



2021 Resilient Food Systems Consultative Committee Meeting

Progress & Next steps





Outline

- ❑ Recap on the RFS structure
- ❑ Progress and key achievements
- ❑ MTR lessons and recommendations
- ❑ Implications and next steps for 2022

Recap on the RFS

- RFS is one of the three **Integrated Approach Pilot programmes** funded by GEF.
- Through RFS, GEF is advancing a new paradigm for Africa's agricultural systems: one that emphasises the importance of natural capital and ecosystem services for agricultural productivity.
- RFS consists of **12 country projects** and one cross-cutting **Regional Hub project**.

- Duration:
2017 – 2022
- Total investment:
USD 116 million
+ co-financing (about USD 800 million)
- Implementation led by
IFAD
- Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) hosted by
ICRAF

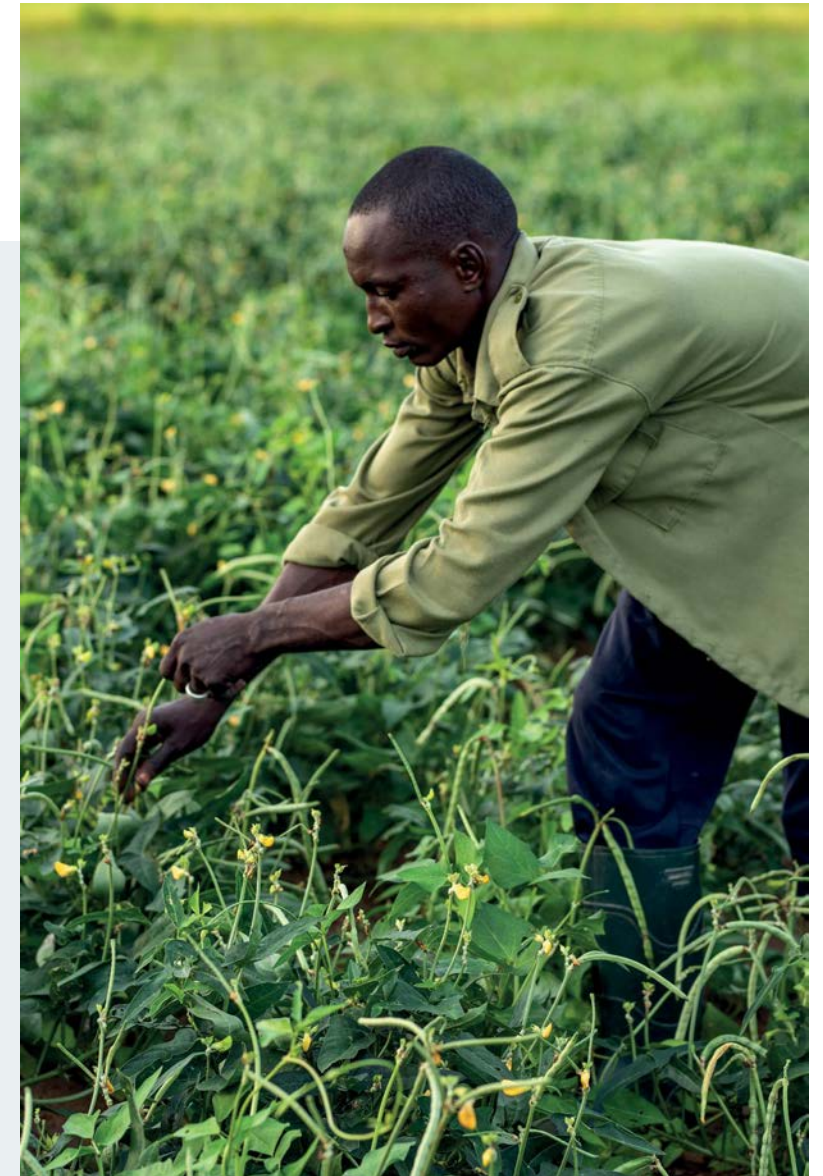
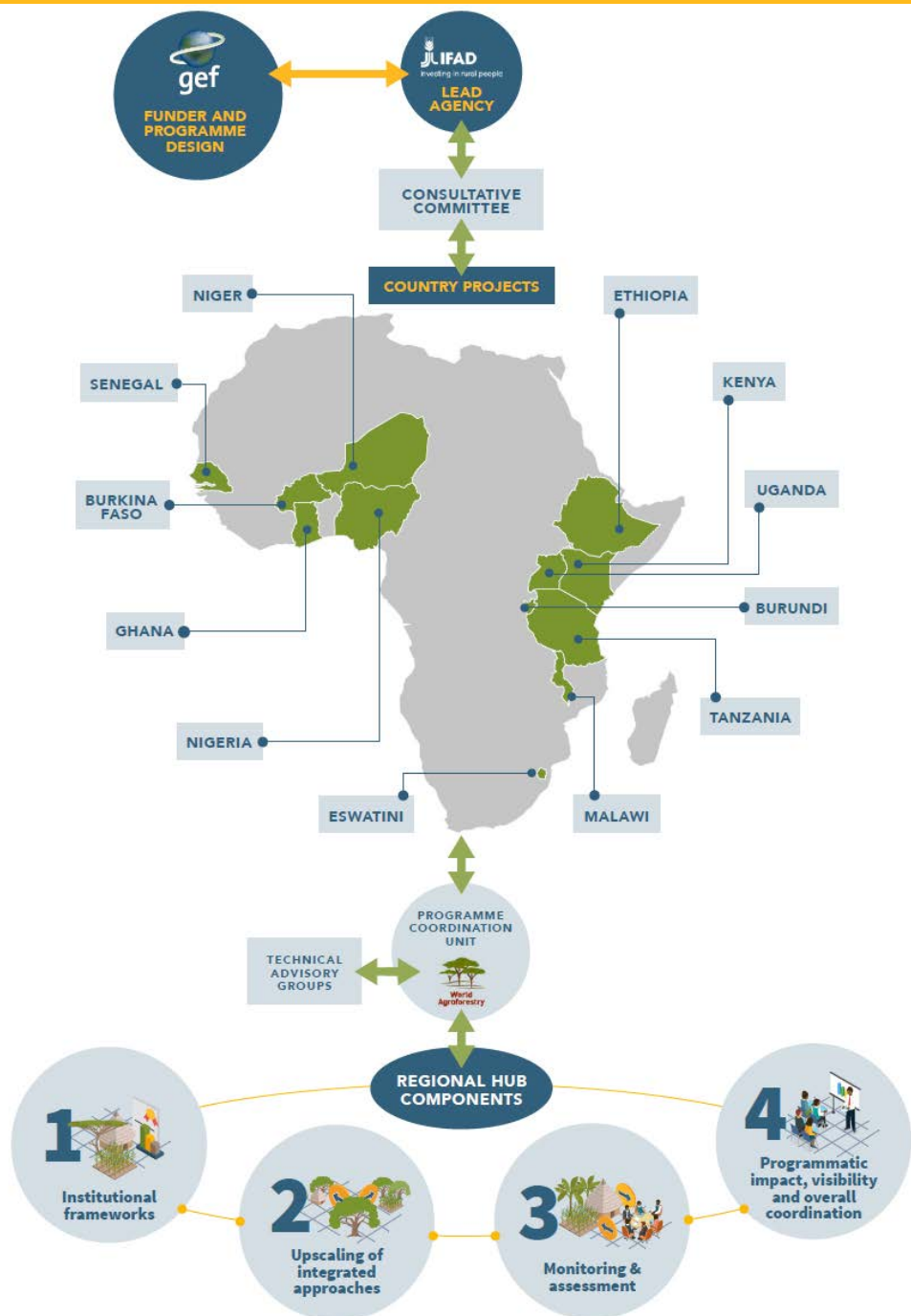


