



Farmers' Engagement Survey

The Agriculture Working Group of the Global Food Security Cluster conducted a review exercise better understand the culture, the level of institutionalisation, and the practices of farmers' engagement of cluster members. Humanitarian interventions supporting affected populations to maintain and protection agricultural production must understand the local context, local agricultural systems and local knowledge in production systems. Failure to do so can result in poorly design and inappropriate humanitarian responses and hence farmer engagement at all stages of the programme cycle can improve success in humanitarian agricultural interventions.

Key Takeaways

- Most members have varying degrees of farmer engagement, with the **highest levels being at the early stages** of the intervention.
- **Information from farmers is deemed vital to determine the nature of the crisis**, details on the needs and what is support for agriculture is required.
- Members cited that there are there **are issues in applying local knowledge, namely timeframes for intervention and difficulties local crop varieties** due to funding regulations and objectives already being set such as in Humanitarian Response Plans.
- Although it is possible that **farmer engagement is a core part of humanitarian agencies** operations, maybe at the higher level where there needs to be flexibility when identifying priority for agricultural interventions that are best suited to local needs and production systems.
- **Farmers should be involved and brought in as much as an agricultural advisor**, government agriculture ministry or FSL cluster or technical WGs.

Introduction and background

Humanitarian crises can disrupt livelihoods. People may lose jobs, be forced to leave their land and water sources, and assets such as seed stores and livestock may be destroyed, stolen or contaminated. Markets can be disrupted or stop functioning. Shocks and disasters can impact on people's ability to protect their livelihoods and is directly related to their vulnerability. Many of the most vulnerable impacted by crises are in rural areas and rely on agriculture as their main livelihood. Recovering food production and livelihoods must be part of humanitarian response from early stage to allow people to recover or protect their productive assets.

However, agricultural systems are highly complex and diverse across the world and evolved over hundreds of years to be suited to local agro-ecologies. Hence it is crucial to **understand the local context and its agricultural production and local knowledge and practices in production systems** so interventions are well designed to support recovery of agriculture-based livelihoods while being accountable to all those involved in a humanitarian programme. **Disregarding female and male farmers' preferences and practices can result in poor and inappropriate responses** can risk undermining local practices and social and cultural structures that can be vital to affected communities. Humanitarian actors must understand the roles of women, men, girls and boys in agricultural systems and their specific needs and how agricultural interventions can also assist and fully include People with Special Needs as participants in agricultural production. Farmers also need to feel safe when participating in agricultural interventions and not put at any risk. Effective agricultural interventions are participatory and people-centred, and is advocated by and very much in line with major humanitarian agencies' principles and practices¹²³.

AGRICULTURE WG SURVEY

The Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) Agriculture Working Group (AWG) conducted a review exercise on farmer engagement. The review was to assist in better understanding the culture, level of institutionalisation and practices of farmer engagement amongst the cluster's members. The review exercise examined the following questions:

1. ***Institutionalisation of farmers' engagement in humanitarian agriculture interventions through clear programme guidelines and protocols:*** What is the extent of clear references to active engagement of farmers, participant households and farmer associations during humanitarian responses on agriculture in both organisational policies and guidance and actual practices in the programme locations?
2. ***Ways in which organisations engage with farmers:*** What is the level of active engagement by farmers across programme stages and interventions?
3. ***Degree to which farmer feedback/consultation impacts (or is incorporated into) Humanitarian Agriculture programming:*** how do agencies pursue and use consultations with farmers in their programme design and how they translate into activity implementation?

The exercise explored how members apply farmer engagement at each stage of the programme cycle comprising of assessment; planning and design; implementation; monitoring; evaluation and review. Specifically, the exercise looked at the following aspects:

- An understanding the context, local agriculture system and practices, including local farmer groups, structures and support systems;
- The establishment of a two-way communication between the agency/programme and beneficiary farmers;
- Farmers' active role in assessment and consultation during the design of the intervention, as well as in programme technical choices, and timing and the modalities of the intervention, drawing from specific examples around **seeds provision, livestock provision and provision of emergency veterinary assistance**;
- The participation typologies pursued, the tools and modalities utilised, the level of feedbacks sought by farmers and how these are taken in consideration.

¹<https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/>

²<https://handbook.spherestandards.org/en/sphere/#ch001>

³<https://www.livestock-emergency.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/LEGS-Handbook-2nd-edition-web-version-1.pdf>

The findings of the review while not scientific present a brief overview of farmer engagement within the cluster's members to allow for formulation of suggestions on how to increase farmer engagement in humanitarian responses, enhance programme effectiveness and promote community/farmers empowerment. An assessment of the impact of farming households engagement on their livelihoods was not pursued as it was beyond the scope of this exercise.

