SMALL N EXPLORATORY CASE STUDY

Tool Description Sheet

1. **Purpose:** understand and describe how farm households and communities use varieties and seed, focusing on the main features and variations

2. **Level:** village level

3. **Users of the tool:** seed intervention designers, implementers, evaluators, and analysts

4. **Output of the tool:** characterization of a community seed system

5. **Audience of the output:** the users mentioned above and policy makers, lobbyists, and donors

6. **Minimum sample size:** 2 villages per region

7. **Resources**
   a. **number of people:** 1-2 people, or more per research team
   b. **equipment:** transport, paper and pen
   c. **expertise:** basic socio-economic and agro-ecological knowledge of seeds and varieties, interviewing skills

8. **Timing:** as part of establishing the baseline, diagnosis, monitoring-&-evaluation, in combination with multi-stakeholder framework

9. **Duration:** 1 week per village

10. **Steps**
    a. Identify representative communities for the seed system to be characterized: at least 2 for each typical seed system area
    b. Develop a questionnaire and interview questions (max 1.5 hours per interview)
    c. Define a farmer-selection plan: in each community identify 12-15 farmers per social category (poor, medium, less-poor; women, men)
    d. Try out the questionnaire by validating it in the field and editing it for clarity and relevance
    e. Plan the data collection trips
    f. Enter the data in Excel, or similar software; analyze data
11. Which methods can be used in combination with the tool: focus group discussions, participatory rural appraisal, semi-structured interviews, household surveys, seed tracing and others

12. Gender: it allows differentiation for gender and other social aspects (gender responsiveness level 1: gender is a significant factor in this tool, but it is not the main reason for using it)


15. Applications

16. Communication materials: not available.

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