



Farmer Field School methodology

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ILRI Research Themes

1. How can livestock contribute to pathways out of poverty?
2. How can adoption of livestock innovations be accelerated?
3. How can the poor access the benefits of emerging livestock markets?
4. How can livestock biotechnology best be used for development?
5. How can livestock contribute positively to human and environmental health?



ILRI revised strategy

ILRI will contribute effectively and demonstrably to sustainable poverty reduction through livestock-centred research and capacity building with diverse partners that will impact on the following 3 pathways out of poverty:

- Securing the current and future assets of the poor*
- Improving productivity of agriculture systems of the poor in which livestock play a significant role*
- Enhancing participation of the poor in livestock related markets*

Farmer Field Schools

The FFS approach was developed by FAO in south east Asia in the late 80's for small-scale rice farmers to investigate, and learn for themselves the skills required for, and the benefits to be obtained from, adopting integrated pest management (IPM) practices in their paddy fields.



Farmer Field Schools

- During the 1990's an estimated 2 million farmers were trained in South and Southeast Asia (Pontius *et al.*, 2000)
- In Africa, FAO is currently working in over a dozen countries from Senegal to South Africa (Simpson & Owens, 2002)

Farmer Field Schools

- (FFS) are based on an innovative, participatory and interactive learning approach
- Focus group of 25-35 farmers with common interest
- Regular meeting to access information
- Grant or loan of +/- 600 USD to financed their activities and the facilitation costs.



Farmer Field Schools: 5 key principles

1. What is relevant and meaningful is decided by the learner and must be discovered by the learner
2. Learning is a consequence of experience
3. Cooperative approach are enabling
4. Learning is an evolutionary process with open communication, confrontation, acceptance, respect and the right to makes mistakes
5. Each person's experience of reality is unique

Farmer Field Schools: Non-negotiable

- Farmer-centred
- Competent facilitators : T.O.T
- Curriculum development:
 - * Topic should be chosen by the community
 - * Training based on farmer' limited knowledge
 - * Training based on basic needs of farmers
 - * Participants are involved in curriculum development

Farmer Field Schools: Non-negotiable

Systematic training process:

- * Observation
- * Group discussion and analysis
- * Conclusion and action plan
- * Agro-ecosystem analysis
- * Regular and frequent meetings

*FFS is not about technology ,
it is about people development*

Farmer Field Schools are conducted for the purpose of creating a learning environment in which farmers can master and apply specific management skills. The emphasis is on empowering farmers to implement their own decisions in their own fields.

"I am always ready to learn, but I do not always like being taught." Sir Winston Churchill

Farmer Field Schools Objectives

To build the farmers' capacity to analyse their production systems and to identify their main constraints



Farmer Field Schools Objectives

To test possible solutions suitable to their farming system using comparative experiment



Farmer Field Schools Objectives

Build on existing knowledge enabling farmers to adapt their existing technologies so that they become more responsive to changing conditions, or to adopt new technologies



Adaptation of Farmer Field School Techniques: Tools for diagnosis

- Agro-ecological system analysis (AESA)
- Participatory technology development (PTD)
- Special topics
- Participatory epidemiology

Agro-ecological System Analysis

- **Systematic observation**
- **Problem identification**
- **Introduction of recording system**
- **Analysis of change**





- Systematic observation



-Problem identification



-Introduction of recording system





Introduction of

recording system

Problem identification





FOR LADIES ONLY

WAZOJA
GETA MARI KATIKA

WAZOJA
 KATIKA
 MARI
 KATIKA



WAZOJA
 KATIKA
 MARI
 KATIKA

**INTEGRATED LIVESTOCK
 MANAGEMENT ANTHEM**

KANUNZI ILM ZIKO
 WAVE TWAZIWA X2
 KUZALISHA KUSTAWISHA
 NGOMBE NZUWI WA MAZIWA
 KUTUMZA KUZUIA
 KUTOHAMA M MAQOIWA
 KUCHUNGUZA NGOMBE
 WETU MARA KWA MARA
 HATI MAJE MKULIMA
 HUKA NDIYE NTALAMU X2

TIME TABLE FOR NGAFFS

TIME(SA)	ACTIVITY(SA)	BY WHO (MWAJIZA)
9:00-9:05AM	WAZOJA MARI KATIKA	NOTE
9:05-9:10AM	MADMOI BFFS ANTHEM	NOTE
9:10-9:15AM	ROLL CALL (KITA MCHINA)	SECRETARY
9:15-9:25AM	KECAP(MTALARI)	SECRETARY
9:25-9:35AM	KUCHUNGUZI WA PESA	NOTE WR
9:35-9:45AM	KUNYATANGISHA KUANDIRA PESA NA RUELEZANISHA	VIKI
10:15-10:30AM	DYNAMICS (KUSIMAMASHA)	WIP
10:35-11:00AM	SPECIAL TOPIC	WIP
11:00-11:15AM	DYNAMICS (KUSIMAMASHA)	NOTE
11:15-11:30AM	SPEECH	C. MARIWA
11:30-12:00PM	KUTAJANA NGOMBE WOTIWA	NOTE
12:00-12:15PM	KUWA NA MARI KATIKA	NOTE

Participatory Technology Development

Classical PTDs:

Design comparative studies to test possible solutions or available technologies.





Comparison of existing farmer practices



Ex-post PTD analysis



Special Topic

- Enable farmer interaction and sharing of information
- Ensure demand lead information dissemination
- Promote interaction between farmers, extension officers and scientists
- Opportunity for non-livestock related issues



FFS and Participatory Epidemiology

- Increased awareness of disease impact
- FFS could be another essential network needed for data collection and to allow epidemiology to be performed in a participatory way.





