Agroforestry Farmers’ Field Schools: Informed Farmers for Sustainable Landscapes

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Farmer Field Schools are an effective extension method that facilitates two-way communication between farmers and extension agents through participatory processes that enhance farmer’s analytical skills in managing their agroforestry farms.

Agroforestry Farmers’ Field Schools (AFFS)

- Field schools combine the scientist-to-farmer and farmer-to-farmer approaches
- Topics include germplasm improvement and garden management of 5-7 farmers’ priority commodities
- Training enhances farmers’ analytical skills and access to information
- Demonstration plots and nurseries are places to learn new technology
- Expert farmers act as advisors to other farmers by building knowledge, skills, relationships and self-confidence

The AFFS extension approach per session

1. Scientist-to-farmer knowledge transfer
2. Farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer
3. Visits to successful farmers
4. Develop action plans to test introduced technology in demonstration plots
5. Demonstration plots

Informed farmers for sustainable landscapes in Sulawesi, Indonesia

From April 2013 to February 2014
1,733 people (27% women) were trained in agroforestry garden management focusing on 7 farmer’s priority commodities (cacao, clove, pepper, durian, nutmeg, citrus)

Costs of AFFS for 3 sessions in 10 villages is 5927 USD. Cost per session is 1975 USD 38% for scientist-to-farmer extension, 48% for field visit; 15% for farmer-to-farmer extension

Evaluation to 12% of total participants
97% of respondents enhanced knowledge on agroforestry management
14% of respondents have generated cash benefits from applying the knowledge they received from AFFS

35 expert farmers (28 males, 7 females) as agroforestry advisors
109 farmers demonstration plots established

Agroforestry Farmers’ Field Schools have been successfully applied in the Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi: Linking Knowledge to Action project of the World Agroforestry Centre and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada