

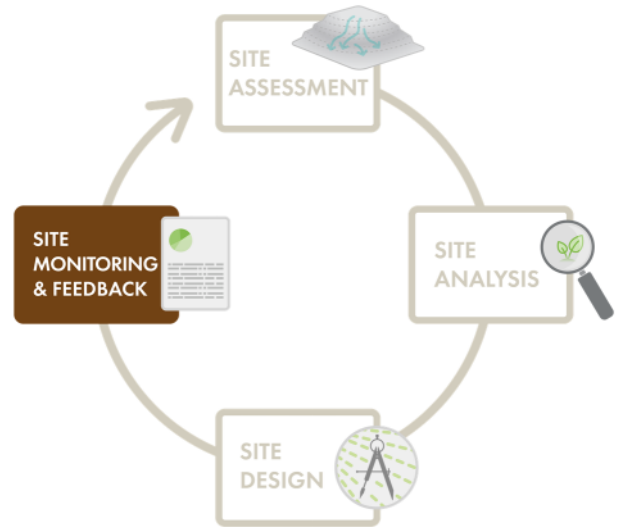
## Tip Sheet

### Step 4: Site Monitoring and Feedback

**Aim:** Learn about the effectiveness of the current farm design and identify areas for improvement.

**Key Takeaway:** A feedback loop is necessary for improving the design and production of the site.

**Summary of Step 4 in Practice:** The design of the farm needs to be continually reassessed as the landscape is continually evolving and the climate changing.



#### 1. FARMER-LED MONITORING: Encourage farmers to assess the site themselves and adjust as necessary, asking questions such as:

- Is the water flowing in the right places?
- Am I capturing positive influences as much as possible?
- Am I excluding negative influences at the right times?
- Are the trees, crops and livestock looking healthier and producing more? If not, why not?



#### 2. QUICK FIELD CHECK

- Identify key RD activities with farmers required for optimal farm design.
- Monitor activities over time and capture them in the Simple Monitoring Checklist to quickly analyze what is working and what requires more support.



#### 3. FARM RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT

- **Take a walk:** With the farmer, walk the land and discuss what is working and what is not. See yourself as a consultant to support them in increasing their farm health, production and livelihood, and the farmer as the expert on this particular piece of land. If possible when monitoring, gather key community members and walk the farm together to discuss progress and/or challenges.
  - Go through the Farm Resilience Assessment Tool with the farmer (and community members, if present).
  - Discuss each question and score with the farmer.
  - Always keep in mind that the farmer knows his or her piece of land the best.

# RESILIENCE DESIGN IN SMALLHOLDER FARMING SYSTEMS

- **Check in and address challenges:** Once the Farm Resilience Assessment Tool is complete, address the areas where the farm has scored low.
  - Using the 'How to Improve your score,' work together with the farmer to identify easily achievable solutions to improve and redesign any problems into solutions.
- **Look for innovation:** Look for signs of the farmer using critical thinking and problem solving skills to create well-functioning and resilient systems. An *innovation* is something not taught but developed by the farmer him or herself.
  - Make sure to document any good innovations to share with other farmers or groups for inspiration.
  - Take pictures if possible.
- **Note any spill-over:** See and note if any other community members have adopted RD practices.



## 4. FARM PRODUCTION ASSESSMENT: After each growing season, complete the *Farm Production Assessment* together with the farmer.

- **Discuss** the crops and livestock produced, amount harvested, amount sold, and income from sales. Also note the expenses related to each crop or livestock. Ensure you speak to the person in the household who is in charge of harvesting and selling farm produce – this may be one or two people.
- **Cross-check** data with farm size.
- **Ask the farmer** if he or she keeps records of production, sales and expenses and if so ask if they can share their records. If not **encourage farmers** to record production and income data, and preferably provide financial recording training



## 5. SOIL HEALTH ASSESSMENT: Once per year when visiting the farmer, conduct the *Soil Health Index* together with the farmer to assess soil health. Use information from 'How to improve your score' to discuss with the farmer any improvements to be made.



## 6. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY MEASUREMENTS

- **Use different participatory tools** to collect additional information and to triangulate assessment information. Use:
  - Food security impact calendar to assess the number of food secure months in a year
  - Before and after scoring to measure change in food sources, dietary diversity, time-saving benefits and changes in perceived adaptive capacity
  - Simple scoring with nominal baseline to measure changes in farm production, and income from farm production
  - Most significant change stories to capture stories of innovation, capacity building and change.