

**MEAS-Liberia Ministry of Agriculture
Cuttington University Write Shop**

Topic: Farmer to Farmer Learning Approach

by

Victoria J. Cooper

Ministry of Agriculture Liberia

January 14, 2016

Topic: Farmer to Farmer Learning Approach

Method: Three days workshop

Audience: Smallholder farmers

Objective: to create farmer to farmer extension approach in Liberia for smallholder farmers to adopt the new innovation approach that will enable farmers produce quality food to assist the country self sufficiency by preparing quality seed beds.

Day One

Introduction of Farmer to Farmer Extension

Time	Activity	Teaching strategy
8:30	Breakfast	N/A
09:00	Lesson 1: Introduction	Brainstorming, Discussion Plenary sessions , Lecture
11:00	Lesson 2: What are the main roles of extension officer in the farmer to farmer extension learning approach?	Lecture, brainstorming and group activity
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Lesson 3: How do you select a lead farmer?	Group activity and brainstorming
2:45	Break	
3:00	Lesson 4: What are the roles and responsibilities of the lead farmer?	Discussion, brainstorming, worksheet, lecture, demonstration
4:30	Daily Recap	Open discussion, questions and answers

What is farmer to farmer learning approach in agriculture extension?

Farmer to farmer extension approach is defined as the provision of training by farmers to farmers often through the creation of a structure of farmer promoters and farmer trainer. In this approach the term Lead farmer is used for those farmers who are selected by extension officer to be trained to train their fellow farmers. Lead farmer can be used as a main point of contact for field staff members at the community level.

What are the main roles of extension officer for farmer to farmer extension learning approach?

The main role of extension officer working with lead farmers is to train them, to make follow up (eg. Answering their questions, monitoring their performance or getting feedback on farmer needs); they also responsible for designing the extension activities, making changes in the approach and collecting statistic I monitoring the progress.

How do you select a lead farmer?

Process of selecting lead farmers can be grouped into two categories:

1. Community selection



1. Extension officer identifying lead farmers by themselves on the basis of their knowledge of the farmers they worked with or through a process of advertisement and interviews.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the lead farmer?

1. Training other farmers
2. Monitoring and mobilizing
3. Serving as a link between community and extension officer

What are the advantages and disadvantages of farmer to Farmer learning approaches?

Advantages of farmer to farmer agricultural extension approach:

1. Improved interaction with farmers / mutual understanding
2. Increased coverage
3. Increased and sustained farmers ownership

4. Less costly / use fewer extension staff
5. Create employment
6. Facilitate increased adoption

Disadvantages of farmer to farmer extension approach:

1. High expectation from lead farmer
2. Limited budget to support lead farmer
3. Low commitment to pay the extra role
4. Lead farmer drop out after being trained
5. Not able to make demands on lead farmers
6. No time for them to work on their own farm

What will be the impact on the community when you establish a ground nursery?

1. Increase agricultural productivity in the community
2. Improve smallholder farmers access to agricultural information

Daily Recap: At the end of the day participants were asked to explain their understanding on farmer to farmer extension approach. They were also asked what will happen when they adopt farmer to farmer extension approach.

Day Two

Field demonstration

Site Preparation

Suggested Schedule

Time	Activity	Teaching strategy
8:30	Breakfast	N/A
09:00	Lesson 8: Gathering information from farmers	Brainstorming, and Lecture
11:00	Lesson 9: Field demonstration	Group activity, demonstration
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Lesson 10 Field demonstration continued	Group activity and demonstration
14:45	Break	
15:00	Lesson 11 Field demonstration continued	Group activities and field demonstration
16:30	Daily Recap	Open discussion, questions and answers
17:00	Conclusion	

Introduction

This is where the practical training will take place. Lead farmers are trained in the demonstration site to transfer the knowledge to their fellow farmers.

Timely and proper site preparation is necessary for the production of quality seedlings in the nursery. Proper clearing and leveling of the site is paramount to establishing successful nursery.

Objectives: At the end of this lesson participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the link between site preparation and production of quality vegetable
2. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of site preparation
3. Highlight activities that are involved in site preparation.

Materials: Cutlass, hoe, diggers, shovels, flip chart and markers

Time required: 4hours 15 minutes

Procedure:

Brainstorm with farmers on the important things to note when planning to clear a site for vegetable production. They come to an agreement on the important indicators and write them down. The list may include:

- Which materials you need for vegetable production?
- How do you prepare your land for vegetable production?
- If you prepare beds for vegetable production, how do you do it?
- what is the dimension of your vegetable bed?

Brainstorm with lead-farmers on the above points and list all the indicators agree upon from the discussion.

Facilitator will share his idea on good land preparation for vegetable production with lead-farmers.

Facilitator carries lead-farmer to the field and together demonstrates the improved method of seed bed preparation.

Daily Recap: at the end of the day participants were asked to explain what they understood and their observation during the section in 30 minutes.

Day Three

Follow-up to farmer to farmer training on improved methods of seedbed preparation for vegetable production

Field demonstration

Suggested activities

Time	Activity	Teaching strategy
8:30	Breakfast	N/A
09:00	Lesson 12: Lead farmer Gather information from other farmers	Brainstorming, and Lecture
11:00	Lesson 13: Field demonstration	Group activity, demonstration
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Lesson 14 Field demonstration continued	Group activity and demonstration
14:45	Break	
15:00	Lesson 15 Field demonstration continued	Group activities and field demonstration
16:30	Daily Recap	Open discussion, questions and answers
17:00	Conclusion	

Introduction

This is where the practical training will take place. Lead-farmers will train other farmers in the demonstration site to transfer the knowledge he or she has gained from the facilitator.

Timely and proper site preparation is necessary for the production of vegetable in the field.

Objectives: At the end of this lesson participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the link between site preparation and production of quality vegetable
2. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of site preparation
3. Highlight activities that are involved in site preparation.

Materials: Cutlass, hoe, diggers, shovels, flip chart, markers. Twine, spade, Rake and Pegs

Time required: 4 hours 30 minutes

Procedure:

Lead-farmer will brainstorm with other farmers on the important things to note when planning to clear a site for vegetable production.

They come to an agreement on the important indicators and write them down. The list may include:

- Which materials you need for vegetable production?
- How do you prepare your land for vegetable production?
- If you prepare beds for vegetable production, how do you do it?
- what is the dimension of your vegetable bed?

Lead-farmer will share his idea on good land preparation for vegetable production with lead-farmers.

Lead-farmer carries other farmers to the field and together demonstrates the improved method of seed bed preparation.

Daily Recap: at the end of the section lead-farmer ask participants or other farmers to explain what they understand during the section.

Conclusion

In conclusion, farmer to farmer extension learning approach is an appropriate approach to adopt; it increases the coverage of agricultural extension services, efficiency, rate of adoption of agriculture innovation, perceived to be a sustainable way to provide extension and rural advisory services and it build the capacity of local communities.

References

Khaila S., Tchuwa F. & Simpson S. (2015). The farmer to farmer Extension Approach in Malawi: A survey of Lead farmers ICRAF working paper No. 189. Nairobi. World Agroforestry Centre. DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.5716/WP14200.PDF>

Simpson S., Degrande A., Kundhlande G. & Tsafack S. (2015). Farmer to Farmer Extension: Issues in planning and Implementation