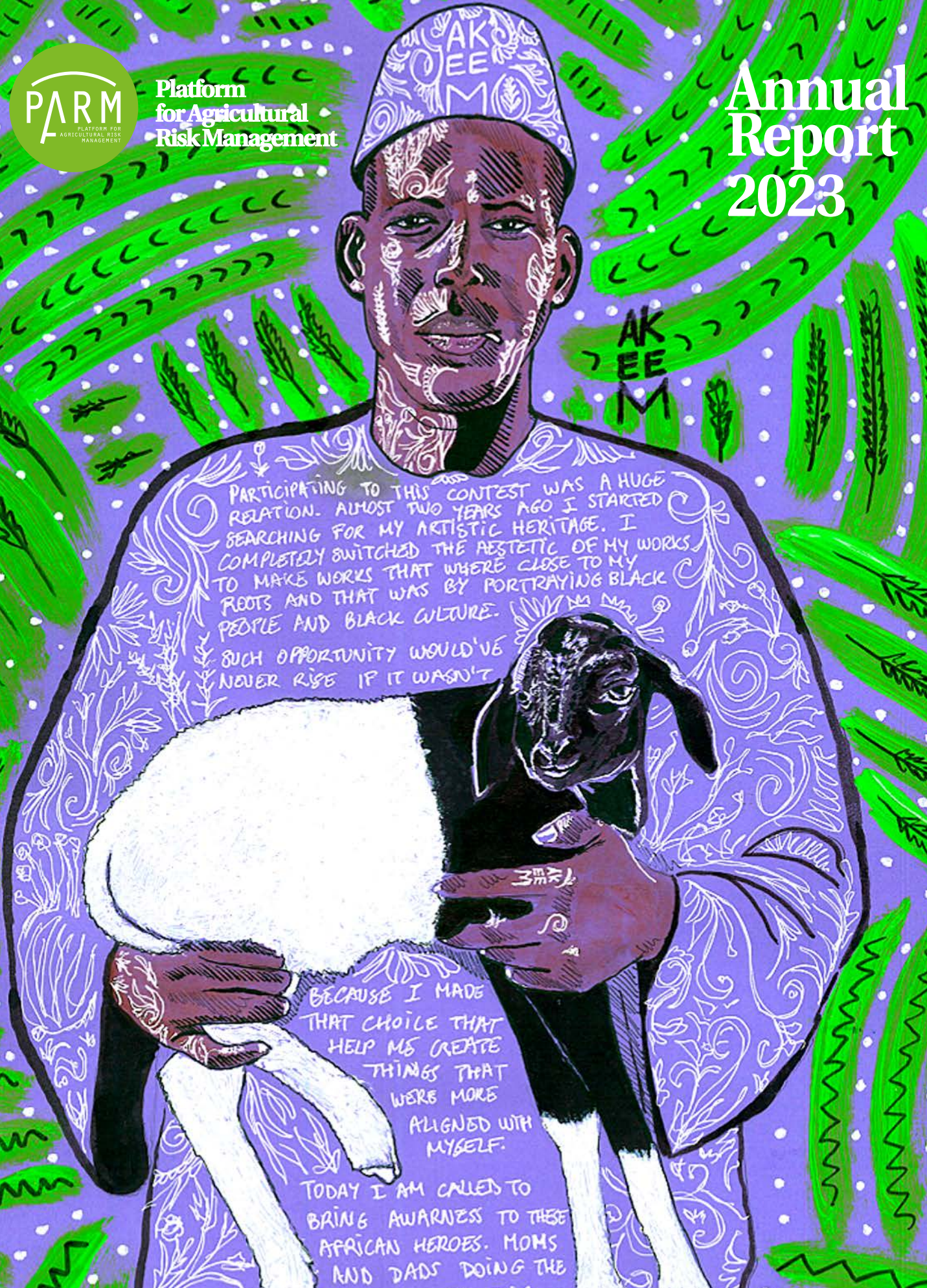




Platform
for Agricultural
Risk Management

Annual Report 2023





COVER ARTWORK

Artist: Boris Akeem Aka Bobo

Instagram: [@akeemakart](#)

Title: L'homme et son agneau / The man with his lamb

Nationality: Côte d'Ivoire

Platform
for Agricultural
Risk Management

Managing risks to improve farmers' livelihoods

Foreword

Foreword



Massimo Giovanola
Lead Technical Specialist, PARM

In the era of increased frequency and magnitude of agricultural risks inflated by climate variability, building resilience in the agricultural sector, in particular through value chains, de-risking food system and food security have increasingly become urgent not only to protect rural people against the risks affecting their incomes, but also to mitigate the impact of unforeseen global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the most recent and more and more frequent global crises like the Ukrainian and Gaza strip ones. Although in most cases the poorest suffer more since their poverty and inequality amplify their exposure and undermine capacities to manage risks, also in medium-high incomes countries the consequences of the global shocks have seriously impacted the national economies and their capacity to cope with.

In this context, the PARM Secretariat continued to deliver its demand-driven services to assist governments in managing agricultural sector risks. Currently, the platform operates in Burkina Faso, Burundi,

Ghana, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia. In 2023, the Secretariat managed to adapt its operations, ensuring the smooth implementation of its activities at the country level. Particularly, PARM strengthened its country engagements on ARM, providing technical assistance, capacity development and knowledge management support while bringing forward the ARM agenda at the global level.

The main achievements of 2023 include:

a) Introduction of the new methodology of assessing risks along the entire **value chain** with a gender lens. Focusing on assessing holistically agricultural risks along a value chain for specific agricultural commodities allows for a more tailored design of risk management strategies and tools that are more attractive and relevant to direct and indirect actors in the value chain. This approach is not only relevant to a wide variety of stakeholders from smallholder farming to processors and private investors, but also to inform

government policies for allocating public investments to address the drivers of volatility that are being exacerbated by a changing climate. The new value chain methodology has been implemented to assess agricultural risks for groundnut and maize in Madagascar, which are designated as export and food security commodities, respectively. Additionally, this methodology is being applied in Tunisia for two cereals and olive oil value chains, and in Burundi for maize, rice, and rabbit.

b) Promotion of new investments on ARM, providing support to the governments of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger and Senegal in mobilizing resources to finance the investment projects designed with the technical assistance of PARM in 2022 and 2023. Actions to engage with potential donors from multilateral and bilateral agencies, private sector and public entities have been intensified and promising results achieved. In Senegal, the investment project PGRAAD has been integrated in the Priority Action



Plan (PAP 3) of the Emerging Senegal Plan (PAP 3 is the new framework for the implementation of priority investments over the next five years 2024-2028) in the country. In Ethiopia, discussions are ongoing to integrate a number of activities of the CD4ARM into the IFAD PACT project funded by IFAD. Burkina Faso is in the process of readjusting the PGRAAM project budget in compliance with the national requirements as to align the project to be eligible for domestic funding, following the training on the use of COSTAB provided by PARM to experts from the General Directorate of Studies and Sector Statistics (DGESS) in July 2023.

c) Policy and partnership engagement on ARM at country level through a technical consultation of local actors in Madagascar to enrich the preliminary results of the Risk Assessment Study (RAS) carried out using the newly implemented holistic value chain methodology, as well as to inform the project that has been designed. The technical consultation has received a high participation and strong engagement from over 160 stakeholders from the government, civil society, technical and financial partners as well as the private sector, and resulted in the validation by the Government, through the Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock (MINAE), of both the preliminary results of the Agricultural Value-Chain Risk Assessment Study (AVC-RAS) and the aide-memoire

that outlines the key components of the upcoming investment project. In addition, Partnership engagement enabled PARM to co-design the investment project for Madagascar with the technical collaboration of IFAD, CIRAD (Center for international cooperation in agricultural research for development), ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics - CGIAR centre), and the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University.

d) Awareness and capacities development to manage risks at regional and country level through the implementation of 7 CD activities, notably 1 regional CD activity in France for west and central Africa countries and to support regional economic communities; 2 CD workshops in Madagascar (of which one in collaboration with IFAD country office and another in collaboration with CAFPA, a rural training center beneficiary of PARM training of trainers (ToT) to train producers, processors and universities in rural areas; 1 CD workshop in Tunisia; 1 CD workshop organised in collaboration with REPAFER, a women Farmers Organisation (FO) in Burkina Faso; and 2 CD workshops in Burundi of which one dedicated to IFAD-funded projects. PARM CD activities reached out to more than 450 stakeholders and trainers/experts trained on ARM, including over 150 women.

e) Knowledge sharing and exchange on ARM through the Forum for Agricultural Risk Management (FARM-D) Community of Practice which launched a new interactive platform and recorded in less than a year, 500 active members and 295 registered organizations. FARM-D has promoted 52 webinars, directly organized 10 webinars, and disseminated 220 knowledge resources to over 10,000 practitioners through newsletters.

f) Promotion of ARM for smallholder farmers using Storytelling and media through the global campaign PARM STORIES CHALLENGE - Farming Champions, inviting journalists and media professionals to create a compelling video that highlights the stories of rural farmers who have developed innovative initiatives to manage agricultural risks and enhance their own resilience and productivity. The challenge was organized in partnership with Africa 21, a network bringing together around 700 African journalists from 40 countries with expertise in development topics and a platform for exchange between media practitioners and researchers. over 40 journalists, filmmakers and media professionals from Africa and the diaspora submitted their stories of which 10 top videos have been selected: three winners and seven finalists. Applicants videos were reviewed by a seasoned jury made up of experienced journalists ▶

▶ (TV5 Monde, Swiss Television and Group Nation Media), UN communications specialists (FAO and IFAD) and a farmers' representative (FIFATA).

g) New partnerships on ARM at global, regional and country levels. These include the **West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research** (WECARD/CORAF) and the **Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel** (CILSS) met by PARM team during the 38th restricted meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network in France ; **Climate Bonds Initiative** (CBI) ; the IFAD funded programmes **DEFIS** (Agricultural value chains inclusive development Programme) and **AD2M** (Project to support development in the Menabe and Melaky regions), **Soafiary Company (IFAD partner)**, **FIFATA** farmers' organisation (AFD partner) in Madagascar ; **Investisseurs & Partenaires** (AFD and IFAD partner), the EU/AICS funded **ADAPT Project** through capacity development and joint knowledge management activities in ARM; **Equity Group Holdings**; IFAD project **PRODER** (*Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program*); **Burundi Fortified Food** (a client of WFP) as well as **UCODE** and **Twitezimbere**, two microfinance institutions beneficiaries of IFAD projects **PRODEFI** (*Sector development program*) and **PTRPC** (*Transitional*

post-conflict reconstruction program).

h) More prominent role to the private sector thanks to the involvement of private sector companies in PARM's CD, KM and resource mobilisation activities. Moreover, PARM has introduced its new methodology, assessing risks by value chains, which is more interesting for private sector companies that operate in given value chains. The platform has also developed a concept note addressing how PARM can support the private sector (and vice versa) which identified three main pathways to work with the private sector: (i) support impact investments through social, economic and environmental data analysis ; (ii) support traceability and transparency of value chains to enable AVC risk analysis (deforestation-free, etc.); and (iii) create a pipeline of potential NSOs identified through CD workshops and train them for ARM. Thanks to PARM mediation with IFAD ABC Fund, a microfinance institution from Senegal trained by PARM, was able to access a 3 million USD credit line. Bilateral meetings held with private enterprises were useful to inform PARM AVC-RAS in Burundi. The pilot phase to institutionalize CD for ARM in Burkina Faso and Madagascar include 3 private enterprises (2 microfinance institutions and 1 women farmer organization). This confirms the importance of CD for ARM in reducing the risk of investments in agriculture. Negotiations are ongoing

between PARM and international buyers interested in receiving PARM services such as risk assessment studies.

i) Gender mainstreamed into PARM and INSURED operations thanks to the implementation of the PARM's gender strategy. New gender-related guidance and notes increased gender integration in project design, and the development of partnerships with gender-related and/or women's organizations in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Madagascar and Tunisia led to a significant increase of women's participation in PARM's activities, including KM and CD events. Knowledge products (blogs, podcasts, etc.) on the lessons learned in integrating gender into ARM project design, as well as on interlinkages with relevant topics (e.g. GBV), have been produced to generate knowledge on gender mainstreaming in ARM.

This report provides the main results obtained by PARM in 2023, highlighting the activities carried out to foster the ARM agenda. It indicates important advancements and positive results achieved in 2023 after COVID-19 concerns in previous years and recent war in Ukraine. The PARM team will continue working with various partners with the commitment to support governments in integrating ARM into their national policies, building and reinforcing capacities of local people, sensitizing stakeholders and disseminating best practices that can help them better manage agricultural risks.



Managing
agricultural risk
can contribute
to sustainable
agricultural growth.



Annual Report 2022



Contents

10	List of acronyms and abbreviations
14	About PARM
16	Our results
18	PARM at a glance
20	Governance and management
20	PARM Secretariat
21	Engagement with G20
21	Engagement with the Steering Committee
21	Engagement with the Advisory Committee
21	Gender mainstreaming in (P)ARM activities
23	External mid-term evaluation of PARM Horizon 2
24	Key Findings
24	Key Recommendations
25	Knowledge management, capacity development and partnerships
25	Knowledge management, communication and visibility actions
39	Capacity development
42	Partnerships and global engagements
45	Country activities
46	Burkina Faso
48	Senegal
49	Niger
50	Ethiopia
51	Magagascar
54	Tunisia
55	Burundi
56	Ghana
58	Programme financing
60	PARM H2 financial report 2019-2022 issued by IFAD
64	Way forward and lessons learned
66	Library

List of acronyms and abbreviations

ABC	Agri-Business Capital	CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research	EC	European Commission
AC	Advisory Committee	CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture	ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ADAPT	Advanced prediction models for flexible trajectory-based operations	CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel	EU	European Union
AD2M	Project to Support Development in the Menabe and Melaky Regions	CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center	FAIRR	Farm Animal Investment Risk and Return
AFD	Agence Française de Développement	CIRAD	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
AfDB	African Development Bank	CLO	Country Liaison Officer	FARM-D	Forum for Agricultural Risk Management in Development
AG	Agriculture	CNAAS	Compagnie Nationale d'Assurance Agricole du Sénégal	FFR	Financing Facility for Remittances
AICS	Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development	CNCR	Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux	FIFATA	Association for the progress of farmers
AP/SFD	Professional Association of Decentralized Financial Systems of Burkina Faso	COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	FMO	Dutch entrepreneurial development bank
ARM	Agricultural Risk Management	CoP	Community of Practice	FO	Farmers Organisations
AUDA	African Union Development Agency	CORAF	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development	GBV	Gender-Based Violence
AVP	Associate Vice-President	COSEM	Mutual Seed Multiplication Society	GCF	Green Climate Fund
A&M	Agricultural and Mechanical	CPR	Rural Promotion Center	GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
BADEA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa	DAC	Development Assistance Committee	GIC	Green Innovation Centre
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	DEFIS	Développement des filières agricoles inclusives	GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
BNDE	National Bank for Economic Development	DGESS	Direction Générale des études et des statistiques sectorielles	GOBF	Government of Burkina Faso
BNI	National Bank of Industry	DGFIOP	General Directorate of Financing Investment and Professional Organizations	GOE	Government of Ethiopia
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International	DINAMO	Inclusive smallholder agriculture development project in the North-West mountains of Tunisia	GOS	Government of Senegal
CAFFPA	Centre d'Appui et Formation Professionnelle en Agriculture	EAGC	Eastern Africa Grain Council	GPR	Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization
CBI	Climate Bonds Initiative	EBRD	The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	GRA	Gestion des Risques Agricoles
CD	Capacity Development			GRACIR	Agricultural Risk Management for Inclusive Growth and Resilience
CDRFI	Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance			HC3N	Haut-Commissariat à l'Initiative 3N (Les Nigériens, Nourrissent les Nigériens)
CD4ARM	Capacity Development for Agricultural Risk Management			ICO	IFAD Country Office
CEAP	Progressive Farmers' Cooperative			ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
CEO	Chief executive officer			ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
CFA	West African CFA franc				

