

Innovation Award on Farmer Field Schools for Sustainable Agrifood Systems



Thirty years of
farmer field schools



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

DIG's Farmer Field School Program

*Adapted for the Batwa of Uganda by
Development in Gardening (DIG)*

Gloria Mushabe

DIG Uganda Program Manager

31st of July 2024



The Batwa's FFS Program

Who are The Batwa?

“The forest was the source of everything – food, shelter, medicine. Anything that we couldn’t get from the forest, we could get by trading forest products.”

PAFURA NTAMUSORE, DIG FACILITATOR

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The Batwa's FFS Program

DIG's Approach

We listened to the Batwa's unique needs and history, and worked closely with Batwa staff members, community members, and elders to co-develop and expand the program.



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The Batwa's FFS Program

Key Innovations & Lessons Learned

- *Focus on climate-resilient agroecology techniques*
- *Extended FFS training period that incorporates nutrition, financial management, business and marketing*
- *Regular home visits for trust-building and technical assistance*
- *Celebrated and promoted the wild fruits and vegetables the Batwa consumed while living in the forest*
- *Programming on confidence-building and cultural pride*
- *Subsidy program to enable home garden investment*



The Batwa's FFS Program

Our Impact

26

Forest Foods successfully grown

12

Forest Foods regularly incorporated into home gardens

85%

of farmers continue to use DIG promoted agroecology techniques in home gardens after graduation

172%

Increase in montly household income

Demonstrated shift in pride, self-confidence & respect from the community.



The Batwa's FFS Program

Scaling & Adaptation



3x

Graduated DIG farmers share what they've learned with 3+ others in their community

50%

DIG has reached over half the Batwa population in Uganda

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Thank you!

*Innovation Award on Farmer Field Schools for
Sustainable Agrifood Systems*



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Hay Making Compressor In FFS FAO Syria Presented by Nayel Kawalit and the Team

31 July 2024

Problem addressed by the FFS innovation is

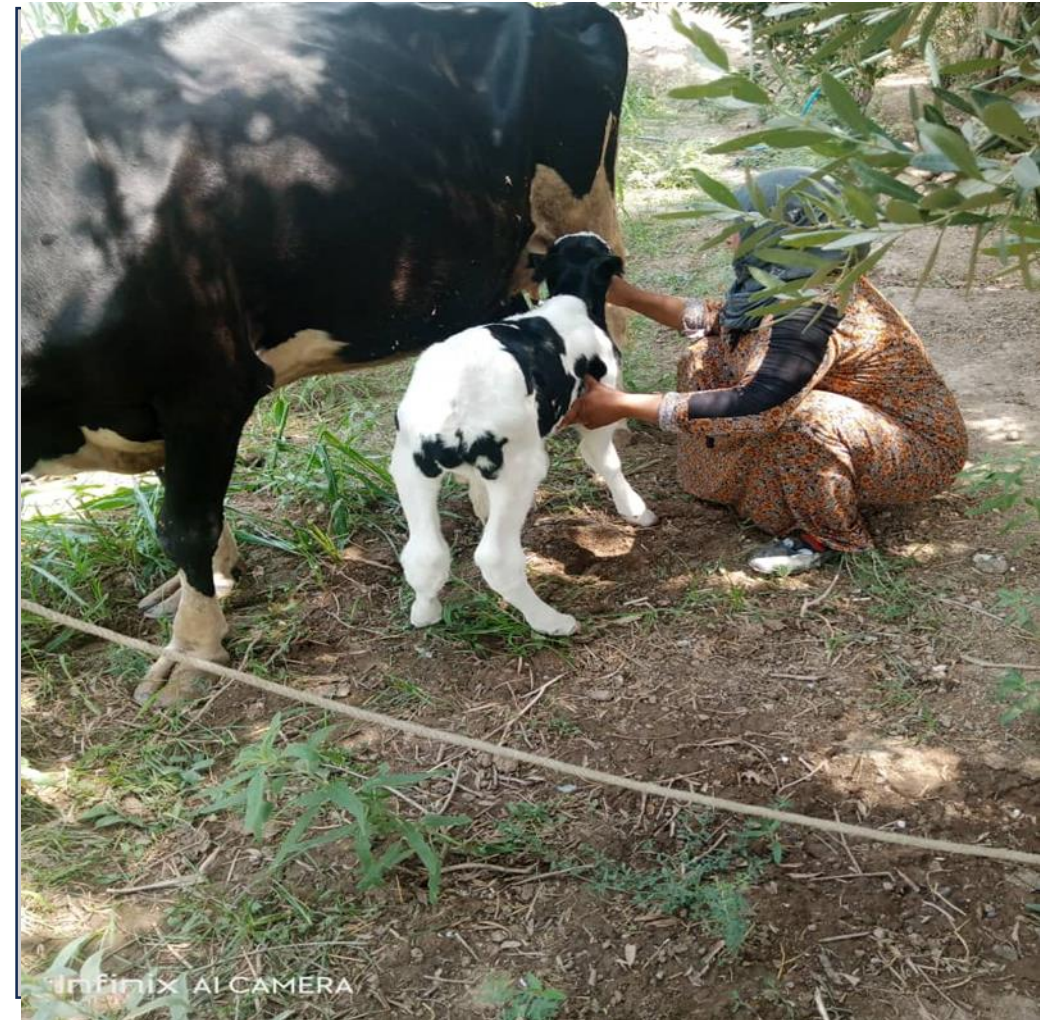
LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF FODDER

High Cost of Animal Feed
(Coupled with
Currency depreciation)

Climate-induced Shocks
(erratic rainfall +
water scarcity)

Economic Crisis

FAO Syria Intervention:
FAO Syria launched (390) FFS 2023-2024.
(195) FFS Livestock and Fodder Production & (195) FFS for
Crops.



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Phases Of Development of the FFS Innovation

Phase 1: The Idea

- **Idea** came up because though FFS fodder participants learned how to dry and compress alfalfa, there was lack of affordable compressors.

Phase 2: Concept

- *Abdullah Tobal*, a FFS farmer, initiated the **concept** of a manual compressor using low-cost, locally sourced materials.

Phase 3: Solution

- The experiential approach of FFS enabled Abdullah to apply theoretical knowledge in practice, empowering him to experiment with and refine his techniques for compressing fodder.



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Development of the Innovation

Participatory Process:

The development of Abdullah's compressor was a highly **participatory process**.

He worked closely with other FFS participants to gather feedback and refine the design, ensuring it met the practical needs of smallholder farmers in the region.



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The impact of the innovation

A. HUMAN IMPACTS:

Improved Food Security
Enhanced Resilience

B. SOCIAL IMPACTS:

Strengthened Community Cohesion

C. ECONOMIC IMPACTS:

Reduced Feed Costs
Increased Productivity

D. ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS:

Reduced Waste



FFS INNOVATION

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Scaling and Sustainability

SCALING

- i. Rapid adoption (1,141 out of 1,600 farmers adopting the new technique - **71 %**) and hands-on training.
- ii. **195** FFS planned in the 2024/25 season testing the hay-making compressor.

