

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW GUIDE

Topics to Explore

Gender norms and machine ownership
Economics of machinery use/ownership
Challenges of machinery ownership/use
Advantages of machinery ownership/use
Access to extension services.

Activities/Guidelines

Welcome participants

The topic for this discussion is to understand the issues around your machinery use for farming.

The results will be used to write about ways in which machines can be made available to rice farmers specifically, at Asutsuare.

You were selected because you are a rice farmer and you own/hire machines for your farming activities.

There is no right /wrong answer so you should allow anyone making a point to finish before you make your point as well.

As a moderator, I am only guiding the discussion among you

Sample Guide Questions

1. What is the most important thing about farming? Obviously farming is the main livelihood, but what groups of farmers are we talking about. Do they sell most of the rice they produce? What proportion of the harvest is consumed or sold? (Less than half, more than half?). What other crops do they cultivate beside rice? Do they trade these other crops or they consume them?
2. How important is it to use machinery for farming? [How important is the use of machinery in your farming activities?]
 - a. Which farming activity can be done without machines?
 - b. How often do you need to use machines on your farm?
 - c. Which machine will you use/own if you have the chance? Why?
3. What are the barriers to machine use in this community?
 - a. Are there different institutions within the community to promote machine use effectively?
 - b. Does the design of the features on a machine hinder your usage?
 - c. How are farmers able to get access to machinery (from which persons, service providers and how much do they pay)

4. Would you encourage your spouse to get machines for farm activities? (Is this question for the male FGDs? For women it would be interesting to know the particular challenges that they face in accessing machinery)
- 5.
6. What does your ideal service provider look like?
 - a. What kind of qualities do you look for?
 - b. Would you be willing to acquire tractor hire services from a female service provider?
7. When you want to buy a machine, what are the important things to look out for?
8. If you want to own/use machines, is there someone you must contact? (Some people also talk to their friends and relatives. It would be interesting to explore this so that you don't focus on only professional service providers)
 - a. Who do you need to talk to before buying a machine?
 - b. Who do you need to talk to before using a machine?
9. What additional income are you willing to spend on machinery for your farm?
 - a. Will you be willing to collectively contribute, purchase and own machinery? (Good question, but for which specific machinery and why?)
 - b. Do you have any space where you can store your machinery? Does the presence/absence of space to store machinery affect your choice of machinery use?
10. What are your opinions about the
 - a. Role of extension officers in machinery use
 - b. Role of financial institutions in supporting machinery use
 - c. Role of research institutes
 - d. Role of machinery manufacturers and importers
11. Ending: If you are asked to be in charge of machinery use for rice farming what will be the important things you will do?
12. Are there any issues that relate to machinery use, rice farming and agriculture in general which are crucial but were not highlighted in this discussion? (Explore).

Group Exercise

Access, control and ownership of machinery group exercise.

No.	Operation	Type of equipment being used			Access	Control	Ownership
		Human	Mechanical	Animal			
a.	Nursery preparation						
b.	Field preparation						
c.	Seedling preparation						
d.	Transplanting						
e.	Planting						
f.	Weeding						
g.	Bird scaring method						
h.	Fertilizer application						
i.	Irrigation						
j.	Spraying						
k.	Harvesting						
l.	Threshing or shelling						
m.	Drying						
n.	Milling						

Table 1. What main activities are associated with the following months?

Month	Main activities performed
January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

Daily calendar exercise for each group.

Time	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Activity																								