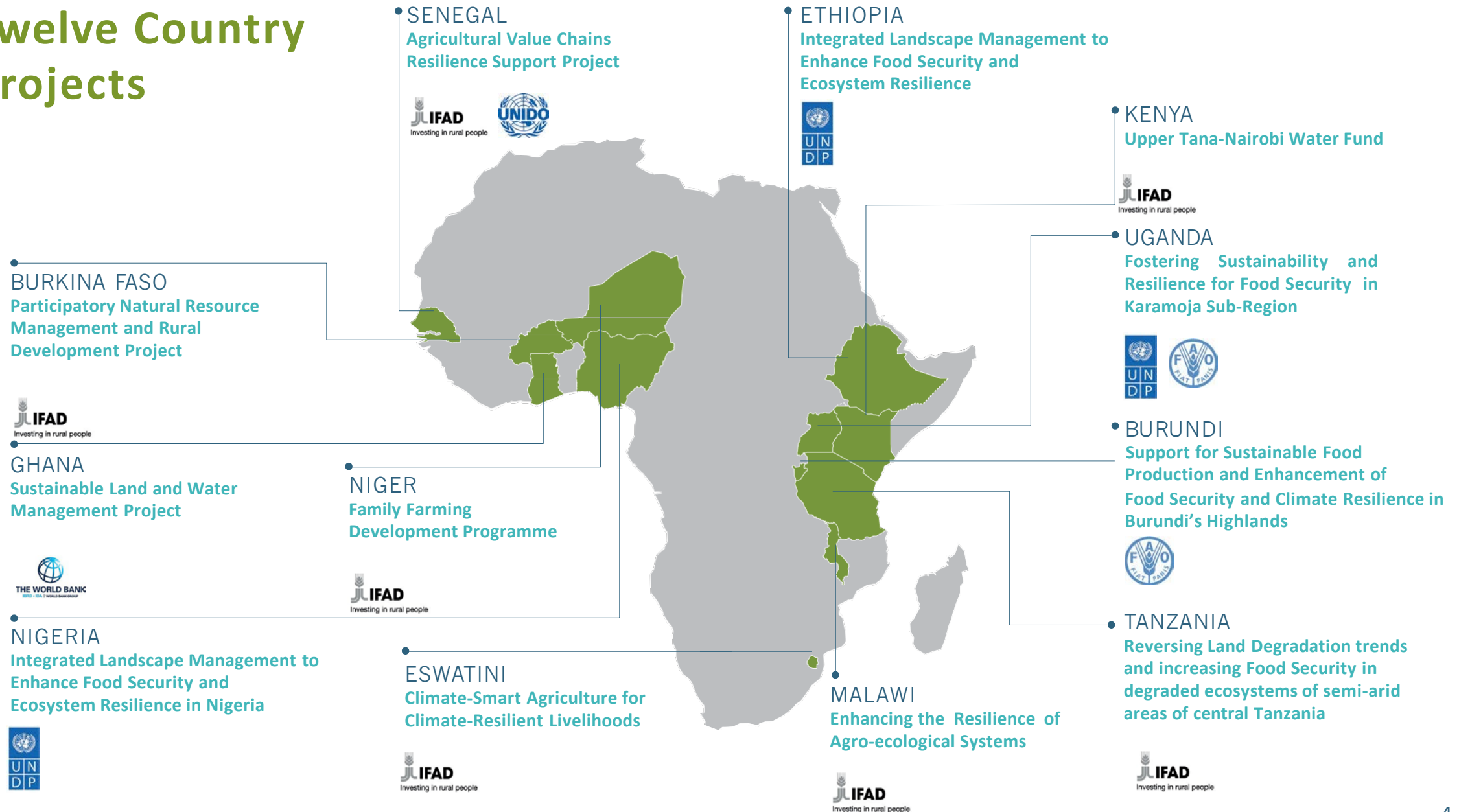
IMAGE: © Adamawa State Agricultural Development Project, UNDP-GEF Nigeria.



Overall structure: RFS Programme and Regional Hub



Twelve Country Projects





Engage

Connect, collaborate and share

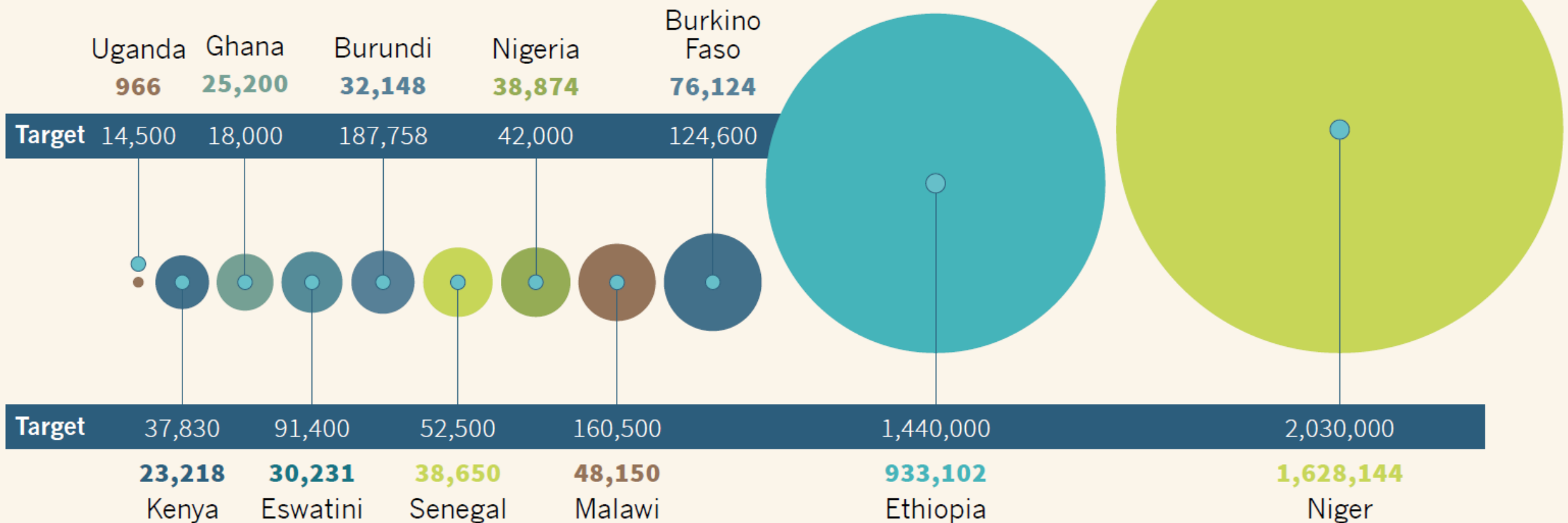


RFS has established **multi-stakeholder platforms** and influenced **policies, policy instruments** and **regulatory frameworks** focused on integrated natural resource management at the national, district/landscape and local levels.