SUSTAINABILITY

- i. FFS encourages farmers to share experiences and improvements, creating a network that supports ongoing innovation and sustainability.
- ii. Simple, low-cost and easy maintenance.



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Next Step

SPREAD of innovation in community (400 farmers interested).

ENCOURAGEMENT of innovation through FFS.

Farmers already **ADOPTING** the innovation (1,000+ farmers).



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Acknowledgement of Abdullah Tobal

Your dedication
has greatly
enhanced the
livelihoods of
small local
livestock
farmers.



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Many thanks!

شكرا



Prix de l'innovation des champs-écoles des producteurs pour des systèmes agroalimentaires durables



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Formation et aproche filière pour une agriculture familiale
resiliente

ONG

Entrepreneurs du Monde

Khady Diagne

Champ Ecole Fina Tawa



31 juillet 2024

Contexte des champs Ecoles Fina Tawa

Au Sénégal, l'autonomisation économique des petits producteurs et notamment des jeunes est freinée par un ensemble de contraintes :

- 1) La faible maîtrise des techniques agricoles qui influe négativement sur la production et donc sur le rendement.
- 2) La trop grande dépendance aux intrants chimiques renchérit les coûts de production, et entraînent un appauvrissement des sols.
- 3) La mauvaise qualité de la semence utilisée, dont la provenance est généralement invérifiable.
- 4) Les difficultés pour les jeunes à financer l'acquisition des outils et les investissements nécessaires pour le développement de leurs activités.
- 5) Les difficultés pour les jeunes et les femmes à accéder aux terres arables;

A cela s'ajoute l'exode rural et l'immigration clandestine des jeunes au péril de leurs vies.



Prix de l'innovation sur les champs-écoles des producteurs pour des systèmes agroalimentaires durables



Qu'est -ce que les Champs Ecoles Fina Tawa

Dans chaque village : Une Equipe pédagogique d'EdM s'installe et choisit :

- 30 jeunes âgés de 16 à 30 ans;
- 50% garçons et 50% filles;
- Logés et nourris pendant six mois ;

Nous allons leur apprendre à travers **55 modules** comment :

1. Sélectionner des semences de qualité;
2. Optimiser les périodes de semis et de récolte;
3. Introduire la rotation scientifique des cultures ;
4. Favoriser la couverture permanente des sols pour régénérer et maintenir la vie biologique et l'humidité des sols;
5. Fabriquer un compost riche et arroser la nuit;
6. Planter des haies à pousse rapide pour faire barrage au vent du désert
7. Construire leur propre grenier de stockage de manière écologique et durable pour conserver leur produit agricole.

Tout ceci dans une alternance de théories et de pratiques .



Prix de l'innovation sur les champs-écoles
des producteurs pour des systèmes
agroalimentaires durables



Développement des Champs Ecoles Fina Tawa

Au bout des six mois ,les jeunes fixés dans leur propre village sont :

- Constitués en société de coopérative agricole ;
- 5Ha de terres sont délégués au nom des jeunes à travers la coopérative;
- 5Ha sont aménagés et équipés en infrastructures hydroagricoles par la SAED;
- Gèrent les centres de groupage dans le village pour la commercialisation de leurs produits;
- Ils sont formés dans les constructions en terres cru pour la conservation des produits agricoles ;
- Ils ont accès à des greniers qui offrent des conditions optimales de stockage réduisant les pertes poste récoltes de l'oignon et de la patate douce ; et leurs permet de commercialiser leur produit 5mois après les récoltes à des prix rémunérateurs.



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des producteurs pour des systèmes
agroalimentaires durables



L'impact des Champs Ecoles Fina Tawa

A la fin du programme **250 jeunes seront formés dans 10 villages de Matam.**

- 250 jeunes auront acquis des compétences techniques et pratiques en agroécologie et en éco construction,
- 250 jeunes seront capables de gérer une exploitation agricole durablement.
- Les jeunes ne sont plus tentés par l'immigration et préfèrent rester dans leur village et cultiver la terre .
- L'employabilité des jeunes et des femmes dans le secteur agroécologique est développée .
- Un réseau de soutien pour les jeunes formés est établi, facilitant le partage de connaissances et d'expériences par l'apprentissage des pairs.
- 250 jeunes ont accès à la terre durablement



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des producteurs pour des systèmes
agroalimentaires durables



Mise à l'échelle, durabilité et enseignements tirés

L'implication des autorités locales et administratives, les structures étatiques témoignent la pertinence et la durabilité de cette approche Champ Ecole Paysan.

Ces champ Ecoles Fina Tawa sont développés aussi bien au Sénégal qu'au Togo par l'ONG entrepreneurs du Monde. Un plaidoyer adapté pour encourager son adoption par les acteurs du développement, publics et privés est nécessaire pour atteindre notre objectif de 250 jeunes/an.

La formation à elle seule ne suffit plus, il faut nécessairement un accompagnement dans l'auto-entreprenariat agricole pour permettre à ces jeunes hommes et femmes africaines de vivre de leurs terres durablement.



Prix de l'innovation sur les champs-écoles
des producteurs pour des systèmes
agroalimentaires durables





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**Avec les Champs Ecoles Fina Tawa,
Cultiver le savoir, cultiver la terre.**

MERCI !



INNOVATION AWARD ON FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS (FFS) FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS



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CARE Nepal

Jib Sharma, Senior Manager, CARE Nepal
Type of Innovation: FFS System Innovation

July 31, 2024

Key Challenges Addressed by the Innovation In Madhesh Province, Nepal

- Agriculture **extension system disrupted** after federalization of Nepal in 2015. Farmers excluded from extension system
- Absence of **mechanism to connect farmers with research, market and extension system**
- **Disorganized effort of FFS** in absence of orchestrating mechanism and incubation support from their own umbrella organization
- Feminization of agriculture due to male outmigration. **Landless and smallholder women producer unaware of production and marketing system**



Group orientation on community evaluation using Participatory Performance Tracker (PPT) Tool

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System Innovation in Farmer Field Schools

- **FFS group organized in Farmer Group Network** - cross learning platform, generate feedback for further improvement, connection with national extension and policy system system.
- **Community led innovation connected with research and market system** - For example, productive and adaptive varieties identified from Participatory Varietal Selection in demonstration plot multiplied by Community Based Seed Producers backed by "buy back guarantee.
- **Behavior improvement sessions (REFLECT approach) blended with technical sessions** - improved level of realization, adaptation and sustainability.
- **Develop FFS system orchestration at three levels of government** - Knowledge and Learning Management; Systematization of FFS bringing together stakeholders and farmers; Ensuring continuity of actions; Establishment of two ways feedback system (farmer – expert)

