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



-centric On-Farm Experimentation

Investing in rural people

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WOCAT



Scaling-up community driven innovations for inclusive climate change adaptation

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)

> Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office CRISP

### OUTLINE

 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**



relevant, owned and agile climate change adaptation

# Diversity of approach to empower community to identify locally relevant climate adaptation



Require important investment in technical & social capacities



JTELP India IFAD: How to implement localized & differentiated weather planning & AE adoption at scale?

#### 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 (Onfield and Class Room) –



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### Strategies and back up plan to ensure success

Encouraged Small & Localised farm equipment based on the available

resources -

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 codevelop 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

3. Lessons learnt on scaling

4. WFP experience in digital innovations to empower community driven innovations

### 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?

#### Evolution of the farmer field school approach



FAO (2019). Farmers taking the lead: thirty years of farmer field schools. Rome. <u>http://www.fao.org/publications/card/fr/c/CA5131EN/</u>

### 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



Friis-Hansen, E., Duveskog, D., & Taylor, E. (2012). Less noise in the household: the impact of Farmer Field Schools on Gender Relations. <u>https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/76368</u>

### 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 unven approach at neart of $n AD^{-}AL^{-}$ NBS



- 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





Increasing roles of digital & networks to re-connect and empower community driven adaptation



# Scaling through knowledge network and communities of practices :Wocat example



Sophea tim, Rua, Nicole Harari & Isabelle Providoli, CDE



### 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



### 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



### CONCLUSION AND MEXT 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
- Taylored 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