Management of agriculture demonstration plots – what are we learning?

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Introduction

- Demo plots are the center piece of FFSs and thus at the heart of knowledge and skills transfer
- Limited success negatively affects adoption
- Paucity of guidelines on best practices and effectiveness of demo plots
Definition

Demo plots come in all shapes and sizes:

• Demonstration vs. trials
• Single intervention vs. package demos
• Single vs. multiple season demos
• Individual farmer demos vs. block demos

Purpose should drive design and evaluation of performance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarity of purpose</td>
<td>Design may not fit well with the purpose</td>
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<td>Selection of practices to be demonstrated</td>
<td>Lack of alignment between farmer needs/ideas and project-led activities</td>
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<td>Budgeting and logistical planning for</td>
<td>Procurement delays often lead to late planting</td>
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<td>delivery of inputs</td>
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<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Proximity constraints and social exclusion</td>
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<td>Appropriate signboards and record keeping</td>
<td>Cost effectiveness and literacy barriers</td>
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<td>Risk mitigation planning</td>
<td>Climatic shocks, theft, stray animals</td>
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<td>Consistency in evaluation and dissemination of results</td>
<td>Limited evidence on effectiveness</td>
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<td>Learning becomes sustainable</td>
<td>Dependency leads to lack of continuity</td>
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Learning together...

• What are some examples of well managed demo plots/best practices that we can learn from?

• What resources/guidelines does your organization use for management demonstration plots?

• What are the common challenges/lessons learned?
Further consideration

- How are we accounting for increased risks due to climate change?
- How do we ensure gender and social inclusivity?
- What technical and operational capacity gaps exist?
Resources

CCAFS - Outscaling climate-smart agriculture practices through farmer-driven demonstration plots - http://tinyurl.com/h4z9n7v


Designing In-field Demonstrations, Cornell University - http://www.northeastipm.org/saremod/demos.pdf