**EXERCISE 11A. PROBLEM ANALYSIS CHART**

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| *OBJECTIVE*  **After this exercise the participants will be able to:**   * Analyze and prioritize their problems and decide on solutions | |
| *EQUIPMENT NEEDED*   * Flipchart paper, marker pens | *EXPECTED OUTPUTS*   * A prioritized list of problems and solutions |
| *TIME*  60 minutes | *PREPARATION*  None |

This exercise helps the group analyze their problems and come up with solutions.

*SUGGESTED PROCEDURE*

1. Ask the participants to name the major problems that they face in farming (or whatever your field of intervention is). Ask them to be as specific as possible. List these problems in column 1 of a flip chart (see the table on the next page). You may need several sheets to list all the problems.
2. For each problem, ask them what causes it. One problem may have several causes (e.g., low yields may be caused by low soil fertility or poor seed). List these causes in column 2, next to the problems they relate to.
3. Now ask them to rank the problems according to their importance. Give each participant one vote, and note the number of votes for each problem.
4. For the top three problems, ask the participants what they currently do to address it (e.g. apply manure to improve soil fertility). Write these in column 3.
5. Once again for the top three problems, ask the participants to suggest other ways they could solve each problem. Write their responses in column 4.
6. Ask them to rank the solutions for the top three problems: which is the most feasible and likely to bring results?
7. Ask the participants to consider their responses and choose one problem to work on as a group (they may decide to try out several solutions to this problem).

*NOTES*

* Make sure that the opinions of men and women, young and old are heard. If opinions differ, consider asking them to identify two problems (rather than one) in Step 7.
* Make sure that the problems are relevant to your project and the solutions are feasible – the group should be able to manage them on its own, without outside help. Consider inviting specialists to attend the meeting to advise the group on possibilities.

**Problem analysis**

ORGANIZING AND MANAGING FARMERS’ GROUPS

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| **PROBLEMS** | **CAUSES** | **PROBLEM RANK** | **CURRENT SITUATION** | **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS** | **SOLUTION RANK** |
| **What are the problems?** | **What causes the problems?** | **Number of votes** | **What do people do now?** | **What could be done?** | **Number of votes** |
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