

# Participatory Needs and Opportunities Assessment as Springboard for Integrated Research and Extension Interventions

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## Introduction

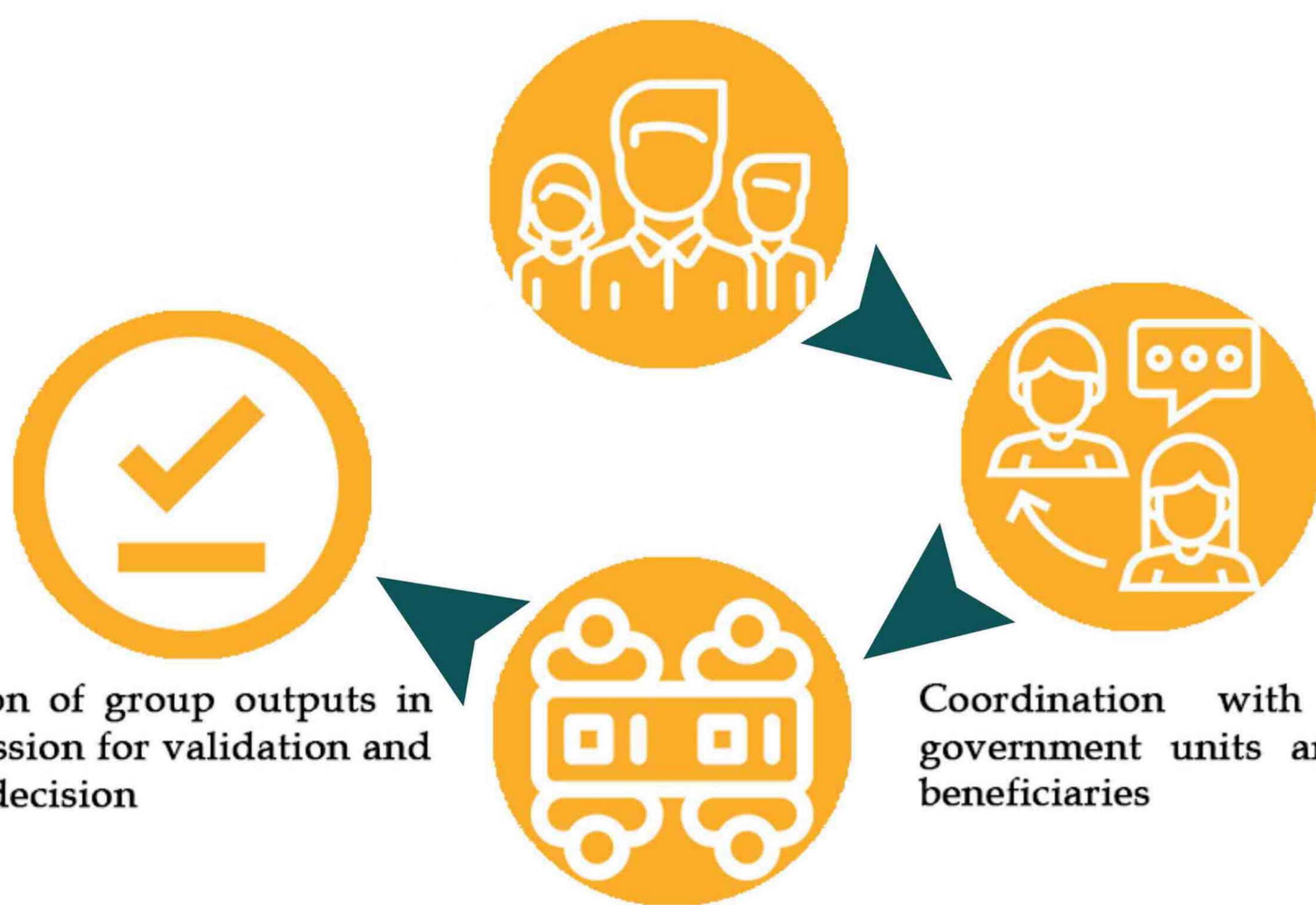
The Participatory Needs and Opportunities Assessment (PNOA) is based on the recognition that the involvement of target beneficiaries as project partners even in the planning stage is a key factor in coming up with relevant interventions. As part of the strategies of the Heirloom Rice Project, the Department of Agriculture commissioned four State Colleges and Universities (SCU's) to lead the PNOA in four targeted provinces.

## Objectives

- Determine community resources opportunities that can be capitalized in the project
- Identify problems and needs in the village sites
- Determine and prioritize relevant interventions to enhance the production and marketability of heirloom rice.

