PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10903
Project Name:	FARM: Global Coordination, Knowledge Management and Common Finance Tools
Countr(ies):	Global
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name
FARM: Global Coordination, Knowledge Management and Common Finance Tools

Country
Global

GEF ID	Implementing Agency
10903	UNEP

Executing Entity
Green Growth Knowledge Partnership

Trust Fund	Project Type
GET	FSP

PIR Submission	Fiscal Year , PIR Number
9/5/2025	FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective
Project Objective: To generate, coordinate, communicate, and manage knowledge to amplify the results of FARM child projects as a single Programme regionally and globally

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress	Development Objective
Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk
Low Risk

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
8,125,950.00	3,005,020.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval	Agency Approval
6/8/2023	7/14/2023

Implementation Start	First Disbursement
9/29/2023	9/29/2023

Expected MTR 9/15/2026	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 9/30/2028	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The Global Child Project has established a global platform, tools, and a programmatic monitoring framework to support knowledge-generation, sharing, and learning across FARM countries and beyond. Its inception followed the launch of the FARM Programme in March 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The inception of several child projects was also marked in 2024 under the global FARM Programme in Kenya, Lao PDR, India, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Vietnam, where the global child project was presented and the benefits and obligations of participation in the global Programme were reiterated for all national stakeholders.

Throughout the reporting period, technical assistance partners were engaged to develop the monitoring and evaluation framework and conduct scoping studies in core areas – finance, pesticides, and agricultural plastics. Foundational communications tools were also launched, including the FARM brand, an interim website, and the FARM Group on the Green Forum, a virtual community space. The C&KM Coordination Group and Project Manager Group were also established.

Component 1: Policy and Enforcement

During the reporting period, the GCP provided advocacy and support for the development of stronger regulations and policies.

Technical discussions during the FARM Global Child Project inception meeting identified key knowledge gaps and strategic priorities in agrochemical and agricultural plastics policy and enforcement, laying the groundwork for upcoming scoping studies. Technical assistance was also provided to stakeholders to support the shift towards safer, low- and non-chemical alternatives that promote a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to farming. Over 25 stakeholder meetings, workshops, and trainings were held, with over 2,500 people participating (at least 800 women).

Key partnerships were forged across sectors (plastics, pesticides, finance, biocontrol industries, agribusiness, academia, etc.) with global/regional bodies like Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), African Union (AU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), Natural Resources Institute (NRI), Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK), One Planet Network, IFPRI China, Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) and UN Food System Coordination Hub – to advance green finance, harmonize pesticide regulations and support multilateral environmental agreements.

FARM was showcased at the Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting (ABIM) in Basel, Switzerland, engaging over 2,000 stakeholders, including leaders from the biocontrol industry, NGOs, policymakers, and research networks. FARM was also presented at the CABI regional meeting (Asia-

Pacific and Europe) and OEWG for GFC in June 2025, and it strengthened ties with IBMA to promote safer alternatives within the agrochemical supply chain. Additionally, FARM fostered collaboration along the agrifood value chain by engaging leading private sector actors such as Nestlé and Syngenta.

Component 2: Finance and Investment

The GCP promoted innovative finance and investment by collaborating with UNEP FI to develop pollution-free finance tools. UNEP-FI developed a white paper 'Navigating Pollution: A Blueprint for the Banking Sector,' which features a section on agriculture-related impacts, risks, and opportunities. The paper supports engagement with Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) members and the formation of a Working Group on Pollution.

A finance roundtable at the project inception meeting highlighted knowledge gaps and spurred the development of a scoping study on financing agrochemical reductions. APRACA was engaged to draft the study and provide technical assistance on key financing instruments and blended finance case studies.

Component 3: Value Chains and Public Demand

The FARM Knowledge Management System and the guidance on Digital Infrastructure were created and distributed to FARM partners, along with the FARM Green Forum Guidance, which was established during the reporting period.

FARM's communication and knowledge management group initiated a series of country-specific calls to better socialize the country teams' activities, ensuring tailored support is provided in a contextual manner. GGKP and the project team also collaborated to develop the FARM knowledge hub, which will feature an AI tool for curating tailored knowledge products. The FARM taxonomy was defined, and the knowledge needs of the target audience were identified.

The project’s knowledge management and communications, and stakeholder engagement strategies have been developed. The FARM Programme Annual Reports for 2023 and 2024 have also been developed and published, highlighting key achievements in the reporting periods and expectations for the coming year. A global knowledge-sharing platform was launched on the ‘Green Forum’. Additionally, the FARM Knowledge Series was launched to host knowledge-sharing activities that strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders to reduce the use of harmful chemicals and plastics, and to share knowledge generated by the FARM Programme. An interim FARM Programme website and FARM newsletter were also launched, along with an introductory film and the development of the FARM brand.