Methodology

The tools used for data collection with members of global and national FSL clusters were:

Guidance Review Questionnaire: An open-ended questionnaire was administered to technical advisors in members' head office involved at strategic and policy level in humanitarian responses. The questionnaire collected information on organisational culture and level of institutionalisation of farmer engagement for each respondent. Each respondent scored and provided qualitative information for the level of engagement at each stage of the programme cycle. 7 questionnaires were completed including 1 donor, 1 UN agency and 5 NGOs.

Key Informant Questionnaire: A closed answer questionnaire was administered by national FSL clusters to their members. The questionnaire completed online by a designated key person within each respondent agency. Quantitative information was collected with some open-ended answers on the level of farmer engagement at each stage of the programme cycle. The online survey provided an initial analysis of the raw data.

Reflections on farmer engagement during the humanitarian programme cycle



1. Needs Assessment

Most respondents have farmer engagement in needs assessments as part of their policies, with some saying it **being the most important stage of the programme cycle for farmer engagement**. The farmers' involvement in needs assessments is usually as interviewees, being the main group consulted for information on needs. The impression is that farmer engagement at needs assessment allows for aligning the response activities to support populations' needs and their priorities for humanitarian agriculture interventions.

For farmer engagement in needs assessments, respondents in general covered all the relevant options of responses, each one highly rated by the respondents. The following were particularly noted with the highest rate:

- The role of agriculture in people's livelihood.
- Current needs related to livelihoods and agriculture production.
- Main coping strategies in crises (and their implications for future livelihood security).
- Agriculture market system.
- Main actors in the agriculture system.
- Presence and practice of local farmer groups/ cooperatives.
- The nature and the impact of the emergency on the agriculture system.

The other key information that is looked at when engaging with farmers during needs assessment includes:

- Climatic requirements and agro-ecological zones.
- Irrigation and other agricultural infrastructure status.
- Seasonality for agricultural production.
- Governmental policy and procedures agricultural.
- Market value chains.
- Nutrition sensitivity.
- Agricultural human capital/labour and skills.
- Land ownership.

Table 1 shows the findings on how agencies ranked approaches to assess an emergency, both in terms of its nature and impact on populations. **Engaging with populations was the most highly ranked approach**, with nearly 75% of agencies use to a large degree, participatory methodologies directly with communities and farmers followed by engaging with other humanitarian agencies at around 55%. Under half of respondents stated that they considered secondary data in assessments. Other unspecified approaches account for 62.5% (no respondents specified what these were).

Table 1: Agency ranking of the different approaches your agency makes use of to assess the nature and the impact of the emergency

Approaches used to assess the nature and the impact of the emergency	Large degree	Moderate degree	Limited degree
Mainly review of secondary data and early warning and classification systems	43.42%	47.37%	9.21%
Mainly research, academia and university	12.50%	30.36%	57.14%
Mainly engagement with international and national humanitarian agencies	54.55%	38.96%	6.49%
Mainly participatory processes with communities and farmers	74.68%	16.46%	8.86%
Other (specify)	62.50%	25.00%	12.50%

For assessment methodologies used to collect data on the impacts of an emergency on agriculture and livelihoods, most agencies use data collected directly from farmers. According to the respondent answers, the most used methods to gather data on the impact of the emergency on agriculture and people's livelihoods are:

- Survey questionnaires (18.86%)
- Key informant interviews (18.09%)
- Focus Group Discussions (FGD) (16.80%)
- Secondary data (12.92%)
- Community-wide consultations (11.37%)
- Visualisation methods (participatory mapping, seasonal calendars, etc.) (11.11%)

Among other the methods mentioned by respondents are: ranking and scoring methods, participatory rural appraisal tools, site /household visits and post distribution monitoring.