## Methods

Formation of a multi-disciplinary team from the partner agencies



Presentation of group outputs in plenary session for validation and collective decision

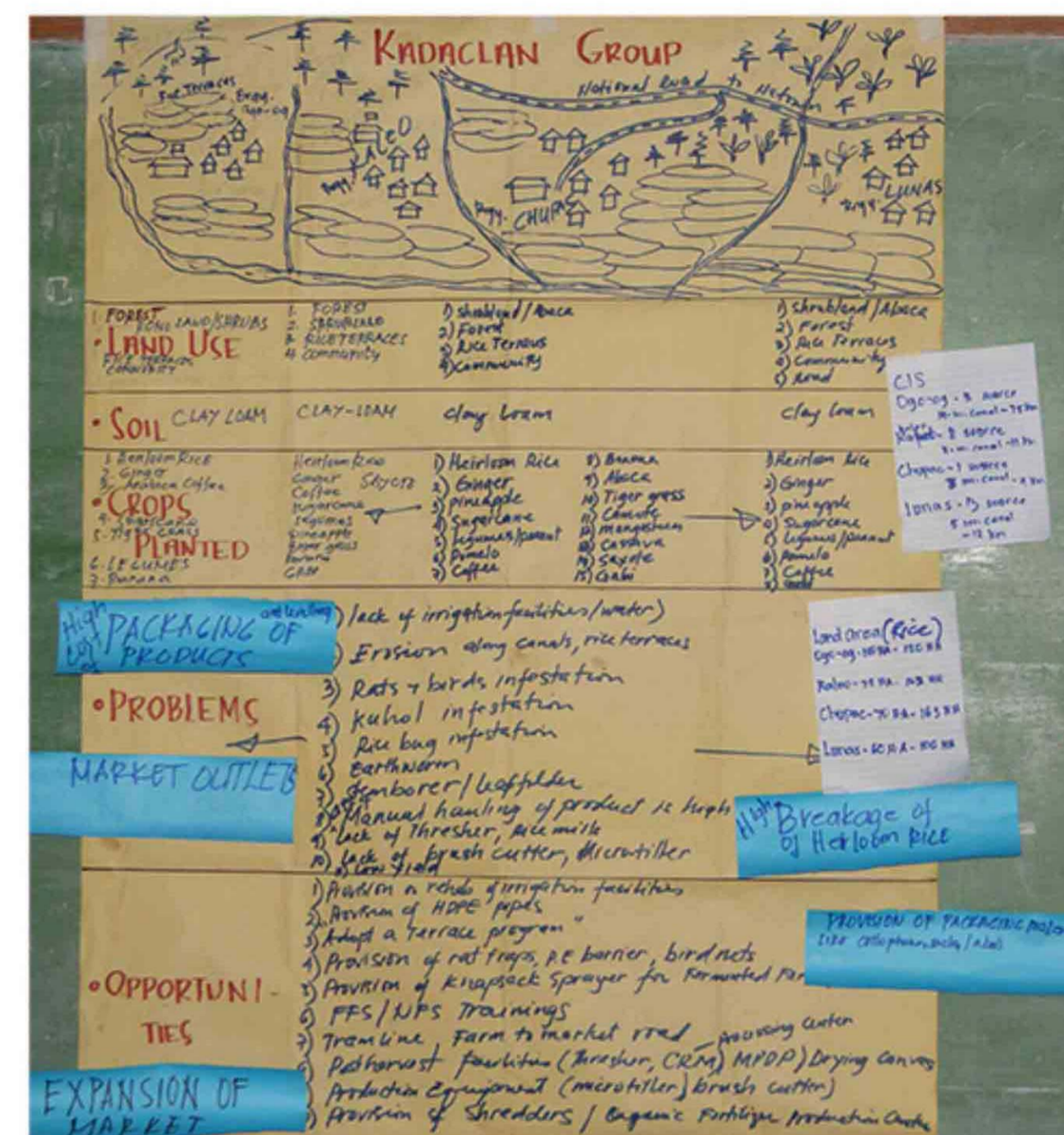
Coordination with the local government units and intended beneficiaries

Conduct of focus group discussions to assess problems, needs and opportunities using participatory assessment tools as follows: Transect Walk, Seasonal Calendar, Fears and Hopes and Venn Diagram.

