



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Republic of Moldova

Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture Project

Terminal Evaluation Report

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIPA	Agency of Interventions and Payments for Agriculture
AWP&B	Annual Work Plan & Budget
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CC	Climate Change
CCRIVC	Climate Change Resilience and Inclusive Value Chains
CPIU IFAD	IFAD Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit
FFS	Farmer Field School
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoM	Government of Republic of Moldova
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPSC	IFAD Programme Steering Committee
IRFCD	Inclusive Rural Finance and Capacity Development
IRECR	Inclusive Rural Economic and Climate Resilience Programme
IRRG	Infrastructure for Rural Resilience and Growth
LPA	Local Public Authority
MARDE	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
MEs	Micro Entrepreneurs
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MTR	Mid-term Review
NCFM	National Commission for Financial Market
NFSGB	National Federation of Sheep and Goat Breeders for Meat and Milk
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
OA	Organic Agriculture
PFI s	Participating Financial Institutions
PIM	Programme implementation manual
RRP	Rural Resilience Project
SCAs	Savings and Credit Associations
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPs	Service providers

IRRG	Infrastructure for Rural Resilience and Growth
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference

Map of project area



General information

Table 1. Project and Terminal Evaluation Data

GEF Project ID	4366
IA Project ID	
Project Name	Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture
Country	Moldova
Implementing Agency / Agencies	IFAD
Executing Agency / Agencies	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
Focal Area	Climate Change
GEF Strategy / Operational Program	
Date of work program approval	
Date of CEO endorsement	7 February 2012
Date of project start / effectiveness	25 August 2014
Date of project completion (completion of project activities; indicate expected or actual)	31 March 2021
Name of Evaluators	Youssef Brahimi
Date of Terminal Evaluation Completion	15 June 2021

Table 2. Financial data

Project Preparation through PDF/PPG grants (in US \$)

Particulars	At approval	At PDF/PPG completion
GEF PDF/PPG grants for project preparation	110,000	
Co-financing for project preparation		

Table 3. GEF's Project Funding

Particulars	At CEO Endorsement	At project completion
GEF project grant	4,260,000	3,874,000
Co-financing	41,991,000	48,135,000
Total	46,251,000	52,009,000

Table 4. Project Co-financing Break up

Name of the Co-financer	Co-financer type	Type of co-financing	Co-financing at project start			Actual Co-financing at project end		
			In-kind	Cash	Total	In-kind	Cash	Total
IFAD loan	International institution	Loan		16,100,000	16,100,000		14,581,000	14,525,000
IFAD grant	International institution	Grant		500,000	500,000		243,000	246,000
DANIDA	Bilateral organization	Grant		5,000,000	5,000,000		4,377,000	4,377,000
Beneficiaries				7,471,000	7,471,000		19,649,000	18,023,000
Government	National Government			3,498,000	3,498,000		2,605,000	2,081,000

CLD	National institution			7,520,000	7,520,000		6,482,000	6,482,000
(PFIs)	National institutions			1,902,000	1,902,000		2,853,000	2,401,000
Grand Total				41,991,000	41,991,000		50,790,000	48,135,000

Executive Summary

1. The Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the GEF-financed project “*Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture*” was carried out in three phases: i) desk reviews including data collection and analysis; ii) remote mission to meet with the project team, implementing and executing partners, and other stakeholders; and iii) finalizing the preparation of the Terminal Evaluation Report, integrating comments and feedback, and submitting the final version of the TE report.
2. The GEF-funded Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture Project was approved for implementation the 22/09/2013. It was mainstreamed into the IFAD co-financing Programme Inclusive Rural Economic and Climate Resilience (IRECRP) which entered into force in August 2014 for a duration of 6 years, with a planned closure date of September 2020. Following the approval of six-month extension with no cost, due to the Covid-19, the project was completed in March 2021. The GEF grant was at approval of US\$ 4,260,000, with a co-financing of US\$ 16,600,000 from IFAD.
3. The project goal was enhancing the adaptive capacity of farmers to climate change through resilient agricultural approaches.
4. The project objective was to improve agriculture productivity and soil protection through sustainable agriculture and land restoration.
5. To reach these objectives the projects embraced 3 components: 1) Component 1: An enabling environment for climate-resilient agriculture is created; 2) Component 2: Agriculture production through climate-resilient investments is enhanced; 3) Component 3: Project management.
6. By project end it was expected to reach the following five outcomes:
 - Outcome 1.1: The adaptive capacity of farmers and other practitioners to cope with climate change risks in agriculture production and agrolandscape restoration is enhanced;
 - Outcome 1.2: The institutional capacity and policy environment for climate resilient soil conservation and agriculture practices are enhanced;
 - Outcome 1.3: Information on the CC adaptation and mitigation benefits of sustainable agriculture and agro- landscape restoration is made available to increase awareness, generate public support for CA, and disseminate project results;
 - Outcome 2.1: A set of standard procedures for the successful implementation of CA covering the main crops and agro-climatic zones of Moldova are designed, tested and validated;
 - Outcome 2.2: Agro-landscape resilience to environmental risks is strengthened through the restoration and sustainable use of protective shelterbelts and stripes of pastures.
7. According to the design of the IFAD programme - *Inclusive Rural Economic and Climate Resilience Programme- (IRECR)*, the SCCF project was fully embedded in the IRECR programme as the subcomponent 1.1 of the *Component 1: Climate change resilience and inclusive value chain development*. The aggregation of all GEF-funded activities into a single sub-component of the IRECR program has certainly facilitated the follow-up of climate change adaptation and sustainable natural resource management activities. However, this form of design is not conducive to the integration of climate change adaptation measures into the other three components of the program, considering that the GEF funding was only for Component 1.
8. There was no theory of change at the design phase of the project. The restructured theory of change has been built on the logical framework of the project adopted by GEF (outcomes, outputs).

Main findings

9. The project is globally **Satisfactory**. Despite the delays and constraints encountered (administrative heaviness, complexity of the work expected from service providers, lack of national expertise in an innovative field for the country, as well as the turnover of the IRECR's staff in charge of the GEF component), the project was able to achieve most of its objectives, even if it didn't consume all of the GEF financial resources. For the GoM, the project contributed to the transformation of its agricultural sector to adapt to climate change, while align it to the European standards.. The project demonstrated that the adoption of conservation agriculture and organic farming allowed for the establishment of a sustainable natural resource management system while improving the income of small farmers.
10. The implementation of an efficient monitoring and evaluation system at IRECR, supported by a significant investment in the production of knowledge management products, has made it possible to document the various results and provide a quality information base to support institutional support proposals in terms of standards and guidelines
11. The fact that some important actions were only initiated during the last 2 years of the project made it impossible to ensure their sustainability during the project time frame, such as the planting of shelterbelts, providing support to nurseries. However, the Exit Strategy provided the necessary measures to ensure the continuity of the actions as part of the Ministry's commitment to continue and scale up the results achieved by the GEF project.
12. The rating of the project is aligned on the GEF TE rating scales as follows:

Table 5. TE Rating Scales

Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, Implementation/Oversight, Execution, Relevance	Sustainability ratings:
6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS): exceeds expectations and/or no shortcomings 5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings 4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings 3 = Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): somewhat below expectations and/or significant shortcomings 2 = Unsatisfactory (U): substantially below expectations and/or major shortcomings 1 = Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe shortcomings Unable to Assess (U/A): available information does not allow an assessment	4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability 3 = Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks to sustainability 2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks to sustainability 1 = Unlikely (U): severe risks to sustainability Unable to Assess (U/A): Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability

The ratings of the project are presented below.

Item	Rating
Relevance	Highly Satisfactory
Efficiency	Moderately Satisfactory
Effectiveness.	Satisfactory
Sustainability	Likely
M&E Design	Satisfactory
M&E Implementation	Satisfactory
Quality of Project Implementation	Moderately Satisfactory
Quality of Project execution	Satisfactory

Recommendations

The wide range of lessons learned, and knowledge generated from IRECR (summarized in Section 4.10) should guide the implementation modalities of the ongoing and future investment programmes under IFAD or GoM funding, particularly in addressing climate change through conservation agriculture.

Based on the project results with regard to the development of national capacities, establish and develop a network of experts on CA and OA matters, in order to strengthen national competencies in this area and to provide experienced service providers.

MARDE should build on and enhance the technical guidelines produced by the project in order to mainstream Conservation agriculture into all government development programs aimed at reducing producers' vulnerability to climate change.

The Farmer Field Schools (FFS) should be made permanent and used by the Ministry and other relevant institutions as a tool to promote CA and OA practices in the country.

CPIU to ensure the completion of activities transferred to the ongoing Rural Resilience Project (RRP), such as the finalisation of the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2030)

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the evaluation

13. This is the independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the International Fund for Agricultural Development/ Global Environment Facility (IFAD/GEF) *Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture Project*, which is a project of the Government of Moldova. The evaluation, which is the subject of this report, was carried out by a sole evaluator with the support of the project team and IFAD.
14. The Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the GEF-financed project “*Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture*” was carried out in three phases: i) desk reviews including data collection and analysis; ii) remote mission to meet with the project team, implementing and executing partners, and other stakeholders; and iii) finalizing the preparation of the Terminal Evaluation Report, integrating comments and feedback, and submitting the final version of the TE report.
15. The mission was performed at the same time as the joint IFAD-GoM Project Completion Review (PCR) mission of the *Inclusive Rural Economic and Climate Resilience Programme* (IRECR), this programme co-financing the GEF-financed project “*Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture*”. As a result of the IRECR design, the GEF project has been mainstreamed into the IRECR programme as its Subcomponent 1.1.
16. The terminal evaluation mission took place from 19 to 30 of April 2021. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the mission could not undertake in-country meetings and field visits. The mission had to rely on communication made through virtual meetings, email exchanges and phone conversations.

1.2 Methodology

17. In line with the GEF evaluation policies and procedures, all full and medium- sized GEF financed projects are required to undergo a terminal evaluation upon completion of implementation. According to the ToRs (Annex 1), the objectives of the TE are to: review and assess the performance of the *Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture Project* and fulfilling its GEF-related reporting requirements; provide a comprehensive and systematic account of the performance of the GEF-funded project by assessing its design, implementation, and achievements of objectives; review all project documents and reports and collect all information deemed necessary to understand and analyse the project implementation achievements and failures, management and implementation capacities, structure and sustainability.
18. The TE is intended to provide evidence-based credible, useful, and reliable information. The evaluation used the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact. The TE synthesises lessons to help guide future design and implementation of GEF-funded activities and contributes to the overall assessment of results in achieving GEF strategic objectives aimed at global environmental benefits.
19. The TE was carried out in strict adherence to the Terms of Reference (Annex 1), and included the following three stages:

Desk Review and Preparation Phase

20. This initial stage of the terminal evaluation involved desk reviews of project-related documentation such as the project document, annual reports, project files, national strategic and policy documents, annual supervision reports, mid-term review report, project information reports (PIR) to GEF, project's website, project's Facebook, project's technical reports, project knowledge products, and any other materials (see Annex 2) that the evaluator considered useful for an evidence-based evaluation assessment. The documents were mainly provided by the IRECR Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit (CPIU) and by IFAD.

Remote mission

21. The remote mission took place from 19 to 30 of April 2021 with videoconferences with the CPIU team and bilateral meetings with the CPIU staff. It was also possible to organise a meeting with some key partners and stakeholders at the end of the remote mission (the list of persons met is in Annex 3).

Terminal Evaluation Report Preparation

22. Following the remote mission, the data collected, updates on project progress, and materials received during the mission were carefully reviewed and analysed. All data was then consolidated and based on accountable information and with all sources and assumptions given, a draft Terminal Evaluation Report was prepared and submitted to CPIU and IFAD for review and feedback.

1.3 Structure of the Evaluation Report

23. The structure of this TE Report corresponds to the Evaluation Report outline as documented within the TOR for the assignment as well as the GEF Terminal Evaluation Guidelines.
24. The TE is based on a performance assessment approach guided by the principles of results-based management. The evaluation tracks impact per the project's Logical Framework. The contribution of this project outputs and project management is evaluated with reference to the achievement of the project outcomes and overall objective. This TE reviews the implementation experience and achievement of the project results against the Project Document endorsed by the GEF CEO, including any changes made during implementation.

2. Project Description and Development Context

2.1 Project Start and Duration

25. The GEF-funded *Climate Resilience through Conservation Agriculture Project* was approved for implementation on 22 September 2013. It was mainstreamed into the IFAD co-financing Programme *Inclusive Rural Economic and Climate Resilience (IRECRP)*, which entered into force in August 2014 for a duration of 6 years, with a planned closure date of September 2020. Following the approval of six-month extension with no cost, due to the Covid-19, the project was completed in March 2021. The GEF grant was of US\$ 4,260,000, with a co-financing of US\$ 16,600,000 from IFAD (including US\$ 16,100,000 of loan and US\$ 500,000 of grant).

2.2 National context

26. Moldova is highly vulnerable to climate change and variability, because of the limited capacity of its social and productive structures, and its heavy dependency on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture. The agriculture sector is itself highly vulnerable to climate change because it is largely rain-fed with a very low development level/poor state of irrigation, while crop insurance is not a widespread practice. Drought will be a major determinant of human development in Moldova in the coming decades, and can compromise progress in health and nutrition due to the dependency of the majority of the country's populations on agricultural income and a rural way of life.
27. To address the climate change's socio-economic and environmental impacts the Government started, in 2012, the elaboration of a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS), which was approved by the Moldovan government on 8 October 2014 (after the launch of the GEF-IFAD funded project). The 3 objectives of the strategy were: (i) improving the management and dissemination of disaster and climate risk information in Moldova; (ii) Ensuring that climate change adaptation was a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis; (iii) Building climate resilience through reducing risk and facilitating adaptation in priority sectors. With regard to the development of a sustainable agriculture the Strategy strongly recommended the adoption and dissemination of innovative approaches, such as Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Organic Agriculture (OA), together with rangeland management, with the adoption of more resilient and better adapted genetic varieties of plants and animals, and the development of improved plant protection and environmental risk management techniques. The Moldovan national report for the CSD 2012 Rio+20 took this further by considering the need to adopt CA as the dominant production model in the country, with the identification of smart technological solutions for the sector.

2.3 Project goals and objectives

28. The project goal was enhancing the adaptive capacity of farmers to climate change through resilient agricultural approaches.
29. The project objective was to improve agriculture productivity and soil protection through sustainable agriculture and land restoration.
30. To reach these objectives the projects embraced 3 components:
 - **Component 1:** An enabling environment for climate-resilient agriculture is created;
 - **Component 2:** Agriculture production through climate-resilient investments is enhanced;
 - **Component 3:** Project management.
31. By project end it was expected to reach the following outcomes:
 - **Outcome 1.1:** The adaptive capacity of farmers and other practitioners to cope with climate change risks in agriculture production and agro-landscape restoration is enhanced;
 - **Outcome 1.2:** The institutional capacity and policy environment for climate resilient soil conservation and agriculture practices are enhanced;
 - **Outcome 1.3:** Information on the CC adaptation and mitigation benefits of sustainable agriculture and agro-landscape restoration is made available to increase awareness, generate public support for CA, and disseminate project results;
 - **Outcome 2.1:** A set of standard procedures for the successful implementation of CA covering the main crops and agro-climatic zones of Moldova are designed, tested and validated;

- **Outcome 2.2:** Agro-landscape resilience to environmental risks is strengthened through the restoration and sustainable use of protective shelterbelts and stripes of pastures.

32. The Project Key Performance Indicators were identified as follow:

- At least 3,600 of beneficiaries report ability to maintain or increase healthy soil conditions and crops production through CA;
- Innovative solutions for climate-resilient farm production promoted among 550 smallholder farmers;
- Climate-resilient sustainable land restoration practices introduced to promote food security in approx. 2,100 farm plots;
- Twelve production plans for key crops developed and implemented, covering different crops and agro-climatic conditions;
- At least 100 smallholder trainees benefit from small grants for equipment and initiate new CA work on their properties;
- At least 200 hectares of protective shelterbelts established in degraded and marginal agriculture lands;
- At least 200 hectares of strips of pastures restored, in private land holdings and communal properties;
- M&E system is functional by year 1 of the project.

Issues regarding the design

33. **Implications of the integration of the SCCF project into the IRECR project.** According to the design of the IFAD programme - *Inclusive Rural Economic and Climate Resilience Programme (IRECR)*, the SCCF project was fully embedded in the IFAD programme “in a synergetic fashion to ensure that the SCCF funding covered additional costs associated with adaptation needs, in line with the governmental priorities on climate change (National Human Development and Climate Change report; Second National Communication)”. In this case, the SCCF project was entirely integrated into the IRECR Programme as the sub-component 1.1 of the *Component 1: Climate change resilience and inclusive value chain development*.
34. The implementation and governance of the Climate Change Resilience component was directly executed under IFAD procedures. The time frame of the SCCF project has been designed in order to guarantee full overlapping with the IFAD country programme and took advantage of the existing institutional and management framework. Initially designed to be implemented over a period of four years beginning by end 2013, the duration and date of completion of the SCCF project was aligned on the IRECR project dates, duration and completion since it was integrated as a sub-component of the IRECR Programme.
35. The aggregation of all GEF-funded activities into a single sub-component of the IRECR program has certainly facilitated the follow-up of climate change adaptation and sustainable natural resource management activities. However, this form of design is not conducive to the integration of climate change adaptation measures into the other three components of the program, considering that the GEF funding was only for Component 1.
36. However, the mainstreaming of the SCCF project into the IRECR program made documenting of outcomes more difficult in that the GEF subcomponent had only one outcome left whereas the original project had 5, as shown in the table below. The same is observed for the outputs: the original Project submitted to the GEF included 12 outputs while the GEF sub-component 1.1 of the IREC has only 2 outputs.