**19**National
platforms**48**District/
landscape
platforms**733**Local
platforms**8**Policies, policy instruments
and regulatory frameworks**9**Countries have developed
INRM policy or/and
policy instruments or/
and regulatory frameworks
through regional dialogue

RFS in numbers

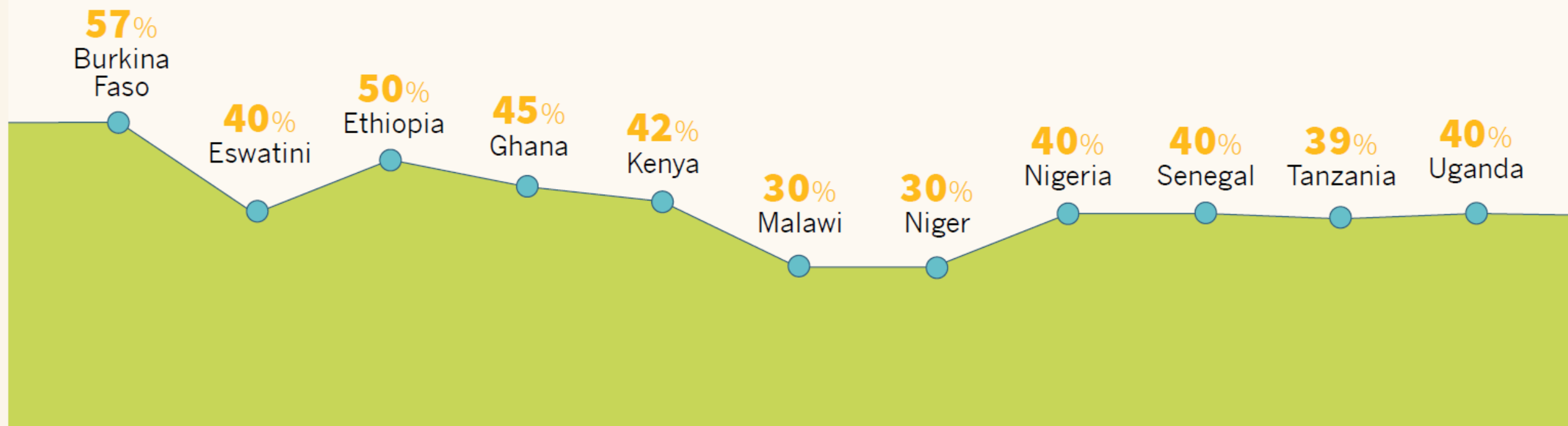
RFS country projects engage over **4.6 million** beneficiaries.
(GEF 7 Core indicator 11)



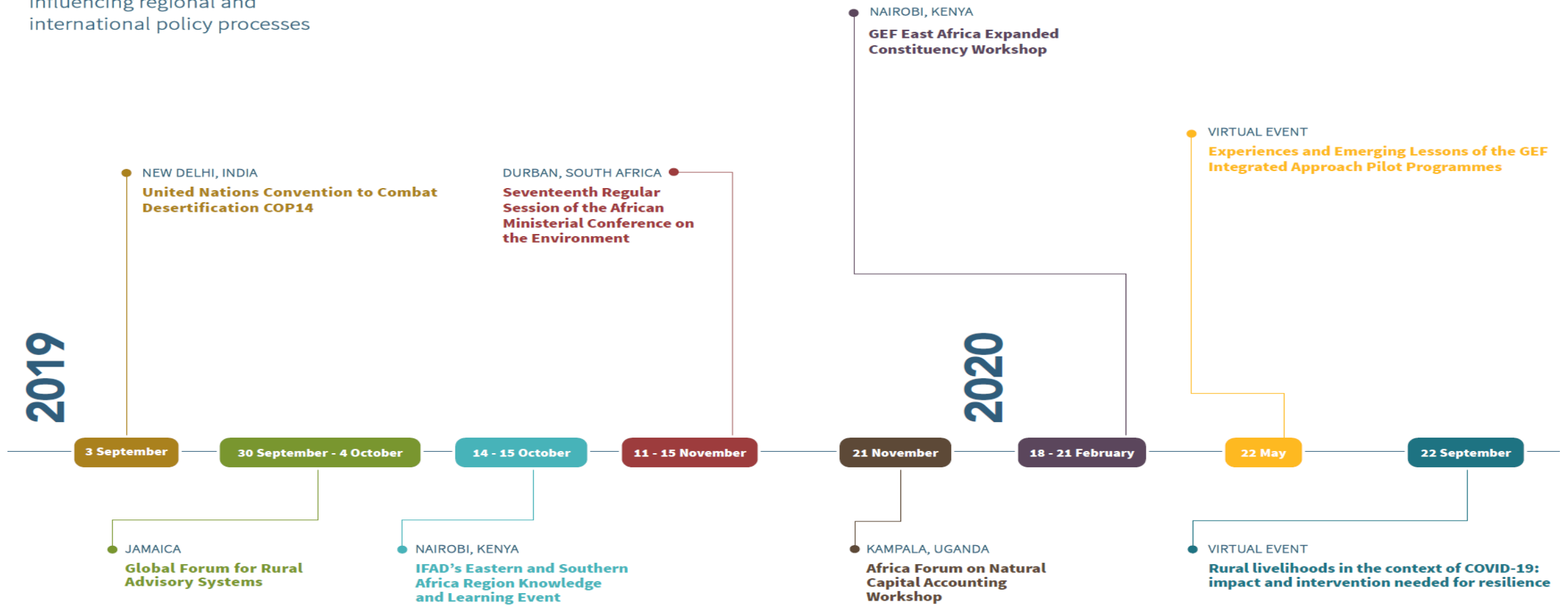
RFS in numbers



RFS country projects target over **1.5 million women** beneficiaries.



