

Diagnostic Stage of the Farmer Field School Approach on Participatory Plant Breeding

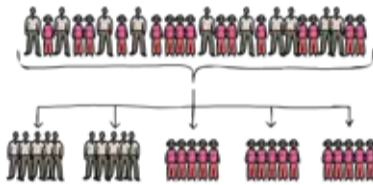
1. Identification of the Community Problem

Discussion of the problems and needs to be addressed by the farmer field school. The objective of the FFS is providing solutions.



2. Organizing of the Group in Subgroups

Division of the group of 25 to 30 farmers into subgroups of five enables 'segregation' and it helps participants to get to know each other better and feel more comfortable. It also helps all members of the small subgroups to play an active role.



b) Setting up leadership roles in the group

Each subgroup independently conducts the exercises and writes down their results. The facilitator assigns a leader to each subgroup to lead the discussions



3. Making A Time Analysis

Aims to create an understanding of how socio-economic and environmental conditions and developments influence agricultural systems and plant genetic diversity over time.



Step 1:

In subgroups members draw a simple timeline on a large piece of paper. And each participants discusses the numbers of years past that best covers the changes which have affected the farming system, in particular in crop diversity.

Step 2:

Reflect on the changes in context i.e. changes in infrastructure, market access, socio economic, government policies and programs and climate.

Step 3:

Discuss the impact of changes on production systems and crop genetic diversity.

Step 4:

Discuss the results of the analysis with the plenary group.

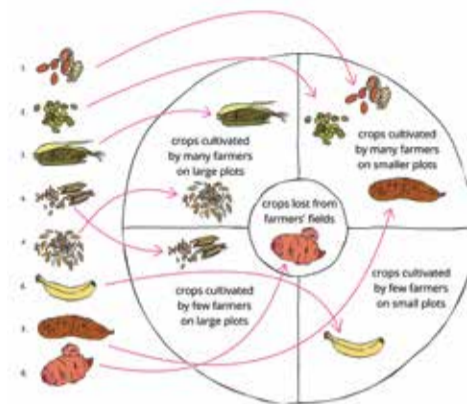
Step 5:

Document the results of the discussion.



4. Diversity Wheel for Exercise for Crops

The Diversity Wheel for crops provides insight into the level of crop diversity in a community.



Step 1:

Discussion of the different segments of the diversity wheel

Step 2:

Listing of 8-10- important crops that were lost

Step 3:

Assigning the crops to the different segments of the diversity wheel

Step 4:

Picking of a focus group



Step 5:

Presenting the results to the plenary

Step 6:

Document the results of the exercise

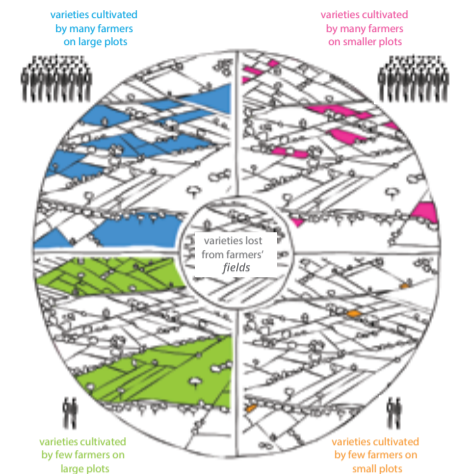


5. Diversity Wheel for Varieties

The major aim is to identify a crop' most important traits as a basis for setting breeding objectives.



Diversity Wheel for Varieties



Step 1:

Discussion of the segments of the diversity wheel for varieties

Step 2:

Listing of varieties and those that were lost

Step 3:

Assign of the varieties to the segments

Step 4:

Choose one or two varieties

Step 5:

Presentation of the groups to the plenary and group discussion on focus varieties

Step 6:

Document of the results of the exercise



6. Setting Breeding Objectives and Methods

Purpose;

Breeding objectives are composed of the ideal crop traits that are desired by the community in the current context of environmental, economic, political and social conditions.

The breeding objectives determine the type of breeding and selection work that will be done in the FFS.

Step 1:

Assign crop varieties to the subgroups for discussion

Step 2:

List the traits of the selected varieties



Step 3:

Ranking of traits



Step 4:

Group discussion on traits

Step 5:

Group discussion on breeding methods

- Participatory variety selection(PVS)
- Participatory variety enhancement(PVE)
- Participatory variety Development(PVD)