## Results

In each village site, the following data were generated:

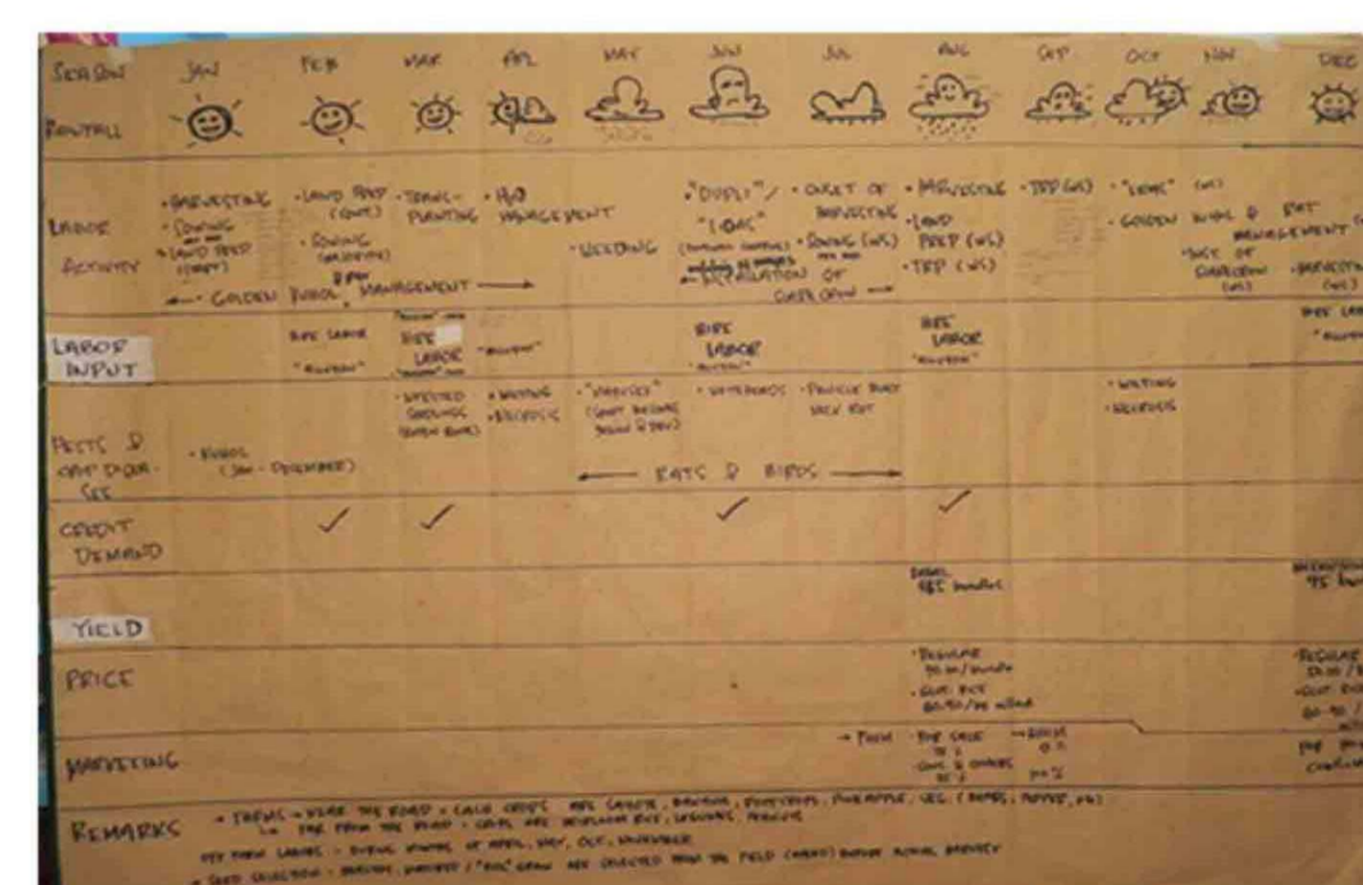
- Transect maps showing resources, land uses, commodities grown, problems and opportunities.
- Seasonal calendar plotted vis-avis the agricultural activities, off farm activities and occurrence of pest and disease.
- Hopes and fears expressing the respondents' aspirations and apprehensions in the production and, marketing of heirloom rice.
- Service institutions being accessed by the project sites.



