

Nexus Capacity Scorecard (NCS)

Guidance Note and Tool

April 2024

1. Introduction

The **Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus** approach represents a holistic and interconnected perspective for addressing the complex interdependencies among water, energy, food, and ecosystems (Simpson and Jewitt 2019). WEFE frameworks recognize that changes in one sector can have cascading effects on others, emphasizing the need for integrated and sustainable solutions. In WEFE nexus thinking, water, energy, food, and ecosystems are viewed as interconnected systems, with links and feedback loops. This integrated perspective highlights the importance of managing WEFE resources collaboratively to achieve social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Nexus approaches involve the application of integrated strategies to optimize resource use, enhance resilience, and mitigate potential tensions across sectors that use and depend on shared resources. By adopting a nexus approach, stakeholders can develop comprehensive solutions that address multiple challenges simultaneously, promoting synergies and minimizing trade-offs. Key principles of nexus approaches include fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, considering the social and gender dimensions, and incorporating sustainable practices. These approaches aim to enhance efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and promote the equitable and resilient use of resources.

Efficient management of WEFE systems and the adoption of comprehensive, sustainable approaches requires robust stakeholder capabilities. Understanding institutional and individual capacities of actors involved in implementing WEFE nexus approaches is a critical, but often overlooked, first step.

The Nexus Capacity Scorecard (NCS) is intended to contribute to a toolkit developed to gauge nexus capacities within and/or across institutions working in the water, energy, food/agriculture, and environmental sectors (henceforth referred to as 'WEFE institutions'). The NCS supports the self-assessment of institutional processes, readiness, and capacities in relation to WEFE approaches. The purpose is to identify opportunities, possible gaps, and inform the planning of tailored WEFE nexus capacity-building efforts, programs and interventions, and/or their monitoring over time. The scorecard can also be used as a launchpad for discussions, within and across organizations and sectors, for improving WEFE nexus practice and collaboration.

The NCS can be used by any organization (public, non-governmental, civic, private, research, etc.) and in multiple contexts. It is adaptable to different program needs. Organizations are encouraged to adapt the consent forms and introductory texts of the survey tools as required.

The scorecard should be distributed to technical staff within WEFE institutions, including technical experts and scientists, policymakers, or researchers, rather than administrative or support staff unfamiliar with the topic.

As part of the toolkit for nexus capacity assessment, a complementary version of the NCS – the ‘Nexus Capacity Scorecard – Education & Research’ – is tailored to academic institutions engaged in WEFE research and in training future WEFE researchers. This version can be used by faculty, department heads, and higher education students in tandem with the original NCS or on its own.

Note: The NCS is a **rapid self-assessment tool** based on the perceptions and context of the individuals from the organizations using them. As such, the ‘capacity score’ derived should be understood as a nuanced and organization-specific metric. **The primary use of the tool is to serve as an internal compass for organizations, stimulating dialogue and guiding targeted capacity-building efforts within the specific context.** If the tool is being disseminated across multiple organizations as part of a larger research initiative, questions should be standardized and scores can be compared across institutions to understand their relative capacity rankings.

The NCS was initially developed and pre-tested for the Pakistan context. **The questions aim for universal relevance, but certain questions or phrases may require adaptation to the local context to ensure relevance.** For example, some institutions may operate at a trans-national level (e.g., river basin organizations). For such institutions, questions that ask for information at the national level may need to be re-worded.

This is the first edition of the NCS and it has not undergone validation across countries. Feedback from those implementing the tool is encouraged to enhance its effectiveness. This will help in refining and improving the scorecard for future iterations.

2. About the Scorecard

The scorecard includes **five domains** and **20 indicators of institutional capacity** assessed at **three levels**. Table 1 presents a snapshot of these indicators, which are more fully described in the scorecard.

Table 1. Assessment domains

Domain	Indicators	Level
1) Enabling WEFE ecosystem	1.1. National mandates prioritizing cross-sectoral WEFE cooperation and planning	Environment
	1.2. Political will and support for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning at national level	
	1.3. Political will and support for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning at provincial/state level	
	1.4. Institutions championing application of WEFE nexus approach at national level	
	1.5. Belief in applicability of nexus approach implementation	
2) Institutional mandates and strategies	2.1. Institutional plans and strategies for implementing nexus solutions	Organization
	2.2. Availability of financial resources to implement nexus approaches	
	2.3. Capacity for effective human resource mobilization to implement nexus approaches	
	2.4. Representation of women and youth in leadership and decision-making roles	
3) Partnerships and collaboration	3.1. Level of interest in [<i>country, province, district</i>] for working collaboratively towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions	Environment
	3.2. Extent of cross-sectoral partnerships to implement nexus solutions	
	3.3. Extent of intra-sectoral collaboration	
4) Adaptive learning and knowledge sharing	4.1. Availability of standardized data across sectors	Environment
	4.2. Extent of cross-sectoral data and information sharing	Organization
	4.3. Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and cross-sectoral learning	
5) Knowledge, skills, and interest in WEFE tools and approaches	5.1. Understanding of WEFE nexus approach	Individual/Organization
	5.2. Motivation to plan and implement nexus approaches	
	5.3. Ability to develop models, scenarios and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of nexus approaches	
	5.4. Ability to integrate gender and social inclusion (GESI) considerations in nexus approaches	
	5.5. Mechanisms for training, mentoring, and learning to attract and maintain staff with skills to implement nexus approaches	Organization

