

Introduction

There are several core principles underlying the ABCD approach. The first principle is that 'everyone has gifts', which means that every member in the community has unique skills and talents to contribute to its thriving.

A second principle is that 'relationships build a community', which is why facilitating community exchange and engagement are fundamental to community development, alongside the conscious building of relationships with actors that are external to the community.

A third principle is to 'start with what you have', which is why a holistic and thorough assessment of existing assets and strengths can contribute to communities realising their own development objectives without any external assistance in view of them mobilising and better using their own resources. Altogether, these three principles centre on appreciating communities for their inherent strengths and capacities. As external actors, the ABCD team of World Agroforestry (ICRAF) works to support communities to use these assets, strengths, and capacity to improve the sustainability of their livelihoods and to live a life of dignity.

ABCD is a participatory process that can be facilitated in many ways. ICRAF's ABCD team currently uses 16 tools, which are inspired by and partly co-developed with the Coady Institute. These tools are used in a process that has five steps: (1) an introduction to ABCD, (2) setting the tone through appreciative interviewing, (3) assessing existing assets and strengths, (4) integrated community action planning, (5) regular participatory monitoring and evaluation.

For more details, consult the full manual: Fuchs, L.E., Kipkorir, L., Apondi, V., Orero, L. (2020), Facilitating an Asset-Based Community-Driven (ABCD) Approach for Holistic Community Development: A Manual for Community Organising, World Agroforestry (ICRAF), Nairobi: Kenya, 36 pp.

