

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

REPORT

2020 SKiM Learning Week
Follow-up Course
Partners Online Training- Sudan
23-24 November 2020



2020 SKiM Learning Week Follow-up Course

Partners Online Training- Sudan-Report

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Keywords

Knowledge sharing, e-learning, Remote Technical Assistance (RTA), learning management system (LMS), web apps, tutor, Netiquette, communication.

Prepared by

Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes of Bari (CIHEAM Bari)

Project

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

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About CIHEAM-Bari

CIHEAM Bari is a Centre for post-graduate training, applied scientific research and design of in loco partnership actions within the framework of international research and cooperation programmes.

The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari and the Institute of Montpellier were the first to be established by CIHEAM.

In line with CIHEAM's Action Plan 2025 for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025), CIHEAM Bari is involved in a number of activities which provide a platform for institutions and organizations wishing to cooperate across the Mediterranean area. Furthermore, the experience gained may often be transferred to other regions of the world. Special attention is paid to the involvement of CIHEAM Bari Alumni, especially in their countries of origin.

Cooperation and research actions concern important issues such as food security, poverty alleviation, capacity building at institutional level, more efficient use of natural resources, improvement of agricultural production and productivity, promotion of organic farming, development of sustainable food systems, resilience to climate change, integrated management of coastal areas, gender empowerment, fisheries and aquaculture, etc.

The networking activities conducted by CIHEAM Bari involve hundreds of institutions located in several countries, consolidating professional contacts, institutional and multi-stakeholder partnerships, country-to-country relationships and joint initiatives with the private sector. This paves the way to self-generating exchange of information, technical and professional expertise, publications, innovative research and educational activities, conferences and seminars, harmonization of methodological guidelines, etc.

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Abbreviations

Apps	Applications
ARC	Agriculture Research Center
CIHEAM Bari	Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes – Bari
CPIU IFAD	Consolidated IFAD Programs Implementation Unit of Moldova
CCU IFAD	Central Coordination Unit for IFAD Co-Financed Projects of Sudan
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICT	Information and communication technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
KM	Knowledge Management
KS	Knowledge Sharing
LMS	Learning Management System
MoIWR	Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources
RTA	Remote Technical Assistance
SKiM	Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe
SKS	Sudanese Knowledge Society
UofK	University of Khartoum

1. Introduction

The Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe project is a grant project led by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project also works with international partners Virginia Tech, CIHEAM-Bari, PROCASUR as well as National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), governments, and agricultural extension services in Moldova, Morocco, and Sudan.

CIHEAM Bari has the task to organize a series of tailored capacity development interventions in the form of training courses based on the capacity need assessment undertaken in each country and that in the frame of the *Activity 2.1: Delivery of on-demand training courses in knowledge management and capacity development best practice*. Due to Covid 19 emergency, the first training (out of three) "Moldova training" was held virtually from 29 June to 3rd of July. As the capacity building is one of the pillars of the project and it is based on the partners' needs, we ascertained during these 4-days training that Moldova, Sudan and Morocco have different interests regarding follow up trainings. Sudan was interested in going deeper in ICT tools supporting distance learning, while participants from Moldova have reiterated their interest in entrepreneurship course.

2. Objective

CIHEAM Bari's activities are located under the **Component 2: Capacity development and knowledge systematization** and consequently they aim to strengthen human and institutional capacities to manage the systematization of good practices. 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.).

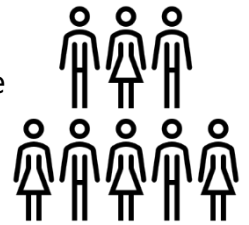
The objective of the training was to answer the partners needs for capacity building and to extend **on demand** the session **E-Learning and Remote Technical Assistance (RTA): the experience of CIHEAM Bari** that was advanced during the training above mentioned. Those tools are mainly used for Knowledge 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. Moreover, the SKiM learning week multimedia material was organized and set up as online open access course that will give the opportunity to a larger number of persons to access to knowledge (<https://mip.iamb.it/index.php/training>).

3. Participants

The participants were invited to participate through SKiM focal point in Sudan. The only two conditions to participate were to be fluent in English and of course to be interested in the topics. The targeted audience were from the different partners institutions [Annex 2](#)). The 2-days training had an average of 20 participants and the women participation was notable.



4. Methodology

The lectures have animated the 2-days training going from presentations to accessing the learning management system used by CIHEAM Bari to exercises and sessions of Q&A.

The Training was organized in 2 daily sessions of presentations followed by practical applications through co-working and other relevant approaches as presentation of case of study (case of Syria). It was a moment for sharing best practices with the participants.

The follow- up implementation steps:

- ✓ Verify and confirm the demand
- Develop content
- Identify and prepare audience (briefing)
- Deliver training
- Deliver report and training material

5. Training overview

The training was run on 23 and 24 November for 4 hours per day. However, a briefing was organized 2 weeks prior to the training putting together the lecturers (Dr Luigi Sisto and Dr Onofrio Lorusso-CIHEAM Bari), the moderator (Dr Jocelyne Jawhar-CIHEAM Bari), Sudanese stakeholders and Dr Mahmoud Awad Mekki (ARC) and SKiM focal point (Mrs Sarra Beheiry) in order to better target and steer the participants objectives.