With regards to whom agencies collected information on emergencies' impacts on agriculture and livelihoods the following were the main sources of information, with farmers and farmer groups being the most popular:

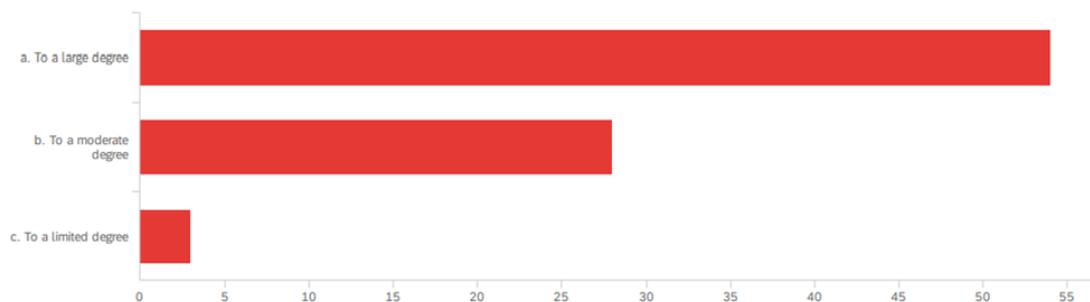
- Farmers and farmers groups (or livestock keepers/pastoralists).
- NGOs and aid agencies operating in the area.
- Government bodies (such as ministries of agriculture and other relevant ministries).
- Local authorities.
- Community service organisations.
- Community and religious leaders.

It is important to mention the importance and role given to NGOs and other aid agencies operating in the area, as well as to farmers' and **farmers groups in data and information gathering**. To identify how agencies ensure that vulnerable groups and categories (such as women, youth, disabled, minorities, IDPs and refugees) are included in assessments, an open-ended question was asked on how to include these groups. Respondents citing the following methodologies:

- Community engagement with inclusive participation (awareness to community leaders, targeting the most vulnerable to participate to the assessment).
- Needs of the most vulnerable are particularly assessed.
- Conducting cross check and baseline questionnaire.
- Sharing database of vulnerable population among NGOs, local authorities, etc.
- Designing specific questions to include this analysis in FGD and Key Informant Interview questionnaires.
- Create the holistic approach for Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and establish complaints and feedback mechanisms to ensure all categories are included in the contextual assessment.

64% of agencies stated that they take into consideration to a large degree of local and indigenous knowledge of agricultural production, existing coping strategies and agricultural services in programme design and subsequent implementation, as shown Figure 1.

Figure 1: Level of consideration by number of respondents, of local/indigenous knowledge, existing coping strategies and agriculture services, and their utilisation in programme design and implementation



Most of the respondents use participatory assessment method to understand those local specificities and integrate them in programming. Examples of activities that take into consideration local specificities:

- Adapting the programme calendar to actual time for land clearing, planting, fertiliser application, and harvesting. Animal breeding period and time of animal vaccination.
- Use of local seeds and tools or local animal breeds to boost the food production.
- Use of CVCA methodology.
- Building synergies between traditional cropping system and the modern Climate Smart Agriculture technologies.
- Use of local material to build agricultural infrastructures.
- Use of extension agents from the local agricultural technical service to train farmers.
- Use of existing traditional governance mechanisms in formal registered villages as an integral pathway to communicating with communities.

When asked about training methodologies used with farmers and pastoralists, the majority employed by respondents involved direct contact with targeted farmers and pastoralists rather than more passive approaches such as mass extension. The main approaches used by respondents for farmers and pastoralists training in humanitarian interventions were:

- 27.6% of respondents stated that they used training and visit to farmers groups (deliver a pre-defined training package by lead farmers (or extension agents).
- 19.6% reported employing the Farmer Field School methodology (farmers share their knowledge and practices and experiment in the field structured learning).
- 18% reported community extension (field days and agriculture shows).
- Regarding the rest of approaches, they are less used by the partners: mass extension (through radio, posters, leaflets) and Farmer to Farmer innovation.



2. Planning and design

Respondents' policies recognised a need to improve farmer engagement in this phase. FAO and BHA both acknowledged that is of primary concern during this and the preceding assessment phase as activities are aligned with affected populations' identified priorities and needs. FAO promotes the use of the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) toolkit by field staff and partners. One of the principle commitments includes *"Participation: Enable affected populations to play an active role in the decision-making processes that affect them through the establishment of clear guidelines and practices to engage them appropriately and ensure that the most marginalised and affected are represented and have influence"*.

For NGOs, farmers often participate as consultants on projects in which the main activities have already been decided. Farmers as information source seems to be the most typical engagement approach as demonstrated in the examples below:

- In the case of seed fairs, farmers are consulted to determine what crops and varieties should compose the seed package and also when and where the fairs should be held.
- Farmers and pastoralists provide contextual information relating to social dynamics (such as gender norms and roles), conflict factors and targeting criteria.
- It is recommended that design staff have full understanding of the context and prevailing production systems in programme design. One recommendation is for staff to spend significant time with farmers in their fields.

