

NETWORKS AND COMMUNITIES

For FAO to be established as a Knowledge Organization, it needs to facilitate the sharing of information, knowledge and learning among colleagues and partners. One way this is done is through knowledge networks and communities where people, driven by shared interests, interact.

Empowering through learning

FAO knowledge networks and communities provide colleagues and partners with spaces where they can learn about key issues of their interest and importance to the Organization. Whether online or face-to-face, these forums give individuals and organizations access to policy and technical information. They also give staff the tools to organize, share, exchange and create knowledge.

The Knowledge Sharing Team supports...

- New networks and communities with guidance on their needs, purpose and tools.
- The creative process within the networks and communities that, with the right methods and tools, enables the development and capturing of information and ideas.

The Knowledge Sharing Team provides...

- Training on cultivating knowledge networks and communities.
- Assessment, monitoring and evaluation of existing networks and communities.

Identity, Community and Practice

The Knowledge Sharing Team cultivates networks and communities in FAO by addressing three key elements:

Identity: A network's or a community's identity is defined by the members' shared interests and needs, often based on a particular subject or set task.

Community: People form a community when they are engaged in discussions and joint activities. With the right support this can encourage learning. However there needs to be sustained interaction for the network or the community to thrive.

Practice: Over time, members of a network or a community develop a shared repertoire of experiences and begin to identify ways to address recurring problems.



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