Integrating evidence and practice for adaptive management:
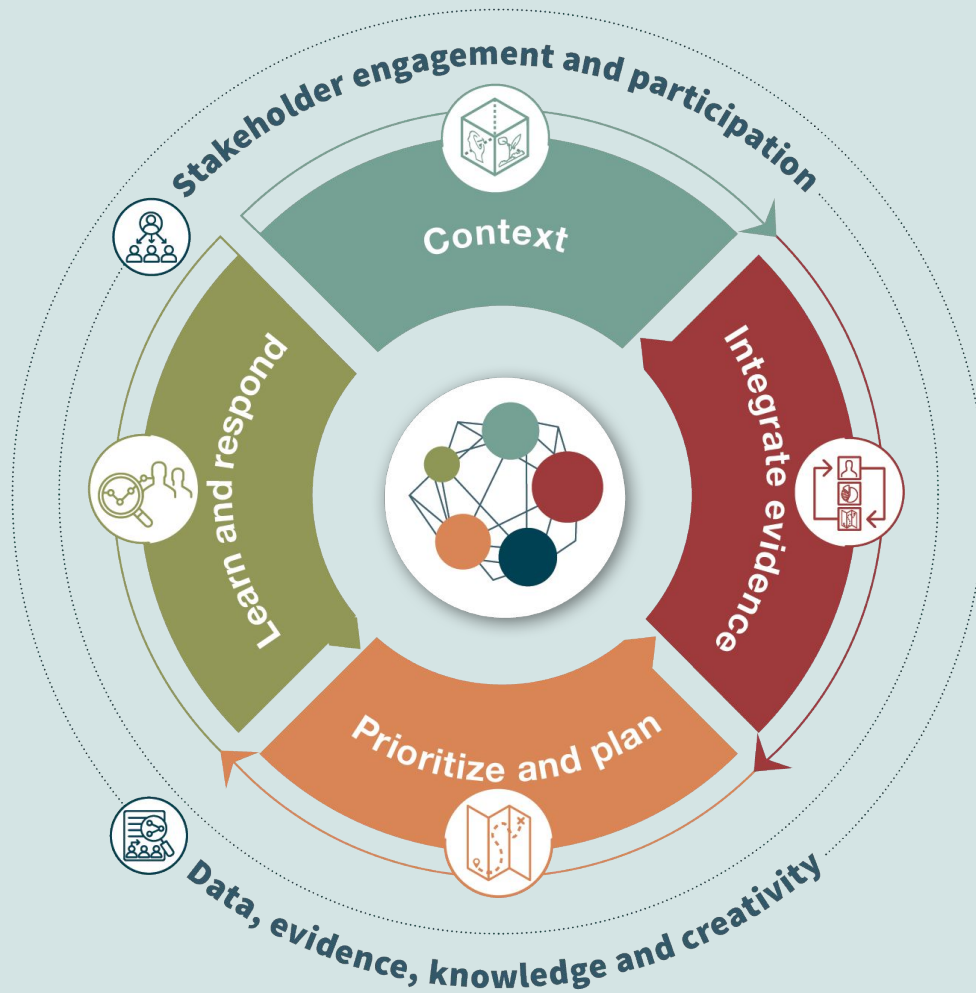
The role of Joint Reflective Learning Missions

