

## SUMMARY OF THE WEBINAR:



The second webinar in the Land Tenure and Governance Webinar series was held on the 13th October, 2020. Around 40 participants from IFAD and CGIAR centers joined the presenters – all partners in the EU- and IFAD-funded project on Restoration for Degraded Land for Food Security and Poverty Reduction in East Africa and the Sahel. This short report summarises the presentations and discussions of the webinar.

Please find a recording of the webinar here: [https://ilri-org.zoom.us/rec/share/AgRTUv\\_0jidBpjySRzgkrvXkrQRur2ZvoSPZAcgAvloazAOAQTeYAtjSMycX9mkg.QLaAi-b74kWyN\\_3b](https://ilri-org.zoom.us/rec/share/AgRTUv_0jidBpjySRzgkrvXkrQRur2ZvoSPZAcgAvloazAOAQTeYAtjSMycX9mkg.QLaAi-b74kWyN_3b) Password: 1c\$1%nyc

### Introduction to the Land Tenure and Governance Webinar series

IFAD has been supporting CGIAR centres to carry out research for over three decades with investments totaling over Euro 400,000,000. This includes research on the topic of land and natural resource tenure and governance, management and planning. As part of a cooperation between IFAD's Land Tenure Desk, the flagship project on natural resource management tenure and governance of the Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) of the CGIAR led by IFPRI and CIFOR, and the environment flagship of the Livestock CRP led by ILRI, a review is being undertaken of this research to draw off lessons learned in terms of impact of the research on country programmes and IFAD's broader portfolio of work, as well as in terms of partnership-building between IFAD and CGIAR centres. It is anticipated that the review will inform the strengthening of partnerships and investments in the future.

Some key good practice examples of IFAD and CGIAR centres working together on natural resource tenure and governance, management and planning, have been identified in the review, from which it is anticipated that both IFAD country teams and partners together with the CGIAR, could learn. These good practice examples are being shared through this webinar series designed to highlight the impact of the research in terms of outcomes and outputs, and the partnership experiences. The webinars are held on a bi-monthly basis through zoom and facilitated in a manner to optimise participation of all participants with time for discussion and questions and answers.

## Background to the Project: Restoration of degraded land for food security and poverty reduction in East Africa and the Sahel

### Background

The Putting Research into Use for Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience (PRUNSAR) programme is one of IFAD's most significant ongoing AR4D (action research for development) programmes. It has a budget of almost US\$40 million, mainly from the European Union, with US\$8 million contributed from IFAD. There are 13 projects under this programme, most of which are implemented by CGIAR centres, PRUNSAR started in 2015 and has to date yielded results reaching about 308,015 reported beneficiaries, although the indirect impact is much higher.

This webinar will focus on one of the PRUNSAR projects: *Restoration of Degraded Land for Food Security and Poverty Reduction in East Africa and the Sahel: Taking Successes in Land Restoration to Scale* led by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and including ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) and ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas). This project was implemented in four countries (Niger, Mali, Ethiopia and Kenya) in collaboration with CGIAR centres, as well as development partners, governments and universities in each country, aligned with IFAD Loan Programmes

The project's goal was to reduce food insecurity and improve the livelihoods of poor people living in African drylands by restoring degraded land and returning it to effective and sustainable tree, crop and livestock production, thereby increasing land profitability and landscape and livelihood resilience.

The project aimed to achieve transformative outcomes by placing farmers at the center of land restoration efforts and agricultural research. Farmers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali and Niger implemented on-farm planned comparisons to test and innovate land management practices that restore agricultural productivity and ecosystem health. Radically different to past development approaches, planned comparisons embed research into the development and scaling process, while empowering farmers and pastoralists to restore degraded lands. The results and lessons learned were shared through structured and documented **co-learning amongst nested communities of practice** that bring farmers, community facilitators, NGO and government extension staff, private sector actors and researchers together, to share knowledge and experience about what works, where and for whom on the ground. This represents a **key change in the way development initiatives are implemented**, giving a larger role to farmers in selecting and adapting options for scaling up and evaluating their performance, as well as the incorporation of quantitative monitoring of impact. At the same time, structured dialogue helps development actors and researchers understand each other's needs and expectations, leading to generation of timely research outputs that are incorporated in the development cycle.