ICT	Information and communications technology	MINEAGRIE	Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock	PSE	Emerging Senegal Plan
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	MoA	Ministry of Agriculture	PTRPC	Transitional post-conflict reconstruction program
IFC	International Finance Corporation	MTE	Mid-Term Evaluation	RAS	Risk Assessment Study
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute	NCE	No-Cost Extension	RED F&S	Rural Economic Development and Food Security
I&P	Investisseurs & Partenaires	NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development	REPAFER	Network for the Promotion and Empowerment of Rural Women
IGP	InsuResilience Global Partnership	NGO	Non-governmental Organizations	ROPPA	Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	NPO	Nonprofit Organisation	SC	Steering Committee
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute	NSO	Non-sovereign Operation	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
INAT	National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	SMMEC	Malagasy Mutual Savings and Credit Company
INSURED	Insurance for Rural Resilience and Economic Development	PACT	Programme Agriculture and Climate Transformation	SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
INST	Institutionalisation of capacity development	PACTE	Projet d'Agriculture Contractuelle et de Transition Écologique	SOCABU	Insurance Company of Burundi
IRF	Inclusive Rural Finance	PAMECAS	Partenariat pour la Mobilisation de l'Épargne et le Crédit Au Sénégal	TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute	PAP 3	Priority Action Plan	TOC	Theory of Change
ISDB	Islamic Development Bank	PARM	Platform for Agricultural Risk Management	TOR	Terms of Reference
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	PARMN	Projet d'Atténuation des Risques de Marché au Niger	ToT	Training of Trainers
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW Development Bank)	PDR	Project Design Report	UCODE	Union for Cooperation and Development Microfinance
KM	Knowledge Management	PGRAAD	Projet de Gestion des Risques Agricoles pour une Agriculture Durable	UKAID	UK Aid Direct
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency	PGRAAM	Projet de Gestion des Risques Agricoles pour la résilience aux Aléas du Climat et des Marchés	UN	United Nations
MAERSA	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Équipement Rural et de la Souveraineté Alimentaire (Sénégal)	PH1	PARM Horizon 1	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
MARAH	Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques (Burkina Faso)	PH2	PARM Horizon 2	UNCPB	National Union of Cotton Producers Cooperative Societies of Burkina Faso
MARHP	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries	PIN	People In Need	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MINAE	Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock	POs	Producers' Organisations	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
		PRODEFI	Sector development program	WB	The World Bank
		PRODER	Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program	WFP	World Food Programme
		PROPARCO	Société de Promotion et de participation pour la coopération économique	3BL	Trible Bottom Line

1. Programme overview

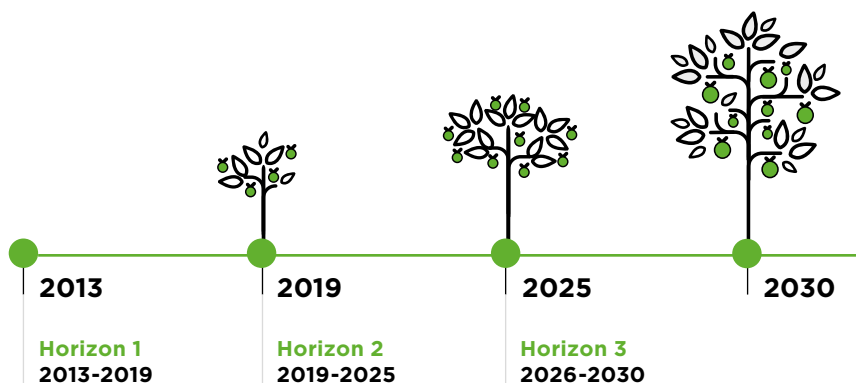
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About PARM

The **Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM)** is the global partnership on agricultural risk management (ARM) for development. **Established in 2013** as an outcome of G20 discussions on agricultural growth and food security, it provides technical support to governments for the integration of ARM into policies, institutional capacities and investment to move away from a culture of coping with disasters towards a smart management of risk.

PARM horizons



Our services

Assess

Evaluation and prioritization of agricultural risks

PARM provides technical support to its partner countries by **assessing and prioritizing agricultural risks in a systematic and holistic way**. This approach is gender responsive and consists in quantifying and measuring the impact of various risks simultaneously. It can be applied to the agriculture sector as a whole or to specific value chains.

Design

Identification of the right tools and project design for investment

PARM works jointly with its partner countries to identify the **most appropriate tools** to manage the prioritized risks and provides technical support in the **design of projects for investment, resource mobilization and implementation support**.

Learn

Joint learning to strengthen capacities to manage risks

PARM facilitates a process of **joint learning cycles** targeting the key country stakeholders to **strengthen local expertise** and to **enhance institutional capacities** to manage agricultural risks, in a gender responsive way.

Share

Creation of spaces for knowledge exchange and partnerships

PARM plays a unique role as a knowledge broker among the **global and local communities of practice** by facilitating the **generation, access, exchange of knowledge** and stimulating **partnerships on ARM**.

Our geographical scope

PARM Horizon 2 currently focus on sub-Saharan Africa, however it may expand its geographical scope to other regions in response to the new global needs and donors priorities.

The first group of target countries of PARM Horizon 2 are: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal. A second group of country will be selected in the course of the programme.

Selection criteria

The main criteria for selecting target countries are based on:

1. the presence of agricultural risks and the need to integrate a holistic approach to ARM;
2. official commitment from the government and strategic partner;
3. the presence of policies, programs and strategies on ARM.



Our partners

PARM is governed by a Steering Committee, an Advisory Committee and the Secretariat hosted by IFAD. PARM also closely collaborates with other partners from the development organizations, the private sector, universities and research institutes.

Steering committee



Advisory committee



2. Our Results

Our Re- sults



2.1. PARM at a glance

Integration of ARM into national and global policies and investment plans



26.6^{USD M}

3

ARM recognized as global leading initiative on ARM and priority in the G20 Ag Ministries Declarations

Contributions from governments to finance PARM designed projects (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger & Senegal)

Agricultural Risk Assessment Studies using value chain new methodology

Gender and social inclusion in ARM



+150

+120

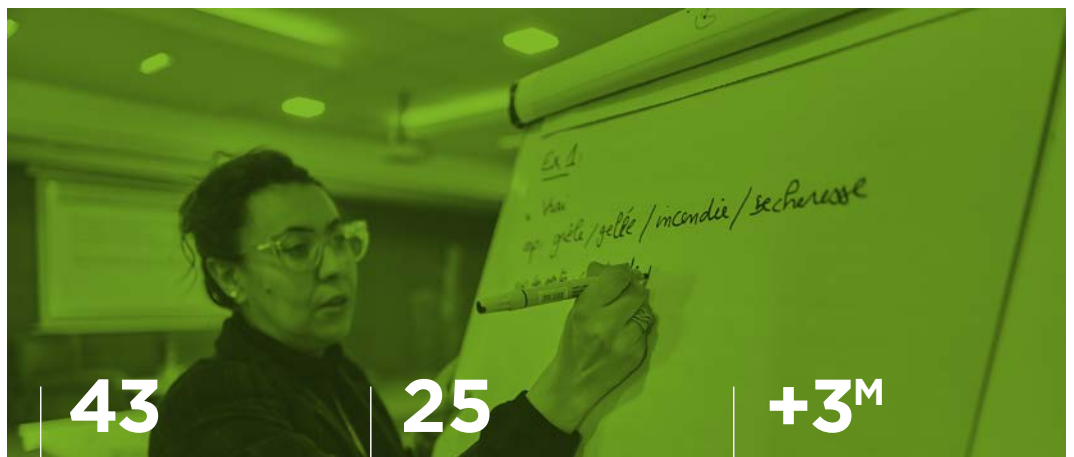
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Women trained on ARM

Youth trained on ARM

Events and knowledge products on gender and social inclusion in ARM

Creation and dissemination of knowledge on ARM



43

25

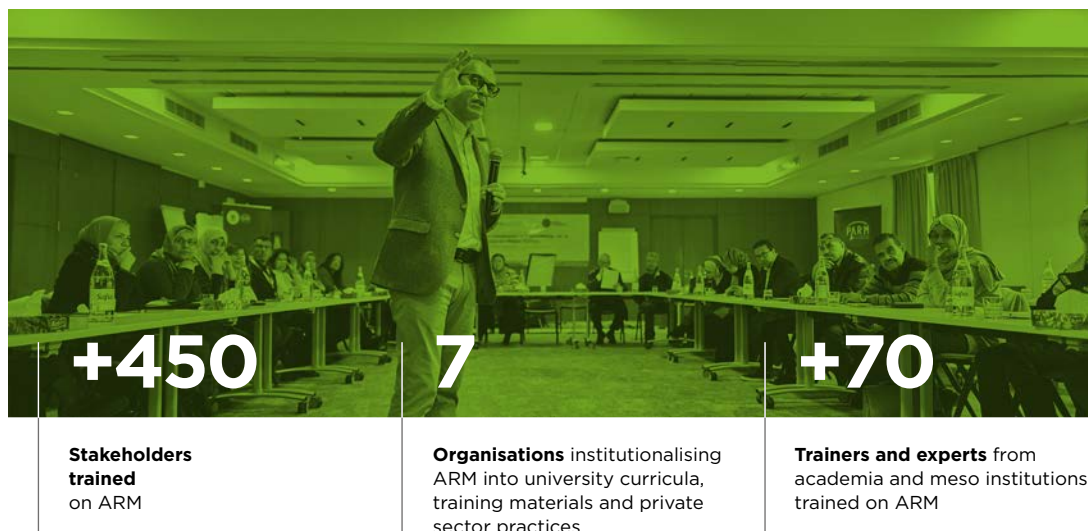
+3^M

Knowledge products

Knowledge events and webinars organized at country, regional and global levels

People reached through global campaigns, webinars, k-sharing events and CoP

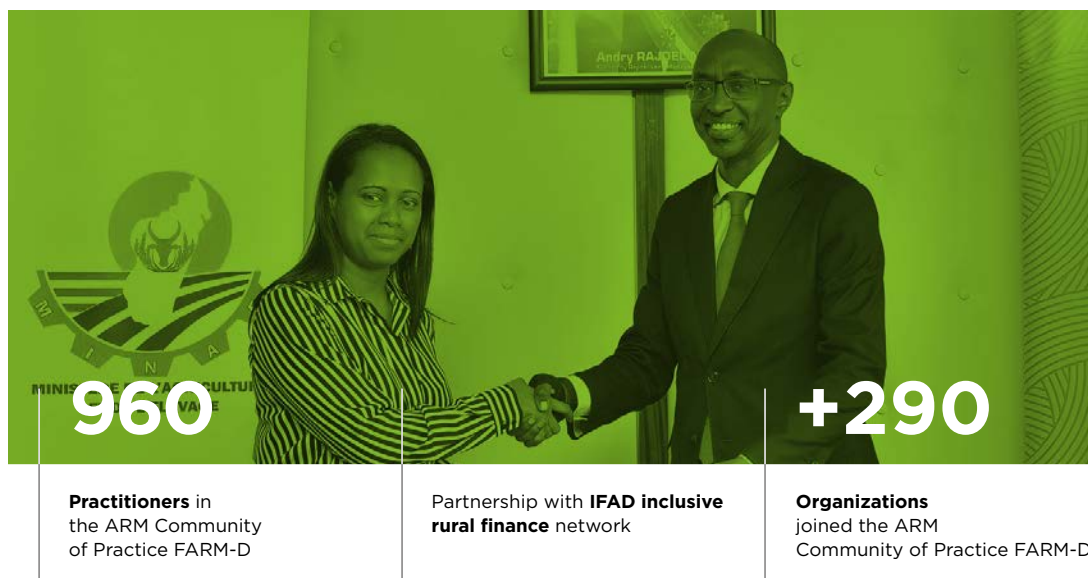
Capacity development on ARM



More prominent role to the private sector



Partnership promotion for PARM



2.2. Governance and Management

PARM Secretariat

PARM Secretariat was established in September 2014 and is hosted by IFAD.

It is responsible for managing the programme and implementing the PARM process, liaising with clients, donors and partners, and linking them with service providers/practitioners who have specific expertise in ARM.

At country level, in addition to the already **active country liaison officers** (CLOs) in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger and Senegal, **new resources** have been recruited in Tunisia, Burundi and Ghana.

PARM Secretariat also closely coordinates and cooperates with additional partners from development organizations, the private sector, universities, research institutes, etc.

Since mid-year 2021, after COVID-19 disruptions, the PARM Secretariat is fully operational.



Massimo Giovanola
Lead Technical Specialist



Jean-Claude Bidogeza
Technical Specialist



Carlos Arce
Lead Technical Advisor



Tristan Lecotty
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Engagement with

G20

Through the IFAD Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization (GPR) division, PARM has reported back to G20 as part of its stocktaking exercise during the G20 Ag. deputies meeting held in February in Indore, India. PARM has presented its new AVC methodology of assessing agricultural risks and promoted ARM as one of the enablers of sustainable food systems, increased food security, de-risking investment and improved rural investment along the value chain. Besides, (P)ARM has been promoted in the global agenda with the integration of ARM and PARM results in the final declaration of the agriculture ministries' declaration 2023.



the Steering Committee

In 2023, the Secretariat organised two meetings with its Steering Committee as follows:

- **Annual Review Meeting (3 July)** reported on the activities and expenditures from the previous year;
- **Annual Planning Meeting (13 December)** presented the planning and budget for the coming year.



the Advisory Committee

The Secretariat has successfully relaunched the Advisory Committee (AC) after 4 years of disruption mainly caused by COVID-19. On 18 April 2023, PARM organised the 6th AC meeting which was a great opportunity to revamp the collaboration between PARM and the AC members in order to identify concrete synergies during the implementation of PARM Horizon 2 (2019-2025); in particular at country level where PARM is proposing new approaches and tools to integrate ARM into the national policies and investment plans of the host Governments. AC members from Agrinatura, Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) joined the discussion. The Advisory Committee members were able to elect the new AC Chairperson, Ms. Providence Mavubi, Director of Industry and Agriculture at COMESA who co-chaired the meeting with the PARM Secretariat focal point. Ms Providence will be in charge of coordinating the Advisory Committee activities for one year.

Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion in (P)ARM Activities

PARM continued to mainstream Gender in its process at country, regional and global level, following guidance from the Gender Strategy produced in 2019, internal documents and tools. To really ensure women attendance and contributions to PARM activities, the Platform always invited women's organizations (women's average attendance was over 50%) to its CD and KM workshops and included gender- and social inclusion-related presentations and training sessions in the agenda to raise awareness about gender- and social-based differences and discriminations in addressing agricultural risks. Analysis of gender and social issues has been one of

the criteria to select the action plans for the institutionalization of ARM in PARM operational countries. Across January-December 2023, PARM has taken Gender and social inclusion as a cross-cutting approach and translated its commitment into concrete action within its activities, including the PARM country process and pillars. This includes KM, CD, webinars, partnerships, and technical activities. PARM strongly recognizes the impact of gender- and social-based constraints and restrictions on smallholder farmers' ability to participate in decision-making processes and to access services for robust and inclusive agricultural risk management (ARM). **BOX 1**



BOX 1 Implementation of PARM Gender Strategy

PARM acknowledges that social determinants like gender, age, ethnicity and disability have an impact on the way farmers are affected by risk and their capacity to manage risk. To accurately assess and prioritize risks and identify the appropriate tools to respond to them, PARM (and ARM practitioners) are now incorporating gender and social-based constraints, needs and capacities in managing risk. Within its mandate and interest, PARM seeks to promote and share gender-transformative work. Thus, PARM is implementing the Gender Strategy, tracking its progress in mainstreaming gender in its activities, and developing the gender and social inclusion portfolio to make the links between (P)ARM, gender and social inclusion more visible.

To strengthen these efforts, a Senior Gender Specialist Consultant was brought on board of the team since April 2022.

Some of the PARM achievements in Gender equality-related activities in 2023 include:

Risk Assessment	Mainstreamed gender in data collection and final results of Madagascar AVC-RAS
	<p>Gender-transformative project design process in Madagascar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape analyses of actors working on gender in maize and groundnut value chains and consultations with stakeholders working on gender and youth have been carried out during the project design mission; - Gender and youth components have been integrated into the project concept note approved in August 2023. Digital services such as digital savings and digital agripreneurship using a gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) lens to ensure vulnerable youth and women were included, have been developed in the project concept note, as well as merging of youth and women small farmers groups and forming youth farmers' organizations.
KM & Partnerships	<p>The PARM KM materials highlighted the integration of gender and social inclusion into PARM's work;</p> <p>Multiple partners working on gender and youth participated in PARM KM event in Madagascar; and gender was integrated into the opening remarks, panel discussions and media coverage;</p> <p>The Gender Specialist developed a blog on the lessons learned in integrating gender into ARM project design;</p> <p>PARM hosted 3 webinars with the InsuResilience Global Partnership (IGP) on gender in ARM:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Live talk 05 organised on 24 January on "Addressing Poverty and Gender-related Barriers to Access Climate Risk Finance and Insurance" 2. Live talk 06 held on 8 March on "Exploring New Frontiers in Gender-Smart Climate and Disaster Risk Finance Policymaking: A Toolkit" 3. Live Talk 07 held on 09 November 2023 on "How climate and disaster risk finance and insurance (CDRFI) policies and programmes can address gender-based violence (GBV)", in the framework of the 16 days of activism to end GBV <p>The Gender Specialist featured in the first episode of the newly launched FARM-D podcast series. She shared knowledge on "Gender mainstreaming for a better Agricultural Risk Management by men, women and youth". The podcast was published on SoundCloud and also populated on FARM-D social media platforms;</p> <p>The Gender Specialist facilitated a Live Chat "Ask Me A Question" on FARM-D Community of Practice (CoP) on 28 November 2023 to engage discussions around gender, social inclusion and ARM interlinkages with the FARM-D users;</p> <p>Over 20% (11 out of 52) of the webinars organized and promoted through the FARM-D platform were about Gender and social inclusion;</p> <p>In total, 10% of the "Practitioners in Action" news published on the FARM-D website were on gender and social inclusion (4 out of 40).</p>
Capacity Development	<p>Increased number of women attending PARM's CD activities (more than 50%);</p> <p>Gender presentations and training sessions (by PARM gender specialist and national specialists) were integrated into all training events at country level (Madagascar CD2 and Tunisia CD1).</p>

2.3. External mid-term evaluation of PARM Horizon 2



PARM programme cycle is designed in phases, with phase one (**PARM Horizon 1**) spanning over the period 2013-2019. The objective of the first phase was to create an enabling environment for the integration of a holistic agricultural risk management into the policy planning and investment plans in 8 African countries (Uganda, Cameroon, Senegal, Niger, Ethiopia, Cabo Verde, Liberia and Zambia). The very positive results achieved by PARM during the first phase brought to the development of **PARM Horizon 2 (2019-2025)**. In this second phase, PARM continues to bring quality evidence and build capacities on ARM at global, regional and country level, and invests more resources in the design of bankable ARM programs for investments in direct support to governments and meso-level players (extension services, financial intermediaries, women's and youth's groups, NGOs, farmers' enterprises and organizations) to

contribute to de-risk investments. In order to assess the achievements and lessons learnt from the programme and eventually re-orient the work plan and modus operandi to ensure the full achievement of the planned objectives of PARM H2, an independent mid-term evaluation (MTE) of the PARM process has been carried out in May 2023 by an external evaluator, Altamont Group, an advisory firm focusing on research, monitoring and evaluation of programmes/projects, selected upon a tender launched and managed by IFAD procurement.

