and stakeholder interactions on the ground during difficult pandemic year.

7.Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning

In accordance with the submitted proposal the project uses the M&E system currently in use by other four (4) IFAD projects in Africa, Asia and Europe. The initial steps were to configure the system in accordance with the approved logical framework along with the outputs and outcomes. Each level was populated with the related indicators. The system was described using multiple media in order to facilitate its use. A series of short overview/frequently asked questions documents have been produced (http://repo.mel.cgiar.org/handle/20.500.11766/4962 and http://repo.mel.cgiar.org/handle/20.500.11766/4961) in addition to a dedicated YouTube Channel for tutorials https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIe4a86Rp-hcTt5C_x4YkHg and online wiki guide: https://cgiarmel.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/MEL/pages/8552647/Projects+Planning.

The system was also equipped with an online chat to provide support and integration with GitHub in order to establish a direct linkage with the software development team able to address any technical constraint. A discussion forum was also included to facilitate discussions.

The second year of the project was more dedicated towards following the structural design and was characterized with more capacity development activities around M&E. The project activities and events in the second year have brought synergies with the KM component facilitated several discussions about the logical framework indicators and related targets in order to perform a reality check.

Since the project goal is relevant to CGIAR, we have adopted from the suitable indicators from strategic frameworks of ICARDA, IFAD, and CGIAR. The monitoring and evaluation framework include details on methods, data collection and cleaning systems, storage and visualization tools proposed for this process. The process to review indicators follows the IFAD framework to assess: a) relevance; b) effectiveness; c) efficiency; d) impact; e) sustainability; f) governance and management; g) Gender equality and women's empowerment; h) Innovation and scaling up; i) Environment and natural resources management; l) Adaptation to climate change; and m) Partnership.

8. Financial and fiduciary management

The financial statement tables for the period between June 8, 2018 (official inception of the project) and December 31, 2020 is presented below. Second year Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) from IFAD grant was USD 449,148 of which USD 8,979 correspond to the 2% CSP contribution. Up to 31 December 2020, the amount disbursed by IFAD to ICARDA is USD 588,471 and 2% CSP (12,006) contribution. By December 31, 2020 (end of the second year) total expense is USD 690,491 including commitments USD 85,750.

Table 46 Expenses per activity vs. planned (USD)

Activity	Plan	Actual	Actual per budget line				
			Salaries and allowances	Consultancies	Goods and services	Workshops	Operating costs
0.1	40,463	33,603	24,658				8,945
0.2	30,000	2,000					2,000
0.3	24,000	0					
1.1	14,400	11,114	11,114				
1.2	23,775	19,817		19,817			
1.3	0	0					
1.4	44,820	33,372	900	16,248	15,374	849	
2.1	41,750	33,250			33,250		
2.2	112,532	60,210	4,320		52,452		3,439
3.1	35,041	17,310		17,360			10
3.2	15,691	0					
3.3	25,091	11,430			5,500		5,930
Overhead (8%)	32,605	17,775					
CSP (2%)	8,979	8,074					
TOTAL	449,148	248,045	41,022	53,425	106,576	849	20,324

Table 47 Statement of expenditures, reporting period 8 June 2018 to 31 December 2020

