

Assessing and Measuring Capacities of Grassroots Institutions: How?



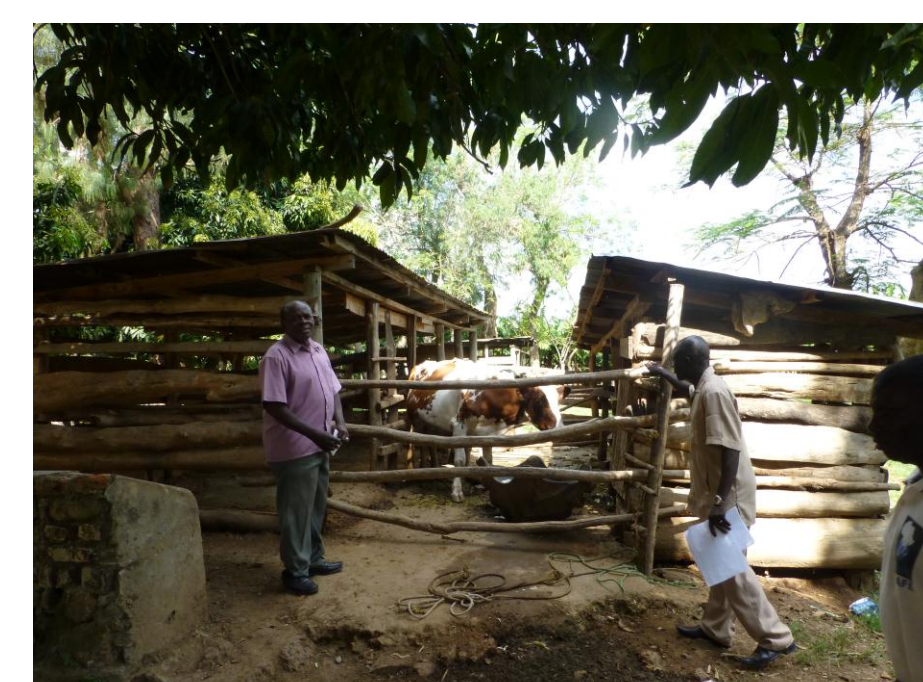
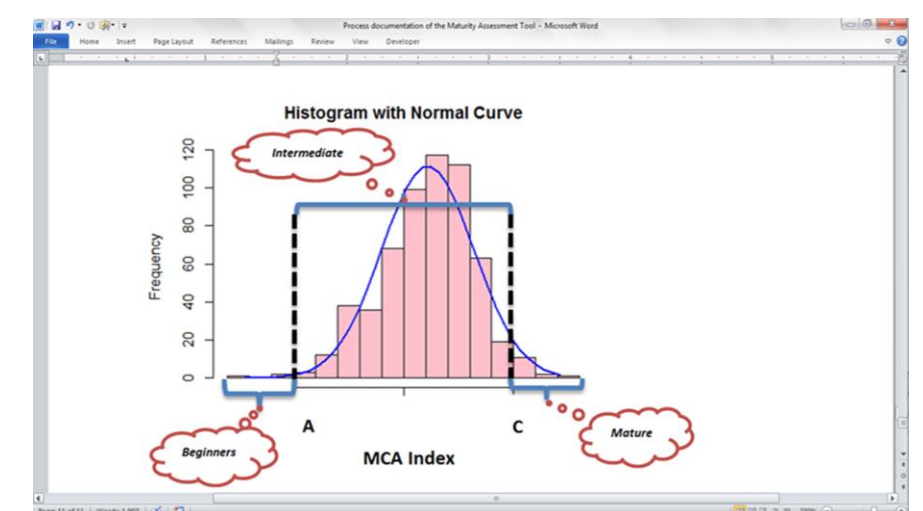
Rural institutions diagnostics

A maturity assessment tool that evaluates smallholder groups' advancement processes, has been developed and tested by the SRI project. It focuses on best practices that enhance the capacity of smallholder groups.

The tool is used to measure the levels of advancement of the smallholder groups around pre-defined criterion which facilitate an index of the groups maturity as a surrogate measure of their capacity. It is categorized into three advancement levels:

- Novice
- Intermediate
- Mature

A software package has been developed on the tool. It helps practitioners determine the structural maturity of the groups and monitor strengthening.



Benefits of this approach

- Provide an indication of existing group capacity to tailor project intervention to
- Initiates private public partnerships
- Assess progress of group as they develop
- Provide specific competence areas that the group needs
- Provide input for policy design for engaging with grassroots groups
- Provide a cost effective community development agenda setting
- Assess and measure group growth and improved capacities from interventions

Comments from users

“This tool is good for assessing the credit worthiness of rural groups when they seek financial assistance to undertake planned activities and enterprise development”

Isaac Ngigi, Equity Bank Official, Kenya

“The process has strengthened me and taught me how to identify weaknesses and strengths and to apply this in work plans. It has also taught me how to handle any activity in my personal life, transparency and accountability.”

Member Kosina self help group, Bungoma, Kenya

For more information regarding the project kindly Visit our Homepage at :
<http://worldagroforestry.org/regions/eastern-africa/our-projects/strengthening-rural-institutions>