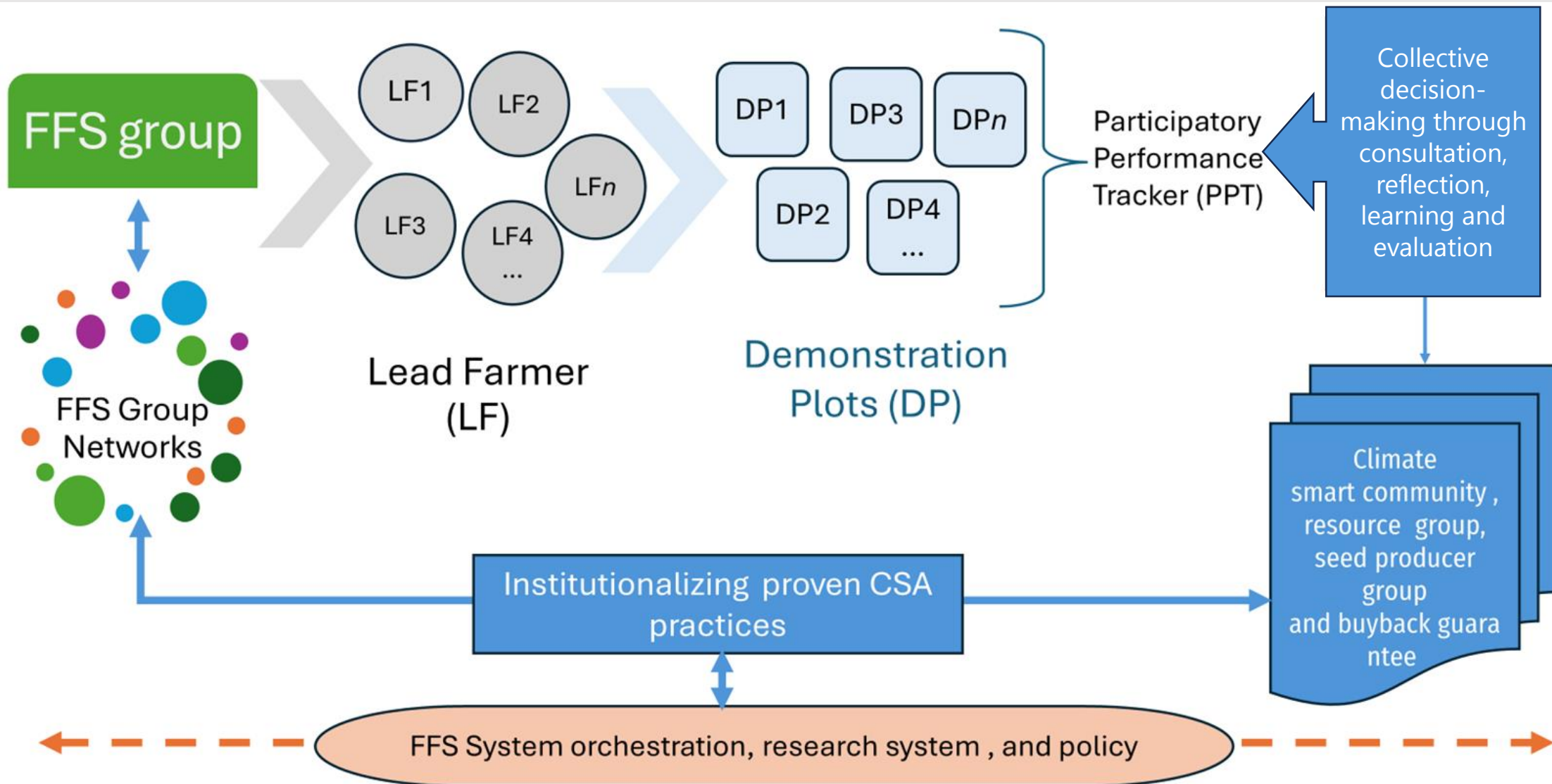


Participatory Varietal Trial (PVS) in Demonstration Plot

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System Innovation in a Snapshot in Farmer Field Schools



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Development of the Innovation

- Local extension and policy **system analysis**
- **Consultation with local governments** (Sakhuwanankarkatti, Bhagwanpur, Laxmipur Patari, Dhangadhimai, Rupani and Agnisayar Krishnasabarm municipality from Madhesh province), **experts, farmers, CSOs and market actors**
- **Learnings** from review and reflection with existing 150 FFS
- **Review** of different FFS on implementation from different agencies, including FAO



SRI in Demonstration Plot

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Impact of the Innovation (in 3 years of FFS practice)

- CSA practices proven in FFS groups packaged and scaled deep to form **Six Climate Smart Communities**.
- 33 FFS groups of landless 876 HHs developed **long-term livelihoods** accessing production resource in lease land modality.
- **Six community-based seed producer groups sold 41 tonnes** of wheat seed to Muktinath seed company (buy back guarantee model), in addition to selling in local neighborhood markets.
- **Community led extension system** developed to fill the extension gap in six municipalities.
- **12,541 HHs under 501 FFS increased productivity and income**, adopting improved production practices promoted by three years of FFS implementation. (**one legume crop added in cropping pattern, yield increased ranges 23-75% in rice, wheat and garlic**)



FFS members were able to harvest 75% more produce through zero tillage garlic as compared to traditional tillage

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Scaling, Sustainability and Lessons Learned

- Local governments adopted **FFS as core extension system** (Ag Act and Guideline developed)
- **Proven FFS practices institutionalized in different system foster sustainability** – (resource community, climate smart community, CBSP with buyback guarantee, local policies)

Learnings

- **FFS system orchestration** proved effective to systematize, out scale and sustain the best practices.
- Advance FFS as **trial, participatory evaluation, adoption and scaling based alternative extension** system linking with formal extension and research brings technological innovation and increase adaptability.



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Thank You



Premio a la innovación en escuelas de campo para sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles



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FFBS

Los Biodigestores en la Economía Circular Comunitaria



Edgar Medina - CARE Honduras

31 de julio de 2024

Problemas que Aborda

Deforestación y
emisión de
Gases de Efecto
Invernadero

Desigualdad de
Género:
Sobre carga de
trabajo
Impacto
diferenciado en
la salud

Problemática

Enfermedades
respiratorias
Falta de manejo
de las excretas
animales

Modelos de
producción de
alimentos con
uso de
agroquímicos,
no considera la
economía
circular



Describe la innovación

La innovación surge al momento de analizar la problemática de la población en específico de mujeres y la definición de la currícula de la FFBS.

Se desarrolló un asocio clave con la empresa Sistema.bio; quienes en conjunto a las FFBS adaptaron y validaron la tecnología en campo

Las FFBS sirven de **plataforma** para que otras comunidades y gobiernos locales conozcan los resultados e impactos del uso del biodigestor creando un efecto multiplicador

Dentro de la escuela de campo se hace el abordaje de **normas sociales** por medio de la metodología SAA , fortaleciendo el liderazgo transformador de las mujeres productoras.



Desarrollo de la innovación

La implementación de los biodigestores nace de las necesidades de la población para:

- resolver el problema de contaminación,
- falta de participación con liderazgo transformador de las mujeres en los procesos productivos
- para comenzar a incorporar un enfoque de económica circular.