The 'environment' level refers to the political economic landscape that embeds WEFE sector organizations (i.e., the supra-organizational level) and enables or constrains inter-sectoral collaboration. The 'organization' level refers to the enabling (or disabling) institutional environment within the organization of the respondent, whereas the 'individual' level focuses on the capacities of individuals within the organization that enable or constrain the adoption of WEFE nexus approaches (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Levels of assessment

Throughout the assessment, **capacities** related to the 20 indicators across institutional domains **are scored on a 5-point (0-4) scale** (Table 2).

Table 2. Scoring levels and descriptions

Capacity	Description
Don't know/Unsure Score = 0	There is a lack of knowledge or uncertainty from the respondent concerning this indicator. It is included in the analysis as '0' to account for this gap in knowledge.
Level 1 (None) Score = 1	There is no capacity and/or evidence of capacity on this indicator at the specified [<i>individual, organization, or environment</i>] level.
Level 2 (Low) Score = 2	There is low capacity and/or evidence of capacity on this indicator at the specified [<i>individual, organization, or environment</i>] level.
Level 3 (Moderate) Score = 3	There is moderate capacity and/or evidence of capacity on this indicator at the specified [<i>individual, organization, or environment</i>] level.
Level 4 (High) Score = 4	There are strong, evidenced capacities on this indicator at the specified [<i>individual, organization, or environment</i>] level.

Data collection

Data can be collected using the scorecard in several ways:

- **Via an online survey:** the link can be sent to respondents via email. This is the fastest way to reach many respondents, but there is a risk of a low response rate.
- **Through interviews:** interviewees respond to the scorecard questions and the interviewer asks follow-up questions along the way. This approach is more time-consuming than the online survey but yields richer information.
- **During a relevant workshop or event:** participants respond individually or in a group, online or using a hard copy of the scorecard. Results can be discussed in real time, as a launchpad for dialogues and planning on WEFE nexus capacity strengthening.

Optional: After each question, in online and in-person options, respondents may provide evidence or any additional comments that explain their chosen score or suggestions for building capacity on the specific indicator.

Analyzing the Scorecard results

The total score will be the sum of the values assigned to each question. The overall score can range from minimum 0 (if the respondent consistently selects the Level 0 option) to a maximum score of 80 (if the respondent consistently selects the Level 4 option). The 'Don't know/Unsure' (DK) answer choice is counted as '0' and included in the overall analysis. Given that respondents are presumed to be technical experts, minimal 'DK' responses are expected.

Researchers using the NCS can decide whether to establish a cut-off for excluding 'DK' choices (e.g., if there are 5 or more '0' scores (25%), the respondent may be considered deficient for the survey and excluded from the analysis to ensure the analysis is reflective of informed opinions). The decision to include or exclude 'DK' responses should consider the specific context, sample size, and objectives of the survey.

Note: Researchers should consider the specific goals and context of the use of the NCS when deciding whether to include or exclude 'Don't know/Unsure' responses from the analysis and scoring.

There is an important distinction between a respondent selecting 'No Capacity' (1) and 'Don't know/Unsure' (0). A respondent indicating 'No Capacity' recognizes that there is a lack of capacity, suggesting an awareness of a deficiency in capacity for the given indicator. In contrast, a 'Don't know/Unsure' response indicates a lack of knowledge or uncertainty about the specific indicator, suggesting that the respondent may not have sufficient information or understanding on the topic. This distinction is critical for a nuanced interpretation of results, allowing for a more accurate assessment of awareness levels related to the selected indicators and guiding researchers and organizations on areas where capacity is needed.

Including 'Don't know/Unsure' responses in the analysis is important for maintaining data integrity and reflecting honest uncertainty among technical expert respondents. Excluding these responses may introduce bias and overlook areas where knowledge is lacking or uncertain. By including this response in the analysis, the results can offer a more accurate representation of participants' expertise and guide future efforts to address knowledge gaps.

The following cut-off values (Table 3) may be used to assign different levels of institutional capacity, to be able to monitor change longitudinally. Disaggregated scores across each indicator and domain may also be tracked and calculated to identify areas of strength and improvement over time. Within an organization, an overall average score may be derived based on the number of respondents. Individual scores can also be compared within the organization or across departments if applicable.

