



Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa project



Managing **A**gricultural **R**esearch for **L**earning and **O**utcomes (MARLO)

INTRODUCTION TO MARLO

Updated June, 2021



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS MARLO-AICCRA

Welcome to **MARLO** - **M**anaging **A**gricultural **R**esearch for **L**earning and **O**utcomes. MARLO is an online platform designed to assist Platforms in planning, monitoring, reporting on, and evaluating their research portfolios and their contributions to outcomes.

MARLO is the result of joint work by several CRPs to improve a tool developed by CCAFS in Phase 1 and adapt it to the needs of the CRPs in Phase 2.

1.2 WHAT IS THE PORPUSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is an introductory guide for MARLO users. It is not intended as a detailed user guide. The roles and responsibilities of the different MARLO users vary by Clusters and are not covered in this document. Contact your Management Unit for more detailed guidance as needed

1.3 KEY MARLO-AICCRA CONCEPTS

In MARLO, a **cluster** is a body of research¹ to which corresponds a set of deliverables. MARLO is designed to monitor and evaluate the platform portfolio at the cluster **level**.

Each research project belongs to at least one **flagship, Regional or country**.

Each project is funded through a collection of Window 1-2. In MARLO-AICCRA, each W1-2 allocation is called a **funding source**. The deliverables of a project are associated with one or several funding source(s). In MARLO, **impact pathways** describe the relationships between the performance indicators (Project development Objective (PDO) and the four components). The **deliverables** of a project (i.e., tangible, specific products to be delivered in a certain year, such as a publication or a database) are mapped to **performance indicators** (i.e., to strengthen the capacity of targeted CCAFS (CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security) partners and stakeholders, and to enhance access to climate information services and validated climate-smart agriculture technologies in IDA-eligible countries in Africa). Outcomes (same as the Development Objective) are supposed to be reached in 2023, which is the end of AICCRA project. For each outcome, a set of annual **milestones** (same as the Development Objective) are defined for years between 2021 and 2023 to reflect progress toward outcomes.

Note: Impact pathways are set-up by the admins of MARLO-AICCRA. This process happens before information can be entered at project level, and is not covered in this document.

MARLO-AICCRA is used at planning stage and at reporting stage. Planning usually occurs in the period November-January and consists in entering updated information about project plans for the coming year. Reporting will happen twice a year in June and consists in entering updated information about achievementsof the past year. The processes of updating MARLO-AICCRA at planning and reporting stages are referred to as **planning cycle** and **reporting cycle**

2. USING MARLO-AICCRA

2.1 HOW TO LOG IN

Go to MARLO: <https://aiccra.marlo.cgiar.org/>

Note: MARLO-AICCRA works best with Chrome and Firefox; please use one of these browsers if possible.

Enter your CGIAR credentials (full CGIAR e-mail address and password). If you do not have a CGIAR email address, login credentials will be sent to you



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Home

Welcome to Managing Agricultural Research for Learning and Outcomes

MARLO is an online platform assisting CRPs, Platforms and Centers in their strategic results-based program planning and reporting of research clusters. It covers the cluster cycle from planning to reporting and learning. Reports generated by the system support outcome-focused programmatic reporting with additional synthesis at the flagship and cross-cutting levels.

Email

Next

PLEASE NOTE that by using the system, you consent to the information being used on the public PTF and/or Center websites and other knowledge sharing platforms. The information you input should therefore be complete and suitable for an external audience.

Participating PTFs:
Not PTFs loaded

Centers:
Not Centers loaded

and Platforms:
AICCRA

2.2 IMPORTANT TIPS

Saving changes

Click the 'Save' button before moving to another section.

If you change section without clicking on the 'Save' button, MARLO-AICCRA asks whether you want to confirm the changes you have made before leaving that section.

In order to prevent loss of data, MARLO-AICCRA is equipped with an auto-save function which automatically saves information every 7 seconds. When this happens, a notification appears at the top of the screen ("Draft Saved"). Information saved through this function remains as draft and is not available in other sections. Therefore, do not move to another section without clicking on 'Save'.

Save changes ?

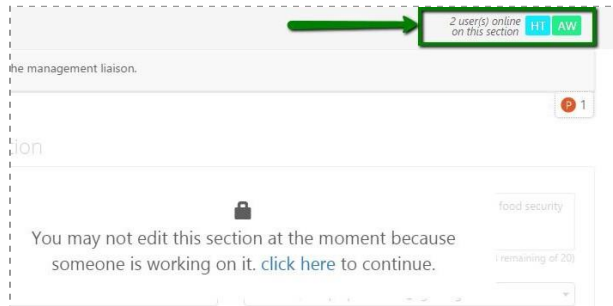
MARLO saved a temporary version of your work. Please confirm your changes by clicking on the save button.

