



Ensuring effective flow and application of information and knowledge from research for development: The case for a Knowledge Resource Centre

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CIALCA, the Consortium for Improving Agriculture-based Livelihoods in Central Africa, brings together national, regional and international partners to improve the livelihoods of agriculture-based communities in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, by enhancing their capacity to sustainably and efficiently access and use resources.

The Consortium's multidisciplinary team of field scientists and development partners operating in dispersed intervention sites presents unique challenges for achieving effective project communication and knowledge dissemination.

The proposed Knowledge Resource Center (KRC) is conceived to support and facilitate the achievement of positive impacts.

When fully operational, the KRC will identify and activate impact pathways to disseminate new project knowledge and innovative technologies to end-users and stakeholders. The KRC will develop a comprehensive 'knowledge into use' strategy in collaboration with stakeholders, and considerable effort will be invested in repackaging e.g. scientific publications, reports, technical extension information into client-adapted materials (posters, leaflets, videos, radio announcements, fact sheets, etc.). By closely monitoring the use of this knowledge and modifying approaches as necessary, it is expected that the KRC will make an important contribution to the out-scaling of research results and to improved income, productivity and human nutrition and health in Central Africa (and beyond).

Why a Knowledge Resource Center?

At a CIALCA multi-stakeholder integration meeting in late 2008 it was recommended to organize a joint regional centre for project documentation and information. It was agreed this would greatly strengthen the Consortium by centralizing knowledge access, supporting the continuity and harmonization of project messages, and providing a common platform for partners and stakeholders to engage with the project.

CIALCA has set ambitious targets for uptake and adoption of project knowledge. By the end of 2011:

- Action sites: farm-level productivity, protein intake, household income: **INCREASE >20%**
- Satellite sites: farm-level productivity, protein intake, household income: **INCREASE >10%**
- Amount of people in mandate areas actively seeking access to knowledge and technologies promoted by CIALCA: **> 40,000**

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