Constance L. Neely, Lead SHARED Decision Hub
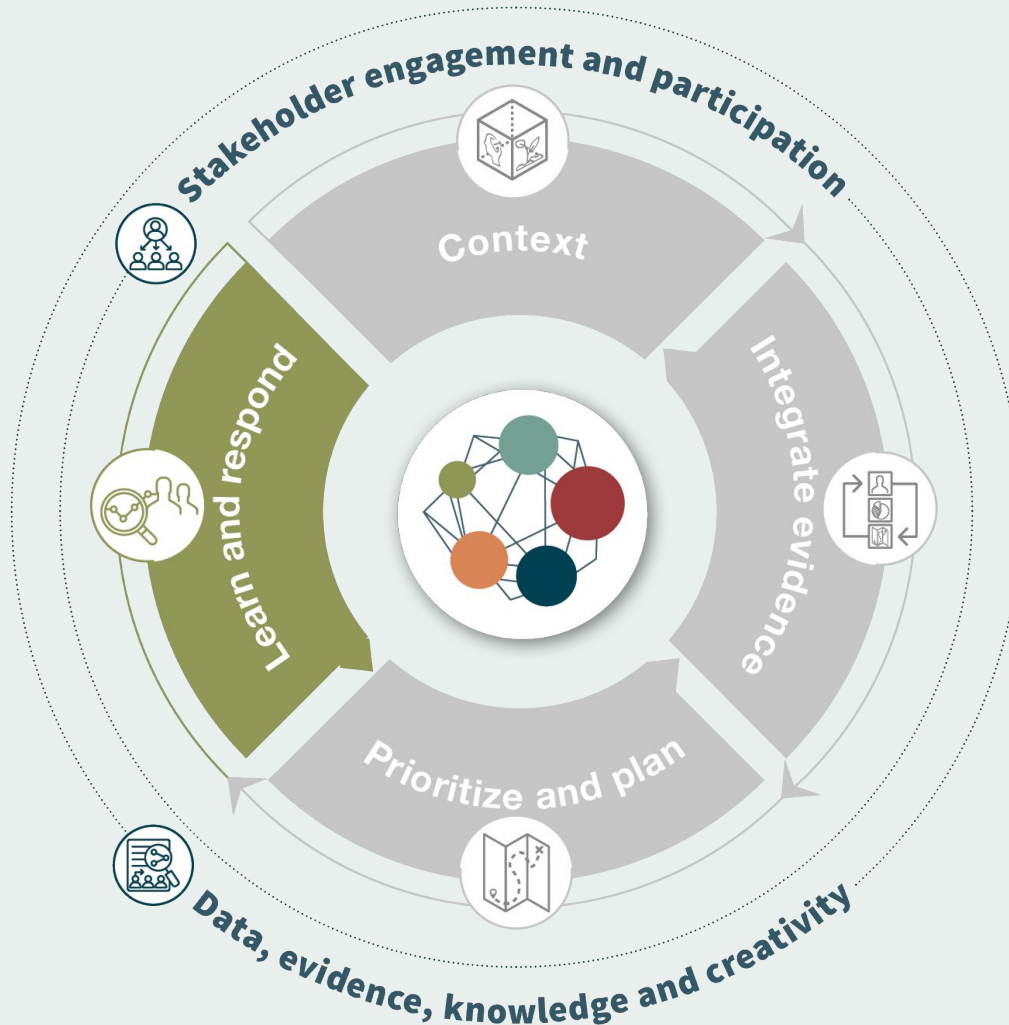
SHARED framework

- The SHARED Decision Hub is a collective of stakeholder engagement, behavioural specialists and transdisciplinary scientists

- SHARED works within Regreening Africa to strengthen the linkages across science, practice and policy and among country teams.

- Focuses on relationships, tailored engagement and breaks down the complexity within the project to sequence these engagements and access to evidence to technically backstop both the implementation learning and policy entry points.

Regreening Africa

Joint Reflective Learning Missions: A novel approach to annual monitoring and adaptive learning

With the complex nature of the program with multiple development implementors and supporting scientific components and intention of enhancing an enabling policy environment working in eight country contexts - a robust engagement process was designed to bring experiences and evidence directly in to adapt annual planning cycles.

Joint Reflection Learning Missions

A reflective and learning process among diverse partners to interrogate and integrate these multiple evidence sources into practice and policy

Regreening Africa

Practitioners, farmers, scientists, and decision makers work together through structured engagement processes to interrogate and reflect upon scientific evidence and practical experience to adapt plans for greater impact.

Field Visits

Interrogation of Interactive evidence and experience wall

Reflections on implementation, scaling and leveraging

Policy influencing

SHARED
The Decision Hub

Field Visits

Interrogation of interactive evidence and experience wall

Reflections on implementation, scaling and leveraging

Policy influencing

Structured interaction among farmers, local authorities, development practitioners, national government, scientists in farmers fields

