

FSR methodology

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FSR methodology

1. Target and research area selection
2. Research experiments
3. Testing
4. Analysis

Target and research area selection

Target area

- May be defined as the broad geographical extrapolation area of an FSR site
- Recommendation domain may be defined as a group of roughly homogenous farmers with similar circumstances within the target area for whom more or less the same recommendations can be made
- In Bangladesh both extrapolation area and recommendation domain are often used as target area
- Research area, commonly called FSR site, is usually a contiguous area covering several villages which represent the whole or major parts of the target area
- Technology development in FSR site and the results of the on-farm trials are usually transferred to predefined areas within the target area

Selection of target area

- The site to be selected must be representative of large socio-agro-ecological target in terms of farming system environment
- The site must be potential for research and development
- Considerations must be given on national policy, socio-economic parameters and characteristics of farmers in selecting target area
- Size of farm, tenurial arrangements, soil productivity, dominant farm enterprises, off farm and on-farm employment opportunities, communication and marketing facilities must be considered for selecting the target area
- In general, secondary sources of information population census, agricultural census, soil survey, aerial photographs, satellite, imagery, various types of maps, reports of other projects and previous research results of national and regional research centres can provide bulk of data required for selection of target area

Criteria for selecting FSR site

- The site must be representative of target area in terms of farming system environment
- The site must have potential for research and development
- The site should have adequate infrastructure providing inputs, credits marketing etc. to support improved production-consumption system

- The farmers of the site must be socially and economically representative of the larger target area
- The site should have adequate accessibility
- The site should be located in a priority development area

General steps for selecting a FSR site

- Understanding the existing farming system environment of the area using information from secondary sources and reconnaissance survey
- Travelling extensively throughout the target area physically by the research team and discussing with key informants to reinforce the understanding of the existing components of the farming environments
- Choosing two to three alternative sites each spreading across several villages
- Making comparative study of the alternative sites in terms of prevailing farming system environments
- Selecting one site finally which has most of the major varied situations securing within the broader target area in consultation with experienced FSRD scientists and extension personnel