



Shareweb

Agriculture & Food Security Network

Annual A+FS Monitoring Survey

Key Findings 2020

Survey Shareweb and Newsletter analysis | September 2019 - August 2020

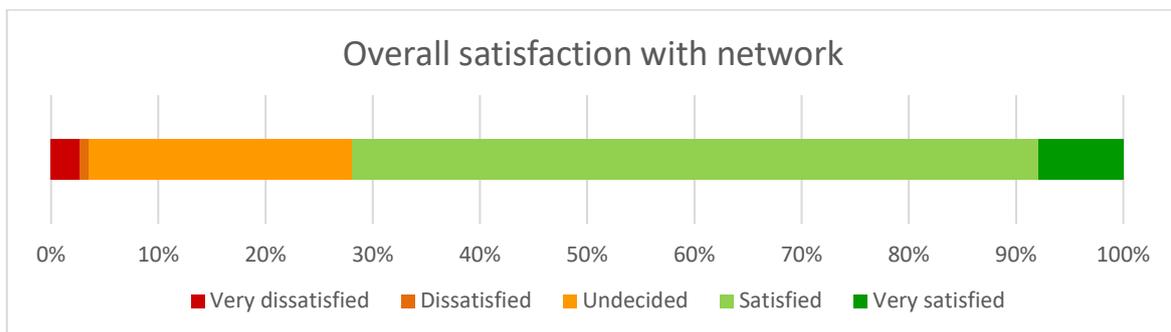
(Sent on 22.09.2020 to 368 network members, **115** filled in the survey, **80** answered all questions)

Dear A+FS Network members

We have the pleasure to present you the results of our annual A+FS network monitoring survey on the period September 2019 to August 2020 (compare also with our A+FS Dashboard) and the previous years 2018/2019 & 2017/2018).

We want to take this opportunity to thank the many of you who took the time to fill out our survey and who gave valuable comments and suggestions. We learned a lot from your opinions and ideas and this is highly appreciated from the whole focal point team!

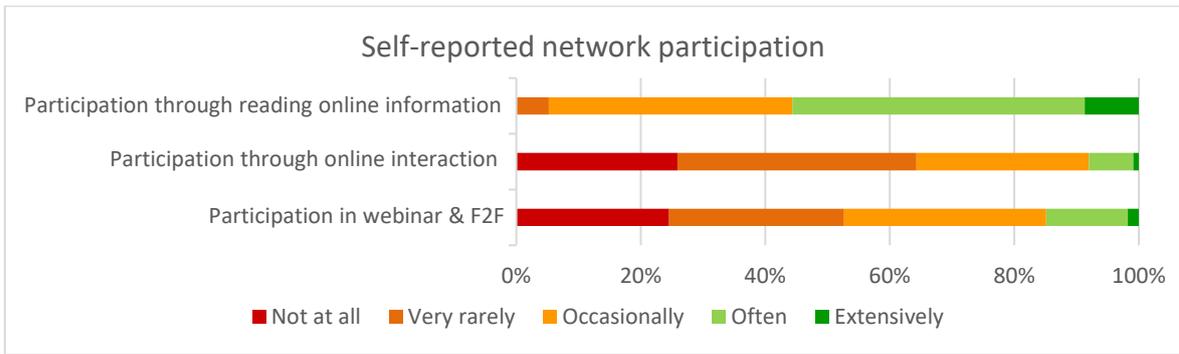
The average **overall network satisfaction** was 3.7 (1 is very dissatisfied and 5 is very satisfied). The median is 4, which suggests that the average participant has been satisfied with the network. In 2019, the average overall network satisfaction was 3.6, which suggests a slight improvement in the overall satisfaction of the network members.



Overall, participation (2.7 out of 5), application of network knowledge (2.7) and improvement of work through network participation (2.5) achieved **slightly higher levels compared with the previous years** (in 2019: 2.4, 2.3 and 2.3 and in 2018: 2.4, 2.1 and 2.6, respectively.)

PARTICIPATION

Self-reported network participation has reached again medium values. The most participants indicated that they participated through reading online / email information (3.6 out of 5). This was followed by attending webinars and F2F meetings (2.4) and online interactions with the lowest value of 2.2. These **values are again slightly higher than last year** (3.4, 1.7 and 2.0, respectively), especially the participation in webinars and F2F meetings have increased, which might be most probably be explained through the current situation shifting most knowledge management activities to online events.



