



KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CILSS-IGAD-FAO FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL SHARE FAIR

The CILSS-IGAD-FAO Horn of Africa and Sahel Virtual Knowledge Share fair on promoting innovation to build resilience against climate shocks took place from 19 to 23 October 2020. The virtual event was hosted by the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and co-organized by The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The 2020 virtual share fair built on CILSS, IGAD and FAO's previous efforts to promote knowledge management for informed decision-making and investment in resilience building, including the operationalization of the MoU signed between IGAD and CILSS to promote resilience, good practices and uptake. The Share Fair provided a space for resilience practitioners in East and West Africa working along the Humanitarian-Peace-Development (HDP) nexus to discuss their experiences, share their knowledge and network to promote further localization, partnerships, and up-scalable and replicable practices.

The virtual share fair was structured around five themes: **(1) information and early warning systems and analysis, (2) management of natural resource-based conflicts, (3) disaster risk reduction and climate resilience, (4) innovative support to agro-pastoralists and pastoralists, and (5) social protection and safety nets.** This is in line with the priority thematic focus areas for resilience building identified by the AUC, FAO, IGAD, CILSS and other partners' consultation meeting in June 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the five-day share fair, 25 good practices were highlighted, discussed, and disseminated. A virtual exhibition hall displayed 25 select good practices, 21 virtual sessions spread over 20 hours took place, and over 1,000 participants attended the share fair. This note summarizes the thematic key messages, the best practices/tool presented, and the virtual knowledge share fair recommendations.

THEME 1: INFORMATION SYSTEMS, EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND ANALYSIS:

Best Practices/Tools

1. *Livestock monitoring tools: Animal Feed Balance Sheet, Predictive Livestock Early Warning System (PLEWS) and Pictorial Evaluation Tool (PET),*
2. *Agtech as a tool for fostering climate-smart agriculture,*
3. *Tools for monitoring the food and nutrition situation and analyzing resilience*

Key Messages

- Countries must strengthen quality data collection for better analysis and improved planning on threats to agriculture, food and nutrition security, particularly in pastoral areas, to address the feed gap.
- Digital technologies for disseminating best practices, including e-extension advisory services and training videos for farmers, pastoralists and fishers, enhance the adoption and use of good agricultural practices when they are at scale, timely and in local languages.

THEME 2: MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED CONFLICTS

Best Practices/Tools

4. *Community peacebuilding and conflict prevention dialogues in IGAD's cross-border clusters*
5. *Conflict reduction through the development of coping strategies and diversified livelihoods*

6. *Local conventions for the management of pastoral resources in Mali*
7. *Enhancing community resilience by safeguarding the investments and project land)*
8. *Zamtapo: Restoring peaceful co-existence in Maradi and Zinder regions*

Key Messages

- Countries must strengthen conflict prevention and resolution through improved and equitable access to natural resources, often a major driver of conflict.
- Support to traditional governance institutions is essential for the development of pastoral areas. Local leadership's involvement to ensure stability and community dialogue (to address the social dimension) and participatory land-use planning (to address territorial development planning) are two ways to strengthen local governance institutions.

THEME 3: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Best Practices/Tools

9. *Forecast Based Financing & Integrated Risk Management in the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions*
10. *Mainstreaming climate change response in Field School Methodology*
11. *Market Approach on Fuel Efficient Stove (FES) for Climate Adaptation*
12. *The creation of an arboretum made up essentially of forest species of the Sahel*
13. *1 million tanks for the Sahel*
14. *Women and water for change: Empowering women and youth in rural communities in Tanzania and Uganda*
15. *Catfish culture in circular tanks with high fish densities for youth employment*
16. *Fish as an alternative Livelihood in resilience building in ASALs*

Key Messages

- To tackle climate change and disaster risk reduction at the local level, countries must strengthen extension services with the formal adoption of the Farmer Field School (FFE) and Climate Smart Agriculture Methodology in public agricultural systems.
- Investment in early action through forecast-based financing for high-risk areas saves resources that would otherwise be spent on post-disaster rehabilitation.
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and countries should capitalize on existing good practices on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience through better learning, information exchange and collaboration between countries and regions.
- Strengthening water harvesting for agricultural production is key for resilience building. Water tanks and other inputs, including building women's capacity to adopt environmentally-friendly agricultural techniques, strengthen disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.
- Aquatic systems in arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) have a huge fisheries potential and can be used for livelihood diversification. Catfish culture in circular tanks with high fish densities is highly profitable and creates jobs and opportunities, including women and youth.

THEME 4: INNOVATIVE SUPPORT TO AGRO-PASTORALISTS AND PASTORALISTS

Best Practices/Tools

17. *Locally Formulated Dairy Goat Meal addresses dairy goats feed requirements in Kenya*
18. *Cross border coordination for enhanced TADs control*
19. *Improving the facilitation of access to markets for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Niger*
20. *Partnering with local organizations to formulate and implement projects and build capacity*

21. Strengthening the capacities of the relevant institutions for a sustainable increase of water storage

Key Messages

- Countries should promote local innovations by fostering partnerships between agro-pastoralists and pastoralists with agricultural research, development institutions, and the private sector.
- Cross-border coordination is key to addressing the challenges of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), movement of cattle, management of natural resources and peaceful resolution of conflict.
- Development of infrastructure and market access along the livestock corridors is critical for pastoral area development and conflict prevention.
- The promotion of digital technologies will address the digital gap in pastoral areas, increasing appreciation for cultural values and traditional knowledge through greater exposure for successful bottom-up approaches. It will strengthen the identity of pastoral communities.

THEME 5: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY NETS

Best Practices/Tools

- 22. Promoting social protection as an emergency response and recovery strategy for long-term resilience*
- 23. Building foundations for resilience through investing in systems to support safety nets*
- 24. Linking early warning systems to the Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia*
- 25. Linking social protection with agricultural interventions for household nutrition and resilience*

Key Messages

- More investments in risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems are needed to address the vulnerability of the largely rural agricultural and pastoral livelihoods, especially in the context of the COVID-19 response.
- Electronic registries and e-voucher systems can contribute to building social safety net systems.
- Social protection programmes/safety nets should be risk-informed, scalable and flexible, connected to early warning and action, and need to support productive capacities.

CLOSING SESSION:

- It is critical to scale-up good practices and innovations to strengthen the resilience of agricultural and pastoral livelihoods in the face of increasing climate variability and weather-related hazards, conflict and insecurity, now compounded by the impact of COVID-19.
- There is a need to sustain the momentum in investments in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) areas for the socio-economic stability of agricultural and pastoral communities residing in these areas, to consolidate peace, to provide opportunities for youth employment and mitigate distress migration, and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition.
- FAO has launched the comprehensive [COVID-19 response and recovery programme in Africa](#), which works on the Global Humanitarian Response Plan and the Boosting Smallholder Resilience for Recovery Plan's aim to tackle persistent challenges related to food-crisis contexts, and to build back better from the pandemic.
- The virtual knowledge share fair and subsequent activities are expected to strengthen partnerships for synergies between practitioners and organizations in East and West Africa. These partnerships should step up investments and interventions in key thematic areas and work along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to address agricultural-based livelihoods' long-term resilience.