

Baseline rapid assessment

The aim of the focus group discussion is to get a rapid assessment of the current situation of the farmers, the agricultural production systems and practices they use and the challenges that face them in pursuing their livelihoods. This will indicate the extent to which improved pollination and the introduction of pollinator-friendly practices in agriculture could be relevant to these farmers.

Questions/topics for discussion

Current livelihood strategies and conditions

It is necessary to know how important agriculture is to the farmers' livelihoods as this will affect their willingness to take risks and to try out new approaches. If agriculture is the main source of livelihood, farmers may be unwilling to take risks unless there are good safeguards eg: participation in a group-based activity using group land.

- Main activities and sources of income
- Extent of dependence on agricultural production
- Size of landholdings and tenure system – formal land title, informal, rented, communal
- Average area under cultivation per farmer
- Access to forest resources (distance and rights of access)

Agricultural systems

This section aims to assess whether farmers are growing pollinator-dependent crops, whether their practices are pollinator-friendly and whether there are clear areas for introducing pollinator-friendly practices. By examining changes in crops and practices over the last few years, the discussion will reveal the extent to which farmers are accustomed to innovating and the factors driving this.

- What are the main crops grown?
- How much of production is for own use, how much for local markets, national, export?
- What type of cropping system and agricultural practices are used – eg: mixed cropping, use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, irrigation, tractors?
- How have these changed if at all over the last five years?
- What are the reasons/motivations for farmers' current cropping systems and production practices? Eg: response to land or labour scarcity, promotion by extension services, community initiative

Challenges and constraints

This aims to identify problems or challenges that improved pollination and the introduction of pollinator-friendly practices could address.

- What do farmers consider to be the main challenges facing them in crop production?
- How have these challenges changed over the last few years?

- What challenges do farmers see in the future?
- What other challenges are farmers facing in their livelihood strategies? Eg: difficulties in collection animal fodder or fuelwood.