Sorting and examining results by level further helps to identify different entry points for action, focused on different groups of institutional actors, to support WEFE nexus approaches. As noted above, discussing responses, including among participants working in organizations across WEFE sectors, can spark reflection and action toward improved adoption of WEFE nexus approaches.

Table 3. Cut-off values for interpretation

Capacity Level	Total Score Range	Interpretation
No capacity	0-20	Scores in this range indicate a lack of the necessary knowledge, resources, skills, or strategies to effectively integrate water-energy-food-ecosystems (WEFE) nexus considerations at the <i>[individual, organization, or environment]</i> level, possibly resulting in fragmented decision-making and missed opportunities for synergies across sectors.
Low capacity	21-40	There is low capacity to integrate WEFE nexus considerations at the <i>[individual, organization, or environment]</i> level. Scores in this range indicate some indications of capacity, but it is generally weak or limited. Challenges may arise in achieving cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination due to incomplete or ineffective strategies and resource allocation.
Moderate capacity	41-60	There is moderate capacity to integrate WEFE nexus considerations at the <i>[individual, organization, or environment]</i> level. Scores in this range indicate a moderate level of capacity to integrate WEFE nexus considerations. Opportunities exist for further development and refinement of strategies and resources.
High capacity	61-80	There is high capacity to integrate WEFE nexus considerations at the <i>[individual, organization, or environment]</i> level. Scores in this range indicate strong and evidenced capacity to effectively integrate WEFE nexus considerations. Proficiency and effectiveness are demonstrated in achieving cross-sectoral synergies and collaboration.

Some questions in the NCS ask respondents to assess capacities of all technical staff of their institution. There is no one-size-fits-all threshold for determining when the entire staff can be considered to have adequate capacity. When assessing the capacity of overall technical staff in an institution, it is important to consider factors such as the organization's size, who is being surveyed, and the context of why the NCS is being used. Additionally, qualitative factors such as the consistency and depth of knowledge across different departments or teams can also inform this assessment. Ultimately, the threshold should be determined based on the specific characteristics and objectives of the organization and the assessment process.

3. Nexus Capacity Scorecard

Scorecard

Definitions

The **water-energy-food-ecosystems (WEFE) nexus** is a cross-sectoral concept offering a holistic perspective of the interconnections among water management, energy production, food/agriculture, and ecosystem health.

Nexus thinking has emerged as a way of conceptualizing and addressing trade-offs, compromises and potential synergies among water, energy, food, and ecosystems. A WEFE nexus approach integrates management and governance across sectors and considers each sector as equally important and closely connected in planning (FAO 2014).

WEFE institution refers to any institution that works within the water, energy, food, and ecosystem/environment sectors, including public (governmental), private, non-governmental, research, civil society organizations, etc.

Introduction

This survey explores **institutional capacities to apply WEFE approaches across five domains:**

- 1) Enabling WEFE ecosystem
- 2) Institutional mandates and strategies
- 3) Partnerships and collaboration
- 4) Adaptive learning and knowledge-sharing
- 5) Knowledge, skills, and interest in WEFE tools and approaches.

For the 20 statements below, **please indicate which statement best aligns with your opinion about the general environment in which your organization operates, your current institution, or the capacities of staff in your institution**, as specified. **There are no right or wrong answers.**

N.B. Comments in *italics* suggest ways to customize questions based on context.

Domain 1: Enabling WEFE ecosystem				
Q1 - Mandate for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning				
<input type="checkbox"/> There are no national mandates in my country that encourage cross-sectoral cooperation and planning among WEFE sectors.	<input type="checkbox"/> There are few national mandates in my country that encourage cross-sectoral cooperation and planning among WEFE sectors.	<input type="checkbox"/> There are some national mandates in my country that encourage cross-sectoral cooperation and planning among WEFE sectors.	<input type="checkbox"/> There are many national mandates in my country that encourage cross-sectoral cooperation and planning among WEFE sectors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				
Q2 - Political will and support at national level				
<input type="checkbox"/> There is no political will among WEFE institutions at the national level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is low political will among WEFE institutions at the national level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is moderate political will among WEFE institutions at the national level for sectoral cooperation and planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is high political will among WEFE institutions at the national level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				
Q3 - Political will and support at provincial/state/district level				
<input type="checkbox"/> There is no political will among WEFE institutions at the [provincial/state/district] level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is low political will among WEFE institutions at the [provincial/state/district] level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is moderate political will among WEFE institutions at the [provincial/state/district] level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is high political will among WEFE institutions at the [provincial/state/district] level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				

