

# Farmer Research Group Project II (FRG2)

## R4F+FRG

## Research for Farmers

The Project for Enhancing Development and Dissemination of Agricultural Innovations through Farmer Research Groups (Farmer Research Group Project II)

### ■ Duration:

April 2010 – May 2015

### ■ Overall Goal:

Livelihood of FRG farmers is improved

### ■ Project Purpose:

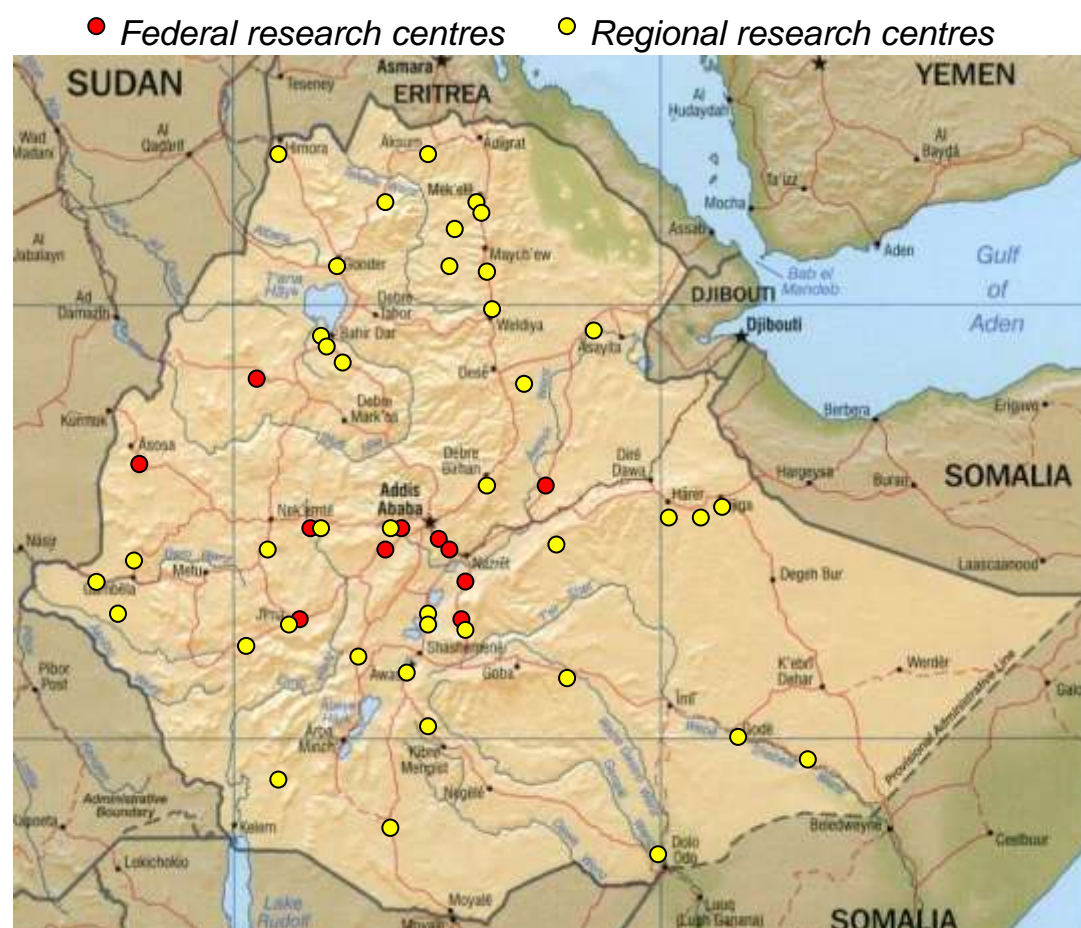
FRG approach is established in the national agricultural research system (NARS)

### ■ Implementation Institute:

Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)

### ■ Contact:

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FRG approach guideline for agricultural researchers

■ **Background:** FRG Project (2004-2009) was implemented in the Central Rift Valley in collaboration among Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), JICA and Oromia Agricultural Research Institute (OARI) with two agricultural research centres at Melkassa (MARC) and Adami Tulu (ATARC). During the period, 40 FRG based researches projects were conducted with the involvement of 52 researchers, 105 extension personnel and 1433 farmers. Along with the development of several appropriate technologies such as modified moldboard plough, compaction at teff sowing, market information access through mobile telephone, etc., the project developed a “Guideline to Participatory Agricultural Research through Farmer Research Group for Agricultural Researchers”.