Influencing regional and international policy processes





Act

Impact at scale



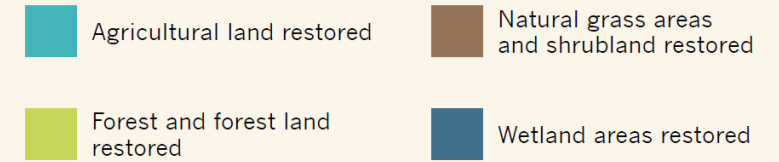
RFS in numbers

RFS country projects have restored **151,065 hectares** of previously degraded land.

151,065 hectares of previously degraded land restored

(GEF 7 core indicator 3)

RFS country projects are working to restore degraded land in a diverse range of landscapes using a wide variety of approaches, practices and technologies.



SENEGAL

1,780 hectares restored



BURKINA FASO

9,026 hectares restored



GHANA

8,473 hectares restored



NIGERIA

3,637 hectares restored



NIGER

26,269 hectares restored



ESWATINI

312 hectares restored



ETHIOPIA

75,105 hectares restored



UGANDA

166 hectares restored



KENYA

16,981 hectares restored



BURUNDI

9,084 hectares restored

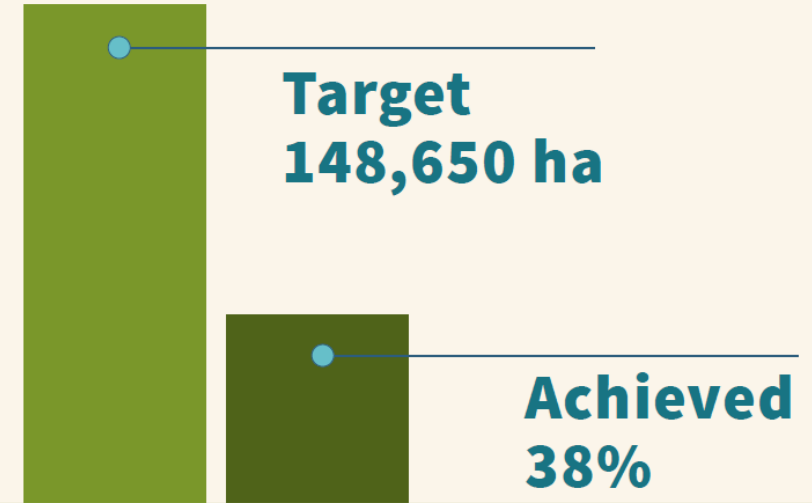
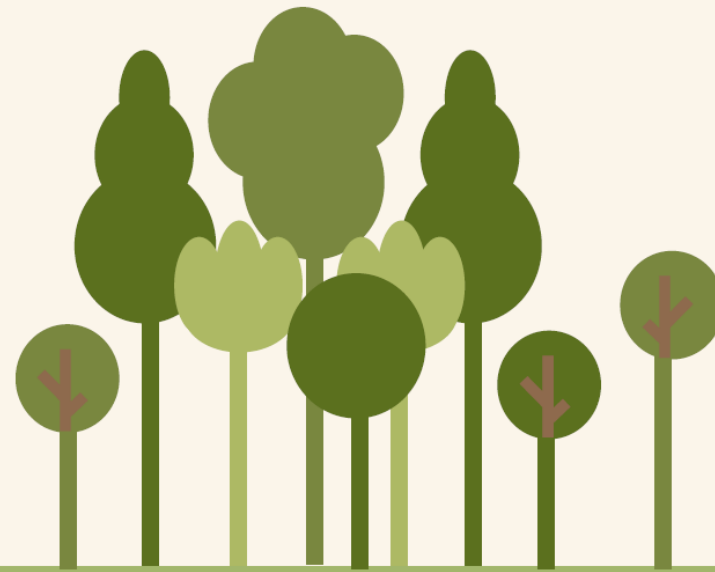


MALAWI

232 hectares restored



RFS in numbers



56,697 ha

of terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness
(GEF 7 core indicator 1.2)

Landscapes under sustainable management in production systems

(GEF 7 Core indicator 4.1)

74 % of target reached

Target
496,449 ha

672,951* ha

Landscapes under sustainable management in production systems

(GEF 7 core indicator 4.3)

