




Towards Sustainability

Farmer to Farmer Education





Farmer Facilitators

IPM Farmer Field School



- Season-long learning experience for 25-30 farmers
- Participatory learning process
- Develop ecological understanding that helps in ecosystem analysis
- Set up field studies to test hypothesis



FFS Farmer Field Schools

Farmer Field School (FFS) is a unique approach to educate farmers in the skills necessary for a modern, market-oriented economy.

Farmer education is a trans-sectoral theme that addresses several key development issues:

- Poverty alleviation & sustainable livelihoods
- Protection of the environment & natural resources
- Food safety, safe trade & international treaties
- Health & safety at work
- Good governance, self-reliance & efficiency of state institutions
- Education & gender

Farmers Learn to Reduce Pesticides



When farmers understand the concept of biological control they tend to use **less pesticides** and only on a need basis, thus saving on production costs.



Many farmers discover for the first time, that a crop can be grown without pesticides.

Farmers Learn about Ecology and Natural Enemies

Farmers become excited about discovering the natural diversity in their fields and learn about natural enemies.










Ecosystem Analysis

Working in small groups, FFS participants observe and measure field conditions, create an ecosystem drawing as a visual analytical tool, present and defend their results and management decision

Field observations → Ecosystem Drawing → Presentation and Discussion

Farmers Learn New Management Skills

By improving farmers' observation skills and analytical capacities through self-discovery learning exercises (e.g. ecosystem analysis & insect zoos), farmers are better able to manage complex ecological field conditions and make their own informed management decisions.

These skills can be applied in many aspects of life.



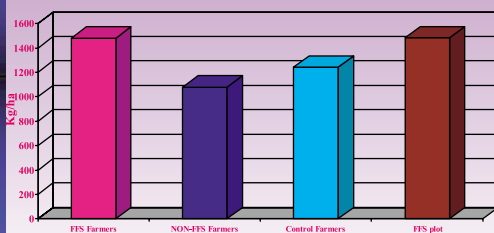

Farmers Learn Social Skills

FFS graduates are able to work more effectively with fellow farmers. FFS graduates plan, implement and monitor self-help activities, set-up their own local institutions or play a more important role in community groups.




Many farmers claim that FFS improved their family life. Some become effective trainers of new FFS in their communities.

Evidence on Change in Farmers Knowledge and Practice (Cotton Yield)



FFS Strengths

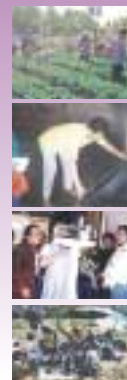
FFS are particularly suited for learning complex management skills.

FFS were developed for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which requires

- Observation skills
- Analytical skills
- Decision-making skills

These skills can also be extended to

- Crop management from sowing to marketing
- Animal husbandry
- Health, nutrition, child care
- Community development



Capacity Building in Quality Assurance of IPM Implementation through Farmer Field School Approach

- Quality Assessment Programme: both internally by Expert Facilitators and externally by Coaching and Monitoring Team
- Quality Assessment Indicators
- Facilitation to District FFS Coordinators
- Practice in FFS under supervision
- Feedback by District Coordinators
- Follow up by Expert Facilitator & External Team (coaching)

IPM Training in Pakistan 2001-2004

	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Training of Facilitators (ToF)	2	2	3	5	12
Farmer Training of Facilitators (FToF)	0	0	2	2	4
Facilitators trained	57	63	70	125	383
Farmer Field Schools (FFS)	25	104	174	209	512
Women Facilitators Trained (in pesticide risk reduction)	-	37	0	0	37
Women Open Schools (WOS)	-	14	19	19	52
Farmers trained	575	3062	4144	6159	13940
Women trained in WOS	-	251	242	500	993
FFS Alumni Groups	-	-	53	10	63

IPM-FFS Impact Targets

■ Poverty Alleviation / Economic Well-Being

- ◆ Increase in cotton gross margin
- ◆ Reduction in expenditures for agric. inputs
- ◆ Increased net household income for better nutrition and/or productive assets

(Main FFS beneficiaries are "normal" to marginal cotton farmers)

Development of IPM in Pakistan

Issues and Challenges

1. Enabling Policy Environment lacking	Pesticide and IPM Policy
2. IPM activities scattered and not institutionalized	Focused National IPM Programme
3. Lack of science based information on pesticides and alternatives	Database and information network
4. Research considerable but not tested on the farm	- Cropping system approach instead of commodity based - Farmer – research linkages
5. IPM implementation efforts small and isolated	- Field education of farmers - Farmer to farmer learning
6. IPM not present in education system	Specific emphasis on IPM in university and college curricula

Selling Points of the Programme

- Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination
- Reducing human health hazards
- Environment impact
- Creating Enabling Policy Environment
- Improving Extension Service
- Crop Management on Ecological Principles
- Farmers' own decisions
- Increasing Farmers' Net income
- Systems Approach
- Identifying and empowering Farm Leaders

Long-term Impact

Capacity Building in Quality Assurance of

IPM Implementation through Farmer Field School Approach