In order to share the experiences gained at two centres with and scale out the FRG approach to other research institutions, EIAR and JICA agreed to implement a second phase of the project covering all the agricultural research institutions in the country.

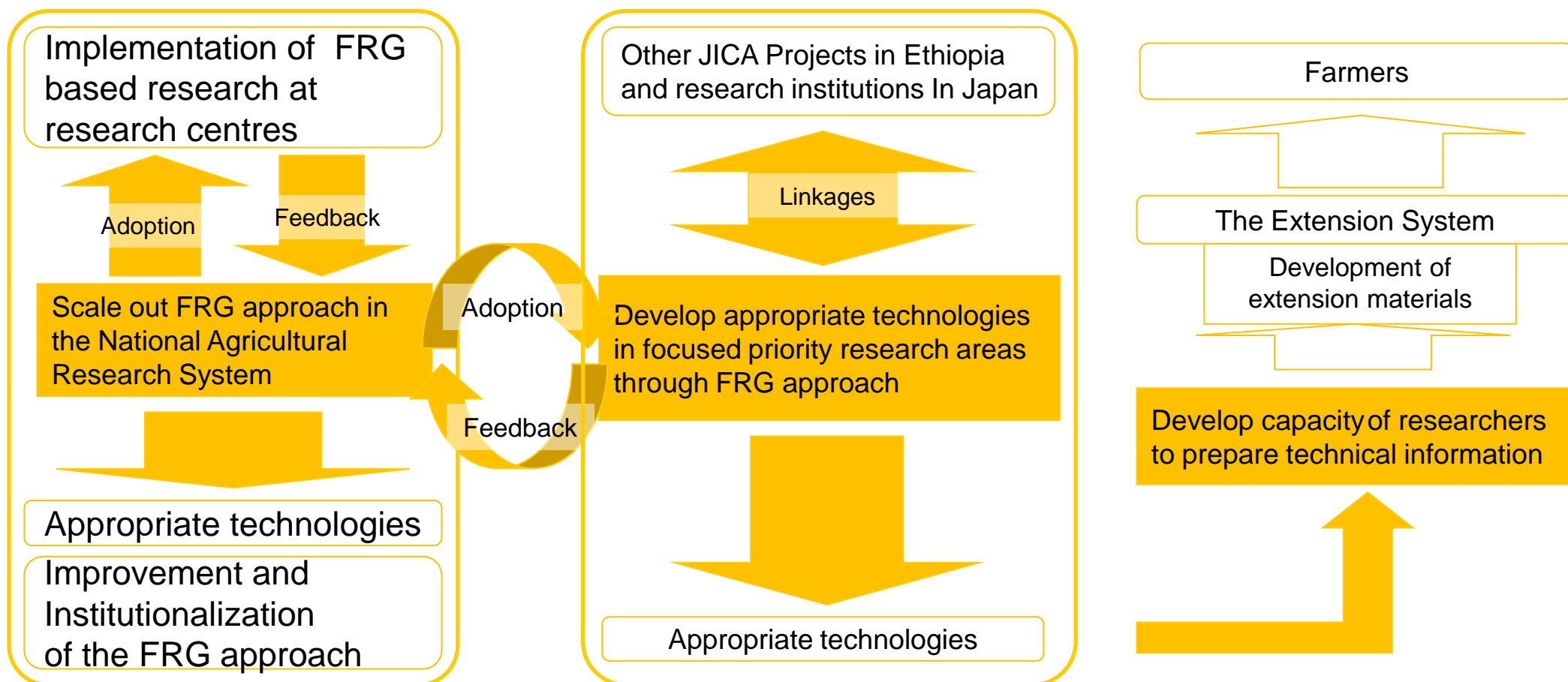




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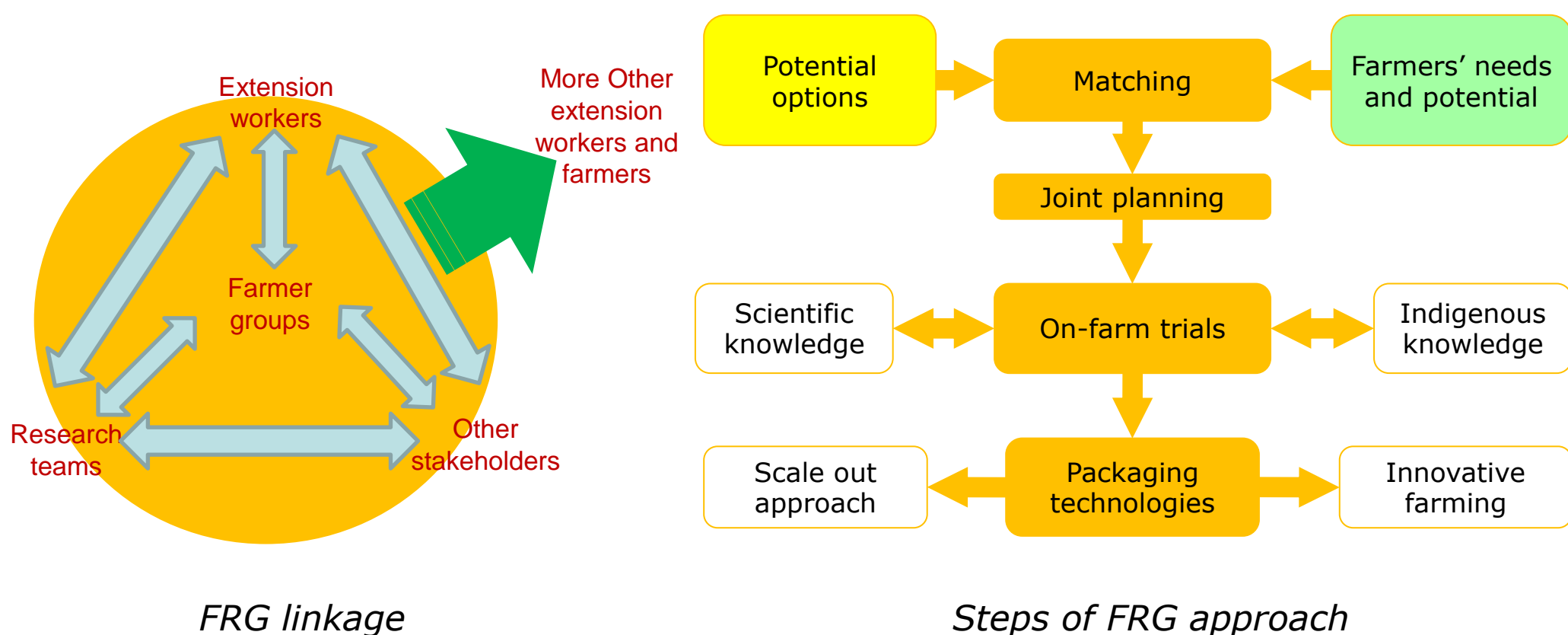
## Expected outputs of FRG2 are:

- to scale out FRG approach in the NARS
- to demonstrate development of appropriate technologies through FRG approach
- to develop capacity of researchers to prepare technical information



## FRG Approach is:

- a participatory research approach which technology development and/or improvement is conducted jointly among researchers, end users and other stakeholders
- characterised by multidisciplinary research team and farmers groups
- expected to serve for farmers' immediate use
- mutually complementally with conventional research





# Farmer Research Group Project II (FRG2)

## Examples of FRG based research projects

### ■ Theme 1: Improved food security through increasing production of food crops



Maize management

- Haricot bean row planting
- Community based maize seed production
- Maize-haricot bean intercropping



Teff management

### ■ Theme 2: Improved farmers' income through market oriented farming technologies



Onion seed production

- Onion storage
- Tomato seedling management
- Plant protection (seed treatment, water management)



Market information through mobile phone

### ■ Theme 3: Sustainable dry land farming systems through diversification and water saving technologies



Water harvesting

- Multipurpose tree species
- Sweet potato (variety, density, usage)
- Silk production (eri silk)



Agroforestry

### ■ Theme 4: Sustainable livestock management through efficient animal husbandry technologies



Goats fattening

- Cattle fattening
- F1 dairy technology
- Community based forage seed production



Forage production

### ■ Theme 5: Improve productivity and quality through labour saving farming technologies



Milk churner

- Multipurpose tree species
- Sweet potato (variety, density, usage)
- Silk production (eri silk)



