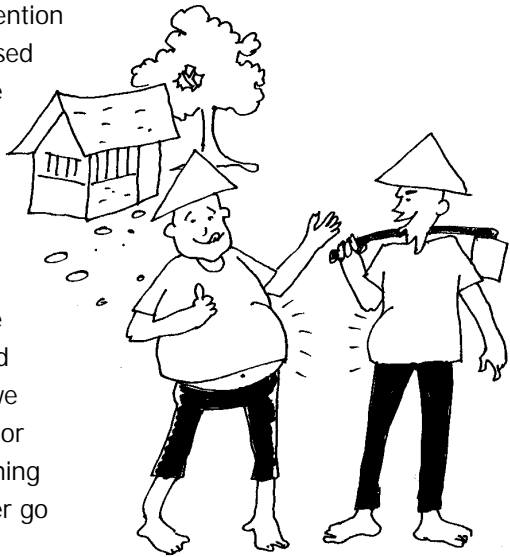


25 Sweetpotato ICM FFS evaluation

Background

An example: we go for the first time to a restaurant that attracted our attention because of the menu they exposed on a board outside. After we ate and paid, we will judge the restaurant. We may be satisfied because the food was tasty, it was cheap, and/or the service was good. In that case we are likely to visit the restaurant again, and recommend it to others. On the contrary, if we got little food for a high price, or experienced food poisoning afterwards, we will probably never go back to the restaurant.



In the appraisal process illustrated above, we consider the result of an experience we have gone through. This consideration helps us determine what we will do the next time. This is what we call an "evaluation." We normally do not evaluate our daily activities, such as going to a restaurant, in a conscious and planned manner. However, for program activities that required a certain investment in time and money of several parties, such as a Farmer Field School, we should plan and conduct an evaluation together with all stakeholders, in order to assess the output and impact of the program, and to obtain input for improvement. As shown by the example above, the conclusion of the evaluation will determine future action.

Objectives

After completing this activity, the FFS participants:

- Understand the purpose and procedure of evaluating the Sweetpotato ICM FFS.
- Are capable of planning and conducting the ICM FFS evaluation.
- Have planned ICM FFS follow-up activities.

Materials

- Newsprint paper.
- Felt-tip markers.
- Questions and answers sheet of the post-test.
- Map of the FFS field.
- Economic analysis sheets.
- Data forms of observations and harvest of experiments conducted on the FFS field.

Activity steps

A Preparation of the evaluation meeting

A.1 The following items need to be prepared for the evaluation meeting:

- Questions and answers sheet for the post-test (Appendix II-B).
- Map of the ICM FFS field showing plots of experiments.
- Economic analysis sheets.
- Data forms of observations and harvest of experiments conducted on the FFS field.
- A list of evaluation topics and discussion points.
- Task distribution among the facilitators.
- Snacks and drinks for the participants.

B *Evaluation implementation*

- B.1 The facilitator explains the objective and activities of the evaluation meeting:
- Post-test.
 - Evaluation of results (analysis of FFS experiments).
 - Evaluation of Sweetpotato ICM FFS process and impact.
- B.2 The post-test is conducted according to the procedure described in Section 5.2 of Part I.
- B.3 The participants present the results of the experiments conducted on the ICM FFS field. Discussion:
- What treatments resulted in the best yields?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of the treatments tested, compared to farmer practice?
 - What experiments would still be needed to further test and adapt the sweetpotato ICM technology?
- B.4 To discuss the results of the defoliation experiment, see Field Guide 10 (Part II).
- B.5 Process together with the participants the economic analysis sheets of the ICM FFS plot, and compare it with one of the participants' records. Discussion:
- Is ICM more or less profitable than farmer practice?
 - What are the advantages of ICM over farmer practice?
 - How could the ICM technology be adapted to better suit farmers' needs and their profit from sweetpotato enterprise?
- B.6 FFS process and impact evaluation is done through open group discussion. The following questions could be posed to lead the discussion:
- Which topics of the Sweetpotato ICM FFS did you find interesting, and which did you find not interesting?
 - What is the most important thing you have learned in the Sweetpotato ICM FFS?
 - Have you experienced any increase of knowledge and/or skills from attending the ICM FFS? If yes, relating to what?

- Did this increase in knowledge and skills result in a change of sweetpotato cultivation practices in your own field? If yes, what changes?
- After attending the FFS, do you feel competent to design and implement an experiment in your own field to further adapt the ICM technology?
- Do you plan to implement ICM practices in your own field? Which practices seem most applicable? Which do not?
- Have you shared your experiences in the ICM FFS with other farmers who did not attend? What have you been sharing with them and what was their reaction?
- What was the reason for possible absence of participants during certain meetings?
- What suggestions do you have to improve the Sweetpotato ICM FFS?
- What follow-up action does the group want to take to further implement and expand sweetpotato ICM?

For more information see:

- Pre- and post-test (Part I, Section 5.2).
- Sweetpotato ICM FFS evaluation (Part I, Chapter 6).

Notes