

Agroforestry Farmers' Field Schools: Informed Farmers for Sustainable Landscapes

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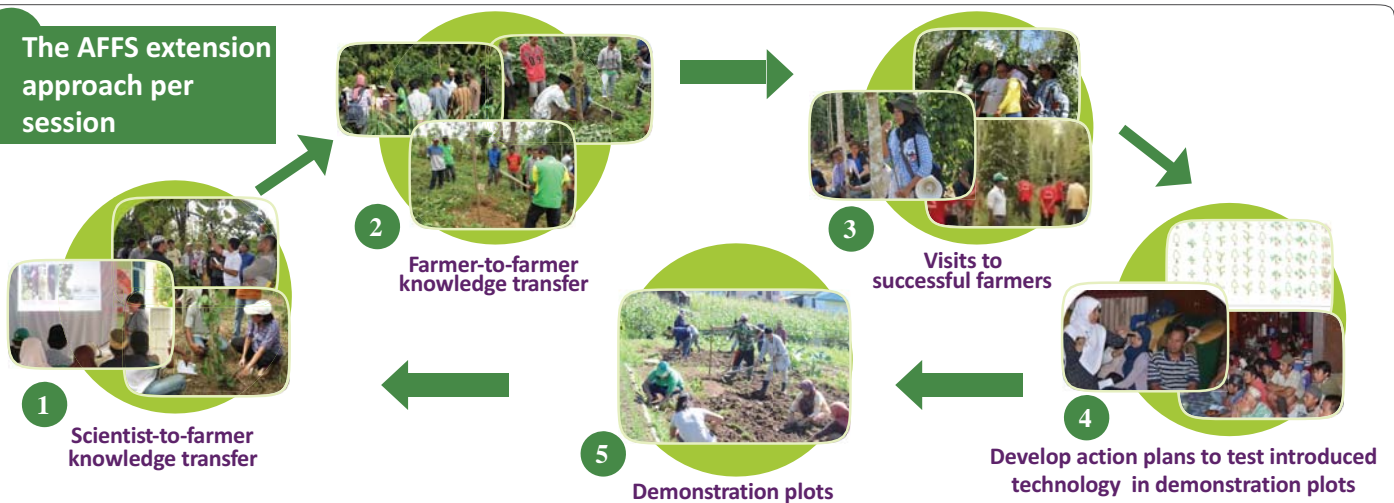
Farmer Field Schools are an effective extension method that facilitates two-way communication between farmers and extension agents through participatory processes that enhance farmer's analytical skills in managing their agroforestry farms.

Agroforestry Farmers' Field Schools (AFFS)

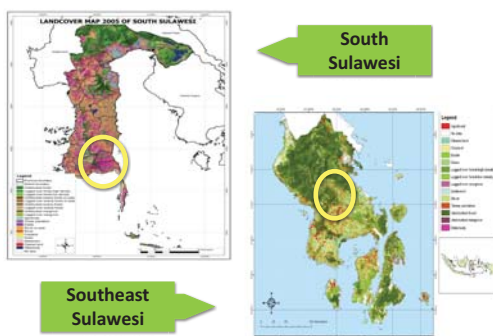
- Field schools combine the scientist-to-farmer and farmer-to-farmer approaches
- Topics include germplasm improvement and garden management of 5-7 farmers' priority commodities
- Training enhances farmers' analytical skills and access to information
- Demonstration plots and nurseries are places to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

- Farmer's priority species and topics to be studied in AFFS need to be identified 1-2 months before commencement of sessions
- At least 2 priority species are included in each AFSS session.
- Each session takes 3 months, with one month each for scientist-to-farmer and farmer-to-farmer extension, field visit, and development of action plans.

The AFFS extension approach per session



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