Overview of Farmer Field School

AYE AYE NYEIN

Golden Plain Livelihood Development Services Co-op Ltd
Farmer Field School Concepts

What is a Farmer Field School?

- FFS is a season-long training activity that takes place in the field.
- The training process is always learner-centered, participatory and relying on an experiential learning approach.
- FFS is no wall school.

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Farmer Field School Concepts

Why season-long training?

An FFs is a season–long training (from seed to harvest) for a number of reasons.

- Each stage of the crop has different pest and disease problems.
- Each stage of the crop has different requirements (water, fertilizer, mulching, weeding, thinning, pruning, etc.). Crop management therefore depends on the development of the crop.
- Some processes that need to be observed develop gradually over the course of the entire cropping season.
The basic elements of a FFS

- The FFS consists of a group of 20 to 25 farmers.
- The FFS is field-based and lasts for at least one cropping season (from seeding to harvest).
- The FFs farmers have regular (weekly) meetings during the cropping season.
- The FFS includes other field studies, based on local field problems.
- The FFS includes special topic that deal with specific issues selected by the farmers.
Objectives of Field Schools

- To empower farmers with knowledge and skills to Make them experts in their own fields.
- To sharpen the farmers' ability to make critical and informed decisions that render their farming profitable and sustainable.
- To sensitize farmers in new ways of thinking and problem solving.
- Help farmers learn how to organize themselves and their communities.
Four major principles within the FFS process are:

- Grow a healthy crop
- Observe fields regularly
- Conserve natural enemies of crop pests
- Farmers understand ecology and become experts in their own field
Procedure of Farmer Field School

- Selection of Facilitator
- Selection of Technician
- Selection of FFS location
- Manual Development
- Selection of farmers
- Conducting the ToT training
- Conducting the Pre school secession
- Conducting the School secession
- Farmers meetings
- Celebrate the Field Day
- Arrange the Field excursion
- Prepare the curriculums and meeting
FFS in REVEAL Project (2011-2013)

- 10 FFSs in Reducing Economic Vulnerability through an Equitable/Inclusive Approach to Livelihoods (REVEAL) Project
- Year-1 (2011), each 2 FFSs at MaHlaing Township, and Ayataw Township
- Year-2 (2012), each 3 FFSs at MaHlaing Township, and Ayataw Township
## Agriculture Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Training Title</th>
<th>Target Villages</th>
<th>2011 YRAR-1</th>
<th>2012 YEAR-2</th>
<th>2013 YEAR-3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3(2.4)</td>
<td>FFS (10FFS in 2 Tsp)</td>
<td>30 Villages in 2 Tsp</td>
<td>4 FFS in 2 Tsp</td>
<td>6 FFS in 2 Tsp</td>
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<tr>
<td>3(2.8)</td>
<td>FFS ToT module-1 GAP (ICM/IPM/ISM)</td>
<td>30 Villages in 2 Tsp</td>
<td>June-November</td>
<td>March-August</td>
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<tr>
<td>4(2.9)</td>
<td>FFS ToT module-2 (Organic &amp; natural fertilizer) and natural pesticide</td>
<td>30 Villages in 2 Tsp</td>
<td>March-August</td>
<td>March-August</td>
<td>January-April</td>
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# Farmer Field Schools in 2 Townships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Townships</th>
<th>2011 Villages</th>
<th>2012 Villages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mahlaing</td>
<td>1. Aimayoe</td>
<td>1. Yehwat</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Dathattan</td>
<td>2. Kyin Ywar</td>
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<td>3. Lay Taing Sin</td>
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<td>2. Bon Lat Khatt</td>
<td>2. Pyawpon</td>
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<td>3. Yeyo (West)</td>
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## Demonstration Plots in FFS

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<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mahlaing</td>
<td>Aimayoe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Varietal Trial Sunflower(Sin shwe Kyar-2) Chip pea( Yezin -6)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ayataw</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mahlaing</td>
<td>YeHtwat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Varietal Trial</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kyin Ywar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sesame, Pigeon pea</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Lay Taing Sin</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Sesame, Pigeon pea</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ayataw</td>
<td>KyarpinHla</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Sesame, Pigeon pea</td>
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<td>Yeyo (West)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sesame, Pigeon pea</td>
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Oversight of different approaches and designs of IPs on FFS

- Farming Techniques Training (3 days)
- Module-1 ToT Training on FFS (4 days)
- Module-2 ToT Training on FFS (3 days)
- No pre-school Training on FFS
- School session on FFS One time/ 2 weeks
- AESA practices in school section
- Farmers meetings
- Celebrate the Field Day
- Arrange the Field excursion
- Prepare the curriculums and meeting
Observation in FFS

- **Opportunities**: Systematic field inspection, adopt technology, promote decision making, identified the field problem

- **Strengths**: Good participation, interesting and applying the technology,
Observation in FFS

- **Challenges** - Extreme Climate changes, Severe drought, Scarce water sources, Migration

- **Constraints** - Often substitute participants, Poor transportation, Far from each village
Figure 1. Annual Rainfall Data (Mahlaing Township)
Rainfall Data (2011-2012) Mahlaing Township

Rainfall inch in Mahlaing Year-2011
Rainfall inch in Mahlaing year-2012

Rainfall Days in Mahlaing Year-2011
Rainfall Days in Mahlaing year-2012

January February March April May June July August September October November December
Figure 2. Annual Rainfall Data (Ayataw Township)
Rainfall Data (2011-2012) (Ayartaw Township)

- Rainfall Days in Ayartaw Year-2011
- Rainfall Days in Ayartaw Year-2012

- Rainfall inch in Ayartaw Year-2011
- Rainfall inch in Ayartaw Year-2012

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14
January February March April May June July August September October November December

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Key Lesson learnt

- To start FFS school session in time cropping season.
- To be active participants
- To be able to apply & multiply innovative technology
Ways forward to improve FFS

- Vital role of FFS’ facilitators
- Prepare appropriate technologies
- Identify and solve the field problems
- To consider the needs of farmers
- To fulfill their management
- To develop their farming practices
Activities Photos of Mahlaing
Activities Photos of Mahlaing

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Activities Photos of Mahlaing
Photos of Mahlaing
Activities Photo of Mahlaing
Activities Photos of FFS, Ayataw
Farmer Field School Program in DFID Project
Any more Question?
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR TIME & KIND ATTENTION