SKiM

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

SKiM 2023 Steering Committee Meeting

Jeffrey Alwang
alwangj@vt.edu
Virginia Tech

14th-15th March 2023

IFAD
Investing in rural people

ICARDA
Science for resilient livelihoods in dry areas

CIHEAM
BARI

Procasur

VT

2022-2019 KM Activities Summary & Timeline

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

- Overall objective: Develop and test a framework for demonstrating value of KM to decisionmakers
- Activities 2019-2020:
  - Develop framework: Time savings and enhanced decision making (uncertainty reduction) are sources of KM value
  - Identify sources of information on agricultural research expenditure allocations for ARC, Sudan
  - Historical data on yield gains (field trials and experimental data) in Sudan
  - Current research portfolio, ARC Sudan

2022-2019 KM Activities Summary & Timeline

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

- Activities 2020-2021:
  - Prepare and test questionnaire for agricultural research priority setting, ARC Sudan
  - Conduct interviews with ARC Sudan: Administration, scientists and program leaders, extension specialists
  - Collect additional data needed for priority setting
  - Generate initial profile of research portfolio and validate information
- Activities 2021-2022:
  - Present results of priority setting exercise to ARC leadership
  - Develop and test questionnaire for measuring decision-making uncertainty; apply method and compute value of KM
  - Construct Moodle course for valuation of KM

2022-2019 KM Activities
Dissemination & Media

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

- Seminar to ARC (Sudan) decision-makers on enhanced priority setting for research
  - Feedback on contents and missing elements
  - Study revised with these elements in mind
- Moodle course created to popularize the KM valuation method
  - Combination of lecture, data gathering, and presentation
  - Up-to-date repository of key literature, survey instruments and data needs

2022-2019 KM Activities
Feedback & Lessons Learned

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

- Literature on the value of KM systems is sparse—measurement of value is fraught
- Various techniques are available for measuring and valuing time savings, but main value comes through better decision making
- KM system value depends on content, value is greater when:
  - Provides knowledge on an important (consequential) decision
  - Decision maker minds are not made up
  - Optimal decision is unknown or surrounded by uncertainty
  - Knowledge embedded in KM system is reliable—content should be high quality (in ARC, there are significant gains from making the knowledge more accessible to decision makers)

SKiM

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

Thank You

IFAD
Investing in rural people

ICARDA
Science for resilient livelihoods in dry areas

CIHEAM
BARI

Procasur

VT