Table 6. List of outcomes and outputs in the SCCF project and in the IRECR project (subcomponent 1.1)

SCCF project outcomes	Corresponding IRECR outcome (Component 1)
<p>Outcome 1.1. The adaptive capacity of farmers and other practitioners to cope with climate change risks in agriculture and rural landscape restoration is enhanced.</p> <p>Outcome 1.2. The institutional capacity and policy environment for climate resilient soil conservation and agriculture practices are enhanced.</p> <p>Outcome 1.3. Information on the CC adaptation and mitigation benefits of conservation agriculture and agro-landscape restoration is made available to increase awareness, generate public support, and disseminate project results.</p> <p>Outcome 2.1. A set of standard procedures for the successful implementation of CA covering the main crops and agro-climatic zones of Moldova are designed, tested and validated.</p> <p>Outcome 2.2. Agro-landscape resilience to environmental risks is strengthened through the restoration and sustainable use of protective shelterbelts and stripes of pastures.</p>	<p>Outcome 1. Enhanced resilience, inclusiveness and adaptive capacity of agribusiness value chains to climate change.</p>
SCCF Project outputs	Corresponding IRECR outputs
<p>1.1.1. A ground mapping exercise on CA and agrolandscape restoration is carried out, leading to the production of a validated national report and implementation guidelines</p> <p>1.1.2. A training programme is designed and implemented to build the capacity of providers of services who will work with project beneficiaries throughout Moldova</p> <p>1.1.3. At least 3,600 farmers participate in 12 FFS on-farm training throughout the five agro- climatic zones of Moldova</p> <p>1.2.1. A policy process is triggered, to boost CA adoption, mainstream CA into rural development and planning, and support small-scale private agro-forestry investments.</p> <p>1.3.1. The public awareness about CC- risks and adaptation needs in agriculture and agro-forestry is strengthened</p> <p>1.3.2. Guidelines on best practices for CA and CC adaptation through sustainable agriculture and agrolandscape restoration are developed and disseminated.</p> <p>2.1.1. CA production plans are finalised, implemented and validated, covering different crops and agro- climatic conditions in 12 demonstration trials.</p> <p>2.1.2. Investments are made to provide farmers with CA technical equipment that can be tested and modified to suit the production plans.</p> <p>2.1.3. Post-training support is provided to empower smallholders and encourage the expansion of CA.</p> <p>2.2.1. Protective shelterbelts are established in at least 200 hectares of degraded and marginal agriculture land in the central and southern agro-climatic zones.</p> <p>2.2.2. At least 200 hectares of strips of pastures in degraded and marginal grasslands are restored, in private land holdings and communal properties in the central and southern agro-climatic zones.</p> <p>2.2.3. Pilot, small-scale value chains for the production and marketing of shelterbelt' plant products are developed as a by- product of the restoration work.</p>	<p>1.1 Proper knowledge and the creation of an enabling environment to increase adaptive capacity through “climate smart” agricultural interventions is promoted</p> <p>1.2 Conservation agricultural and rural landscape restoration mainstreamed, reducing the vulnerability of farmers to climate change-related risks</p>

37. The outcomes of the two projects being different, it was therefore necessary to base the evaluation directly on the M&E System's existing data and indicators. These indicators ultimately contained all the information needed to inform the outputs and outcomes of the SCCF project.
38. **The large number and fragmented nature of activities.** As a result of the above considerations, the supervision missions highlighted the large number of small activities included in the design in some of the project components such as the conservation agriculture that diverted attention from the main activities. Projects should avoid having a large number of small activities to better focus and greater impact on the main tasks.
39. **The Conservation Agriculture for smallholder farmers.** The benefits of conservation agriculture are not immediate and hence the investments in this area require a much greater effort at raising awareness and concretely demonstrating the benefits of the investments in conservation agriculture practices. However, the gradually increasing uptake of conservation agriculture demonstrates that CA can also be an appropriate production strategy for smallholder farmers provided their needs are properly understood and they are supported through the provision of appropriate interventions suitable for the crops that they grow. The experience of the project shows that when smallholder farmers are targeted, they can be effectively reached to enhance their conservation agriculture practices.
40. **Scope of Terms of Reference.** The experience showed that when the tasks are multiple, they are beyond the capacity of individual service providers to undertake in the country and discourage applicants. This was evident from the project experience with reference to the call for proposals for the manual and guideline development for conservation and ecological agriculture.
41. **Changes at Mid-Term Review.** It was noted at the mid-term review that the project had a significant delay in the implementation of certain activities, mainly due to the excessive heaviness of the procedures and the excessive rigidity of the criteria for selecting beneficiaries. The main recommendations of the Mid-Term Review were to simplify procedures and facilitate access to financial resources for small farmers. In order to enable Subcomponent 1.1 to achieve its objectives, the CPIU and IFAD agreed to simplify the criteria and payment procedures for grants managed to foster the implementation of the activities. In addition, the extension of grassland restoration to up to 10 hectares per grant had a very positive impact and allowed the project to restore 128% of the target revised at MTR.
42. The Mid-Term review noted the difficulty for small farmers with limited land holdings to adopt the zero tillage or the establishment of shelterbelts on private land. The CPIU and IFAD agreed to adjust the modality of piloting shelterbelts to implement it on public land under the LPAs control, instead of piloting it on private land as originally planned.
43. **Changes made in 2020.** Because of the pandemic situation, the 2020 supervision mission dropped activities that were no longer achievable, such as the SWOT analysis of CA worldwide and the study tours to visit conservative agriculture farms in other countries.

2.4 Problems to be solved by the project

44. At the time of project design, the increasing frequency of drought periods as a result of climate change had repeatedly reduced farm incomes in the past and their frequency and intensity would increase in the future. The main identified risks considered to be of high priority were: increased risk of drought and water scarcity; increased irrigation requirements; soil erosion, salinization, desertification; increased risk of agricultural pests, diseases, weeds; and wheat and maize yield decrease. This would compromise progress in health and nutrition due to the dependency of the majority of the country's populations on agricultural income and a rural way of life.
45. According to the vulnerability assessment of the magnitude of the risk/opportunities of the climate change on agricultural production (3rd National Communication to UNFCCC, 2013) the most vulnerable regions in the RM due to possible climate change were South (the Plain of Southern Moldova, terraces of the inferior

Prut and Dniester Rivers) and partly Center (Sub-zone II-a, the Plain of Central Moldova and Codrii region, and Sub-zone II, Terraces of the Dniester, Prut, Raut, Prut, Bic, Botna etc. rivers).

46. While farmers in Moldova were aware of changes in the climatic patterns over the last decades their concerns about the negative effect of climate change on their agriculture activities were not well addressed by existing research and extension services about adaptation options to prevent land degradation and production losses.
47. One of the reasons relied on the lack of policy, expertise and knowledge in the country on Conservation Agriculture, which made difficult and very slow implementation of some measures on climate change adaptation in agriculture.
48. The other barriers were related to the low levels of investment in the sector (declining competitive advantages of the agricultural sector and diminishing of the farmers income), the inadequacy of the political reform, the insufficient capacity and awareness to implement sustainable agriculture practices, as well as the insufficient institutional restructuring.

2.5 The strategy to address the identified problems

49. The strategy has been clearly defined in the SCCF Concept document. In order to cope with expected changes in climate and respond to the CC adaptation priorities in the agriculture sector as identified by the Moldovan government, the SCCF project will focus on testing and promoting adaptive agriculture management practices and technologies, and on building capacity for scaling it up, both at the institutional and at the field levels.
50. The project will particularly focus on targeted capacity building and on improving the necessary technologies (i.e., adaptive management systems and techniques following the CA/OA principles; vegetative methods and techniques for land degradation reduction through the ecosystem-based restoration of protective vegetation belts and grasslands) to better streamline the adaptation investment.
51. In parallel, the project will promote knowledge generation and awareness to highlight the adaptation benefits of the proposed CA management systems and ecosystem restoration practices to increase the resilience of the Moldovan agro-landscapes and rural communities and to simultaneously provide higher and more stable incomes to especially poorer segments of the rural population. The improved livelihoods of small farmers will be coupled with policy work to sustain climate resilient agricultural interventions beyond the lifetime of the project as well as enhance extension services for its promotion in the long term.

2.6 Immediate and development objectives of the project

52. **The Project Objective** is to improve agricultural productivity and soil protection through sustainable agriculture and land restoration.
53. **The Project's Development objective** is to improve food security and income among smallholder farmers in targeted rural areas, in line with the SCCF objective to increase resilience of Moldovan agro-ecosystems and adaptive capacity of rural communities and all concerned stakeholders to cope with climate change impacts.

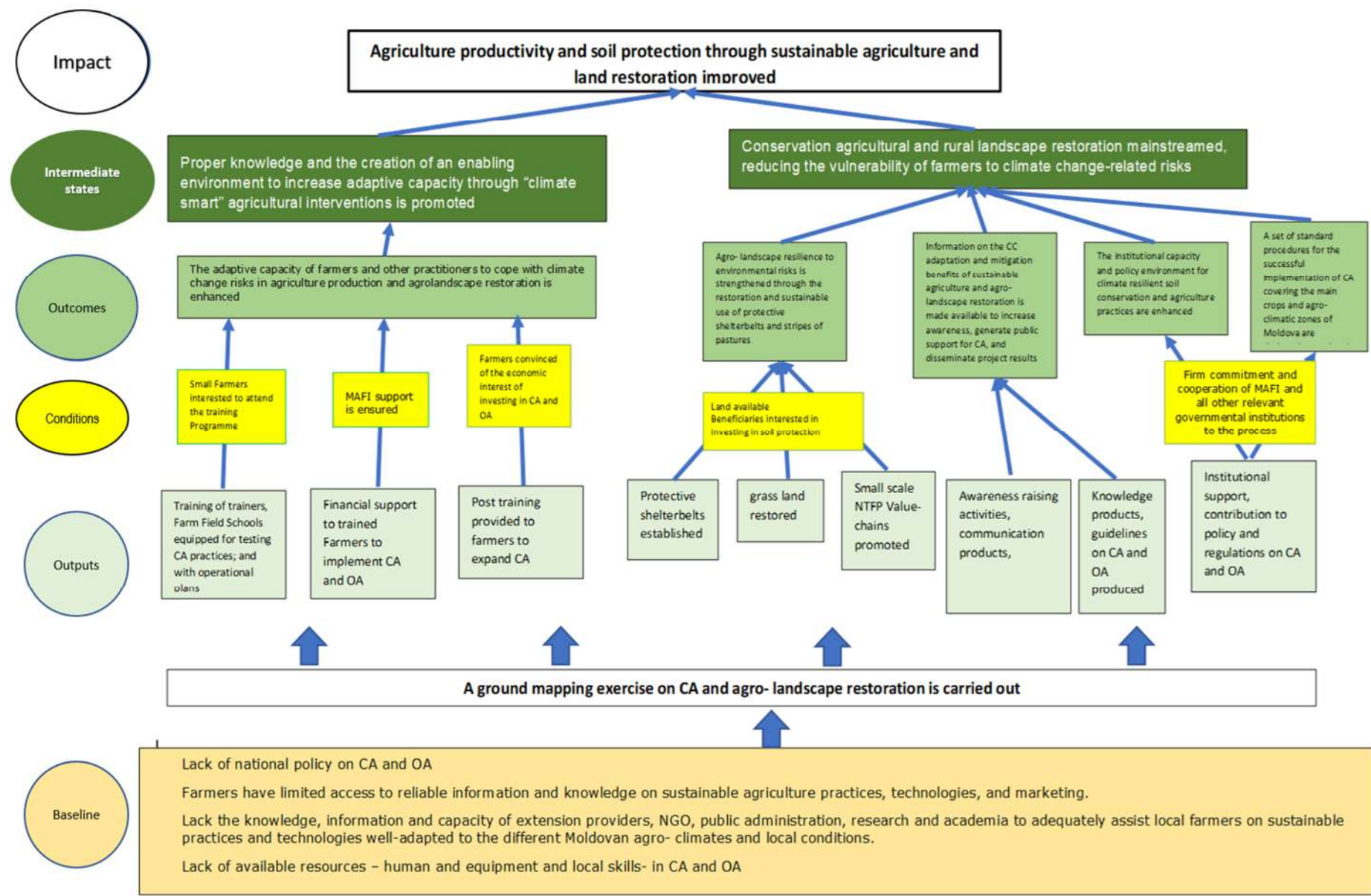
2.7 The reconstructed theory of change

54. The theory of change (TOC) is a representation of causal linkages which allows understanding the underlying programme logic, from outputs through direct outcomes to long-term outcomes, and further towards impact(s). The SCCF Design document did not originally include a Theory of Change. The theory of change was therefore reconstructed based on the SCCF Project Result Framework.
55. The project identified 12 outputs which were expected to contribute to the achievement of 5 direct outcomes which themselves should eventually lead, via clear pathways, towards the intended impact. The

intended long-term impact of the project was “**Agriculture productivity and soil protection through sustainable agriculture and land restoration improved**”. The long-term impact corresponds to the development objective of the SCCF Project and is measured by: (a) Number of beneficiaries (3600, disaggregated by gender and age) reporting ability to maintain or increase healthy soil conditions and crops production through CA; (b) Innovative solutions for climate-resilient farm production promoted among smallholder farmers (550, disaggregated by gender and age); (c) Climate-resilient sustainable land restoration practices introduced to promote food security in approx. 2,100 farm plots.

56. A certain number of drivers (yellow rectangles in the diagram) are external factors that are expected to contribute to the realization of the intended outcomes and impacts. The baseline corresponds to the finding of the situation analysis developed in the design project.

Figure 1. Problems Tree and Theory of Change



2.8 Baseline indicators established

57. No baseline study has been carried out at design of the IRECR project “due to the demand driven character and nationwide coverage” (IRECR, Annual Report 2017). In order to capture the outputs, outcomes and impacts of the intervention, the CPIU IFAD has put in place in 2017 a detailed M&E system. Application packages for each of the support measure have been completed with baseline collection questionnaires that include information about the applicant and its agricultural activity. At the same time, annual follow up questionnaires were disseminated and collected from existing beneficiaries in order to capture changes post project implementation. In the Farmer Field School activities, expert reports were also used as an M&E tool, focus being made on the expert in economy that analyses the profitability of each demo plot and its productivity (PIR 2018).

2.9 Main stakeholders

58. At the design phase a stakeholders analysis was carried out, identifying the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities as presented in the table below.

Table 7. Stakeholders analysis

Stakeholder	Strengths	Weaknesses/Threats	Opportunities
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field presence Qualified technical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited budget Unbalanced skill-mix Limited understanding of mainstreaming CC adaptation through sustainable agriculture Lack of staff to meet village level support requirements Inadequate subsidies Lack of cross-sector cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy development supporting CA and OA Capacity to provide educational training
Ministry of Environment (MENR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualified staff on weather forecast and climate change issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited budget Lack of cooperation among various departments and governmental sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National CC adaptation strategy supporting CA/OA
ModSilva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field presence Capacity to implement forestation work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited budget Limited knowledge about ecological restoration, supporting the use of potential invasive species Difficult interaction with private owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target for the training of trainers programme on ecological restoration Policy reform to enhance private forestry
Local Public Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of knowledge and skills in CA/OA and CC issues; Low employment of participatory approaches Limited financial autonomy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility in the implementation of the “Moldovan village” programme
Research institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field presence Capacity to implement applied research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited and/or incomplete knowledge of CA/OA Lack of consideration of farmers’ concerns and needs in research work Low employment of participatory tools and involvement of practitioners in research work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target for the training of trainers programme Participation in the “farm schools”
Academic institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some teaching on CA/OA; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of proper university studies on CA/OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the “FFS” with students Use of training materials on CA/OA in academic courses
Agriculture extension organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field presence; Some experience on CA/OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited experience on CA/OA Low employment of participatory tools in extension work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary of “training of trainers” programmes Potential to become services provider under the project
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on environmental protection and sustainable rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited experience on CA/OA Limited funding Weak institutional development Low employment of participatory tools in development actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary of “training of trainers” programmes Potential to become services provider under the project

International practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good knowledge and experience on CA/OA; • Regional networking (i.e. ECAF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of non-applicable examples to the Moldovan context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning tours • Expertise provision to the capacity building programme of the project
Private entrepreneurs (Farmer leaders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing interest on CA/OA • Growing concern about CC-related agriculture problems (i.e. drought) • Existence of few examples with successful results on CA/OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited knowledge on CA/OA • Limited awareness on CC and adaptation options through CA/OA • Limited access to necessary resources (financial, equipment, etc.) to switch to CA/OA • Limited access to adequate extension services • Limited market opportunities for OA products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of farm leaders with successful results in CA/OA • Beneficiary of "training of trainers" programmes • Leaders for "farm schools" programmes • Target for financial and institutional support of IFAD programmes
Farmer organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field presence • Growing concern about climate risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited management capacity • Limited access to information and technical support • Limited resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential access to institutional development
Individual poor farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some awareness about CC impacts on farm production • Some willingness to participate in land consolidation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited resources • Too small and fragmented farmland • Limited access to financial support • Limited awareness on CA/OA • Very vulnerable to CC impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential access to capacity development (farm schools) and provision of CA/OA services through farmer leaders • Target for financial and institutional support of IFAD programmes
Participating financial institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively well-developed financial sector • Excellent loan recovery rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still relatively fragmented sector • Conservative attitudes towards rural/agribusiness lending are prevalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding interest in exploring business opportunities in rural/agribusiness sector • New law on leasing will allow expansion • Successful track record of past IFAD support

3. Project Results

3.1 Relevance

<p>Relevance. Were the project outcomes congruent with the GEF focal areas/operational program strategies, country priorities, and mandates of the Agencies? Was the project design appropriate for delivering the expected outcomes?</p>	<p>Rating: H S</p>
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59. **Country priorities.** The SCCF project was in line with the national priorities defined in the National Development Strategy as well as in the National Communications to UNFCCC. The National Development Strategy specified the need for further soil conservation efforts and scaling up of forestation/reforestation of degraded lands. The government's programme emphasized the need to: (i) stop degradation of land resources; (ii) provide support and incentives for soil conservation; (iii) create an integrated national environmental monitoring system; and (iv) extend forested areas. In the field of agriculture and rural development, the SCCF project was aligned on the three priorities of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2014- 2020: increasing the competitiveness, ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources in agriculture and improvement of living standards in rural areas. In addition, the innovative approach proposed by the SCCF, in terms of promotion of conservation agriculture and organic agriculture, met the government's objective of increasing competitiveness of agricultural products and sustainable rural development to emphasize the importance of agriculture and rural development in the process of negotiation and access to EU funds.