An example of farmer engagement at needs assessment linking into design is World Vision's Critical Path framework to guide how staff work with partners and communities. This is built off of assessment results and is oriented around how World Vision and partners can work together and what each can bring to the table and even what the exit strategy might entail.

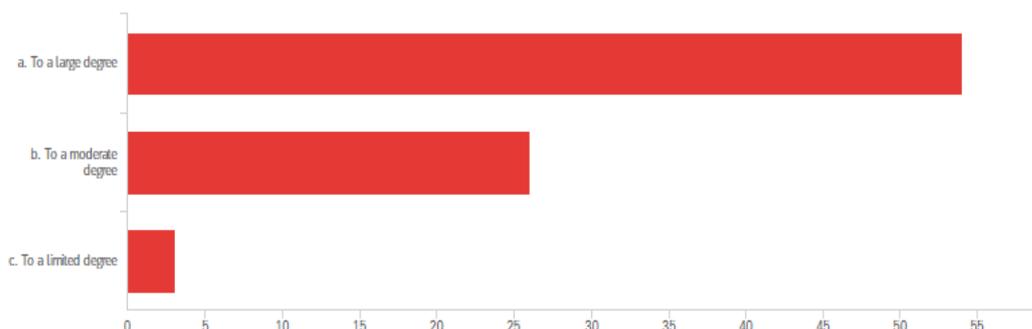
Based on respondents' feedback in the questionnaire, when planning a humanitarian agriculture intervention, these topics were the least investigated:

- Key social relations and power dynamics in the agriculture system.
- Roles of different household members in agriculture.

Most respondents noted the key role of farmers during the planning phase to be the identification of needs and gaps. Some organisations note a considerable effort made to redesign programming based on assessments and community feedback. As shown in Figure 2, respondents claim a high degree of flexibility and freedom to modify design of agriculture interventions based on farmers' suggestions (63%). Sixty-five percent of respondents noted a large degree of consideration of local/indigenous knowledge, coping strategies and agricultural services in the assessment and design phases. WFP use of the Community Based Participatory Planning (CBPP)⁴ as an example one methodology to place food-insecure communities "in the driver's seat of planning". Respondents actually ranked their organisation's work closer to full community participation on the typology scale with 2 of the top 3 selections being the options that included joint analysis, full control of local decisions and support of groups starting their own initiatives.

⁴ See a full description of this approach [here](#).

Figure 2: Level of consideration by number of respondents, of local/indigenous knowledge, existing coping strategies and agricultural services during programme design and implementation.



However, some examples of discord or poor alignment were noted in the following examples:

- Promotion of imported seed rather than preferred local varieties.
- The promotion of tractors rather than supporting the use of ox ploughs even though this practice is known in local communities and could be improved.

The prevalence of the training and visit model of extension support to farmers demonstrates that program design is likely much more one-sided and top-down than it would like to be believed. This was the most used approach over other models including Farmer Field Schools (FFS), Farmer-to-Farmer and community-based extension (including field days).

Seed initiatives seem to enjoy a high degree of farmer engagement during the initial design stage (81%), as per Figure 3, with targeted farmers being the biggest decision makers when it comes to the types and varieties of seeds they receive. Livestock interventions reported less involvement by pastoralists with more involvement of technical experts in the early design phase (57%) and none reported pastoralists being consulted when determining the type and amount of feed to be provided as per Figure 4.

