



## Enhancing programmatic impact, visibility and coherence through effective knowledge management

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### What approach did the team take to achieve the impact

As one of three Integrated Approach Pilots funded by the Global Environment Facility, the RFS Regional Hub is showcasing how leveraging the strengths of partners, concentrated towards core objectives, can ensure that all aspects of the programme receive equal and on-going attention, regardless of what is happening at other respective levels.

Under Component 4 of the RFS Regional Hub, the Programme Coordination Unit, hosted by ICRAF, coordinates the linkages between all 12 country projects and is responsible for programme-wide knowledge management and communication activities, as well as programmatic synergy.

The approach taken towards knowledge management and communications has culminated in key products, such as the online Knowledge Centre, which serves as a portal linking activities at and across countries and Regional Hub partners. The Knowledge Centre also disaggregates programmatic activities by core themes under the same roof, the Resource Library.

To date, through the RFS communications channels, Component 4 has disseminated impactful knowledge to internal and external audiences through:

**ResFoodSystems**  
575 Tweets to more than 1000 followers

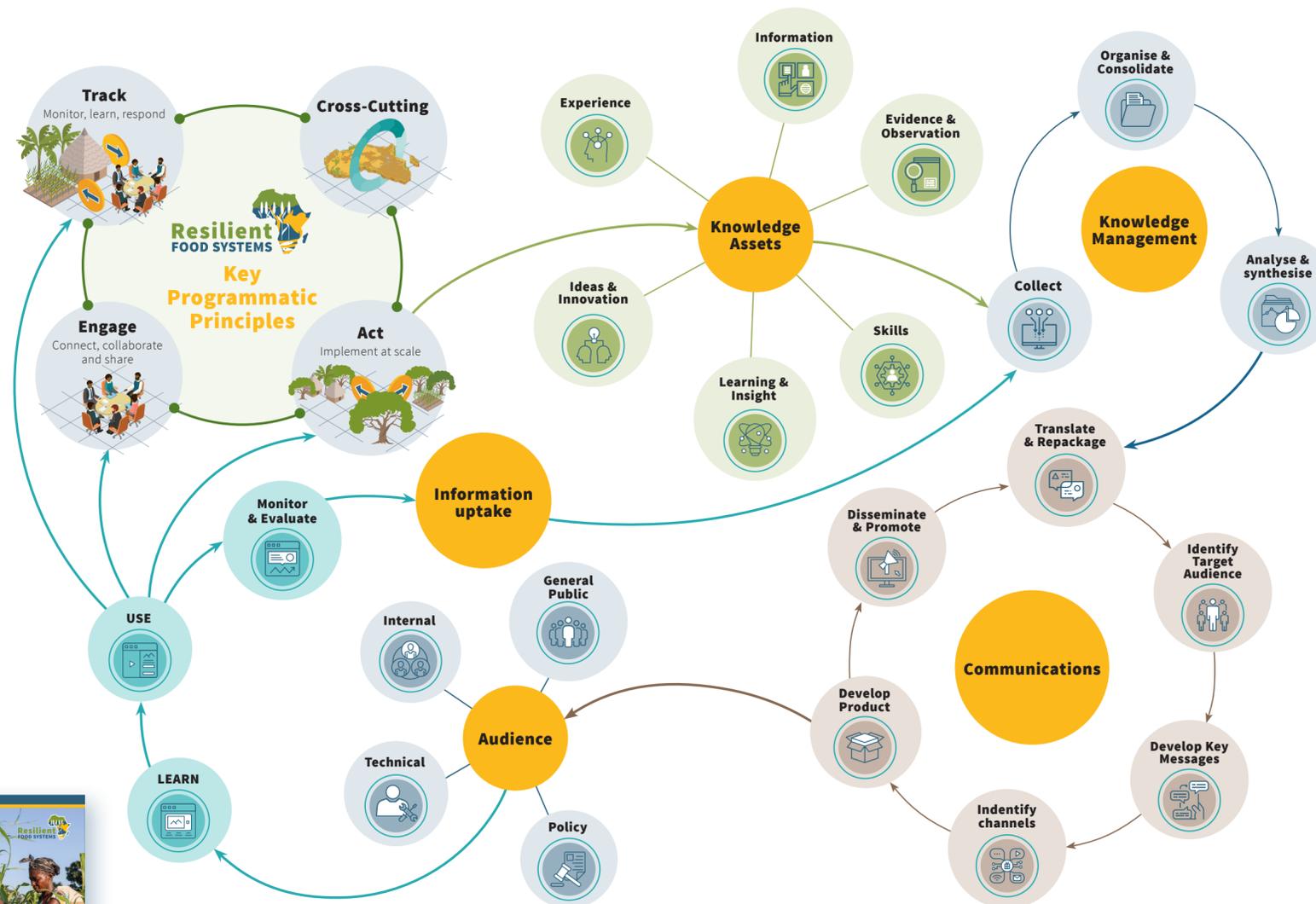
**108**  
News stories

**41** Events

**36** Newsletter editions



### Communication and Knowledge Management System in a nutshell



(Figure 1) From the RFS Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy



## What impact did the effort have and on/for whom?

The Regional Hub knowledge and communications strategy has **facilitated impactful resources and dialogue between country projects, partners and beyond.**

