



Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development (KM4AgD) in Africa

Returning to our roots: Bridging the Gap Between Research, Policy and Practice Through Indigenous Knowledge

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Outline

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- Conclusion



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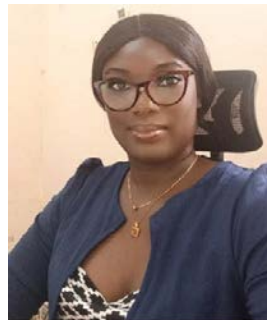
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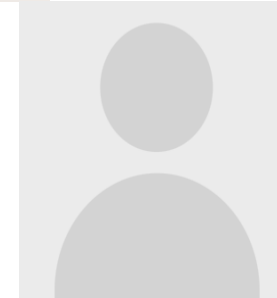
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Introduction

- Growing realisation of the value and benefits of indigenous knowledge in addressing major global challenges in agriculture and related areas.
- Provides innovative and sustainable solutions to contemporary development issues.
- Largely undocumented and underutilised, especially in policy-making, research, and practice.
- Recognising, practicing and integrating indigenous knowledge is crucial for more holistic and effective decision-making.





Capture good practices that acknowledge and promote and bad practices that disregard indigenous knowledge.



Understand what a vision for research practices/policies that appreciate and reflect indigenous knowledge entail.

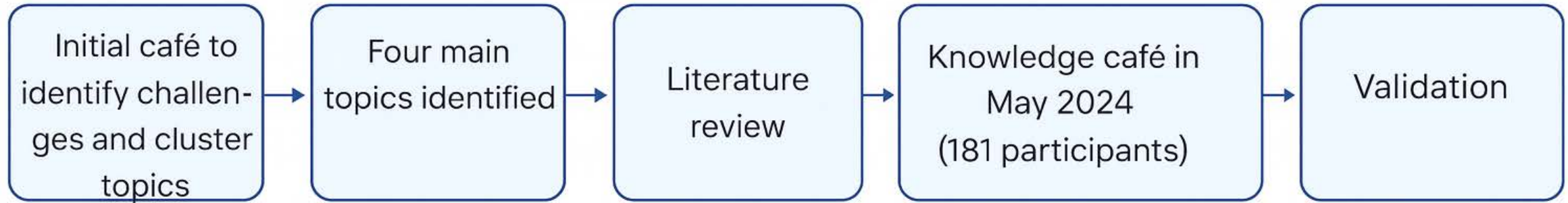


Identify concrete elements that should be included in a research policy on indigenous knowledge.



Proffer recommendations for different stakeholders in promoting the utilisation of indigenous knowledge.

Methodology



Knowledge Café Questions

- ✓ Negative examples/practices
- ✓ Good practices
- ✓ Concrete elements to include in a research policy on indigenous knowledge.
- ✓ Recommendations in supporting and promoting indigenous knowledge.



Results

Pitfalls in the recognition of Indigenous Knowledge

- ❖ Excluding Indigenous communities (ICs) from strategic Institutions
- ❖ Hiring external knowledge holders as professionals and experts
- ❖ Ignoring or underestimating IK in research and policymaking
- ❖ Forcing indigenous communities to adopt Western practices
- ❖ Failure to protect the intellectual property rights of indigenous communities
- ❖ Implementing policies and projects without involving indigenous communities



Results

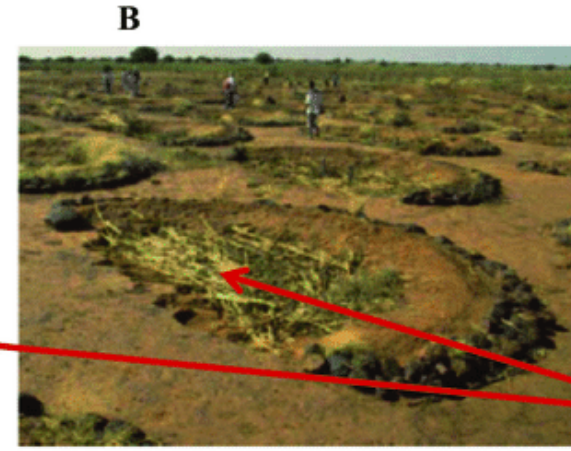
Good practices in the recognition of Indigenous Knowledge

“Nothing for us without us”

- ❖ Careful documentation and validation by scientific methods
- ❖ Communicating research results to Indigenous communities
- ❖ Inclusive policy making
- ❖ Capacity strengthening and education
- ❖ Ensuring active participation of ICs in research projects and decision-making processes
- ❖ Establishing ethical guidelines and legal frameworks to protect ICs



Case Study: Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM)



Addition of organic matter either from plant or animal sources help improve soil fertility with zai and half-moon techniques



Zai pit system



Recommendations

Research Institutions and Academia

- ❖ Train on respectful engagement and knowledge capture with Indigenous communities.
- ❖ Include Indigenous Communities as partners in research priority setting.
- ❖ Include IK explicitly as complementary, not subordinate, in research.
- ❖ Partner with IK groups/organisations to offer student internships and volunteering.
- ❖ Integrate Indigenous Knowledge into course design and development.



Recommendations

Policy Makers

- ❖ Create policies protecting IK and include communities in decisions.
- ❖ Embed communities in decision-making bodies and processes
- ❖ Support national knowledge partnerships and communities of practice
- ❖ Establish legal protections for Indigenous IP and data sovereignty



Recommendations

Extension Service Providers

- ❖ Adopt pluralistic approaches (participatory, inclusive)

CSOs and NGOs

- ❖ Build partnerships to promote IK through shared learning
- ❖ Establish communities of practice focused on Indigenous Knowledge
- ❖ Create toolkits capturing best practices and IK success stories – To promote adoption



Recommendations

Private Sector

- ❖ Promote partnerships with local communities to integrate Indigenous practices into business operations
- ❖ Raise awareness within the private sector on the value and relevance of Indigenous Knowledge

Funding Organisations

- ❖ Create funding mechanisms that accommodate indigenous knowledge
- ❖ Have ethical approaches to Indigenous knowledge holders
- ❖ Be intentional about funding reports reflecting how IK contributed to the project deliverables



Conclusion

- ❖ IK has proven effective in **sustainable land management, climate adaptation** and **biodiversity conservation**
- ❖ Yet remains marginalised - **systemic exclusion, cultural assimilation** & **intellectual property exploitation.**
- ❖ Need to integrate IK & practices with scientific knowledge



Appreciation



This initiative is supported by the EC and IFAD through the CAADP-XP4 Programme.

“We envisage an ecosystem where indigenous voices are amplified, indigenous knowledge is recognised, practiced and promoted and indigenous systems and practices are respected.”

Thank you

