**EXERCISE 7. EVALUATING AN EXPERIMENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *OBJECTIVE*  **After this exercise the participants will be able to:**   * Evaluate the results of an experiment and decide on further steps. | |
| *EQUIPMENT NEEDED*   * Large sheet of paper, marker pens * Records from the participants’ experiments (or example data from elsewhere) | *EXPECTED OUTPUTS*   * Analysis of the results of the experiment * Decision on what actions to take in the future |
| *TIME*  3 hours | *PREPARATION*   * Help the participants conduct the experiments and record their observations. |

*The exercise enables participants to evaluate the results of their experiment. Do it after they have completed the experiment in the field. Alternatively, you can manage this exercise before the participants have run their own experiments to give them an idea on how to do the analysis. You can use the examples in Tables 10 to 14 for the participants to analyze, or use data from experiments conducted by groups elsewhere.*

*SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:*

1. Ask the participants to briefly describe their experiments and the results.
2. Introduce the **numerical evaluation** tool (Table 11). Help the participants to analyze their data using this tool.
3. Introduce the **descriptive evaluation** (Table 12) and **subjective scoring** (Table 13) tools and help the participants to use it to summarize their opinions about the treatments.
4. Introduce the **cost-benefit analysis** tool (Table 14), and help the participants summarize their costs, income and profits.
5. Facilitate a **focus group** discussion about the findings. Help the participants decide how they will use the results of the experiment on a larger scale next season.

*QUESTIONS TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION*

* What differences did you see between the treatment with the highest yield and lowest yield?
* Did costs vary between treatments?
* What are the differences in costs compared to outputs (seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, labor…)?
* Did anything unexpected happen? Did this complicate the results?
* Which aspects remain unknown?
* Which new questions are raised, and how could they be addressed?
* What can we conclude from this experiment? Which of the treatments do you want to use on a larger scale next season?

