



Enhancing Farmers' Skills through Participatory Trainings at Farmer Field School: Case of Rong'an County, Guangxi Province, China



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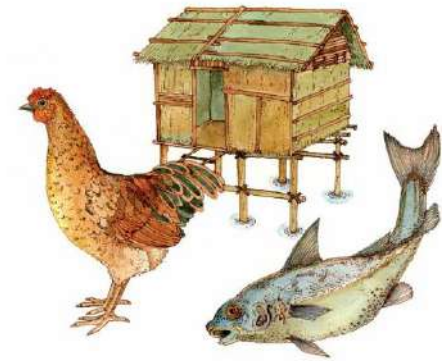
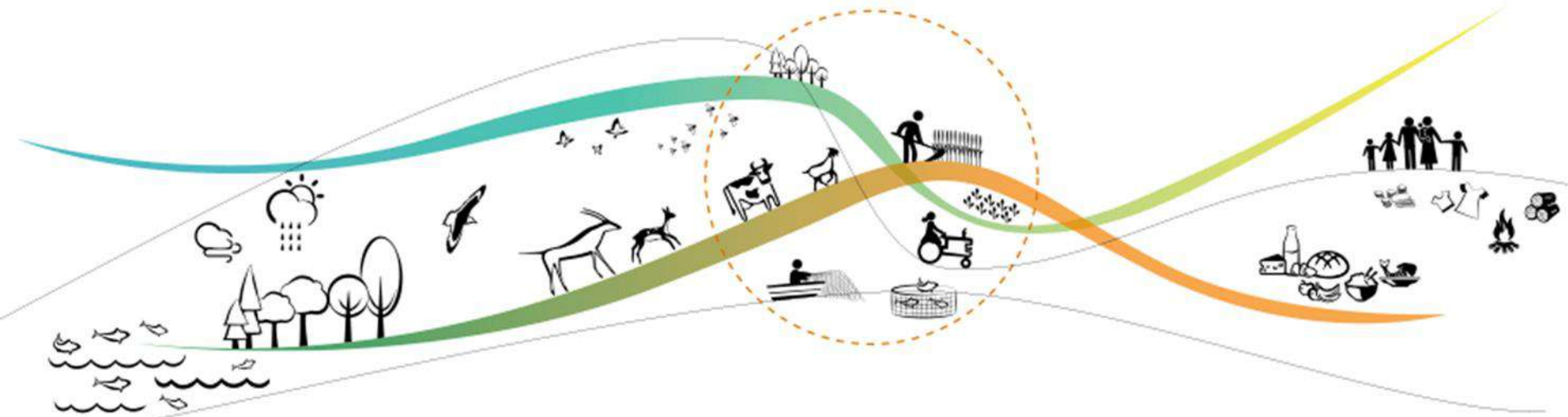
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27 June, 2019



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Farmers' Skills and Rural Poverty Reduction

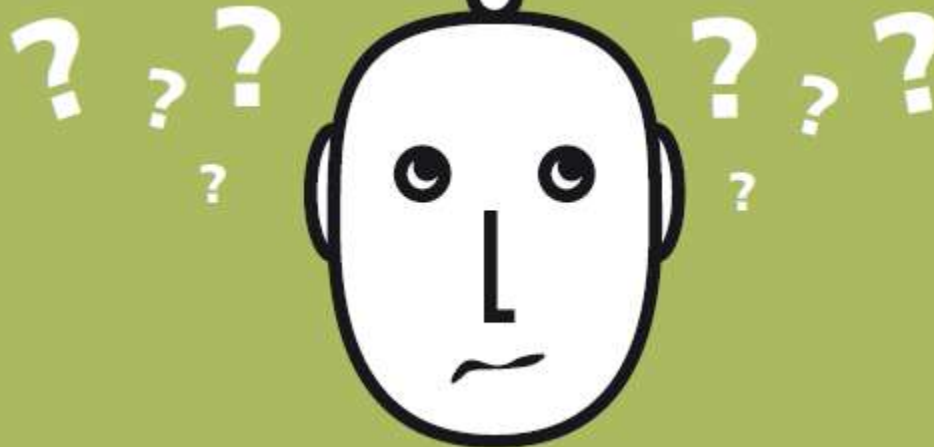


Enhancing farmers' skills ➡ Reducing rural poverty

Two Models to Train Farmers

Standardized technology packages which seek to maximize commodity yields, delivered to farmers by experts