Save Continue

Multiple users working simultaneously



Only one user at a time can edit a given section in MARLO. When someone else is editing a section, a message appears and the initials of the current users appear at the top of the screen.



2.3 ENTERING AND VIEWING INFORMATION ABOUT CLUSTERS

Only certain MARLO-AICCRA users have permission to add, edit, or submit projects. Check the email you received from MARLO-AICCRA upon creation of your MARLO-AICCRA profile to see which of these tasks are accessible to you

Editing a project

Editing a project occurs both during the planning cycle and during the reporting cycle. During the planning cycle, after a cluster is added, more details about what the cluster plans to accomplish each year are added. During the reporting cycle, updates are provided about the actual cluster accomplishments

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Home Impact Pathways Clusters Funding Sources Summaries BI

Margarita Maria Ramirez
margarita.ramirez@cgiar.org
(PQ) Logout

Clusters 0 user(s) online on this section

POWB - 2021 Closed UpKeep - 2021 AR - 2021 Closed

Please select the cluster you want to work on with regards to the current Planning cycle by clicking on the title. If you cannot find a cluster you expect to see, please contact the component leader.

Active (On-Going and Extended clusters) **Archived** (Completed and Cancelled cluster)

Active Clusters (With editing privileges)

Copy Search:

General Information				Total AICCRA Budget (USD) 2021		Actions		
ID	Cluster title	Institution Lead	Leader	Components(s) & Region(s)	WB Funds	Status	Summary	Remove
C2076	Country Project Senegal: Activities led by ICRISAT (Jan 1, 2021 - Dec 31, 2023)	CGIAR ICRISAT	Whitbread, Anthony	CSA KS PDO PD WA	US\$ 0.00	Ready for PL		
C2077	Thematic Project CCAFS FP2: Activities led by the Alliance (Jan 1, 2021 - Dec 31, 2023)	CCAFS FP2 ALLIANCE	Laderach, Peter	PDO CSA KS PD AW	US\$ 0.00	Ready for PL		
C2079	Management Project MTI: CCAFS MT Activities (Jan 1, 2021 - Dec 31, 2023)	CCAFS MT ALLIANCE	Campbell, Bruce	CCAFS MT ALLIANCE	US\$ 0.00	Ready for PL		
C2080	Regional Project EA CCAFS RPL: Regional Engagement and Coordination in Eastern and Southern Africa (Jan 1, 2021 - Dec 31, 2023)	CCAFS EA ILRI	Solomon, Dawit	PD CSA KS PDO EA-SA	US\$ 0.00	Ready for PL		

Add research cluster Add management cluster

To find a cluster, enter part of the cluster title or the cluster ID in the Search field. In addition, the table of clusters can be sorted (click on the header of the column you want to use for sorting).



The status of the project can be:

Pre-setting: basic information about the cluster's description, partners, and budget should be entered.

Ready for CL: more detailed information about the cluster's location, contribution to performance indicator, deliverables, and in some cases partners, should be entered - usually by the cluster leader

Open the cluster by clicking on its title or ID.

At planning stage, after the cluster has been pre-set, more detailed information needs to be provided about the cluster's **location, contribution performance indicators, and deliverables** (see Cluster Menu on left-hand side). **Additional partners** that were not added during pre-setting can also be entered at this stage. Usually, these steps are performed by the cluster leader

Tips for working on projects

It is recommended to fill in cluster sections in the order that they appear in in the left-hand side Cluster Menu.

Mandatory fields are indicated by asterisks (*).

When all mandatory fields in a project section have been completed, a green checkmark appears next to this section in the left-hand side Cluster Menu.

You can check which sections are still incomplete by clicking on the 'Check' button at the bottom of the Cluster Menu.

Upon clicking 'Save', a yellow flag appears next to the missing fields.

When working on a cluster, the cluster ID appears in the top right corner of the screen. Hover your mouse over the cluster ID to see the full project title





To enter the contribution to the components per cluster it must be done from the left menu in Contribution to performance Indicator section and complete the information

In this section you will find all the information related to the performance indicator, the intermediate targets,

and the expected values that you will accomplish each year compare with the overall target. Also, at Progress 20XX you will find the questions for the progress report.