La innovación ha incluido acciones para cambiar **normas sociales** dañinas que impiden el acceso a las mujeres a la tecnología e innovación, reduciendo la sobrecarga de trabajo, aumentando la toma de decisiones en el hogar, y generando cambios en roles y estereotipos de género

Las FFBS sostienen sesiones cada 15 días, participan 15 personas por FFBS, 55 % mujeres. se hacen prácticas sobre el manejo de los biodigestores, uso del biol en la producción y uso del biogás en la preparación de alimentos.



Impacto de la Innovación

- **Reducción del tiempo en trabajo no remunerado (recolección de leña) para las mujeres.**
- **85.5% de reducción de emisiones de CO2 por quema leña en el hogar al mes**
- **2000 litros/día de fertilizante orgánico (Biol)**
- **Establecimiento de huertos comunitarios y huertos familiares para mejorar su nutrición.**
- **18 toneladas de residuos tratados**
- **100 tCO2e mitigadas por año entre los 10 biodigestores**
- **900m3/mes de biogás producido**
- **El involucramiento de los hombres en las tareas del hogar modificando los roles de género.**
- **Mejora de condiciones y calidad de vida en el hogar**





Ampliación y sostenibilidad

Nivel comunitario: Cajas de Ahorro y Crédito y Grupos de Ahorro y Crédito

Nivel Municipal: Alianzas con las Unidades Municipales Ambientales (UMA)

Nivel Nacional: Por medio de programas públicos que apoyan y dan créditos blandos al pequeño productor (SAG y SENPRENDE)

Sector Privado: asociación con la empresa Sistema.bio lo que permite que la tecnología sea escalable a partir de la experiencia desarrollada por CARE.

Lecciones Aprendidas

- ✓ Es clave el abordaje de normas de género perjudiciales para crear cambios positivos dentro de la comunidad.
- ✓ El asocio con el sector privado como fuerza impulsora detrás de innovaciones que ayudan a resolver problemas de desarrollo.
- ✓ Las alianzas con actores de inclusión financiero y los gobiernos locales garantizan la sostenibilidad de los procesos.
- ✓ Los intercambios de experiencia entre pares (Productor a productor) son valiosos para que otras organizaciones y comunidades adopten estas tecnologías.
- ✓ Las FFBS son una plataforma de aprendizaje, empoderamiento e innovación adaptadas al contexto de la comunidad.







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Muchas gracias.



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Sayapatri Community IPM Resource Center, (CIRC) Kavre, Nepal

Rit Kumar Sapkota– Kushadevi IPM
FFS Kavre Nepal
Madhu Sudan Paudyal – Training Specialist



31st July 2024

How the innovation center is addressing problem

- Innovation center is assists for planning and problem solving in the farm of 650 IPM FFS farmers 575 Non FFS farmers .
- Innovation center is fulfilled the gap of IPM support service and inputs like training , advisory service as well as biological based inputs for production,
- Has built the trust of consumers by replacing chemical pesticides with biological and botanicals and quality service.
- Increased access and timely availability of IPM inputs and advisory services in rural villages.
- Further enriched the farmers knowledge , skills and practices for long run.
- Created self-reliant farmers organization and venture new start up .
- Innovation center brought the change and improved livelihood of rural farmers
- Conserved the agroecosystem, human health environment



Field level farmers training

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Innovation center in Kavre Nepal

Innovation center cum Sayapatri Community IPM resource center . Estd. 02 September 2012 in Kavre district with the support of FAO National IPM program .

5 members team of FFS facilitators team.

1. Provides advisory service and various field level practical trainings to the farmers
2. Distributes technical booklets received from Department of Agriculture Knowledge Centre .
3. Provides improved seeds, tools and biopesticides.
4. Provides technical support to local municipalities / NGOs and farmers groups
5. Operates a laboratory for producing biopesticides sell:
6. Trichoderma viride – 13 tons (half kg packet) produced and distributed .
7. Entomopathogenic nematode – 100 liters produced and distributed.
8. Nuclear polyhedrosis virus – 66 liters produced and distributed.
9. An innovative sustainable and reliable institution for rural farmers

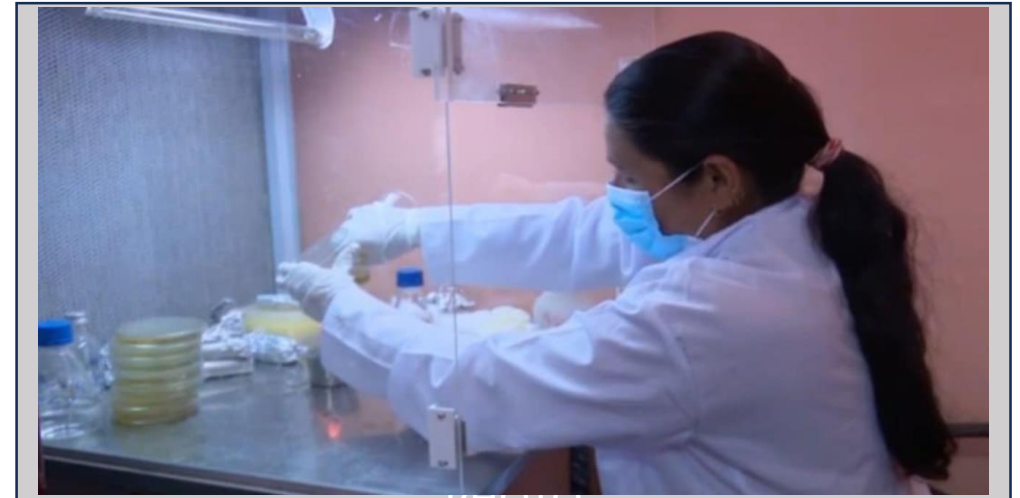


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Describe how the innovation has been developed

- After the successful implementation of FAO Intensive IPM project (2008-2012) in Kavre district
- A massive awareness was created in farmers community on human health , agroecosystem conservation, environmental protection and sustainable agricultural production .
- Increased IPM production and productivity . IPM market launched with its full capacity in Banepa.
- But there was not reliable supply system of IPM friendly advisory services , quality seeds and training facility including the biological botanical pesticides .
- Therefore , with the initiation of IPM farmers association Kavre with the help of FAO National Ipm program .
- NARC and department of Agriculture supported the technical training as well as publications and biological culture in regular basis .
- In September 2012 the Innovation Centre was established and running smoothly for 12 years .



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Describe the impact of the innovation

- With the support of Innovation Center i.e. Sayapatri IPM resource Centre the problem the use chemical pesticides has been tremendously reduced by 55% .
- The problem of pesticides induced problems (eye tearing skin allergy) have been reduced by 90%
- The productivity of vegetables farming has been increased by 25%
- The number of house hold adopting IPM approach increased by almost 50% (650 IPM FFS farmers , 545 Non FFS farmers
- Environment have been found improved because of birds and predators are almost double at the end of 2017. (report from ceapred 2017)



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Scaling, sustainability and lessons learned

- The innovation center (IPM resource center operated by FFS farmers in rural village is sustainable and economic approach
- The approach is most reliable and effective and efficient for improving the livelihood farmers
- The The innovation center has been supported by NARC , local municipality and department of Agriculture
- Therefore, it has deeply institutionalized as envisaged.
- The center has provided opportunity and employment for FFS facilitators .
- Lesson learnt
- Because of successful impelentation of this modality National policy formulation should be made for upscaling .



