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Agro Ecosystems Analysis (Aesa) in Farmer Field and Business School (Ffbs)

Introduction

Agro Eco systems analysis (AESA) is a process in which the Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) members learn together on regular basis, the interaction between the pyrethrum crop and its environment in order to be able to determine the best technology innovation and management practice option to adopt. AESA measures the effects of the different treatments in the participatory technology development plots. The process is based on the FFBS principle of integrated production and pest management (IPPM). The FFBS group is divided into sub groups, and each of the sub group is assigned the task of carrying out the AESA process on each of the specific treatments

Aesa Process Procedure

The AESA procedure is carried out in four progressive steps.



Step one: Observation

This first process in AESA, involves making general observations on the physical conditions and appearance of the crop, scouting for presence of pests and diseases and observing any signs of nutritional deficiencies. It is recommended that this step of AESA is carried out in the morning hours

when insect pests can be easily located in the field.



Step two: Data collection

The second step of AESA is to collect data that are physically measured on the crop. The data is collected from a given number of plants per plot e.g. 10 plants per plot, to enable the generation of an average. This step requires the use of equipment such as rulers, weighing balance for collecting the data and note books and pens for recording the data collected.





Step three: Data Processing

Each sub group meets to process the data into information that can be shared. Data collected from each of the selected 10 plants per plot is summarized into averages for sharing with the other sub groups.

Step four: Data presentation

The data processed by each sub group together with results of observations are presented in a plenary of the entire FFBS for comparisons between the different Sub groups and plots

The data from Pyrethrum AESA is summarized in AESA sheet as per example below.

Name of FFBS:		Group No (Sub group):	
AESa No:		Date:	
Plot No:		Week No:	
Problem addressed:			
General Information		Pyrethrum Agronomic Data/Parameters	
Variety:		Plant Height:	
Date planted:		No of tillers per plant	
Age of crop:		Bush diameter	
Spacing:		Width of leaves	
Fertilizer:		Wet flower wt per bush	
		Dry flower wt per bush	
		Yields per unit area	
Time of observation:			
Plant population:			
Insect Pests (pests observed)		Plant drawing/photo	Natural Enemies (observed)
Observations		Recommendations (management practice be applied)	
Soil moisture:			
Diseases:			
Insect pests:			
Weeds:			



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