Figure 3: Who decides on types and variety of seeds by number of respondents

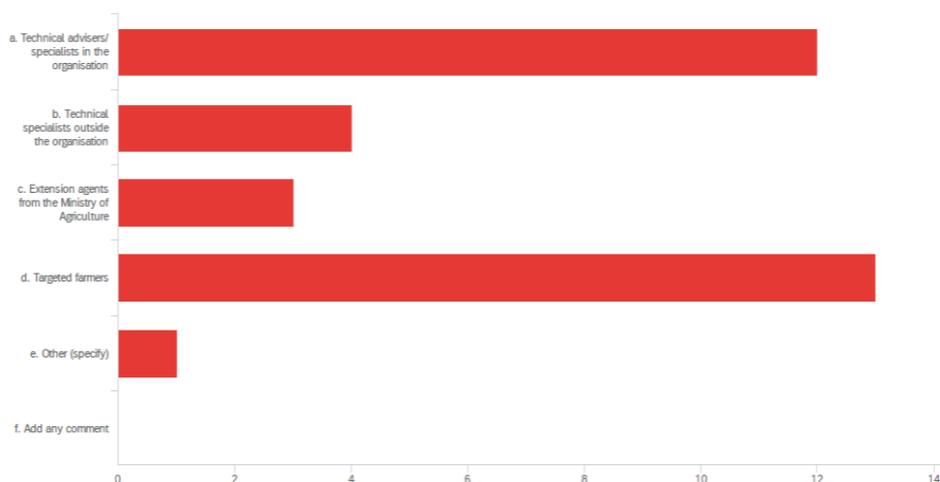
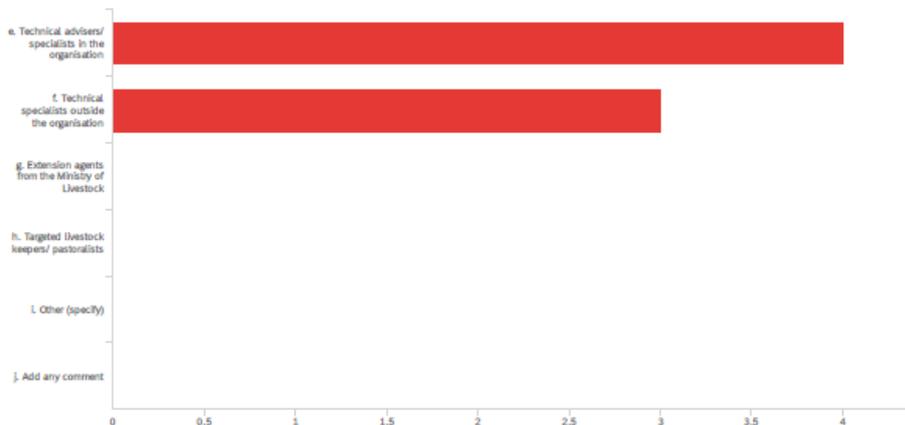


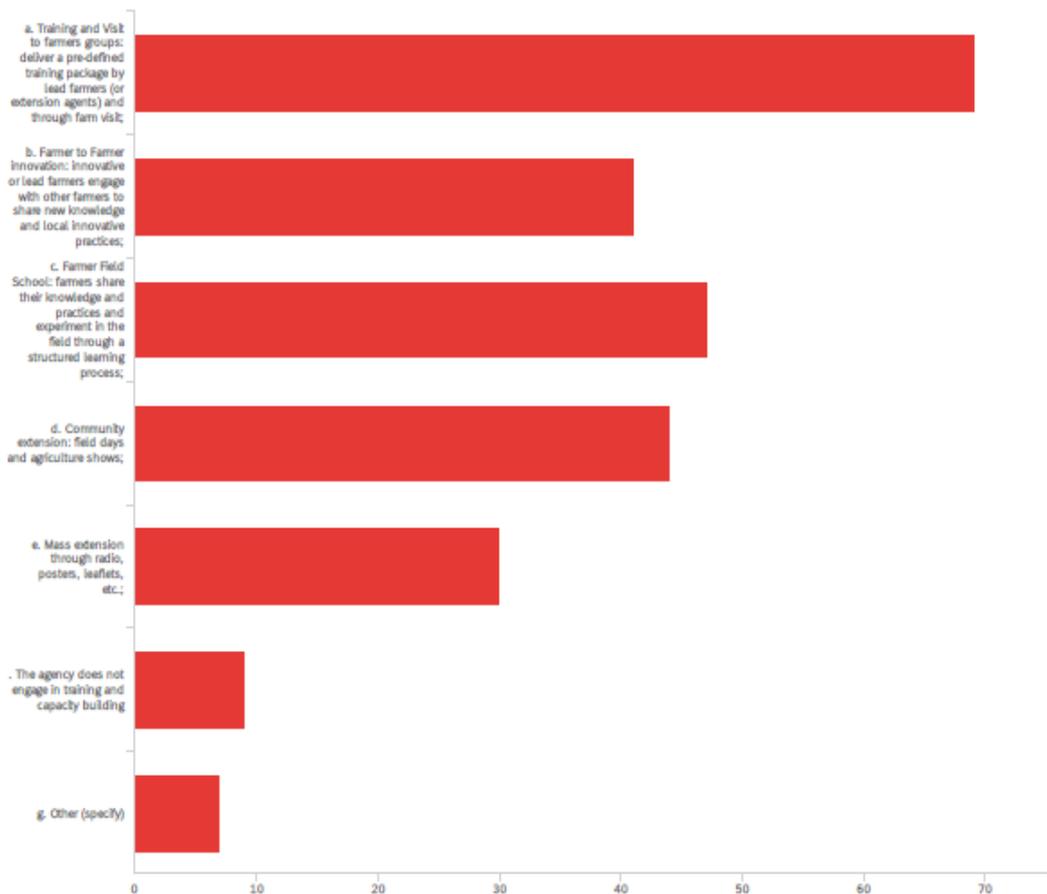
Figure 4: Who decides on type and amount of livestock feed by number of respondents