The objective of the PARM Horizon 2 MTE was to assess, through a neutral and external standpoint, the relevance, efficiency, coherence, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, gender mainstreaming and coordination of the programme covering the period between June 2019 and July 2023. The MTE reviewed

PARM's intervention in five [5] countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger, and Senegal), alongside unpacking its mandate, institutional structure, and processes while providing forward-looking recommendations to improve coordination. The mid-term evaluation was conducted utilizing a participatory qualitative approach in alignment with DAC OECD's* evaluation norms. Primary and secondary data were collected through desk reviews, key informant interviews (N=52 respondents), and focus group discussions (N=3).

In July 2023, Altamont Group has presented the findings of the MTE to PARM's donors during the PARM 8th Steering Committee Annual Review. Key findings and recommendations of the MTE are developed in **BOX 2**.

* Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

BOX 2 PARM H2 MTE findings and recommendations*

Overall, PARM H2 performance responds positively to all evaluation criteria, namely relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, gender, and coordination; with numerous opportunities for improvement.

Key findings of the MTE

PARM is of high **relevance** at the global and national levels. At the global level, PARM's agenda remains pertinent in the context of addressing global challenges related to food insecurity and climate change. PARM is distinguished by its unique mandate on ARM, its holistic approach, and its legitimacy from the G20 members. At the national level, PARM's relevance is demonstrated by its demand-driven approach and the importance of its Risk Assessment Study (RAS), ARM tools, and Capacity Development (CD) activities focused on the climate vulnerability of its target countries.

At midterm, PARM H2 has good to **high effectiveness** in achieving results pertaining to its three main components and respective outcome indicators, notably:

- Risk assessment and policy engagement (Component 1)
- Design of ARM projects for implementation (Component 2)
- Knowledge Management (KM), partnerships, and CD (Component 3)

Regarding Component 1 and Component 2, PARM has reached all planned indicators, especially by building on the results of PARM H1 in terms of RAS. However, the impact, added values, and potential sustainability of ARM policy integration and the designed projects in each targeted country are dependent on many complementary efforts, such as the implementation of designed projects, and the institutionalization of ARM. With regard to Component 3, over 900 participants have either benefitted from PARM's CD workshops or contributed to local knowledge generation. PARM's CD and KM activities, as well as the Community of Practice (CoP) – FARM-D constitute an effective medium for generating awareness, increasing program visibility, and ultimately, achieving social and behavioral change on ARM. However, there is a need to improve participant targeting, monitor and report on social and behavioral changes, and determine sustainability mechanisms for the continuity of PARM activities beyond PARM support.

PARM's **efficiency** is informed by the need to maximize resources by complementing the role of its four fixed-term staff at the secretariat with a technical advisory team (consultants), liaison officers, and focal points at the country level. PARM's KM activities can increase efficiency by adopting more innovative and interactive approaches for increased visibility.

In terms of **coherence**, PARM is internally aligned with other IFAD interventions (e.g., IFAD's Financing Facility for Remittances – FFR, INSURED) and IFAD's corporate policies, e.g., Gender Strategy. PARM's activities directly tally with its development objective of integrating ARM into national policies

and building capacities. Externally, PARM's methodology of conducting RAS complements other sectoral ARM initiatives from organizations such as the World Bank. In Niger and Ethiopia, for example, PARM has conducted RAS based on existing progress made by the World Bank and the Natural Resources Institute. However, PARM does not have a clearly elaborated resource mobilization plan for engaging potential investors in support of target governments.

PARM has a clearly defined **gender** strategy and staff dedication towards gender mainstreaming with a gender focal point. Most significant gender mainstreaming and youth inclusion results have been recorded through women and youths' participation in CD trainings. However, there is a need to improve PARM's gender approach, shifting from just counting participants to tracking more transformational gender-based results. Promising results may be generated by the new process launched in Madagascar, where the gender dimension is integrated in a more systematic manner into the RAS and the design phases.

Key recommendations

- Design more tailored approaches based on countries' vulnerability index or on the level of policy responsiveness or political will
- Securing seed funds from donors at an earlier stage for PARM's project design. This approach aims to diversify entry points, aligning with donor intervention calendars and involving decision-makers for optimal impact
- Regularly update the risk analysis process adopted to allow proper follow-up, monitoring and review to cover emerging/contextual risks at the regional or global level, that might affect certain countries, e.g., COVID-19, locust, conflict, coup d'état, trade restrictions, etc.
- Broaden the scope of workshops and capacity-building sessions to reach the direct beneficiaries of PARM interventions
- Revise PARM's existing Theory of Change (ToC) to include clearly identified assumptions and pathways for achieving development objectives and results
- Increase participation in global discussions and contribution to global efforts, which should be enabled through a modification to PARM's mandate and services
- Enhance public-private partnerships as part of technical assistance, and develop new regional entry points and partnerships

* Final Report External Mid-Term Evaluation PARM Horizon 2, Altamont Group, August 2023

2.4. Knowledge management, capacity development and partnerships

In 2023, knowledge management (KM) and capacity development (CD) have continued to be the main components of the PARM programme that complement the ARM country process. In line with the PARM H2 Logical Framework, the expected outcomes for the KM component are:

1. **Enhanced partnerships and knowledge generation/sharing processes** on ARM at local, national, regional and global level; and
2. **Improved awareness-raising** and capacity to manage agricultural risks at local, national, regional and global level.

Under this component, PARM is expected to **strengthen dissemination channels and platforms on ARM** and **create new and accessible knowledge products** at global, regional and/or national level.

For this reason, PARM KM and CD strategies for H2 aim to integrate KM/CD not only at global and regional level, but also to increase its links within the PARM process in each country to facilitate programme implementation and strengthen stakeholders' engagement.

Knowledge management, communication and visibility actions

In 2023, PARM developed a set of new knowledge products and communication materials to promote the Platform's results and share knowledge at regional and country levels; that includes a regional factsheet on PARM's results in the Sahel region, a project factsheet for the Agricultural Risk Management Project for Resilience to Climate and Market Hazards (PGRAAM) of Burkina Faso, project document reports and country final reports for Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Senegal, KM and CD reports for Madagascar and Tunisia, a customized factsheet for Madagascar focusing on the introduction of the value chain approach and

two briefs on the institutionalization of ARM in Burkina Faso and Senegal. The Platform has also increased engagement with media at global, regional and country level, strengthening its contacts at country level through the Ministry's networks of journalists, resulting in a higher visibility PARM activities at all levels. In addition, PARM continued the dissemination of knowledge products on the FARM-D community of practice and strengthened its virtual presence through the growth of its social media community. The main activities achieved under this component are:

Branding and communication materials

PARM created and updated a set of communication materials (factsheets, videos, graphics, new templates) targeting country, regional and global stakeholders and has launched a dissemination campaign targeting key partners to

raise engagement, increase visibility and contribute to resource mobilisation for PARM designed projects and the institutionalization of ARM into universities curricula and private sector practices.



Visibility actions

As part of the KM strategy, PARM Horizon 2 introduced the development of innovative and creative awareness campaigns to raise awareness on ARM in different ways also building on global events and visibility opportunities. This year, after the success of PARM Art Challenge, the Platform launched in September 2023, the global campaign

PARM STORIES CHALLENGE - FARMING CHAMPIONS [BOX 3](#) with media professionals, as part of the celebration of the World Food Day and the International Rural Women's Day. The challenge has called for journalists and media professionals to produce a compelling video story that portrays

rural farmers' self-resilience to agricultural risks and showcases how this could be strengthened in order to increase their productivity and sustainable agri-food systems, contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals 1, 2, 5, and 15.

**BOX 3 PARM Stories Challenge – FARMING CHAMPIONS:
Rural resilience and strengthening agricultural sustainability**



Every day, smallholder farmers face multiple risks, yet they produce one-third of the world’s food. Building their resilience is key to food security and improvement of the livelihoods of these farming champions. From 26 September to 26 November 2023, PARM has run the digital campaign PARM STORIES CHALLENGE – FARMING CHAMPIONS inviting journalists and media professionals to create a documentary-style video that highlights the stories of rural farmers who have developed innovative initiatives to manage agricultural risks and enhance their own resilience. The campaign has been organised in partnership with Africa 21, a network bringing together around 700 African journalists from 40 countries with expertise in development topics and a platform for exchange between media practitioners and researchers. Created in 2011, the network works for a better understanding of sustainable development in Africa, in particular from the angle of the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

The global campaign received a high participation of over 40 journalists, filmmakers, and media professionals from Africa and the diaspora. After deliberations, 10 top videos have been selected, three of which were classified as winners and seven as finalists. The first three winning videos will be presented at an international event as well as the winning journalists. Moreover, the winning videos are being promoted across PARM, FARM-D and Africa 21 institutional platforms; while the first winner will also visit one or more PARM/IFAD operational countries to gain direct experience of the projects and activities of the United Nations in agricultural risk management, and will be able to produce an additional video with PARM/IFAD direct beneficiaries.

Learn more: [Winning videos](#)

The Jury

The videos submitted during the campaign were reviewed by a seasoned jury made up of experienced journalists (TV5 Monde, Swiss Television and Group Nation Media), UN communications specialists (FAO and IFAD) and a farmers’ representative (FIFATA).



Dorcas Mayala Ntumba,
KM, Communications & Partnership Specialist, PARM



Carlos Tomas Lora Acosta
Brand & Digital Communication Specialist, PARM



Ange Soubirous Tambineza
Communications Officer, FAO



Tovo Ratsimbazafy
Technical Manager, FIFATA



Julien Chambolle
Secretary General & Co-Founder, AFRICA 21



Anne Delaite
Journalist, Swiss Radio Television



Chloé Nabédian
Journalist, TV5 Monde



Zeynab Wandati
Journalist, Nation Media Group (NTV)

Winners



Pascal Ishimwe
Réalisateur (Rwanda)



Steven Costa Midjola
Réalisateur (Togo)



Aboubakar Dewa
Journaliste Reporter (Cameroun)

Finalists



Eliya Dzowah
Freelance Videographer (Malawi)



Yacine N. Seye
Environment Media Specialist (Senegal)



Carolyne Tomno
Journalist (Kenya)



Sharon Ambani Tamba
Journalist (Kenya)



Djibo Mamoudou
Communication Officer (Niger)



Dennis Avokoywa Chagala
Journalist (Kenya)



Baron Nkoy
Journalist and Filmmaker (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

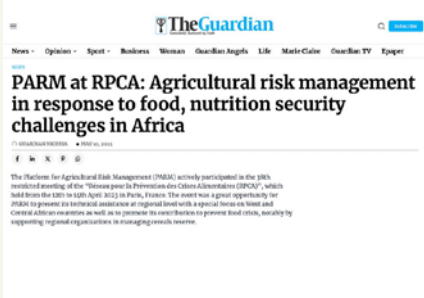
Media relations

Besides the media coverage of the PARM Stories Challenge, PARM has been featured in the **Future of Food and Farming Campaign** that was launched on 15 June 2023 within the *New Scientist* *Mediaplanet*.

Future of Food and Farming looked at raising awareness of global agricultural and food challenges, promoting sustainability, accessibility and innovation. In addition, PARM activities received an outstanding

media coverage at global, regional and local levels, resulting in 1 TV news and 3 online news in Madagascar, 2 online news in Burundi and 7 online news at global and regional levels. **BOX 4**

BOX 4 PARM in the news



Africafeeds

<https://africafeeds.com/2023/05/15/parms-response-to-africas-food-and-nutrition-security-challenges/>

The Guardian

<https://guardian.ng/news/parm-at-rpca-agricultural-risk-management-in-response-to-food-nutrition-security-challenges-in-africa/>

Africa Eye Report

<https://africaneyereport.com/parm-at-rpca-asgricultural-risk-management-in-response-to-food-and-nutrition-security-challenges-in-africa/>

Studio Sifaka

<https://www.studiosifaka.org/articles/actualites/item/6909-gerer-les-risques-agricoles-des-producteurs-vulnerables.html>



24/24.mg

<https://2424.mg/agriculture-les-resultats-de-lenquete-preliminaire-sur-les-risques-agricoles-a-madagascar-menee-par-la-plateforme-pour-la-gestion-des-risques-agricoles-parm-presentes/>

24/24.mg

<https://2424.mg/agriculture-madagascar-definit-les-risques-agricoles-pour-mieux-les-gerer/>



Kolo TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XWDrEdNRQ>

The Star

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/realtime/2023-11-10-promote-biodiversity-to-combat-climate-risks-youth-told/>



The Standard Media

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/business/article/2001485104/youth-rally-for-biodiversity-to-fight-climate-threats-to-food-security>



Nyanza Daily

<https://nyanzadaily.co.ke/biodiversity-will-promote-food-production-youth-told/>

Business Insider Africa

<https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/lifestyle/parm-and-ifad-youth-network-unite-for-biodiversity-and-climate-action-at-world-food/2g8gd03#:text=At%20the%20World%20Food%20Forum,climate%20risks%20in%20food%20systems>

PARM website

In May, the redesign and improvement of the PARM and FARM-D websites with the objective to enhance the users' experience as well as the information management has been re-opened upon budget approval. The

redesign process was officially kicked off in July. A web analysis, to define the content architecture, functionalities, user experience, etc. has been initiated and will guide the next steps of the process. The new PARM

and FARM-D websites will be revealed in February 2024, while the UI designs were presented to the Steering Committee during the annual planning meeting of December 2023. **BOX 5**

BOX 5 PARM website usage at a glance

(As of 31 December 2023)

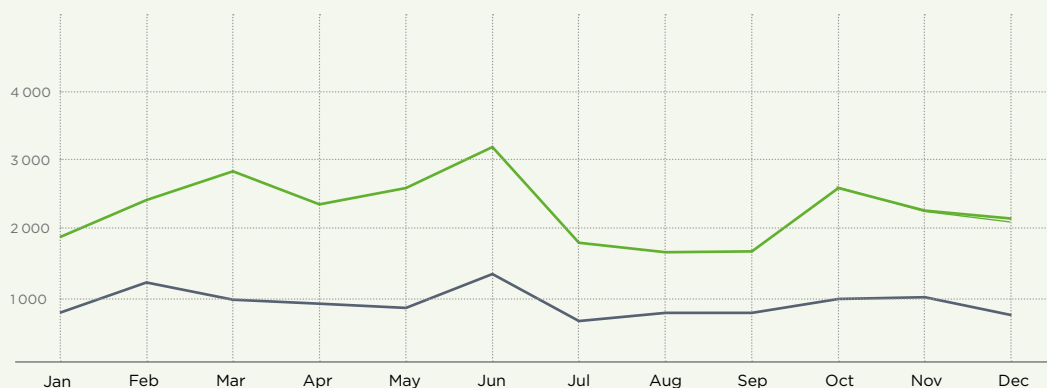


FIGURE 1
Active users and pageviews per month from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

Pageviews
11 167

Unique users
27 458



FIGURE 2
Active users by continents from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

Africa
3 368

Asia
1 846

Americas
2 103

Europe
2 918

Oceania
43

Not set
889

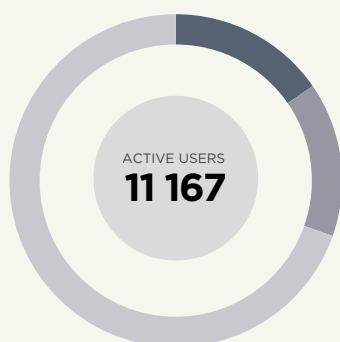


FIGURE 3
Active users by gender from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

Female
1 717

Male
1 678

Not disclosed
7 772

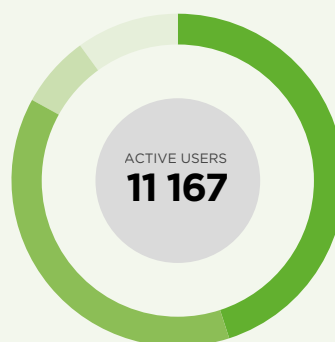


FIGURE 4
Active users by acquisition channels from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