An excellent example of this is from May 2019 when the Resilient Food Systems Uganda project visited Kenya for a South-South learning exchange. The idea for this interaction emerged during the knowledge exchange sessions of the 3rd annual Resilient Food Systems programme workshop, which was held in Ghana two months prior.

During the exchange, representatives from RFS Uganda and the Regional Hub learned directly from beneficiary farmers and discussed Hub topics with project teams such as greening value chains and establishing monitoring indicators, all based on the experiences of these different elements of RFS.

South-South exchanges within the RFS programme have all led to knowledge products, such as news stories, reports or briefs, that can impact the structure of other likeminded programmes. From the Uganda-Kenya exchange, a learning brief showcases key learnings, reflections and recommendations.



(Image 1) RFS stakeholders from Uganda and ICRAF employees who attended the south-south exchange in Kenya in 2019.



## What were the main ingredients that led to the impact?

### KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The RFS PCU utilises its social media platforms to effectively disseminate knowledge products, news and to share events. Some of the most impactful knowledge sharing opportunities have been the annual workshops, hosted by ICRAF in collaboration with host country teams and their partners.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, events and workshops have been primarily held in virtual format. **Recent examples include the 2021 RFS Virtual Workshop Series comprising multiple knowledge exchange opportunities in the form of the:**



(Figure 2) Group screenshot from the 2021 Virtual Annual Workshop Series



**2-day Country Round Table** where country projects shared updates from the previous year



**Gender-responsive project implementation** session where eSwatini and Nigeria shared their successes in targeting gender throughout the project



**Science, Practice and Policy Expert Dialogue on Food Systems and Resilience** where dialogue with experts brought practical measures of enhancing food systems resilience to RFS Country Teams



**Advocating for Resilient Food Systems** to address learning needs identified by RFS country teams to enhance their capacity in achieving positive policy, institutional and human behavioural changes that impact food systems resilience

**Resilient Food Systems Programme**  
Monitoring & Evaluation plan

Logos: AGRA, Conservation International, UN Environment, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP, WHO, World Agroforestry, IFAD, GEF.

**Resilient Food Systems Annual Workshop Report 2021**  
Summary of virtual learning and exchange events

Logos: AGRA, Conservation International, UN Environment, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP, WHO, World Agroforestry, IFAD, GEF.

**KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS**

Knowledge, experiences, lessons, images and best practices. Culminating knowledge into sharable and impactful products is a core part of the RFS PCU's strategy.

The RFS PCU has supported the production of reports, strategies and tools to create cohesion within the programme and to serve as resources for likeminded projects.

For example, the Gender-responsive project implementation within the Resilient Food Systems Programme Guidance Note provides guidance on implementing the RFS gender strategy at all levels of the programme. This framework served as the basis of the session on gender at the 2021 RFS Virtual Workshop Series, learnings from which are summarised in the Learning Note: Making a difference for women through gender-responsive project implementation.

**Making a difference for women through gender-responsive project implementation**

**Learning Note**

Produced by: World Agroforestry

Logos: AGRA, Conservation International, UN Environment, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP, WHO, World Agroforestry, IFAD, GEF.

**South - South Learning**  
Exchange visit between Uganda and Kenya Country Projects

Produced by: World Agroforestry

Logos: WaterFund Upper Tana-Nairobi, The Nature Conservancy, World Agroforestry, IFAD, GEF.

**Gender-responsive project implementation within the Resilient Food Systems Programme**

**Guidance note**

Produced by: World Agroforestry

Logos: AGRA, Conservation International, UN Environment, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP, WHO, World Agroforestry, IFAD, GEF.

