



Guidelines on Farmer led crop trials



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Farmer-led crop trial (FLCT) is a type of action research initiated and carried out by farmers in their own fields. This approach enables farmers to identify technological options suited to local agro ecological and socio-economic conditions. The farmer-led experimentation process is taken up within existing farmer groups. This approach is closely related to the 'participatory innovation development' and the 'participatory technology development' approaches.

Problem:

- The common issues concerning farmers in growing crops include pests and diseases, yield decline, inappropriate crop varieties, and the introduction of new varieties. Rather than technicians providing farmers with ready-made solutions to their problems (that may or may not work), farmer-led crop trial allows farmers to carry out their own trials to try and solve specific problems.

Objectives:

- Local farmers collectively solving problems by identifying and using the most appropriate local solutions
- Local farmers designing, testing and disseminating alternative technologies adapted to local conditions
- Strengthening joint learning by farmers and development actors
- To establish suitable variety of rainfed crops for the locality towards sustainable production.

Crops: Rainfed crops like pulses, oil seeds, Maize, Ragi etc

Place of demonstration: Farmer's field with an area of 0.1 ha. per crop. At least 10 units in clusters which would be compared with same type of traditional variety.

Allotment of funds: The funds will be placed with MPA to execute the programme through NGO. The unit is village and allotment of Rs.10,000. 00 per unit of 10 demonstrations will be released for the purpose.

Role of FNGO:

1. The FNGO shall select farmers having assured irrigation facility for each crop demonstration with approval of VDC
2. The JAO of FNGO, VAW and CRP will train the selected farmers on cultivation of the crop.
3. FNGO will sit with VDC, access the requirement of inputs and intimate to MPA for timely procurement and distribution of the inputs.

Role of MPA:

1. Arrangement of in-puts through Govt. agency / Govt. approved agency / procurement committee.
2. Timely procurement and supply of inputs to the VDC through FNGO.
3. The PM and JAO will monitor entire village level activities including demonstration programme and keep a case record of each activity.
4. The KVK to be consulted and as per their advice and recommendations the trail would be laid down. Ensure that that scientists must visit once and the trial to be conducted as per their recommendation.

Indicative cost structure for 0.1 ha

a. Seed cost	Rs 55.00
b. Seed treatment material	Rs 30.00
c. Bio fertilizers	Rs 30.00
d. Cost of NPK	Rs 700.00

e. Micronutrients	Rs 40.00
f. Cost of pesticides	Rs 45.00
g. Display board/Materials	Rs. 100.00
Total	Rs 1000.00

(Inter component change is permissible as per actual requirement within the total cost norm with approval of MPA level procurement committee)

Salient Points:

- Case records/trial results should be well documented.
- Photographs of each stage should be taken with latitude as well as date stamp. It should be kept in the case record.
- Crops/ varieties should be selected in consultation with the local KVK.
- Display boards should also be erected in the FLCT site.
- During crop cutting/ technology demonstration presence of KVK/ experts of Agril dept. is a must.
- Before taking FLCT, the farmer should be trained under the said crops/technology.