Direct
45%

Organic search
38%

Social
7%

Referral
10%

PARM social media

PARM explored new ways to improve the visibility of its activities and donors on social media channels - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube - by making use of monthly social media planning and aligning with trends and hashtags in the agricultural sector to broaden posts' reach. In parallel, PARM used promotional tools on its channels to advertise on the Future

of Food and Farming Campaign launched in June with the New Scientist Mediaplanet as well as on the PARM Stories Challenge campaign from September to mid-December. The latter was a great occasion to bring dynamism to PARM's social media channels with compelling and emotional contents to promote the challenge and the winners/finalists. These ads, in addition

to highlighting the post, resulted in the increase of the number of followers on different PARM social media pages, and the increase of social engagement (like, share and comment on our posts). Overall, a great level of posting frequency has been maintained over this period. **BOX 6**

BOX 6 PARM on social media

(As of 31 December 2023)

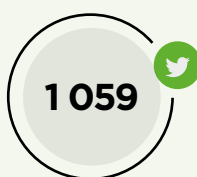


FIGURE 5
Facebook Followers
from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

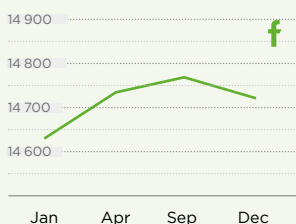


FIGURE 6
LinkedIn Followers
from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

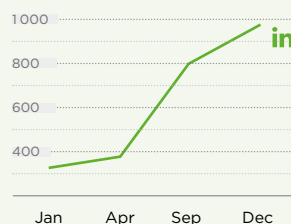


FIGURE 7
Twitter Followers
from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

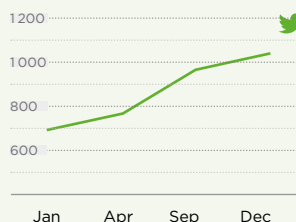
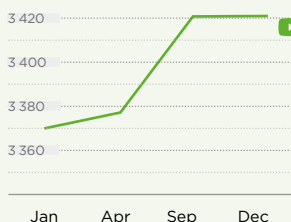


FIGURE 8
YouTube Followers
from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023



FARM-D community of practice

The newly launched Community of Practice on the Mighty Network platform had a smooth start. Since its inception, FARM-D CoP has instantly started growing fast receiving new member registrations every week. However, members' interactions within the CoP still remain a challenge to date. To ensure an inclusive communication and the understanding of the CoP, two tutorials have been produced and shared with the members. The first one explained step by step how to create a quick post while the second one demonstrated how to activate notifications to stay on top of all communications in the CoP. In addition, with the aim of stimulating interactions and the use of the forum, a series of #InTopic questions, related to agricultural risk management matters, are regularly posted which generate debate and reflection among members. To enhance engagement, FARM-D organised the first #TopMember gamification campaign in November 2023 whereby the CoP members were challenged to: (i) share their knowledge by posting a discussion topic on ARM; (ii) participate in the discussions by liking and commenting at least 1 post per day; (iii) promote their activities and publications by sharing at least 1 update per week (blog, event, research paper, etc.). The initiative received great response from members. The winner benefited from a paid online training on "Risk Management on Farm" from Kansas

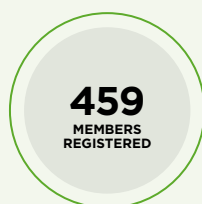
State University. In parallel, FARM-D podcast series, introduced in March 2023, has been used to strengthen the sense of community within the forum. Through this podcast series, FARM-D is more and more providing space to its members to share knowledge and generate debate on a specific topic. As an example, the episode 3, 4 and 5 welcomed Getaneh Gobezie, Drissa Tressougué and Egide Niyonsaba, active members of the FARM-D CoP, who discussed on different ARM-related topics including the use of rural finance in ARM and Agrifood systems and Capacity Development. The objective is to continue to involve the CoP members on a regular basis in various activities, interviews and podcasts within the Community of practice. Eventually, after an internal analysis and taking into consideration the PARM Horizon 2 MTE recommendations, an action plan has been developed in early August and will guide the next steps for the improvement of the CoP. The objective will be to offer members exclusive and dynamic content, such as interactive lives, FARM-D webinars live streams inside the CoP, etc.

FARM-D has been approached by Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), an international organisation working to mobilise global capital for climate action to organise a series of joint knowledge events to promote investment in projects and assets necessary

for a rapid transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy. The first joint webinar was organised in June 2023 on « Assessing Risk in Agriculture: How to mobilise global capital for financing the transition ». The second joint webinar was part of the Food4Thought series of IFAD which featured the IFAD AVP, Jo Puri, the CBI CEO, Sean Kidney, and the PARM Technical Specialist, Jean-Claude Bidogeza. In addition, FARM-D collaborated with the IFAD's project Climate and Commodity Hedging to Enable Transformation (CACHET) in co-organising a webinar to present the lessons learned and challenges faced during the implementation of the project's second phase. FARM-D and IFAD's Inclusive Rural Finance Network continued their partnership and held 7 webinars over the year with a total of 528 participants engaged in these sessions making the webinar series becoming a punctual *rendez-vous* for participants. Lastly, a new series of Lives "#AskMeAQuestion" was launched in November on the Mighty Network platform. The series offers a direct chat of 30 minutes with an expert in ARM, where members are invited to participate in an open and interactive debate. The first event was launched on 28 November with PARM Gender Expert, Johana Simao, who discussed about gender mainstreaming in the agricultural sector. **BOX 7**

BOX 7 FARM-D: the community for knowledge exchange on #agrisk management (At a glance of 31 December 2023)

Community Engagement and expertise location

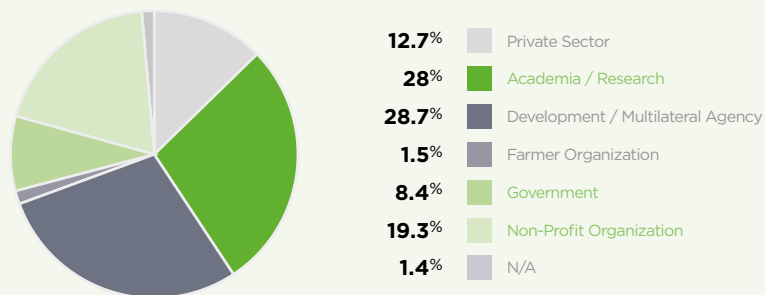


During the period under review, the new FARM-D CoP platform on Mighty Network recorded 501 members. FARM-D has reached over 10,000 people by email. Most members are primarily connected to the field of agricultural value-chains, while a significant portion are engaged in climate and environment, capacity development, nutrition and land/water/resource management. The newly introduced sub-community of practice "Inclusive Rural Finance Network" in partnership with IFAD, has raised the interest of a good number of new members. Among the organization members, most are either part of Academia/Research, Development/Multilateral Agencies or NGOs.

Members by area of expertise/interest



Organizations by Sector

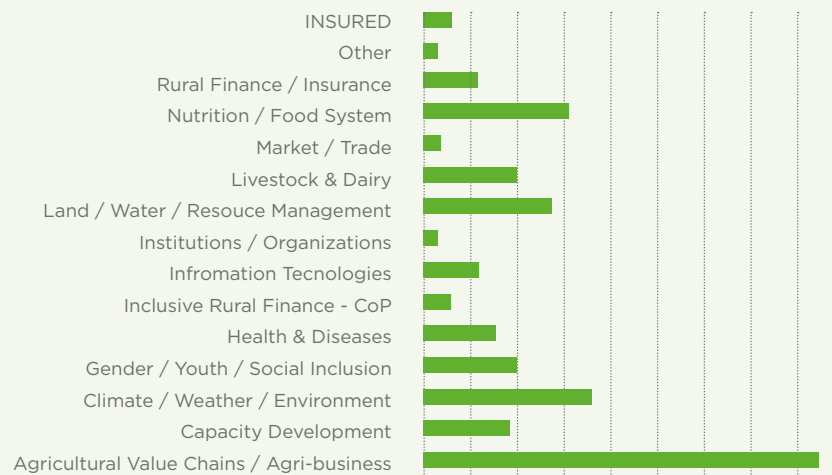


Knowledge Generation and Sharing

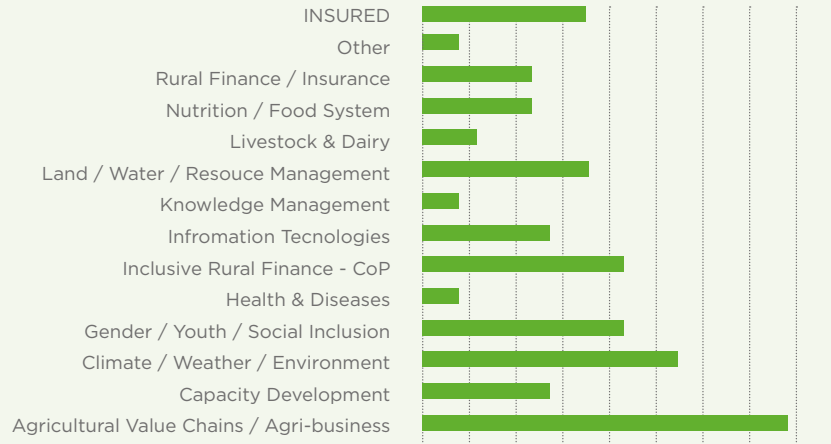
ARM-relevant blogs, stories and publications have been enriching the community's knowledge repository. A substantial number of short-reading materials primarily focuses on: agricultural value-chains, climate and environment, land/water/resource management, gender/youth/social inclusion, and nutrition/ food systems. Regarding long-reading materials, the most covered topics are agricultural value-chains, climate/weather/environment, land/water/resource management, information/technologies, gender/youth/social inclusion and INSURED.



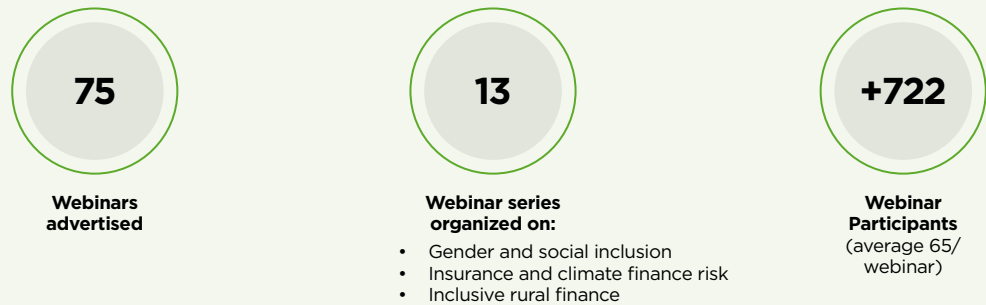
News, blogs and stories by topic



Publications by topic



Virtual Events

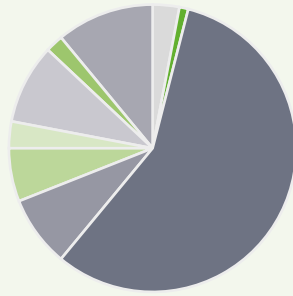


During the period under review, FARM-D held 13 virtual events. It pursued the co-organisation of webinars with the InsuResilience Global Partnership and the Centre of Excellence for Gender-Smart Solutions on Gender-smart climate and disaster risk and with the IFAD’s Inclusive Rural Finance (IRF) Network. Initially dedicated to IFAD internals, the webinars organized with IRF have been opened to a larger public in July 2023. On the occasion of our first collaboration, FARM-D and the Climate Bonds Initiative co-organized in June 2023, a webinar exploring the mobilization of global capital for financing the transition and mitigation of agricultural risks that brought together 104 participants. Another online event with CBI has been organised in November as part of the Food4Thought series organised by IFAD to discuss about “Revolutionizing Agri-Food Investments: Paving the Way for a Resilient, Sustainable Future”. Furthermore, FARM-D facilitated the launching webinar of the PARM Stories Challenge which gathered a new profile of attendees since most of them were journalists interested in ARM. In total, FARM-D advertised 75 webinars covering topics such as agricultural value chains/agri-businesses, nutrition/food systems and climate/weather/environment.

Webinars advertised by topic



Participants by Sector

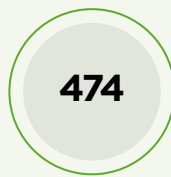


- 3% Academia
- 1% N/A
- 57% Development / Multilateral Agencies
- 8% Private Sector
- 6% Government
- 3% Independent Consultant
- 9% Non-Profit Organisations
- 2% Farmers ORganization
- 11% Journalists

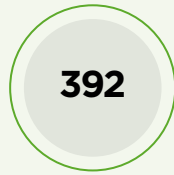
Social Media and newsletters



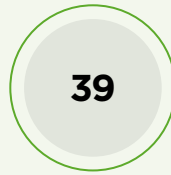
Social profiles



Twitter Followers



LinkedIn Followers



Newsletters



FARM-D maintained its engagement activities on social media channels - Twitter and LinkedIn - as well as via regular and ad hoc newsletters. It recorded 474 followers on Twitter and 392 on LinkedIn. Leveraging its email audiences, FARM-D kept sending monthly newsletters with the main highlights of the month, invitations to join its webinars, and follow-up emails to thank webinars' participants and share with them the replay.

External Engagements

Acknowledging the importance of engaging with other actors, FARM-D actively pursued collaborations with a range of organizations from different sectors, including development and multilateral agencies, non-profit and private sector. During 2023, be it through webinars and content publication, or by paving the way for future joint efforts, the Forum has established and strengthened significant connections with the following institutions:



FARM-D website usage at a glance

FIGURE 9
Active users and pageviews per month from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

Pageviews
32 865

Active users
18 397

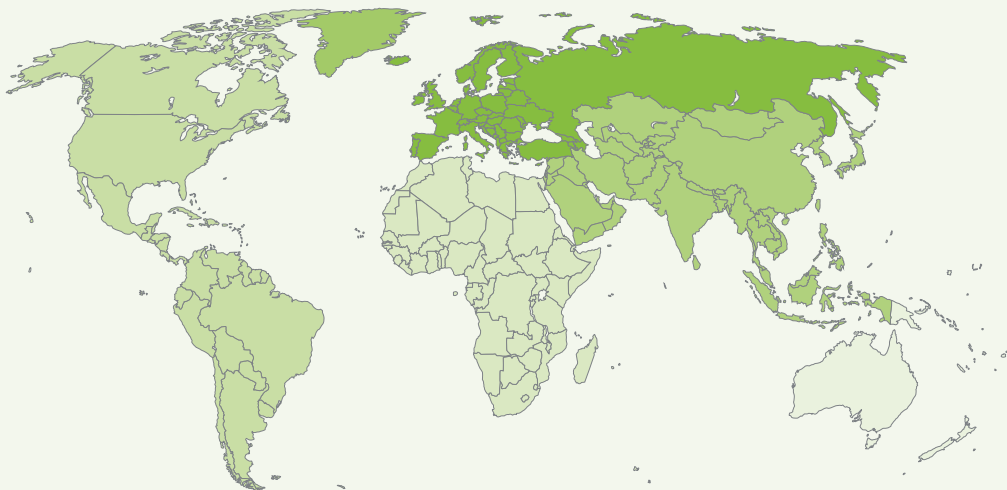
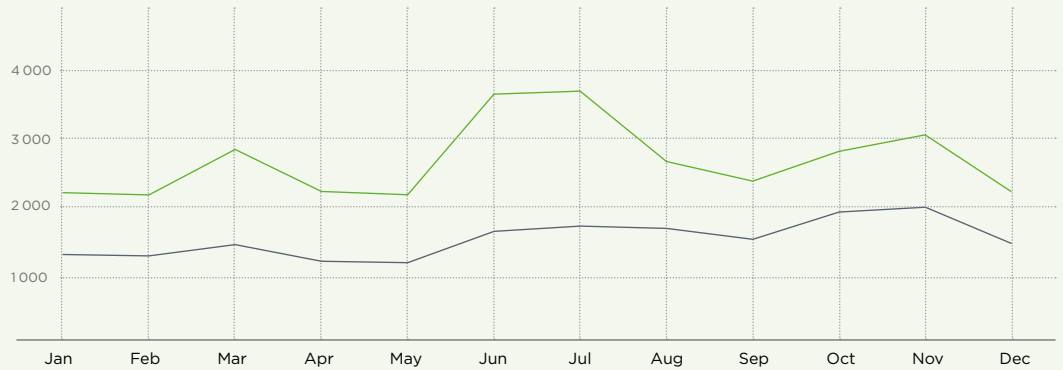


FIGURE 10
Active users by continents from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

Europe
4 791

Asia
4 642

Americas
3 234

Africa
4 790

Oceania
178

Not set
479

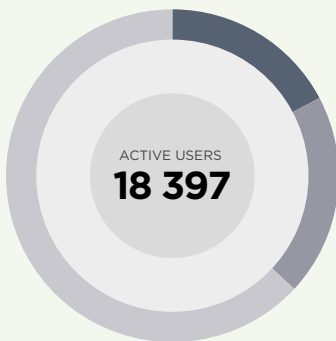


FIGURE 11
Active users by gender from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

