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).