Finally, a programmatic M&E framework and indicators were developed, providing methods for assessing the outcomes of the GEF-funded FARM Programme.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project has made significant progress since the launch of the Programme, and the inception workshops for child projects have been held. No schedule variance is reported or observed. Reports were delivered on time with high quality.

The delay in project inception in the Philippines poses a potential challenge to the coordination efforts of the Global Child Project, but the executing agency is working to hold the inception meeting in the upcoming quarters.

Additionally, the project frequently faces communication challenges with most child project countries, especially those that have not yet started executing project activities. Feedback on key technical documents shared with project managers has been limited. To address these challenges, the executing agency is engaging bilaterally with some project managers and IAs to increase feedback and interaction.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

The FARM Programme was officially launched in Nairobi, Kenya, on 12 March 2024, with over 70 in-person participants and 100+ virtual attendees from across sectors. The launch set the stage for dialogue on urgent challenges and practical solutions to reduce agrochemical pollution in agriculture. Following the FARM Programme launch, the Global Child Project (GCP) was launched in March 2024 in Nairobi, and the first Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was organized, involving government focal points, the GEF Secretariat, and representatives of the implementing agency.

2024 also marked the successful inception of several child projects under the global FARM Programme in Kenya, Lao PDR, India, Ecuador, Uruguay, Vietnam, where the global child project was presented and the benefits and obligations of participation in a global Programme were reiterated for all national stakeholders.

Moreover, in March 2025, the Global Child Project organized its second meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), a two-day online event attended by representatives of government and implementing agencies, the GEF Secretariat, implementing partner CABI, child project managers, and representatives of the implementing agency. The agenda covered several key topics, including review of project activities and 2024 annual reports, M&E framework and risk log, branding, KM and Communications Strategy, Coordination with FARM+, review of 2025 workplan and budget. The PSC also approved the workplan, budget, and procurement plan for 2025.

The FARM GCP during the reporting period also formed key partnerships with stakeholders, as listed below:

- Over 25 stakeholder meetings, workshops, and training sessions were held with over 2500 participants, including at least 800 women. These events provided technical assistance to support stakeholders in shifting towards safer, low- and non-chemical alternatives that promote a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to farming
- Collaborated with UNEP FI for the promotion of innovative finance and investment; development of pollution-free finance tools, and formation of working groups on pollution and circular economy
- Partnerships were established across sectors (plastics, pesticides, finance, biocontrol industries, agribusiness, academia, etc.) with global/regional bodies like Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), African Union (AU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), Natural Resources Institute (NRI), Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK), One Planet Network, IFPRI China, Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) and UN Food System Coordination Hub – to

advance green finance, harmonize pesticide regulations and support multilateral environmental agreements.

- Showcased FARM at the Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting (ABIM) in Basel, Switzerland, engaging over 2,000 stakeholders, including biocontrol industry leaders, NGOs, policymakers, and research networks
- Showcased FARM at the CABI regional meeting (Asia-Pacific and Europe) and OEWG for GFC in June 2025
- Strengthened ties with IBMA to promote safer alternatives within the agrochemical supply chain. Engaged with leading private sector actors such as Nestlé and Syngenta to foster collaboration along the agrifood value chain
    - New coordination groups were launched to align and streamline activities, including the following:
        -
            - Communications and Knowledge Management (C&KM) Coordination Group: Facilitated internal knowledge-sharing and communications across projects
            - Project Managers' Calls: Quarterly meetings for updates, troubleshooting, and aligning technical assistance
            - PRB Pollution Working Group: Launched in November to engage the private banking sector in addressing agricultural pollution
            - M&E and Finance Focal Point Groups: In development to support project reporting and financial resource mobilization

D. Gender Equality

FARM is committed to addressing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources, enhancing women's participation in decision-making, and generating socioeconomic benefits for women farmers and others within the agricultural value chain.

To achieve these goals, the Programme acknowledges the importance of building the capacity of child projects and their implementing partners to integrate gender equity-driven interventions into their activities and operations. FARM will ensure that all personnel have the ability to meaningfully incorporate gender into their work areas and the resources, capacities, and partnerships needed to support them in achieving the gender-mainstreaming results. Partnering with experts who can guide and advise on gender-responsive interventions in agriculture, including building on the knowledge of indigenous and minority groups, will be key to this achievement.