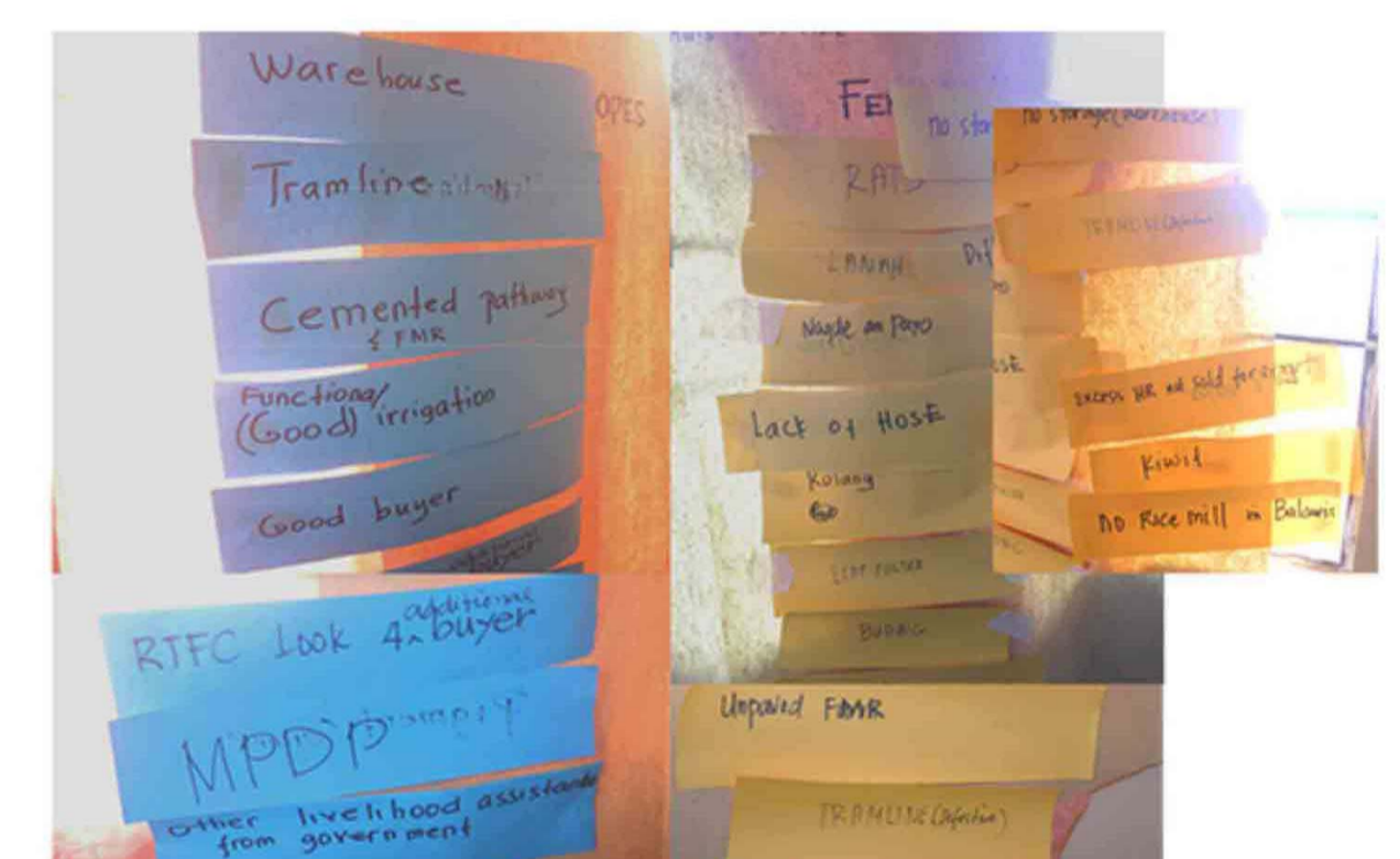
Transect Map



Venn Diagram



Seasonal Calendar



Hopes and Fears

## What was Done with the Results?

PNOA results were presented to the communities for prioritization of problems and concerns. Consequently, the project team updated and customized the research and extension activities, part of which are as follows:



Organic Fertilizer Management Trials and Pest and Disease Management Studies



Capacity Building through Crash Course, FFS and Cooperative Development



Provision of Production and Postharvest materials and equipment



Market-related Support Services

## Conclusion

Participatory needs and opportunities assessment is a valid strategy in coming up with holistic and localized research, extension and other relevant interventions.

## Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement is due to all the Heirloom Rice Project implementers from International Rice Research Institute, Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Administrative Region, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Benguet State University, Ifugao State University, Kalinga State University, Mountain Province State Polytechnic College, Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units of Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province, and the partner beneficiaries in the project sites.