Whereas the support from supervisors for the network was relatively high (3.8), participants indicated having limited time and resources available for network participation (3.0). This certainly constrained their participation, but again we see an **increase if compared to the results of the 2019 survey** (3.3 and 2.4, respectively).

An average number of 545 monthly **Shareweb visitors** (i.e., external visitors and network members) viewed 2675 pages per month. Those two numbers **clearly increased** when compared to 2019 with 453 monthly Shareweb visitors and 2309 pageviews per month on average.

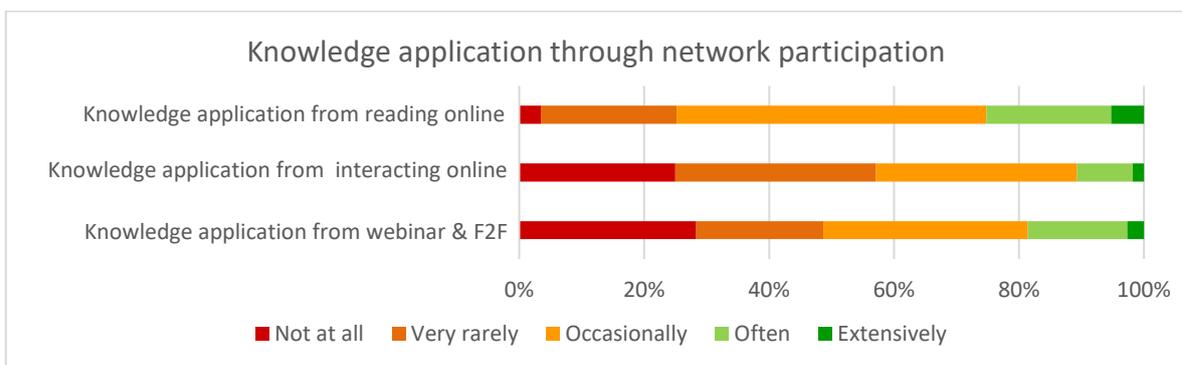
Most of the visitors were from European servers (56%) including 41% of visitors from Switzerland, followed by Africa (20%), Asia (15%) and America (9%). *(This European bias is caused by VPNs used by regional offices of SDC and its cooperation partners).*

The **newsletters** was **opened on average by 270 network members** (311 in 2019 and 326 in 2018), of **which 117 accessed further information** through links provided in the newsletter (117 and 128 in 2019 and 2018, respectively). These numbers suggest an apparent slight decrease of interest in the newsletter.

In terms of online interaction, the number of **overall Shareweb contributions increased from 162 to 243** (130 in 2018). 130 of these messages were posted by **59 network members who are not part of the core team**. This is a **large improvement compared to** the 53 messages posted by 40 network members in **2019**. Of note, this difference is largely explained by the three-weeks e-discussion organized in May 2020 by the A+FS network which attracted many contributions and inputs from the participants. The number of webinars organized throughout the year however decreased from 6 to 4.