Female
1 541

Male
1 722

Not disclosed
18 397

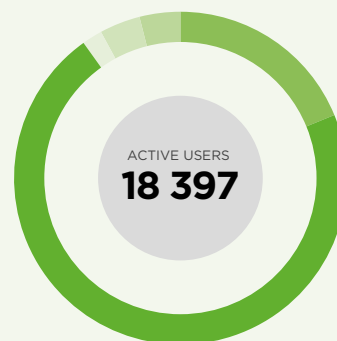


FIGURE 12
Active users by acquisition channels from 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2023

Organic search
71%

Direct
19%

Referral
4%
















Email
4%

Social
2%

Digital communications and e-newsletter

E-newsletters continued to provide updates and the latest news and publications to our subscribers and practitioners reaching over 14,000 practitioners both for PARM and FARM-D platforms. Quarterly newsletters have been regularly disseminated for sharing PARM's Results, while the "The Practitioner" newsletter by FARM-D has continued to circulate monthly among the global ARM community. In addition, both PARM and FARM-D have maintained their activities on social media via Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

Also, web contents (from PARM, FARM-D and external partners), reports and social media posts have helped raise PARM's profile. Highlights include:

- [Promoting risk-based investment and policy: how PARM can help](#) , news on the global media outlet New scientist Mediaplanet, June 2023 **BOX 8**
- [Senegal: The PGRAAD Project is now part of the national Priority Action Plan \(PAP3\)](#) , September 2023
- [Burundi: Les acteurs du secteur agricole sensibilisés sur la gestion des risques agricoles](#) , PARM, October 2023
- [PARM soutient l'atelier de formation des experts du MARAH aux outils de budgétisation conformes au Burkina Faso](#), PARM , May 2023
- [Food Heroes Exhibition at IFAD Headquarters](#) , PARM, October 2023 **BOX 10**
- [Madagascar: Launch of Agricultural Risk Assessment Study by Value Chain](#) , PARM, March 2023
- [Antsirabe: premier atelier de renforcement des capacités en milieu rural par la PARM](#) , PARM, December 2023
- [Tunisia: Launch of the PARM process](#) , PARM, March 2023
- [PARM Stories Challenge unveils the winners](#) , PARM, December 2023
- [Plus de 35 formateurs formés en gestion des risques agricoles à Madagascar](#) , PARM, June 2023
- [The PARM Stories Challenge has officially been presented to future participants](#) , PARM, October 2023
- [PARM Horizon 2 mid-term evaluation reveals PARM's relevance, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and forward-looking recommendations](#) , PARM, December 2023
- [Madagascar bientôt doté du projet de Gestion des Risques Agricoles pour la Croissance Inclusive et la Résilience \(GRACIR\)](#) , PARM, October 2023
- [World Food Forum 2023: Youth-led initiatives for biodiversity protection and climate risk management promoted by PARM and IFAD Youth Network](#) , PARM, October 2023 **BOX 9**
- [Tunisia: Agricultural actors sensitized on the importance of risk management and PARM holistic approach](#) , PARM, July 2023


BOX 8 Future of food & farming campaign: promoting risk-based investment and policy - how PARM can help

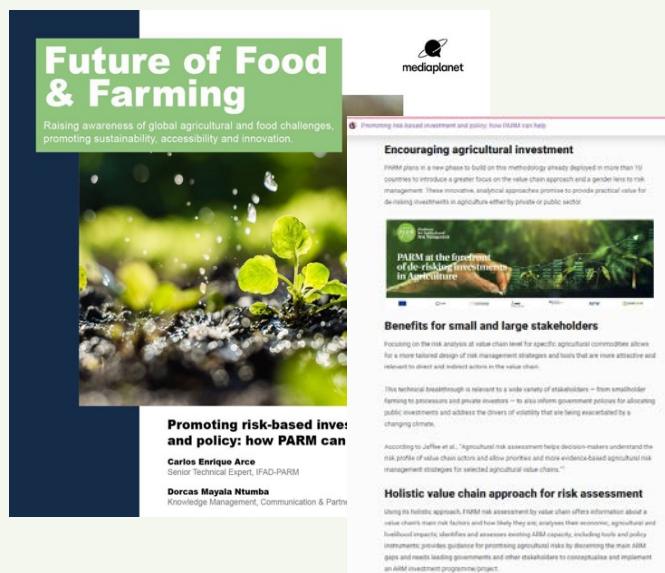
News on the global media outlet "New scientist Mediaplanet", June 2023

PARM has supported the **Future of Food and Farming** campaign that launched on 15 June 2023 within the **New Scientist Mediaplanet**.

Future of Food and Farming looked at raising awareness of global agricultural and food challenges, promoting sustainability, accessibility and innovation and featured insightful content how PARM can help in promoting risk-based investment and Policy in Agriculture.

The campaign has reached 2,838,754 target audience including policy makers, donors, technical and financial partners, farmers' organisations, among others.

[Link to the full article](#) 





BOX 9 World Food Forum 2023: Youth-led initiatives for biodiversity protection and climate risk management promoted by PARM and IFAD Youth Network

PARM, October 2023

On the occasion of the World Food Forum 2023, PARM and the IFAD Youth Network raised the voice of young people as agents of change who promote biodiversity as an approach to combat climate risks in food systems.

At FAO Headquarters, almost a hundred young people joined the hybrid side event “Harnessing Biodiversity’s Potential for Managing Climate Risks in Food Systems” on 17 October 2023 to learn more about the critical role of

biodiversity conservation and sustainable use to manage agricultural and climate risks while building resilience.

PARM CD & Private Sector Specialist, Francesca Nugnes, presented biodiversity as a holistic tool and a nature-based solution that helps tackle risks including health, pests and diseases, soil erosion, droughts and floods or even production and quality.

[Link to the full article](#)

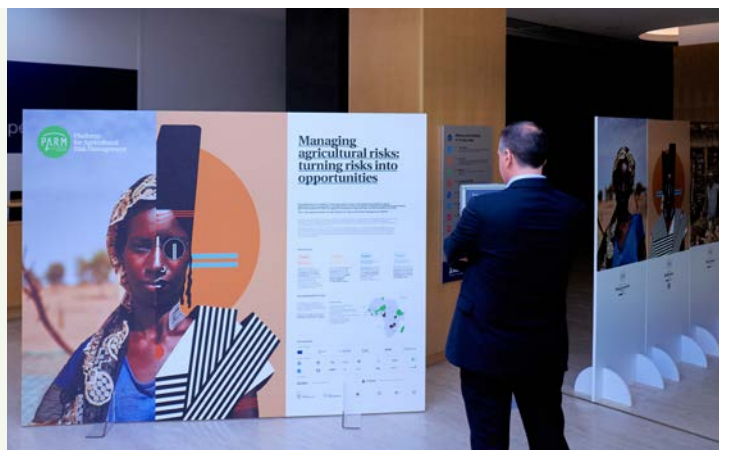
BOX 10 Food Heroes exhibition at IFAD headquarters

PARM, October 2023

As part of the celebration of the World Food Day and International Rural Women’s Day 2023, PARM has organised, from 16 to 20 October 2023, the PARM Art Exhibition – FOOD HEROES in IFAD headquarters.

IFAD staff and external visitors had a chance to admire the wonderful artworks that adorned the IFAD atrium for a week. The exhibition took everyone through the original pictures and their respective transformation into artworks displayed side by side, as well as the challenge teaser video projected on the lobby’s big screen. The exhibition aroused admiration and positive warm feedback from visitors and generated lively exchanges with the PARM team.

[Relive the exhibition](#)



Publications and knowledge products

During the period under review, PARM, FARM-D, INSURED and the Inclusive Rural Finance (IRF) Network also focused on the generation of new knowledge through their KM activities and knowledge products. In particular, event reports, blog stories, interviews with experts and publications, have been produced and disseminated across PARM and FARM-D online platforms. Some examples below:



Advance payment for small farmers: challenges and benefits

March 2023, PARM

Small farmers do not have enough cash to buy inputs (fertilisers, seeds, etc.) ahead of the planting season. Therefore, they plant with little inputs or with inputs of low quality, and cannot achieve the quantity and quality required by the buyers. Farmers don't only need finance, but they need finance at the right time. If finance arrives too early, it risks being used for other sudden priorities (and farmers happen to have quite a few) and if it arrives too late, it cannot

be used to support farmers' production, but it just increases their debt burden instead. PARM's Capacity Development Expert shares in this blog, benefits and challenges of advance payments for small farmers and highlights how PARM, through its multi-donor network and multi-stakeholder partners and through its workshops, can broker the contacts between FOs, buyers and FIs and help FOs to better integrate value chains.



Lessons learned: Integrating gender into project design in ARM

March 2023, PARM

On the occasion of International Women's Day, PARM's Gender Expert shared in this blog, insightful thoughts on the need to integrate gender into ARM project design. She draws the lessons learned from PARM's efforts in integrating gender into project design to make sure that « transversal integration of gender » does not remain an empty phrase.

She also highlights the inclusiveness needs for an integrated and multi-level gender approach that requires gender-transformative planning and implementation, including facilitation methods that address social norms and capacity development of women, youth and other vulnerable communities.

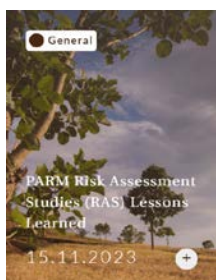


PARM Value Chain New Methodology

November 2023, PARM

In spite of an increasing urban demand for food and processed food in Africa, private investments in agriculture and agribusiness remain low in average. The increasing demand does not appear to stimulate value chain growth as much as it could.

In this blog, PARM Senior Technical Advisor, Tristan Le Cotty provides insights on PARM's new value chain risk assessment methodology that aims to identify the main risks existing along value chains and which may hinder private investments in these.



PARM Risk Assessment Studies (RAS) Lessons Learned

November 2023, PARM

Risk assessment studies are crucial within PARM's process in the countries it operates. Since its establishment, PARM has developed risk assessment studies in 9 different countries building a strong empirical basis for original knowledge on agricultural risk and their management.

In this article, Tristan Le Cotty lays out the lessons learned gained from the synthesis of these national case studies.



Agricultural risk assessment in the Madagascar maize and groundnut value chains

December 2023, PARM

The risk assessment study in the maize and groundnut value chains based on PARM's new methodology has been developed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Madagascar in the context of the Platform's process in the country. It provides cross-cutting and specific recommendations for

the two selected value chains to better manage the agricultural risks identified at each chain. [Full report in French]

BOX 11 Project design reports

Within the context of its process in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal, PARM has supported the governments in the design of investment projects for a better management of agricultural risk. In Burkina Faso, PARM has worked in strong collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries (MARA) to develop the PGRAAM project. In Ethiopia with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Extension Directorate, PARM designed the CD4ARM project. PARMN project in Niger has been designed in collaboration with the High Commission for the 3N Initiative (HC3N), and in Senegal, PARM designed the PGRAAD project with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Equipment and Food Sovereignty (MAERSA).

The full contents of these projects are available in the following reports published on PARM website:

- [Burkina Faso – Project Design Report](#)
- [Ethiopia – Project Design Report](#)
- [Niger – Project Design Report](#)
- [Senegal – Project Design Report](#)



BOX 12 Country final reports

In 2023, PARM concluded its third phase with the elaboration of a design of investment projects for a better management of agricultural risk in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal. These reports present the main outcomes of the PARM engagement in these countries, through their respective governments. The publications also provide an executive summary of the components and sub-components of the Agricultural Risk Management Project for Resilience to Climate and Market Hazards in Burkina Faso, the Capacity Development for Agricultural Risk Management Project in Ethiopia, the Market Risk Mitigation Project in Niger and the Agricultural Risk Management for Sustainable Agriculture Project in Senegal.

The full contents of these projects are available in the following reports published on PARM website:

- [Burkina Faso – Country Final Report](#)
- [Ethiopia – Country Final Report](#)
- [Niger – Country Final Report](#)
- [Senegal – Country Final Report](#)



Capacity development

Capacity Development (CD) activities allowed to engage diverse stakeholders (academics, rural training centers, producers' organizations, processing companies, buyers, microfinance institutions as well as government entities) and train future trainers for a lasting and inclusive impact of CD for ARM. According to PARM workshop participants, CD is a tool to de-risk investments in agriculture and the dialogue among these diverse stakeholders is itself an ARM tool.

In 2023, local experts were invited to contextualise the training to each country needs and to discuss the priority risks and tools identified through PARM risk assessment study. Country donors were invited to present their work to both capitalize on their experience and contribute to the country donor objectives through the workshop discussions. In total 361 persons were trained, including 111 women, and 9 experts were invited to present at the workshops.

The positive impact of CD is manifested by the interest of the attending organizations to integrate ARM into their curricula and practices. The design of the institutionalization (INST) pilot test for Senegal, Burkina Faso and Madagascar has produced important lessons learned that will be useful for the INST in other PARM

operational countries and for partnering organizations. Tunisia has also showed interest in the INST with several organisations intending to develop INST action plans, including the National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia (National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia - INAT).

The CD workshops are also an opportunity to meet private sector organizations to learn about their priorities, involve them in the risk assessment study and inform the investment plan accordingly. PARM has thus elaborated a concept note about how to involve and support the private sector which could pave the way for future PARM activities (see [BOX 11](#) on PARM and the private sector).

At regional level

PARM held a CD workshop during the yearly meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (Network for the Prevention of Food Crises), organised by ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and hosted by OECD in Paris. This meeting was chosen to network with several African countries to better understand their priorities and potentially mobilize resources through new donors (USAID and Spanish cooperation) and to propose PARM services to regional economic communities such as ECOWAS. The meeting offered the opportunity to:

- present PARM services, country risk analysis, new AVC methodology and ARM tools to a diversified audience represented by 12 West and Central African countries, consolidate the relation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Burkina Faso to accelerate the contact between the MARAH and the country donors; and introduce PARM to the Ministry of Agriculture of Mauritania which officially requested PARM technical assistance. PARM services were also presented to the Ministries of Agriculture of Chad and Benin;
- discuss how to manage regional cereal reserves across the ECOWAS countries and how PARM could support risk analysis and tools identification at regional level. PARM could support not only countries but also regional economic communities such as ECOWAS;
- consolidate discussions with PARM donors' representatives at country level (EU delegation in Senegal and AFD representatives) and strengthen relations with ROPPA (a federation of farmers organisations), HC3N - High Commission for the 3N initiative (Haut-Commissariat à l'initiative 3N "Nigériens feed Nigériens") and Agreenium, a consortium of universities across Europe and Africa to promote ARM institutionalisation into universities curricula.





In Madagascar

PARM conducted a training of trainers (ToT) with 39 participants (56% women) that was organised in collaboration with IFAD Madagascar (10 representatives of IFAD projects attended the training) in June 2023. The participants appreciated the opportunity to exchange directly with private investors such as the National Bank of Industry - BNI, a Proparco partner and Investisseurs & Partenaires (IFAD and AFD partner) and learnt about how to access finance. BNI stressed the importance of creating cooperatives to increase farmers negotiation power as well as quantity and quality of production; importantly at institutional level it has been highlighted that cooperatives are managed by the Ministry of the Industry while they should be managed by the Ministry of Agriculture. PARM focal point at the MINAE described BNI Madagascar intervention as 'eye opening'. FIFATA, a federation of producers' organisations, presented its risk diagnostic process in line with PARM holistic approach, a practical example of ARM useful for the participants. Other experts invited to the ToT discussed the challenges of data gathering for ARM by value chain and gender issues. IFAD programmes (DEFIS and AD2M) testified about the importance of better structuring FOs as an ARM tool (identified also by PARM's AVC-RAS in Madagascar) and the innovative approach - currently tested in Madagascar - of joined operational accounts between buyers and producers in contract farming. The University of Itasy presented its work to analyse risk in the maize and groundnuts value chains with the

support of its students; collaboration with universities could be useful to gather data for PARM risk assessment while building on local knowledge. The workshop enabled the contact between the University of Itasy and the University of Antananarivo thanks to which they jointly elaborated an action plan to institutionalize ARM. The participation of private investors confirms the attention that PARM is deploying to involve the private sector in its activities in light of resource mobilization.

In order to reach out to further smallholder farmers and rural organizations, PARM has organised, in November 2023, the first ever rural ToT in collaboration with the rural training center CAFPA in Antsirabe, Vakinankaratra region, while usually PARM ToTs take place in urban settings. CAFPA is a beneficiary of PARM ToT (that took place in Antananarivo in June 2023) and has in turn trained producers, processors, universities, and the regional government in Antsirabe. The Governor of the Vakinankaratra region attended the ToT and expressed interest in integrating ARM in their local agricultural policies. PARM focal point at the Ministry of Agriculture also attended the workshop that was facilitated by PARM Country Liaison Officer.

In Tunisia

PARM organised an awareness workshop on ARM that gathered women producers' organizations, universities, agribusiness, microfinance, donors and government entities, on 3 July 2023. The participants

showed interest in the priority value chains identified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries (MARHP) namely cereal and olive, however, they also encouraged the analysis of the livestock value chains as a tool to manage risk through the diversification of farm revenues and direct contribution to food security. Agribusiness and private sector companies such as Huilerie Biologique El Barak, Mutual Seed Multiplication Society (COSEM), La Rose Blanche, and the Loukil Group attended the workshop, which attests of PARM's efforts to involve more actively the private sector in its activities.

