World Agroforestry Centre

Anne Kuria, Esther Kiura, Christine Magaju, John Nyaga, Mary Crossland and Leigh Winowiecki, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

IFAD
Investing in rural people

Table of Contents

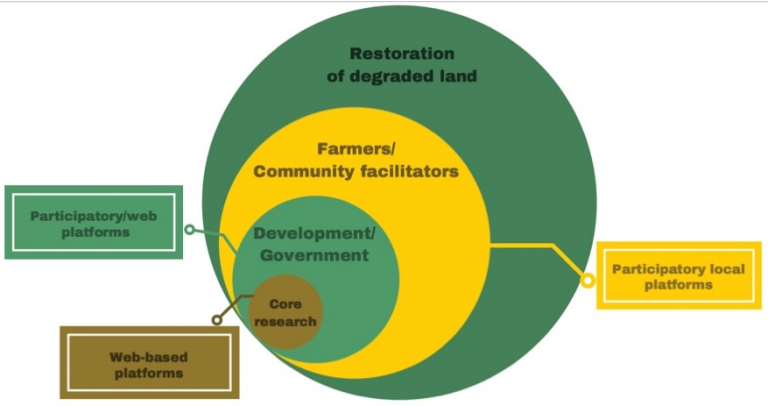
Suggested Citation:

Kuria, A Kiura, E., Magaju, C., Nyaga, J., Crossland, M.and Winowiecki, L.A. (2018). FACILITATION GUIDE: SECOND COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WORKSHOP WITH FARMERS ON EXPLORING DRYLAND LAND RESTORATION OPTIONS IN MAKUENI, MACHAKOS AND KITUI COUNTIES in KENYA. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Nairobi, Kenya. 8 pgs.

Purpose and Aim of the guide

Over 2000 farmers across Makueni, Machakos, and Kitui counties have been actively implementing a range of land restoration options within the DryDev and the IFAD/EU Land Restoration projects. In December 2017, the first round of workshops were held with almost 400 farmers. The focus on those workshops included: 1) Farmers' understanding and interpretation of aims of land restoration technologies, 2) Farmers' evaluation of the performance of the various land restoration options, 3) Impacts of the land restoration options on farmer's livelihoods and 4) Lessons Learnt and recommendations for improving the implementation of the various land restoration options.

This round of workshops will focus on the performance of the tree planting options as well as the identification of additional land restoration options farmers would like to explore. These workshops are a key aspect for knowledge sharing both within and between the nested communities of practice (farmers; community facilitators; NGOs/governments; researchers).



Nested communities of practice, facilitated and documented, with refined tools, methods, and guidelines for taking land restoration to scale.

This guide aims to provide a framework for facilitating workshops with farmers, in a comfortable outdoor setting, with the following objectives: 1) Discuss current on-farm land restoration activities, in relation to farm productivity and livelihood trajectories; 2) Collate farmers' perceptions of the current tree planting options being explored on their farms 3) Brainstorm on additional context-relevant land restoration options that farmers want to explore on their farm in order to increase synergies with the existing technologies and intensify on their farming system for increased ecological resilience and livelihood returns; and 4) Identify key information flows in terms of stakeholder network analysis. In addition, results from the first farmer CoP workshops will be shared with the participants.

The information gathered from this workshop will be fed into the NGO/Government CoP, to facilitate continuous feedback loop to encourage adaptive management of the project. Furthermore, these workshops aim to identify past interactions between the farmers and the NGOs, identify gaps in technologies being implemented, and highlight limitations that have been experienced in the past that may require to be resolved for additional technologies to be successful. This will ensure farmers are able to implement their desired land restoration technologies effectively and sustainably. It is

expected that through this guide, we will identify other additional technologies that are compatible with the on-going restoration options such as maximizing on the ridges between the planting basins.

Points to note for the workshops:

- ü We anticipate participation from farmers who are currently involved in land restoration activities and those interested in learning about and implementing land restoration interventions. This is part of the up and outscaling strategy.

- ü Be sure to explain to the group of farmers the main objective of the exercise (see above objectives), stressing on the fact that the aim is to learn from them and understand on the land restoration options contribute to their livelihoods.

- ü This interactive exercise which is undertaken with a group of farmers should preferably be conducted within a farm that has ongoing land restoration technologies such as planting basins or tree planting for demonstration and visualization purposes. This will also enable the facilitators to observe and follow up on aspects that they observe, which the farmers might have overlooked. Some questions may appear repetitive, but are meant to triangulate responses from different angles.

- ü Be sure to thank the farmer for their time, their participation and for information and knowledge gained from interacting with them so far through the ongoing land restoration technologies.

- ü Bring flip chart paper, markers, notecards, pens and string for securing the flip charts when needed.