### The webinar

The webinar was introduced by Harold Liversage, Global Technical Adviser, Land Tenure Desk, IFAD. He welcomed the participants and explained the objectives of the webinar as part of a series to learn lessons from the collaboration between IFAD and the CGIAR centers. The objectives of this second webinar were to:

- Share the experiences of IFAD-supported investments and partnerships with the CGIAR centres involved, including on rangeland management, land governance and tenure.
- Demonstrate the added value of the research, both technical and socioeconomic in terms of assisting IFAD's development operations and investments.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of building strong and mixed R4D consortiums to deliver on R4D objectives.

An Agenda is found in Appendix 1. The webinar was facilitated by **Michael Victor, Head of Communications and Knowledge Management at ILRI.**

The webinar started with an introduction by **Dr Malu Ndavi, Lead Technical Specialist, RIA, IFAD.**

Dr Malu commenced by saying this project has been one of the most important R4D programmes for IFAD recently. It has been well evaluated and generally the performance has been good.

Concerning lessons learned in relation to IFAD and CGIAR collaboration, Dr Malu continued that there are a number of reforms happening including the move to a stronger One CGIAR and this presents opportunities to us. At IFAD there are replenishment cycles and these have been aligning with the beginning and end of what have been the CRPs. It is time for a better partnership between IFAD and CGIAR centers, an institutionalised partnership that allows for improving the linkages between IFAD interventions and CGIAR research - for example linking this project to IFAD projects in Kenya. We need an operational partnership: CGIAR at regional level should be able to understand IFAD COSOPs and align some of CGIAR operations with these. CGIAR impact areas are completely relevant to what IFAD is doing such as food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, livelihoods and jobs, gender, social inclusion, climate change adaptation etc.

The CGIAR must focus more on the bottom-up understanding what IFAD is doing in-country such as in Ethiopia and Kenya, looking for opportunities to catalyse IFAD's country programme delivery, test innovations for scaling-up, strategic partnership to leverage policy influencing at country level and to exploit the CGIAR as a knowledge-hub. This is how we must see it i.e. forward-looking.

**Presentation 1: Applying the research in development approach to scale ecosystem restoration by Leigh Ann Winowiecki, Soil Systems Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF Theme Leader: Soil and Land Health** (bio found below)

The EU-funded grant (2000000976), which started in May 2016, and the complementing IFAD-funded grant (2000000520) started in March 2015, aimed to reduce food insecurity and improve the livelihoods of poor people living in African drylands by restoring degraded land, and returning it to effective and sustainable tree, crop and livestock production, thereby increasing land profitability and landscape and livelihood resilience. This project is implemented in four countries (Niger, Mali, Ethiopia and Kenya) in collaboration with CGIAR centres, development partners, governments and universities, as well as close collaboration with IFAD Loan Programmes and EU delegations in each country.

Farmer-led land restoration innovations are turning out to be key pathways to addressing severe land degradation affecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people living in Africa's drylands. Successful

restoration efforts must be taken to scale, both by reaching a large number of farmers and by covering large areas, if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN and contribute to the latest declaration - The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. A key innovation of this project is the application of the research in development approach to embed research into development programmes by constructing a co-learning cycle amongst partners in order to accelerate impact. This is done through continuous engagement with development partners encouraging them to invest in deliberative testing to accelerate impact and strengthen their capacity to plan, conduct, monitor and interpret information and experience as they scale up adoption. We highlight on-going partnerships with IFAD-Country Programmes implementing this approach.

A copy of Leigh Ann's presentation can be found here: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/109928>

**Presentation 2: Restoration of degraded lands for food security and poverty reduction in East Africa and the Sahel: Taking success in land restoration to scale presented by Dr Vincent Bado, Principal Scientist, Dryland System and Livelihood Diversification, ICRISAT, Niger and Dr Anthony Whitbread, Research Program Director, Innovation Systems for the Drylands, Country Representative, Tanzania ICRISAT (bio found below)**

A lot of work has been done since the drought of years 1972-1973. A regional institution was created by West Africa Sahelian countries with a mandate to fight against land degradation and desertification. Many projects and programs invested in the rehabilitation of degraded lands. But the main weakness of all these experiences was the lack of capitalization or learning.