In addition to the CD workshop in Tunisia, the CD specialist visited the Ministry of Economy and Planification that strongly suggested to integrate PARM into the IFAD-supported project DINAMO. PARM CD specialist also visited the World Bank and the AfDB. The World Bank encouraged a partnership among PARM, the INAT and the WB to assess the role of government subsidies in the cereal value chain to understand whether such resources could be used more efficiently. The WB priority is job creation and PARM CD for private enterprises will strengthen their resilience and favour the creation of stable and decent jobs. All partners mentioned the importance of sustainably certified production - such as organic labels; labelled value chains would thus require an ad hoc risk assessment study to understand the risks inherent to organic production and how labels can be a tool to address multiple risks.



In Burundi

A CD workshop was organised in Bujumbura to raise awareness about agricultural risk management which was oversubscribed; 91 participants attended while only 50 participants were expected. The workshop benefited from the collaboration with Auxfin, a multiservice organization promoting digital services and training to small farmers. The session also provided the opportunity to meet with the Belgian cooperation, Enabel, that will co-finance with PARM the participation of 4 Burundian researchers in a CIRAD training in Senegal in 2024; the training will focus on “Anticipation in Agricultural Research and Development” with the purpose of integrating this innovative anticipation approach into PARM CD materials. CIRAD is interested in setting up a Master in ARM in Burundi. Furthermore, the rural cooperative CEAP was put in contact with the IFAD PRODER project to access a PRODER call for proposals.

During the mission, the CD Specialist met with 11 private sector organizations whose contributions were informative for PARM AVC-RAS (maize value chain); notably, Burundi Fortified Food provided suggestions about the maize value chain and One Acre Fund suggested a business model to access seeds successfully implemented by One Acre Fund in various countries including Burundi. The two organizations were also put in contact with IFAD ABC Fund. Most of the organizations highlighted the need for a cross-cutting ARM tool to strengthen the link across

the value chain actors, the need for long term contract with buyers, the need for capacity building especially about imported seeds and new crop varieties. Agroecology and agroforestry practices were deemed a successful ARM tools as also proved by the cooperative CAPAD (Confederation of Agricultural Producers Associations for Development) adopting agroecology since 2016.

A CD workshop exclusively for IFAD projects to learn about their priorities and inform PARM AVC-RAS and investment project accordingly. The Burundi highly diversified crop model adopted by small farmers was also discussed during this CD workshop.

In Burkina Faso

PARM co-organised a CD workshop in collaboration with the women FO REPAFER that previously attended a PARM ToT in 2022. REPAFER organised a CD to train its own members during the international rural women week in October 2023. Organised in the Manga and Laye suburbs of Zoundwéogo/Center-South region of Burkina Faso, the workshop received 115 participants of which 95 women and benefitted from the participation of several local authorities as well as IFAD Burkina Faso representatives. PARM Country Liaison Officer also presented about ARM during the workshop.

At global level

A CD webinar was organised in collaboration with the Climate Bond Initiative on 13 June 2023 to understand how assessing and managing risks can help mobilize capital for the transition. The CBI was especially interested in understanding how PARM RAS can help supporting private investors compliance with impact investment standards and agricultural producers’ compliance with voluntary sustainability standards (i.e. Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance etc).

The CD Specialist participated in a panel during a side event co-organised by PARM and the IFAD Youth Network at the World Food Forum at FAO HQ on 17 October 2023 to present the role of CD in de-risking investments while supporting biodiversity and proposing agroecology as a holistic tool for ARM. PARM supported the participation in the panel of a young agricultural researcher from Senegal - beneficiary of PARM training of trainers in 2022 - who shared her field experience about good practices to protect water and soil, in the framework of the conservation and valorisation of biodiversity which was the central theme of the panel.

BOX 13 Pioneering the institutionalisation (INST) of agricultural risk management into universities curricula and private sector practices



In 2023, PARM has intensified its actions to mobilize resources for the implementation of the pilot phase of the INST project aiming at integrating ARM into universities curricula and private sector practices with a view to ensure a lasting impact of PARM Capacity Development.

In total, PARM directly contacted 21 organisations to mobilize resources for the funding of the INST pilot phase in

Burkina Faso and Senegal including IFAD Burkina Faso and Senegal, AICS Senegal & Burkina Faso, AFD Senegal, EU Burkina Faso, Swiss cooperation Burkina Faso, Mastercard Senegal, UNCDF Burkina Faso, etc. (full list of partners contacted for the INST in Box 14). PARM has also escalated the communication on the INST project on its and IFAD communication platforms (newsletters, website, social media, etc.). As a result, PARM is receiving, through the IFAD Finance Facility for Remittances (FFR), a 100K funding from AICS to finance the implementation of the INST pilot phase in Senegal.

In the last quarter of 2023, PARM has started the pilot phase to institutionalize ARM in Burkina Faso and Madagascar. A road map has been signed with the selected organisations namely the University of Nazi-Boni, the women producers association Tin Buaba (focusing on hydroponic agriculture) jointly working with a rural training center (CPR Fada) and the microfinance

institution (AP/SFD) in Burkina Faso; and the University of Itasy (integrating a module on ARM within their master on Agroecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change, confirming the importance of ARM for these 3 issues), the microfinance SMMEC (integrating ARM in their by-laws confirming the importance of ARM in de-risking investments) and the training center CAFPA of Antsirabe (focusing on young entrepreneurs 18-24 years old and livestock) in Madagascar. These organizations have already produced the 1st deliverable consisting of the analysis of the demand for ARM training in their respective countries. The main results show that out of the 278 participants surveyed by the University Nazi-Boni, 62% have no knowledge of ARM and of the 110 participants surveyed by the women producer organizations Tin Buaba 61% have no knowledge of ARM. An initial important impact in terms of financial inclusion has already taken place: two of these organizations that had no bank accounts now do.

Partnerships and global engagements

Enhanced partnerships and knowledge generation/sharing processes on ARM at local, national, regional and/or global level represent one of the core outcomes of PARM Horizon 2. In particular, as part of the KM Strategy, partners' engagement, collaboration and co-creation represent core principles of PARM H2's approach.

During the reporting period, the Platform intensified its contacts with potential donors and implementing partners in its countries of operation, particularly in the ones subject to project design and INST project. PARM team has continued, in support to the governments, to ascertain interest and partnership commitments from potential development and implementation partners in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger, and Senegal.

The PARM Secretariat has been in discussions with various donors and potential implementing partners, prior, during and post field RAS, design and CD work. PARM's participation in the RPCA conference also allowed to explore opportunities for PARM to work with regional economic communities (ECOWAS, WECARD, CILSS) and with new

countries (Mauritania, Chad, Benin), as well as the private sector (ROPPA). PARM also engaged with a new partner **Climate Bond Initiative (CBI)**, whose members include also FAIRR, an alliance of private impact investors. Given PARM analytical expertise, CBI proposed to PARM to integrate their working group about agricultural sustainability standards development.

Consulted TFPs and private sector operators are interested in PARM investment projects, INST project and CD activities, and some have expressed in-principle interest to participate and to consider allocating funding for specific components/activities of the projects or the pilot test of the INST project.

In 2023, PARM met with and consulted over 50 institutions in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Madagascar, and Senegal, as well as at corporate level to collect information, data and experiences to inform the development of the project design report (PDR), and explore possible technical and financial partnerships, with the donors' community, the private sector and implementing partners.

PARM pursued its partnership with INSURED programme which continued its country-level activities to integrate climate risk and agricultural insurance over IFAD's portfolio.

In addition, PARM also built synergies with IFAD in-house initiatives; in particular with the Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR), in the design of the investment project for Senegal. FFR is spearheading the project component on remittances as a tool to manage agricultural risks.

PARM also strengthened the collaboration with IFAD Youth Network during the World Food Forum and with AICS Ghana in the organisation of a CD workshop that will take place in June 2024 in Accra. The workshop in Ghana will be dedicated exclusively to private sector companies, mainly export oriented in collaboration with the Italian Institute of Foreign Trade (ICE) and the Italian Embassy in Ghana.

BOX 14 provides a detailed list of partners and institutions approached by PARM in 2023.

BOX 14 List of financial and technical partners approached by PARM

Burundi

EU (European Union)

AFD (French Agency for Development)

IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

AfDB (African Development Bank)

Dutch cooperation

ENABEL (Belgian Development Agency)

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

Cooperation Unit at the French Embassy in Burundi

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)

WFP (World Food Programme)

IFC (International Finance Corporation)

IRRI (International Rice Research Institute)

AUXFIN

ILRI (International Livestock Research Centre)

IITA (International Institute for Tropical Agriculture)

CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International)

Madagascar

AFD (French Agency for Development)

EU (European Union)

IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

WB (World Bank)

South Korean Embassy

UKaid

USAID (United States Agency for International Development)

AfDB (African Development Bank)

FIFATA (Fikambanana Fampivoarana ny TAntsaha : Peasant Organization of Professional Family Farming)

SMMEC (Malagasy Mutualist Savings and Credit Company)

University of Itasy

Antananarivo University- ESSA (Higher School of Agricultural Sciences)

CAFPA Antsirabe (Support and Training Center for Producers and Farmers)

BNI (National Bank of Industry Madagascar)

Burkina Faso

EU (European Union)

AICS (Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development)

AFD (French Development Agency)

WB (World Bank)

USAID (United States Agency for International Development)

AfDB (African Development Bank)

BADEA (Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa)

IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)

FMO (Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank)

GCF (Green Climate Fund)

Swiss cooperation

Austrian Cooperation

PACTE (Contract Farming and Ecological Transition Project)

CILSS (Interstate Committee to Combat Drought in the Sahel)

CORAF/WECARD (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development)

Agreenium

REPAFER (Network for the Promotion and Empowerment of Rural Women)

Nazi-Boni UNIVERSITY - Institute of Rural Development

Rural Promotion Center of Fada

AP-SFD (Professional Association for Decentralized Financial Systems)

ISDB (Islamic Development Bank)

Senegal

EU (European Union)

AICS (Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development)

AFD (French Development Agency)

WB (World Bank)

IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)

Global Affairs Canada

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency)

BADEA (Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa)

IFC (International Finance Corporation)

Mastercard Foundation

CNCR (National Council for Rural Consultation and Cooperation)

CNAAS (National Agricultural Insurance Company of Senegal)

La Banque Agricole

UNCDF (United Nations Capital Development Fund)

AfDB (African Development Bank)

USAID (US Agency for International Development)

Corporate

Cargill

Climate Bonds Initiative

ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)

Afrexim Bank

EBRD (The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

Agreenium

Ghana

AICS

Italian Institute of Foreign Trade (ICE)

Italian Embassy

Association of Ghana Industries

Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa

GIZ

USAID

KfW

BOX 15 PARM and the Private Sector

In 2023, PARM has bestowed a prominent role to the private sector by involving private sector companies in its CD, KM and resource mobilisation activities. FOs, processors, food companies, exporters, microfinance institutions, etc. are regularly invited to CD workshops to integrate their priorities in PARM investment plan and possibly mobilize resources. The private sector is also involved in the ARM INST (farmers organizations and microfinance institutions will institutionalize ARM); therefore, the ongoing INST pilot project will help to further identify the private sector priorities and practices in ARM.

PARM has identified 3 pathways through which collaborate for and with the private sector:

PARM RAS can facilitate traceability and transparency of value chains

PARM value chain risk analysis is useful to address transparency and traceability of value chains. Transparency informs about the appropriation of value and spots human rights violation that can cause the risk of social unrest and of losing market shares. Traceability ensures the origin of production. If the production is sourced from deforestation, there is the risk of non-compliance with the EU deforestation-free products

regulation and national laws and the risk of soil degradation. Conventional and social buyers demand traceability and transparency. For instance, Cargill provides support to farmers to comply with sustainability standards. MARS Inc. focuses on transparency and traceability - a challenge because they work with myriads of small farmers. Incofin, an impact investor, assesses social, economic and environmental (3BL) sustainability. PARM can generate information to facilitate VC transparency and traceability.

PARM holistic approach can support impact investments

Impact investors require compliance with sustainability standards (social, economic and environmental sustainability standards) from their suppliers. PARM holistic approach by addressing multiple risks (production, market, social, financial, institutional) is instrumental to facilitate such compliance by training suppliers to collect and analyse 3BL data. Sustainability standards are a tool to de-risk investments and PARM can provide data and analysis instrumental to assess 3BL sustainability. PARM could also assess the risks of transition to sustainable agriculture.

PARM brokerage for NSOs pipeline

Through the CD workshops, PARM can identify potential Non-Sovereign Operations, train them to manage multiple risks and create a pipeline for impact investors that require to measure and address multiple risks (social, economic and environmental).

In Burundi, PARM has met bilaterally with 11 private enterprises that helped to inform PARM AVC-RAS and provided suggestions about ARM tools. In Senegal, PARM mediation and training of a PAMECAS microfinance institution allowed PAMECAS to access a loan with the ABC fund for USD 3 million over a 4-year period. Bamboo Capital Partners - ABC Fund manager - asked PARM for details about the training received by PAMECAS to understand how this could support the decision to invest in PAMECAS. In addition, PARM has planned upon request from AICS Ghana, to organize a ToT for private enterprises in Ghana in June 2024. Four private enterprises from Burundi - trained by PARM - were also presented to IFAD ABC Fund.



2.5. Country Activities

At a glance





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Burkina Faso



After the design and validation of the ARM investment project “PGRAAM” in Burkina Faso, the efforts to engage technical and financial partners in agricultural risk management in Burkina Faso has continued in 2023 in close collaboration with the government. These efforts encompassed interventions during regular partner group meetings, their inclusion in all PARM events (including workshops and capacity-building sessions), and sustained communication facilitated by the Country Liaison Officer. Additionally, bilateral contacts were established by the Secretariat during their visits in Burkina Faso.

A pivotal development occurred in 2021 with the completion of the risk assessment study (RAS) in the agricultural sector and subsequent project formulation. This marked a significant innovation that captured the attention of partners’ representations in the country, owing to the meticulous analysis and the potential contributions to their own programs. Notably, partners such as the FAO, USAID, the Austrian development agency, and

the Swiss development agency expressed particular interest in the comprehensive approach advocated by PARM. By examining alignment with strategies and financial mechanisms of TFPs supporting agricultural risk management, a prioritized list for the allocation of funding requests has been established. The identified entities include the World Bank (WB), the African Development Bank (AFDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the FAO, Austrian cooperation, the French Development Agency (AFD), German cooperation (GIZ), the Italian Cooperation Agency (AICS), and Swiss cooperation. Using this list as a reference, the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Resources, and Fisheries submitted a request to his counterpart Ministry of finance to officially request funding from these organisations.

Upon receiving a funding request from the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Finance extended requests to five financial partners: the World Bank, the AfDB, IFAD, the FAO, and the European Union. Swift

responses were received from the World Bank and the AfDB, with the former indicating budget constraints and the latter scheduling a mission, in September 2023, to identify two new projects, including the PGRAAM.

The mission commissioned by the AfDB aimed to identify the PGRAAM, currently in the funding-seeking stage and supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, along with the PRESPA, a forestry project (currently at concept idea stage) supported by the Ministry of the Environment. During its proceedings, the mission concluded that merging these two projects into a unified program would make sense, given the shared goal of enhancing the resilience of rural populations. As a result, it suggested that both ministries collaborate on a concept note for this new program, intending to submit it to the Bank for the initiation of an upcoming preparation mission. However, the Ministry of Agriculture did not endorse this proposal, citing the following reasons:

- The proposal regresses the PGRAAM from the funding-seeking stage back to a concept idea, potentially nullifying all the efforts invested in project preparation over the past two years.
- Despite a common goal of enhancing the resilience of rural populations, the two projects differ significantly in content and approach.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, having undergone various capacity-building sessions by PARM since 2020, contends that a forestry project, even with an agricultural insurance component, does not comprehensively address all risks faced by agricultural systems. The holistic approach advocated by PARM is deemed essential for achieving the objectives of the PGRAAM.
- The mission emphasized that the new program will be overseen by a single ministry, a provision that might lead to institutional dysfunction, potentially impacting the achievement of objectives.

- Funding for this program is not anticipated until 2026, within the AfDB 17 allocations. However, there is uncertainty regarding whether it will sufficiently cover the requirements of both projects. Consequently, component deletions may occur during budget adjustments.

Recent discussions with the Ministry of Finance allowed PARM to reiterate the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa's (BADEA) willingness to finance the PGRAAM, contingent upon a formal request from the Government. The Ministry of Finance responded positively to this proposal but noted that BADEA's allocation might be insufficient to cover all components of the PGRAAM. Consequently, the Ministry decided to seek additional funding by addressing requests to two Arab development banks, BADEA and ISDB, to mobilize the necessary resources.

The Minister of Agriculture will need to send a new request to the Minister of Finance, outlining the results of the AfDB's

identification mission and requesting that the project be redirected to the Arab Development Banks. The Ministry of Agriculture has welcomed this proposal and committed to submitting the new request. However, it noted that the procedures of these financing institutions are not well understood, which significantly impacts the performance of projects they finance. The PARM Country Liaison Officer suggested that once funding is secured, a budget line should be included in the project management component to cover an immersion course for the Coordinator at the headquarters of the relevant institutions, to familiarize them with their various procedures.

