RFS Knowledge Management Approach
RFS is one of the three Integrated Approach Pilot programmes funded by GEF.

Through RFS, GEF is advancing a new paradigm for Africa’s agricultural systems: one that emphasises the importance of natural capital and ecosystem services for agricultural productivity.

RFS consists of 12 country projects (Burkina Faso, Burundi, eSwatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda) and one cross-cutting Regional Hub project.

Recap on the RFS

- **Duration:** 2017 – 2023
- **Total investment:** USD 116 million + co-financing
- **Implementation** led by IFAD
- **Programme Coordination Unit (PCU)** hosted by ICRAF
Twelve Country Projects

- **Ethiopia**: Integrated Landscape Management to Enhance Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience
- **Ghana**: Sustainable Land and Water Management Project
- **Nigeria**: Integrated Landscape Management to Enhance Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience in Nigeria
- **Burkina Faso**: Participatory Natural Resource Management and Rural Development Project
- **Kenya**: Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund
- **Uganda**: Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Karamoja Sub-Region
- **Burundi**: Support for Sustainable Food Production and Enhancement of Food Security and Climate Resilience in Burundi’s Highlands
- **Tanzania**: Reversing Land Degradation trends and increasing Food Security in degraded ecosystems of semi-arid areas of central Tanzania
- **Malawi**: Enhancing the Resilience of Agro-ecological Systems
- **Senegal**: Agricultural Value Chains Resilience Support Project
- **Eswatini**: Climate-Smart Agriculture for Climate-Resilient Livelihoods
- **Kenya**: Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund
- **Malawi**: Enhancing the Resilience of Agro-ecological Systems
The 3 pillars of the RFS approach:
Features of RFS Knowledge Management & Learning

• Knowledge and learning activities take place both within country projects and across the RFS programme as a whole
• A comprehensive Communication and KM strategy with an implementation plan developed
• Knowledge management toolkit developed as a practical guide for knowledge management
• Communications Toolkit as a practical guide for doing communications
• Monitoring and Evaluation plan linked to KM
Knowledge management and learning

- RFS has put in place a strong peer-learning system through regional workshops, learning labs, field trips, a virtual knowledge centre and several other components facilitating vibrant communities of practice that operate within agriculture, natural resource management, and food security domains.

- Several tools developed to generate, capture and disseminate knowledge: RFS website (http://www.resilientfoodsystems.co), knowledge brief series, monthly newsletters and internal bulletins, social media campaigns, side events.

- Continuous efforts to build on other major past and existing initiatives
  - Interactions with Great Green Wall initiative, AUDA-NEPAD Terre Africa, World Overview of Conservation Approaches (WOCAT), Africa risk capacity
KM to evidence decision-making and policy dialogue

- RFS has established **multi-stakeholder platforms** and influenced **policies, policy instruments and regulatory frameworks** focused on INRM at national, district and local levels.

- **Science and policy interface** & and the Resilience Atlas developed to disseminate knowledge
Knowledge resources

47 new knowledge products created and disseminated

Achieved 47

Target 15

432 communication products created and disseminated

Target 475

Achieved
Digital solutions for KM

- RFS stakeholders can access and compare data from multiple projects and at the regional level through the online M&E platform, **SmartME**, which is linked to the RFS Knowledge Centre.

- The RFS Kenya project has been monitoring water quality and quantity data for the upper-Tana River, collected at 33 river stations and 6 weather stations. These data are consolidated into the **DHIS2** online tool.

- **The Diversity Assessment Tool for Agrobiodiversity and Resilience (DATAR)** from PAR and Bioversity-CIAT is an open-source tool for collecting data in the field and analyzing it through a consolidated web interface.
Main challenges

• KM is yet to be treated as a core staffed function to support evidence-based decision-making and influence policy directions in country projects

• Lack of clarity or coherence on monitoring approaches: Indicators to track resilience and food security were not adequately addressed at design – No M&E staff foreseen at regional level

• Sustainability of knowledge platforms and produces, and M&E systems are not adequately addressed at design

• For multi-country programme, different reporting templates (PIRs) limit Knowledge tracking across GEF IPs supported projects (aggregation and comparability)
Recommendations

• **More provisions for knowledge management and M&E**: sensitization at design on relationship between M&E; KM; communications and advocacy; including the different capacities and expertise needed

• Investments in **translation** cannot be overlooked during the design for multi-country programmes

• Online monitoring systems provide easy access to up-to-date information, improving decision-making across RFS projects and levels of governance

• Cross-programmatic knowledge management and dialogue promotes exchange of evidence, lessons and best practices
Learn more about RFS KM

Check out the RFS website and Knowledge Centre where you can find helpful resources, tools, case studies and new stories related to the different countries and themes of the RFS programme.

www.resilientfoodsystems.co