Target 223,060 ha

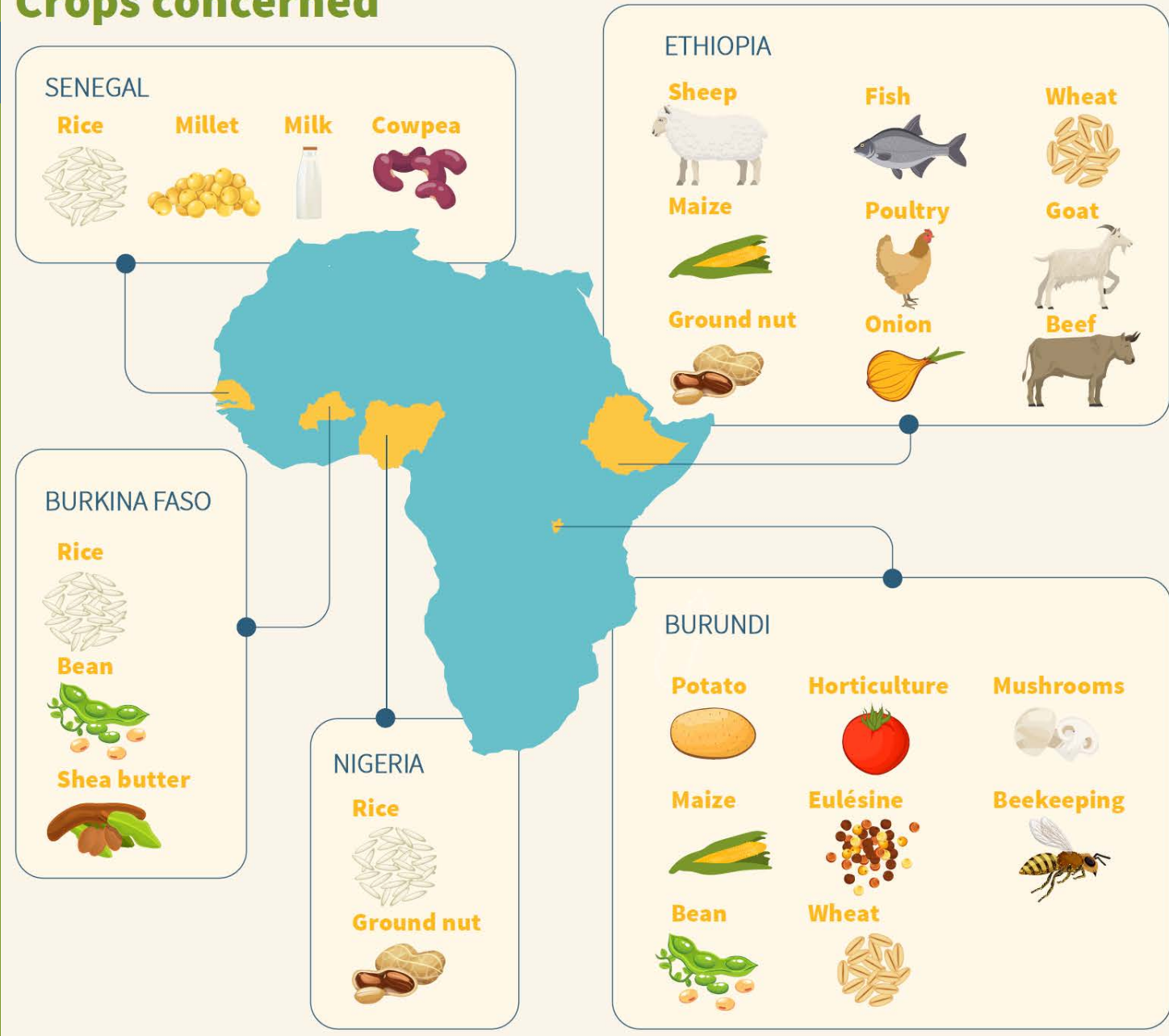
Achieved 203,517 ha



RFS in numbers

16 sustainable value chains in development by RFS country projects

Crops concerned



RFS in numbers



**57,720
Farmers**

declare a 10%
increase in
crop yields as a
result of **green
value chain
development**



Niger

has seen a

47,8%

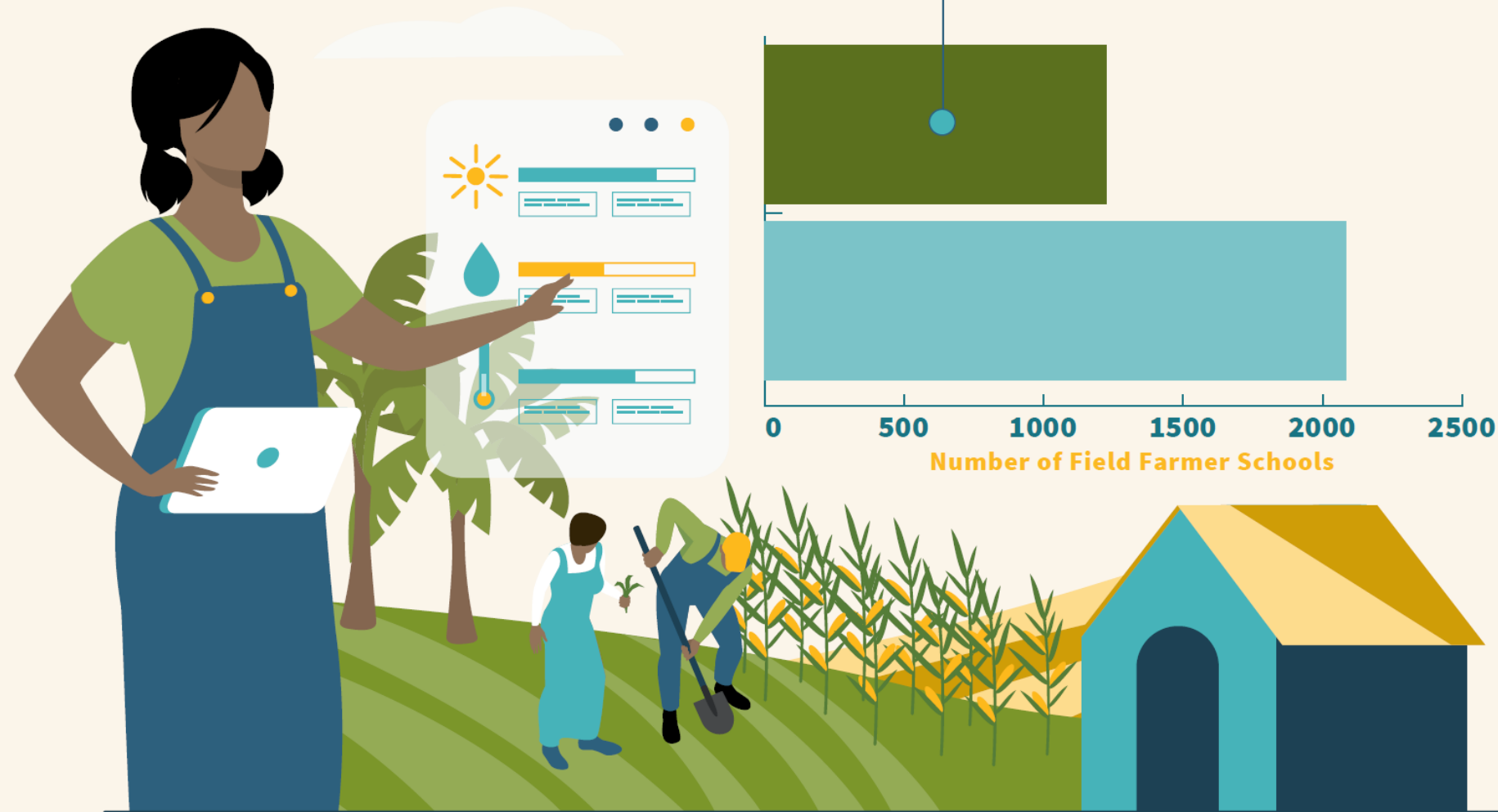
reduction in chronic
malnutrition in the
RFS project area