Q4 - Institutions championing nexus approach at national level				
<input type="checkbox"/> No institutions are championing/driving forward the WEFE nexus approach in my country.	<input type="checkbox"/> Few institutions are championing/driving forward the WEFE nexus approach in my country.	<input type="checkbox"/> Many institutions are championing/driving forward the WEFE nexus approach in my country.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most institutions are championing/driving forward the WEFE nexus approach in my country.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				
Q5 - Nexus approach can be successfully implemented in [country, province, district]				
<input type="checkbox"/> A WEFE nexus approach could not be successfully implemented in [country, province, district] .	<input type="checkbox"/> A WEFE nexus approach could be successfully implemented to a basic degree in [country, province, district] .	<input type="checkbox"/> A WEFE nexus approach could be successfully implemented to a moderate degree in [country, province, district] .	<input type="checkbox"/> A WEFE nexus approach could be successfully implemented to a high degree in [country, province, district] .	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				
Domain 2: Institutional mandates and strategies				
Q6 - Institutional plans and strategies				
<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has no planning or strategies in place for implementing nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has weak planning or strategies in place for implementing nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has moderate planning or strategies in place for implementing nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has strong planning or strategies in place for implementing nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				

Q7 - Availability of financial resources				
<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has no financial resources available to meaningfully implement nexus approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has few financial resources available to implement meaningful nexus approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has moderate financial resources available to implement meaningful nexus approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has strong financial resources available to implement meaningful nexus approaches in response to WEFE challenges.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				
Q8 - Capacity to mobilize human resources				
<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has no capacity to mobilize human resources to implement multi-sectoral WEFE nexus approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has low capacity to mobilize human resources to implement multi-sectoral WEFE nexus approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has moderate capacity to mobilize human resources to implement multi-sectoral WEFE nexus approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has high capacity to mobilize human resources to implement multi-sectoral WEFE nexus approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				
Q9 - Representation of women and youth				
<input type="checkbox"/> Women, youth, and other historically underrepresented groups are not represented and have no leadership and decision-making roles in my institution - including in deciding whether or how to apply WEFE approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> Women, youth, and other historically underrepresented groups are poorly represented and have limited leadership and decision-making roles in my institution - including in deciding whether or how to apply WEFE approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> Women, youth, and other historically underrepresented groups are moderately represented and have some leadership and decision-making in my institution - including in deciding whether or how to apply WEFE approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> Women, youth, and other historically underrepresented groups are highly represented and comprise a high percentage of leadership and decision-making roles in my institution - including in deciding whether or how to apply WEFE approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				

Domain 3: Partnerships and collaboration

Q10 - Mentalities/interest in collaborating

<input type="checkbox"/> WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] show no interest in working collaboratively across sectors towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] show limited interest in working collaboratively across sectors towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] show moderate interest in working collaboratively across sectors towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] show high interest in working collaboratively across sectors towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure.
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Evidence/comments:

Q11 - Cross-sectoral partnerships

<input type="checkbox"/> WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] have no partnerships or interaction across sectors to implement nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] have weak partnerships or interaction across sectors to implement nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] have moderate partnerships across sectors to implement nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] have strong partnerships across sectors to implement nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure.
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Evidence/comments:

Q12 - Intra-sectoral collaboration

<input type="checkbox"/> No collaboration occurs among institutions working in the same (WEFE) sectors in my [country, province, district].	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited collaboration occurs among institutions working in the same (WEFE) sectors in my [country, province, district].	<input type="checkbox"/> Some collaboration occurs among institutions working in the same (WEFE) sectors in my [country, province, district].	<input type="checkbox"/> A high level of collaboration occurs among institutions working in the same (WEFE) sectors in [country, province, district].	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure
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Evidence/comments:

Domain 4: Adaptive learning and knowledge-sharing

Q13 - Standardized data availability

<input type="checkbox"/> No standardized data and information (hydrological, climate, energy, socioeconomic, etc.) are available for WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] to implement WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited standardized data and information are available for WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] to implement WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> A moderate amount of standardized data and information are available for WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] to implement WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> A large amount of standardized data and information are available for WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] to implement WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure.
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Evidence/comments:

Q14 - Data sharing

<input type="checkbox"/> There is no data and information sharing among WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] for implementing integrated WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is limited data and information sharing among WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] for implementing integrated WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is moderate data and information sharing among WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] for implementing integrated WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> There is a high level of data and information sharing among WEFE institutions in [country, province, district] for implementing integrated WEFE nexus solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure.
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Evidence/comments:

Q15 - Monitoring, evaluation, learning and impact assessment (MELIA)

<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has no mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has weak mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has moderate mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning.	<input type="checkbox"/> My institution has strong mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/ Unsure.
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Evidence/comments:

Domain 5: Knowledge, skills, and interest in WEFE tools and approaches

Q16 - Understanding of nexus approach among staff

Please note that 'staff' refers to those responsible for designing, delivering, or monitoring the technical content of the institution (e.g., technical experts, scientists, policymakers, researchers), rather than support (administrative, human resources, finance, etc.) staff.

