**EXERCISE 8. CHOOSING A PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY PACKAGE**

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| *OBJECTIVE*  **After this exercise the participants will be able to:**   * List the improved technologies they need to produce a particular crop or livestock product. | |
| *EQUIPMENT NEEDED*   * Flip chart, marker pens | *EXPECTED OUTPUTS*   * List of improved technologies needed to produce the participants’ priority products * Description of the technology package for each product |
| *TIME*   * Several days | *PREPARATION*   * Ask the farmers’ group to nominate a small team to analyze production technologies. * Bring the list of priority crops and livestock products selected in Lesson 5. |

*This exercise guides a small team of farmers to analyze the production technologies for their priority products.*

*SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:*

1. Explain to the team that they should consider the most appropriate ways to produce the products they are considering.
2. Ask the team to discuss ways of improving how each product is produced. See Table 21 for some ideas. The suggestions should be realistic considering the farmers’ own capabilities and the resources available.
3. Ask the team to fill in Table 22 for their product. You will have to adapt the table for livestock.
4. Invite the team to present its results to the full group. Facilitate a discussion of the findings.

*QUESTIONS TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION:*

* Does the crop grow well in this area?
* Are there any new varieties or technologies that we could use to increase production?
* What are the production costs?
* Can we expand production, if there is a market to buy the produce?
* What is the seasonality of this crop?
* What are the investment costs to start the process?
* What are the technology needs?

*NOTES*

For existing products, the team may be able to fill in the required information itself. For new products, you might need to ask an expert to provide information they do not have.

The team should gather as much information as possible and seek assistance from local experts if necessary. Make sure that the team focuses on the most important issues.