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**Newsletter** Vol.33

## **Draft action points and way forward on leveraging KM and M&E in ECA**

Dear AR4D colleagues,

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Knowledge Management and Communication (KMC) experts drawn from ASARECA member NARIs held a five-day training and consultation workshop on the role of Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation in Agricultural Transformation. Overall, it emerged that M&E and KMC have been neglected in the overall Programme implementation in our institutions. The meeting produced evidence to launch advocacy to fast track the role of the twin functions of M&E and KMC to transformative agriculture.



I welcome you to be part of this course

**Dr. Enock Warinda**  
**Executive Director, ASARECA**

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**CONSULTATIVE, REVIEW AND PLANNING WORKSHOP ON KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION FOR CLIMATE RELEVANT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNDER CAADP-XP4 PROGRAM**

Date: 16-20 December 2021

**Draft Action Points and way forward**

**Summary of action points:**

**The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Knowledge Management and Communication**

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**(KMC) experts drawn from ASARECA member NARIs held a five-day-integrated, training, consultation and brainstorming workshop on the role of Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation in Agricultural Transformation and making food systems better. Overall, it emerged that M&E and KMC have been neglected in the overall Programme implementation for a long while. The meeting produced evidence to launch advocacy within and outside ASARECA and the NARIs to fast track the role of the twin functions of M&E and KMC to transformative agriculture.**

Whereas it was confirmed that nearly half of the NARIs in Eastern and Central Africa do not have the basics, including communication and knowledge management strategies, websites and portals, leave alone having qualified people to manage the functions, the workshop developed a checklist of KMC best practices to kick-start the implementing change in the NARIs. The workshop also developed a summary of action points that the KMC managers, ASARECA and the Directors General have to implement to make KMC successful.

**The Knowledge managers therefore agreed as follows:**

**Commitment to implementation of action points:** Member NARIs represented by the KMC experts commit to adopt and implement the action points and the checklist of best practices for Knowledge Management and Communication (KMC), which were developed during the workshop.

**Commitment to mainstream Knowledge Management and Communication in programming:** Member NARIs commit to mainstream KMC, including their cost elements in all projects from the time of Programme/Project design by embedding KMC in the outputs.

**Share best case strategies for benchmarking:** ASARECA commits to share the Knowledge Management and Communication Strategies of NARO, KALRO, ASARECA, IFAD, and ILRI, including knowledge resources from the workshop, with participants for benchmarking.

**Use of structured template for data collection and knowledge sharing:** A template was developed during the workshop for knowledge sharing. Member NARIs have already identified and started sharing knowledge resources for the Ki-hub. Member NARIs will continue interacting with ASARECA one-on-one on how to refine the presentation of the resources in the ASARECA Knowledge and Information Hub (Ki-Hub).

**Raise advocacy to develop Knowledge Management Strategies in countries in need:** It is incumbent upon the KMC specialists in countries without Communication and Knowledge Management Strategies, websites and knowledge portals such as Eritrea, RoC, South Sudan, Central African Republic to raise advocacy within their institutions to establish this basic KMC resources and other cost elements.

**ASARECA to support in advocacy and providing resources where possible:** ASARECA commits to catalyze advocacy with the Committee of Directors General to act as champions of KMC in their institutions, embedding KMC and M&E in their projects as well as allocate resources (physical and financial) to areas such as purchasing licenses for collaborative ICT tools; digitization of knowledge resources; development of strategies and portals; establishing fully fledged KMC units using structure models from Kenya, and Uganda. Resources permitting, ASARECA commits to complement the NARIs, especially those with hardly any CKMs

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infrastructure to acquire basic infrastructure including, internet connectivity, knowledge capture tools, to improve the CKMs processes.

**Integration of Knowledge Management and Communication:** The NARIs were urged to adopt the development and implementation of KMC Strategies as apposed lone Communication or Knowledge management strategies.

**Intellectual property rights:** Members commit to share Knowledge resources with ASARECA for wider dissemination. On the other hand, ASARECA commits to sensitize members on Intellectual Property Management, promote property rights of contributors to the knowledge management platforms, as well as increase the visibility of the NARIs through the one-stop Ki-Hub.

**Coordination and convening:** ASARECA to continues to coordinate and convene the member countries to harmonize data collection processes, data quality and relevance. Member countries also commit to operationalize the ASARECA M&E Community of Practice and the ASARECA Knowledge Management Community of Practice.

**Regular capacity strengthening for CKMs & M&E experts:** ASARECA commits to leverage resources for regular training of M&E and KMC experts, including training in the use of ODK as effective means of data collection and household surveys through knowledge cafes/brainstorming sessions, write shops, benchmarking exercises, and physical workshops. The member countries committed to deepen training in KMC to cover KMC staff in the regional and zonal agricultural research institutes.

**Institutionalize Knowledge capture:** NARIs commit to capture tacit knowledge from resource persons in the NARIs as part of the continuous KM process through brainstorming sessions and triggering interviews, as well as capture and apply indigenous knowledge. NARIs agreed to establish mechanisms to institutionalize knowledge capture. ASARECA Secretariat working with NARO, KALRO, EIAR and TARI committed to champion development of guidelines for knowledge capture and share with other NARIs. The NARIs with institutional portals scattered in the zonal research institutes were encouraged to integrate this resources into a national hub/portal. ASARECA was charged with a task of highlighting this as part of advocacy with the CDGs.

**Resource Mobilisation:** ASARECA and the NARIs to consider developing a joint financial proposal on knowledge management to facilitate the closing of the gaps in the Knowledge process.

**Move towards ISO Certification:** Member NARIs commit to improve Knowledge Management Practices and processes and progress the institutional systems towards ISO 9001 certification and ultimately towards ISO Standards on Knowledge Management.

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