- ü The exercises can be combined with other participatory exercises as deemed appropriate such as the Bao game of scoring, ranking exercises, using coloured cards etc

This guide is produced within the IFAD-EU funded 'Restoration of degraded land for food security and poverty reduction in East Africa and the Sahel: taking successes in land restoration to scale' project (http://www.worldagroforestry.org/project/restoration-degraded-land-food-security-and-poverty-reduction-east-africa-and-sahel-taking)

This guide may be adapted to other projects wishing to elicit farmer feedback on how to identify opportunities for intensification of systems already adopting land restoration technologies.

Introduction Session

In Plenary **(10 Minutes)**

1. Facilitators to introduce themselves.
2. Introduce the main objectives of the farmer CoP meeting
3. Farmers to introduce themselves – maybe by the number of seasons they have implemented the various land restoration options under the IFAD project/ new farmers and why they are agreed to participate in the meeting

Section A: Feedback to farmers from the previous farmer CoP

In Plenary **(15 Minutes)**

1. Facilitators to provide feedback from the previous CoP (*even if the feedback is from a different group of farmers from a different location- its purpose is for co-learning*)

    a. Facilitators have a 2-page structured summary to elicit this feedback

2. Lessons learnt from the previous farmer CoP
3. How the feedback from farmers was used to inform the project activities
4. Interesting contrast in perceptions/ results between the counties
5. Reactions to the feedback presented (*The facilitator to then request farmers to give their brief views and feedback on what was striking from the presentation*)

Section B: Farmer feedback on the current on-farm land restoration activities

In Plenary but responses should be from individual farmers except for question 1 **(15-20 Minutes)**
Farmers to group themselves in the land restoration activity they want to talk about

1. What do you understand by land restoration? *(In groups, farmers to discuss and come up with words that they use to describe land restoration. Each group to nominate one person to put down in card and report back. The facilitator will request 2 two male and 2 female farmers from each of the villages represented in the meeting to volunteer and explain what they understand by the term 'land restoration'. Here, we would like to also understand whether there is/are local Kamba terms farmers use to refer to land restoration).*

2. Which land restoration activities are you involved in and have you benefitted or hope to benefit from the activity you mentioned? *In question 2 and 3, each farmer will pick a card and record the following details: their village of origin, gender, age, which land restoration activity are they involved in. Then write the responses.*

3. Explain the benefit received form the land restoration interventions for the following groups: For men? For women? For youth? Give reasons for your answers.

4. What other land restoration options would you like to try/implement on your farm. The reason and who would implement these? Men, women, youth? *Please list all options mentioned by the farmers.*

Section C: Farmers' views of the current tree planting options being explored on their farms

In Groups but each farmer to write responses individually **(60 Minutes)**

1. I will benefit from the trees I planted or my livelihood is going to change positively from the trees I have planted. (Yes. No. Neutral). Give reasons for your answer.

   In this exercise, cards will be placed along a line on the ground. Farmers will be requested to stand beside the card that corresponds to their views. In this question, we want to elicit a 'Yes, No or Neutral' answer on farmers' perception of tree planting. The facilitator to record the number of farmers beside each card. Now farmers will gather in small groups according to their response and discuss and record the responses on a flip chart, record the answers per questions.
2. Why did you decide to participate in tree planting?
3. Which species did you plant that you were most happy with and why? And which species did you plant that you were most disappointed with and why?
4. Which species would you prefer to plant? And Why?
5. Which tree planting options(s) worked best? Why? (Which tree species is working well in which conditions/hole size).
6. Did more trees survive this time compared to last time? Why?
7. How can we increase tree seedling survival?
   - *a.* Management?
   - *b.* For example, if you would have purchased the tree seedlings how would you have managed the seedlings differently?
   - *c.* Would you have planted trees even if the seedlings were not provided to you? Why?

Farmers then come together in plenary and the facilitator requests a few of them to share their answers.

In plenary, discuss ownership of the trees and what the project can do to improve, regarding the farmers feeling ownership of the trees.

Section D: Stakeholder Network Discussion

Objectives of this session are to catalogue other organizations engaged with the farmers on land restoration and any grass roots coordination within the farmers.

*In plenary - the facilitator should record all answers from farmers on a flip chart (***10-15 Minutes***)*

1. Have you engaged in a new farmer organization to implement the land restoration options (e.g., a women' group for digging basins)? If Yes, how has this helped and why?.

2. Other than World Vision, ADRA and Caritas, are there any other organizations you have worked with in relation to land restoration? (*farmers to mention organization and key activities implemented through each organization*)

3. Do you think there are any lessons that can be learnt from the previous your engagement with previous organizations?

Section E: Wrap-up and Final Plenary

*In plenary (***15-20 Minutes***)*

1. Are there burning questions or reactions you have around land restoration in general, including tree planting and tree survival that you would wish addressed?

2. Are there any tree planting-related challenges we should be aware of?

3. Would you require additional support to effectively implement additional tree planting technologies?

4. Open the floor to final words, farmer feedback, observations, suggestions, general observations on the on-going land restoration activities?

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