**The McKnight Foundation**

**Collaborative Crop Research Programme**

**UPSCALING BEST FIT MAIZE-LEGUME TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH MULTI ENVIRONMENT TRIALS AND FARMER RESEARCH NETWORKS IN MALAWI**

**CHECKLIST FOR IDENTIFICATION OF FARMERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FRN (2017/18 SEASON)**

1. **Objectives**
   1. State objectives of the meeting
      1. To sensitise farmers on the FRN
      2. To help facilitate identification of farmers to participate in the FRN for 2017/18 season- **mention that farmers from other villages are already implementing the FRNs (ask if they have interacted with these FRN farmers before)**
   2. Explain the FRN concept
      1. What is it?

-A group of farmers conducting research and sharing findings with fellow farmers

* + 1. Why FRN?

-Help farmers identify their own solutions to their problems

* + 1. What happens in the FRN

- Activities from problem identification to evaluation

1. **Facilitate wealth ranking tool**

**(**Identification of farmer selection criteria)

* 1. Farmers introduced to the wealth ranking tool
     1. A tool for identifying and understanding local indicators and criteria of wealth, well-being, and poverty based on farmers’ own perceptions **(farmers in the community are not exactly the same)**
  2. Divide farmers into men and women

(Two groups depending on number of farmers attending)

* + 1. **While in groups farmers** identify the wealth categories found in their community. Ask participants to decide on the number of wealth categories, for example 3- **rich, medium, and poor.**
    2. This information is written on flip charts by farmers.
    3. Farmers should be guided by the following key questions:
* What are the characteristics of each category identified?
* How many households are in each category identified
  1. Farmers (Women and men) present their wealth ranking.
     1. Facilitators process the presentations through discussions with participants.
     2. Ask participants to discuss the criteria that they used in distinguishing between the better and less well-off members of their community
     3. Discuss and agree on the differences or contradictions emerging between the categories identified by women and men

1. **Identification and selection of farmers in the FRN by community** 
   1. The farmers are then asked to identify and select farmers to participate in the FRN, but to make sure that all the categories, including men and women identified are represented (10-15 or 20-25 farmers if some members do not come from the old FRN villages).
   2. However, it should also be stressed that only those farmers who are willing and ready to participate the entire season should be selected **(no farmer should be forced).**
   3. Extension worker facilitates the process of farmers selection (can be done the same day or at a later day- **within 2 days, preferably).** Names of selected farmers andthe wealth categories they represent are then recorded.
2. **End of exercise (thank the community)**