60. To address climate change challenges, the 2nd National Communication to the UNFCCC detailed the adaptive measures the GoM intended to implement in the different economic sectors. For the agriculture sector the adaptation measures encompassed the activities planned by the SCCF project: (1) implementing sustainable soil management practices, combating soil degradation through diverse complex measures, including anti-erosion measures; (2) significant expansion of areas covered with forest vegetation in the context of more active promotion of agricultural-forestry and forestry-pastoral practices; (3) improving grasslands by planting groups of trees and shrubs, delimitation of external boundaries and internal plots of the grasslands by planting forest belts, etc.
61. In line with the climate change policy objectives of the government of Moldova, adaptation measures proposed by the SCCF also incorporated their mitigation potential: contribution to the reduction in humus losses, contribution to C sequestration through ecosystem restoration.
62. **IFAD mandate.** The SCCF project is fully aligned with the CC Strategy of IFAD that aims to maximize IFAD's impact on rural poverty in a changing climate through: (i) innovative approaches helping smallholder producers build their resilience to CC; (ii) the availability of incentives and funding for smallholder farmers to shift to climate-resilient production systems; (iii) an informed and more coherent dialogue on CC, rural development, agriculture and food security. Through the
63. **The design framework was well aligned with IFAD policies and strategies.** Four IFAD policies have been of particular relevance in shaping the approaches and methodologies of the Programme, these being the policies on rural finance, private sector, targeting, climate change and the environment. On climate change and the environment, the IRECR programme constitutes the most ambitious attempt of IFAD to date to assist Moldova in adapting to a changing climate and protect the environment. The climate resilience component is fully aligned with the Climate Change Strategy of IFAD that aims to maximize IFAD's impact on rural poverty in a changing climate through: (i) innovative approaches helping smallholder producers build their resilience to climate change; (ii) the availability of incentives and funding for smallholder farmers to shift to climate-resilient production systems; and (iii) an informed and more coherent dialogue on climate change, rural development, agriculture and food security
64. **The socio-economic needs of the target groups** were also addressed by the project design by providing them with the capacity to develop a form of agriculture that is sustainable and resilient to climate change. In order to respond in a comprehensive way to the needs of the target groups, and at the same time to be able to introduce new technologies in the agricultural sector, the project carried out parallel awareness raising activities on CA and OA, the strengthening of the technical capacities of small farmers, mainly through FFS. The Project consolidated its action by providing in parallel a financial support to the target groups to enable them to acquire the necessary equipment for the development of CA and OA in the context of adaptation to climate change.

3.2 Efficiency

Efficiency. Was the project cost-effective? How does the project cost/time versus output/outcomes equation compare to that of similar projects?	Rating MS
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65. The IRECR Completion Report analysed the cost efficiency of the IRECR programme, including the GEF component. The table below shows the utilization per year of the different financiers (appraisal versus actual). It appears that there is unspent fund on the GEF grant: the rate of disbursement is of 91%. This is rated as **Moderately Satisfactory**.

Table 8. IRECR Fund Utilization per Financier and Year (appraisal vs actual)

<i>FINANCIER</i>	Actual 2014 (USD 000)	Actual 2015 (USD 000)	Actual 2016 (USD 000)	Actual 2017 (USD 000)	Actual 2018 (USD 000)	Actual 2019 (USD 000)	Actual 2020 (USD 000)	Actual and committed 2021 (USD 000)	Total (USD 000)	Appraisal (USD 000)	Disbursed %
IFAD loan	191	1.981	1.323	2.536	2.223	2.348	3.202	777	14.581	14.923	91%
IFAD grant	3	14	20	43	36	21	76	30	243	462	49%
GEF Grant	0	90	575	623	639	563	716	676	3.882	4.260	91%
DANIDA Grant	0	773	645	2.014	945	0	0	0	4.377	4,525	88%
Beneficiaries	620	2.576	3.069	7.107	3.055	1.277	1.408	537	19.649	7.471	263%
Government	28	236	236	404	523	362	622	194	2.605	3.498	74%
CLD	0	1.456	797	3.014	1.215	0	0	0	6.482	7.520	86%
PFI	51	575	356	613	456	287	315	200	2.853	1.902	150%
TOTAL	893	7.701	7.021	16.354	9.092	4.858	6.339	2.414	54.672	46.251	118%

Source: UCIP Financial Records, April 2021

66. The GEF grant disbursement table by year indicates that disbursements did not begin in earnest until the third year, in 2016. This is due to the fact that the project had developed a set of terms of reference in 2014-2015 for launching the activities of Component 1, but the calls for tenders had to be reissued several times because of the difficulty in getting contractors with the technical expertise to carry out the tasks requested in a very new area such as CA. The table highlights the high increase in disbursements in the last few years. Subcomponent 1.1 cost per beneficiary is USD 1 951 with total costs (actual and committed) of USD 3.882 million and 4 304 beneficiaries outreach.

Table 9. Utilization of GEF grant per year

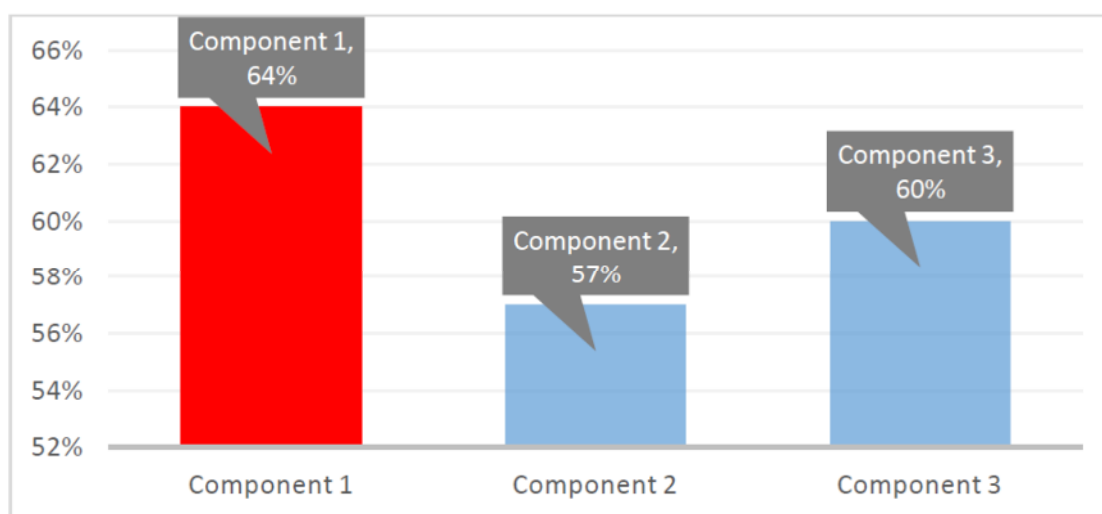
Year	Actual cost (in USD 000)	Disbursement ratio (in %)
Actual 2014	0	0%
Actual 2015	90	0.02%
Actual 2016	575	13.5%
Actual 2017	623	14.6%
Actual 2018	639	15.0%
Actual 2019	563	13.2%
Actual 2020	716	16.8%
Actual and committed 2021	676	15.8%
Total	3,882	91%
Appraisal	4,260	

67. Having been integrated into the IRECR programme the GEF component has been evaluated during the IFAD completion mission. IRECR programme efficiency is rated moderately satisfactory. The completion mission noted that, if the financial resources used allowed to exceed the most of the targets, some amount of the available resources remains unspent. Unspent GEF grant balance of US\$ 0.4 million was due to cancelled activities (some shelterbelts and grassland activities were not processed on time due to weather and pandemic condition), while the SWOT analysis and the study tours were dropped due to lack of time to achieving these activities before the closing of the project. Cumbersome procedures and rigid grant allocation criteria have also hampered budget consumption. In this regard, the supervision missions called for flexibility by way of: Reducing the share of applicants from 50 /50% to 70/30% for nurseries and NTFP and allow the consideration of their existing investments as their equity share; Review of the call for tender to allow potential interested farmers and scientific institutions in the North/Centre to apply for shelter-belts and to allow the

inclusion of fruit and nut tree species in the shelter-belts (supervision mission, 2018); Remove LPAs co-financing for both shelterbelts (10%) and grass cover grants (50%) (supervision mission, 2019).

68. The GEF component of the IRECR Programme, despite the complexity and the wide range of activities to deal with, achieved nevertheless important results and substantial immediate impact for the beneficiaries, as reported by the Final Impact Evaluation Report: "Some of relevant efficiency indicators speaking about the quality and impact of the Programme is land brought under climate-resilience practices. Overall, due to the Programme activities, 26,795 hectares of land have been brought under climate resilience practices. This number exceeded substantially the target of 15,000 hectares".
69. In conformity with the project design the GEF activities targeted the most deprived villages. The Final Impact Evaluation Report indicates that the rural poor comprise the significant share of IRECR target population, and that the Component 1 targeted the most important rate of deprived villages, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 2. Deprived and most deprived villages beneficiaries, by components



Source: Final Impact Evaluation Report. January 2021.

70. In addition, the number of persons having received support from GEF component exceeds also the appraisal, as shown below. While the lower number of women compared to men should be noted, the final result exceeds by far the MTR target (1255%).

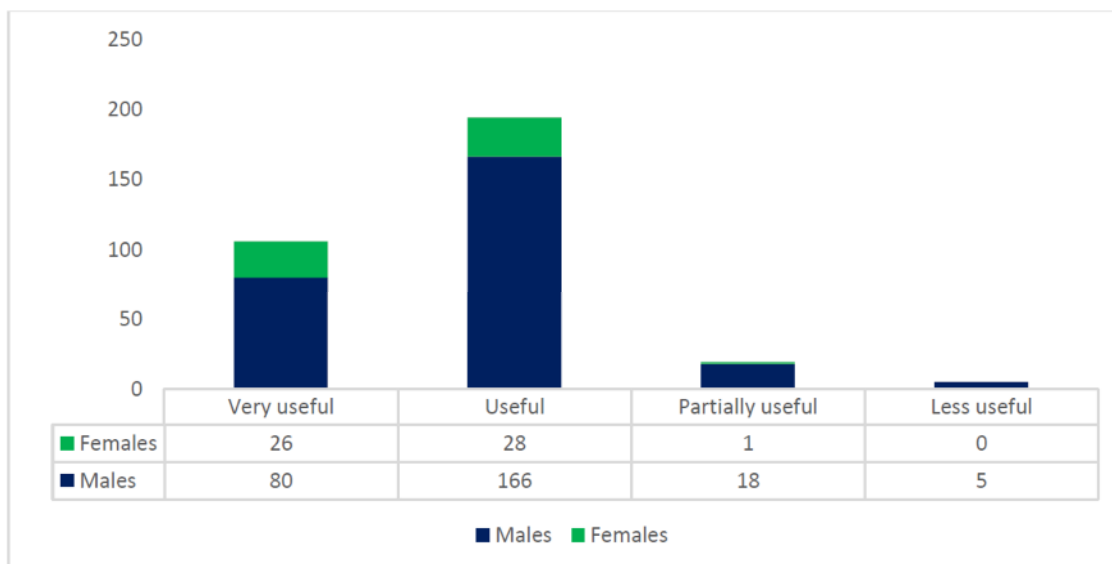
Table 10. Number of persons having received direct support from GEF

Unit	Appraisal Updated MTR	Actual cumulative 31/03/21	Actual cumulative/ Appraisal %
Number	3319	3926	118%
Men	3225	2945	91%
Women	75	941	1255%
LPA		40	

71. To achieve the objectives of the project the strategy relied on strengthening the technical capacity of small farmers on Conservation Agriculture through the establishment of Field Farms Schools (FFS). As a result, the participants (during 2015-2020) acknowledged having registered important results related to implementation of CA technologies. The Final Impact Evaluation Report assessed the efficiency of the CA trainings by interviewing a representative

sample of 324 participants (disaggregated in 269 males, 55 females, including 102 young respondents). Usefulness of the training sessions on CA for the participants has been also checked. The figure below shows that 93% of the CA training respondents reported high importance of the training sessions.

Figure 3. Importance of CA trainings



Source: Final Impact Evaluation Report. January 2021

72. In terms of awareness of the effects of climate change 48% respondents declared that their enterprises activity is mostly affected by climate change, 29% - much and 19% partly, main problems being drought, high temperatures, frosts and hail. At the same time, as a result of FFS trainings combined with grants, 50% of respondents said applying CA, mainly mini-till with 76%, no-till with 46% and only 8% strip-till.

3.3 Outputs

The review of the outputs produced during the SCCF project implementation is presented hereafter:

Outcome 1.1 The adaptive capacity of farmers and other practitioners to cope with climate change risks in agriculture and rural landscape restoration is enhanced.

SCCF Project Outputs	Actual outputs delivered
Output: 1.1.1. A ground mapping exercise on CA and agro-landscape restoration is carried out, leading to the production of a validated national report and implementation guidelines	A ground-mapping analysis of the climate-resilient agricultural measures implemented within the Programme was carried out in 2015. A report on the study of measures for enhancing resilience to climate change has been prepared by the NGO BIOS in 2015. The analysis was presented and validated at the National Conference with participation of producers, program partners and stakeholders. A white paper on adaptation of the rural sector to CC in Moldova prepared, validated, and disseminated The SWOT analysis proposed by the supervision mission was not carried out. Considering the COVID-19 crisis situation in 2019 the "SWOT analysis and completion restoration plots report" were canceled.
Output: 1.1.2 A training programme is designed and implemented to build the capacity of providers of services who will work with project beneficiaries throughout Moldova	Competition on ToT Training programme in CA/OA (development of manual and training of trainers) was launched on 21 October 2016, extended 3 times and relaunched in May 2017. Competition on ToT Training programme in landscape restoration was launched on 9 February 2017 and has been extended 3 times. Finally, in 2019, a training of trainers (ToT) programme for 24 academic hours for 4 groups of participants was held. ToT training sessions took place during December 7-9 and December 10-12, 2019. Each training session involved 2 groups in parallel. The total number of participants involved in the ToT programme was 70 participants, from which women constituted 11 participants (15.7%). So delayed for year 2 Training of Trainers on CA/OA and landscape restoration influenced development of toolkits and mobilization of LPAs and farmers in applying grants for rehabilitation/establishment of shelterbelts and grass covers and grants for CA/OA machinery.
Output 1.1.3 At least 3,600 farmers participate in 12 FFS on-farm training throughout the five agro- climatic zones of Moldova	11 Farmer Field Schools (92% of the target) and all of them were supported with grants for equipment. At the completion date 3593 farmers participated in the 11 FFS on-farm trainings (2884 men, 709 women). Only 1 out 4 study tours (25%) have been organized in Cluj Napoca (Romania) dedicated to conservation agriculture (March 2017). Representatives of FFSs, MAFI and CPIU-IFAD participated in the study organized with support of University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine and Director of Centre on Minimum Tillage Systems and Durable Agriculture Technologies. In total 13 persons (33% of the initial appraisal) attended the study tour, including 1 woman (25% of target).

Outcome 1.2. The institutional capacity and policy environment for climate resilient soil conservation and agriculture practices are enhanced

SCCF Project Outputs	Actual outputs delivered
Output 1.2.1 A policy process is triggered, to boost CA adoption, mainstream CA into rural development and planning, and support small-scale private agro-forestry investments.	The project initiated the procurement processes to hire consultants to develop the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2030) and the National Strategy for Irrigation Sector Development during (2021–2030). However, as the full implementation of the national strategy for agricultural and rural development was passed to RRP, it is yet to be published. The Project completed the National Irrigation Development Strategy, which was validated by the Parliament Commission and will be approved in the Plenary Meeting of the new elected Parliament, tentatively in Sep.2021. The Project also contributed to the development of the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2030) and provided support to competent authorities' staff on new EU Regulation on organic production. However, as these studies were passed to the RRP (because they were partially completed), they are yet to be published, and their feeding into government policies remains to be seen. With the direct support of UCIP-IFAD, the MARDE organized in 2017 a Conference entitled "Rational management of soil and water resources in context of the country's food safety".

	<p>The project supported the elaboration of a draft National Program for the development of the aromatic and medicinal plants sector for the period 2020-2030.</p> <p>A number of public awareness material and knowledge products related to conservation agriculture and climate change that are expected to support policymaking at the local and national levels (see Annex 7).</p> <p>The Government Programme for Land Improvement 2021-2025, adopted in 2020, incorporates measures to prevent and reduce soil erosion including the establishment and rehabilitation of grass cover, shelterbelts, and forest plantations.</p>
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Outcome 1.3: Information on the CC adaptation and mitigation benefits of conservation agriculture and agro-landscape restoration is made available to increase awareness, generate public support, and disseminate project results

SCCF Project Outputs	Actual outputs delivered
Output 1.3.1 The public awareness about CC-risks and adaptation needs in agriculture and agro-forestry is strengthened	The Final Impact Evaluation Report looked at the “% of targeted population awareness of predicted adverse impacts of climate change and appropriate responses”. The survey revealed that 93% of the targeted population got a High awareness level about CC risks.
Output 1.3.2. Guidelines on best practices for CA and CC adaptation through sustainable agriculture and agro-landscape restoration are developed and disseminated	<p>The project produced a significant number of knowledge products dedicated to climate change adaptation and mitigation (the list of knowledge products on CA/Adaptation to climate change are provided in Annex 8). They have been disseminated to beneficiaries in both hard copies and electronic versions.</p> <p>It is to be noted that, with regard to mainstreaming climate change issues into the other components of the IRECR Programme a workshop was organized with current and potential beneficiaries of IFAD interventions (e.g. agricultural enterprises, producer groups, LPAs, and others), followed by a Report on “Climate change adaptation measures and identification of climate change mitigation options in the agricultural sector for integration into UCIP IFAD assistance areas” (March 2021).</p> <p>An evaluation of the Field Farmer Schools (FFSs) was carried out in February 2021, leading to the production of a brochure “Success stories, challenges and lessons learned in the field of conservative soil tillage technologies application within the FFSs”, a practical guidelines (booklet "Conservation agriculture - an indispensable solution for soil conservation and adaptation to climate change", March 2021) as well as the organization of an informative Seminar on “Results of FFSs activity evaluation: challenges, lessons learned and success stories in application of conservative soil tillage technologies”(March 2021).</p>

Outcome 2.1: A set of standard procedures for the successful implementation of CA covering the main crops and agro-climatic zones of Moldova are designed, tested and validated/

SCCF Project Outputs	Actual outputs delivered
Output 2.1.1. CA production plans are finalised, implemented and validated, covering different crops and agro- climatic conditions in 11 demonstration trials.	<p>11 production plans were finalised, one for each farmers’ field school, including needs assessments for equipment and technology</p> <p>A Work Plan for each FFS was elaborated and approved annually ;</p> <p>Practical Guide have been produced for CA implementation.</p>

	Land quality assessments were also performed by the project on annual basis for FFSs . In addition, the Project supported 10 association members for performing of water and soil analyses form their plantations. Based on results the producers got recommendations (March 2021).
Output 2.1.2. Investments are made to provide farmers with CA technical equipment that can be tested and modified	The FFS Production plans included needs assessments for equipment and technology. The component provided matching grants to enable farmers to acquire the technical equipment needed for the shift to conservation agriculture. A total of 123 people (154% of MTR target, disaggregated into 112 men and 11 women), received subsidies for CA equipment ranging between \$10,000-15,000. With regard to research institutions no pilot project has been supported through equipment grants, out of the 3 pilot projects planned. The selection process has been stopped for a period in connection with the restructuring of the Ministry. 0 out of 3 experimental plots were conducted to adjust cropping systems. This is because the previous mission recommended that this activity be cancelled.
Output 2.1.3. Post-training support is provided to empower smallholders and encourage the expansion of CA.	123 agricultural enterprises benefited from grants to invest in agricultural equipment to apply conservation agriculture technologies (123% of the MTR appraisal), Collection data show that 89% of the CA grants beneficiaries are men, and 11% women. From this number, 21% are young people. The final evaluation impact report mentions that 100% of the respondents had knowledge on conservative agriculture and they have been aware about positive impact CA have before applying to the grant schemes. 87 % from beneficiaries are using Mini-till, 33% are using No-till and 6 % are using Strip-till.

