**EXERCISE 3. SEEKING TECHNICAL INFORMATION OR ADVICE**

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| *OBJECTIVE*  **After this exercise the participants will be able to:**   * List promising sources of information on various technologies * See the advantage of seeking information from outside sources | |
| *EQUIPMENT NEEDED*   * Large sheet of paper, marker pens (or blackboard and chalk) | *EXPECTED OUTPUTS*   * Lists of promising sources of information on various technologies. |
| *TIME*  1 hour | *PREPARATION*   * None |

*This exercise helps participants think of where they can find information about different technologies.*

*SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:*

1. Divide the participants into groups, and ask each group to choose an enterprise (such as maize growing or raising chickens).
2. Ask the groups to write all the sources of technical information for their enterprise on a large sheet of paper. Go around the groups and prompt them if necessary.
3. Ask them to rank the sources according to how useful they are.
4. Invite each group to present their lists and rankings.
5. Invite the other participants to suggest additional sources of information.
6. Facilitate a discussion about the merits of different information sources.
7. Ask the participants what they think is the best way to approach each of the most promising sources.

*QUESTIONS TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION*

* Where do you normally go if you need to solve a particular problem?
* Are there any people in the community who are experts? How about individuals or groups in nearby villages? Perhaps someone has a relative who has studied agriculture?
* Can you get information from the radio, newspapers, magazines, the internet?
* Does the local extension office offer training? Is there a research institution or university nearby?
* Can seed dealers or traders offer any information?