

Participatory research methods for varietal selection and improvement of sorghum/ millet production

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES: Ranking or Scoring

Classifying and scoring are useful tools for distinguishing differences between varieties or new farming methods being tested. The following steps can be followed:

1. Clarify the varieties/ plots/ plants that are to be compared.
2. Clarify the criteria that you want to use in the comparisons (practical guidelines, choice of criteria).
3. Which methods do you want/ will use for distinguishing differences: classifying or scoring?
4. Explain the rules and show the processes i.e. who will do what.

Ranking = in order	Scoring = defined scale
a. Classify the varieties/ plots/ plants in order from best to worst	a. Define the scores, for example: 1= bad, 2= some problems, 3= average, 4= good, 5 = very good
b. The farmer explains why he has ranked the varieties in this way	b. The farmer scores each variety/ plot/ plant for each criterion
c. With the farmer, sum up and repeat the order as well as the reasons for the classification in order to confirm the interpretation	c. The farmer explains why he has given each score
Advantages of ranking:	Advantages of scoring
Enables you to determine which is the best option	Allows you to understand the preferred options and whether they are acceptable or not
You can compare a maximum of 5-7 varieties/ plots/ plants	You can evaluate a large number of plots
Facilitates an open discussion on the advantages, drawbacks, reasons behind decisions	You can make statistical analyses and compare the data of different localities
Drawbacks of ranking:	Drawbacks of scoring
Difficult to compare the results of one field with another	You must establish clear, precise criteria and maintain the same scale while scoring