Outcome 2.2: Agro-landscape resilience to environmental risks is strengthened through the restoration and sustainable use of protective shelterbelts and stripes of pastures

SCCF Project Outputs	Actual outputs delivered
Output 2.2.1. Protective shelterbelts are established in at least 200 hectares of degraded and marginal agriculture land in the central and southern agro-climatic zones.	The programme managed to produce 42 forest restoration plans for protective shelterbelts (210% of target) 312.69 hectares (208% of MTR target) protective shelterbelts installed Grants were provided to set up 5 privately owned nurseries (250% of target)
Output 2.2.2 At least 150 hectares of strips of pastures in degraded and marginal grasslands are restored, in private land holdings and communal properties in the central and southern agro-climatic zones;	192.56 ha of degraded and marginal grassland have been restored (128% of target) Beneficiaries of grassland restoration are 30 (30% of target) including 18 men, 3 women and 9 LPAs
Output 2.2.3 Pilot, small-scale value chains for the production and marketing of shelterbelt' plant products are developed as a by- product of the restoration work.	80% of smallholder farmers joining the NTFP scheme benefited of ad-hoc project investments (equipment, machinery) by the end of the project (4 men, 0 woman).

3.4 Outcomes

Effectiveness. The extent to which the project's actual outcomes commensurate with the expected outcomes?	Rating: S
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73. It is worth noting that the Subcomponent 1.1 of the IRECR Programme, covering the overall GEF grant, has only one outcome (Outcome 1: Enhanced resilience and adaptive capacity of farmers to climate change) while the original SCCF Project, endorsed by the GEF CEO, included 5 outcomes to be documented. Even though the original outcomes were missing when the SCCF project was embedded in the IRECR program, it has been possible to document them on the basis of the different outputs and the data collected by the M&E system put in place.
74. **Outcome 1.1 The adaptive capacity of farmers and other practitioners to cope with climate change risks in agriculture and rural landscape restoration is enhanced.** This outcome is rated as **Satisfactory**. The key constraints and challenges have been identified through the baseline study, despite the cancellation of the SWOT analysis. 11 Farmer Field Schools (92% of the target) have been created, and all of them supported with grants for equipment (100% of the target at MTR). They provided trainings to farmers and tillage/seeding services. FFSs were practicing CA on demo plots. One FFF operated in organic agriculture. The number of farmers trained reached 100% of the target (3,593 out of 3,600), disaggregated in 2,884 men and 709 women. The Conservation Agriculture training of trainers was developed in 2019, after several unsuccessful tenders in 2016 and 2017. The TOT involved 70 participants, from which 11 women.
75. **Outcome 1.2. The institutional capacity and policy environment for climate resilient soil conservation and agriculture practices are enhanced.** This outcome is rated as **Moderately Satisfactory**. The project initiated the procurement processes to hire consultants to develop the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2030) and the National Strategy for Irrigation Sector Development during (2021–2030). However, as the full implementation of the national strategy for agricultural and rural development was passed to RRP, it is yet to be published. The project supported the elaboration of a draft National Program for the development of the aromatic and medicinal plants sector for the period 2020-2030. A number of public awareness material and knowledge products related to conservation agriculture and climate change that are expected to support policymaking at the local and national levels (see Annex 8). As a result, the Government Programme for Land Improvement 2021-2025, adopted in 2020, incorporated measures to prevent and reduce soil erosion including the establishment and rehabilitation of grass cover, shelterbelts, and forest plantations. The project completed the National Irrigation Development Strategy, which was validated by the Parliament Commission. The Project initiated the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2030) and provided support to competent authorities' staff on new EU Regulation on organic production. However, due to time constraints, these studies were passed to the Rural Resilience Project (RRP) and are not yet published.
76. **Outcome 1.3: Information on the CC adaptation and mitigation benefits of conservation agriculture and agro-landscape restoration is made available to increase awareness, generate public support, and disseminate project results.** This outcome is rated as **High Satisfactory**. At the end of the project the impact evaluation report revealed that 93% of the targeted population got a high awareness level about CC risks. The number of Guidelines on best practices for Conservation Agriculture and Climate Change adaptation through sustainable agriculture and agro-landscape restoration developed and disseminated is impressive with more than 20 products.

77. **Outcome 2.1: A set of standard procedures for the successful implementation of CA covering the main crops and agro-climatic zones of Moldova are designed, tested and validated.** This outcome is rated as **Satisfactory**. 11 FFS Production plans, including needs assessments for equipment and technology, have been produced. All of the 11 FFS (100% of the MTR target) got grants to enable farmers to acquire the technical equipment needed for the shift to conservation agriculture. In terms of persons 123 people (154% of MTR target, disaggregated into 112 men and 11 women), received subsidies for CA equipment ranging between \$10,000-15,000. The final evaluation impact report mentions that 100% of the respondents had knowledge on conservative agriculture and they have been aware about positive impact CA have before applying to the grant schemes. 87 % from beneficiaries are using Mini-till, 33% are using No-till and 6 % are using Strip-till.
78. **Outcome 2.2: Agro-landscape resilience to environmental risks is strengthened through the restoration and sustainable use of protective shelterbelts and stripes of pastures.** The outcome is rated as **Satisfactory**. 312.69 hectares (208% of MTR target) protective shelterbelts have been installed. Grants were provided to set up 5 privately owned nurseries (250% of target). 192.56 ha of degraded and marginal grassland have been restored (128% of target) and beneficiaries of grassland restoration at the completion date were 30 (30% of target) including 18 men, 3 women and 9 LPAs. 80% of smallholder farmers joining the NTFP scheme benefited of ad-hoc project investments (equipment, machinery) by the end of the project (4 men, 0 woman).

4. Results

4.1 Sustainability

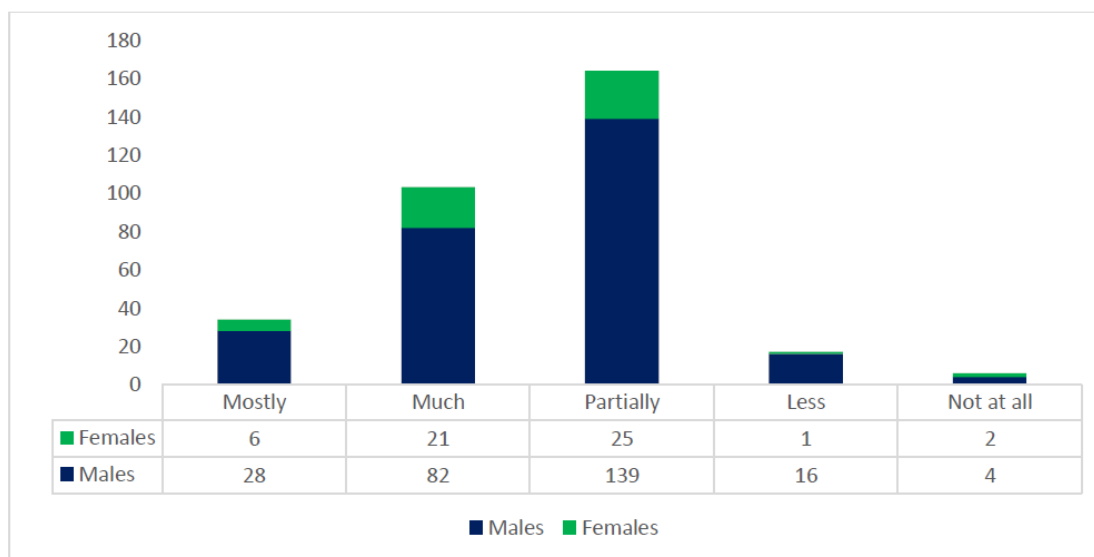
Sustainability	Rating: L
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79. **Institutional sustainability.** The project engaged important activities in view of supporting mainstreaming CA into the relevant national policies. Some institutional supports were successful, others were initiated but did not come to fruition due to institutional changes. Other initiatives were initiated by the project too late and have been transferred to another project after the completion of the IRECR program. In order to assess the institutional sustainability of the project's activities, they must be placed within the framework of the national medium and long-term economic and social priorities. The Government of Moldova has accorded high priority to cooperation with the European Union. The development of organic and conservation agriculture at the national level is an important axis to ensure the conformity of Moldavian agricultural production standards with those of the European Union. This provides a kind of guarantee of continuity of the actions initiated by the GEF-funded project in so strategic matters for the GoM.
80. With the direct support of CPIU IFAD, the MARDE organized in 2017 a Conference entitled "Rational management of soil and water resources in context of the country's food safety". Later on, the Government Programme for Land Improvement 2021-2025, adopted in 2020, incorporates measures to prevent and reduce soil erosion including the establishment and rehabilitation of grass cover, shelterbelts, and forest plantations.
81. With the support of CPIU IFAD, MARDE have amended the Order Number. 79 of 05.04.2016 regarding the requirements and technical specification for the eligible technique applied in the conservative agriculture system.
82. The project supported the elaboration of a draft National Program for the development of the aromatic and medicinal plants sector for the period 2020-2030. This National Program was part of the Action Plan of the MARDE for 2019.

83. Due to public reforms conducted at the end of 2017 MAFI, was reorganized in the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and the Environment (MARDE), by matching three ministries: MAFI, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of regional development, the CPIU IFAD had to cancel bidding conceding the elaboration of Study on CA in support of the foreseen elaboration of a National Strategy on conservation agriculture (CA). In June 2018 the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) requested again the project to conduct a study and to develop a National Strategy on conservation agriculture (CA) but, finally, the MARDE got assistance from an EU project for developing the National Strategy on CA.
84. The Project completed the National Irrigation Development Strategy, which was validated by the Parliament Commission. It also contributed to the development of the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2030) and provided support to competent authorities' staff on new EU Regulation on organic production. However, these studies, except the assignment on EU Regulation on organic production, were passed to the RRP (because they were partially completed at the completion date), and they are yet to be published.
85. In the first half of 2019, project has initiated a tender for selection of services provider to conduct a study and to develop the National Program on production of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) in the conditions of climate change. The National Program was part of the Action Plan of the MARDE for 2019.
86. **Technical sustainability.** The Mid-Term Review Mission, in 2017, noted that conservation farming techniques were being gradually incorporated into the production systems being practised in the country. The Mission noted also that some of the private sector farmers had built on the support provided by the project to further develop their technical capacity to adapt their farming systems to become more climate resilient. The Final Impact Evaluation Report, in January 2020, confirmed this trend by noting the high degree of beneficiary commitment to operate and maintain the investments made under the Project. The survey carried out for the impact evaluation report showed that almost 93% of the respondents reported that they shared the knowledge mostly, much and partially (see figure below), which is a significant factor of sustainability for the project.

Figure 4. Knowledge share by the beneficiaries

%



Source: Final Impact Evaluation Report. January 2020

87. **Need for securing sustainability of investments.** The last supervision reports, as well as the IRECR completion report (March 2021), highlighted the need to ensure the sustainability of climate change resilience investments made for the realization of the shelterbelts and Grass cover, that need to be secured after Project completion. The challenge is to guaranty the maintenance of the shelterbelts after the achievement the project, through contracts including very clear warranty and maintenance requirements. LPAs should include the costs of the second phase of plantation (if needed) and of maintenance of the established shelterbelts for 3 years in their budget (written commitment from LPAs constitutes a prerequisite for investment). In this framework the completion mission was informed that maintenance and protective measures for forest shelterbelts and grass cover will be ensured by LPAs based on the agreements established between CPIU and LPAs.

4.2 Monitoring & Evaluation

4.2.1 M&E design

M&E Design	Rating: S
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88. The IRECR programme set up an efficient M&E system and data collection. The annual data collection process has been based on a survey of project beneficiaries. Specific questionnaires were designed for each of the beneficiary group with a defined a sample size which ensured geographical, activity and gender correspondence with the overall population. Data collection was conducted through direct interaction with project beneficiaries, and collected questionnaires were summed up in SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software) and Excel worksheets.
89. Once the data had been introduced in an online format, using SPSS, preliminary tests were run in order to ensure reliability of data. The database allowed for disaggregation of beneficiaries by gender, type of intervention, land ownership, and types of crops grown and business). For collection of outcome indicators, the CPIU selected in 2015 a local consulting company (CIVIS NGO) to perform the annual data collection.

4.2.2 M&E implementation

M&E Implementation	Rating: S
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90. Since the beginning of the programme and in order to capture the outputs, outcomes and impacts of the intervention, the CPIU has put in place a detailed M&E system. Application packages for each of the support measure have been completed with baseline collection questionnaires that include information about the applicant and its agricultural activity. At the same time, annual follow up questionnaires are being disseminated and collected from existing beneficiaries in order to capture changes post project implementation. In the Farmer Field School activities, expert reports are also used as an M&E tool, focus being made on the expert in economy that analyses the profitability of each demo plot and its productivity.
91. The M&E system put in place allowed for regular monitoring of activities and regular quantification of indicators. This allowed for adjustments to the program when necessary. The data processing also generated geo-referenced maps of the project results such as the geographical distribution of all IRECR beneficiaries of GEF funded activities, of Farmer Field Schools, or of shelterbelts and grass cover intervention (see Annex 2)
92. The M&E Plan elaborated at the design phase has been followed: the inception workshop was organised, The Project implementation Report (PIR) have been produced annually, in addition to the annual supervision mission carried out by IFAD and the terminal impact evaluation

realised by an independent consulting firm. The baseline studies were carried out, while not Within first two months of project start up as initially foreseen.

4.3 Quality of Project Implementation and Execution

4.3.1 Quality of Implementation

Quality of Project Implementation	Rate: MS
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93. The Quality of Project Implementation is rated as **Moderately Satisfactory**. The GEF component was characterized by the wide range of activities. As a result, the number of terms of reference was very high and the bidding process was often unsuccessful. In consideration of the delays in the consumption of the GEF grant, it was decided to develop a specific action plan for the implementation of activities financed by the GEF, the GEF Action Plan. This plan had to be revised a second time in July 2020 to reduce the number of terms of reference from 15 to 6 to ease the procurement process and facilitate implementation.
94. Considering the COVID-19 crisis situation, the delay in implementation and the short time remaining until completion, thorough prioritization was defined and several activities have been dropped at this stage (study tours, SWOT analysis). The priority activities of the updated action plan included to draw lessons and conclusions on the CA production plans and the experiences of the FFS by agro- ecological zones and to produce and disseminate materials, as well as designing a precise assessment protocol to assess the number of hectares brought under climate resilient practices. These last activities were carried out by the project.

4.3.2 Quality of execution

Quality of Project execution	Rating: S
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95. The overall quality of Project execution is rated **Satisfactory**. The overall management of the project lies within the responsibility of the CPIU-IFAD, established by the Government Decree. The CPIU continued to exercise its responsibilities in terms of Programme implementation on technical and financial aspects; procurement under the Program's components as per yearly Annual Work Plan and Budgets (AWPBs); monitoring and evaluation of the IRECR impact in compliance with the Logical framework indicators and other additional indicators. The GEF-funded activities have earlier suffered from lack of expertise and staff turnover, until the current Senior CCRS came into function in 2018. This was followed by the recruitment of a Value Chain Development Specialist early 2019. The team has been further beefed up in 2020 with the recruitment of an Ecological & Land Restoration Specialist.
96. The outstanding and considerable work done since 2018 by the Senior CCRS to achieve the goals is to be appreciated. But it has not made up for all the delays accumulated previously, due to cumbersome administrative and financial procedures, the objective difficulty of finding national expertise in a new field such as conservation agriculture and organic farming, as well as the rigid criteria established for the allocation of GEF grants to potential beneficiaries.

4.4 Progress to Impact

97. In considering the results of the project, it is possible to identify a number of immediate impacts. The final impact evaluation report identified the main immediate impacts of the IRECR program, from which the immediate impact of the GEF component can be drawn.

4.4.1 Immediate impact.

98. The immediate impact of the project can be measured from the analysis of the information produced by the M&E System, supported by the annual impact assessment and the Final Impact Evaluation Report as well.
99. **Rate of adoption of CA technologies.** Capacity building actions, mainly through FFS, and awareness raising on new conservation agriculture technologies had an immediate impact on the adaptation of these technologies by farmers. According to the Final Impact Evaluation Report the traditional agriculture has decreased by 7%, comparing to pre-training period, and the land under CA has increased with 37%.

Table 11 . Land ownership practices

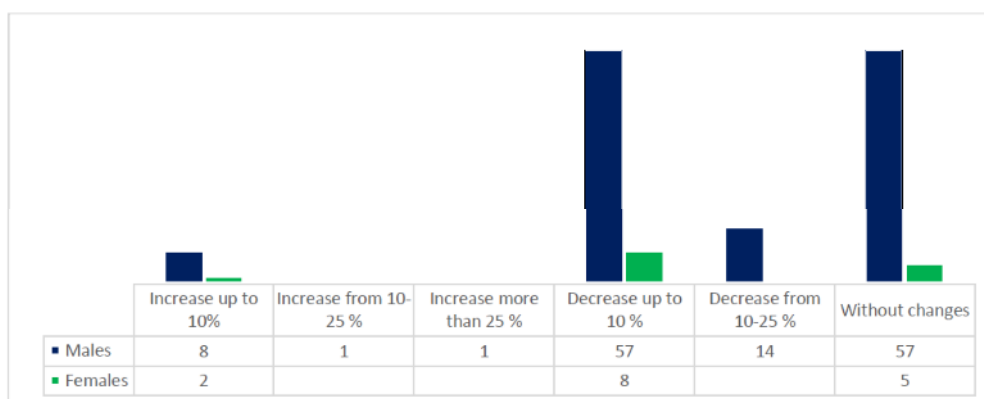
	Indicator	Baseline	2019	Variation	% increase/ decrease
Land (ha)	Traditional Agriculture	272.3	253	-19.3	-7%
	Conservation Agriculture	142.95	196	53.05	37%
	Own	71.76	81	9.24	13%
	Rented	343.49	368	24.51	7%
	People rented	370	333	-37	-10%

*Source: Information consolidated from Annual Reports 2019

100. **Areas under sustainable land management.** Through various conservation agriculture activities under Component 1, 27,146 ha (181% of target) had been brought under climate-resilient practices, including protective shelterbelts, grassland restoration, and adjusted cropping systems.
101. **Impact on soil health.** At least 3,600 of beneficiaries report ability to maintain or increase healthy soil conditions and crops production through CA. 70% of respondents to the 2020 impact assessment have reported increase in the level of weeds, humidity and pests, as a positive impact of CA.
102. **Impact on land productivity and increase of incomes.** It was possible to compare the production of certain crops produced under either conventional or conservation agriculture. The table below shows the clear profitability of CA for crops like Barley and Sunflower. The fact that applying CA can lead to increase in income is confirmed by the 2020 impact assessment. 51% reported increase in income level up to 10% and 18% an increase between 10-25%, 44% reported increase up to 10% of yield per ha and 12% an increase between 10-25%.
103. **Production costs.** It is worth noting that 91% of all respondents to the Final Impact evaluation survey reported that the production cost decrease less than 10% (42% of the respondents) and a decrease between 10-25% (9% of the respondents).

