

FFSnet Newsletter – April 2007

This is the monthly FFSnet Newsletter for April 2007. The next Newsletter will appear at the end of April 2007. If you have any inputs for the April issue, send your inputs to info@farmerfieldschool.net by 21 May 2007.

News

FFS methodology most likely to replace T&V in Mozambique

Most likely the new extension master plan and strategy for Mozambique will shift from the T&V to the FFS methodology, as suggested unanimously by extension officers from various provinces of Mozambique. The master plan is to receive financial support of US\$ 50.8 million, of which US\$ 20 million from IFAD as a loan and US\$ 30.8 million from the Government of Mozambique, PROAGRI and other donors.

FFS News from World Cocoa Foundation

Farmer training is the center of the work at the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF). Farmer training using the FFS approach is key to the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) sponsored regional programs in West Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia. WCF's work through the Farmer Field School approach was recently recognized at the PMCA 61st Annual Technical Production Conference, where they were honoured to receive the Hans Dresel Award. See http://blog.worldcocoafoundation.org/2007/04/wcf_receives_the_hans_dresel_m_1.php for the full story.

The April issue of the WCF newsletter highlights three Farmer Field School graduates who have used their new knowledge to increase yields and family income, support children's education, and practice environmentally sustainable agriculture. See the April WCF Newsletter: http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/for-the-media/newsletter_Apr2007.html

Bill Guyton, WCF President, also holds a blog on the WCF web site, in which he often refers to Farmer Field Schools. See <http://blog.worldcocoafoundation.org/2007/04/> for the April 2007 blogs.

Outputs

In April a few new Farmer Field School outputs appeared and were uploaded on the FFSnet database.

Learning about ecosystem health

Stephen Sherwood, Donald Cole and Charles Crissman have published an FFS article in the International Journal "Development in practice". The article calls for breaking down disciplinary professional barriers in overcoming challenges to ecosystem health. Through reflection on a research and development project to address pesticide-related concerns in northern Ecuador, the article presents challenges encountered and accommodations made, ranging from staff recruitment, through baseline assessments and community education activities, to mobilizing for policy change. In so doing, it exposes underlying problems of paradigm and process inherent in bringing researchers and development practitioners together, in addition to the problematic role of advocacy that is associated with joint research and development initiatives in the fields of agriculture and health.

Correct citation: Sherwood, S., D. Cole and C. Crissman, 2007. Cultural encounters: learning from cross-disciplinary science and development practice over ecosystem health. *Development in practice* 17-2: 179-195.

Article details: http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/output_view.asp?outputID=3479. This article is not available on-line. If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the article, please contact the FFSnet Support Unit (support@farmerfieldschool.net).

More articles by Stephen Sherwood:

http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/person_view.asp?personID=2031

How Weaver ants help capturing organic markets?

Paul van Mele and Jean-François Vayssières have published an article in Pesticide News in which they describe how weaver ants have been husbanded effectively in Asia to manage pests of citrus and cashew. These fascinating predatory insects kill key pests of many tree crops effectively decreasing the need to use pesticides. Their use has recently been extended into Africa in organic cashew, mango and cocoa production. The authors indicate how the expansion of weaver ant husbandry can be encouraged.

Correct citation: Van Mele, P., J-F. Vayssières, 2007. Weaver ants help farmers to capture organic markets. Pesticide News 75: 9-11.

Article details: http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/output_view.asp?outputID=3494.

More outputs by Paul Van Mele: http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/person_view.asp?personID=2594

Investing in farmers – Impact of FFS in relation to IPM

Henk van den Berg and Janice Jiggins have published an article in World Development in which they argue that public policy in developing countries has failed to invest in educating farmers on how to deal with variable agro-ecosystems and a changing world. The article presents an assessment of a participatory training (FFS) approach in changing crop protection by farmers from chemically dependent, to more sustainable practices in line with the tenets of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). They review the evidence from studies on an educational investment designed to capacitate farmers to apply IPM, and discuss these data in the light of an on-going policy debate concerning cost effectiveness. The results indicate substantial immediate and developmental benefits of participation in Farmer Field Schools.

