

FAO | A new learning module on experience capitalization

We hear more and more about experience capitalization. But what is it exactly? What's its use? How to do it? To answer these and many more questions, FAO and partners are working on the development of a new learning module on experience capitalization.

Capitalization

Experience capitalization, or “systematization” is an iterative process through which an experience (with its successes and failures) is identified, valued, documented and shared. This systematic approach allows the learning of lessons and the identification of innovations and good practices. Thanks to this approach, a practice can be adapted and improved and may thereafter be adopted by others, be implemented on a larger scale and increase its impact.

In March 2014, FAO organized an Expert Consultation on Experience Capitalization with the purpose of developing a learning module on Experience Capitalization in several languages. This module is being developed by FAO; in partnership with other United Nations Rome-based agencies and other international organizations.

The idea of developing this learning module came as a normal follow-up of the FAO-led project “Capitalization of good practices in

support of agricultural production and food security” implemented for over four years in Niger and Burkina Faso. This project has provided, tested and adapted methodologies for experience capitalization to identify good practices. Furthermore, as many other organizations have embarked upon the process of experience capitalization, it is now time to compare and capitalize the various experiences and gather them in one learning module.

This new learning module will provide organizations in developing countries, and those working in the field of development, with the tools and methodologies required to develop their knowledge capacities and enable them to work more effectively. It is aimed at staff working in a wide range of organizations, including international organizations, donor agencies, multilaterals, NGOs, farmers’ organizations, research institutes, national governments, regional organizations, and civil society organizations. This learning and e-learning module is being developed for people within an organization or project who need to be involved in the capitalization process.

The Expert Consultation was a critical step in the development of the curriculum, bringing together 29 experts and institutional representatives involved in experience capitalization or systematization activities. The three-day expert consultation was a highly interactive event.

After an introduction and framing, the FAO team illustrated the components of the e-learning module and their validated e-learning process.

The outcomes of the expert consultation were: input leading to agreement on a revised curriculum outline; identified sources of expertise for providing content, existing training materi-

als, methodologies and software tools relevant to the curriculum; and statements of intent from institutions and individuals wishing to participate in developing the curriculum. Contributions from partners may include authoring case studies, peer reviews, adaptation and translation, promotion, and distribution.

In addition, the learning module was also discussed in Paris in April 2014 at the F3E “Forum des expériences” which was organized for the launch of a new guide in French on experience capitalization. It was therefore the appropriate opportunity to join efforts and collaborate with French-speaking organizations on the future learning module.

The learning module will take several forms: an e-learning version used for individual learning, or for preparation or follow-up of the face-to-face events, a printed manual and PowerPoint presentations of each lesson for face-to-face training workshops.

The English version is due late 2014, the French and Spanish are planned for 2015 and the Arabic version will follow. The materials will not only be translated, but also adapted with content specific to the region where the language is spoken. The materials will be available online free of charge through FAO, IMARK and partners, and will be announced widely through partner channels when ready. If you are interested in sharing your experience with the team, feel free to contact us: km-gender@fao.org or sophie.treinen@fao.org

*** For more information:**
FAO Knowledge Management and Gender Programme website: www.fao.org/capacitydevelopment/km-gender/
FAO Good Practices website: www.fao.org/capacitydevelopment/goodpractices/gphome/

The **Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK)** is a partnership-based e-learning initiative to train individuals and support institutions and networks worldwide in the effective management of information. IMARK consists of a suite of distance learning resources, tools and communities on information management. See www.imarkgroup.org/

For more on the process used at the Expert Consultation, see the IMARK publication “E-learning methodologies: A guide for designing and developing e-learning courses”: www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2516e/i2516e.pdf