3. Implementation

Most respondents have farmer engagement to identify seed and input preferences, and beneficiary identification. One respondent cited that farmer engagement during the initial planning of an intervention allows time to introduce and explain the programme and mobilise programme participants and questions on the intervention can be discussed with the community. Often due to the scale of a crisis and the fact farmers may have trauma of losing assets, it is necessary to provide agricultural support that farmers are familiar with.

Farmers are typically engaged as beneficiaries of training, though most organisations mentioned engaging selected, often better-off, farmers as temporary (e.g., through the duration of the project). This involved taking roles in beneficiary selection, group formation, acting as lead farmers or facilitators for farmer groups (Farmer Field Schools, etc.). The justification for farmer selection has often to do with farmers' past performance and capacity to take risks. This participation appears to be coached in terms of engagement to ensure transparency and accountability through participatory practices - selected farmers or in the case of World Vision, project implementation committees. Nearly 30% of respondents cited training and visit of farmers groups, around 17% use community extension and 16.5% of respondents use farmer-to-farmer approaches as the main training approaches used as illustrated in Figure 5.



Figure 5: Approaches used by number of respondents, for capacity building for farmers


As a whole, the implementation sections mentioned by survey participants seemed disconnected from both design and monitoring in the sense that there seemed to be no opportunity or clear linkage within the implementation stage for reflecting on the design of the project through the course of routine monitoring. Additionally, implementation (assuming in the case of training) in most cases was not directly linked to meaningful monitoring; few if any survey participants mentioned reflection that would change the structure of implementation; these appeared to be due to a focus of monitoring activities on programme outputs/outcomes rather than the implementation itself.



4. Evaluation and review

Farmer engagement during monitoring and evaluation is covered in most respondents' policies with both formal monitoring surveys such as Post Distribution Monitoring, and unsolicited feedback. Monitoring and evaluation is also a key component of AAP or CHS.

With regards to farmer engagement at the evaluation/review stage of a humanitarian intervention, 13.38% of respondents said farmers should be consulted at review stage but 29.3% said it should be at all stages. Nearly 70% of respondents engage with farmers/pastoralists at some level during quarterly reviews to understand outcomes and see if anything needs to change in a project with 37% doing this at all times and 40% sometimes engaging with farmers/pastoralists. However 78% of agencies say that more and better engagement is needed by agencies for engagement with farmers/pastoralists with only 2.8% saying this is not really needed.

Barriers to improving farmer engagement included mostly on management issues such as not of enough time (39%) and difficulty reaching target groups (25.5%) which suggests lack of planning. Objectives are pre-planned is a factor in limiting farmer engagement for 24.8% of respondents. The lack

of farmer engagement being a mandatory requirement was cited as a barrier by 10% of respondents. Some of this is reflected in open-ended answers such as:

- “*contraintes de securite et de restrictions de mouvement, travail a distance (security constraints, restrictions on movement, remote working)*”
- “there are no barriers, but sometimes the targeted groups are requesting support which exceed the budget allocated from donors such as rehabilitation of irrigations systems. Another example, sometimes farmers are requesting to receive some kind of seeds such as wheat seeds but some donors are refusing to fund such kind of activities as they are refusing to deal with governmental institutions (referring to GOSM here) which is considered the only supplier for wheat seeds in Syria”
- “Lack of effectively functioning institutions including ministries, HH focus on incentives than the actual skills and long term outcomes from the agricultural interventions”
- Limited time for meaningful consultations was listed as the biggest barrier to better farmer engagement in humanitarian agriculture interventions.



