

Food Systems & Agriculture Framework: Pilot Readiness Self- Assessment Tool

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The *Pilot Readiness Self-Assessment Tool* is a practical resource to help stakeholders—farmers, indigenous communities, youth, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local governments—evaluate their readiness to launch a pilot project under the *Food Systems & Agriculture Framework*. By assessing capacity in key areas, this tool ensures pilot projects align with the framework’s [Strategic Objectives](#) and [Core Principles](#) of sustainability, equity, resilience, and transparency. Designed for accessibility, it supports stakeholders in identifying strengths, gaps, and actionable steps to implement successful pilots that contribute to resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Overview

The tool provides a structured checklist to assess readiness across four key areas:

1. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Ability to involve diverse groups, including marginalized communities.
2. **Resources and Capacity:** Availability of funding, skills, and infrastructure.

3. **Alignment with Framework Objectives:** Consistency with the framework's goals, such as food security and regenerative practices.
4. **Risk Management and Resilience:** Preparedness for challenges like climate shocks or policy barriers.

Each area includes questions with a scoring system (0–3) and guidance for improvement. The tool is part of the [Start with the Seed Kit](#) and supports the framework's [Implementation Mechanisms](#).

Accessible explanation: This tool helps you check if you're ready to start a small project, like a new farm, by asking questions about your team, resources, and plans.

Alignment: Supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Instructions

1. **Review Questions:** Answer each question in the checklist honestly, considering your current capacity and resources.
2. **Score Responses:** Assign a score from 0 to 3 based on the provided criteria:
 - 0: Not in place or no plan.
 - 1: Initial steps taken but incomplete.
 - 2: Partially in place with clear plans to improve.
 - 3: Fully in place and operational.
3. **Calculate Totals:** Sum scores for each section and overall to assess readiness.
4. **Identify Next Steps:** Use the guidance provided to address gaps and strengthen readiness.
5. **Revisit Regularly:** Update the assessment as your project evolves to track progress.

Accessible explanation: Answer the questions, give yourself a score, add them up, and use the tips to get ready for your project.

Assessment Checklist

Stakeholder Engagement

Objective: Ensure inclusive collaboration with diverse stakeholders, as outlined in [Stakeholder Engagement](#).

Question	Score (0–3)	Guidance for Improvement
Have you identified key stakeholders (e.g., farmers, indigenous communities, youth, local governments) for your pilot?		Map stakeholders using the Stakeholder Engagement Charter Template . Engage at least 3 diverse groups.
Is there a plan to include marginalized groups (e.g., women, indigenous, refugees) in decision-making?		Develop a co-governance plan with 50% representation from marginalized groups, per framework recommendations.
Are regular dialogues or workshops planned to align stakeholder priorities?		Schedule at least 2 workshops in the first 6 months, involving 10–20 participants, to build trust.
Is there a mechanism to resolve conflicts among stakeholders?		Adopt Consensus Building Institute protocols, as outlined in the framework, and appoint a neutral facilitator.

Accessible explanation: Check if you have the right people involved, especially those often left out, and a way to work together fairly.

Resources and Capacity

Objective: Confirm availability of funding, skills, and infrastructure to support the pilot.

Question	Score (0–3)	Guidance for Improvement
Do you have access to funding or resources (e.g., grants, local budgets) to start the pilot?		Explore local grants, crowdfunding, or partnerships with NGOs. Aim for at least \$5,000–\$10,000 for a micro-pilot.
Are there trained individuals (e.g., farmers, trainers) to implement regenerative practices or TEK?		Use the Regenerative Farming Guide to train at least 5–10 individuals before launch.

Question	Score (0–3)	Guidance for Improvement
Is necessary infrastructure (e.g., irrigation, seed banks) available or planned?		Plan for low-cost solutions like rainwater harvesting, targeting 1–2 systems within 6 months.
Do you have access to technology (e.g., SMS alerts, data platforms) to support the pilot?		Partner with local tech providers or use low-tech solutions like radio, as outlined in Foster Innovation .

Accessible explanation: Make sure you have money, trained people, tools, and technology to start your project.

Alignment with Framework Objectives

Objective: Ensure the pilot supports the framework's goals, as detailed in [Strategic Objectives](#).

Question	Score (0–3)	Guidance for Improvement
Does the pilot promote regenerative agriculture or agroecology?		Incorporate at least 1 regenerative practice (e.g., cover cropping) using the Regenerative Farming Guide .
Will the pilot improve food security or access to nutritious food locally?		Design the pilot to serve at least 50–100 people with affordable food, aligning with SDG 2.
Does the pilot integrate TEK or involve indigenous communities?		Partner with indigenous groups to co-design 1 TEK-based practice, per Integration of TEK .
Is the pilot scalable to contribute to regional or national goals?		Plan for scalability by documenting outcomes and engaging regional networks, as in Regional Customization .

Accessible explanation: Check if your project helps grow food sustainably, feeds people, uses local wisdom, and can grow bigger.

Risk Management and Resilience

Objective: Assess preparedness for challenges, as outlined in [Risk Management](#).

Question	Score (0–3)	Guidance for Improvement
Have you identified potential risks (e.g., drought, market disruptions) for your pilot?		Conduct a risk assessment using the framework’s risk categories (e.g., climate, geopolitical) and list 3–5 risks.
Is there a plan to mitigate climate-related risks (e.g., crop insurance, drought-resistant crops)?		Adopt 1–2 mitigation strategies, like drought-resistant seeds, as in Regional Customization .
Are there contingency plans for supply chain or policy disruptions?		Develop a backup plan, such as local sourcing, to ensure 30% of inputs are locally secured.
Does the pilot include measures to protect data or technology (if applicable)?		Implement basic cybersecurity protocols, like secure passwords, for any digital tools, per framework guidelines.

Accessible explanation: Plan for problems like bad weather or supply issues to keep your project strong.

Scoring and Next Steps

Scoring:

- **Total Score:** Sum the scores across all questions (maximum 48 points, 12 questions × 3 points each).
- **Readiness Levels:**
 - **0–15:** Low readiness. Focus on building stakeholder partnerships and securing resources. Reassess in 3–6 months.
 - **16–30:** Moderate readiness. Address key gaps (e.g., training, risk planning) and aim to launch a micro-pilot within 6–12 months.

- **31–48:** High readiness. Proceed with pilot planning, using tools like the [Start with the Seed Kit](#), and launch within 3–6 months.

Next Steps:

- **Low Readiness:** Engage with local NGOs or use the [Stakeholder Engagement Charter Template](#) to build partnerships. Seek funding opportunities via the [Cost-Benefit Analysis Model](#).
- **Moderate Readiness:** Prioritize training with the [Regenerative Farming Guide](#) and develop a risk mitigation plan. Schedule stakeholder workshops to align goals.
- **High Readiness:** Finalize pilot design, set KPIs using the [Monitoring & Evaluation Rubric Template](#), and launch the pilot, documenting outcomes for scalability.

Example:

- A smallholder cooperative in Kenya scores 28 (moderate readiness). They lack TEK integration (score: 1) and risk planning (score: 1). They use the [TEK Integration Template](#) to partner with indigenous groups and adopt drought-resistant crops, reassessing in 3 months to reach high readiness.

Accessible explanation: Add up your scores to see how ready you are, then follow tips to improve and start your project.

Alignment: Supports [Timeline and Milestones](#) and [Risk Management](#).

Cross-Reference Note: This tool supports pilot launches as part of [Implementation Mechanisms](#) and aligns with [Regional Customization](#). Explore the [Index](#) for navigation or access additional tools at the [Tools Library](#).