

FARMERS FIELD SCHOOLS

**Regional Networks
and
Guidance Document
for
Good quality FFS programs**



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Current and emerging challenges in crop production include:

- Yield growth rate of major crops declining
- Increasing competition for land and water
- Rising prices of fuel and fertilizer
- Impacts of climate change
- Reduced resilience of cropping systems



Resilience

- Ability of a system to return to balance after a stress and to regain the capacity to produce important services
- Fundamental feature of natural systems - allows them to cope with changes
- Understanding resilience is essential pre-requisite to management
- Base for sustainability



Farmers need to cope with change
FFS offer space to learn
and make good decisions

Building trust

FAO's response to the challenge



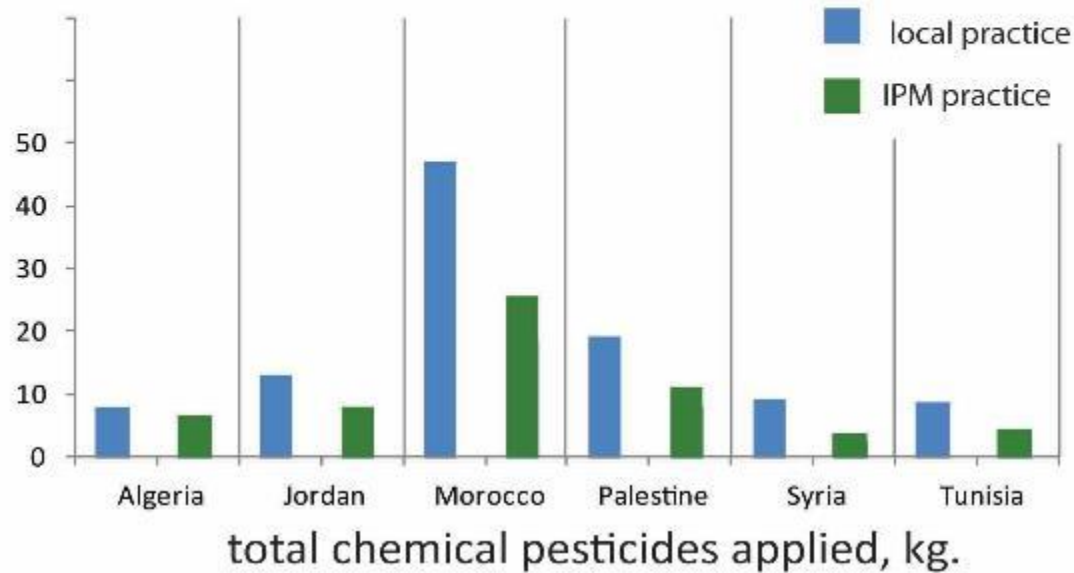
A POLICYMAKER'S GUIDE TO THE SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION
OF SMALLHOLDER CROP PRODUCTION



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
reduce pesticide use
protect local ecosystems and people health
improve crop production and quality



Greenhouse tomato, pesticide use Regional Near East IPM Programme, 2011



IPM is about
farmers who make
informed decisions
in their own fields

Farmers are the experts



Based on long experience on FFS

- 20 years development of FFS, in over 90 countries
- Different contents: IPM to IPPM, soils, water, agropastoralism, nutrition, food security, gender, value chains, business, etc.
- Demonstrated positive effect on social and community dynamics
- STRONG INTEREST AND WIDE DIFFUSION OF FFS
- .. Quality?



Global FFS Review 2012

strong interest on FFS
growing numbers of FFS programs and topics

BUT

need for quality, sustainability, ownership

- 15 countries (national meetings) discussed their experiences on FFS
- 2 rounds e-mail discussions - one month each - about 100 participants
 1. *Key features of FFS*
 2. *FFS program set up and development*
 3. *Appropriation of the FFS approach*
 4. *Relevance of FFS approach in a changing context*



**Guidance Document
for good quality FFS programmes**

Guidance Document for good quality FFS programmes

- Core document - provides essential steps for FFS programme development, about 60 pgs

Outline

Rationale for FFS

Basic elements of the FFS approach

Assessing the applicability of the approach

Getting started

Developing FFS human capacity

Framing the FFS content

Scheduling and Budgeting for FFS

Monitoring, evaluation and continuous learning

Adding value to FFS programs

Facilitating institutionalization and sustainability of FFS

- Living document - to be adapted by regions



Regional FFS networks

WHY?

