**EXERCISE 6. PLANNING DATA COLLECTION**

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| *OBJECTIVE*  **After this exercise the participants will be able to:**   * Determine what to measure in an experiment. * Design a method of keeping records. | |
| *EQUIPMENT NEEDED*   * Large sheet of paper, marker pens | *EXPECTED OUTPUTS*   * Forms for recording observations from an experiment. |
| *TIME*  1 hour | *PREPARATION*   * Complete Exercise 5 (Designing an Experiment) |

*This exercise guides participants through the steps needed to collect and record observations from an experiment. After this exercise, the participants can begin to conduct their own experiments.*

*SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:*

1. Ask a group member to remind the other participants of the results of Exercise 5, when they designed an experiment.
2. Divide the participants into the same groups as in Exercise 5. Ask them to list the types of observations they will need to make: yield, plant height, number of chicks, etc.
3. Ask the groups to discuss how they will measure each item, and how often. For example: “Plant height: Every Saturday, measure the height of five plants in each plot with a tape measure. Measure from the ground to the tallest point on the plant.”
4. Ask the groups to design a form for each item, using the large sheets of paper. Make sure they think through the requirements for each type of observation.
5. Invite each group to present its forms and the reasoning behind them to the plenary. Invite comments on each form and suggestions for improvement.
6. Explain why the participants should use exercise books, not loose sheets of paper, to keep their records. Invite them to copy the forms into their exercise books (if they have them).
7. Tell the participants that they are now ready to start their own experiments. Guide them if necessary as they do so.