Using participative processes with main partners in land resources management ICRISAT developed a scaling strategy to improve the adoption of integrated management technologies. The main steps of the process are: (i) Participative selection of technologies from region to commune and village, (ii) Selection of volunteer farmers at the village levels, (iii) Participative selection of technologies by volunteer farmers for testing/demonstration (the Innovative Farmer), iv) Evaluation and refinement of technologies with farmers, (v) Innovative Farmer to train other farmers in her/his village. The main lesson we learnt was: *The key to success is the dynamic and participative process involvement of stakeholders and communities.* Also there is good experience from our experience of co-development of strategies for management of land resources with rural communities

The project built on ProDAF, a project funded by IFAD on "Development de l'Agriculture Familiale/Development of Family Farming" (ProDAF), ProDAF results from the merging of two projects (PASADEM et Ruwanmu) all funded by IFAD since 1998, The achievements of PASDEM and Ruwanmu have highly contributed to the project. The projects worked directly in partnership with the ProDAF, which has: (i) HQs in Niamey, (ii) 4 Regional offices in the main 4 regions of Niger, (iii) ICRISAT worked under a signed a MOU with ProDAF.

ProADAF, and some partners (World Bank Niger, CRS) are using the participative approach developed by the project for scaling. PASEC (a project funded by the word Bank Niger) has requested ICRISAT to extend this scaling strategy. We have developed an ecellent partnership developed with Yanayi project (funded by EU-Niger) and REGIS-ER funded by USAID

A copy of the presentation can be found here: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/109929>

## DISCUSSION BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS

The participants were then split into break-out groups and asked the following questions. Below are the responses from the participants to each question, consolidated across the groups.

### *1. What are your general impressions of this partnership experience?*

- There is great systems thinking in applied research.
- Appreciated by communities and should be documented and expanded via inclusion of livestock activities.
- Provides opportunities to include social inclusion themes into IFAD operations.
- There were good linkages in consultations and sharing of knowledge/results in countries (different in each country)
- Provided relevant results to feed into the IFAD programs.
- Research is already embedded in many of the countries projects.
- There was not enough background on the partnership - a question would be what is the role of the CGIAR center e.g. ICRISAT in Niger - are they implementing directly or through NARS?
- There was inconsistency in engagement of project with IFAD country offices – some good, some not so good.
- We need to look at the mechanism to exchange more regularly.
- The lessons from projects can contribute and even help the IFAD programmes
- We can have more impact if we work together and learn from each other – but we need more structured ways of doing this.
- The partnership was based on good will to cooperate.
- Partnership was scalable and could apply to other country contexts.
- Great presentation from Leigh.
- No clue about what has happened from Ethiopia (from Ulac)!
- It is difficult to get CGIAR to talk about partnership – there is more interest in the research results, but we need to move beyond this and put more value on partnerships.
- Focus seems to be on technical solutions and rehabilitation – what about social solutions and such as governance?
- At least from the presentations it has not been clear to me how root causes for degradation especially in the institutional sphere have been addressed.

### *2. What did you learn from this particular experience for future partnership building between CGIAR/IFAD in the future in relation to natural resource management, governance and tenure, clarifying if learnings are at country, region, organisational level(s)?*

- Research work is important including bringing to the development program.
- Integrated approach (research project at country level), how IFAD can incorporate investment and research into operations at country level

- Inclusion of farmer knowledge and innovation is key and integrating with the research process- the co-learning is very important.
- Learning was at many levels.
- This approach was effective at scaling the interventions.
- There is a need for collaboration, and to be in a structured way so it is accountable.
- How do you use communication in this relationship (did needs assessment) -- impact stories are a good way - which platforms to use?
- Regular interaction between partners is important.
- How do we use this platform to push communication beyond just the two groups to other stakeholders?
- There has been little reference to governance and tenure.
- It is important to systematize reporting, M&E (regional level)
- It would be great to have a regional approach in terms of cost/budgets (regional level)