- To connect FFS practitioners in the regions
- To exchange information, expertise on FFS
- To support FFS programme quality improvement
- To adapt Guidance Document to local needs, at regional level

Actors

- FAO: HQ, RO/SRO, country FAORs
- Local governments
- National experts and facilitators
- LOCAL FARMERS
- NGOs, CSOs
-

FFS-SFS: Activities 2014-2015



1

- Regional workshop in Zambia
Dec 2014, 12 countries

2

- Planning meeting in Malawi
July 2015, 5 countries

3

- Regional training for FFS Master
Trainers, Aug-Dic 2015

FFS-RNE: Activities 2015 (SO3, RI SSA)

1

- Regional workshop in Tunisia October 2015

2

-Stocktaking on FFS

3

-Plan activities 2016-17

FFS-W/CA: Activities 2015

1

- Build on FFS experience in West/Central Africa

2

- Regional workshop December 2015, Francophone countries

3

- Plan for 2016-17, regional training for FFS Master Trainers?

Other FFS networks, 2016

1

- Eastern Africa

2

- Latin America

3

- Asia?



Guidance Document adaptation

1

- Southern Africa

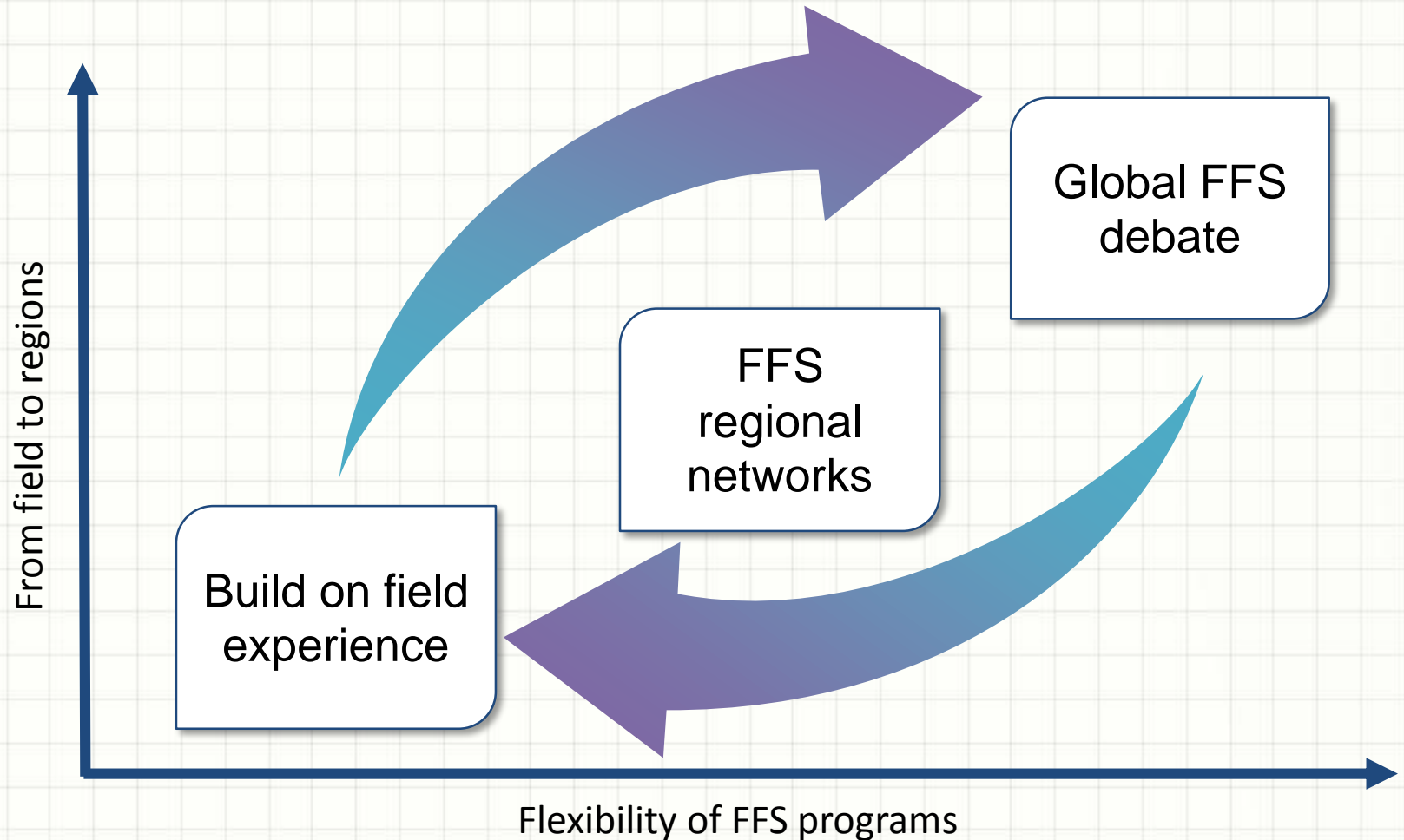
2

- Francophone Africa

3

- NENA

Towards decentralization of FFS



Challenges - opportunities

- Staff and competences at regional level
- Coordination at national level
- Liaison with ongoing projects
- Resources
- Communication



SPACE FOR DEBATE SPECIAL TOPICS

Gender/social protection

Nutrition

Climate change

Agroecology



Thank you