Partnerships with farmers to co-produce innovation, creativity and flexibility in dealing with agro-ecosystems



Participatory Training: Farmer Field School



- A bottom-up participatory training model proposed by FAO;
- FFS builds on the principles of adult and non-formal education;
- FFS allows farmers and scientists to work together to co-produce vital knowledge and localized solutions to problems.

About Farmer Field School



- In 1989, FAO developed the first FFS in Indonesia;
- Fast-forward 30 years, implemented in over 90 countries with 20 million farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks trained;
- Adapted to various technical domains, including land and water management, crop-fish systems, disaster risk reduction, developing local enterprises and linking to value chains.

Case Of Rong'an County, Guangxi

In 2013, the Plant Protection Station of Rong'an County Agricultural Bureau began to establish FFS in the region.

From May to October 2017, the station implemented the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) FFS under the China/FAO Pesticide Risk Reduction Program.



融安金桔
广西的水果

Kumquat is a famous local orange.

Guandai Village locates in Rong'an County. It is a typical impoverished village in mountainous areas. Because of the steep mountains, the transportation cost of agricultural products is relatively high. It is one of the 120 poorest villages within the county.



Implementation Process



Governmental support:

National goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020; MARA and Guangxi local government provided support.



Organizational support:

Guandai Village established Farmers' Cooperatives.

Train professional
tutors

Tutors develop
training
programmes with
farmers

Implement the
trainings, with
one session of 3-
4 hours

Training on
marketing and
sales of
agricultural
products



Farmers significantly improved their capacity in multi-fields: scientific farming; experiment and research; marketing and sales; participation and expression abilities.



The yield of kumquat increased greatly. The average yield per mu (15 mu equal to 1 hectare) increased by 500 kilograms. The large-size rate increased by 10%-50%. The direct economic benefits reached 15,400 RMB (2,260 USD) per mu, increased by 105.3% compared with the one before FFS.



Reduced the use of pesticide, and eliminated the use of banned and restricted pesticides. Farmers' pesticide use reduced by 40%, and the frequency reduced by five times. The sampling did not suggest excessive pesticide residues, and pesticide-poisoning incidents did not occur to trained farmers.

Mr. Chen Wenyi, a local farmer with a family of seven members, had an annual income of 15,000 RMB (2,200 USD) before the trainings. From May 2016 to December 2017, he joined the FFS, and applied the plantation skills in practice. In 2018, his annual income increased to 75,000 RMB (11,000 USD). The improved production skills helped lifting his family out of poverty.

Mr. Huang Haigang sold 57,500 kg of kumquat online in 2017, with total revenue of 2.3 million RMB (340,000 USD), which attracted the poor households to join the local cooperative.





Comparative Advantages

| Type | Frequency | Cost | Interaction | Comprehensive | Targeted Focus |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Extension officers training farmers at village | Single/ Multi | Less | √ | X | √ |
| Farmers going to town/city for training | Single/ Multi | More | X | √ | X |
| Farmer Field School | Multi | Moderate 1000 USD/village | √ | √ | √ |

Participatory:
Local knowledge &
Advanced technology

Offering farmers with ownership and incentive, actively mobilized in economic development and poverty reduction



Tutors trained by FFS constantly training farmers and leading the development of new trainings

In **Guangxi**, the programme was initiated in Nov. 2007. From 2008-2018, **355 IPM FFS** were implemented at 51 counties in 13 cities, training **11,187 farmers** (34.7% female) in total.



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FARMER FIELD SCHOOL
GUIDANCE DOCUMENT
Planning for quality programmes



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Please refer to FAO FFS platform:
<http://www.fao.org/farmer-field-schools/overview/zh/>

Thanks!