Figure 5. Production cost modification after using CA practices

Figure 5 Production cost modification after using CA practices



104. **Human and social capital.** It should be noted that the number of families reached by the project is not very substantial: 15% of the target of 6140 families. This puts the evaluation of the project impact into perspective, even though the project did not aim to have a direct impact on improving the incomes of small farmers. However, under Component 1, IRECR ensured a capacity development process for the stakeholders to mainstream climate-adaptive activities in Moldova, including silviculture and cultivating shelterbelts trees. The programme delivered training on climate resilient agriculture (mainly through Farmer Field Schools) for farmers and farmer organizations.

4.4.2 Long term impact

105. The new approach introduced in the agriculture practices in Moldova by the GEF funded project, in terms of climate resilience through the promotion of CA and OA, represents a real challenge for the country. Although the long-term impact cannot be measured immediately, some of the project results will certainly contribute to a positive long-term impact (such as the capacity building actions for farmers on CA, carried out through the FFS, or the project contribution to the elaboration of a National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development). On the other hand, some constraints have been identified (such as the administrative heaviness, or the lack of national expertise in this innovative field for the country) and their solution will largely determine the sustainability of the actions undertaken and, therefore, the long-term impact of the project.
106. The transfer of technology and capacity building of beneficiaries through FFS training will have a definite impact on the future use, and expansion, of conservation agriculture. For instance, 52% of respondents plan to increase land under conservation agriculture in the next years. It is expected that this will be an incentive for other farmers to use CA more widely.
107. The awareness campaigns on impact of climate change on the environment and the production of knowledge products developed by the project are an important asset in support to this trend.
108. As mentioned in the IRECR Final Completion Report, the impact of the shelterbelts and grass cover cannot be measured comprehensively because it needs time to have an impact, which could be evaluated in 6-8 years. However, the conditions to ensuring their long-term maintenance seem to be met, and thus expecting an appreciable environmental and economic impact. The continuity of the action beyond the IRECR programme is already secured by the agreements between IRECR and LPAs on maintenance of shelterbelts and grassland restoration. For the establishment/rehabilitation of shelterbelts, the agreements between the CPIU and the LPAs stipulate that the grant is 100% for the first phase of planting, with the second phase (maintenance of the plots) to be covered by the LPAs. In addition, the Government Programme for Land Improvement 2021-2025, adopted in 2020, incorporated measures to prevent and reduce soil erosion including the establishment and rehabilitation of grass cover, shelterbelts, and forest plantations.
109. The identified challenges for securing a long-term impact are mainly the following:

- Project implementation suffered from a lack of national expertise and specialized national service providers, due to the innovative nature of the agricultural practices that the project intended to introduce in Moldova.
- Land size is a limitation for the rate of uptake of CA approach and shelterbelts. Land consolidation is crucial for successful scaling up of climate adaptation techniques.
- The successful results of the GEF funded project with regard to increase in the rate of adoption of CA and OA is mainly due to a clever combination of soft and hard support to beneficiaries (FFS training courses coupled with grants for the purchase of specialized equipment). It is crucial to maintain this kind of support mechanism to sustainably maximize benefits, as highlighted by the IRECR Completion Report).

4.5 Need for follow-up

110. Sustainability of the shelterbelts and grass cover need to be secured after Project completion. Contracts for shelterbelt or grass cover establishment/rehabilitation should be signed between service providers (SPs), LPAs and CPIU before investments in future interventions.
111. Ensure that the studies developed by the project on the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2030), which have been passed to the RRP (because they were partially completed), will be published, and that they will effectively be used to support the government policies.
112. The Study on public pastures management, initiated by the project and passed to RRP, should be implemented in view of completing the commended list of publications and knowledge products produced by the project.

4.6 Gender Concerns

113. The overall performance on gender is rated **Satisfactory**. The GEF project followed IFAD's "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy" to increase the project's impact on gender issues –e.g. improve gender rating for grants' design; improve the proportion of matching grants for women organizations or households headed by women; and to take into account gender consideration in hiring the project staff.
114. The IRECR Programme developed a Gender Action Plan in order to establish a proper gender and women empowerment strategy that contributed to involving women in social and economic life in the target areas. However, the strategies used have not been articulated. The supervision missions recognized that the CPIU has been successful in exceeding its gender targets, although it has not actively used the GAP as a tool. This has been achieved by getting information out to women through utilizing women's networks and through active identification of potential women partners by component specialists.
115. Overall, the IRECR Programme, including the GEF component, exceeded the targets for women participation in project interventions. By the end of 2020, the women participation achieved cumulatively 419% against the appraisal target. For the specific GEF component the results are more impressive: the number of persons having received support from GEF component exceeds from far the appraisal (1255%). This rate corresponds to 941 women out of a total of 3,926 supported under the GEF component.

4.7 Stakeholders Engagement

116. The stakeholders engagement is rated **Satisfactory**. The project has succeeded in building trust and cooperation with key stakeholders through communication and awareness raising, and round-table discussions to figure out the right pathways and ensure long-term impact.

117. The project provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) in the development of different studies needed for feeding the elaboration process of diverse strategies and National Sectoral Plans such as: the National Programme for the development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) Sector for the period 2020-2030. The project worked with the State Agency “Moldsilva” and Forestry Research institute ICAS as it regards the development of design projects for shelterbelts. The Institute of Pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection (IPASP) “Nicolae Dima” continued the annual soil sampling and analysis of chemical, physical and biological properties of soil on demo and control plots of FFSs. The collaboration with National Agricultural Federation “FARM” led to the organization of training seminars on conservative and ecological agriculture issues within the FFS, Conservation Agriculture Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme and development of the Manual on Conservation Agriculture.

4.8 Materialization of co-financing

118. The co-financing turned out to be higher than initially expected. The total cost estimated at appraisal was US\$ 42 million, of which IFAD’s loan (US\$ 16.1 million) and grant (US\$ 0.5 million), DANIDA grant US\$ 5.0 million, beneficiaries US\$ 7.5 million, GoM US\$ 11.0 million, and PFIs US\$ 1.9 million.
119. The total actual costs after project implementation (disbursed and committed till financial closure) was estimated at US\$ 50.8 million financed through IFAD loan amount equivalent to US\$ 14.6 million and IFAD grant with the amount of US\$ 0.2 million (in total IFAD US\$ 14.8 million). The other international contribution is DANIDA grant with total costs about US\$ 4.4 million. The domestic contribution accounts for 58 percent of total project costs, equivalent to US\$ 31.6 million, of which the beneficiaries contribution of about US\$ 18,023million; the Government Contribution of about US\$ 2.6 million; CLD of US\$ 6.5 million and Partner Financial Institutions (PFIs) with total costs of US\$ 2.401 million.
120. The figures highlight the great interest expressed by the beneficiaries for the opportunities the project offered in terms of grants for the CA and OA activities. They thus contributed more than expected to co-finance CA and OA equipment in counterpart to the project's grants.

4.9 Environmental and social safeguards

121. The Fund applies its Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures (SECAP) to formalize the integration of environmental and social issues in its rural development initiatives. The SECAP outlines how IFAD addresses the social, environmental and climate impacts associated with its projects and programmes by:
- Setting a priority to adopt guiding values and principles to promote high social, environmental and climate adaptation benefits;
 - Mainstreaming social, environmental and climate adaptation sustainability considerations into all its activities; and
 - Ensuring effective stakeholder engagement, including a procedure to respond to alleged complaints from project-affected individuals /communities.
122. The IRECR programme included an Environmental and Social Review Note (ESRN) which had been prepared in accordance with IFAD’s Environment and Natural Resource Management Policy prevailing in 2013. During the supervision missions carried out after 2015 the new Social, Environmental and climate assessment procedures (SECAP) requirements were considered during project implementation. Project investments have benefitted from SECAP principles in enhancing social, environmental and climate opportunities and reducing any potential adverse impacts on local communities.

123. CA practices implemented in the Project addressed actual risks and vulnerabilities in Moldova¹ caused by increasing summer temperature, decreasing winter temperature, a shift in annual precipitation levels, and increasing heavy rainfall events. CA practices promoted by the Project contributed to biodiversity conservation (e.g. in soil) and reduced biochemical use. Furthermore, following conservation agriculture principles, the planting of degraded land with shelterbelts and introducing grass cover made agriculture production more resilient to climate change. There is broad adherence to SECAP requirements, and its compliance principles have been reiterated in the PIM.
124. The Project Implementation Manual (PIM) specified that commercial banks must ensure the compliance of beneficiaries with standards and legislative norms on environmental protection. Besides, the PIM for financing micro-entrepreneurs and individuals also specified that only eligible borrowers responding to the terms and conditions of individual loans could access loans. Borrowers must carry on their activities according to normative and legislative acts, have no negative impact on the environment, and comply with legal acts and standards concerning environmental protection and principles of environmental impact assessment and have no negative impact on the environment. The guidelines, checklists and mitigation plans were included in the climate change mainstreaming ToRs.
125. During the preparation of the feasibility studies and detailed designs, environmental and social assessments were carried out to prepare environmental and social management plans for each sub-project, including potential social, environmental, and mitigation measures. The CPIU and the Primaries (municipalities) ensured that the selected enterprises and infrastructure schemes do not generate any adverse consequences for the environment or the natural resource base.
126. The project has reacted well to the COVID-19 crisis by working with the IFAD 2020 mission to prioritize activities. As a result of this exercise, some activities such as international tours were dropped. In addition, the CPIU has also held virtual trainings/meetings where possible to avoid delays to some crucial activities under component 1. IFAD as well has opted for remote online missions for the 2020 supervision as well as the 2021 completion mission and the CIPU has spared no effort to cooperate with these missions.
127. Having adaptation to climate change as a core project objective, IRECR has mainstreamed a climate-smart approach throughout its activities, supported by the GEF grant. The adaptation interventions designed by the project were suitable to the current and projected climate change impacts on the agriculture sector in Moldova and provide a good basis for upscaling.
128. Practices under component 1 of IRECR promoted efficient management of natural resources through implementing forest restoration plans for protective shelterbelts, restoring degraded and marginal grassland and adopting conservation agriculture through FFSs. Beyond the GEF subcomponent, the other components of the IRECR programme proven to improve natural resources management and boost productivity as well as increase the incomes of target beneficiaries.
129. With regard to the social and economic impact, the majority of the respondents reported an increase in their incomes. Around 51% of the respondents mentioned that the income was up to 10% growth. Only 5% reported an increase of over 25% of their income. However, it is noteworthy that CA practices do not generate an immediate impact on the entity income, and the income growth also depends on the types and complexity of used CA practices. Another interesting indicator is the level of fuel consumption. Over half of the respondents reported that the level of fuel consumption decreases to 10% (45% of the respondents) and 10-25% (39%). Overall, 52% of respondents plan to increase land under conservation agriculture in the following years, on average 118 ha.

¹ Remote sensing climate and environmental trends assessment 1960-2017. IFAD, 2018.

4.10 Lessons Learned and best practices

130. The key lessons that could be drawn from the GEF project are the following:
131. Activities and concepts introduced for the first time, such as the new climate change resilience component, would require at the start of the project more assistance to the CPIU on guiding, training, modelling for starting activities. This stage would require support of international experts having a sound knowledge of similar projects as well as the experience of implementing such innovative projects in similar conditions than Moldavia.
132. The Farmer-Field- School concept has proven to be one of the best tools for demonstrating the long-term economic and environmental benefits of CA and organic farming. However, their success was only possible because the project had the capacity to provide, upon request, adequate financial support to beneficiaries to equip themselves to use new CA and OA technologies, as well as the capacity to provide interventions appropriate to their local production systems. The projects must therefore be able to respond to the needs of small farmers along the entire production chain if these new technologies to be applied effectively.
133. There is a need to integrate conservation agriculture and organic farming principles into national legislation and sectoral plans in view of establishing land management norms that allow for climate change adaptation and improved production. However, the government should supplement the implementation of these new norms with adapted financial and technical support mechanisms that would draw on the lessons of the GEF project.
134. The experience of the project shows that when smallholder farmers are targeted, they can be effectively reached to enhance their conservation agriculture practices. However, there is need to thoroughly assess at design stage the capabilities and production means of the smallholder producers for higher adoption of innovations, which are usually risky and beyond their means. This was the case of CA (Zero tillage, shelterbelts, etc.), where smallholder farmers showed some reluctance in consolidating their land.
135. IFAD supervision and implementation support missions could avoid as much as possible the tendency to propose a large number of recommendations per mission. Moreover, IFAD supervision and implementation support missions could avoid as much as possible, high turnover of experts to maintain continuity in implementation support and minimize cases of controversial recommendations.
136. There is a need to set up right from design stage clear and detailed implementation arrangements for co-financing grants managed by IFAD. Comprehensive PIM for GEF-related activities should be drafted right from project design, in order to avoid lengthy and sometimes contradictory amendments that would then be requested each time a new mission comes. Indeed, since the IRECR MTR, the various missions have reiterated agreed actions on the PIM to fine-tune implementation modalities of GEF-funded interventions in line with Project targets. A clear section in the PIM from the Start-up of the Project will allow better implementation and disbursement of the GEF grant and reduce or avoid time-consuming processes.

5. Partnerships

137. The partnership is rated **Satisfactory**. Strong cooperation and partnership have been developed under IRECR and, in particular, within the Component 1, with regard to Conservation agriculture and Organic Agriculture. Thus, the CPIU IFAD built a good cooperation with People in Need NGO for promotion of organic agriculture (OA) promoted within the FFS.
138. The collaboration continued with the State Agency "Moldsilva" and Forestry Research institute ICAS as it regards the development of design projects for shelterbelts. CPIU established also a partnership with the Research Institute for Field Crops "Selectia" to promoting sustainable agriculture, including conservation agriculture. A good partnership was established with the

National Agricultural Federation “FARM” for organization of training seminars on conservative and ecological agriculture.

6. Recommendations

139. The wide range of lessons learned, and knowledge generated from IRECR should guide the implementation modalities of the ongoing and future investment programmes under IFAD or GoM funding, particularly in addressing climate change through conservation agriculture.
140. Based on the project results with regard to the development of national capacities, establish and develop a network of experts on CA and OA matters, in order to strengthen national competencies in this area and to provide experienced service providers.
141. MAFI should build on and enhance the technical guidelines produced by the project in order to mainstream conservation agriculture into all government development programs aimed at reducing producers' vulnerability to climate change.
142. The Farmer Field Schools (FFS) should be made permanent and used by the Department as a tool to promote CA and OA practices in the country.
143. CPIU to ensure the completion of activities transferred to the ongoing Rural Resilience Project (RRP), such as the finalisation of the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2030)

Annex 1. Terms of Reference of the Consultant

Recruitment of International expert for development of the GEF Terminal Evaluation Report (TER)

1. Background

The IRECR Program, co-funded (4.26 million USD) by the Global Environmental Fund (FGM) and implemented in 2014 - 2021 by the Consolidated Unit for Project Implementation (UCIP) of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is designed to contribute to farmer's climate change adaptation. Particular attention in the Program is given to the development and implementation of high-performance technologies in agriculture and sustainable soil management, with a positive impact on ecosystems. The restoration of the natural vegetal cover and the productivity of the soil contributes to increasing the resilience to climate change of rural communities, agricultural lands and ecosystems at the level of agricultural landscapes.

The Project provided support to private farmers and Local public authorities for establishment and rehabilitation of shelterbelts and forest plantation on degraded land. Additional support it is provided to local forest nurseries for improvement of planting material quality, forest policy assessment and for capacity development. This activities are implemented in cooperation with Program partners and service providers: Primaries, Forest Research and Management Institute(ICAS), Faculty of forestry of the State Agrarian University, State agency Moldsilva, and consulting companies.

The project has three core components:

Component 1: Climate Change Resilience and Inclusive Value Chains

The overall purpose of Component 1 is to enhance the resilience, inclusiveness and adaptive capacity of agribusinesses in value chains to climate change through the introduction of climate-resilient agriculture practices and technologies, and the promotion of selected value chains that can demonstrate inclusiveness of the rural poor. The component activities were finance mainly from GEF funds.

Component 2: Inclusive Rural Finance and Capacity development

The component shall enhance access to financial services for the Target Population through banking and non-banking financial institutions to serve rural micro, small and medium enterprises and young entrepreneurs. The Component includes two Sub-Components:

(2.1) *Financing of Agricultural and Rural Investments*; to provide investment financing facilities to rural entrepreneurs through four financing facilities:

- * financing of rural-based small and medium enterprises' agricultural investments;
- * financing of rural-based young entrepreneurs;
- * financing of rural-based micro-entrepreneur's investments and
- * financial provision of a loan portfolio guarantee scheme to Saving and Credit Associations for their investment loans, facilitated by a credit guarantee fund.

(2.2) *Capacity Development within the SCA Sector*, to support three key areas:

- * capacity development support offered to B and A-licensed SCAs;
- * assistance to SCA apex organizations;

Component 3: Infrastructure for Rural Resilience and Growth. Increase rural economic growth through infrastructure development by strengthening the rural sector's resilience against the increased frequency and depth of climatic and economic shocks, and enabling rural producers to increase production, shorten transportation time from farm to market, lower transaction costs, diversify production and engage in higher value chains that demands predictability of delivery.

