

# Research Methods Support for CCRP

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## Why CCRP offers Research Methods Support

CCRP's goal and principles require research processes and methods that are innovative with respect to the integration of research, development, policy-influence, partnerships, and networking with stakeholders. The need for research methods support addresses the following issues:

1. There are no strongly established principles or practices for supporting research on agroecological intensification (AEI) or farmer's involvement throughout the research process.
2. Research methods (RM) that involve farmers at all stages of research are not widely available, understood and used.
3. Many data-to-information systems are non-responsive, one-way, and difficult to access; they meet the researchers' aims but not those of multiple stakeholders.
4. There is slow diffusion and acceptance of new research methods ideas and practices.

CCRP has awarded a grant to set up a Research Methods Support (RMS) project. It aims to improve these research processes and methods through support to CCRP projects, regional teams and the leadership team by developing RM innovations, improving data-to-information systems, supporting the use of appropriate research methods, and sharing the learning derived from those activities. Much progress has been made in earlier phases of RMS, but problems, situations, ideas, experiences, and project teams continually change, so the need remains.

## What is RMS in practice?

### Direct Project Support

We provide research methods support to grantees and CCRP in general, largely at their request. This may include, but is not restricted to:

- Contributions to project inception meetings
- Discussion of the project ToC
- Research activity design
- Data management
- Support on planning analysis
- Use of mixed approaches to better target research questions
- Use of IT to support more effective data-to-information loops
- Participation at meetings of the communities of practice

Direct Project Support can be provided face-to-face or remotely:

1. We work with project team members face-to-face when we visit projects or during meetings that involve more than one project, jointly-organised workshops, and CoP meetings.
2. RMS is making an effort to provide continuous support at a distance through the use of webinars, on-line meetings, telephone calls, and email. While we understand the advantages of face-to-face support, we also are aware of the need to minimise CO2 emissions by reducing air travel and the importance of providing support to grantees at the right time and not only when we meet.
3. RMS is establishing a series of informal communications channels, including WhatsApp groups, to encourage exchange of information between the RMS team and grantees that are interested in research methods.
4. We are creating a directory of colleagues interested in receiving news about what RMS is doing. We will share with them news, interesting articles, announcements of the launch of materials to support their work (videos, manuals, examples of good practice, etc), and other information that the RMS team may find useful in our role of supporting good use of methods and approaches. As a grantee, you are welcome to join the community that exchanges RM information. To join, go to [stats4sd.org/ccrp](https://stats4sd.org/ccrp) and click on the link "Subscribe for updates".

RMS also coordinates with CCRP cross-cutting projects and at the same time it supports them, it works with them to support other grantees. This includes the cross-regional projects, currently Soils and Agroecology.

The RMS team has a presence in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Niger through colleagues who live in those countries and who may be able to arrange visits to your projects easier than those based in the UK.

## **Our promise about your data and your results**

In order to offer effective support to projects, we will need access to unpublished research plans, protocols, data, reports, etc. In handling such material, we will abide by the following rules:

- We will not share with a third party any data or document supplied to us by projects without permission of the authors.
- We will keep such material in a secure location so that it cannot be accessed by others.
- We will guard the confidentiality and anonymity of the data providers.
- Unless there is an explicit agreement with the data owners and/or the researchers who carried out the work, we will not publish under our names the results derived of data shared with us for the purpose of receiving support.

## **Capacity building**

The RMS team contributes to the capacity building strategy of each region. It provides inputs to the development of the strategy and, when appropriate, conducts training or organises events (face-to-face or virtual) that respond to the regional strategy. Some of these events are organised by the Regional Team or by groups of projects, with RMS attending and contributing at the request of the organisers.

## **Support Materials**

RMS has begun the systematisation of materials about approaches, methods, research tools, examples of good practice, techniques, and experiences relevant to the research that CCRP grantees do. This is coordinated with the programme, and includes materials about Farmer Research Networks and Agroecology. The repository of these resources can be found at <https://stats4sd.org/ccrp#ccrp-resources>

This site contains links to a collection of written material, audio, and videos in English, with an increasing collection in French and Spanish, that we have compiled from working with CCRP grantees. The collection is constantly increasing with contributions from the RMS team, but we also invite CCRP grantees to submit materials they find useful. To do so, contact a member of the RMS team.

## How to Access our Support

You can contact us in any of the following ways:

- If you are new to CCRP, you can email the RMS staff coordinating the support for your region:

East and Southern Africa Region:	Ric Coe at <a href="mailto:r.coe@stats4sd.org">r.coe@stats4sd.org</a>
West Africa Region:	David Stern at <a href="mailto:d.a.stern@idems.international">d.a.stern@idems.international</a>
Andes Region:	Carlos Barahona at <a href="mailto:c.e.barahona@stats4sd.org">c.e.barahona@stats4sd.org</a>

- If you already know a member of our team, you can contact them directly.
- Join one of the WhatsApp groups set up to exchange information about RMS.
- Use the resources provided by RMS at [stats4sd.org/ccrp](https://stats4sd.org/ccrp)

### The RMS team

- Ric Coe: Team Leader and East/Southern Africa RMS coordinator
- Carlos Barahona: Andes RMS coordinator
- David Stern: West Africa RMS coordinator
- Jane Poole (Kenya based)
- Sam Dumble
- Alex Riba
- Dave Mills
- Nicolas Greliche
- Lucia Falcinelli
- Emily Nevitt
- Ian Fitzpatrick
- Chris Clark
- Nuru Kipato (Tanzania based)
- Shiphar Mulumba (Uganda based)
- Zed Mawusi (Niger based)
- Alex Thomson
- Ciara McHugh