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Many thanks!



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Agrobiodiversity Management for Climate Resilience: Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security Program

Hilton Mbozi and Frederik van Oudenhoven – Oxfam
Novib

31st July 2024



OXFAM
Novib

Problem

INCREASE CROP DIVERSITY & ACHIEVE FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

→ PARTICIPATORY PLANT BREEDING & LOCAL FOOD PLANTS FOR NUTRITION

KEY CHALLENGES

1. TECHNICAL COMPLEXITY
2. DIFFICULT TO ACCESS CROP DIVERSITY
3. LEGAL & PRACTICAL BARRIERS - FARMERS CANNOT PRODUCE OR SELL CERTIFIED SEED



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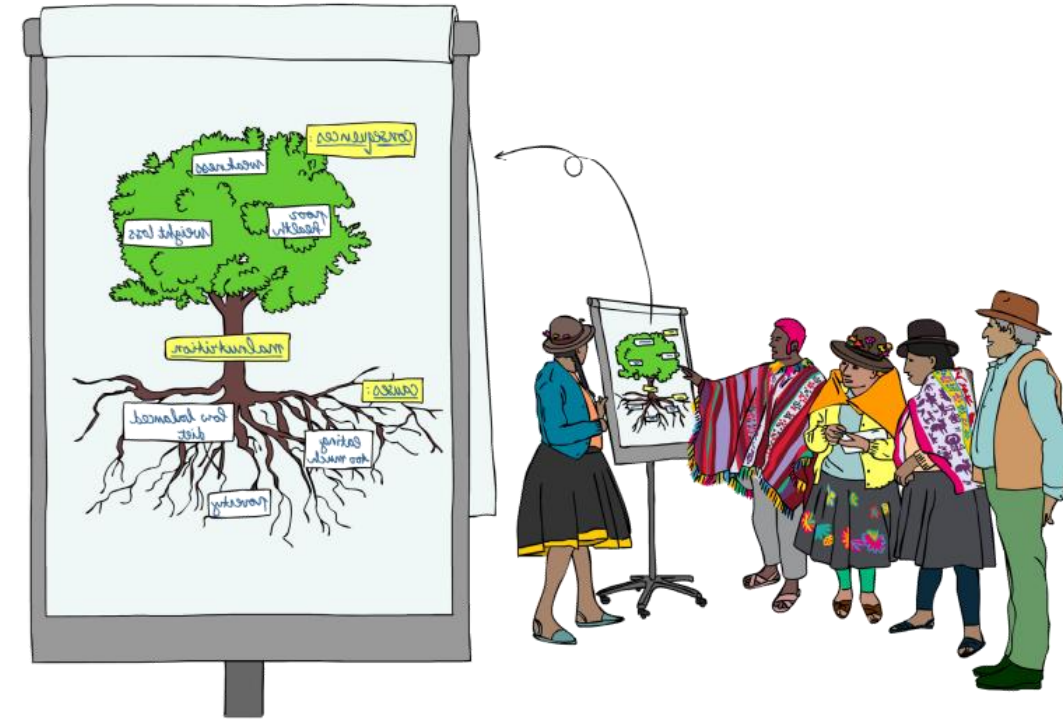
INNOVATION

WE DEVELOPED FFS CURRICULA ON:

- ✓ PARTICIPATORY VARIETY SELECTION – INCREASE CROP DIVERSITY
GOOD COLLABORATION WITH BREEDERS
- ✓ PARTICIPATORY VARIETY ENHANCEMENT – RESTORATION &
ENHANCEMENT OF LOCAL VARIETIES
- ✓ PARTICIPATORY VARIETY DEVELOPMENT – SHUTTLE BREEDING
REDUCED LENGTH OF BREEDING TO 4 YEARS

SUPPORT OF FARMER VARIETIES REGISTRATION

FARMERS ARE AT THE CENTER OF ALL THE WORK



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DEVELOPMENT

- TRIAL & ERROR – DEVELOPED WITH COUNTRY PARTNERS
- ANNUAL CYCLES OF TOTS, FIELD IMPLEMENTATION, END OF SEASON EVALUATIONS
- GRADUAL UNDERSTANDING & IMPROVEMENT OF METHODS & TOOLS
→ PRODUCED SIMPLIFIED GUIDES
- EFFORTS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE WITH NATIONAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH STATIONS
- ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF ORGANIZATION & PRACTITIONERS SUPPORTING PPB WORK



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Describe the impact of the innovation

- INCREASED CROP & VARIETY DIVERSITY
- SORGHUM VARIETY DEVELOPED IN RECORD TIME OF 4 YEARS AT A COST OF **USD 8K** COMPARED TO **USD 250K** NORMAL COST
- ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY AFFORDABLE SEED ADAPTABLE TO LOCAL CONDITIONS
- STRONG COLLABORATION WITH BREEDERS & RESEARCHERS - PROVISION OF BREEDING MATERIALS & TECHNICAL SUPPORT



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Scaling, sustainability & lessons

SCALING - ADOPTION OF FFS APPROACHES BY NATIONAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH STATIONS

- LAOS - NARS INSTITUTIONLIZED PPB FOR MAIN CROPS, REDUCED BREEDING COSTS
- ZAMBIA - SHUTTLE BREEDING REDUCED COST TO USD8K COMPARED TO USD250K NORMAL COST
- ZIMBABWE - BREEDING PROGRAMS & EXTENSION SERVICES ADOPT FFS ON PPB, STRONG MASTER TRAINERS & FACILITATORS

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING – INVESTMENT IN SIMPLIFIED TRAINING GUIDES

LESSONS - STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH BREEDING INSTITUTIONS & LOCAL NGOS ARE CRUCIAL FOR A SUCCESSFUL BREEDING PROGRAM