The project completion date is 31.03.2021 and CPIU-IFAD intends to recruit an International Consultant to Prepare the IRECR terminal evaluation report in line with the Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full Sized Projects.

2. Duties and Responsibilities Dates of assignment:	Apr 2021 – September 2021
Tot. no. of working days:	24
Expected Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a comprehensive and systematic account of the performance of the GEF-funded IRECR by assessing its design, implementation, and achievement of objectives; ▪ Review all project documents and reports and collect all information deemed necessary to understand and analyse the project implementation achievements and failures, management and implementation capacities, structure and sustainability; ▪ Prepare the IRECR terminal evaluation report in line with the Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full Sized Projects, which includes sections on General Information, Project Theory of Change, Assessment of Project Results, Outputs, Outcomes, Sustainability, Progress to Impact, Assessment of Monitoring & Evaluation Systems, Assessment of Implementation and Execution, Other Assessments and Lessons and Recommendations; ▪ Address any comments raised by the GEF Independent Office of Evaluation on the draft Terminal Evaluation Report; ▪ If necessary and related to the GEF-funding, undertake any other task assigned by the IFAD Country Director.

Annex 2 Georeferenced sites

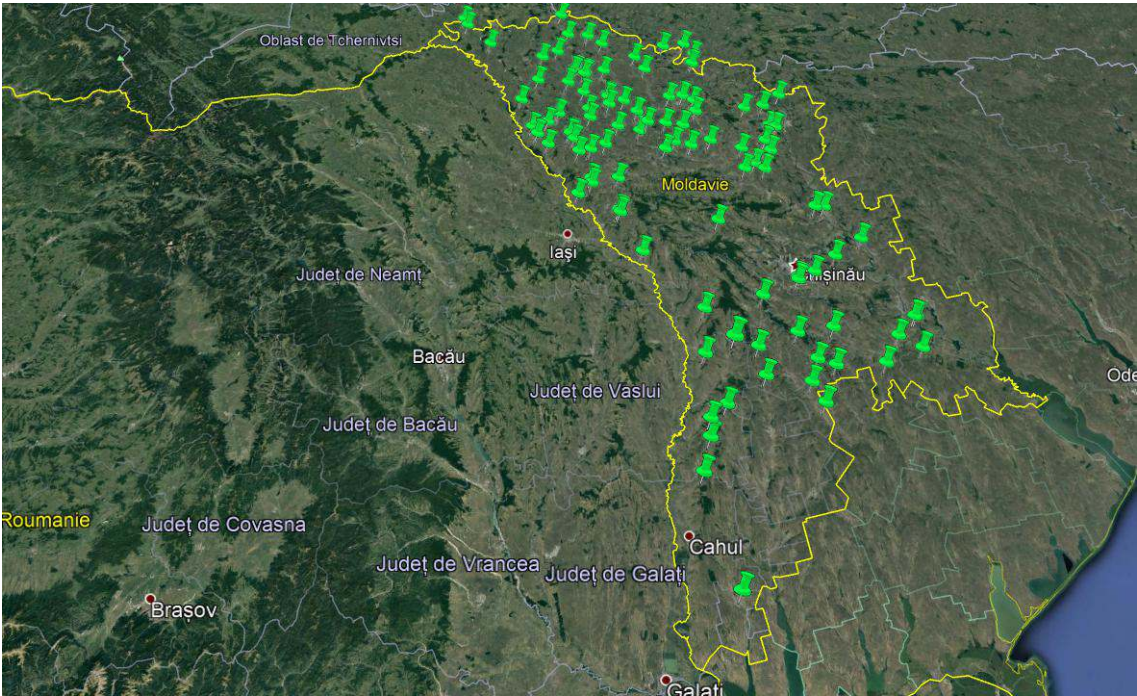


Figure 6 Geographical distribution of CA grants beneficiaries

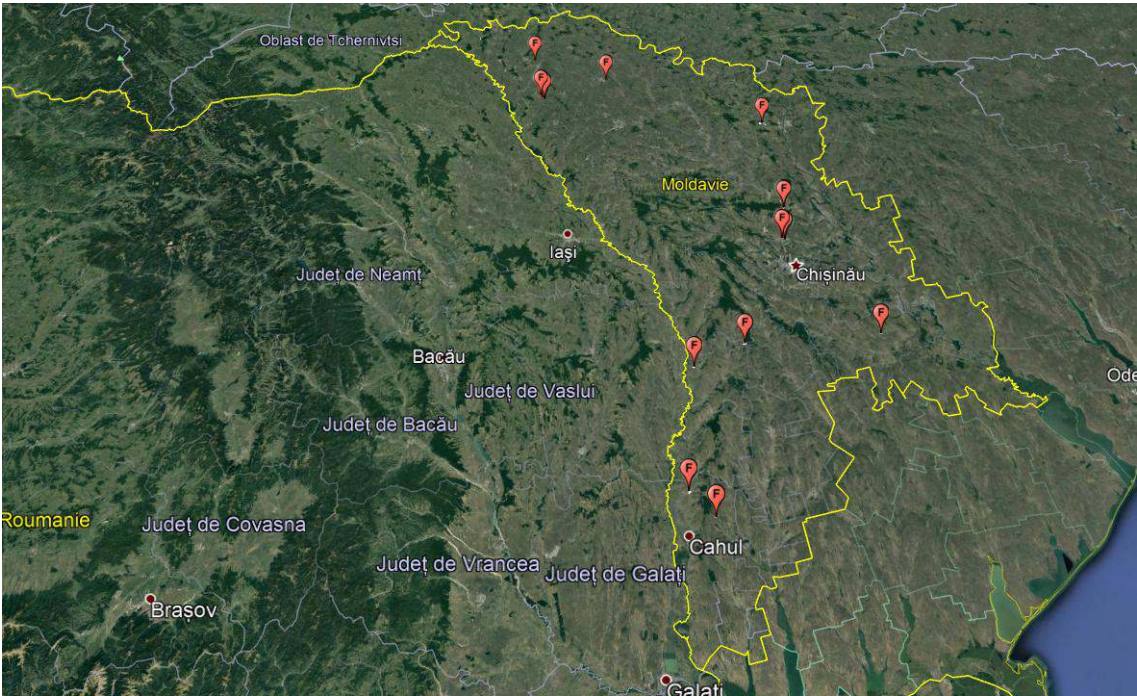


Figure 7 Geographical distribution of Farmer Field Schools

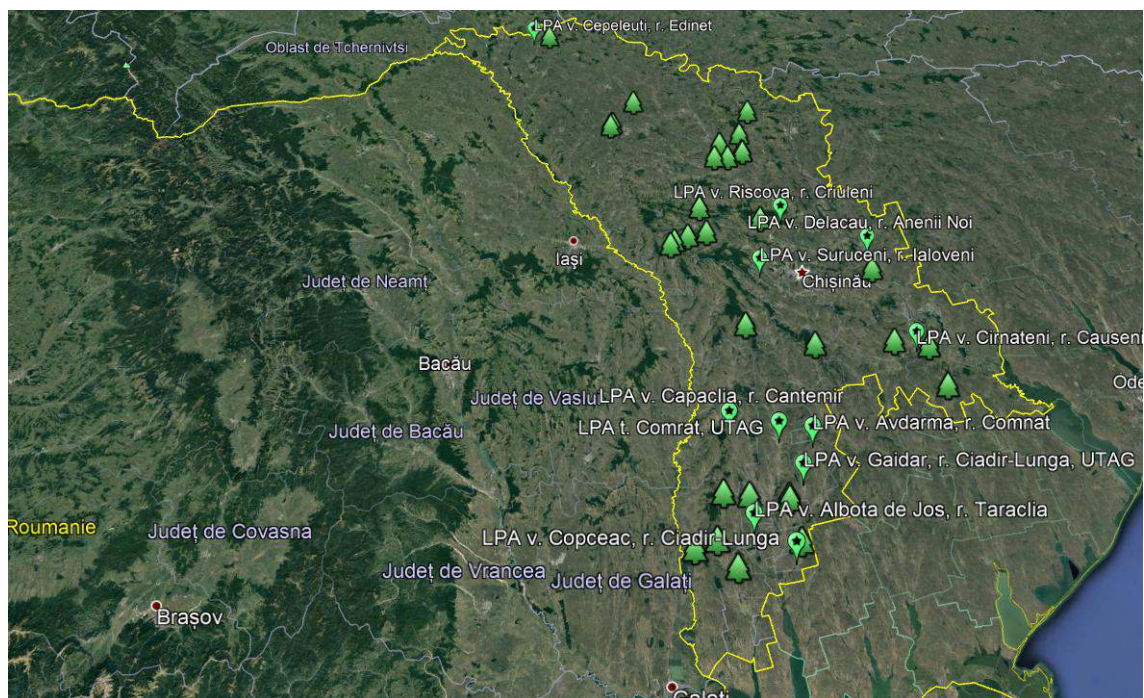


Figure 8 Geographical distribution of shelterbelts interventions

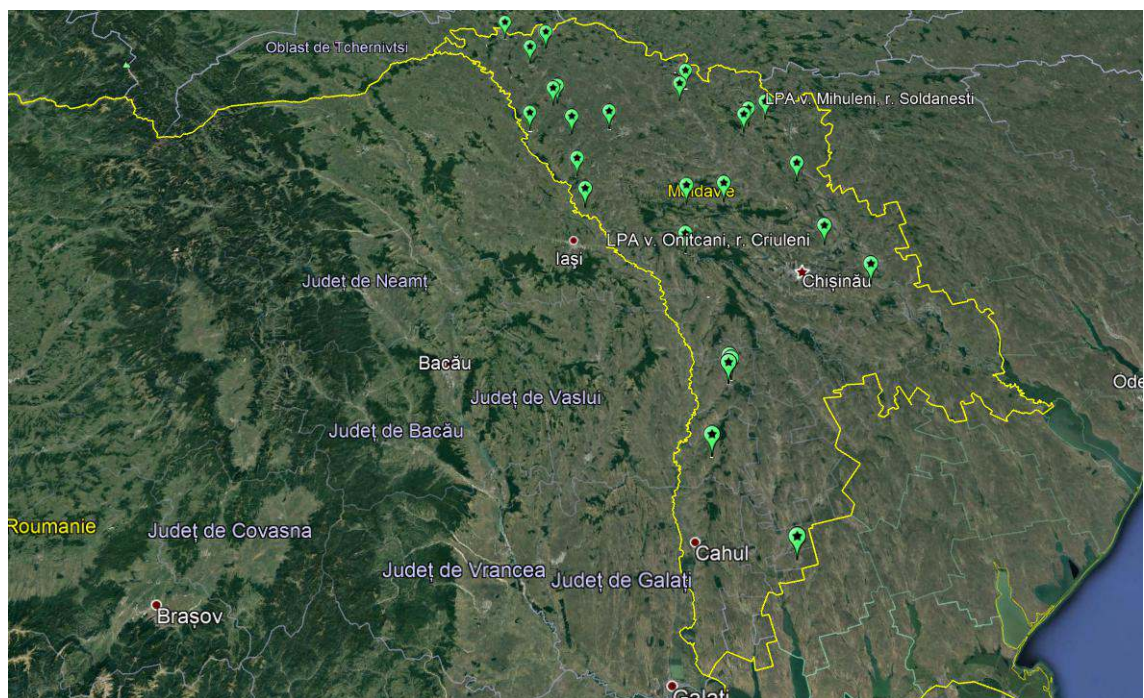


Figure 9 Geographical distribution of grass cover interventions

Annex 3 Agenda of the mission and list of persons met

List of people met/interviewed: All stakeholders were met remotely due to Covid19 travel restrictions to the country (CPIU, Partners, beneficiaries: see below) .

Mission Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Participants
19 April 2021	10:00	PCR mission meeting: Brain storming and consultation Mission objectives Roles and responsibilities Questionnaire approach Schedule and reporting	IFAD mission members : Bejaoui, Samir s.bejaoui@ifad.org Marzano De Marinis, Marco m.marzano@ifad.org Abdoui, Abdelhamid a.abdoui@ifad.org Youssef, Saad youssef.saad@gmail.com Youssef Brahimi y.brahimi@gmail.com dajanagrandic@yahoo.com Abdel Monem, Tarek t.abdelmonem@ifad.org Vitorino Carvalho, Ana a.vitorinocarvalho@ifad.org Kim, Sooyeon soo.kim@ifad.org James, Sengul s.james@ifad.org
20 April 2021	10:00	Meeting with CPIU: Objective of PCR mission Overview of Programme achievements Mission schedule and milestones identification.	IFAD mission members and CPIU staff IFAD Mission Team + Victor: victor.rosca@ucipifad.md Svetlana: svetlana.brumarel@ucipifad.md Elena: elena.burlacu@ucipifad.md Ludmila: ludmila.gofman@ucipifad.md Ghenadie: ghenadie.sandu@ucipifad.md Alexandru: alexandru.anton@ucipifad.md Victor, (Eng.): victor.cervatiuc@ucipifad.md Victor, (CCRS): victor.sfecla@ucipifad.md Vitalie: vitalie.ababii@ucipifad.md Nadedja: nadejda.russu@ucipifad.md Nicolae: nicolae.babara@ucipifad.md Mihaela: mihaela.cojocaru@ucipifad.md
20-25 April 2021	Daily	Desk review of reports and inter-mission members discussions	IFAD mission members
20-30 April 2021	Daily	Interaction with CPIU and data collection and validation	IFAD mission members and CPIU staff
24 April 2021	10:00	Mission discussion of findings and ratings	IFAD mission members
27 April 2021	10:00	Finalisation of PCR AM	IFAD mission members

Date	Time	Event	Participants
30 April 2021	10:00	Wrap up/workshop meeting	IFAD mission members, CPIU staff, national partners and stakeholders
2 May 2021	NA	Remote survey of selected sample of beneficiaries	CPIU
1-12 May 2021	Daily	Finalisation of PCR report	IFA mission members

Appendix 4: Final wrap-up/stakeholder workshop findings

The PCR team presented through a virtual wrap up/workshop the key features of IRECR Programme and the main findings of the mission, including the proposed ratings on all key areas assessed by the mission. The objectives of the workshop were to validate mission's findings, enrich them with the feedback from relevant stakeholders, ensure alignment and ownership of national counterparts on the overall assessment of the IRECR programme.

During the workshop Government Representative (IFAD Governor) reiterated GoM high appreciation and satisfaction with IFAD support in favour of the rural poor. The CD expressed IFAD satisfaction with the good performance of the portfolio and assured the continued support through on-going two projects as well as future investments to be jointly identified by IFAD and the GOM. Following representation of the mission findings, observations and recommendations, the participants discussed all elements reported in the Aide Memoire. Overall, the workshop/wrap up participants praised mission work and expressed their concurrence with findings and recommendations. They considered the Programme support insufficient and recommended additional support through other IFAD-funded investment projects.

In addition to IFAD CD, PTL, PAs and mission members the following national stakeholders actively participated in the validation wrap-up Workshop.

Table. IRECR Project Completion Validation Workshop - List of Participants

nr	Name	Position
1	Machidon Mihail	State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova
2	Anatolie Fala	National Agency for Rural Development (ACSA)
3	Dumitru Stratan	Inspiro Consulting, executive director
4	Anatol Palade	ProConsulting, director
5	Galina Covas	Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Industry and Construction CB "Moldindconbank" JSC, Chief Economist of the Department IFI resources and corresponding relations with Treasury Department
6	Alina Petrov	Mobiasbanca –OTP Group, Manager International Financial Institutions
7	Lilia Vrabie	BC Moldova Agroindbank SA, Head of SME Sales and Special Resources Management Direction
8	Vasilina Sumer	Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Industry and Construction CB "Moldindconbank" JSC, Head of IFI resources & Correspondent relations
9	Svetlana Armasu	Mobiasbanca –OTP Group, Head of Section Relationship with IFI's
10	Rusu Oxana	Deputy Chief, State Treasury
11	Negruta Eugenia	External Assistance Management Project Office (EAMPO), Expert principal
12	Maria Vilcu	External Assistance Management Project Office (EAMPO), Expert principal
13	Victor Rosca	CPIU IFAD, Director
14	Svetlana Burmarel	CPIU IFAD, Financial Manager
15	Elena Burlacu	CPIU IFAD, Financial Services and Rural Development Manager

16	Ludmila Gofman	CPIU IFAD, Climate Resilience Senior Specialist
17	Mihaela Cojocaru	CPIU IFAD, Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist
18	Nadejda Russu	CPIU IFAD, Procurement Specialist
19	Daniela Bogus	CPIU IFAD, Accountant
20	Natalia Manea	CPIU IFAD, Financial Services and Rural Development specialist
21	Inga Covalciuc	CPIU IFAD, Financial Services and Rural Development specialist
22	Ghenadie Sandu	CPIU IFAD, Value Chain Development Coordinator
23	Nicolae Babara	CPIU IFAD, Procurement Specialist
24	Alexandru Anton	CPIU IFAD, M&E Senior Specialist
25	Olesea Mahnovschi	CPIU IFAD, M&E Specialist
26	Vitalie Ababii	CPIU IFAD, Climate Resilience Specialist
27	Victor Sfecla	CPIU IFAD, Climate Resilience Specialist
28	Victor Cervatiuc	CPIU IFAD, Infrastructure Projects Development Specialist
29	Ecaterina Mihalcean	CPIU IFAD, Infrastructure Specialist
30	Aliona Cara - Rusnac	CPIU IFAD, Legal Consultant
31	Alla Guban	CPIU IFAD, Programe Assistant

Appendix 5: Remote questionnaire to beneficiaries

Given Covid19 travel restrictions, the mission could not travel to the country to meet directly programme beneficiaries. Instead the mission urged the CPIU to select a sample of Programme beneficiaries (smallholder producers, rural women, young entrepreneurs). They were asked the following questions to collect their views on Programme support.

Questionnaire:

- As a smallholder farmer beneficiary what is your degree of satisfaction with Programme support on a scale of 10 (1 not satisfied, 10 highly satisfied)
- As a woman beneficiary what is your degree of satisfaction with Programme support on a scale of 10 (1 not satisfied, 10 highly satisfied)
- As a young entrepreneur beneficiary what is your degree of satisfaction with Programme support on a scale of 10 (1 not satisfied, 10 highly satisfied)
- Would you (as a smallholder) consider land consolidation with neighbour farmers to apply CA techniques?
- for shelterbelts beneficiaries: how do you foresee maintenance of shelterbelts in the future?
- for Conservation Agriculture equipment's beneficiaries: do you need other kinds of support to continue developing CA activities?
- Do you have another source of income that helped you cope with COVID 19 and climate change
- For the targeted beneficiaries (SME, ME or YEs): was loan size sufficient? Did you pay the loan on time? if not why?
- Did you manage to increase income . If yes, how much increase?
- What type of support you would want in the future to improve your income and build resilience to climate change?