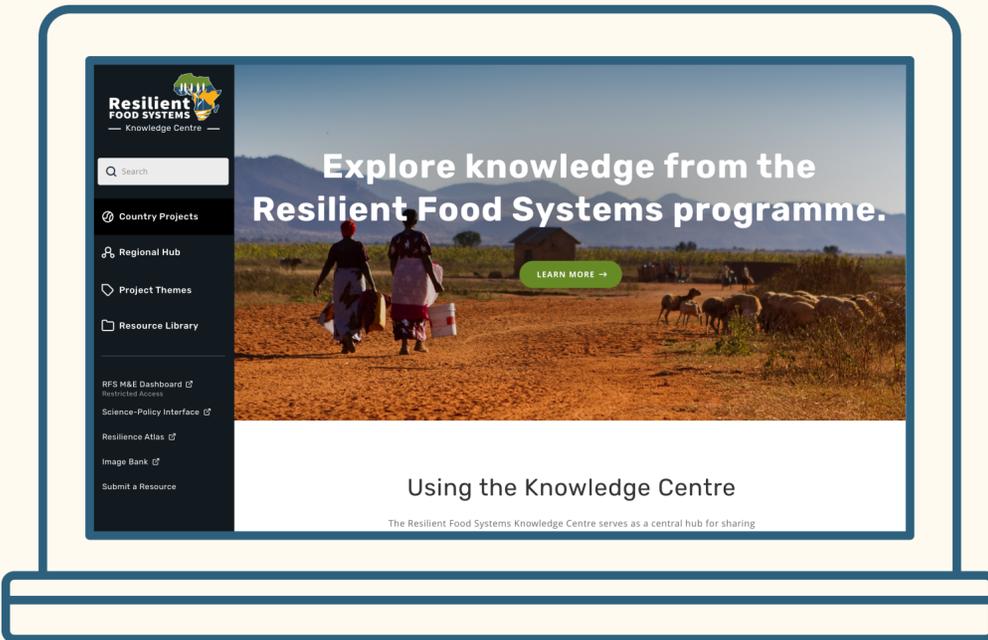
**How to adapt to a rapidly changing work environment under COVID-19**

The coronavirus pandemic has forced many of us out of our office space and into working from home without much time to prepare for it. In this guide, the Resilient Food Systems Programme Co-ordination Unit (PCU) offers some tips to our country teams on how to adjust to this new work environment and rapidly changing situation.

Produced by: World Agroforestry

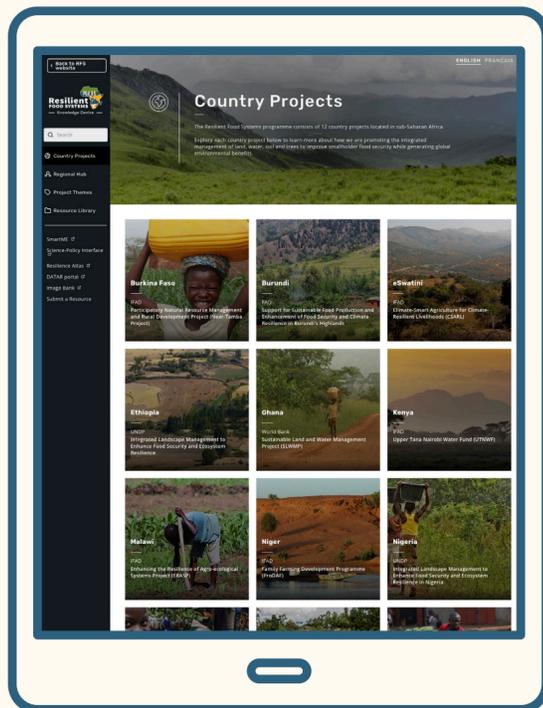
Logos: World Agroforestry, IFAD, GEF.

## KNOWLEDGE CENTRE



The RFS PCU hosts the Knowledge Centre and Resource Library which serve as a portal where all knowledge products can easily be found.

To date, **186 resources** have been uploaded to the **Resource Library** on the RFS Knowledge Centre.



**Where or under which circumstances could this effort be scaled?**



Component 4 of RFS and the legacy of the Knowledge Centre and portal provide a wealth of information and access to key learnings from over the 5-year course of the RFS programme. This approach and its learnings can be scaled to any likeminded project that seeks to implement an integrated approach to programme management or provide guidance to projects seeking advice on knowledge management and communications.



As a GEF-6 funded programme, the learnings from RFS will undoubtedly prove impactful to existing GEF-7 Impact Programs as well as to the design of GEF-8 initiatives addressing the drivers of environmental degradation and supporting transformational change in food systems.



**What are the main lessons that were learned?**

**What would you advise others?**

- It is not enough to produce knowledge products; they must be accessible. A knowledge centre is a great way to organise them!
- Creating tags and categories for resources, news and events makes them easy to locate.
- Cross-cutting learnings make a strong impact when shared in dialogue.