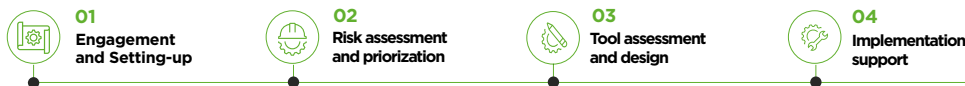
Next steps

Maintain ongoing policy engagement with the new leadership at the Ministry of Agriculture in the context of mobilizing resources for the project.



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Senegal



In 2023, PARM has shared with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Equipment and Food Sovereignty (MAERSA) the latest version of the investment project titled “Agricultural Risk Management Project for Sustainable Agriculture” – PGRAAD (French acronym), designed with the support of PARM and FFR following an inclusive approach involving the private sector and civil society, including men, women, and youth farmer organizations. The PGRAAD project aligns with the Senegal’s new food sovereignty strategy.

The overarching goal of PGRAAD is to contribute to achieving food sovereignty and enhancing the resilience of producers against agricultural risks. The project’s specific objectives are as follows: (i) empower farmers with access to information for informed agricultural risk management decisions; (ii) encourage rural financial service providers to leverage remittances as an ARM instrument for rural households; and (iii) enhance institutional and professional capacity for ARM, ensuring its institutionalization in accordance with PARM’s holistic approach.

Since the inception of the PGRAAD’s design phase, PARM, in collaboration with

MAERSA, has actively participated in a policy dialogue with various Technical and Financial Partners. The objective is to secure funding for the project’s implementation. This ongoing dialogue involves key institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), AFD, AICS, the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Global Affairs Canada, and the IFAD office in Senegal.

The minister of MAERSA submitted to the Minister of economy, planning, and cooperation, a request for funding to implement PGRAAD and capitalize on BADEA interest to contribute in the financial resources of the project to consolidate and deepen its ongoing support for the agricultural sector. The total amount requested from BADEA is estimated at CFA 2,000,000,000 (around USD 3,350,000). On another note, MAERSA has started to implement the PGRAAD, leading to its incorporation into the Priority Action Plan (PAP 3) of the Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE). PAP 3 succeeds PAP 2 (2019-2023) and serves as the operational framework

for priority investments in the next five years, from 2024 to 2028. By integrating the PGRAAD into PAP 3, the Government of Senegal, through allocated budgets to sectoral ministries in the Multiannual Expenditure Programming Documents, contributes to the financing of agricultural risk management initiatives.

Following the PGRAAD’s inclusion in PAP 3, the National Technical Committee on ARM conducted a workshop from 21 to 24 August 2023, to formulate an ARM action plan in support of the PGRAAD. This workshop brought together representatives from sectoral ministries within the national technical committee. Afterward, each sector ministry outlined actions undertaken in ARM between 2021 and 2023 and identified planned actions for 2024-2026. The consolidated ARM action plan for 2024-2026 is currently at the finalization stage.

Next steps

PARM will continue to support MAERSA in its efforts to secure funds for the project.



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Niger



Following an inclusive approach involving the private sector and civil society, including men, women, and youth farmer organizations, the PARM design team developed and finalized the investment project titled “Market Risk Mitigation Project” – PARMN (French Acronym) in Niger approved by the Government in Q1 2023. The project has been officially registered with the Ministry of Planning, qualifying it as a project eligible for government funding priorities.

Since the inception of the PARMN’s design phase, PARM, in collaboration with the High Commission for the 3N Initiative (HC3N) team, has actively participated in a policy dialogue with various Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs). The objective is to secure funding for the project’s implementation. This ongoing dialogue involves key institutions such as the World Bank, AFD, AICS, and the IFAD office in Niger.

The military coup d’état that happened in July 2023 has severely impeded

government efforts to mobilize resources for the PARMN, as numerous TFPs have significantly reduced their support to the country temporarily.

Next steps

Continue monitoring the political situation and re-establish communication with the government and TFPs when the situation evolves in a positive direction, aligning with the expectations from regional and international communities.



Ethiopia



Following recommendations from the Extension Directorate of MOA, PARM and MOA engaged in comprehensive technical and resource mobilization discussions with various organizations to finance the implementation of the Capacity Development Facility for Agricultural Risk Management (CD4ARM) project, including GIZ-GIC, Farm Radio International (FRI), Self Help Africa, CIAT, CIMMYT, GIZ-CLM, AFAAS, Precision Agriculture for Development, SNV Hortilife, and Digital Green Ethiopia, USAID, World Bank funded projects, Finnish cooperation, . Unfortunately, these discussions did not lead to substantial success in terms of concrete collaboration.

PIN (People In Need), a Czech Republic NGO was interested in the CD4ARM project. PIN met with MOA staff to identify PIN project areas where CD4ARM could potentially be implemented in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, financial constraints prevented the ongoing integration of CD4ARM into the current portfolios of PIN, leading to a discontinuation of engagement with PIN.

PARM is currently in discussions with IFAD for the integration of a number of activities of the CD4ARM in the newly designed PACT project.

In 2023, continuous engagement was maintained with the MOA focal person for CD4ARM and the Rural Development and Food Security (REDF&S) Coordination Unit. This engagement was essential for effectively connecting with high-potential donors and jointly strategizing resource mobilization. Additionally, engaging with the MOA focal person was crucial when interacting with project coordinators of various projects within the MOA. PARM maintained communication with donors identified as high-potential funders for CD4ARM based on previous resource mobilization efforts. These donors included: IFAD Country Office, Italian Development Agency, Dutch Embassy, World Bank, PIN, AfDB. Efforts were also made to reach out to new donors contact persons to promote CD4ARM. Potential new donors included: USAID, KfW, Austrian Embassy, UK Government and Finland Embassy.

PARM's primary focus was on donors that showed the most promise, specifically: IFAD (through PACT), AICS, Dutch Embassy and USAID. Less emphasis was placed on a broader list of foundations and other potential donors mentioned in various meetings with stakeholders, such as: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), MasterCard Foundation and Ireland Embassy. These donors are potential targets for exploration in 2024.

Next steps

In 2024, our primary focus will be on integrating and implementing CD4ARM activities within PACT, Italian government-funded project, and the PIN project. We will also prioritize close follow-up with other potential donors to secure additional funding. By maintaining a strategic emphasis on high-potential donors and expanding our outreach to new potential funders, PARM aims to successfully mobilize resources for the implementation of CD4ARM.



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Madagascar



In Madagascar, PARM has launched the first phase of assessing agricultural risk assessment with the orientation from the government to consider agricultural risk assessment that uses value chain lens which will be underpinned by the newly PARM methodology that assesses agricultural risks along the entire value chain of maize and groundnut commodities a food and nutrition food crop and export crop, respectively. The two crops aligned with the Malagasy agricultural priorities. In May 2023, a Knowledge Management (KM) workshop and a technical meeting with the participation of relevant ARM stakeholders were held to enhance the preliminary results of the RAS. The purpose was to validate the key recommendations identified in the study.

In September 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock validated the agricultural value chains risk assessment study for maize and groundnut. The below Box 13 provides insightful highlights of the study such as key recommendations and the vulnerability score that is assessed through

a calculation assigning a 60% weight to risk exposure and a 40% weight to risk management capacity. Simply put, higher risk combined with lower adaptive capacity results in greater vulnerability. On the flip side, when risk impact is minimal and/or adaptability is high, vulnerability remains at a moderate level.

The subsequent phase involved the design of an ARM investment project: Agricultural Risk Management for Inclusive Growth and Resilience (GRACIR – in French), guided by the insights derived from the AVC-RAS.

From 2 to 20 October 2023, a design mission from PARM visited Madagascar to formulate the Agricultural Risk Management for Inclusive Growth and Resilience (GRACIR) Project. This mission was conducted in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MINAE), IFAD, and the PARM/CIRAD/ICRISAT and Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University Consortium. These collaborations aimed to pool technical resources to

effectively design the GRACIR project in Madagascar.

The primary objectives of the GRACIR design mission were to: (i) formulate the project in consultation with the government and stakeholders in the agricultural and rural sector based on the recommendations from the AVC-RAS approved by the Malagasy government; (ii) generate interest and secure commitment from technical and financial partners for providing support for the project's implementation; (iii) engage the private sector, including producer organizations (POs), agro-suppliers, transporters, banks, microfinance institutions, and insurance companies, to participate in the project's setup and execution; and (iv) foster a spirit of partnership among the main stakeholders in the sector.

The mission team held an in-depth series of meetings with the public sector; first with the Minister, Secretary General, Director General of MINAE and their staff. Meetings took place with the Public Treasury of the

ministry of finance to brief them about the project and the relevance of inviting BADEA and other Key-TFPs to partner around the PARM project. The Mission team also met with the services of the MINAE and other public institutions competent in the ARM sector, technical and financial partners, producers' organisations, producers' cooperatives and civil society organisations, research and higher education institutes, financial services providers, impact investment funds, insurers and reinsurers as well as private operators and their chambers of commerce.

The project's strategy is to develop sustainable tools for reducing agricultural risks, by: (i) strengthening the economic

performance of the sectors supported by securing access to production factors; (ii) supporting the structuring of economic players by helping to set up less risky ecosystems conducive to business within the sectors and involving the public and private sectors; and (iii) improving the capacity of institutions, including MINAE, to anticipate risks.

Next steps

Following the validation of the GRACIR Project Design Report (PDR) foreseen in the first quarter of 2024, PARM will pursue dialogue with TFPs to secure the necessary funding for the project's implementation.



BOX 16 Madagascar: Agricultural Value Chain Risk Assessment Study

Maize value chain

Vulnerability scores		Input suppliers	Producers (South West)	Producers (Centre East North)	Aggregators	Processors	Distributors	Financial Services	Value Chain
Weather	Water deficit	7.5	4.2	3.5	6.3	4.2	4.2	5.0	
	Rain gap	7.4	7.4	3.5	5.1	4.2	4.2	5.3	
	Floods	4.4	7.1	3.5	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.7	
Phyto	Army worm	7.3	7.3	3.5	7.5	4.4	4.4	5.7	
	Locusts	5.8	4.4	3.1	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.4	
Market	Falling prices	4.4	6.0	6.0	2.8	3.0	3.9	3.5	4.2
	Rising prices				2.8	7.5	4.0	3.5	4.5
	Rise in fertiliser prices	5.7	4.0	5.1	3.0	4.1	3.4	3.2	4.1
Logistics	Transport accident	4.0			4.5	4.0	4.4	2.5	3.9
	Hold-up displacement	4.4			4.9	4.4	4.4	3.6	4.3
	Maritime logistics shock	5.4	4.9	4.9	3.7	4.0	4.5	3.6	4.5
Storage	Stock infestation		5.0	5.0	2.6	2.4	3.5	2.3	3.4
	Stock theft	3.7	5.3	5.3	3.7	3.4	4.9	1.7	4.0
	Warehouse fire	3.9	4.6	4.6	3.3	2.6	4.2	1.1	3.5
Macro	Political Crisis	5.2	4.6	4.6	4.0	4.6	4.3	3.5	4.4
	Financial crisis	5.2	4.4	4.4	3.6	6.4	4.0	5.3	4.8
	Racketeering	4.3			3.4	6.1	3.8	3.5	4.2
People	Personal accident	4.3	6.5	6.5	4.7	4.9	4.4	1.1	4.6
Average per player		4.6	5.5	5.5	3.6	4.8	4.2	3.3	

Groundnut value chain

Vulnerability scores		Input suppliers	Producers (South West)	Producers (Centre East North)	Aggregators	Processors	Distributors	Financial Services	Value Chain
Weather	Water deficit	4.1	3.8	3.3	4.2	3.7	3.7	3.8	
	Rain gap	7.7	7.7	4.2	6.1	4.1	4.2	5.6	
	Floods	4.6	9.0	4.2	7.6	4.1	4.2	5.6	
Phyto	Leafminer larvae	7.8	7.8	4.1	9.1	4.4	4.4	6.2	
	Locusts	6.2	4.9	4.0	6.0	4.2	4.2	4.9	
Market	Falling prices	6.3	6.3	3.4	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.6	
	Rising prices				3.4	8.5	4.4	2.5	4.2
	Transport accident				5.0	5.1	4.4	2.5	4.2
Logistics	Hold-up displacement				5.4	5.1	4.4	3.6	4.6
	Maritime logistics shock	5.9	5.9	4.0	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.5	
	Stock infestation	5.1	5.1	3.4	3.8	3.5	2.3	3.9	
Storage	Stock theft	5.3	5.3	4.2	4.5	4.9	1.7	4.3	
	Warehouse fire	4.6	4.6	3.8	4.1	4.2	1.1	3.8	
	Political Crisis	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.3	3.5	4.4	
Macro	Financial crisis	4.4	4.4	4.1	6.5	4.0	5.3	4.8	
	Racketeering				4.3	6.1	3.8	3.5	4.4
	People	Personal accident	6.5	6.5	5.5	5.9	4.4	1.1	4.9
Average per player		5.5	5.5	3.6	4.8	4.2	3.3		

Key recommendations

Transversal risk management strategies

1. Increase varietal diversification and seed supply in both sub sectors. Madagascar's maize and groundnut subsectors currently have limited varieties, despite extensive and diverse international research dedicated to these crops.

2. Strengthen technical advice and support services in both sectors, focusing on the resilience of cropping systems.
3. Addressing the climatic and phytosanitary challenges impacting maize and groundnut production necessitates a crucial focus on enhancing technical guidance from the relevant governmental institutions and support systems within both sub sectors.



...BOX 16

4. Promoting producers' organisations. To address immediate commercial risks and enhance the long-term resilience of farms and the value chain against production and institutional uncertainties, it is imperative to fortify the organizations of producers engaged in both sectors.
5. Strengthen the supply of agricultural, agrometeorological and commercial information based on ICTs. Effective management of production and market risks hinges on information accessibility. With the advent of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), the process of gathering information has become quicker and more cost-effective. Tracking variations in rainfall, pest pressure, or prices no longer demands deploying numerous surveyors to remote areas. Instead, it can be achieved more affordably by establishing networks of village informers and fostering discussion and information-sharing groups among producers.
6. Developing interest-bearing, digitalised rural savings.
7. Savings serve as a cross-cutting risk management tool for the two value chains commodity. In contexts where extreme vulnerability hampers repayment in credit-focused projects, prioritizing the establishment of a savings component becomes essential for laying the foundation of a sustainable financial inclusion program.
9. Introduction of index-linked performance insurance as part of the contractual process – Maize. At the scale of developing countries, index insurance has proven successful, particularly within the realm of contract farming coupled with input credit for producers. The insurance premium serves as a valuable mechanism for mitigating the risk of non-payment by buyers who provide upfront financing for inputs. However, the promotion and collection of insurance premiums by the buyer pose a substantial challenge for insurers. Producer-exporter/processor partnerships – Groundnut.
10. In the groundnut sector, exporters presently hold a more central role compared to producers. Given this dynamic, exporters may show a greater inclination to establish contractual partnerships with producer organizations, aiming to secure volumes and product quality aligned with their requirements. However, in the event of industrial groundnut processing projects, there is potential to support partnerships between producer organizations and processors.

Specific risk management strategies

8. Partnerships between producer groups and maize processors – Maize. As previously examined, producers and processors emerge as the most vulnerable links in the maize value chain. Mitigating risks for both parties necessitate the establishment of adaptable and flexible partnerships tailored to risk management.



Tunisia



On 12 January 2023, a meeting took place between a PARM Secretariat and the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources, and Maritime Fishing, represented by Professor Abderraouf Laajimi, Director General of Investment Financing and Professional Bodies (DGFIOF). The objective was to introduce PARM and its services to the Tunisian government, outlining the goals of PARM Horizon2 (2019-2025).

After the meeting, the Ministry provided insights into the current state of agricultural risks in the country and shared initiatives taken by the Tunisian government for resilience against these risks, expressing optimism about PARM's involvement in supporting ongoing resilience efforts.

From 13 to 16 March 2023, PARM engaged in a series of meetings with the government and technical and financial partners (Swiss cooperation, Dutch cooperation, EBRD, FAO, WB, AfDB, AICS, AFD and EU). The aim was to garner the interest of Tunisia's development partners in participating and contributing to the

PARM process. Additionally, the key stages of the PARM process in the country were shared during these discussions.

The formalization of PARM's intervention in Tunisia commenced with the signing of the Aide-memoire on 1 April 2023.

Since then, PARM has launched the first phase of assessing agricultural risk assessment with the orientation from the government to consider agricultural risk assessment that uses a value chain lens which will be underpinned by the newly PARM methodology that assesses agricultural risks along the entire value chain of wheat and olive commodities, a food security and nutrition food crop, and export crop, respectively. The two crops aligned with the country agricultural priorities. The Term of References (ToRs) of the study developed by PARM got contributions and approval from the Tunisia government. The team of experts that will conduct the AVC-RAS has been put in place, and the preliminary results are expected by the first quarter of 2024.