For **Questions 16-19**, depending on the number of people surveyed and their positions in the organization, **pick the more relevant and useful answer option for this question** (e.g., if senior leaders are being surveyed it would be more appropriate to ask them to assess their entire staff [Option A]; if technical staff are mostly being surveyed, it would be more appropriate to ask them to assess their own capability [Option B]).

<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is no understanding among the technical staff in my institution of what a WEFE nexus approach entails.</p> <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have no understanding of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I could not explain the approach to others)</p>	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is a limited understanding among the technical staff in my institution of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I estimate that less than 20% of our technical staff understand what a WEFE nexus approach entails).</p> <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have limited understanding of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I know the basics and if I were to explain to somebody it would be in a superficial way)</p>	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is moderate understanding among the technical staff in my institution of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I estimate that 20% to 40% of our technical staff understands what a WEFE nexus approach entails).</p> <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have moderate understanding of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I could explain the WEFE approach concepts to others in a substantial way)</p>	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is strong understanding among the technical staff in my institution of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I estimate that more than 40% of our staff understands what a WEFE nexus approach entails).</p> <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a strong understanding of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I could explain the WEFE approach concepts to others in an advanced way with clarity)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.</p>
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Evidence/comments:

Q17 - Motivated staff				
<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have no motivation to plan for and implement a nexus approach. <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have no motivation to plan for and implement a WEFE nexus approach.	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have low levels of motivation to plan for and implement a nexus approach. <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have low levels of motivation to plan for and implement a WEFE nexus approach.	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have moderate levels of motivation to plan for and implement a nexus approach. <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have moderate levels of motivation to plan for and implement a WEFE nexus approach.	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have high levels of motivation to plan for and implement a nexus approach. <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have high levels of motivation to plan for and implement a WEFE nexus approach.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				

Q18 - Knowledge and skills in applying WEFE nexus modelling approaches

<p><i>Option A:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have no knowledge and ability to develop comprehensive models (e.g., hydrological, environmental, economic) and scenarios (e.g., climate change, land use, socioeconomic) and/or other decision-support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.</p> <p><i>Option B:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I have no knowledge and ability to develop comprehensive models (e.g., hydrological, environmental, economic) and scenarios (e.g., climate change, land use, socioeconomic) and/or other decision-support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.</p>	<p><i>Option A:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have limited knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.</p> <p><i>Option B:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I have limited knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.</p>	<p><i>Option A:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have moderate knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.</p> <p><i>Option B:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I have moderate knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.</p>	<p><i>Option A:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have strong knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.</p> <p><i>Option B:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I have strong knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
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Evidence/comments:

Q19 - Knowledge of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) integration				
<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have no capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches. <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have no capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have limited capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches. <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have limited capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have moderate capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches. <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have moderate capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.	<p><i>Option A:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff in my institution have strong capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches. <p><i>Option B:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have strong capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				
Q20 - Learning and mentoring				
<input type="checkbox"/> There are no appropriate training, mentoring, and learning mechanisms in place in my institution to maintain a workforce with the necessary skills to plan and implement a WEFE nexus approach.	<input type="checkbox"/> There are limited training, mentoring, and learning mechanisms in place in my institution to maintain a workforce with the necessary skills to plan and implement a WEFE nexus approach.	<input type="checkbox"/> There are moderate training, mentoring, and learning mechanisms in place in my institution to maintain a workforce with the necessary skills to plan and implement a WEFE nexus approach.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong training, mentoring, and learning mechanisms are in place in my institution to maintain a workforce with the necessary skills to plan and implement a WEFE nexus approach.	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure.
Evidence/comments:				

4. References

FAO. 2014. The water-energy-food nexus: A new approach in support of food security and sustainable agriculture. Rome (Italy): Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Available at: www.fao.org/3/bl496e/bl496e.pdf

Simpson, G. B., & Jewitt, G. P. 2019. The Development of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus as a Framework for Achieving Resource Security: A Review. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 7, 422789. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2019.00008>.

Some questions for the scorecard were adapted from:

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USAID and Sustaining Technical and Analytic Resources (STAR). 2021. Capacity Assessment Toolkit for Enhanced Knowledge Sharing. Available at: www.cugh.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2021/04/Final-Capacity-Assessment-Toolkit-CAT.pdf

Annex 1: Nexus Capacity Scorecard (longform)

This detailed version of the NCS includes suggested introductory text and language for consent forms. Note comments in *italics* suggest ways to customize any general information to be collected at the beginning of the survey based on context. All ethical considerations and protocols (e.g., clearance of the survey and its implementation process by the relevant research ethics committee) must be addressed and respected.

Section 1: General Information

Depending on the purpose of the assessment and the organizations involved, some identifying questions may be necessary to allow for a disaggregated analysis of the results. Treatment of identifying information (e.g., aspects related to confidentiality, anonymity), should it be collected, will need to follow the Institutional Review Board's specifications.