Correct citation: Berg, H. van den, and J. Jiggings, 2007. Investing in farmers: The impacts of farmer field schools in relation to integrated pest management. World Development 35 (4): 663-686.

Article details: http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/output_view.asp?outputID=3497. This article is not available on-line. If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the article, please contact the FFSnet Support Unit (support@farmerfieldschool.net).

More outputs by Henk van den Berg:

http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/person_view.asp?personID=2123

LEISA Magazines

The various editions of the LEISA magazine regularly publishes articles about Farmer Field Schools. Below follows the list of regional editions, including their subscription information:

- LEISA Magazine, Global Edition (<http://www.leisa.info>). The global edition of the LEISA Magazine is free of charge to individuals and organisations in the South. Subscriptions can be made at <http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=subscriber-add.tpl>
- SALAM – Indonesian Edition (<http://salam.leisa.info/>)
- AGRIDAPE – French Edition (<http://agridape.leisa.info/>). Subscriptions: <http://agridape.leisa.info/index.php?url=subscriber-add.tpl>
- LEISA INDIA – Indian Edition (<http://india.leisa.info/>). Subscriptions: <http://india.leisa.info/index.php?url=subscriber-add.tpl>
- LEISA – Revista de Agroecologia (Spanish Edition): Subscriptions: <http://latinoamerica.leisa.info/index.php?url=subscriber-add.tpl>
- LEISA-Brasil - Revista Agriculturas, Experiências em Agroecologia (<http://agriculturas.leisa.info/>). Subscriptions: <http://agriculturas.leisa.info/index.php?url=subscriber-add.tpl>

Training

Two-week FFS Training-of-Trainers Course in Kenya

In the March Newsletter we already announced the FFS ToT course in Kenya. The dates have been changed and are now as follows:

- 1st batch 17th June, - 30th June, 2007
- 2nd batch 5th Aug. - 18th Aug. 2007
- 3rd batch 7th Oct. - 20th Oct. 2007

If you are interested to attend one of these courses, please contact the CDA FFS Secretariat in Mombasa, Kenya (ffsprogam@cdakenya.org or +254 (722) 358265, +254 (734) 961142 or +254 (722) 573029) for more details.

International Course on Demand side Management of Groundwater 23 July to 3 August 2007- India

From 23 July to 3 August 2007 an International Course on Demand side Management of Groundwater will be held in India". This course is being organized by FAO building upon the experiences of APFAMGS Project, which had shown remarkable results in approaching groundwater management from a completely different angle with tremendous participation of the farming community. The FFS methodology was used with a lot of success in this project. More details about the project can be found at <http://www.apfamgs.org>. The course is mainly intended for participants from the developing countries. Limited sponsorships would be available based on the profile and responsibilities of the participants. For more information, please contact PS Rao (PS.Rao@fao.org).

About Global-FFS-I

This message has been sent to you by the Global Farmer Field School Listserv (Global-FFS-I), which has been launched as part of the Global Farmer Field School Network and Resource Centre (FFSnet). The listserv is managed by the FFS Foundation and uses a moderation system for postings to the list, which means that messages sent by list members need to be approved by the Moderators. This is to prevent that you receive messages not meant for the whole list. Your moderators are Arnoud Braun and Marc Schut.



Collection of prior postings to the list: http://farmerfieldschool.net/pipermail/global-ffs-l_farmerfieldschool.net/

Posting a message to all the list members, send an email to global-ffs-l@farmerfieldschool.net. Postings will be moderated to prevent non-requested postings.

General information and to subscribe or unsubscribe, use the forms at: http://farmerfieldschool.net/mailman/listinfo/global-ffs-l_farmerfieldschool.net