*3. How can a broader partnership between IFAD and CGIAR be strengthened in the future – what do we want from these partnerships and what changes/incentives/guidelines would be required to achieve this?*

- We should not be sharing/receiving lessons at the end - we need regular engagement - we may need to institutionalize these learning events.
- CGIAR should invest more at the inception of the grant programmes to make sure they are aligned with IFAD Programmes (and those of other development agencies).
- Country teams should be in regular consultation with CGIAR through programme/project implementation especially at the inception of projects. At intervention level, CGIAR can be included in consultation stage.
- In a multi-country R4D programme need to make sure all CGIAR centers focusing on the partnership as well as the results.
- We need to improve linkage between R4D and IFAD.
- CGIAR really needs to think more about building partnerships with such as development agencies and how best to do this.
- Need to create an interface and exchange on research/development between IFAD and CGIAR
- Many IFAD projects have a knowledge gap and such partnerships could overcome these.
- There needs to be strong collaboration with the implementers as well.
- There should be joint development of large projects in a co-design process with key stakeholders. The CCAFS 2DI Southern Africa is a great example for starting such a process. IFAD could buy in there.
- There should be more of a direct research component written into the grants as being proposed.
- Were there any best practices in fostering such good will of collaboration and integration? Along CIP grant in Asia, some best practices included the allocation of field staff within the project which ensured integration in planning/support.

Some further points that appeared in the zoom chat include:

- The CGIAR needs to make more investment in building partnerships with such as IFAD – IFAD should be prioritised as a partner.

- Fantastic stuff is happening with opportunities to scale up and work better together.
- We need long term monitoring, targets in M&E systems, regular interaction, working together to scale-up with government,
- Focus on impact and serving the needs of countries/regions.
- Co-learning is key for accelerating impact. Good to see different partners coming together to do great work. Adding value.
- Need clear MoU between IFAD and CGIAR and enough resources allocated for this purpose. Better coordination of projects funded by IFAD to CGIAR and national projects. Need to institutionalise learning between CGIAR and IFAD operations.
- Can include research work in project evaluations.
- Access mechanism for funding for supporting R4D in the development process. Can be difficult to access in the current setup.
- CGIAR centers should be involved as a technical partner from COSOP development, and design of projects through to evaluation – there are so many opportunities for better aligning research with IFAD.
- Use IFAD country teams to make CGIAR life easier and scale-up impact and visibility.

#### **FINAL COMMENTS by Ulaş Demirag, IFAD Country Director, Ethiopia**

Ulaş Demirag, IFAD Country Director Ethiopia summed up the lessons learned from the Project experience, as well as highlighted some strengths and gaps and/or weaknesses in the partnership with recommendations for improving such partnerships in future. Key points included:

- The project has shown the importance of involving different stakeholders at different stages of the project development and implementation processes, and in sharing research results. Working across countries is no easy task, but it is clear that the different experiences have come together to give some important guidance on restoring degraded lands going forward.
- As part of this there has been some reasonable linkages to IFAD country programmes, but this could be improved - in Ethiopia for example there has been little contact with the researchers from ILRI, and though there was some notification of sharing of results there has not been sufficient effort to develop linkages with IFAD-supported projects. This is a missed opportunity as from what I understand the results are interesting and could have been relevant for the new WB/IFAD-supported LLRP (Lowlands Livelihoods Resilience Project) for example.
- There has been fruitful discussion on how such gaps in the partnership between IFAD and CGIAR centers could be improved. It is clear that research-for-development is important and there is a clear role for the CGIAR in supporting and responding to the demand of development partners. There were discussions on how IFAD can work more closely with the CGIAR centers going forward on natural resource management governance and tenure as well as more broadly, including ensuring greater linkages between the research being undertaken including the results, and IFAD country and regional programmes. It is hoped that these ideas can develop into clear recommendations for both CGIAR and IFAD going forward.
- Moving forward, it is hoped that there will be much closer team work between the research teams and the IFAD country teams, who have the ability to establish systematic linkages with IFAD-funded programmes to maximize relevance, collaboration and visibility. Such engagements should not be one-off, but rather should become the collaborative modus operandi for design,

implementation and completion of any grant-funded initiatives. There is confidence that the associated investment of time and effort for closer linkages would pay off great dividends in terms of client focus, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and not least visibility and opportunities for scaling up.