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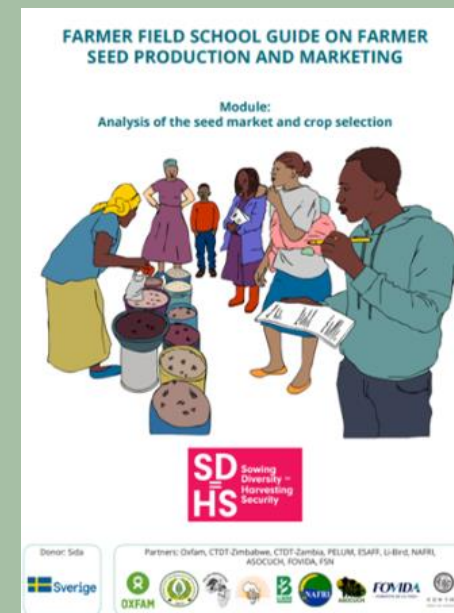
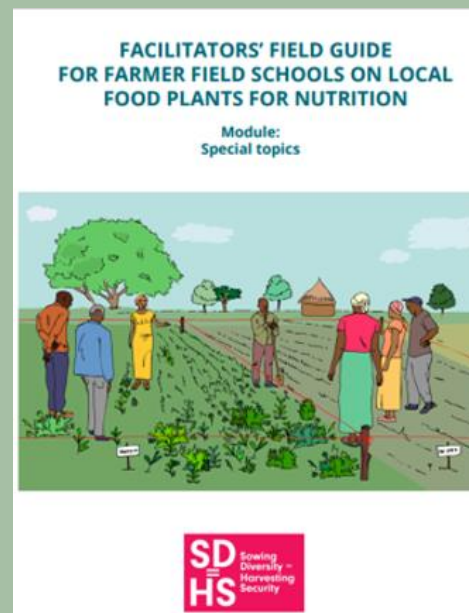
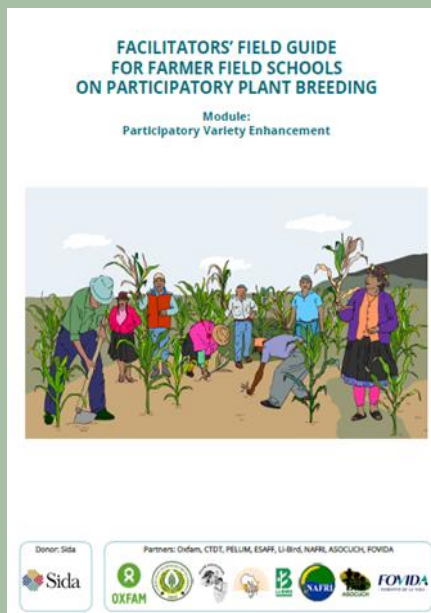
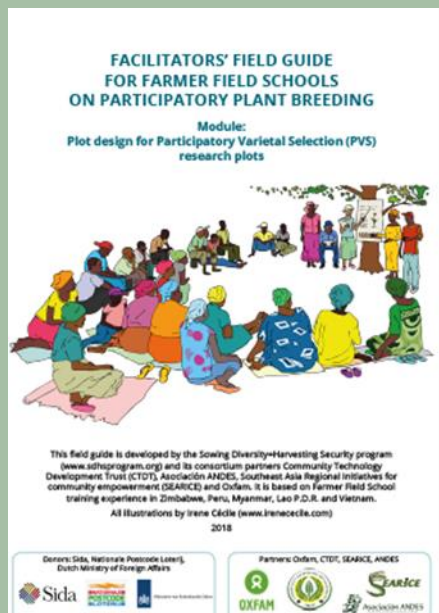
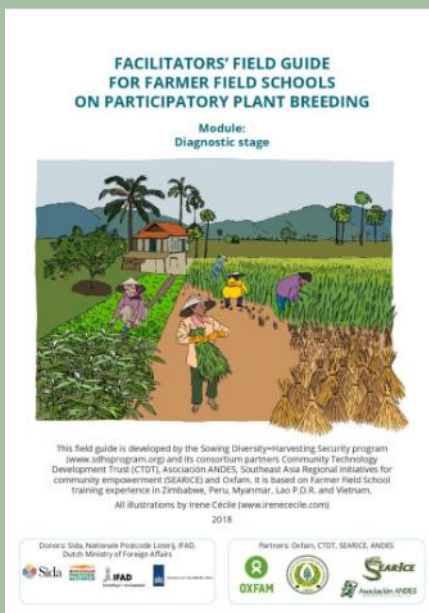




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Thank you for your attention !

For more information, please visit our website: sdhsprogram.org
Subscribe to our **newsletter** and you won't miss a thing!



The SD=HS program is grateful for the funding support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

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THE SOUND OF SILENCE

The first FFS for disabled farmers

FAO Egypt

Sustainable Management of Kharga Oasis Agro-Ecosystems in the
New Valley Governorate [GCP/EGY/030/GFF]

Funded by



Ashraf Elsadek – Project Manager
Ahmed Diab – Project Consultant

Acknowledgment goes to Nehmedo, Khaled, Mohamed and Ahmed

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The problem that innovation is addressing

Remote area / lack of knowledge transfer system for disabled farmers

Lack access to the same resources as their counterparts

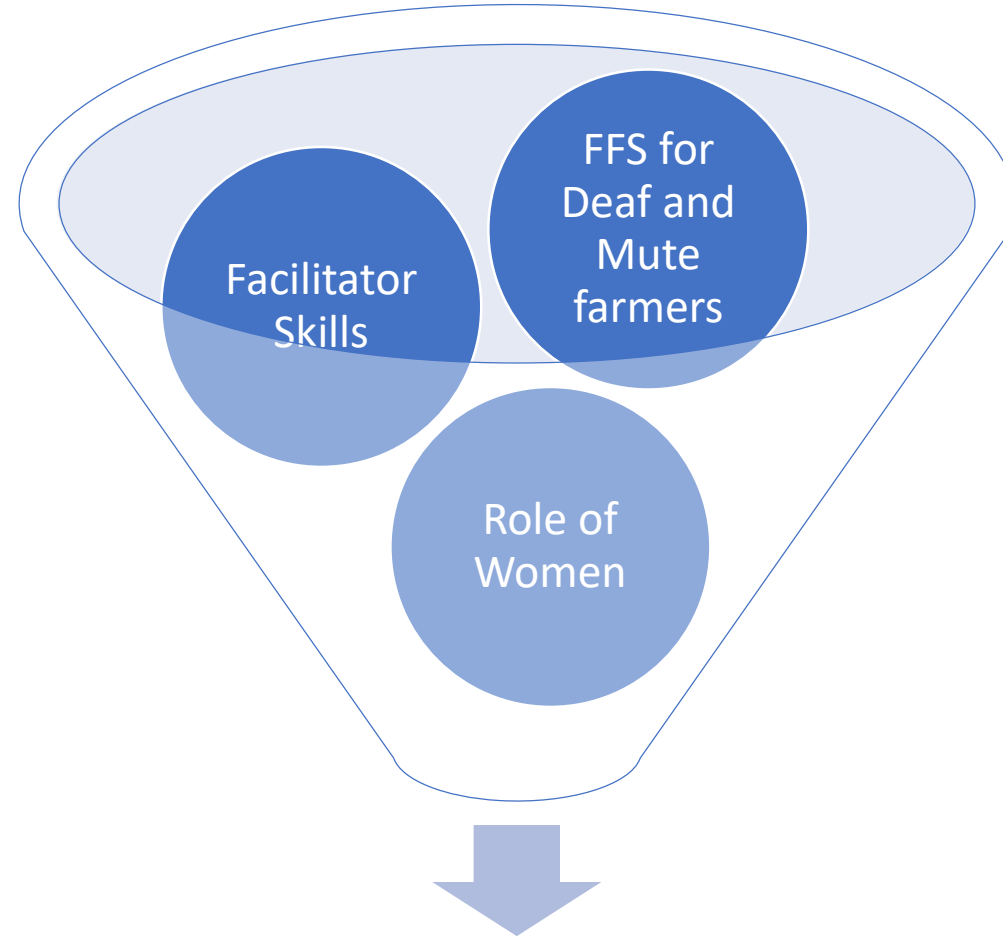
They feel excluded and marginalized



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What is the innovation (FFS for silent farmers)