Sample Introduction and Request for Informed Consent:

[Organization Name] is conducting an assessment with stakeholders working within the *water, energy, food/agriculture, and/or environment (WEFE)* sectors to understand the current capacities and gaps related to WEFE nexus approaches among WEFE institutions. As a practitioner working within one or more WEFE sector(s), you are invited to take part in this survey.

The survey consists of 20 questions and will take approximately 15 minutes of your time to complete. Your responses will give us valuable insight into institutional capacities to implement nexus solutions and opportunities for future development in this area. There will be no immediate benefit to you from your participation, but we hope that responses can help inform relevant action in your organization. There will be no costs to you for participation in this research, and you will not be paid for taking part in this study.

Your information will be safeguarded and will not be shared with any third party. If data are published, they will not carry your name or other identifiers.

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You are free to not answer any questions or withdraw at any time without any negative repercussions. You may choose not to take part in this study, or if you decide to take part, you can change your mind at any point and withdraw from the study, at which time your data would be deleted.

1.	Email address <i>(This may be optional or removed if the survey is anonymous)</i>	<i>If contact information is sought:</i> Contact information will not be shared with anyone and will be de-identified from your survey responses
2.	Gender <i>Gender categories can be expanded - e.g., other; non-binary; prefer not to say.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Man <input type="checkbox"/> Woman
3.	What kind of institution are you affiliated with? <i>This list can be customized based on the sample - e.g., it can include civil society organization (CSO), multilateral organization, private sector, etc.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Government agency/ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Research institution/think tank (national) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization (NGO) <input type="checkbox"/> International organization
4.	If a multi-level agency, at what level do you work?	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial <input type="checkbox"/> District <i>(or other relevant administrative division)</i>
5.	Which <i>[state/province/area]</i> are you currently working in?	<i>Options to depend on context</i>

6.	What is your main area of expertise or which sector do you work within? (Select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Food/Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) <input type="checkbox"/> Livelihoods <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
7.	How many years have you been working in this sector/area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> 11-15 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-20 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 years

Section 2: Scorecard

Definitions

The **water-energy-food-ecosystems (WEFE) nexus** is a cross-sectoral concept offering a holistic perspective of the interconnections among water management, energy production, food/agriculture, and ecosystem health.

Nexus thinking has emerged as a way of conceptualizing and addressing trade-offs, compromises and potential synergies among water, energy, food, and ecosystems. A WEFE nexus approach integrates management and governance across sectors and considers each sector as equally important and closely connected in planning (FAO, 2014).

WEFE institution refers to any institution that works within the water, energy, food, and ecosystem/environment sectors, including public (governmental), private, non-governmental, research, civil society organizations, etc.

Introduction

This survey explores **institutional capacities to apply WEFE approaches across five domains:**

- 1) Enabling WEFE ecosystem
- 2) Institutional mandates and strategies
- 3) Partnerships and collaboration
- 4) Adaptive learning and knowledge-sharing
- 5) Knowledge, skills, and interest in WEFE tools and approaches.

For the 20 statements below, **please indicate which statement best aligns with your opinion about the general environment in which your organization operates, your current institution, or the capacities of staff in your institution**, as specified. **There are no right or wrong answers.**

Domain 1: Enabling WEFE ecosystem

Q1 - Mandate for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning

- There are no **national** mandates in my country that encourage cross- sectoral cooperation and planning among WEFE sectors.
- There are few **national** mandates in my country that encourage cross-sectoral cooperation and planning among WEFE sectors.
- There are some **national** mandates in my country that encourage cross-sectoral cooperation and planning among WEFE sectors.
- There are many **national** mandates in my country that encourage cross-sectoral cooperation and planning among the WEFE sectors.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q2 - Political will and support at national level

- There is no political will among WEFE institutions at the **national** level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.
- There is low political will among WEFE institutions at the **national** level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.
- There is moderate political will among WEFE institutions at the **national** level for sectoral cooperation and planning.
- There is high political will among WEFE institutions at the **national** level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q3 - Political will and support at provincial/state/district level

- There is no political will among WEFE institutions at the **[provincial/state/district]** level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.
- There is low political will among WEFE institutions at the **[provincial/state/district]** level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.
- There is moderate political will among WEFE institutions at the **[provincial/state/district]** level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.
- There is high political will among WEFE institutions at the **[provincial/state/district]** level for cross-sectoral cooperation and planning.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q4 - Institutions championing nexus approach at national level

- No **institutions** are championing/driving forward the WEFE nexus approach in my country.
- Few **institutions** are championing/driving forward the WEFE nexus approach in my country.
- Many **institutions** are championing/driving forward the WEFE nexus approach in my country.
- Most **institutions** are championing/driving forward the WEFE nexus approach in my country.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q5 - Nexus approach can be successfully implemented in [country, province, district]