Links to further reading on the projects supported by this collaboration are found in Appendix 4.

It is anticipated that the next webinar will be held in mid-December (date to be confirmed).

FF 06.11.2020

#### Appendix 1: Agenda of webinar: IFAD Agenda IFAD-CGIAR Partnership Webinar Series #2, Tuesday 13 October 2020

Rome time (CEST)	What	Who
11.00	Welcome and introduction to the webinar series	Harold, IFAD Land Tenure Adviser
11.05	Run-through of agenda	Michael Victor, ILRI
11.10	Presentation 1: Scaling ecosystem restoration in agricultural landscapes by embedding research into development programmes	Leigh Ann Winowiecki, Soil and Land Health Theme Leader, World Agroforestry (ICRAF)
11.20	Presentation 2: Lessons from Niger	Anthony Whitbred and Vincent Bado (ICRISAT)
11.30	Reflections on the experience in relation to strengthening research-for-development IFAD-CGIAR partnerships	Dr. Malu Muia Ndavi, Lead Technical Specialist, IFAD
11.40	Breakout groups – discuss and synthesize	All
12.00	Feedback from breakout groups	Michael Victor, ILRI
12.10	Reflection from IFAD on ways forward	Ulaş Demirag, IFAD
12.15	Closure	Michael Victor, ILRI

#### Appendix 2: Bios of speakers

**Dr Leigh Ann Winowiecki** is the Theme Leader for Soil and Land Health at World Agroforestry (ICRAF). A soil scientist, she has over 15 years of experience in the tropics addressing land restoration, sustainable agricultural intensification, and soil carbon dynamics. She is based in Nairobi, Kenya. Her research focuses on soil carbon cycling and dynamics, ecosystem restoration, rangeland health, and the integration of social and ecological dimensions of ecosystem health. Over the last five years she has managed the IFAD-EU Restoration of Degraded Lands project and has led the implementation of the [options by context approach](#) by implementing the Research in Development approach across East Africa and the Sahel.



**Dr Boubié Vincent Bado** is a Cropping System Agronomist with specialization in Soil Science and Environment by training. After his Agronomy Diploma at the Universities of Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), he obtained his MSc and PhD at the University of Laval (Canada). He cumulated 28 years working experience in research for development and scientific leadership on farming systems in Africa. He worked as Soil Scientist and fertility agronomist, rice-based system agronomist, Natural Resource management (NRM) and cropping system Agronomist. He is working at ICRISAT as Principal Scientist on Dryland Systems and Livelihood Diversification. He has long experience of collaboration with scientists from National Institutions in Africa, CGIAR systems, and many international institutions. He published or co-published more than hundred journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, and manuals for extension or laboratory.

### Appendix 3: List of participants

[Note: some people did not register so are missing from the list]