For the activities sections please validate that all the main activities that you have budget allocations are mapped to the cluster and relate all the deliverables that are contributing to each activity.

2.4 ENTERING AND VIEWING INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMARIES

Click on 'Summaries' in the top menu for access to various types of standard summaries (in pdf or Excel format) about the information entered in MARLO

2.5 ENTERING AND VIEWING INFORMATION ABOUT BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Click on "BI" in the top menu for access to access to the Business Intelligence dashboards to see all the graphics that we have design for you



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Dashboard

Indicators Monitoring

Deliverables monitoring

AICCRA Indicators monitoring dashboard

Year: 2021

19-Jun-21 12:29 PM

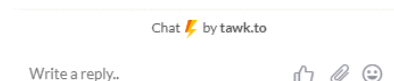
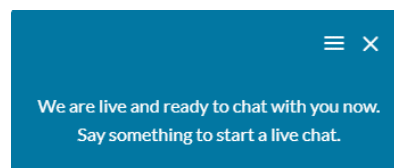
Last Updated Date (UTC)

Components -> Indicators

Component	Overall target value	Overall target value	Year	Year target value	Contributed value	Overall expected value of year	Current achieved
IP02 Indicator 1: CGIAR partners and stakeholders in the project area are increasingly accessing enhanced climate information services and for-relevant climate smart agriculture technologies. Indicator 1	0 of 40	2021	10	8	800	1	1
IP02 Indicator 2: CGIAR funders in the project area are increasingly accessing enhanced climate information services and for-relevant climate smart agriculture technologies. Indicator 2	0 of 100,000	2021	250,000	8	260,000.00	257,000	1
IP02 Indicator 3: Enhanced climate information services and related climate smart agriculture technologies originating in one SSA country are being made accessible in other SSA countries. Indicator 3	0 of 4	2021	1	5	5.00	1	1
IP03 Indicator 1: Tailored climate information services and climate smart agriculture technologies disseminated to smallholder farmers	0 of 10	2021	3	4	4.00	10	10
IP03 Indicator 2: Climate information services and climate smart agriculture technologies reaching women through customized and gendered information products	0 of 30	2021	5	8	7.00	30	30
IP03 Indicator 3: Use of adaptation of AICCRA funded climate-relevant knowledge products, decision-making tools and services used and endorsed by targeted partners and stakeholders (N)	0 of 80	2021	40	9	57.00	24	24
IP03 Indicator 4: Dissemination of climate smart and regional events informed by AICCRA funded project outputs (gender and social inclusion dimension)	0 of 20	2021	3	3	3.00	20	20
IP03 Indicator 5: Policy and investment decisions influenced by engagement and information dissemination by AICCRA funded partnerships and research leading activities (gender)	0 of 10	2021	3	4	5.00	10	10
IP04 Indicator 1: Climate-relevant knowledge products, decision-making tools and advisory services created or enhanced including a provision targeting gender and social inclusion dimension	0 of 90	2021	10	11	17.00	90	90
IP04 Indicator 2: AICCRA funded open-research research reports made available in open access format (gender and social inclusion dimension)	0 of 10	2021	5	9	4.00	10	10
IP04 Indicator 3: Tailored climate smart and regional events informed by AICCRA funded project outputs (gender and social inclusion dimension)	0 of 70	2021	70	2	2.00	70	70
IP05 Indicator 1: Climate advisory platforms have been strengthened including their focus on gender and social inclusion dimension	0 of 9	2021	1	4	1.00	9	9
IP05 Indicator 2: The new climate smart agriculture research platform (AICCRA-funded Climate Smart Agriculture Platform) is operational and accessible to farmers, extension, NGOs and private sector members (gender and social inclusion dimension)	0 of 20	2021	5	8	4.00	20	20
IP05 Indicator 3: The new climate smart agriculture research platform (AICCRA-funded Climate Smart Agriculture Platform) is operational and accessible to farmers, extension, NGOs and private sector members (gender and social inclusion dimension)	0 of 4,000	2021	500	1	500.00	1	1
IP05 Indicator 4: Satisfaction with the effectiveness of the partnerships under AICCRA expressed by surveyed partners and stakeholders (N)	0 of 70	2021	70	2	2.00	70	70

3. SUPPORT FOR MARLO-AICCRA USERS

Use the online support chat which is located at the bottom left of the screen. The chat is monitored by the technical team based at CIAT in Colombia during business hours. Messages sent by users through the chat outside business hours (Colombia time) will be answered via email



Or contact us through MARLOSupport@cgiar.org