Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia

With technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Scaling community driven agro-ecological transitions in collaboration with extension systems, research and farmers organizations

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Building on collective paper & events organized @AF2021, OFE2021 and COP26 with Doina Popusoi, Ilaria Firmain, Malu Ndavi from IFAD, Suzanne Philipps and Anne Sophie Poisot, FAO-FFS, Rasheed Sulaiman AESA and Crisp (centre for policy), Nicole Harari Wocat/CDE, Leigh Winowiecki (ICRAF), Emmanuel Jouve (independant international consultant), Katiusca Fara, WFP, IFAD project Shila Tapa (Asha, Nepal), Ashish Anand (India, JTELP)
OUTLINE

1. Overview of paper & community driven approaches
2. FAO-FFS experience
3. Lessons learnt on scaling
4. WFP experience in digital innovations to empower community driven innovations
Diversity of CC issues & biodiversity requires CDD process

- Need to empower community driven adaptation!
- Diverse agro-eco system & different enabling environment
- Diverse farmers & intra-HH differences
- CC impacts: locally specific & variable in time
- Solutions must be sustainable, build on ecosystems & biodiversity
- Solutions must be owned & sustained by communities

Community driven approach essential to empower community & farmer driven adaptation to drive locally relevant, owned and agile climate change adaptation
Diversity of approach to empower community to identify locally relevant climate adaptation

- Diverse farm experiments
- Empowered community & producer decision
- Farm diaries & records & farm analysis
- Document & share knowledge
- Video & doc
- F2F
- Adaptation scoring tool-resilience score card
- Farmer diary & agro-eco log book
- FAO FFS & CSV
- Farm demo & comparison
- Local Climate plan
- Local weather advisory/monitor
- Climate & ecological literacy & tools
- Wocat & KM network
- GIS & participatory mapping

Require important investment in technical & social capacities
Consultation at Grass roots and selection of crops and varieties:
Planning meeting conducted across locations
Land & season based variety & crop selection

Resource deployments:
Preparation of crop calendar, Standard packages of practices of each crop, inputs to be tested & training planning in advance

Training and Handholding (On-field and Class Room) –

Encouraged Small & Localised farm equipment based on the available resources -

Strategies and back up plan to ensure success
Back up plan – copping mechanism
Inter cropping, rely cropping and mix cropping to ensure minimizing cost and maximizing return.

Delegation of responsibility-
Selection, training & deployment of village champions in each village

Experimentations in demo + farm experimentations on small plot

Lessons for scale
• Scale: 211,000 HH & replicated
• Doubling income, cultivated land
• TIME to empower communities
• Blend science & local KM to co-develop locally relevant crop planning options
• Inclusive last mile delivery by “Krishi Mitra” & youth groups
• Digital innovations
OUTLINE

1. Overview paper and IFAD examples
2. Farmer Field Schools for agroecology through collaboration, Suzanne Phillips, Global Farmer Field School Platform, FAO
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What would happen if...
Farmer Field Schools

- Experimentation and learning
- Locally-adapted solutions to farmers’ challenges
- Increased ecological literacy
- Farmer group empowerment
- Healthier communities
Farmer Field Schools today

- Indonesia 1989
- Every year 400000-1 million farmers trained
- 90+ countries
- Expanding entry points

How can Farmer Field Schools play support farmers in agroecological transition?

Farmer Field Schools for agroecology

• Experiment with new ways of doing things
• Creating different systems
• Groups are key for change!
• Especially for women

Foundation = investing on facilitators

How to go from a few groups to...

- Combine with Farmer Organizations
- Collaborate with research
- Complement with (simple) digital technologies
- Document and share what works
- Monitor and Evaluate together

**Upcoming studies**
- IFAD – Collective action, self-organization and role of Fos in upscaling and institutionalizing FFS
- FAO, IFAD, Oxfam – E-powerment tips for facilitators
- FAO – Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning of FFS
- CIRAD, FAO & AVSF – How to mobilize FFS to support AE transitions?
- FAO – Stocktaking of FFS for agroecology
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Community driven approach at heart of IFAD-AE-NBS

Example from IFAD eval CDD & AE stock take

- 28% APR project with CDD
- More effective & as efficient
- 77% of production project incl AE
- AE project more holistic & perform better in gender, nutrition, youth, climate and indigineous people
- CDD s essential to landscape, market & policy / services of AE project
- But need to invest in institutionalization and scaling
Investing in network & ICT4D to address challenges of community driven adaptation & scale

- Local implementation
- Dual approach: Representative systems & outreach
- Partnership & policy

- Meaningful disaggregated engagement
- Data collection & analytical framework
- Digital innovations & GIS

- Quality analysis & targeting
- Source of innovation
- Limited budget & outreach
- Local capacity

- Empowering communities & LSP
- Scalable trainings & backstopping, Education
- Community of practices
- Incentives & remuneration

- Blending internal & external KM, practices & sciences
- Comparison. good KM,
- Peer exchange, network

Increasing roles of digital & networks to re-connect and empower community driven adaptation
Scaling through knowledge network and communities of practices: WOCAT example

Global network of SLM experts and practitioners present in over 60 countries which:

- knowledge production, exchange and learning
- standardized tools and open access data
- Strengthens participation and equity in decision-making processes
- Support scaling up processes

WOCAT Regional Clusters are set up to enhance South-South collaboration and sharing of experiences and innovations.
Leveraging community driven ICT to improve resilience of fishing communities

Pradnya Paithankar, Head of Policy Design, CC-DRR, SSTC WFP India CO

Katiuscia Fara, senior advisor CC, WFP Asia Pacific
Leveraging adapted ICT
WFP experience in Odisha, India

Improving fishing community resilience to climate change

- Climate information tailored for last mile use
- Improved resilience and adaptation capacities
- Local governance and ownership by the government.
- Successful models demonstrated in the geographies would be advocated for scale-up in other geographies

“SecureFishing” - Proposed Solution

- Information from Various Sources
- Analysed and processed through latest tech-IOT/BC
- Processing and translation of information
- Dissemination of information and support provided to fishing communities

- Disaster alerts
- GPS tracking
- Recommend fishing zones
- Market linkages
- Advise on maximizing yield
- Govt. Schemes
- Community and women empowerment

WFP, Government, Private Sector Deliver solution
Leveraging adapted ICT: Lessons aligned with Blue print

WFP experience in Odisha, India: Improving fishing community resilience to climate change

- Co-creation of tools with communities, farmer centred development
- Equity & inclusion: focus on vulnerable, what data is good data for whom & How
- Iterative development
- Building sustainable capacities among communities and service providers to take decision based on valid climate data
- Empowered communities with more choices - for improved livelihoods
- Scalability requires close collaboration with the Government & 4P

Climate Information
- Historical Records
- Forecasts

Farmers
- Challenges
- Opportunities

‘The Farmer Decides’

Options
- Crops
- Livestock
- Livelihoods

‘Options by Context’

Participatory Decision Making Tools
CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

• Community driven approach can be powerful to drive agro-ecological transitions but need to be accompanied by
  • Additional attention to intra communities diversity
  • Long term capacity development effort for last mile implementors,
  • Dual approach with strong attention to KM and networks

• Tailored digital innovations can empower such community driven approach as well as backstop last mile implementors

• ARI to accompany such process to facilitate the blending of local and scientific knowledge, tools to improve decision making of communities and help identify “what works where and for whom”

• Next: collaborations towards cross agency paper to take lessons and guidance on improving scaling and targeting of CDD along partnership