To support efforts to uphold universal values underlying the UN 2030 Agenda, in particular "leave no one behind", i.e., Principle No. 2 and the central and transformative promise of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), together with the Principles No. 1 on "Human Rights-Based Approach" (HRBA) and No. 3 on "Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment", FARM will take and implement a rights-based approach to its work in gender, analyzing, identifying how agrochemicals and agricultural plastics impact communities and address inequalities and discriminatory practices that

impede the uptake of sustainable agriculture practices, and chemical and waste management practices.

FARM is also interested in engaging with stakeholders and UN agencies such as UN Women, ILO, UNIDO, among others, who aim to establish commitments and mandates for integrating gender considerations into agricultural standards and processes. This approach ensures that progress towards gender equality in the Programme extends beyond merely counting men and women as stakeholders or beneficiaries.

A gender-sensitive approach is incorporated into the FARM communications guidance and brand, including key messaging and visual materials.

Progress on gender-responsive measures includes:

- Gender dynamics in pesticide use and access to finance relevant to reducing reliance on agrochemicals and agricultural plastics continue to be discussed/covered in various FARM knowledge management activities. Three webinars were ideated and conducted in Q1 and Q2 2025, one of which discussed the various concepts of circularity and gender dynamics in agriculture. A few specific activities in the upcoming FARM Knowledge Series, planned for Q4 2025 and Q2 2026, will also explore the nuances in more depth, particularly with regard to access to finance
- Gender expertise has been integrated in the agreement with NRI, a part-time gender consultant will be hired to complement this work, and the TORs have been finalized in collaboration with the ISLANDS project
- A gender expert position has been advertised in collaboration with the ISLANDS project

E. Knowledge Management

The Global Child Project has developed and finalized its Knowledge Management Strategy, which it has shared with key stakeholders and participating countries.

The knowledge management function across all FARM child projects ensures that global access to knowledge and best practices is available and used to inform and drive the scaling up of low or no-chemical agriculture.

The strategy outlines all elements of the knowledge management for the FARM project, including, but not limited to, its strategy, action plans, content direction, and operationalization. The strategy is intended for all agencies involved in implementing and executing FARM child projects at the national and regional levels. It will also be updated regularly and will be managed by the FARM Global Child Project.

Starting Q2 2025, the FARM Global Child Project began publishing and curating knowledge from FARM child projects, creating opportunities for partners, allies, and other key stakeholders to connect, exchange practical knowledge, and collaborate towards a healthier and more sustainable agrifood sector. These activities are hosted as part of the FARM Knowledge Series.

To date, the team has engaged over 200 practitioners in a webinar covering the topic of agricultural plastics, worked closely with FARM India to finalize a case study and a series of short videos, and

collaborated with other child projects to capture the knowledge of the project teams and amplify their work to a wider audience.

The draft communication strategy for GCP was presented to the child projects and project partners and discussed at the second PSC meeting. The document is presently being finalized through discussions to further align with the knowledge management strategy and stakeholder engagement plans, and include advocacy plans. The integrated communications plan for 2025 was developed and shared with child projects and is being regularly updated to track communication activities and their performance.

The GCP is also pioneering the establishment of a knowledge-sharing and management platform through the creation of a 'Green Forum', where participants from project countries exchange information and access the latest updates on the project, and experts and practitioners have the opportunity to also share their work and be part of the Programme's Community of Practices. FARM Global Child Project established an evolving strategy to increase engagement and user adoption of the Green Forum by external experts and practitioners, with the goal of growing the Community of Practices.

Most child projects held their inception meetings in the second half of 2024, with project activities commencing toward the end of 2024 and continuing into 2025. This has led to many country teams having limited outputs to share at the time of this reporting, or are not yet able to disseminate any knowledge products broadly. In several cases, materials remain internal, are under review by the national government, or have not yet been finalized for public release. Additionally, there is a lack of standardization among child projects regarding what constitutes 'knowledge' and how to present it effectively.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	

Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ecuador	-1.3398	-79.3667	3,658,394

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
India	22.3511	78.6677	1,269,750

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kenya	1.4420	38.4314	192,950

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lao Democratic People's	20.0171	103.3783	1,655,842

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID

Philippines	12.7503	122.7312	1,694,008

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Uruguay	-32.5228	-55.7658	3,439,705

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Vietnam	14.0583	108.2772	1,562,822

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	10903-PIR-UNEP-2025-GEF-CW 10903 FARM Global