Description	Current Period 01-07-2020 to 31-12-2020			Year to Date 01-01-2020 to 31-12-2020			Cumulative-to Date 08-06-2018 to 31-12-2020			
	Actual Expenditures	Budget	Balance	Actual Expenditures	Budget	Balance	Actual Expenditures	Budget	Winding Up Expenditures	Balance %
	1	2	3 = 1-2	4	5	6 = 4-5	7	8		9 = 7-8
Sources of Funds										
IFAD	192,060	328,778	(136,718)	248,045	449,148	(201,103)	604,741	819,148		(214,407)
Counterpart fund ICARDA (BOTH IN-KIND IN CASH CONSOLIDATE	7,500	7,500	-	15,000	15,000	-	70,000	67,492		2,508
Counterpart fund CIHEAM	3,250	1,625	1,625	3,250	3,250	-	6,750	6,750		-
Counterpart fund PROCASUR	9,000	5,000	4,000	9,000	10,000	(1,000)	9,000	10,000		(1,000)
Counterpart fund Virginia Tech	-	1,250	(1,250)	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	2,500		(2,500)
Counterpart fund										
Other donor										
Total Sources of Fund	**211,810**	**344,153**	**(132,343)**	**275,295**	**479,898**	**(204,603)**	**690,491**	**905,890**	**-**	**(215,399)**
Uses of Funds (IFAD)										
Consultancies	32,127	75,675	(43,548)	53,425	103,350	(49,925)	68,109	127,350		(59,241)
Goods , Services and Inputs :	98,869	80,419	18,450	106,576	125,419	(18,843)	218,802	236,419		(17,617)
Workshops	-	88,167	(88,167)	849	88,167	(87,318)	34,675	128,167		(93,492)
Salaries and Allowances	23,991	27,878	(3,887)	41,022	47,599	(6,577)	157,101	158,599		(1,498)
Operating costs	15,371	26,199	(10,828)	20,324	43,029	(22,705)	70,141	93,029		(22,888)
Overheads	13,628	23,867	(10,239)	17,775	32,605	(14,830)	43,906	59,605		(15,699)
Cost Sharing Percentage	8,074	6,573	1,501	8,074	8,979	(905)	12,007	15,979		(3,972)
Subtotal	**192,060**	**328,778**	**(136,718)**	**248,045**	**449,148**	**(201,103)**	**604,741**	**819,148**		**(214,407)**
Non-IFAD in cash	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non IFAD in kind	19,750	15,375	4,375	27,250	30,750	(3,500)	85,750	86,742		(992)
Total Uses of Funds	**211,810**	**344,153**	**(132,343)**	**275,295**	**479,898**	**(204,603)**	**690,491**	**905,890**	**-**	**(215,399)**

9. Shortcomings and problems encountered in grant implementation and actions taken

- Coronavirus pandemic in 2020 halted all ground operations. Planned training was not possible to conduct face-to-face in Moldova.

Actions taken: In consultation with CIHEAM Bari, virtual training was organized title the Learning Week where all participants met online and attended the course. Recorded version of the course is made available for access at any other time convenient to other participants.

- Similar situation with Learning Route in Sudan, due to coronavirus pandemic on the ground activities were not possible thus compromising delivery of planned key activities.

Actions taken: Since most of the events in 2020 shifted to online mode, calling for better internet connectivity, time overloading and difficulty with keeping audience engaged for long period of time, the project team came up with innovative solution to convert and present LR in recorded mode to allow participants view the material at their convenient time. This event was massively promoted through variety of social media channels engaging IFAD, ICARDA, CIHEAM, PROCASUR and all partners. For some of the recorded case studies number of views as of March 2021 exceed well over 500 views.

- Presence in each of the target countries of dedicate person to support country level activities was lacking.

Actions taken: Based on recommendation from the Steering Committee and consultations with IFAD it was decided to engage focal points on the ground to support activities and interactions with stakeholders. Such part time engagement of focal points is beneficial for the project and helps developing ownership. Currently there are three female focal points in the target countries.

10. Other events and relevant issues during the reporting period

Year 2020 was extraordinary worldwide with outbreak of COVID-19 and announcement of global pandemic situation. The spread of coronavirus has developed rapidly early 2020, with significant number of cases globally. Measures taken to contain the virus have significantly affected all activities, which in turn had many implications on project implementation. Remote work and online events were the most intensively used modalities and re-establishment of virtual type of partnerships with stakeholders in target countries Moldova, Morocco, Sudan has developed and progressed in different speeds.