Feed chopper

### ■ Theme 6: Create responsive agricultural research to farmers' needs



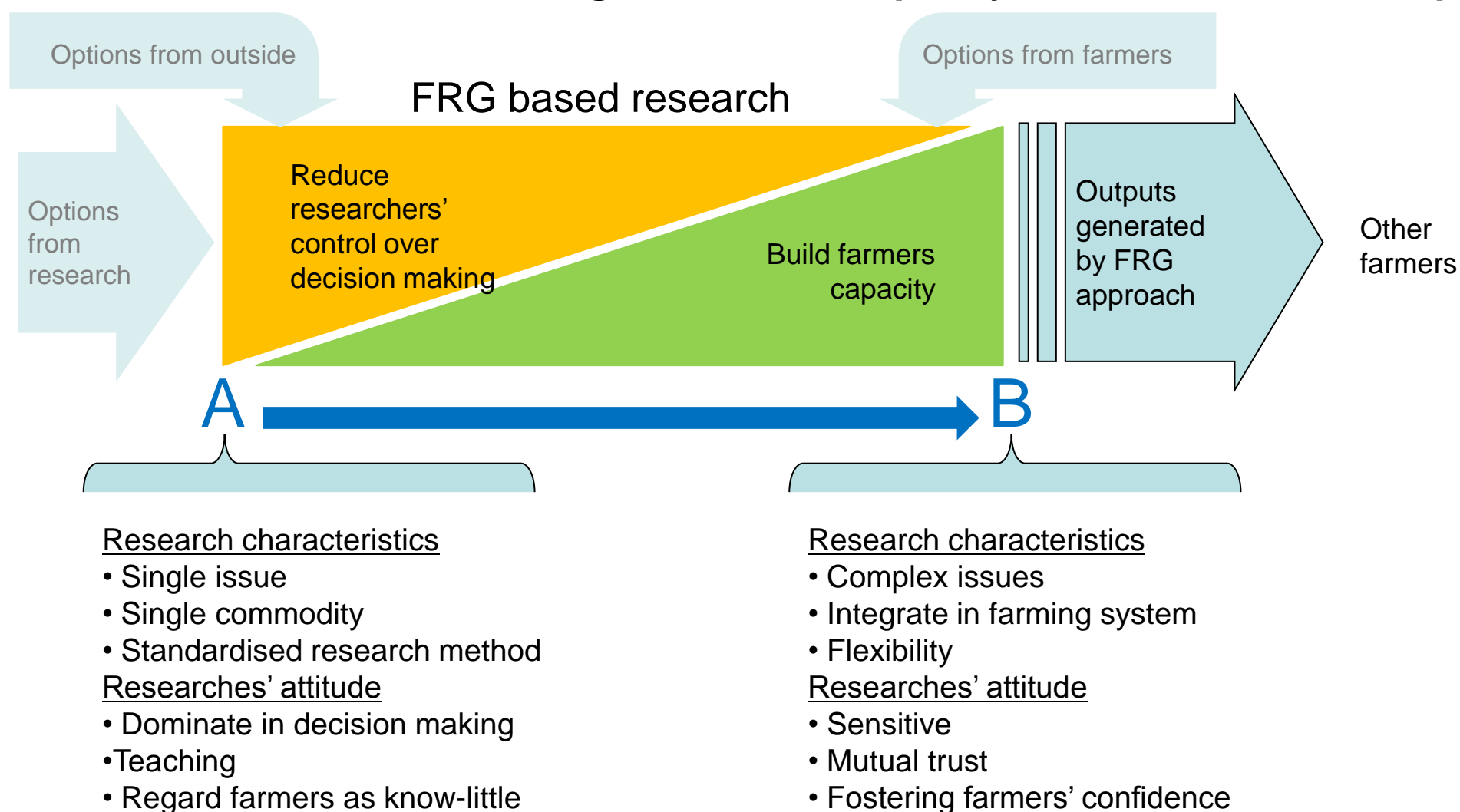
Extension materials: clip charts

- FTC based FRG activities
- Improvement of FRG approach
- Develop FRG approach guideline



# Farmer Research Group Project II (FRG2)

## Control over decision making, innovative capacity and attitude in FRG approach



## Level of farmer groups

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Newly established group. Require more technical support. Not sure what to work with groups.	Worked for more than one year on a particular topic. May take minimum risk while conducting trials.	Worked on more than one topic for at least two years. Ready to take risk. Some confidence to share cost. Willing to explore other topics.

### Criteria

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Diagnose and analyse situation	Can identify problem. Not sure what are its causes.	Can diagnose and find solutions with close guidance.	Can diagnose and analyse the situation by themselves.
Collect information	Can articulate their observation. Not sure how to trace important information.	Can collect information with close guidance.	Can collect relevant information. Capable to locate source of information .
Test new technology	Can test new technology if it is simple and supervised well.	Can test and evaluate new technology and improve it with close guidance.	Can test new technology and improve it by themselves
Run group activity	Can form a group and discuss necessary activity.	Can run group activity with close guidance.	Can run group activity by themselves.
Sharing information and advice others	Can understand the necessity of information sharing but not know how it can be done.	Can share information with and give advice to other farmers with guidance.	Can share information with and give advice to other farmers.