5. Organisational policies on farmer engagement

Overall farmer engagement documentation: Most partners have some level of farmer engagement in their policies, either standalone (SP, ACF), or integrated into wider global policies on programming (Concern, WVI). In the absence of organisational policies, some partners utilise international common standards such as CHS, LEGS or had a strong organisational culture and history of good farmer engagement as evident in evaluations of humanitarian programmes. Level of engagement ranges from farmers’ engagement key to strategy development and informing humanitarian response; to integrating into wider programmatic guidance such as SP’s “Think Livelihoods” manual where people-centred approaches are a key component; WVI’s “Critical Path” or Concern’s CRM, AAP toolkit and RCCE guidance note for FAO. BHA cited the importance of the perspective of the farmer but also to take into consideration other actors in the respective input value chains.

Farmers’ role in project cycle:

- ***Assessment:*** as passive respondents in an assessment. 3 partners say it being the most important step in the project cycle by respondents – “*Starting from formulation to align activities and support with populations’ needs and priorities*” (FAO). WVI has a specific tool in “Critical Path”.
- ***Design:*** Although “never” and “progress needed” were stated, overall it is recognised that the nature of humanitarian responses make it essential that farmers’ input preferences are needed when designing a response. The question to be asked is do they actually design the whole response itself or just make recommendations on input packages?
- ***Implementation:*** Roles of leaders cited such as lead farmer approach or community leaders involved in fairs or implementation committees.
- ***Monitoring:*** Most engagement is farmers participating in activities such as surveying, PDM, etc but no level of actual farmer involvement of doing monitoring themselves.
- ***Evaluation:*** High importance by respondents to this step.

Use of local knowledge: High level of using local knowledge such as experienced lead farmers and promoting local techniques based on agro-ecology, considering the whole system in terms of local knowledge such as market interactions and not just farmers. A recommendation to do context analysis and spending time on farmers’ sites to fully understand production systems; identify and prioritise the limiting factors affecting animal production and management, taking in to account existing coping mechanisms. SSSA mentioned and one example of Sahel being a very fragile agro-ecology so local knowledge essential. Emphasis on wider local agricultural system throughout question response and starting here when designing a response.

Seeds guidelines: Most respondents have either specific seed guidelines and also use their country programmes own guidance, national cluster, donor or international standards (Sphere). Organisations have mandatory farmer engagement (SP require 10% farmers for feedback); “farmers’ role is to provide information on the social and/or conflict context, understanding gender roles in farming, needs, who is

vulnerable, targeting criteria”. Local seed availability is a determinant. There was a common response on need to include actors in the seed systems in guidance. Some issues with regulations when procuring local seeds (plant health, certification by governments, donor regulations, etc).

Livestock guidelines: All follow LEGS or have their own guidelines on using LEGS. Some include generic programme quality and/or national cluster guidelines. As with seeds question, need to look at the wider system, farmer/pastoralist involvement at the beginning essential, to identify conflict/social dynamics, female and male roles in livestock keeping, animals preferred and how they interact with markets. There is often a higher risk of inter-communal conflict in some contexts with livestock interventions.

More specific recommendations to increase and improve farmers/ pastoralists’ engagement?: Need farmer input to ensure agricultural interventions meet needs and inputs and modalities are as per beneficiaries’ needs, but needs to be context specific, such as urban/rural. Specific guidelines on farmer engagement would be very welcome. Early Warning System is a mechanism for farmer engagement for coping and managing crises. There is a thirst for innovation and new ideas - without adequately interrogating and understanding the relevance of existing recommendations, and considering new ways to promote their adoption – is irresponsible and unsustainable.

Reflections and recommendations on the implications of the survey for future guidelines for farmer engagement

The reflections were done according to the questions set out in this piece:

Institutionalisation of farmers’ engagement in humanitarian agriculture interventions through clear programme guidelines and protocols.

