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Why capacity needs assessments matter in integrated landscape planning

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E-LEARNING SERIES

Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on
DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

OVERVIEW

1. Objectives of the CNA
2. Why assessing capacity needs matters
3. How was the CNA developed?
4. Modality of implementation
5. Benefits of the CNA approach



OBJECTIVES OF THE CNA



1

Raise awareness

- Inform Forest and Farm Producer Organization (FFPO) members and stakeholders about the project's plans and selection criteria
- Build transparency and engagement from the outset

2

Identify capacity needs

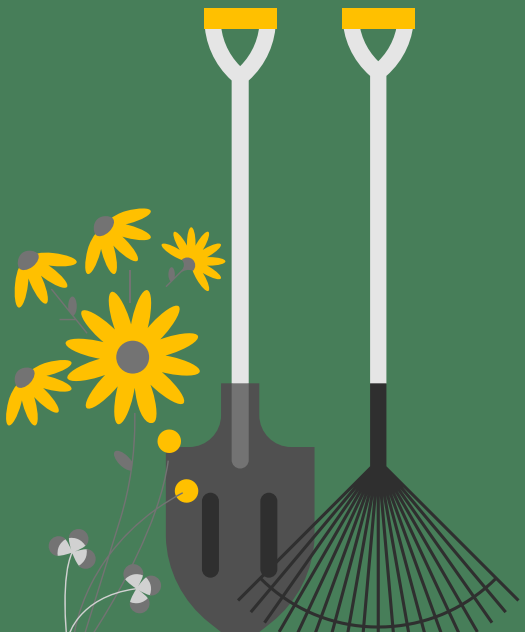
- Gather detailed information on skills, gaps, and priorities of FFPOs
- Refine the Integrated Capacity Development and Implementation Plan (ICDIP), including:
 - Farmer Field School curricula
 - Community Seed Banks
 - Forest and Farm Facilities for producer organization business support

3

Strengthen coordination and implementation

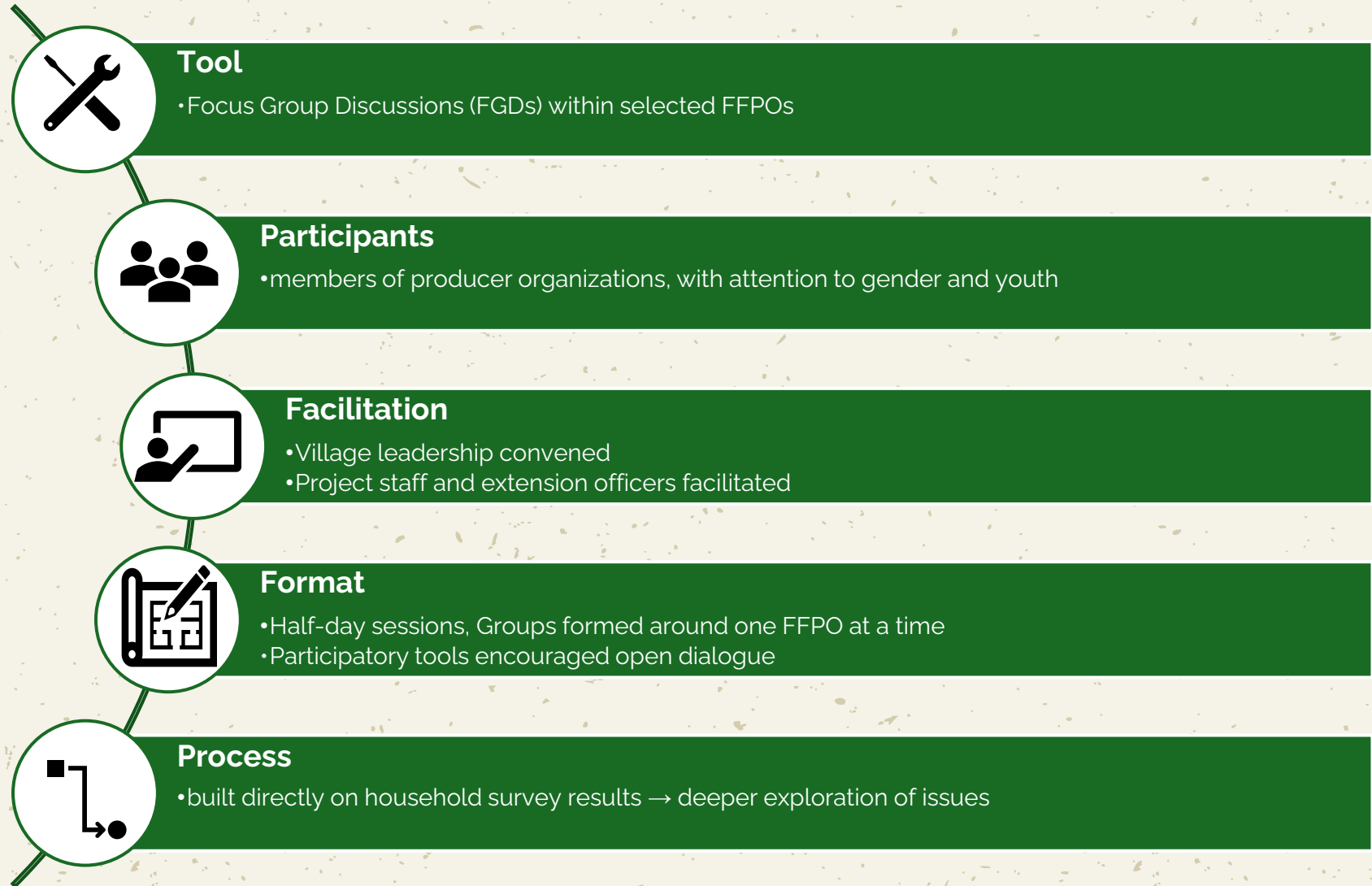
- Identify focal points within FFPOs for specific areas of work to facilitate smoother communication and coordination
- Inform procurement needs

WHY ASSESSING CAPACITY NEEDS MATTERS



- Key barrier to LDN across dryland countries in SSA: limited sustainable production experience & capacity challenges among farmers
- → To achieve LDN targets, interventions must be context-specific and farmer-led
- CNA through FGDs: a tool to engage farmers directly and co-design interventions

MODALITY OF IMPLEMENTATION



HOW THE CNA WAS DEVELOPED



- Based on previous insights:
 - Household survey: provided quantitative baseline on resilience and practices
 - Producer organization assessments: mapped structures and specialization of FFPOs
- Co-developed with country teams:
 - Ensured questions were context-relevant
 - Focused on the three intervention pillars (CSB, FFF, FFS)
- Questionnaire design: semi-structured, open-ended to allow dialogue

BENEFITS OF THE CNA APPROACH



- Creates a direct space for farmers' voices in program design
- Moves beyond identifying gaps → also highlights existing strengths and know-how
- Enables peer-to-peer learning pathways by identifying local expertise
- Ensures interventions are grounded in lived realities rather than assumptions