

Needs & Opportunity

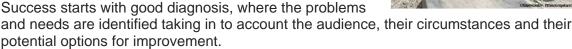


What is a Needs and Opportunity Assessment (NOA)?

Many forms of participatory assessment exist. The NOA is one simple, efficient (1-3 days) easy-to-follow flexible method for assessing the farmers' actual problems, problem causes and possible solutions - paying particular attention to the farmers' circumstances.

Why use a NOA?

Farmers often do not adopt recommendations. This problem often arises due to a mismatch between the farmers' actual needs and circumstances and their needs as perceived by research and extension groups.



The needs and opportunity assessment (NOA) is a powerful tool that can help diagnose farmers' real problems and constraints and help research and extension groups develop more appropriate solutions.



Conducting the NOA

The steps for conducting a NOA involve close association with local groups and the target group farmers:

- 1. Select the site.
- 2. Collect secondary data.
- 3. Plan for the NOA.
- Conduct the NOA field activities.
- 5. Characterize and map the site and domain.
- Analyze the stakeholders.
- 7. Analyze and prioritize problems.
- 8. Synthesize observations from field and farmer visits to plan next steps
- 9. Analyze problems and their causes.
- 10. Develop solutions and accompanying options with farmers.
- 11. Match the solutions with farmers' needs and circumstances.
- 12. Prepare the report.

Prepared by MA Bell and JF Rickman – based on work at IRR For more information visit: International Programs <u>ip.ucdavis.edu</u>

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