Survey main findings:

YE, SMEs, SEs

- 40% satisfied, 60% very satisfied with programme support.
- 98% paid back their loans on time.
- 100% have no other source of income
- 50% believe the loan size was not sufficient to meet their financial requirements.
- More support on equipment and technologies for production and processing, grants and higher loan sizes.

CA beneficiaries:

- 98% very satisfied with programme support
- 98% have no other sources of income
- 98% do not accept consolidating their land with neighbours for zero tillage CA
- 100% need more support on subsidies for CA and access to markets.

LPAs beneficiaries

- 100% very satisfied with programme support.
- 100% need additional shelters and small-scale irrigation systems
- Maintenance: need involvement of end users in O&M , apply and enforce penalties on intruders violating contract with LPAs.

Annex 6: Project Result Framework

Hierarchy of Objectives	Key Performance Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
SCCF Goal Enhancing the adaptive capacity of farmers to climate change through resilient agricultural approaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trends in integrity and degree of resilience of agriculture ecosystems - RIMS level 3 indicators: persons receiving project services and inventory of household assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project M&E system. - Assessments of soil conservation and crop production under CA and OA at mid-term and project completion. - Household income and expenditure surveys. - RIMS impact survey questionnaire (baseline and final) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political and economic stability in Moldova. - Adequate knowledge, tools, equipment available. - Commitment of all concerned actors.
SCCF Objective Improve agriculture productivity and soil protection through sustainable agriculture and land restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 3,600 of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender and age) report ability to maintain or increase healthy soil conditions and crops production through CA. - Innovative solutions for climate-resilient farm production promoted among 550 smallholder farmers (disaggregated by gender and age). - Climate-resilient sustainable land restoration practices introduced to promote food security in approx. 2,100 farm plots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project M&E system. - Progress reports, mid-term and final evaluations. - Contracts and agreements. - Publications and other awareness and training tools - Feedback from users and stakeholders. - Articles and media footage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerned Ministries, local institutions, and private landowners are strongly committed to address negative impacts of CC on agriculture and soil conservation. - Appropriate technology and means available in a timely fashion. - Local capacity can be built adequately.
Output	Activity and Key Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
1. An enabling environment for climate-resilient agriculture is created			
Outcome 1.1: The adaptive capacity of farmers and other practitioners to cope with climate change risks in agriculture production and agrolandscape restoration is enhanced / Contributes to CCA-1			
1.1.1. A ground mapping exercise on CA and agrolandscape restoration is carried out, leading to the production of a validated national report and implementation guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report produced, featuring the results of the ground mapping exercise. - Assessment report produced, including SWOT analysis of CA worldwide and recommendations for the Moldovan context. - Two multi-stakeholder national conferences organized in Y1 and Y4, on CC and the agriculture sector in Moldova. - Assessment report and recommendations validated by key stakeholders during the first national conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mid-term and final project evaluations - Reports of conferences and field visits - Validated report and set of guidelines - Media footage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of good expertise, transferable lessons, and knowledge. - Commitment and willingness of target beneficiaries to join the CB programme. - Project team has access to information and data and is capable of using it to design effective programme. - The MAFI and other key governmental bodies maintain their active support throughout the programme.

1.1.2 A training programme is designed and implemented to build the capacity of providers of services who will work with project beneficiaries throughout Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training-of-the-Trainers (TOT) modules designed and developed. - Four training courses led by international experts targeting 40 trainers from extension organizations, academia, research and CSO/NGO on the benefits and procedures to adopt CA in Moldova, based on Moldovan and international good practices. - Specific knowledge tools developed and disseminated among training centres, in Moldovan language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training modules - Minutes and feedback from TOT - Training tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment and willingness of target beneficiaries to join the CB programme. - Project team has access to information and data and is capable of using it to design effective programme.
1.1.3 At least 3,600 farmers participate in 12 FFS on-farm training throughout the five agro-climatic zones of Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoU signed with 12 farming leaders (4 per each agro-climatic zone) for the set up of long-term trials to test CA management components, and "school farms" to train smallholder farmers. - Twelve learning-by-doing annual programmes for practitioners organized in the school farms, involving about 3,600 farmers (100 per FFS per 3 years), and at least 30 extension agents, 20 researchers and 20 CSO staff (disaggregated by gender and age). - Formal or informal CA Farmers Organisations set up, for the promotion and expansion of CA in Moldova. - 8 study tours to visit good practices on CA and agrolandscape restoration in neighbouring countries, organized for 80 participants from public administration, extension organizations, farmers, researchers, and NGO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contracts and agreements with Farming Leaders - Agendas and minutes of training programmes - Tools produced - Feedback from users and beneficiaries - Reports from tours and feedback from participants - Agendas of the visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farming leaders exist and are willing to join the project - Smallholders are interested in the CB programme and capable of attending - MAFI support is ensured - Best practices and good examples are readily available and willing to host learning visits. - Target groups are willing to join this CB exercise
Outcome 1.2 The institutional capacity and policy environment for climate resilient soil conservation and agriculture practices are enhanced / Contributes to CCA-1			
1.2.1. A policy process is triggered, to boost CA adoption, mainstream CA into rural development and planning, and support small-scale private agro-forestry investments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy review assessment completed and disseminated, including gap analysis of existing legislation and rules, mainstreaming and cross-compliance, incentives and subsidies. - National seminars organised by MAFI to present and discuss results of the policy assessment, incorporating lessons from the field demonstration actions, and involving all concerned actors (governmental staff, researchers, CSO representatives, extension associations, farmers associations). - Draft and final versions of paper on adaptation of the rural sector to CC in Moldova prepared, validated, and disseminated. - Committed set up within Moldovan government for the implementation of the recommendations of the paper, with the support of IFAD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy papers - Minutes from meetings and seminars - Pieces of new legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firm commitment and cooperation of MAFI and all other relevant governmental institutions to the process. - Project team is capable of steering process and successfully negotiate with, and support MAFI

Outcome 1.3: Information on the CC adaptation and mitigation benefits of sustainable agriculture and agrolandscape restoration is made available to increase awareness, generate public support for CA, and disseminate project results / Contributes to CCA-1			
1.3.1. The public awareness about CC- risks and adaptation needs in agriculture and agro-forestry is strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement reached and signed between project team and Moldovan CSO/NGOs for the joint implementation of awareness campaign. - Awareness materials designed, disseminated and used by project partners. - Baseline and post-project surveys prepared and carried out. - At least 50% of surveys show increased awareness on CA among target beneficiaries of the campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoU, minutes of meetings - Awareness materials - Pictures, articles, video footage and other communication tools - Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The projects secures active collaboration of appropriate partners - Media and communication actors eager to collaborate - The general public in Moldova is receptive on issues of CC and CA
1.3.2. Guidelines on best practices for CA and CC adaptation through sustainable agriculture and agrolandscape restoration are developed and disseminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Folder and practical manuals produced, published and disseminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materials and publications. - Feedback from users and recipients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project generates enough information, lessons learned and case studies to produced worthy publications. - Final users and recipients are interested in the materials
2. Agriculture production through climate-resilient investments is enhanced			
Outcome 2.1: A set of standard procedures for the successful implementation of CA covering the main crops and agro-climatic zones of Moldova are designed, tested and validated/ Contributes to CCA-2			
2.1.1. CA production plans are finalised, implemented and validated, covering different crops and agro-climatic conditions in 12 demonstration trials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twelve production plans developed and implemented, involving lead farmers, and experts from farmers' associations, extension organizations, research/academia, CSO, and public administration. - Work plan for MAFI support to the implementation of the plans agreed and implemented - Standard procedures produced, validated and disseminated for CA implementation including all main crops and agro-climatic zones of Moldova - At least 550 beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender and age) report improvements in agriculture soil conditions, crop production and income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress reports - Production plans - Contracts and agreements. - Standard procedures stemming from the project work - Materials and articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local farmers and MAFI are willing and capable to become involved. - Suitable crop varieties and adequate know-how and inputs available in Moldova or other countries. - The project can secure the technical capacity needed for plan design - Good team spirit and collaboration attitude prevail among project partners
2.1.2. Investments are made to provide farmers with CA technical equipment that can be tested and modified to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment grants negotiated and agreed with Leader farmers - Equipment grant negotiated and agreed with research institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress reports - Contracts and agreements - List of materials and equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local beneficiaries are willing and capable of accessing grants and implementing work plans. - Required equipment and materials are available and provided to users in a

2.1.3. Post-training support is provided to empower smallholders and encourage the expansion of CA.	- Post-training grant scheme created and governance rules agreed and disseminated	- 2.1.3. Post-training support is provided to empower smallholders and encourage the expansion of CA.	- Post-training grant scheme created and governance rules agreed and disseminated
Outcome 2.2: Agro-landscape resilience to environmental risks is strengthened through the restoration and sustainable use of protective shelterbelts and stripes of pastures / Contributes to CCA-2			
2.2.1. Protective shelterbelts are established in at least 200 hectares of degraded and marginal agriculture land in the central and southern agro-climatic zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline survey of protective shelterbelts carried out for central/south part of the country. - Validation workshop organised in Chisinau, Restoration Working Group set up and 200 hectares of plots selected. - Shelterbelt restoration plans integrating CC adaptation measures developed by Y2 in all intervention zones and finalised by Y4. - Two privately owned nurseries for the production of native trees, shrubs and herbs set up and operational by the end of the project, and providing direct and indirect women employment. - Climate-resilient shelterbelt restoration practices introduced to enhance food and commercial security in 2,000 farms have increase women employment and living conditions of at least 50% of farms (disaggregated by gender and age). - Shelterbelt restoration has contributed to livelihood improvement opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shelterbelt Restoration Plans. - Mid-term and final project evaluations - Field monitoring surveys - Agreements and memoranda of understanding - Restored plots - Nurseries - Technical kit - Communication materials, articles, video footage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The involvement of local farmers and communities enthusiastic and unrestricted. - Local stakeholders appreciate potential of ecological restoration approaches to adapt to impacts of CC. - Planning exercise carried out effectively and timely. - The project is capable of provided all the needed support, TA and investments in atimely fashion.
2.2.2 At least 200 hectares of strips of pastures in degraded and marginal grasslands are restored, in private land holdings and communal properties in the central and southern agro-climatic zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline survey of the status of steppe grasslands in the project intervention areas of the central and southern agro-climatic zones carried out by mid-Y1. - Validation workshops held, work teams in place, and 200 hectares of restoration grassland plots selected. - Restoration and management developed by end of Y1 in all intervention zones and implemented by Y4. - Technical kit on grassland restoration in agro-landscapes produced and disseminated by the end of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland Restoration Plans. - Mid-term and final project evaluations - Field monitoring surveys - Agreements and memoranda of understanding - Restored plots - Technical kit - Communication materials, articles, video footage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The involvement of local farmers and communities enthusiastic and unrestricted. - Local stakeholders appreciate potential of ecological restoration approaches to adapt to impacts of CC. - Planning exercise carried out effectively and timely. - The project is capable of provided all the needed support, TA and investments in atimely fashion.

<p>2.2.3 Pilot, small-scale value chains for the production and marketing of shelterbelt plant products are developed as a by-product of the restoration work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-scale NTFP value chains are set up in at least 30% of restoration plots by the end of the project. - Smallholder farmers joining the NTFP scheme are adequately trained by Y2 of the project. - At least 80% of smallholder farmers joining the NTFP scheme benefit of ad-hoc project investments (equipment, machinery) by the end of the project (disaggregated by gender and age). - Increase in revenue diversification rate - 80% of beneficiaries participating in NTFP demonstration initiatives have increased their revenues by Y4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NTFP production and marketing plans. - Mid-term and final project evaluations - Field monitoring surveys - Agreements and memoranda of understanding - Baseline and final income surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local farmers are willing to collaborate and initiate new NTFP value chains. - The project is capable of provide adequate TA and investment to support farmers. - A market for the produce of the value chains exists in Moldova
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Annex 7: Exit action plan

Table 5. Exit action plan for Sub-component 1

Scale-up outputs	Action	Period	Responsible	Scale-up recommendations
Farmer Field Schools sustainability	Finalize the agreement for FFS “Pascurov Iurie”	December 2020	CPIU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue technical and financial support of FFS within IFAD VIII (design phase) Continue providing training activities on application of TCLS, by FFS Implement the pedological recommendations by FFS Continue the cooperation between FFS and conservative agriculture expert Extend the experimental plots by FFS to use conservative techniques Promote the FFS activities and lessons learnt, etc.
	Transfer of goods to FFS	December 2020	CPIU	
	Donate the equipment to FFS after a minimum of 3 years period from the agreement sign between CPIU and FFS	31 March 2021	CPIU	
	Ensure the maintenance of the equipment	Post-project	FFS	
	Help smallholder farmers adopt climate-resilient crop production systems and technologies through investment grants and capacity development support	2021 – 2023	CPIU (IFAD VII, Component 1.2: Farmers’ adaptation through climate-resilient investments)	
	Provide training activities (online) on Conservative Agriculture	February 2021	FFS	

	<p>Evaluation of FFS activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of FFSs activity, identify success stories, challenges and lessons learned and develop a Report summarizing the activity of 9 FFSs in the field of CA and 1 FFS in OA in the period 2015-2020 • Develop and print a brochure “Success stories, challenges and lessons learned in the field of conservative soil tillage technologies application within the FFSs” • Organize an Informative Seminar “Results of FFS activity evaluation: challenges, lessons learned and success stories in application of conservative soil tillage technologies” 	March 2021	CPIU	
Protective shelterbelts	Planting works conducted by service providers contracted by LPAs	Dec 2020	Awarded LPAs, CPIU	Awareness campaign organized by LPAs or local NGOs regarding the shelterbelts protection and associated environmentally friendly actions
	Supervision of shelterbelt planting works by service provider in charge of shelterbelt establishment supervision contracted by CPIU	Dec 2020	CPIU	
	Maintenance and protective measures for forest shelterbelts (based on the Agreement between CPIU and LPA)	2021-2023	LPAs	
	Preparation of payment documents.	December 2020	CPIU	
	Grants transfer to beneficiaries	2021-2022	CPIU	

	Closing contract	2023	CPIU	
Grassland restoration	Grass cover establishment/restoration works conducted by service providers contracted by LPAs	November 2020	LAPs	-
	Supervision of establishment works by service provider contracted by CPIU	November 2020	CPIU	
	Closing contracts and grants transfer to beneficiaries	March 2021	CPIU	
	Grassland cover care and supervision	2021-2022	LAPs	
Private owned nurseries	Sign the contracts with equipment suppliers and deliver the equipment to nurseries	March 2021	CPIU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the promotion of new species adapted to climate changes • Extend the surfaces of piloted nurseries Organize scientific and educational events and promote the technologies and new species of planting materials adapted to climate changes • Improve and increase managerial and operational capacities of the staff involved into the nurseries work • Mechanization of the working process within the nurseries
	Contract closure and transfer goods	January 2023	CPIU	
	Capacity building for nurseries on production of planting material in climate change conditions	March 2021	CPIU	
	Collaboration with national and international experts on planting materials adapted to climate change	2021 - ongoing	Private owned nurseries	
	Ensure the commercialization of the species produces within the piloted nurseries	2020-2023	Private owned nurseries	
	Ensure the maintenance and service of the procured goods for the nurseries	During the exploitation period	Private owned nurseries	
	Organize at least one scientific and educational events and promote the technologies and new species of planting materials adapted to climate change	2020-2023	Private owned nurseries	

	Maintain and produce planting material within the piloted nurseries	2021-2024	Private owned nurseries	
NTFPs beneficiaries	Procurement process and contracting of equipment providers	December 2020	CPIU	
	Delivery of equipment	31 March 2021	CPIU	
	Contract closure and transfer of goods	31 March 2021	CPIU	
Climate change awareness	Organize 2 workshops on climate change	November – December 2020	CPIU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the policy dialogue on climate change adaptation through regular workshops and training both at the local and national level.
	Organize workshop on CC mitigation awareness for livestock investments (Dairy, Sheep&Goat)	November – December 2020	CPIU	
	Organize workshops for PFIs, Partner Involved institutions Workshop (LPA, central, etc.), Agricultural Enterprises (loan beneficiaries and PGs),	November – December 2020	CPIU	
	Develop a Livestock Waste Management Best Practice Guide	October 2020	CPIU	
	Develop 1 Guidelines on CCA/CCM in agricultural sector & 1 Guidelines on CCA/CCM for LPAs	Dec. 2020 – January 2021	CPIU	
	Technical assistance for CC promotion	2021 - 2027	IFAD VII Programme	
	Organize Awareness and Communication Campaign (North, Centre, South) + mass media	January – March 2021	CPIU	
	Organize Training workshop on Ecological restoration of agricultural land	February 2021	CPIU	
	Develop 15 publications on resilience of agricultural sector to climate change	March 2021	CPIU	

*** The scale-up recommendations are suggested to be lobbied to the stakeholders who can take action on

Annex 8. Knowledge management and Communication products

1. Main knowledge management products produced

1. Integrated protection of tomato cultures and climate change resilience;
2. Grass planting on the agricultural land as a way of water and soil conservation;
3. Establishment of protective shelterbelts as a measure of adaptation to climate change;
4. Collection of rain water in agriculture as an adaptation to climate change;
5. Good practices in renewable energy use in agriculture;
6. Good practices in use of degraded lands for cultivation of high-energy yield crops and production of biomass;
7. Good practices in integrated agricultural crop protection in the context of climate change;
8. Guide to good organic agriculture practice in the context of climate change;
9. Good practices in adapting the livestock sector to climate change;
10. Good beekeeping practices in the context of climate change;
11. Good fish farming practices in the context of climate change;
12. Good practices for growing fruits, grapes and berries in the context of climate change;
13. Good practices for vegetable growing in the context of climate change;
14. Ecological restoration of agricultural land;
15. Guide of good practices for livestock waste management that includes 7 models of investment in livestock waste management infrastructure;
16. Good practice guide for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the agricultural sector;
17. Guide for local public authorities in rural areas on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures;
18. Practical Guide in the field of conservative agriculture (not printed, available only in electronic format);
19. Booklet "Conservative agriculture - indispensable solution for soil conservation and adaptation to climate change" (not printed, available only in electronic format).

