The treatments are designed in a block that will be put on the ground as shown

Treatment 3 FERT)	Treatment 1 OM	Treatment 2 OM+FERT	Treatment 4 Zero

AESA process

AGRO ECOSYSTEMS ANALYSIS (AESA)

Agro-ecosystem analysis is used to measure the performance of treatments as follows:

Observation of crop performance

Data collection from crops by measuring parameters

Data Processing analyzing parameters

Data presentation to plenary members of FFBS

Step 4 Field days

During the period of running the FFBS, field days are organized where the rest of the farming community are invited to share what the group has learned. One or two field days can be conducted per season. During these field days, members of the FFBS are facilitators.

Step 5 Graduation

This activity marks the end of the season long FFBS. The farmers, facilitators and the coordinating office usually organize it. During this time farmers are awarded certificates.

Step 6 Farmer runs FFBS

FFBS farmer graduates now have the knowledge and confidence to run their own FFBS

Step 7 Follow up by facilitators

The facilitator occasionally will follow up on the schools that have graduated preferably on a monthly basis. The core facilitators also backstop on-going farmer run FFBS.

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Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS) Approach in Tomato Value Chain

KALRO
Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization

NAVCDP

Introduction

FFBS is a participatory extension approach, where farmers are allowed to choose the methods of production through the discovery-based approach.

Establishment of FFBS

It is established through a participatory process of community mobilization to identify a group of Tomato farmers with similar interests in the value chain. FFBS can also be formed from an existing Tomato farmer group

Membership of FFBS

The recommended membership of FFBS is 25-30 members. The reason for this is that during the implementation process every member is allowed to participate.

Classical steps in FFBS

Step 1: Conduct Ground working activities

This is the mobilization stage of the FFBS methodology, which involves;

Identifying group facilitators to be trained and community groups to implement the Tomato FFBS

Step 2: Training of facilitators on;

The facilitators identified during the FFBS ground working are trained on the following:

- Crop Production, protection and Marketing aspects in Tomato
- How to effectively deliver these crop production and marketing topics using non-formal education methods
- Participatory technology development (PTD) on Tomato
- Non-formal education methods with emphasis on what, when and how to use non-formal education in FFBS

A session during the training of facilitators

Step 3: Establishment and running of the FFBS

The FFBS is established through a process of identifying and listing the major challenges that are ranked using a pairwise ranking procedure as shown below:

- List of production problems
- Low yielding varieties (LYV)
- High incidences of pests (HIP)
- Low soil fertility (LSF)
- Pairwise ranking procedure

Each of the problems is listed on a table along the first row and column as shown in the table below. The problems listed are given acronyms for ease of fitting them into the table. Within the table, two problems are compared at a time and the higher ranking is written.

	LYV	HIP	LSF	Scores	Rank
LYV		LYV	LSF	1	2
HIP			LSF	0	3
LSF				2	1

The problems within the table are counted and scores are given, which end up in ranking of the problems from the greatest to the lowest. From this example, Low soil fertility (LSF) is ranked first and hence a participatory technology development (PTD) is developed in this area

Setting Participatory development designs to address low soil fertility

Participatory technology development is a process of engaging the FFBS to design a learning process around the problem ranked first by identifying opportunities referred to as, treatments that can be used in this area to mitigate the problem

Suggested treatments

Treatment 1 Apply organic Manure only (OM)
Treatment 2 Organic manure + recommended planting fertilizer and topdressing (OM+FERT)
Treatment 3 Planting Fertilizer and topdressing without manure (FERT)
Treatment 4 Control neither Manure nor Fertilizer (ZERO)