- A WEFE nexus approach could not be successfully implemented in [**country, province, district**].
- A WEFE nexus approach could be successfully implemented to a basic degree in [**country, province, district**].
- A WEFE nexus approach could be successfully implemented to a moderate degree in [**country, province, district**].
- A WEFE nexus approach could be successfully implemented to a high degree in [**country, province, district**].
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Domain 2: Institutional mandates and strategies

Q6 - Institutional plans and strategies

- My **institution** has no planning or strategies in place for implementing nexus solutions.
- My **institution** has weak planning or strategies in place for implementing nexus solutions.
- My **institution** has moderate planning or strategies in place for implementing nexus solutions.
- My **institution** has strong planning or strategies in place for implementing nexus solutions.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q7 - Availability of financial resources

- My **institution** has no financial resources available to meaningfully implement nexus approaches.
- My **institution** has few financial resources available to implement meaningful nexus approaches.
- My **institution** has moderate financial resources available to implement meaningful nexus approaches.

- My **institution** has strong financial resources available to implement meaningful nexus approaches in response to WEFE challenges.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q8 - Capacity to mobilize human resources

- My **institution** has no capacity to mobilize human resources to implement multi-sectoral WEFE nexus approaches.
- My **institution** has low capacity to mobilize human resources to implement multi-sectoral WEFE nexus approaches.
- My **institution** has moderate capacity to mobilize human resources to implement multi-sectoral WEFE nexus approaches.
- My **institution** has high capacity to mobilize human resources to implement multi-sectoral WEFE nexus approaches.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q9 - Representation of women and youth

- Women, youth, and other historically underrepresented groups are not represented and have no leadership and decision-making roles in my **institution** - including in deciding whether or how to apply WEFE approaches.
- Women, youth, and other historically underrepresented groups are poorly represented and have limited leadership and decision-making roles in my **institution** - including in deciding whether or how to apply WEFE approaches.
- Women, youth, and other historically underrepresented groups are moderately represented and have some leadership and decision-making in my **institution** - including in deciding whether or how to apply WEFE approaches.
- Women, youth, and other historically underrepresented groups are highly represented and comprise a high percentage of leadership and decision-making roles in my **institution** - including in deciding whether or how to apply WEFE approaches.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Domain 3: Partnerships and collaboration

Q10 - Mentalities/interest in collaborating

- WEFE institutions in *[country, province, district]* show no interest in working collaboratively **across** sectors towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions.
- WEFE institutions in *[country, province, district]* show limited interest in working collaboratively **across** sectors towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions.
- WEFE institutions in *[country, province, district]* show moderate interest in working collaboratively **across** sectors towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions.
- WEFE institutions in *[country, province, district]* show high interest in working collaboratively **across** sectors towards integrated WEFE nexus solutions.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q11- Cross-sectoral partnerships

- WEFE institutions in *[country, province, district]* have no partnerships or interaction **across** sectors to implement nexus solutions.
- WEFE institutions in *[country, province, district]* have weak partnerships or interaction **across** sectors to implement nexus solutions.
- WEFE institutions in *[country, province, district]* have moderate partnerships **across** sectors to implement nexus solutions.
- WEFE institutions in *[country, province, district]* have strong partnerships **across** sectors to implement nexus solutions.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q12- Intra-sectoral collaboration

- No collaboration occurs among institutions working in the **same** (WEFE) sectors in my *[country, province, district]*.
- Limited collaboration occurs among institutions working in the **same** (WEFE) sectors in my *[country, province, district]*.
- Some collaboration occurs among institutions working in the **same** (WEFE) sectors in my *[country, province, district]*.
- A high level of collaboration occurs among institutions working in the **same** (WEFE) sectors in my *[country, province, district]*.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Domain 4: Adaptive learning and knowledge-sharing

Q13 - Standardized data availability

- No standardized data and information (hydrological, climate, energy, socioeconomic, etc.) are available for WEFE institutions in **[country, province, district]** to implement WEFE nexus solutions.
- Limited standardized data and information are available for WEFE institutions in **[country, province, district]** to implement WEFE nexus solutions.
- A moderate amount of standardized data and information are available for WEFE institutions in **[country, province, district]** to implement WEFE nexus solutions.
- A large amount of standardized data and information are available for WEFE institutions in **[country, province, district]** to implement WEFE nexus solutions.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q14 - Data sharing

- There is no data and information sharing among WEFE institutions in **[country, province, district]** for implementing integrated WEFE nexus solutions.
- There is limited data and information sharing among WEFE institutions in **[country, province, district]** for implementing integrated WEFE nexus solutions.
- There is moderate data and information sharing among WEFE institutions in **[country, province, district]** for implementing integrated WEFE nexus solutions.
- There is a high level of data and information sharing among WEFE institutions in **[country, province, district]** for implementing integrated WEFE nexus solutions.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q15 - Monitoring, evaluation, learning and impact assessment (MELIA)

- My **institution** has no mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning.
- My **institution** has weak mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning.
- My **institution** has moderate mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning.
- My **institution** has strong mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Domain 5: Knowledge, skills, and interest in WEFE tools and approaches

Q16 - Understanding of nexus approach among staff

Please note that 'staff' refers to those responsible for designing, delivering, or monitoring the technical content of the institution (e.g., technical experts, scientists, policymakers, researchers), rather than support (administrative, human resources, finance, etc.) staff.