2. Communication products produced

Nr	Title	Topic	Number	Link
1.	Exhibition - to promote IFAD Programmes facilities	The international specialized exhibition of machinery, equipment and technologies for agroindustry complex "MOLDAGROTECH" (2017-spring & autumn)	2	
2.	Mass media	Young entrepreneurs TV show series on AgroTV Moldova channel	10 success stories (45 minutes each)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUDnEat4oPs&list=PLtq2xWOHl-h4i65wQP25TO8Lucwus_XaM&index=51 http://www.agrovmoldova.md/show/gospodarii-moldovei http://www.agrovmoldova.md/oieritul-afacerea-uitata-de-moldoveni http://www.agrovmoldova.md/o-afacere-rumena-cu-paine-traditionala
3.	Mass media	AgroTV channel TV program "Take attitude" on January and December 4, 2017 Grant opportunities and the impact of investment projects on the agricultural sector,.	2 edition each lasting 60 minutes - free of charge	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=im_MfOGmjnl&list=PLtq2xWOHl-h70qFDcmDoh3JzsSVNQauHm&index=115 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FJizCtqCeA&list=PLtq2xWOHl-h70qFDcmDoh3JzsSVNQauHm&index=67 http://www.agrovmoldova.md/ia-atitudine-cu-iurie-usurelu-victor-rosca-si-iurie-brumarel
4.	Mass media	Grants for infrastructure spot broadcasted on AgroTV from 27 December 2017 till 29 April 2018	1 (39 seconds)	https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/videos/1437466316369764/
5.	Event	The event organized by the Government of Republic of Moldova "Dialogue with Local Public Authorities" for 800 primaries		https://gov.md/en/content/head-executive-pavel-filip-says-solutions-citizens-problems-be-found-only-together-local
6.	Mass media	During 2017, the information related to financial opportunities and success stories has been disseminated through various information channels, i.e.	5 radio programs, 5 TV programs, including on national television, 10 articles published in newspapers, events, conferences and presentations	https://www.facebook.com/c.e.i.moldo.italiana/photos/a.716013615151225.1073741828.715984741820779/1490791657673413/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/events/309542229559866/ https://www.facebook.com/c.e.i.moldo.italiana/photos/a.716013615151225.1073741828.715984741820779/1490791657673413/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/events/335091180292741/ http://www.sda.gov.md/en/Conferinta-anuala-a-AUAI.html https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/posts/1400689963380733
7.	Facebook data on number of people that likes the page	Facebook	Followers number 1440 (40% more compared to 2016)	
8.	Exhibition	The international specialized exhibition of machinery, equipment and technologies for	2	https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/photos/a.642161545900249/1531847610264967/?type=3&theater http://www.icipifad.md/noutati/a-luat-sfarsit-cea-de-a-xxxiv-editie-a-expozitiei-moldagrotech-2018-spring/ https://agrobiznes.md/ifad-oportunitati-de-finantare-si-asistenta-pentru-productorii-agricoli.html

	- to promote IFAD Programmes facilities	agroindustry complex "MOLDAGROTECH" (2017- spring & autumn, 2018- spring)		https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/photos/pcb.1541893489260379/1541890382594023/?type=3&theater http://www.agrovmoldova.md/molDEXPO-partener-de-incredere https://agrobiznes.md/IFAD-opportunitati-de-finantare-si-asistenta-pentru-producatorii-agricoli.html
9.	Within the spring exhibition, CPIU IFAD organized a seminar	"Financial assistance provided to agricultural producers to help increase the capacity to adapt to climate change"	1	
10.	Exhibition	"Fruit Day" organised by Moldova Fruct Association	300	https://agrobiznes.md/foto-impresii-de-la-prima-editie-a-expozitiei-ziua-fructelor-desfasurata-in-livada-domultera.html
11.	Event	Were awarded the most successful young entrepreneurs. Within the gala was presented the video material dedicated to the DANIDA program in Moldova and completion results of the component.	70 young entrepreneurs - 30 ministry, mass media, partners representative 14 CPIU IFAD team	http://www.icipifad.md/noutati/gala-tinerilor-antreprenori-beneficiari-ai-programelor-ifad-totalizarea-rezultatelor-obtinate-in-cadrul-implementarii-activitatilor-efectuate-cu-sustinerea-suportului-guv/ http://agrovmoldova.md/programul-ifad-premiat-beneficiarii-sai https://agrobiznes.md/foto-directorul-ifad-cea-mai-buna-investitie-este-investitia-in-tineri.html https://www.canal3.md/ro/sprijin-pentru-tinerii-antreprenori-70-de-beneficiari-ai-programelor-ifad-premiati-in-cadrul-unui-ev_70450.html https://www.trm.md/ro/economic/cei-mai-activi-antreprenori-din-moldova-au-fost-premiati/ https://mobiasbanca.md/noutati/clientii-mobiasbanca-premiati-la-gala-tinerilor-antreprenori-2018
12.	Event		Dialogue with Local Public Authorities	https://gov.md/en/content/head-executive-pavel-filip-says-solutions-citizens-problems-be-found-only-together-local http://www.icipifad.md/noutati/1-februarie-marcam-ziua-autonomiei-locale-si-a-lucratorului-din-administratia-publica-locala/
13.	Event	Rational management of soil and water resources in the context of the country's food safety" organised by Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and environment of the Republic of Moldova	800	http://madrm.gov.md/ro/content/la-chi%C8%99in%C4%83u-au-fost-prezentate-principalele-solu%C8%9Bii-de-gestionare-eficient%C4%83-resurselor-de
14.	Event	CPIU-IFAD, UNDP Moldova Project for Biodiversity Conservation, funded by GEF, in collaboration with the Copceac Town Hall and in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, to participate in a massive planting of a forest belt.	350 volunteers	https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/videos/1589415671174827/ https://www.facebook.com/PlantamFapteBuneInMoldova/videos/571448126561179/UzpfSTI4NTYxNjc5MTU1NDcyODoxNTg4NDk3ODc0NTk5OTQw/ https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/photos/pcb.1577081112408283/1577080752408319/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/notifications/?section=activity_feed&subsection=mention&ref=notif&targ et_story=S%3A_I165158373553979%3A1638344689568666 http://www.madrm.gov.md/ro/content/peste-400-de-voluntari-au-plantat-copaci-pe-un-teren-%C3%AEn-proces-de-degradare-%C8%99i-erodare-din https://www.canal3.md/ro/peste-400-de-voluntari-au-sadit-50-de-mii-de-copaci-la-marginea-satului-copceac-din-raionul-stefan-v_66401.html

15.	Event	Were awarded the most successful young entrepreneurs. Within the gala was presented the video material dedicated to the DANIDA program in Moldova and completion results of the component.	70 young entrepreneurs, 30 ministry, mass media, partners representative 14 CPIU IFAD team	http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/gala-tinerilor-antreprenori-beneficiari-ai-programelor-ifad-totalizarea-rezultatelor-obtinate-in-cadrul-implementarii-activitatilor-efectuate-cu-sustinerea-suportului-guv/ http://agrotvmoldova.md/programul-ifad-premiat-beneficiarii-sai https://agrobiznes.md/foto-directorul-ifad-cea-mai-buna-investitie-este-investitia-in-tineri.html https://www.canal3.md/ro/sprijin-pentru-tinerii-antreprenori-70-de-beneficiari-ai-programelor-ifad-premiati-in-cadrul-unui-ev_70450.html https://www.trm.md/ro/economic/cei-mai-activi-antreprenori-din-moldova-au-fost-premiati/ https://mobiasbanca.md/noutati/clientii-mobiasbanca-premiati-la-gala-tinerilor-antreprenori-2018
16.	Event	Gala AIPA- 19 nominees in agro-industrial domain		http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/gala-aipa-2018-a-nominalizat-performantele-in-agricultura/
17.	Mass media	News broadcasted on AgroTV Moldova channel (signed contract)	4	http://www.agrotvmoldova.md/ifad-organizeaza-cursuri-de-instruire-pentru-tineri http://agrotvmoldova.md/vrei-sa-infiintezi-o-scoala-de-camp-aplica http://agrotvmoldova.md/bani-pentru-o-moldova-mai-verde http://www.agrotvmoldova.md/bastina-din-2503-2018
18.	Mass media	*On CPIU-IFAD website: Financial opportunities, success stories, news, study visits *On our partners sites		http://www.ucipifad.md/success/realizarile-notabile-ale-membrilor-asociatiilor-de-economii-si-imprumut/ http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/deschidem-sezonul-agricol-la-moldexpo-moldagrotech-spring-2018/ http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/ucip-ifad-anunta-un-nou-concurs-pentru-obtinerea-granturilor-competitive-pentru-dezvoltarea-infrastructurii-economice-oferte-in-cadrul-proiectului-de-reziliencia-rurala-ifad-vii/ http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/peste-400-de-voluntari-au-plantat-copaci-pe-un-teren-in-proces-de-degradare-si-erodare-din-satul-copceac-stefan-voda/ http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/la-chisinau-au-fost-prezentate-principalele-solutii-de-gestionare-eficienta-a-resurselor-de-apa-si-sol-in-tara-noastra/ http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/la-chisinau-au-fost-prezentate-principalele-solutii-de-gestionare-eficienta-a-resurselor-de-apa-si-sol-in-tara-noastra/ http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/vizita-de-studiu-a-fermierilor-din-r-moldova-in-provincia-lombardia-italia/ http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/o-noua-experienta-pentru-tinerii-fermieri-din-r-moldova/ http://www.agrotvmoldova.md/plantatie-de-alun-succes-garantat https://www.agrotvmoldova.md/ifad-are-grija-de-beneficiarii-sai http://www.agrotvmoldova.md/ifad-organizeaza-cursuri-de-instruire-pentru-tineri
19.	Mass media	Infrastructure promotion	4 sources	http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/satul-vorniceni-un-exemplu-demn-de-urmat/ http://www.agrotvmoldova.md/ifad-contribuie-la-dezvoltarea-satelor http://infostraseni.com/2018/04/video-drum-renovat-la-vorniceni/ https://agrobiznes.md/video-la-vorniceni-a-fost-renovat-un-segment-de-drum-ce-asigura-accesul-spre-sectorul-agricol-din-localitate.html
20.	Mass media	Infrastructure video broadcasted on AgroTV	108 times on air	https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/videos/1437466316369764/

21.	Mass media	Video for promoting DANIDA Grant (1) video to summaries results of the successful implementation of Youth program in Moldova (English/Romanian)	2	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXnZl_dbAKc https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xkuqgYRCLw
22.	Mass media	TV show - “Obiectiv comun”, at TVR1 channel, for disseminating information to users		https://www.facebook.com/TVRMoldova/videos/2140587339502574/
23.	Mass media	Partnership with agricultural portal www.agrobiznes.md since February 2018, their web page that is monthly visited by 30 000 unique visitors		https://agrobiznes.md/ucip-ifad - a division on Agrobiznes web site for CPIU-IFAD, where is published all information, news, videos, success stories regarding CPIU activities.
24.	Mass media	Printed newspaper		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issue nr. 16, from 04.05.18, News about a new road in Vorniceni village. • issue nr. 44, from 23.11.18, article beneficiary • issue nr. 24, from 29.06.18, closing ceremony of DANIDA • issue - nr. 46, from 14.12.18, article beneficiary
25.	Printed materials	IFAD VI– all components GEF Infrastructure	1000 1000 2000	
26.	Promotional materials	For DANIDA closing ceremony event CPIU IFAD elaborated several promotional materials		
27.	Facebook	Followers number		Up to 1900, from 1724 in the beginning of the year

Website /Social networks

Nr	Title	Description	Link
1	New WEB site launched in march 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 7.14 K visited the website (in second part of the year 5.04 K, more than in previous period with 107.91%); 22.5 % are retuning visitors; 80.52 % from Moldova; 53.56% are from Chisinau, 27.04% are not set, and 1,06% from Balti; 52.15% accessed from desktop, 46.51% from mobile phones, 1.35% from tablet; 51.9% male, 48.1% female, 29.71% are 25-34-year-old, 21.61% of views are for the first page, 7.67% of views are for Procurement page, 8.61% on Grant page
2	Exhibition - promotion of IFAD Programmes facilities	The international specialized exhibition for agroindustry complex "MOLDAGROTECH" (2019- autumn)	http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/eveniment-de-amploare-pentru-promovarea-sectorului-agricol/ https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=983961408630792
3	Informational session	Interact with potential beneficiaries from different target group and region. Over 200 participants	<p>Worldwide Moldovan Business Association organized DAR campaign – Regional Agricultural Dialogue, period 23 July – 9 August 2019, in 11 rayons. CPIU specialist were at 6 events: Cahul, Cimislia, Causeni, Hincesti, Criuleni, Orhei, Straseni). During the events, agricultural entrepreneurs and representatives of local public authorities were present.</p> <p>https://aoamp.com/en/stiri/dar-campaign-launch-dialog-regional-agricultural/ https://www.privesc.eu/Arhiva/87947/Dialog-Agricol-Regional-desfasurat-in-orasul-Cahul--Republica-Moldova?fbclid=IwAR1zOIoSIT-zl4vsoc_kZ-lyVYsPbnHGe3dUyuiiNE8iCsG1a1j0MsJbl https://agrobiznes.md/in-11-raioane-din-tara-vor-fi-organizate-un-sir-de-evenimente-in-cadrul-campaniei-dialog-agricol-regional-rm-romania.html https://www.facebook.com/DARMoldova/photos/a.502311877185473/502326343850693/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/DARMoldova/photos/a.503019087114752/503019110448083/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/DARMoldova/photos/a.503127153770612/503127177103943/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/DARMoldova/photos/a.503115423771785/503116363771691/?type=3&theater</p> <p>On October 3rd, farmer training seminar was organized by CPIU in collaboration with Institute of Pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection 'Nicolae Dimo' and FARM: “Studies and applications within the technologies of conservation agriculture” https://www.facebook.com/UCIPIFAD/photos/pcb.2341307112652342/2341304972652556/?type=3&theater</p> <p>On November 29-30, 2019, the International Scientific Conference was held on the premises of the “Alecu Russo” State University in Balti: “Sustainable and resilient agriculture” During the conference period the representatives of the research institutions from Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, the USA, France, Holland, Brazil, Ukraine, Russia and the Republic of Moldova discussed the benefits of sustainable agriculture, the change of soil quality and the possibilities of restoring its fertility, harmful actions for the environment and adaptation to global warming. http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/conferinta-stiintifica-internationala-agricultura-durabila-si-rezilienta-ce-lipseste-ce-trebuie-sa-mai-cunoastem/</p>

5	Facebook	Followers number at 31 th of December: 2207 followers, - 78.84 % followers are from Moldova, 56.27 % followers are from Chisinau - 49% women, 50% men - Age group 25-34-year-old	
6	Printed materials	Shelterbelts- 700 pieces	Grassland- 700 pieces
		Conservation agriculture principles posters A3 -500 pieces/A1- 100	
		Lending guide for SCAs Complete and detailed tools and information to make right decisions in the lending process -300 pieces	https://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Ghid-de-creditare-part-1_.pdf
		Guide for micro entrepreneurs (Romanian/Russian): Financial education (the success of smart financial decisions). - 2000 pieces	https://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Ghid_-Educatie-financiara.pdf
1	WEB site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 19 336 visited the website (comparing to 2019 when the website was visited by 7 148); 19.3 % are retuning visitors; 77.98 % from Moldova; 47.03 % are from Chisinau, 31.15 % are not set, and 1,12% from Balti; 48.4 % male, 51.6 % female, 37.21 % are 25-34-year-old, 53.44, % from mobile, 45.34 % from desktop, 1.22 % from tablet 	
2	CPIU's website	For reporting period (2020) were published 25 success stories (average two success stories per month) and 32 news articles	http://www.ucipifad.md/success/page/2/ http://www.ucipifad.md/noutati/
3	CPIU's YouTube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 142 subscribers, 7.6 k views, 27 videos 91% male/9 %female 50,2% - 25-34 years; 36,7% - 35-44 years; 13,1% - 45-54 years 	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkUuUiWBgnSadHueaHFGcSA/videos
4	CPIU's Instagram Created on 19/02/2020	264 followers 120 posts	https://www.instagram.com/ucip_ifad_moldova/
5	Mass media partner	Web portal www.agrobiznes.md 41news/24 success stories/6 online events/visits	https://agrobiznes.md/ucip-ifad
6	Mass media partner	"Curierul agricol" newspaper published success stories and invitation to procurement contests (printed newspaper-20 issue)	http://gazetasatelor.md/?s=UCIP
7	CPIU's Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 31th of December 2667 followers (in 2019 FB page had 2.207 followers); 75,68 % followers are from Moldova; 54,05 % followers from Chisinau; 50% women, 49% men; age group 25-34-year-old, the main group which 24%. 	
8	CPIU's website statistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> over 19 336 visited the website (comparing to 2019 when the website was visited by 7 148); 19.3 % are retuning visitors (77.98 % from Moldova; 47.03 % are from Chisinau, 31.15 % are not set, and 1,12% from Balti); 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48.4 % male, 51.6 % female, • 37.21 % are 25-34-year-old, • 53.44, % from mobile, 45.34 % from desktop, 1.22 % from tablet 	
9	Printed materials	Publication “Conservation Agriculture in practice” was published and also placed on CPIU’s website, this way it can be accessible to everyone	http://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Agricultura_Conservativa_partea-I_site.pdf http://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Agricultura_Conservativa_partea-II_site.pdf
10	CPIU’ library	Printed materials(brochures) in 2020 were also published on the CPIU’s website	http://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Granturi-femei-brosura_2020.pdf http://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Proiectul_Rezilienta_Rurala_opportunitati_de_finantare.pdf http://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Pliant_TineriAntreprenori_2020.pdf http://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Pliant_IntreprinderiMiciMijlocii_2020.pdf http://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Pliant_MicroAntreprenori_2020.pdf
1	CPIU’s website	for reporting period (January - march 2021) were published 1 success story and 14 news articles	http://www.ucipifad.md/en/success/ (1 success story) http://www.ucipifad.md/en/noutati/ (14 news article)
2	Mass media partner	Web portal www.agrobiznes.md 22 news/1 success stories/6 online events/visits	https://agrobiznes.md/ucip-ifad
3	Mass media partner		"Curierul agricol" newspaper published success stories and invitation to procurement contests (printed newspaper-3 issue)
4	CPIU’ library	Printed materials (publication) under GEF component were also published on the CPIU’s website.	http://www.ucipifad.md/en/biblioteca/ – All presentation in pptx. format presented in the International Conference on Conservation Agriculture, 29-30 March 2021(Conferinta international Agricultura Conservativa, 29 – 30 martie 2021) – All publication printed under the contract with service providers on Climate change and CA (Textbook)