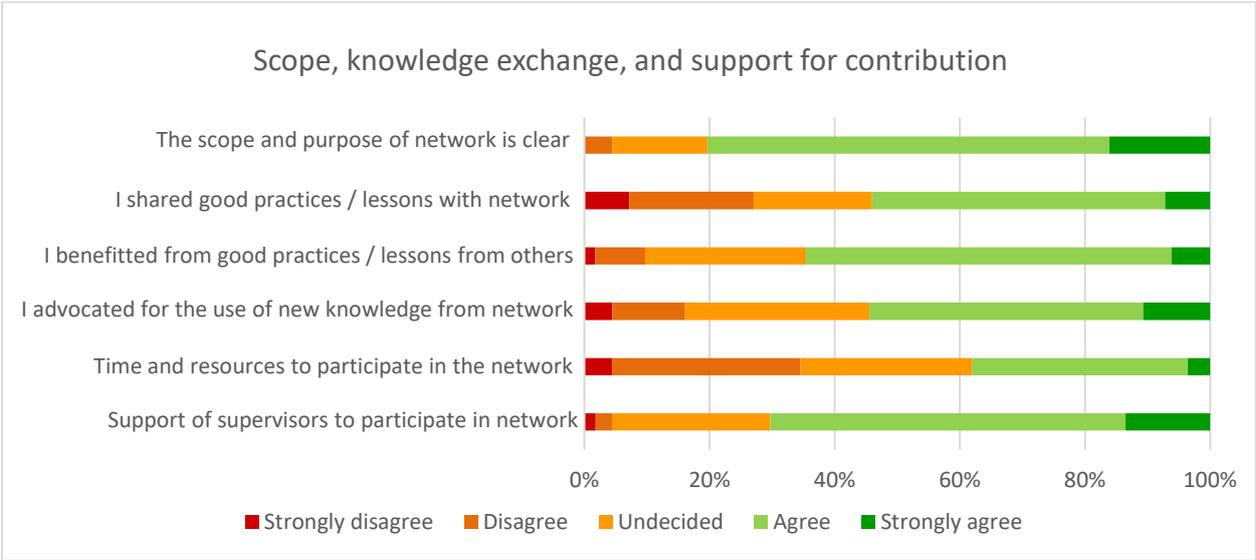
BENEFITS FROM NETWORK PARTICIPATION

Knowledge application through network participation was higher for reading (3.0 out of 5) compared to webinar & F2F (2.4) meetings and online interaction (2.3). In these categories as well, the values are slightly higher than in 2019 and in 2018 (in 2019: 2.7, 1.9 and 2.2, respectively).



Improvement of work through network participation was caused mainly through reading (3.0) and to a slightly lesser extent through interacting (2.3) and webinar/F2F participation (2.3). The values are slightly higher than in 2019 (2.6, 2.2 and 2.0, respectively) but for online interaction and webinar participation slightly lower compared with 2018 (with 2.7, 2.5 2.5 respectively)

Participants indicated having **benefited from good practices and lessons shared through the network (3.6)**, and to a lesser extent, contributed with such experience (3.3), and advocated for the use of knowledge gained from the network in their own organisations (3.4). This is again a very **slight increase compared to 2019 (3.4, 3.0 and 3.3, respectively)**. Concretely, information from the network contributed to the improvement of **Ecological sustainability (2.7), income generation (2.4), job creation (2.1), and inclusiveness (2.5) – there is potential to improve on all of these significantly**. Those results are very similar to the ones from 2019 (2.8, 2.3, 2.2 and 2.3, respectively).



Qualitative analysis (with selected quotes)

Benefits – how knowledge from the network enhanced participants work N=49

Gaining knowledge, broadening perspectives and staying up-to-date

Many participants referred to the ways in which the news, articles, publications and newsletters have contributed to helping them discover new sources of information, reference sites and networks. Furthermore, according to participants’ comments, the sharing of documents by the network helped them to stay up-to-date with the launch of new reports, analysis and key documentations. Specific topics in which network members gained knowledge were mentioned such as small business technology, engagement with the private sector, agro-ecological practices, women economic empowerment, post-harvest management, production of healthy food, pastoralism, etc.

I appreciate the new agroecological focus. I found documents I didn't know about. Different articles on specific topics such as innovations, markets, postharvest handling etc were very useful to me.

Information Sharing and networking

Nine persons mentioned that they have interacted with other members through the network and that this had led to improved good practices exchange. This ranges from exchanging on *Entry Proposal, concept note development and monitoring & evaluation*.

Lessons learnt from other network members from other regions are reflected in designing and planning of our projects and program.

Participation in E-Discussion and Webinar on City Region Food Systems Governance under COVID-19

Fourteen participants mentioned their participation in the E-Discussion organized by the A+FS network in May and highlighted the relevance and their interest in learning about the challenges and strategies other countries were facing. Moreover, the synthesis of the findings of the discussions seemed to have been appreciated by the participants.

I followed the exchange related to Covid, which was very informative and interesting, and quickly realized the pivotal role of women and the danger of existing bottle necks. This was relevant for my work as a gender adviser.

Suggestions for the improvement of the network (N= 39)

Format of the moderation & activities

Some participants suggested that *webinars and online discussions should be increasingly organized and moderated*. Discussions in small groups seemed to be appreciated and are encouraged to be developed more in the future.

Try more interactive exchanges on specific topics at regional level - short sessions with well-prepared short case study write-ups circulated in advance, encouraging voices from the field.

Topical / content

Different suggestions regarding the topical orientation of the network were shared by the participating members. The ideas were broad but ranged between sharing of good practices on agroecology, geographical experiences, best practices regarding project design and the interest in having summaries on flagship publications.

Links to research and webinars or good practices in agroecology should be shared.

Language and scope

Three participants acknowledged language issues, two participants asked for more contributions in Spanish, while one asked for more translation in French. One participant also highlighted that webinars should be organized at a more convenient time for Latin America.

Increase the number of exchanges (shareweb, webinar and documents) in French. I suggest that the webinars be held at a time that is convenient for Latin America. If this is not possible, they should be recorded and made available to Latin America and other continents with translation into other languages incl. Spanish.