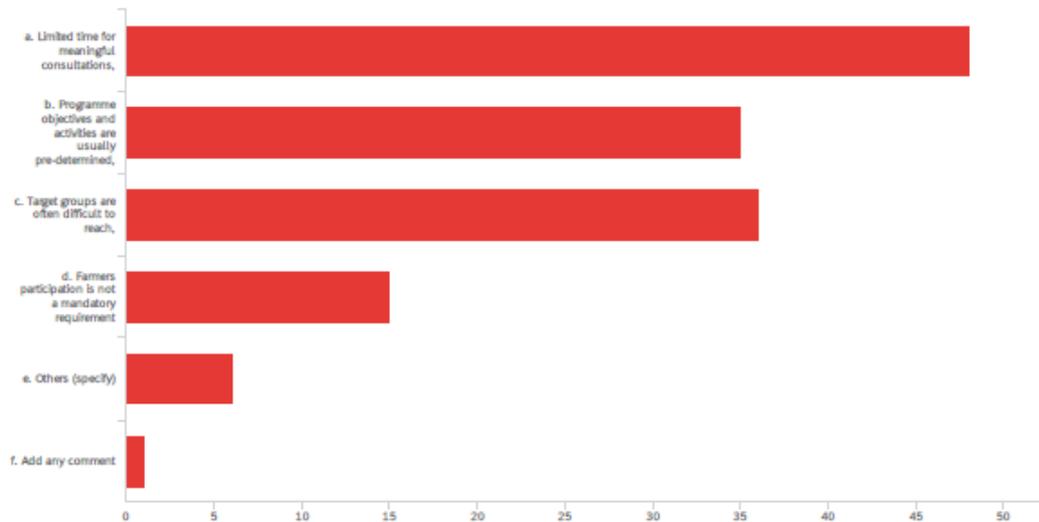
There are variations to the active engagement of farmers, participant households and farmers associations during humanitarian programme cycles (needs assessment, design/planning, implementation, evaluation/review phases) in guidelines, policies and protocols with some respondents having it references at all stages of the programme cycle, while others less so. Many organisations also use international guidelines to direct their respective programmes on farmer engagement such as CHS. This is most notable for livestock interventions where LEGS is commonly used. Donors and UN agencies such as FAO who would partner with NGOs to implement their programmes require farmer engagement as essential for funding and/or partnership. Despite the differences in levels of farmers’ engagement by respondents, it is clear that all recognised to have equal levels engagement across the programme cycle in their policies and to institutionalise it across interventions.

Ways in which organisations engage with farmers.

Overall, most agencies rely on information directly from farmers to inform on the needs, nature of the crisis using participatory approaches or as respondents in methodologies such questionnaires. Most farmer engagement tends to be at the early stages of the programme rather than throughout the programme. Local knowledge is valued by respondents as essential when designing interventions, but there are issues in applying local knowledge, such as using local varieties due to funding regulations. For example, when deciding on input provision, it is mostly technical staff who are consulted rather than farmers and pastoralists. 62% of respondents stated that to a great extent, interventions could be modified to include suggestions from local communities and farmers/pastoralists.

Degree to which farmer feedback/ consultation impacts (or is incorporated into) Humanitarian Agriculture programming

Most agencies agree that there is a need to improve farmers engagements at all stages of the programme cycle and that their interventions need to be modified to include farmer engagement as evident in the survey. Figure 6 shows that respondents have identified the barriers to farmer engagement, mostly lack of time (often due to the rapid onset of a crisis), inaccessibility of targeted groups and programme objectives and activities can be pre-determined. Most of the open ended response show that agencies know what is needed to improve farmer level engagement.

Figure 6: Respondents' barriers to farmer engagement


Rather than list recommendations, this paper explores what this survey tells is happening now in terms of farmer engagement and reflect on what it envisaged as a global cluster, by national clusters and common guidelines and standards for the future in terms of farmer engagement.

The review of the policy documents came out with the following suggestions:

- Limit “newness”
- Bring in farmers as much as you would the local Ministry of Agriculture.
- Not limiting to just farmer engagement but looking at the wider system for agriculture.
- Go back to communities 3-5 years after an intervention ends and interview a subset of project participants (farmers, local officials, civil society organisations) with specific questions aimed at assessing the extent to which the intervention effectively engaged with farmers.

While the survey shows that in general, organisations consider farmer engagement to be equally important at all stages of the programme cycle, **local and indigenous knowledge needs to be considered when designing interventions** and the information regarding agricultural systems should come primarily from the farmers. However, the limitations on incorporation of farmers as full programme participants can be due to many responses’ objectives being already set such as by donors, or in Humanitarian Response Plans. While it is possible that farmer engagement is already part of humanitarian agencies operations, maybe it is higher level where there needs to be flexibility when identifying priority for agricultural interventions that are best suited to local needs and production systems Most donors require that the recipients of their funding engage farmers when they design their interventions so there should be flexibility in adapting a donors’ objectives to the affected populations’ objectives for an agricultural interventions.

Organisations that have close relations with communities such as local actors, grassroots associations, farmers’ cooperatives, NGOs should be acting as voices for farmers when they interact with donors and other coordination for a when deciding on interventions. Food Security Cluster and technical WGs (Agriculture, livelihoods, etc.) can play also a key role ensuring a platform for discussion and agreed approaches in country.