Field progress, challenges and opportunities

Citizen science from Regreening Africa App

Land health data
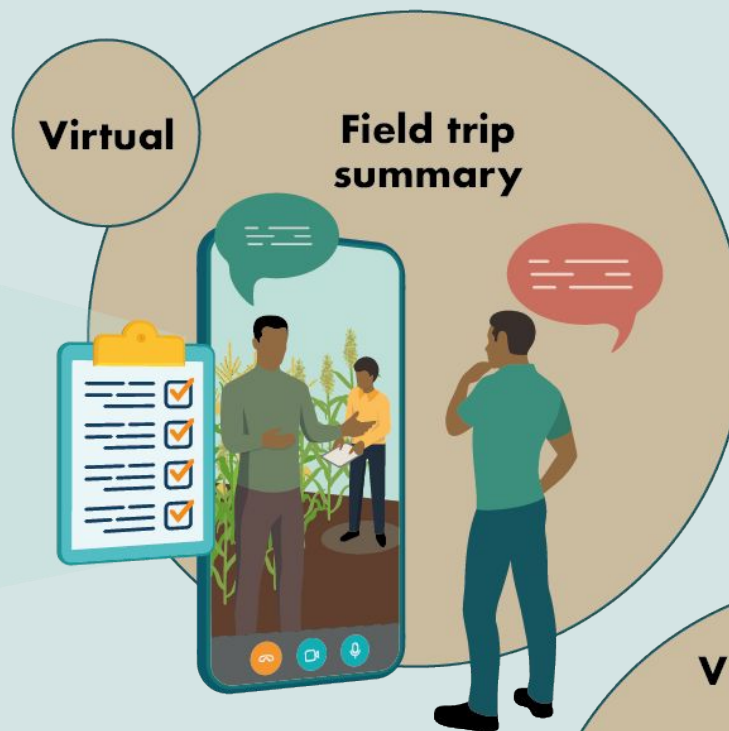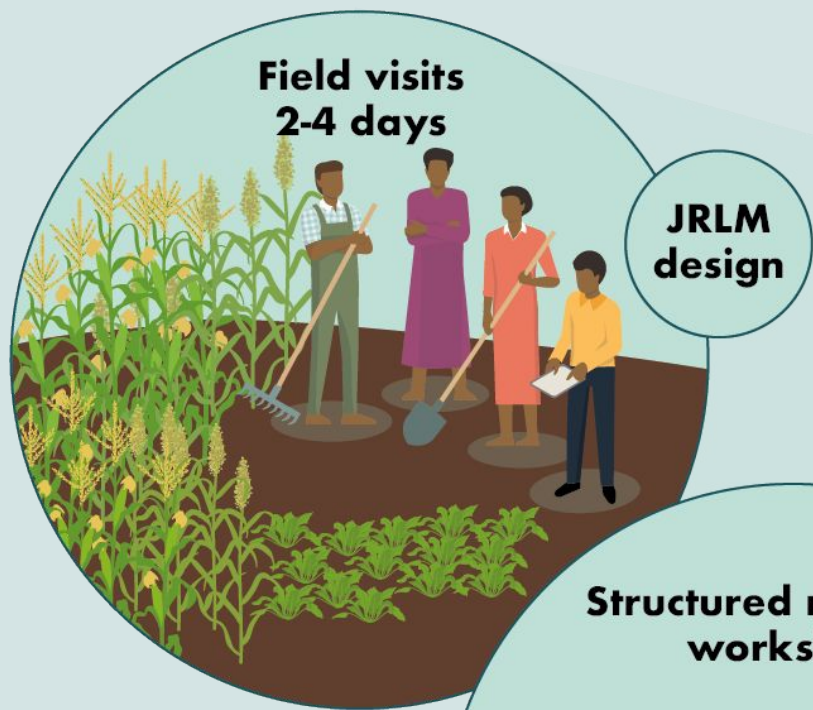
Designing amendments to technical support, implementation, outreach and communications, and capacity building based on evidence interrogation

Using tools such as outcome mapping to clearly articulate target stakeholders for change, process for engagement and messaging.
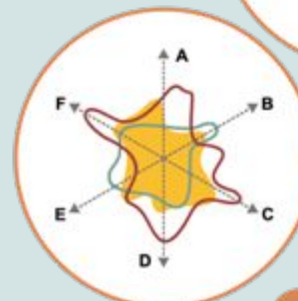
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Photos

Testimonials

"FMNR improved productivity on my farm and improved nutrition for my livestock"

Data

Box plot

Radar chart

Bar chart

Maps

Regreening Africa
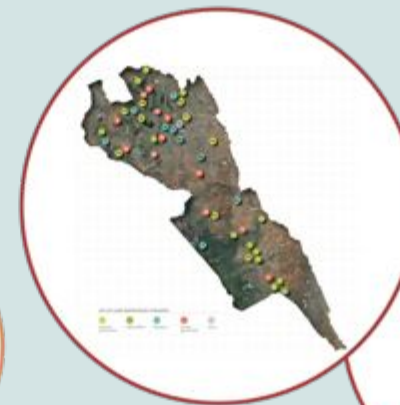
Examples of Outcomes of the Joint Reflective Learning Missions

- Thematic cross-country learning and exchange events and visits
- Adjusted scaling model in Senegal
- Diversification of species in Rwanda
- Greater Uptake of Regreening App in the sites
- Target technical support and emphasis on where we needed additional resources to reach targets.

Regreening Africa

Key aspects for joint reflection, monitoring and learning

Creating a neutral space. Provides a space to jointly and honestly reflect on challenges, mistakes, innovations and bring together implementation and scientific findings and perceptions.

Monitoring that makes a difference. Allows for the rapid reflection and incorporation of evidence and experience for course correction and adaptive planning processes

Structuring dialogue for deeper understanding. Uses facilitation to understand the overall system, unpack themes, trends, behaviours and implications.

Strengthening relationships and enhancing interaction

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The JRLM is a scalable approach that can be applied to other contexts

Building relationships amongst development, research and policy partners

Skilled facilitators structuring and facilitating the dialogue

Bringing evidence and experience in accessible forms

Co-generating actionable recommendations

Closing the learning loops and adaptive management

REGREENING AFRICA

Regreening Africa

Joint Reflective Learning Missions 2021

Image Below: Pamela Kimeto (back) watering seedlings at her nursery farm in Eldama Ravine, Baringo County. Photo: Regreening Africa/Brian Gathu.

A summary across country field visits and virtual events to reflect on evidence and experience for planning for Year 5 of the Regreening Africa Project (2021-2022)

Summary by C. Neely, M. Bourne, A. Gosling, C. Magaju, W. Achieng, F. Wanda, O. Kipruto

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