Building Africa’s agricultural knowledge network

KM4AgD Challenge – knowledge management and learning

Scope • Multi-country African agricultural knowledge network

Partners • AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF, FARA, K4DP, the African Union Commission and CGIAR, with country practitioners

The starting situation

Agricultural knowledge was being created across institutions, but practitioners needed stronger skills and practical systems to document it, share it and apply it across organisations and countries.

How partners contributed

Practice-based KM training helped participants assess how knowledge moves through their organisations and build strategies. Skills covered knowledge cafes, policy briefs and communities of practice. AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF, FARA, the African Union Commission and CGIAR co-designed a continental knowledge-management framework, endorsed in Accra in September 2022; a community of practice and DSpace repository supported continued exchange.

What changed

Training translated into country action. In Ghana, three certified champions—Paul Atsu, Zainab Abdulai and Marilyn Yeboah—developed a national KM work plan to address gaps in documentation and sector learning. In Tanzania, a meeting with CCARDESA and FARA led to an operational community of practice with regular learning and media engagement.

The case reports 70-plus KM champions managing a community of practice with monthly webinars, 27 women advancing KM strategies and policies while identifying 10 implementation challenges, and participants from 19 African countries represented at the second KM4AgD conference. DSpace was established as an open-access repository for agricultural research outputs.

Evidence and source

The case graphic combines participant testimony and programme-reported outcomes. Three participants describe improved understanding, departmental KM strategy development and a stronger community for connection and co-creation.

Source record • SS2 Infographics

Sustainability and lessons

The experience shows that training can become institutional practice when participants have a place to apply skills, peers to sustain exchange and shared tools to preserve outputs. Country work plans, regular community activities and repository maintenance are practical foundations. Continued resourcing and tracking of implementation would show whether these mechanisms remain active over time.