1,223 Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

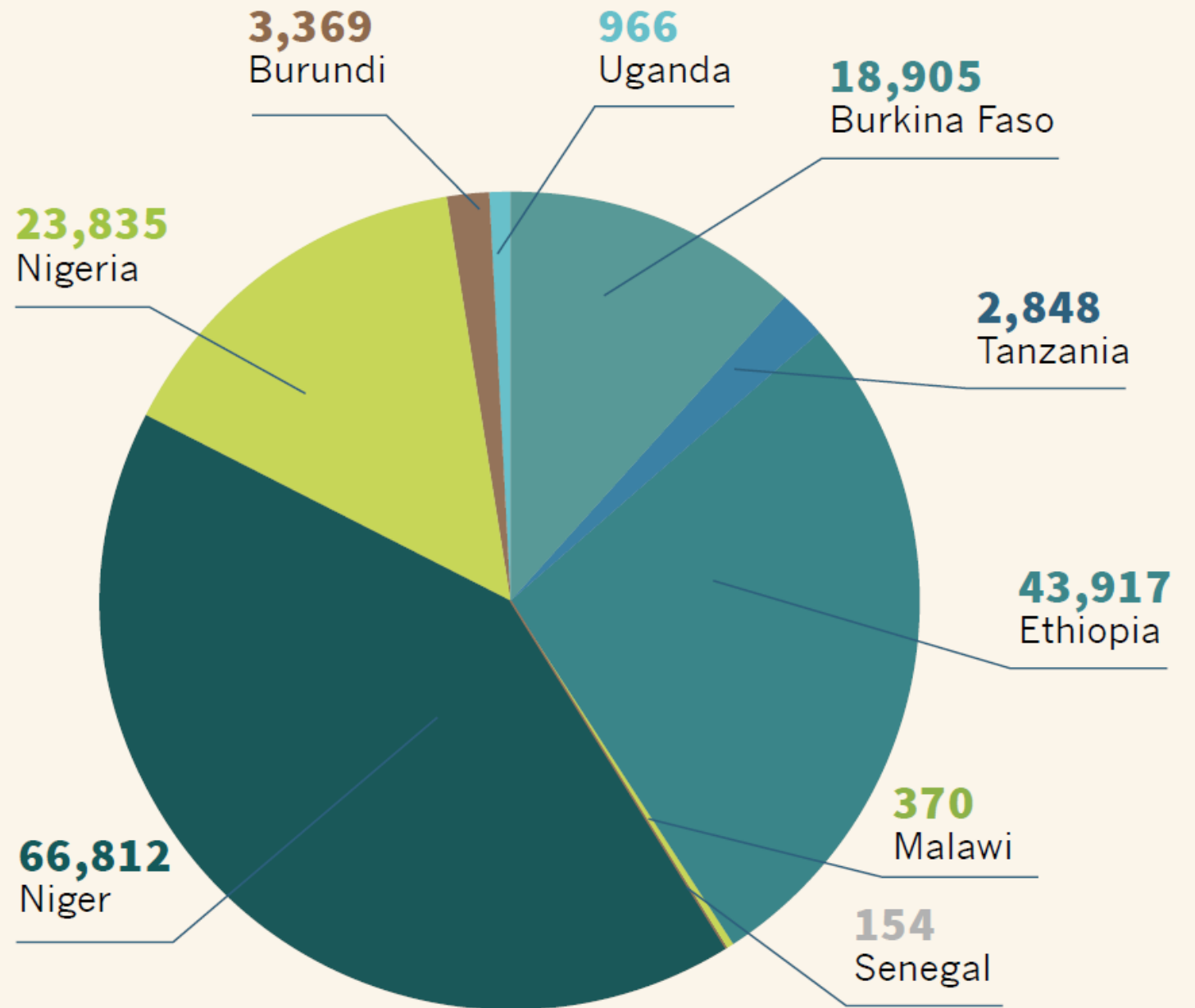
or Agro-Pastoral Field Schools setup reaching

35,724 farmers **58%** of target reached



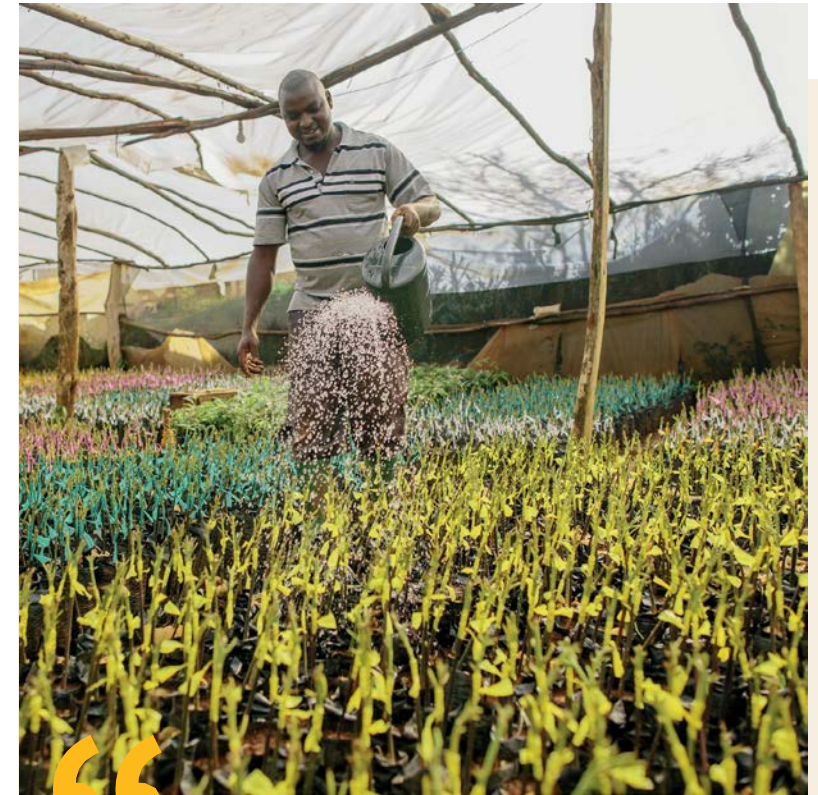
RFS in numbers

161,176 farmers
have been trained by
RFS country projects
in sustainable land
management practices.



Engaging the private sector and making a business case for investing in nature

- **Greening agricultural value chains :**
 - Regional training organised for the 12 country projects
 - **3 catalytic grants (\$ 200,000)** on green value chain development in Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Niger (UNDP & AGRA)
 - **Training toolkit on Greening value chains** developed available online in English and French
- **Good practices at country level :**
 - Kenya established successful PPPs (USD 1.6 million)
 - Nigeria and Eswatini enhanced local value chains through private partnerships
 - Ethiopia on increased its investment flows towards INRM
 - Niger brought the banking sector on board to finance agricultural development chains



We are bringing in resources that already existed but are now channelling them into a shared governance space.

ANTHONY KARIUKI
PROJECT COORDINATOR, UTNWF

IMAGE: © Bobby Neptune, The Nature Conservancy.