An enabling environment where members learn from each other and adopt/adapt techniques to their specific needs



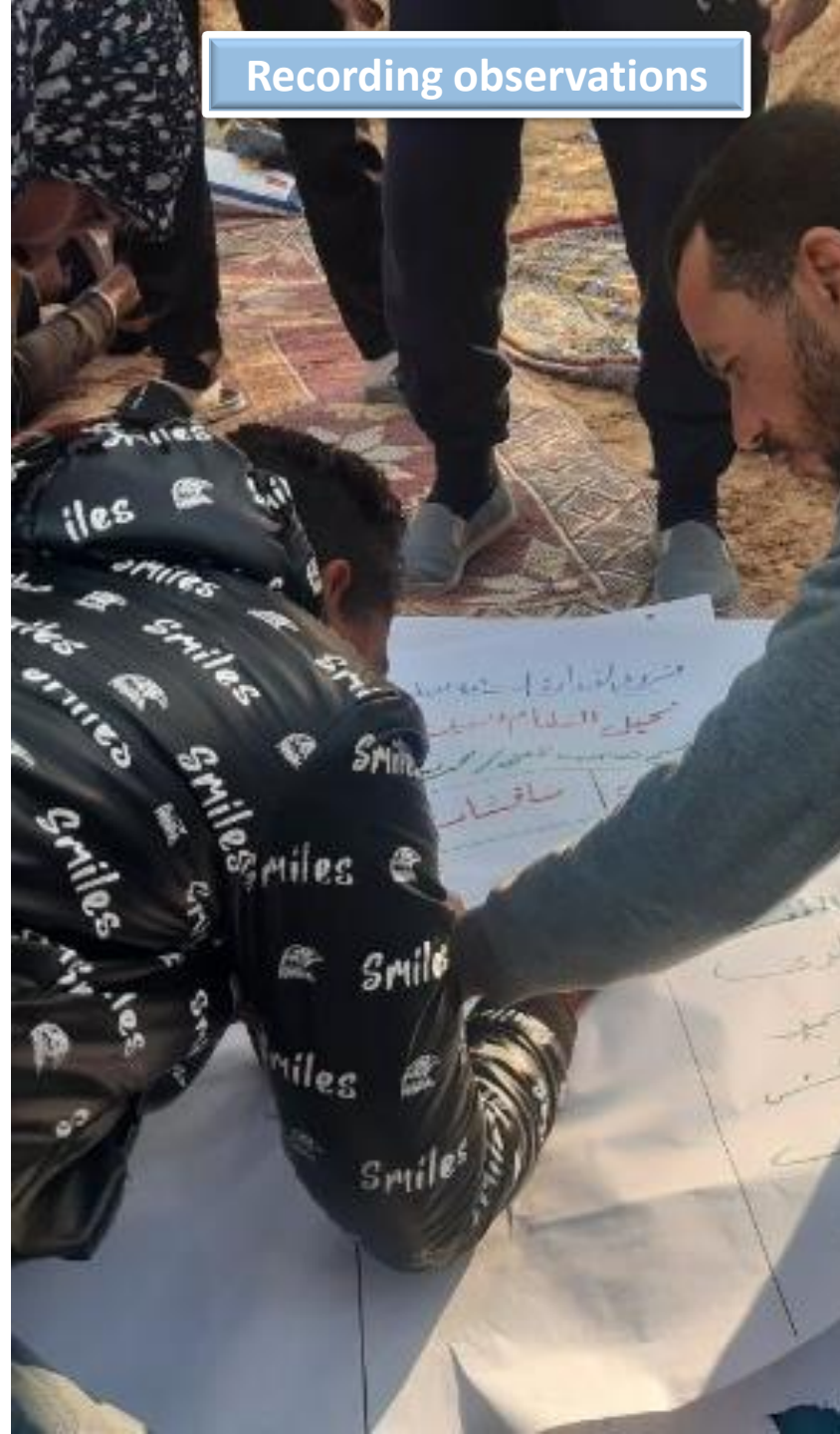
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Agri Eco-System Analysis



