Practical Guides for Pearl Millet Variety Evaluation with Farmers

**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.

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| **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 |