Day 1

On the first day, Dr Luigi Sisto conferred about the learning definition and what has changed from the traditional learning way to the innovative way. The main learning models (face to face and e-learning), the advantages and disadvantages, and that there is no perfect model to learning but the effectiveness depends on the quality and to communication/interaction capability. He explained the importance of the interaction according to William Glasser (1966), the possibility also to interact in virtual classroom or virtual communities (community of practices, community of interest and learning community).

The lecturer conversed about the main characteristics of e-learning (positive aspects and opportunities, weaknesses and risks). He explained the tools and technologies supporting e-learning and RTA such as learning management systems as Claroline platform for example that is used by CIHEAM Bari for classified courses or Moodle and web meeting apps (Zoom, skype, webex etc). Those tools at the end are mainly used for Knowledge sharing.

Then he left the floor to Onofrio Lorusso who spoke about the tools used by CIHEAM Bari depending on the target and on the context. He went through zoom application and its characteristics, how to download it and create meetings free then passed to practical exercise where the participants got familiar with the different options offered by Zoom.

Luigi Sisto presented the Claroline platform, its characteristics (simplicity and security) and the main functionalities.

Day 2

It started with a wrap up on the prior day by Onofrio Lorusso and the difference between e-learning and face to face in order to see the advantages and weaknesses. Then he moved to the learning objectives as evaluation basis, how and why we do evaluate and the evaluation tools. Then, Dr Sisto continued about the online tutoring and the tutor's functions mainly the technical and cognitive, administrative and emotional supports he gives to the participants. He talked on the difference between virtual and in presence tutoring. The Netiquette or Etiquette regarding the virtual communication was an interesting point where Dr Sisto shared the savoir-faire online. Besides, he confers about the communication means, elements and styles (aggressive, passive, assertive). He exposed the Problem Solving Techniques (PST) and the different steps.

Main Q&A

The training was animated with questions and answers where the participants were very interactive. Hereby are reported some of the questions

Q: Concerning tools of communication, what sort of illustrations do you use to convey to students (dashboard,..)?

A: mainly we use Power point presentation with tables data and videos are of high importance a sometimes to show laboratory activities or filed activities during an e-learning lesson, they can be very helpful to make clearer the lesson to students.

Q: What about free zoom access?

A: You can get free platform for 40minutes duration. There is no limit on time list in zoom one to one meeting. Apart from the one to one meeting, the free plan also allows to host video conference up to 40 minutes and you can have up to 100 participants.

Q: To what extent does the communication contribute to adoption of innovation?

Q: Can practical learning be applied through e-learning?



6. Conclusions

At the end of the course we concluded that the participants were keen to participate and to interact although the connection difficulties. They have requested other capacity building activities.

The difficulty encountered was as expected the connection instability that was overcome. At the completion of the module, the participants should be able to:

Identify the main characteristics of learning models and the related concepts of interactivity and community;

Define the basic principles of learning evaluation and to distinguish the main related tools

Describe the main characteristics of e-learning and the related tools and technologies.

"I would like to extend again our great pleasure in participation in the workshop regardless of your commitments and intermittent internet services. We would like to express our gratitude to CIHEAM Bari for the opportunity and to our instructors, Mr Sisto and Mr Lorusso for their interesting presentations, and to Ms Jocelyne for her smart facilitation"(Sarra Behairy, SKiM focal point).



ANNEX 1. AGENDA

2020 SKiM Learning Week – Follow-up online training course

Title: Information and knowledge transfer: organization, design and delivery

Organized by: CIHEAM Bari

Trainer: Luigi Sisto and Onofrio Lorusso (CIHEAM Bari- ICT and Distance Learning development team)

Moderator: Jocelyne jawhar (CIHEAM-Bari)

Date: 23 & 24 November 2020

Time: 08:00-12:00

Location: CIHEAM Bari web-based platform

Target country: Sudan

Presentation

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.).

This importance had already manifested itself since the origins of the spread of the internet and all related applications to solve the problems of access to information and socialization of areas and societies marginalized due to poverty or war events.

Just recently, and before the outbreak of COVID 19, CIHEAM Bari has carried out and continues to carry out an important remote technical assistance activity (Remote Technical Assistance-RTA) to communities in development cooperation projects they received international recognition of effectiveness and great socio-economic impact (i.e. OECD).

In this short course, 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 will be presented.

Objectives

At the end of the course participants will be able to:

- ❖ Identify the general characteristics of distance information and training;
- ❖ Describe the most common methods of management of information systems and distance learning;
- ❖ Promote a series of actions that pay particular attention to the individual needs and cultural levels of the beneficiaries (Inclusive Learning Environment);
- ❖ Identifying the learning models suitable for social contexts and in line with the technologies (ICTs) available;
- ❖ Apply the processing and presentation criteria "in the cloud" of information-training content;
- ❖ Know and use some recent technological applications to deliver and manage web meetings and webinars.

Annex 2: List of Participants from Sudan

Name	E.mail	Institution
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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.

