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| *OBJECTIVE*  **After this exercise the participants will be able to:**   * Describe significant changes – positive or negative – that have occurred in the community, watershed, or on participants’ farms. * Share information among participants about changes resulting from the natural resource management activities taken. | |
| *EQUIPMENT NEEDED*   * Notepaper, pens, large sheets of paper, marker pens | *EXPECTED OUTPUT*   * The most significant changes and the corresponding reasons for the changes have been identified and shared among the participants. |
| *TIME*  1 hour | *PREPARATION*   * Hold the initial session when the priority issues have been identified and the natural resources management plan is being developed. Hold subsequent sessions at agreed intervals afterwards. * Bring the group’s natural resources management plan. |

**EXERCISE 6. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE**

*Rather than looking for general trends, this exercise aims to identify the most important changes that have occurred in natural resources management. It is particularly useful to track changes in qualitative issues such as “capacity strengthening”. This exercise can be used as part of your* ***adaptive management*** *process.*

*Don’t be afraid to modify your project as you go, based on what works and what does not!*

*SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:*

1. Ask the participants to identify what types of changes they wish to track. They should list issues they think are critically important, and relate directly to the groups’ chosen goals and objectives. Probe for crosscutting issues, such as “equitable access to land for men and women.” Some examples of commonly observed changes include:
   * Changes in the farmers’ production and/or income
   * Changes in the management rules or practices in their group
   * Changes in how farmers apply their knowledge
   * Changes in conflicts in the community (decreasing vs. increasing)
   * Changes in the physical environment in their fields or in community areas.
   * How can we spread the benefits of a positive change? How can we make sure more changes of this nature happen?
2. Decide how often you want to discuss each of these issues. That will depend on how fast things are likely to change. Some changes may happen fast, so you should discuss them more frequently; others will change more slowly, so you will need to discuss them only every few months. Help the group reach agreement on the single biggest change – which may be positive or negative. The discussion should provoke a rich and detailed review of the participants’ experiences, as well as debate about why one change is more significant than another.
3. Ask the group to:
   * Write down what happened, with sufficient detail to allow someone else to verify it if necessary.
   * Explain why they have selected that change rather than something else.
4. Help the group to decide what they can do to overcome negative changes or prevent them from recurring. Also, help them decide what to do to strengthen or expand a positive change.

*QUESTIONS TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION*

* What has been the biggest positive change related to each intervention in the last 6 months? What has been the biggest negative change?
* What can we do about a negative change? How can we prevent it from happening again?
  + How can we spread the benefits of a positive change? How can we make sure more changes of this nature happen?