Next steps

Finalize the AVC-RAS, share the preliminary results with key stakeholders for inputs and approval by the government and develop the ARM investment project while maintaining the ongoing dialogue with TFPs.



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Burundi



The Government of Burundi, having acknowledged the mandate of the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM), has conveyed its interest in leveraging PARM’s technical assistance services. The objective is to enhance the integration of agricultural risk management into Burundi’s policies, institutional capacities, and sustainable development investments.

On 2 November 2022, the Government of Burundi officially requested the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to mobilize PARM’s expertise and resources in the country. This request aligns with Burundi’s commitment to mitigate, transfer, and adapt to agricultural risks. Subsequently, on 3 July 2023, PARM’s donors approved Burundi’s request. The Secretariat officially notified the government of this decision on 7 August 2023.

In September 2023, PARM organized a setting-up mission in Burundi during which PARM engaged in productive working sessions with key government officials, including the Minister for the Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock (MINEAGRIE), the Permanent Secretary of MINEAGRIE,

the Director General for Planning, Land Use, Irrigation, and Protection of Land Heritage at MINEAGRIE, as well as the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning. Additionally, discussions involved the CEO of the National Bank for Economic Development (BNDE) and the Managing Director of the Burundi Insurance Company (SOCABU). Notably, these last two institutions are private entities with a majority of public capital. The senior officials reiterated their keen interest in PARM’s technical assistance and expressed a commitment to closely support PARM in its mission in Burundi.

Furthermore, in collaboration with MINEAGRIE, the PARM mission conducted working sessions with Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) to gauge their interest and endorsement of the PARM initiative in Burundi. Noteworthy participants who have expressed keen interest in the PARM process and its technical assistance include the European Union delegation in Burundi (EU), the Belgian cooperation agency (ENABEL), the French cooperation agency at the French embassy in Burundi, the French Development Agency (AFD), the Dutch

cooperation agency at the Dutch embassy in Burundi, and the African Development Bank (ADB), among others. The ToR for conducting agricultural risk assessments within three key value chains – maize, rice, and rabbits – have been developed, shared, and officially approved by the government. PARM, utilizing the IFAD procurement process, has contracted NITIDAE, an international non-profit organization, to carry out these AVC-RAS. Nitidæ specializes in designing and executing projects that integrate environmental conservation with the enhancement of local economies. They achieve this by leveraging both their in-house expertise and strategic partnerships, thereby fostering an innovation interface for integrated solutions in rural areas. Their project scope encompasses diverse sectors such as forests, value chains, and the private sector.

Next Steps

Carry out the AVC-RAS design an investment ARM project and support the government in resource mobilisation.



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Ghana



The Government of Ghana, recognizing the mandate of PARM, has conveyed a keen interest in leveraging the technical assistance services offered by PARM. The aim is to facilitate the seamless integration of agricultural risk management into Ghana's policies, institutional capacities, and investments in sustainable development.

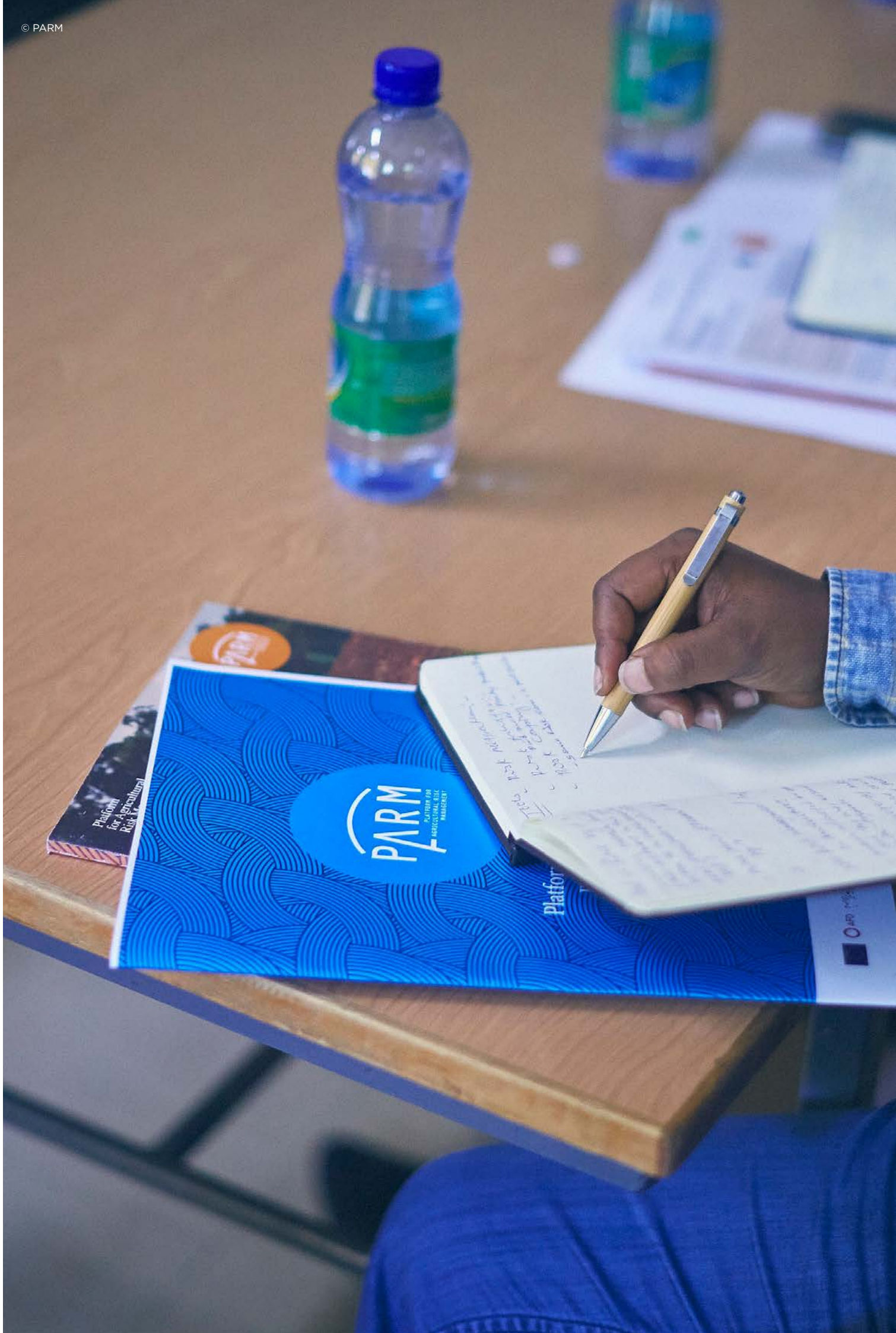
On 24 August 2023, the Government of Ghana formally communicated with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) requesting the

mobilization of PARM's expertise and resources to support Ghana's commitment to mitigating, transferring, and adapting to agricultural risks.

Throughout the last quarter of 2023, PARM in close collaboration with IFAD country office carried out discussions with the Government of Ghana for the formalization of PARM operations in the country by drafting the Aide-Memoire.

Next Steps

Follow up on the signature of the Aide-Memoire by both parties. Once the Aide-Memoire signed, PARM will pursue with a rapid risk assessment to inform the design of an ARM investment project, as well as the continuation and expansion of ongoing dialogues with TFPs.



3. Programme financing

3.
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3.1. PARM H2 financial report 2019-2023 issued by IFAD

In response to a request that came from IFAD finance division, the Secretariat adopted a new budget reporting approach in order to ensure synchronisation and alignment of all financial reports related to Supplementary-funded facilities hosted by IFAD: as already happened in 2022, PARM presents its budget-related results on an annual basis, starting from the 9th Steering Committee meeting. This method will also influence the frequency of steering committee meetings as it will be aligned with the IFAD financial report issuance schedule.

This section presents the latest PARM H2 Financial report (Table 1) compiled and issued by the IFAD Financial and Controller's Division. The report comprises all the audited expenditures and commitments made by the Secretariat from the launch of PARM Horizon 2 in 2019 up to December 2023.

The PARM cumulative actual expenditure and commitments from 2019 to 31 December 2023 reached a total gross amount of EUR 6 432 879. It is necessary to underline that this report still takes into consideration the original PARM H2 budget despite the fact that the Steering Committee, in the occasion of its 8th meeting, approved a new one for a total gross value of EUR 9 905 927. The new budget approved during the 8th Steering Committee meeting will be included in the forthcoming financial reports once the No-Cost Extension (NCE) of the agreement with EC, currently under finalisation, will be formalised. From a different perspective, taking into consideration the new approved overall budget, as of 31 December 2023, PARM has reached 65% of budget implementation based on actual expenditure and commitments and 71% against the net received funds, which amounts to EUR 8 400 812. More details on PARM contributions by donor on funds received and budget implementation as of 31 December 2023 are presented in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

The period between the end of 2019 and 2023 has been affected by multiple global and country crises making the implementation of PARM activities very challenging (namely the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian-Ukrainian and Gaza Strip conflicts, the coups d'états in Niger and Burkina Faso as well as the overall political tension in the Sahel region involving some PARM's donors). During the period 2019-2023, these challenges prompted the Secretariat to find alternative ways to proceed with the planning of activities at country level by capitalising on:

1. **Remote aggregation tools:** some events took place via online platforms, as well as strategical meetings with key counterparts in client-countries.
2. **Recruitment of senior country liaison officers at country level:** which allowed the Secretariat to maintain and intensify the relationship with national counterparts.

Unlike 2020 and 2021, which were severely impacted by the widespread of COVID-19, as already experienced in part of 2022, year 2023 definitely marked the return to pre-pandemic activities, allowing the platform to implement its programme in the field as scheduled, maintaining the combination with remote support (i.e. CD activities, meetings, etc.). The global and regional activities (G20, KM and CD events, studies and design) followed the plan with some delay in Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal for the implementation of the ARM design projects.

TABLE 1
PARM H2 Financial report as of 31 December 2023 (EUR)

Component/Grant recipient 2/ Cost category	Total Budget	Cumulative Expenditures	Commitments	Total Expenditure & Commitments	Balance
A. Total Grant-related Direct Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Communication and visibility actions	561 361	289 982	24 662	314 645	246 716
Technical assistance, supervision, implementation support	6 563 993	2 925 232	464 662	3 389 894	3 174 099
Capacity building, knowledge management and M&E	1 557 071	452 359	32 872	485 231	1 071 840
Studies and consultancies	4 371 341	2 128 315	431 789	2 560 104	1 811 237
Travel	635 581	344 558		344 558	291 023
Cost of staff assigned to the project	2 759 732	1 839 632	420 525	2 260 157	499 575
Administrative Assistant	365 255	223 997	75 468	299 465	65 790
KM, Communications and Partnership Specialis	726 507	553 650	42 510	596 160	130 347
Lead Technical Specialist	989 515	723 027	223 600	946 627	42 888
Technical Specialist	678 455	338 959	78 947	417 905	260 550
B. Total IFAD Direct Costs	9 885 086	5 054 847	909 849	5 964 695	3 920 391
C=(A+B) Total Direct Costs	9 885 086	5 054 847	909 849	5 964 695	3 920 391
D. Provision for contingency reserve (max 5% of direct costs)	-	-	-	-	-
E= (C+D) Total Direct Eligible	9 885 086	5 054 847	909 849	5 964 695	3 920 391
F. Indirect Costs (IFAD Mgmt fees)	775 905	396 767	71 416	468 184	307 721
G=(E+F) Total Eligible Costs	10 660 991	5 451 614	981 265	6 432 879	4 228 112

TABLE 2
PARM Contributions by Donor as of 31 December 2023 (EUR)





Donor	Contribution gross	Management Fees	Contribution Net
Italy 	2 675 926	8%	144 00
AFD 	4 400 000	8%	352 000
EC 	2 000 000	7%	140 000
IFAD 	747 159	-	-
Total	9 823 085	-	636 000

TABLE 3
Funds received by Donor as of 31st December 2023 (EUR)






Donor	Contribution gross	Management Fees	Contribution Net
Italy 	2 675 926	8%	144 00
AFD 	4 400 000	8%	352 000
EC 	1 220 000	7%	85 400
IFAD 	747 159	-	-
Total	9 043 085	-	581 400

TABLE 4
Budget implementation as of 31st December 2023 (EUR)

	Total Budget	Funds Received
Total Budget Gross	9 905 927	8 982 212
IFAD Mgmt Fees (MGF)	706 074	581 400
Total Budget Net	9 199 853	8 400 812
Actual Expenditure Net	5 054 847	5 054 847
% of Budget Implementation based on Actuals Net	55%	60%
Commitments	909 849	909 849
Actual Expenditure + Commitments	5 964 696	5 964 696
Total Available Funds as of 31 December 2023	3 235 157	2 436 117
% of Budget Implementation based on Actuals Commitments Net	65%	71%

4. Way forward and lessons learned

Way forward and lessons learned



Although the pandemic has affected most of PARM's action plans from 2019 to 2021, activities have been “normally” implemented in 2022 and 2023 despite the repercussions due to the global conflicts and the political instability in Niger and Burkina Faso. However, the secretariat and its partners (in particular service providers) have continued to implement the annual plan through virtual meetings, the reinforcement of PARM country liaison officers, as well as involving SC members country offices in the daily discussions with PARM's strategic partners. Indeed, thanks to the return to normality, PARM intensified the field activities and organization of global, regional and country actions in 2023 as well.

The integration of the PARM Gender Strategy into the country operations (in both the technical and KM/CD clusters) was reflected in the increased number of women involved. The new methodology to assess and prioritize the agricultural risks along the value chain was piloted in Madagascar and scaled up in Burundi and Tunisia. It represents a new strategic-technical service offered to PARM's clients and partners.

Experience during the PARM-led design of investment projects in PARM H2 has been a learning process, pointing to a number of lessons learned on the way forward. Even though some promising results have been achieved in terms of resource

mobilization of the projects designed by PARM (Madagascar, Ethiopia...), this aspect of the overall process still requires a lot of time investment, mainly due to the complex financial mechanisms of some donors, the lack of resources (seed money) to at least launch the projects inception phase and in some cases, the political tensions between Gov. and donors. To support the design of ARM investment projects, PARM has established design teams, a technical unit and KM-CD institutional capacity within the PARM secretariat.

The new KM/CD integrated approach into the country process has strengthened the already participatory process, allowing better involvement of more partners. The approach has helped build and capitalize on the knowledge in the countries to inform the PARM process and the design of programmes. This has consequently improved the uptake of the study results and, more importantly, the ownership of projects/programmes by the governments and other stakeholders on the ground. PARM's investment in CD is tailored to country needs and focuses on supporting active stakeholders in capacity development and compelling them to design and integrate ARM curriculum into the activities. This demand-driven approach to capacity development has started being implemented in 2022. PARM expects to capitalize and learn from this approach next year. The INST pilot phase launched in Burkina Faso and Madagascar

will enable the development of ARM masters and tailored training modules for universities, training centers and private sector members.

The Secretariat with its Technical Unit has initiated the reflection for the next phase of PARM (2026-2030) aligned with the SDGs agenda 2030 and with a clear objective of de-risking investment, linking more ARM to Climate Change and targeting different clients (including private sector, donors...) to support Governments. The alignment with IFAD's priorities (biodiversity, fragility and private sector) and PARM SC members funding mechanisms represents a new element that will define the new modus operandi of PARM Horizon 3.

In addition, the implementation of INSURED (2018-2023) has demonstrated the potential synergies with PARM, as potentially linked to the package of services and expertise offered by the platform to its clients which demand to get technical assistance on insurance has increased. In this regard, Sida has reiterated its interest in extending the programme (ideally 2024-2030) with the intention to open-up the partnership to other donors, including PARM SC members. A concept note of INSURED II has been submitted to Sida.

At a Glance

Annual Reports

- PARM Annual Report 2022
July 2023

Country Reports

- Burkina Faso Country Final Report - PARM Horizon 2
June 2023
- Ethiopia Country Final Report - PARM Horizon 2
June 2023
- Niger Country Final Report - PARM Horizon 2
June 2023
- Senegal Country Final Report - PARM Horizon 2
June 2023

Other briefs

- PARM Programme Summary
December 2023
- PARM Results in the Sahel
April 2023

Project Design Reports

- Burkina Faso: Agricultural Risk Management Project for Resilience to Climate and Market Hazards
November 2022
- Ethiopia: Capacity Development for Agricultural Risk Management
February 2022
- Niger: Market Risk Mitigation Project
March 2023
- Senegal: Agricultural Risk Management Project for Sustainable Agriculture
June 2023

External Evaluation

- External Mid-Term Evaluation PARM Horizon 2
December 2023

Studies

AVC-RAS

- Agricultural Risk Assessment in the Madagascar maize and groundnut value chains
September 2023
- Capacity building investment plan on Agricultural Risk Management
November 2023

Briefs

Country profiles

- Madagascar | Agricultural risk profile
October 2023
- Niger | Agricultural risk profile
March 2023

Videos

- PARM Stories Challenge: Winning videos
December 2023
- PARM Stories Challenge: Promotional video
September 2023
- Madagascar: Presentation of the AVC-RAS preliminary results
May 2023

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6EBHdMdCVo0jIBu0xeIJIA>



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