For **Questions 16-19**, depending on the number of people surveyed and their positions in the organization, pick the more relevant and useful answer option for this question (e.g., if senior leaders are being surveyed it would be more appropriate to ask them to assess their entire staff [Option A]; if technical staff are mostly being surveyed, it would be more appropriate to ask them to assess their own capability [Option B]).

Option A:

- There is no understanding among the technical staff in my **institution** of what a WEFE nexus approach entails.

- There is a limited understanding among the technical staff in my **institution** of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I estimate that less than 20% of our technical staff understand what a WEFE nexus approach entails).

- There is moderate understanding among the technical staff in my **institution** of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I estimate that 20% to 40% of our technical staff understands what a WEFE nexus approach entails).

- There is strong understanding among the technical staff in my **institution** of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I estimate that more than 40% of our staff understands what a WEFE nexus approach entails).

- Don't know/Unsure.

Option B:

- I have no understanding of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I could not explain the approach to others).

- I have limited understanding of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I know the basics and if I were to explain to somebody it would be in a superficial way).

- I have moderate understanding of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I could explain the WEFE approach concepts to others in a substantial way).

- I have a strong understanding of what a WEFE nexus approach entails (i.e., I could explain the WEFE approach concepts to others in an advanced way with clarity).

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q17 - Motivated staff

Option A:

- Staff in my **institution** have no motivation to plan for and implement a nexus approach.
- Staff in my institution have low levels of motivation to plan for and implement a nexus approach.
- Staff in my **institution** have moderate levels of motivation to plan for and implement a nexus approach.
- Staff in my **institution** have high levels of motivation to plan for and implement a nexus approach.
- Don't know/Unsure.

Option B:

- I have no motivation to plan for and implement a WEFE nexus approach.
- I have low levels of motivation to plan for and implement a WEFE nexus approach.
- I have moderate levels of motivation to plan for and implement a WEFE nexus approach.
- I have high levels of motivation to plan for and implement a WEFE nexus approach.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q18 - Knowledge and skills for applying WEFE nexus modelling approaches

Option A:

- Staff in my **institution** have no knowledge and ability to develop comprehensive models (e.g., hydrological, environmental, economic) and scenarios (e.g., climate change, land use, socioeconomic) and/or other decision-support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.
- Staff in my **institution** have limited knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.
- Staff in my **institution** have moderate knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.
- Staff in my **institution** have strong knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.
- Don't know/Unsure.

Option B:

- I have no knowledge and ability to develop comprehensive models (e.g., hydrological, environmental, economic) and scenarios (e.g., climate change, land use, socioeconomic) and/or other decision-support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.
- I have limited knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.
- I have moderate knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.
- I have strong knowledge and ability to develop models, scenarios, and/or other decision support tools that enable integrated planning and implementation of WEFE approaches.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q19 - Knowledge of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) integration

Option A:

- Staff in my **institution** have no capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.
- Staff in my **institution** have limited capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.
- Staff in my **institution** have moderate capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.
- Staff in my **institution** have strong capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.
- Don't know/Unsure.

Option B:

- I have no capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.
- I have limited capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.
- I have moderate capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.
- I have strong capacity to integrate GESI considerations when planning and implementing WEFE approaches.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

Q20 - Learning and mentoring

- There are no appropriate training, mentoring, and learning mechanisms in place in my **institution** to maintain a workforce with the necessary skills to plan and implement a WEFE nexus approach.
- There are limited training, mentoring, and learning mechanisms in place in my **institution** to maintain a workforce with the necessary skills to plan and implement a WEFE nexus approach.
- There are moderate training, mentoring, and learning mechanisms in place in my **institution** to maintain a workforce with the necessary skills to plan and implement a WEFE nexus approach.
- Strong training, mentoring, and learning mechanisms are in place in my **institution** to maintain a workforce with the necessary skills to plan and implement a WEFE nexus approach.
- Don't know/Unsure.

If you'd like to add any comments to explain your response, please do so here:

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CGIAR Initiative on NEXUS Gains

The CGIAR Initiative on NEXUS Gains recognizes that water, land, energy, forests, and biodiversity are inextricably interconnected and critical to agricultural and economic development, livelihoods, and human health. The Initiative promotes systems thinking to avoid unintended consequences, enhance sustainable development, and realize multiple benefits across the water, energy, food, and ecosystems nexus.

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