Group project

- Generate income
- Sustain groups new objectives
- Savings due to bulk purchases of seasonal inputs



Collective action





“Education is not received... it is achieved”



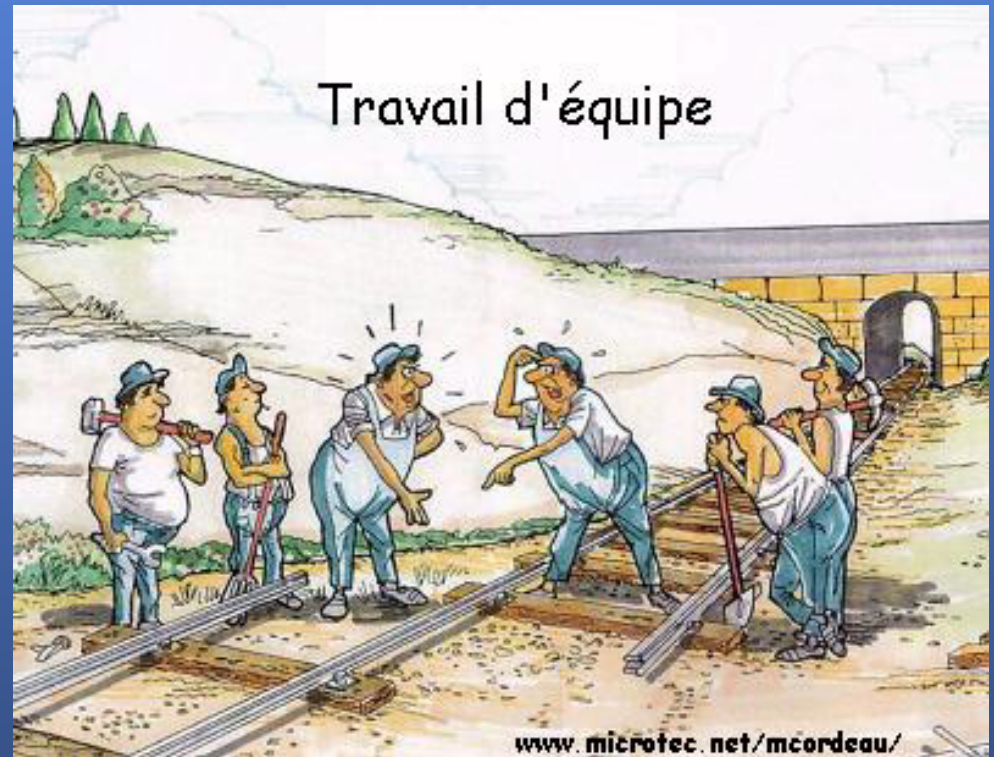
How FFS could help in alleviating poverty

- Improve livestock management by general skills training for young people
- Increase productivity and quality of the products with emphasis on high nutritive food (vit. A)
- Enable new production like poultry, pig or bee keeping



How FFS could help in alleviating poverty

- Develop labour saving techniques
- Increase community and family solidarity
- Share manpower for labour intensive activities



Team work

How FFS could help in alleviating poverty

- Improve the efficiency of veterinary services
- Increase income levels
- Improve market access



FFS' Advantages

- FFS can easily be integrated into the existing extension service
- FFS recreate the link between farmers, extension agents and scientists
- Farmers are empowered and decide when and which information they want to get
- Possibility to scale up

Dissemination of information

The New Agriculturist

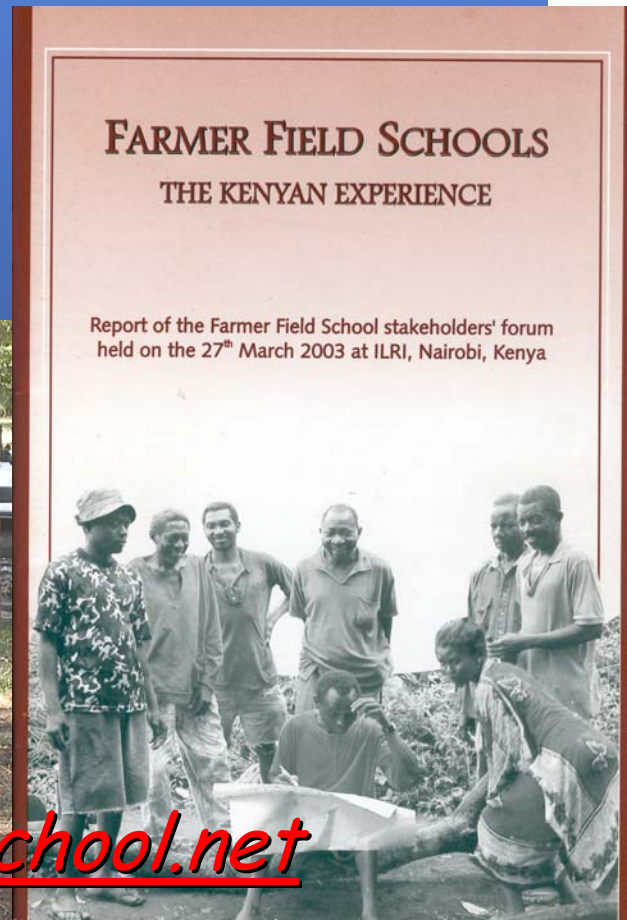
Leisa magazine

Wren Media

Kenyan Daily Nation

ILRI web site

TRAINING OF TRAINERS MANUAL
FOR LIVESTOCK FARMER FIELD
SCHOOLS



www.ilri.org

www.farmerfieldschool.net

Acknowledgements

- DFID-AHP & FAO
- Colleagues at ILRI
- FFS members and facilitators

THANK YOU



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" Psalm 23

www.Canli.Net