Recording observations



Group dynamic



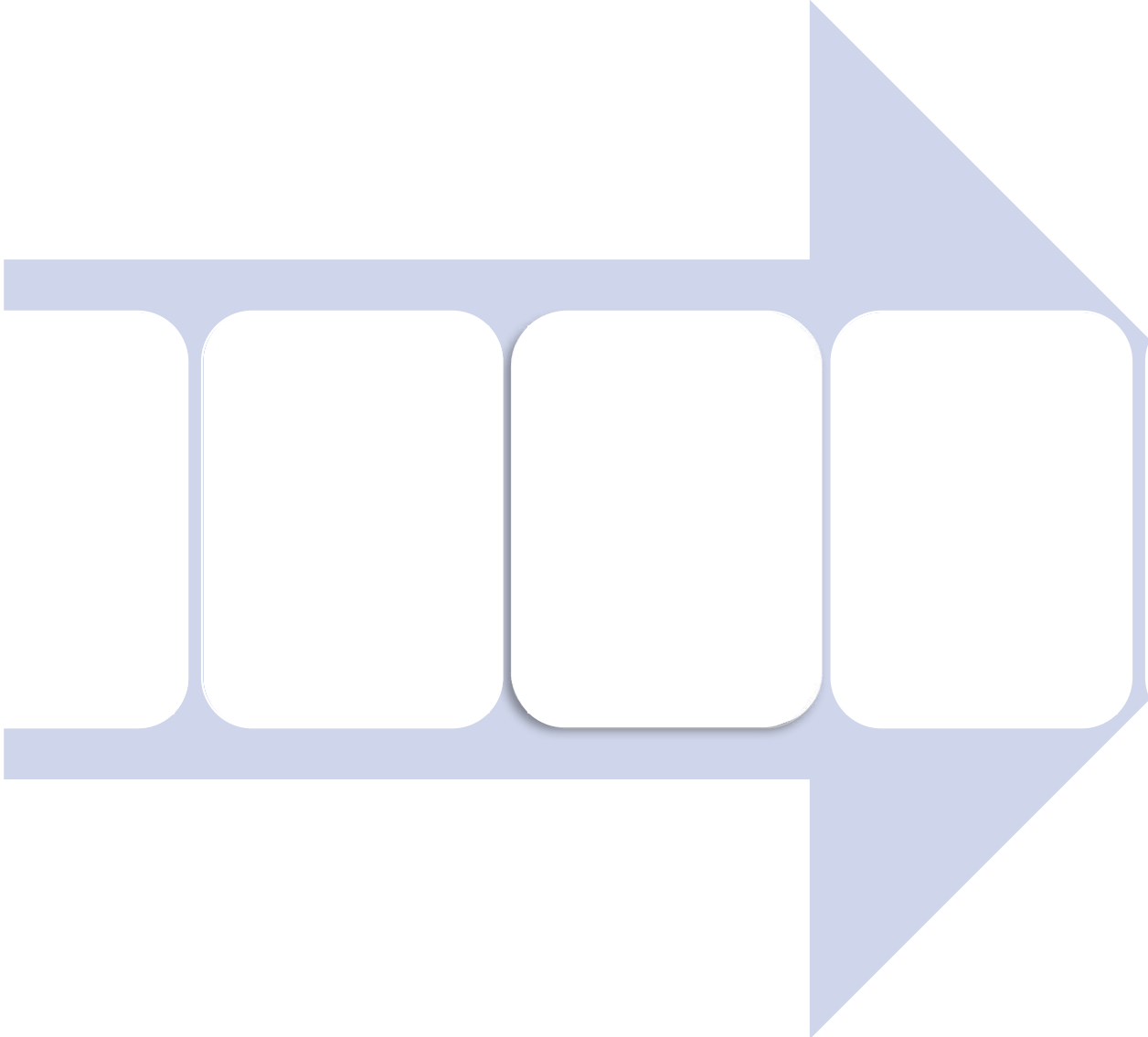
Group discussion



AESA presentation



The way how the innovation has been developed



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The impact of the innovation

Economic Impacts

◦ Increased Productivity

◦ Income Generation

◦ Reduced Dependence



**BETTER
PRODUCTION**



**BETTER
NUTRITION**



**BETTER
ENVIRONMENT**



**BETTER
LIFE**

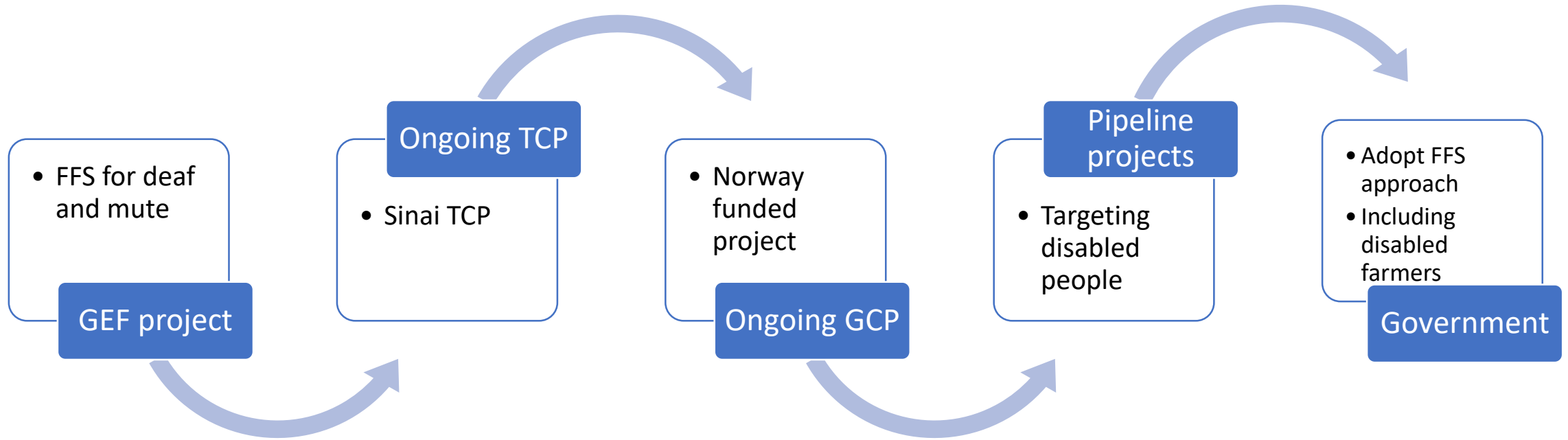
The impact of the FFS (as mentioned by a beneficiary)



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Scaling and Sustainability



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Lessons learned

- Innovation often requires adapting existing structures to accommodate diverse needs.
- The FFS learned to tailor teaching methods, visual aids, and communication channels to suit the participants' unique requirements.

Adaptability
Matters



- Involving family members (like the intermediary wife) as communication bridges is crucial.
- Collaboration ensures effective knowledge transfer and breaks down barriers

Collaboration Is
Essential



- Visual aids, diagrams, and practical demonstrations play a pivotal role.
- They simplify complex concepts and enhance understanding.

Visual
Communication
Enhances Learning



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The best sign ever...



The fact of



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Thirty years of
farmer field schools



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of the United Nations

FARM DIVERSIFICATION TO BOOST FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN RURAL NIGERIA

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, UNIVERSITY
OF GEORGIA, FAO

Presenters – Austin Stankus
Oluwafemi Ajayi

31st July 2024

Description of the innovation

The project introduced an innovative **combination of practices** for farm diversification in Nigeria using a **farmer-driven, participatory approach**,

starting with **catfish farming** in rice fields,

at the same time, introducing **fish breeding**, **insect farming** and **fish smoking**,

while monitoring positive impacts to **biodiversity**, **livelihoods** and **nutrition**,

the work resulted in a **new model** for future FFS which will enable farm diversification through a full **value chain approach**.



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The problems addressed by the innovation

- ❑ **Low yields** and **profit margins** of small-scale rice farms – **food security** and **livelihood** challenges
- ❑ Agrochemicals expensive, environmentally damaging
- ❑ **Lack of farmer-awareness** about the possibility of integrating fish into rice production
- ❑ No existing **locally-adapted working methodology** to efficiently diversify production through IAA



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How the innovation was developed

- ❑ **Participatory consultations** to identify farmers' needs and entry points for intervention
- ❑ Farmers **co-create knowledge** on inclusive farm diversification practices
- ❑ Farmers work on community plots in a **group-based experiential learning process**
 - ❑ Field modification and fish farming
 - ❑ Black soldier fly production for fish feed
 - ❑ Catfish breeding for fingerling production
 - ❑ Fish smoking for shelf life and value
- ❑ University and students acted as **facilitators**



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Impacts of the innovation

- ❑ Generated **interest** and **enthusiasm**
- ❑ Farmers produce **more and healthier foods**
- ❑ Households report access to **more diverse diets**
- ❑ Farmers enjoy **higher incomes**
- ❑ Farmers use **fewer agrochemicals**, notice **more biodiversity**
- ❑ Ancillary activities add value, create **additional sources of income**
- ❑ **Bridge the gap** between the academia and farmers



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Scaling, sustainability and lessons learned

❑ Lessons learned

- ❑ **Holistic approach** and **suite of practices**
- ❑ **Low-cost** and **easily adopted** by rice farmers
- ❑ **Students as facilitators**

❑ Sustainability

- ❑ **Value chain approach** proactively addressed supply side problems
- ❑ Spontaneous **uptake** (outside of project)

❑ Scaling

- ❑ **Communication** at all levels
- ❑ Government **buy-in**



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Many thanks!

