

Rural Finance Knowledge Management Partnership (KMP)

The Rural Finance Knowledge Management Partnership (KMP), brings together IFAD, the French NGO Centre International de Développement and de Recherche (CIDR) and the multi-donor regional financial services initiative, MicroSave (later replaced by Decentralised Financial Services), to strengthen IFAD's engagement in rural financial service delivery in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Specifically, it was envisaged, that the partnership would enhance the technical capacity of IFAD's cooperating institutions in the region – and so strengthen the project supervision function, as well as enhancing IFAD's ability to engage in policy dialogue with its member countries, and enabling it to learn more about rural financial service delivery in the Region. The KMP operations have become fully functional in 2006.

The objectives of the KMP are: (a) to improve the delivery, outreach, appropriateness and sustainability of financial services for poor people in the rural areas, and (b) to strengthen the policy and regulatory framework for rural financial service delivery. In order to achieve these objectives the KMP and its staff engage in the following set of activities:

- Supporting the implementation and enhancing the impact of the KMP member institutions' rural financial service programmes in the Region and identify important empirical issues in rural finance for future exploration and study;
- Reviewing and sharing the experiences gained through these programmes, for mutual learning between the member institutions by reviewing and taking stock of research on key rural finance innovations in order to enumerate what has worked and why, highlighting opportunities and challenges for scaling up well-proven approaches;;
- Using the lessons learnt as a basis for conducting research on critical issues relative to rural financial service delivery in order to facilitate discussion on ways to improve research quality as well as the communication, dissemination, and use of research findings;
- Collating, packaging and disseminating the information in manageable/user friendly formats for different target audiences; and
- Supporting the capacity of the KMP's member institutions to engage individually and collectively in advocacy and dialogue with key policy makers within the region through defined strategies to strengthen ties between research and policy and decision-making processes in the field of rural finance; and to explore ways to foster dialogue and partnership among researchers at an international level.

The above activities are carried out in four partly inter-linked output components namely: (a) implementation support to IFAD-supported rural finance interventions, (b) knowledge management and capacity building support to IFAD network, (c) joint action research and (d) promotion of rural finance policy dialogue.