

**PRACTICAL GUIDELINES: *Participation of village/ farmer association***

**1. Diagnostic phase:**

- Fundamental questions: Is sorghum/ millet important for the farmers or does sorghum/ millet hold potential interest for the farmers?
- Does this research offer new techniques that could improve the current situation of sorghum/ millet production?
- Would the village be able to assist in the dissemination of new technologies?

**2. Discussion phase:**

- Is the village interested in becoming involved in the improvement of millet and sorghum production?
- Do the farmers already possess experience with innovations that increase productivity of sorghum/ millet or increase production revenue?
- What are the major constraints for increasing the production of sorghum/ millet?
- What kinds of technologies would the farmers be interested in?
- Which structures/ organisations could support the agricultural innovation processes?

**3. Commitment phase:**

- The village chief gives the go-ahead for the village to test out production innovations for sorghum/ millet.
- The village council is interested and gives its support to the diffusion of more efficient technologies.
- A group of experimenting farmers is established which will ensure communication lines between the village and the technicians/ researchers.
- The women of the village are involved in planning and decision making.
- Other support agencies are brought into the picture i.e. agricultural services, FOs, NGOs, banks, local credit institutions, grain traders, input-dealers.
- The role of each participant is clarified and the partners are informed.
- An agreement is signed (optional).