The project team made all efforts to be on track of planned activities and deliverables, with innovative approaches to conduct events, communication and regular meetings. Although the impact of COVID-19 in 2021 will remain high, the project team is looking forward with hope that physical visits and face-to-face interactions will become possible in the latter half of the year.

11. Summary and recommendations for follow-up

Long term engagement is bearing fruits as better and closer rapport is built with stakeholders. Interest and enthusiasm from national partners is important element of any relationship as behaviour and institutional change takes time.

Support from IFAD team both from headquarters and country operations is very encouraging.

- KM Strategy has been voiced as the need for Morocco stakeholders. Project team in consultation with IFAD and Morocco stakeholders planned to support in identifying resource person to facilitate development of KM Strategy for institutions in Morocco.
- SKiM is ready to support with knowledge sharing best practices. Some institutions plan to adopt the practice of newsletter to disseminate news and updates to their partners and networks.
- SKiM will be supporting stakeholders in sharing of institutional knowledge; some institutions plan to digitize publications and create metadata for accessibility. KM portal is ready avenue for stakeholders to utilize in case suitable.
- Further fine-tuning of KM portal will be ongoing in 2021. Support to stakeholders is also available to update and modify their websites to integrate with KM portal.
- The project team is dedicated to plan and deliver interventions that have value to institutions, realizing that beneficiary institutions are intermediaries that function in focus counties and are the ones to continue to innovate and reach the rural poor.

12. Annex 1: List of Knowledge Products

#	Product Title	Q.	Product Type	Link	Status
1	2020 Newsletters	9	Newsletter	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/10548 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/10720 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/10844 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/10986 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11062 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11808 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12012 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12136 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12276	Open Access
2	Lessons Learned Template	1	Template	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11140	Open Access
3	2020 Rural Solutions Package: Moldova	1	Innovation/Best Practice	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12267	Limited Access
4	2020 Rural Solutions Package: Morocco	1	Innovation/Best Practice	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12268	Limited Access
5	2020 Rural Solutions Package: Sudan	1	Innovation/Best Practice	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12266	Limited Access
6	2020 Rural Solutions Package: Uzbekistan-Tajikistan	1	Innovation/Best Practice	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12255	Limited Access
7	Virtual Visits Videos Package	7	Videos	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11491 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11488 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11493 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11490 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11489 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11492 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11494	Open Access
8	Selectia Crop Catalogue (Moldova)	1	Report	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12254	Open Access
9	Rahad Agricultural Scheme Research Poster (Sudan)	1	Research Poster	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12243	Open Access
10	SKiM engagement videos: Writeshop, Symposium and Knowledge Management Platform	3	Videos	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/11772 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/10832 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12290	Open Access
11	SAUM Youth Engagement Video	1	Video	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12281	Open Access
12	SAUM Entrepreneurial Success Story A	1	Video	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12278	Open Access
13	SAUM Entrepreneurial Success Story B	1	Video	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12279	Open Access
14	SAUM Entrepreneurial Success Story C	1	Video	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12280	Open Access
15	IDIS Guide for KM Practitioners (Moldova)	1	Guide	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12277	Limited Access
16	KM Protocol Paper draft	1	Research Paper	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/12282	Limited Access

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 works with international partners CIHEAM-Bari, PROCASUR, Virginia Tech as well as NARS, governments, and agricultural extension services in Moldova, Morocco and Sudan.

Initiated in June 2018, the project facilitates and supports KM and capacity development activities in the three selected countries and will provide practical examples of KM best practices that will be analysed and adopted by participating institutions. Increasing the capacities of participating public institutions, by providing necessary structures and systems at the country and regional levels, will ensure that knowledge can be effectively managed for long-term growth and development.

The project website (https://mel.cgiar.org/projects/SKIM) provides background information and describes the project team, partners and stakeholders engaged. The website also shares key documents including the project proposal, and outlines the goals, objectives and impact pathway of the project, as well as additional resources and information on news and events.