Frew Behabtu, Programme Officer, IFAD South Asia Hub, APR, Delhi, India  
Amine Belhamissi, Technical Specialist (Grants), RIA, IFAD  
Ndaya Beltchika, Lead Technical Specialist, Gender ECG, IFAD  
Nkita Blanes, PARM/IFAD, Rome  
Cathy Cao Xi, Policy consultant, IFAD East Asia Hub, Beijing, IFAD  
Ilaria Caputo, Consultant, Environment and Climate Change (KM), ECG, IFAD, Rome  
Marie Clarisse Chanoine Dusinngize, Consultant, ESA Environment and Climate, ECG, Tanzania ICO, IFAD  
Roshan Cooke, Country Director, Bhutan, APR, IFAD  
Ulaş Demirag, Country Director Ethiopia, ESA, IFAD  
Natalia Espinel Correal, Programme Assistant, PMI Division, Rome  
Marie-Aude Even, Senior Regional Specialist, Agronomy, PMI, IFAD  
Fiona Fintan, Senior Scientist Land Governance and Tenure, ILRI  
John Hurley, Lead Regional Economist, WCA, IFAD, Rome  
Anthea Hurling, Country Programme Assistant, ESA, Johannesburg, IFAD  
Esther Kasalu-Coffin, Hub Director, ESA, Kenya, IFAD  
Cherif Lawan, Country Programme Officer, Niger, IFAD  
Harold Livsavage, Lead Global Land Tenure Specialist, IFAD  
Christine Magaju, ICRAF  
Yonas Mekonen, National Engagement Strategy (NES) Analyst, ILC  
Siboniso Moyo, DG's country representative ILRI, Ethiopia  
Robson Mutandi, Hub Director, South Africa, IFAD  
Malu Ndavi, Lead Technical Specialist, RIA, IFAD  
Rasha Omar, Country Director/Hub Head, India, APR, IFAD  
Manouk Overcamp, Junior Professional Officer, ESA, Ethiopia, IFAD  
Roba Guyo, Country Technical Analyst (Nairobi), PMI, Kenya, IFAD  
Fabian Schuster, Implementation Consultant, ESA Division, IFAD  
Karim Dede Sissoko, Programme Officer, NEN, Istanbul, IFAD  
Elizabeth Ssendiwala, Rural Institutions Specialist, Asia and Pacific Region, IFAD  
Seyoum Getachew Tesfa, Country Programme Officer, IFAD, Ethiopia  
Michael Victor, Head of Communications, ILRI, Ethiopia  
Anthony Whitbread, ICRISAT, Tanzania  
Leigh Ann Winowiecki, ICRAF, Kenya  
Isdoro Simon Yak Bak, ESA, IFAD  
Nikita Blanes, PARM/IFAD, PMI, Rome, IFAD  
Fabrizio Bresciani, Lead Regional Economist, Asia and Pacific Division, PMD, Rome, IFAD

#### Appendix 4: Further reading on and outputs from the research project

AR4D-PRUN SAR 2019 Consolidated Report. Highlights. Internet:

[https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/42026885/prunsar\\_report2019.pdf/eeae737e-5faf-3820-0072-a3a221d959a4](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/42026885/prunsar_report2019.pdf/eeae737e-5faf-3820-0072-a3a221d959a4)

- 1) Brochure: Implementing a farmer-centered approach to land restoration in the drylands: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/output/full-brochure-2020-using-planned-comparisons-east-africa-and-sahel>
- 2) Gender and Land Restoration: Considerations for Scaling:
  - a. Brochure: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/output/impact-farm-land-restoration-practices-time-and-agency-women-drylands-eastern-kenya>
  - b. Blog: <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/65320/agroforestry-basins-stir-up-big-benefits-for-women-in-kenya-drylands?fnl=en>
- 3) Co-learning with partners through Nested Communities of Practice to Scale Farmer-centered Land Restoration:
  - a. Brochure: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/output/nested-communities-practice>
- 4) Implementing the Research in Development Approach:
  - a. Blog: <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/65934/kenyan-farmers-adopt-new-agroforestry-strategies-through-research-and-development-program?fnl=en>
- 5) Video: Scaling ecosystem restoration in agricultural landscapes: <https://youtu.be/qvf0drWdTq4>
- 6) Video: The role of healthy soil for restoration: <http://worldagroforestry.org/output/healthy-soil-key-functioning-ecosystems>

From Niger:

The future of land restoration is community-led: <https://wle.cgiar.org/future-land-restoration-community-led-says-wle-icrisat-tropentag>

Taking land restoration to

scale: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sites/default/files/Restoration%20of%20Degraded%20Land%20Project%20Brief%20Feb%202018.pdf>

UNCCD COP14 Delhi, ICRISAT-ICRAF Side Event Taking land restoration to scale and

LDN: <https://dx.doi.org/20.500.11766/10184>