Track

Monitor, learn, respond

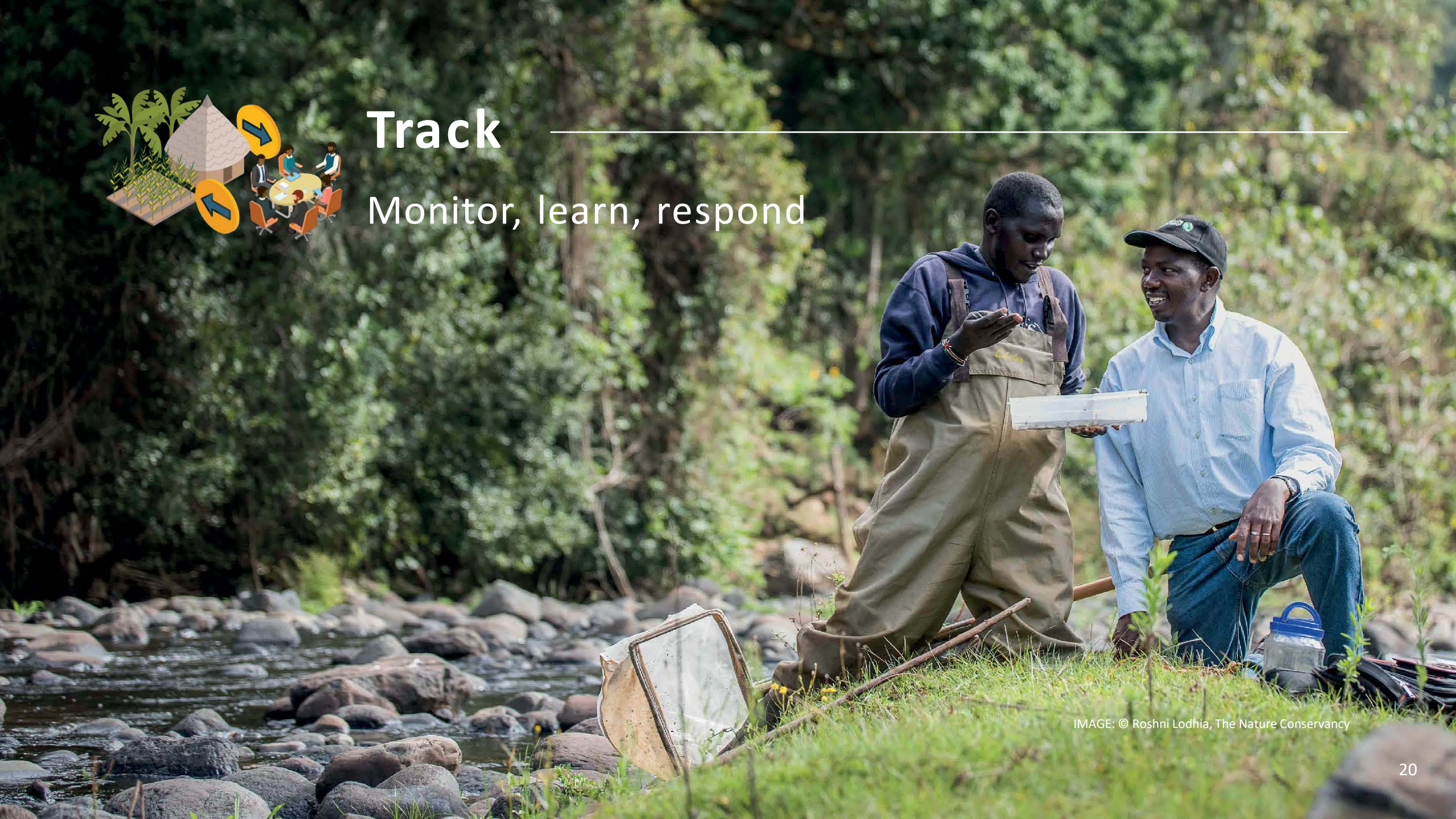


IMAGE: © Roshni Lodhia, The Nature Conservancy

Harmonising M&E across the programme and scaling up the use of common tools

- It has been a challenge, but through consistent collaborative engagement between Regional Hub partners and country teams, we now have:
 - An updated and detailed **RFS M&E Plan**;
 - An **operational M&E system**, including an online platform where programme results can be easily accessed and visualized (SmartME).
- Capacity of country project teams strengthened through dedicated RFS M&E trainings and workshops that helped establishing programme-wide indicators and targets.
- The programme **transition to the GEF-7 results architecture has been completed** at regional level.



Scaling up the use of common M&E tools and building capacity to monitor resilience



IMAGE: © Loice Abenda, The Nature Conservancy.

The training sessions resulted in a major increase in adoption of these tools across the programme.

- To help support country projects in implementation, follow-up virtual training sessions for EX-ACT, DATAR and outcome mapping were held in 2020 and 2021. Trainings for SHARP and Resilience Atlas have already taken place in 2021.

M&E tool or approach	BURKINA FASO	BURUNDI	ESWATINI	ETHIOPIA	GHANA	KENYA	MALAWI	NIGER	NIGERIA	SENEGAL	TANZANIA	UGANDA
Earth Observation for Sustainable Development Consortium												
Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool												
Self-Evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists												
Food Insecurity Experience Scale												
Land Degradation Surveillance Framework												
Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool												
Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index												
Diversity Assessment Tool for Agrobiodiversity and Resilience												
Outcome mapping												
Vital Signs, Trends.Earth, Resilience Atlas												

**36 new
knowledge
products***

created and
disseminated

**Achieved
36**

**Target
15**



Target 475

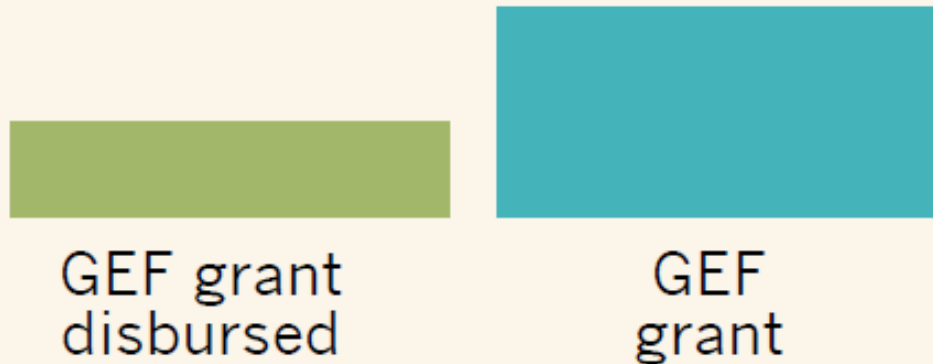
Achieved

**421
communication
products***

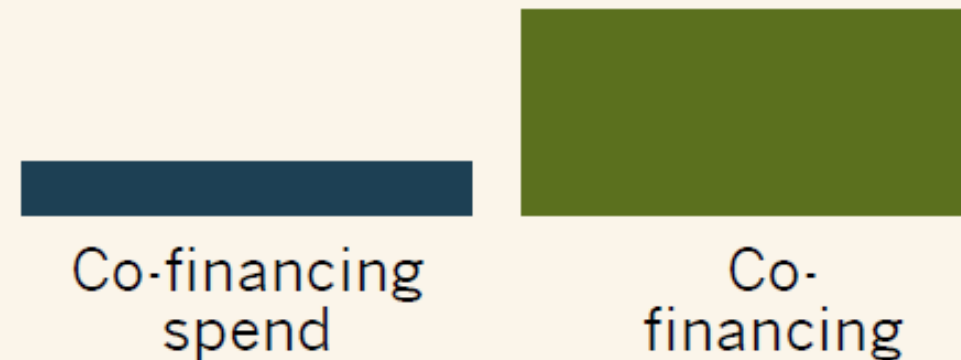
created and
disseminated

RFS in numbers

USD 43.9 million
out of **USD 95.5 million** in GEF grant
funds disbursed to
RFS country projects.



