Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

gef

WOCAT

UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

IUCN

Understanding Needs and Networks: Lessons from Botswana

Retshephile Johny, M&E Officer,
Ministry of Forestry and Rangelands

E-LEARNING SERIES | Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

WHAT AND WHO WAS ASSESSED?

- 👥 DSL-IP Botswana works with two selected producer organizations in the Tutume-Mosetse area.
- 👷 Both groups are central to scaling up drought-tolerant crops like lablab and millet, alongside beekeeping and sustainable tourism.
- 📋 Objective is the delivery of tailored capacity development and business incubation support to FFPOs for improved market access, better prices for forest and farm commodities, and community/women empowerment.
- 🤝 To co-design support, the project combined:
  - **Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA)** → explored skills, knowledge, and resource gaps
  - **Social Network Analysis (SNA)** → mapped how knowledge flows and who influences adoption

ADVANTAGES OF THE DUAL APPROACH

Pairing CNA with SNA gave a more complete picture:

- CNA told us what capacities are missing
- The SNA showed us who to work with to spread this knowledge effectively.

Together, the two assessments point to entry points for peer-to-peer learning and training of trainers, building on existing social structures rather than designing from scratch.

Additional efficiency benefit: leverages on project staff already in the field and community members already gathered

MODALITY & OBJECTIVE OF THE SNA

Approach

- Short individual interviews using a snowball sampling method
- **Starting points**: 3 farmers per FFPO (including at least 1 woman)
- **Sampling boundary**: only actors within the project area interviewed; outside individuals noted but not pursued

Focus of data collection

- Who shares farming and land management information with whom
- Strength of connections (frequency/importance of exchanges)
- Identification of influential individuals in promoting sustainable land and forest management

Information captured

- Names and roles of key actors
- Type of knowledge shared (e.g. techniques, crops, marketing, drought management)
- Main pathways of knowledge flow within the community

CNA KEY INSIGHTS

🎯 Specific capacities and capacity needs within each group

🚧 Behavioral Barriers

🌟 Enabling Factors

🤷 Leveraging points to engage women & youth

Promising local innovations and best practices

SNA KEY INSIGHTS

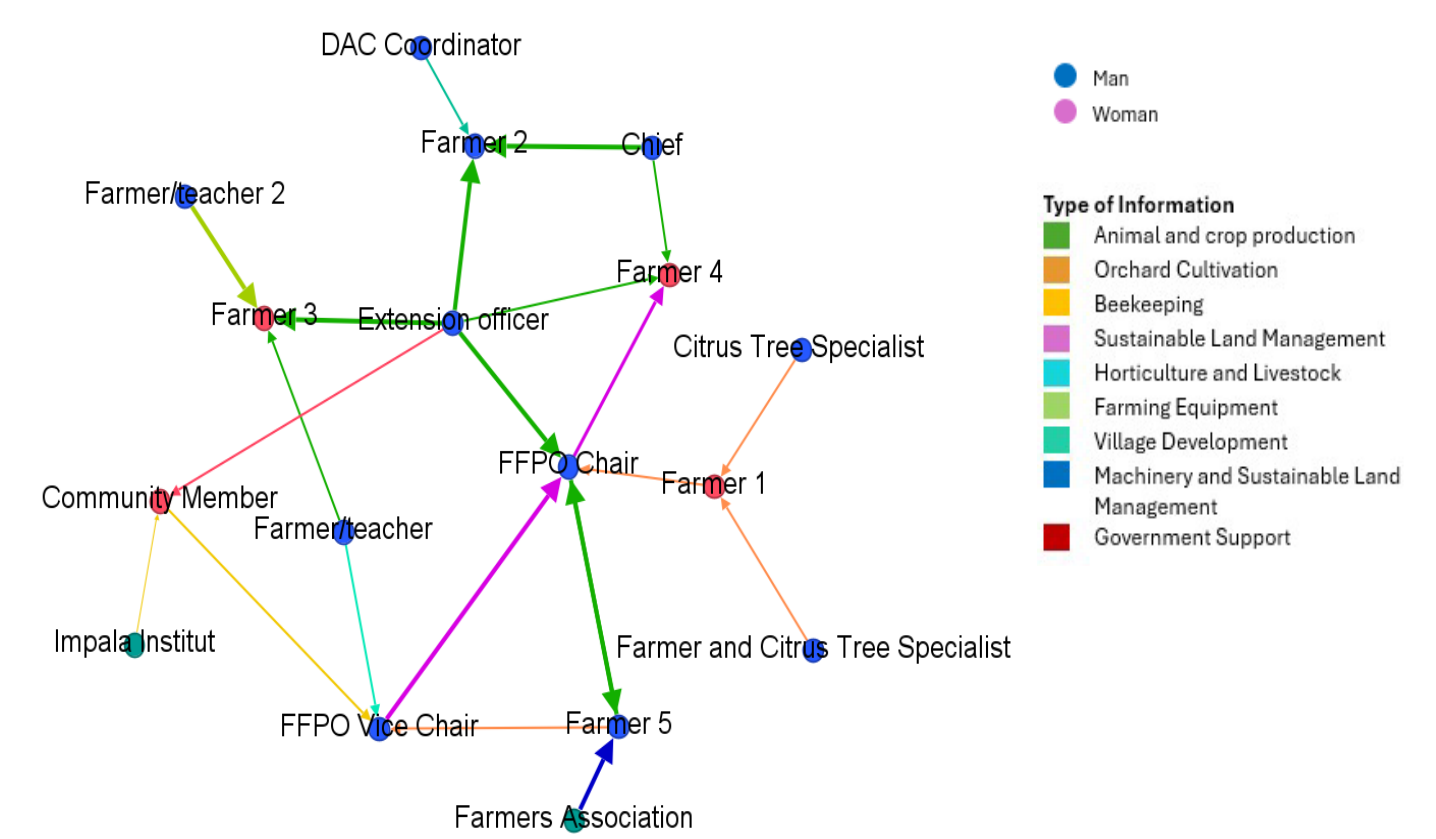

Figure 1 Network of knowledge flow in the Gulugwe Cluster Fence Organization

HOW WE USE THE INFORMATION COLLECTED

📚 Adapt Farmer Field School curricula to community needs, project targets, and expected outcomes

👩‍🌾 Identify and leverage on existing capacities within communities (peer-to peer learning)

🌾 Tailor extension plans to priority district challenges informed by Household Survey and CNA

🌳 Align landscape planning with the local context

🛒 Plan procurements based on identified needs

⚠️ Focus on feasible, impactful interventions within project scope

💬 Provide honest feedback to communities on what the project can and cannot provide