USD 142,7 million
co-financing spent
against
USD 542 million
committed



Spotlight on IFAD-LED

Region	Country	Grant amount	Amount Disbursed	% disbursed
WCA	Burkina Faso	7 269 448	6 045 264	83
	Niger	7 636 422	7 129 130	93
	Senegal	3 609 725	2 304 107	64
ESA	Malawi	7 155 963	2 816 832	39
	Eswatini	7 200 000	3 383 023	47
	Tanzania	7 155 963	2 325 027	32.5
	Kenya	7 201 835	7 123 031	99

Type	Agencies	Grant amount	Amount Disbursed	% disbursed
REGIONAL	Conservation Int (CI)-USA	1 755 000	990 235	56
	FAO-Italy	2 203 688	1 512 666	69
	ICRAF-Kenya	2 862 000	2 126 839	74
	UNDP-USA	2 250 000	1 469 157	65
	UNEP-Kenya	1 755 000	1 290 112	73.5

How is COVID-19 affecting RFS project communities?

Senegal

- Our beneficiaries live in rural areas with some of the highest poverty rates in the country. The past agricultural season, prior to the onset of COVID-19, was calamitous, resulting in widespread food insecurity since the end of March 2020.
- All of the weekly markets have been closed due to COVID-19, which means our beneficiaries are no longer able to sell produce or buy essential inputs.

Nigeria

- Beneficiaries are being (or will certainly be) significantly affected. Already some of our beneficiaries have missed out on the dry season farming, which would have added to their household income and provided opportunities to learn.
- Farmers are unable to buy inputs or sell their produce due to limited access to markets. On some farms, livestock are suffering from food shortages due to restrictions.
- We are anticipating an increase in hunger and poverty because communities will not be able to meet their food production needs.

Uganda

- COVID-19 has affected planting schedules, farm employment, food prices and the incidence of domestic violence.
- Karamoja is the most vulnerable region in Uganda. The current situation has made the food security situation even worse.
- Government is likely to put more emphasis on emergency interventions to save lives and livelihoods.
- The capacity of implementing partners is likely to reduce due to financial constraints, thereby increasing the unmet needs of the target communities.

Eswatini

Some beneficiaries are casual workers who have already been laid off. They usually sell their produce through informal markets, but are unable to do so now.

Ethiopia

- Movement restrictions have affected the transfer of knowledge and skills to the household and community level.
- The local markets are not adequately providing agricultural inputs. This, coupled with a lack of field-level technical support, will impact the incomes of project beneficiaries.

Kenya

- Because the planting season and all field-based activities have been stopped, beneficiaries will miss a full season of support from the RFS Kenya project.
- Our farmers supply many consumers, including hotels, offices, supermarkets and other businesses. With the partial or complete closure of these businesses, farmers have reduced options as to where they can sell their produce. For example, farmers who used to sell milk and other dairy products to hotels are now forced to pour milk away. Those who sell eggs have been forced to sell them at cheaper prices.
- Beneficiaries are also incurring a lot of additional expenses. Cases of rural-urban migration due to job loss are on the rise. The burden of care increases in these households.
- Despite the pandemic, food security will remain the focus of most governments in Africa. However, overall government spending is likely to decline due to a possible economic depression in most countries. This will affect institutional capacities and the level of funding support.

Burundi

Beneficiaries are significantly affected. Farmers cannot access seeds and other required agricultural inputs.

Tanzania

The postponement or cancellation of project activities due to COVID-19 will have a significant effect on the beneficiary communities as no training can be conducted in the current situation.

Malawi

The capacity building of project beneficiaries will be greatly affected as all training sessions, workshops and meetings have been suspended.

Figure 14. Direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 on RFS beneficiary communities

Summary Regional Hub performance at mid-term review

Overall RFS Hub project performance		Satisfactory
Component 1: Institutional frameworks and policy	FAO, UNEP	Moderately satisfactory
Component 2: Scaling up : Field work and value chains	FAO, UNDP	Satisfactory
Component 3: Monitoring and assessment	CI, Bioversity (plus ICRAF, FAO)	Satisfactory
Component 4: Programmatic coordination and impact, visibility and coherence	ICRAF	Satisfactory
Programmatic value addition		Moderately satisfactory

SIX-MONTH NO-COST EXTENSION RECOMMENDED FOR THE HUB – UNTIL 30 JUNE 2023

Recommendations for the Regional Hub

- 1. For RFS to organize regional and country K&L flagship events – a road show - in 2022**
 - ❑ Mining of RFS experiences, from Hub and countries, with critical reflections on lessons
 - ❑ Informing and influencing policy and institutions in countries and at regional level
- 2. For Hub Agencies to boost interventions in countries, cooperate better among agencies and support the 2022 roadshow**
- 3. Carry out an assessment of CP M&A status and progress: CP readiness for measuring resilience and other impact, in view of terminal impact assessments**
- 4. Migrating the RFS K&L platform to potentially interested organizations, such as NEPAD, UN Agencies or CG centers**



Country projects – main findings

- ❑ **Mixed performance** of the seven IFAD RFS CP (and the other five CP)
- ❑ Several projects **catching up at mid- and late-term** (such as Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Malawi)
- ❑ **Many results are reported**, mainly activities and outputs; land-based GEB
- ❑ Performance dependent on **co-finance baseline projects**
- ❑ **Limited capacity at mid-term to assess quality of outputs, adoption rates and environmental outcomes**
- ❑ **Impressive aggregate results for the RFS can mask outlier projects**, that for instance include GEF baselines (beneficiaries) or count indicators differently (platforms)



Lessons *(for GEF and whoever is interested)*

- ❑ **Lesson 1: Early engagement by all Agencies and country projects during design is critical.** Aim for some common, defining activities, M&E indicators, and ways to measure. What's not in CP or Agency design, LogFrames, budgets and workplans will not be done.
- ❑ **Lesson 2: SMART output/outcome indicators for K&L platforms, including for partner cooperation, are called for.** This requires a Theory of Change specifically for K&L and PVA with measurable intermediate process and outcome indicators, including for programme cooperation by all partners.
- ❑ **Lesson 3: Future programmes should consider fewer executing Agencies at the on-set.** Technical partnerships and expertise can be added over time when necessities and demands emerge, e.g. through sub-contracting.



Lessons ctnd.

- ❑ **Lesson 4:** Inter-agency cooperation by programme partners requires effective mechanisms, incentives and agreements for joint programming and adaptive management. Individual Agency workplans are necessary and good, but Agencies share the burden in the broader success of the Programme (it's not just the Lead Agency)
- ❑ **Lesson 5:** Ownership and drivenness by partners in the success of the whole programme are the most important asset. It takes time and restrained leadership to build trust and ownership. Visibility of all Agencies is important.

Implications for next year planning

1. Two-day virtual workshop organized on 25-26 November 2021 to develop a joint action plan to address recommendations from the MTR and ensure alignment of Hub AWPB with more focus on country needs
2. Review of Hub grant agreements for no-cost extension based on demand from Hub partners
3. Joint portfolio review by component and documentation of good practices and lessons especially on resilience building and M&A
4. Increase visibility of RFS through regional events and reflect on sustainability of knowledge platforms



Thank you!

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