

FARMER FIELD SCHOOL ESTABLISHMENT

Farmer Field School is one of the approaches DAES uses to render extension service to farmers. A typical FFS has at least 3 core activities: agro-ecosystem analysis (AESA) on the main field study, a special topic and a group dynamics exercise.

Learning Objectives:

At the end, an FFS graduating farmers would have:

- I. Learned and shared experiences on sustainable agricultural production
- II. Learned and developed agro-skills and farm management tool
- III. Implemented the 4 key IPM principles: growing a healthy crop; monitoring fields regularly; conserving beneficials and bio-diversity and farmers becoming knowledgeable.

Approach

Practical TOT/FFS training and learning, which is discovery based was conducted with a main and supporting field studies at various cropping season

- I. Crop Management Trials – for practical agro-skill development through comparative learning from cultivation practices (Farmer practice versus Improved Practice)
- II. Supporting Field studies (SFS) or PAR Trials – for knowledge acquisition through validation of recommended research and indigenous knowledge /technologies and to enrich the technical inputs in TOT/FFS
- III. Three (3) TOTs and 3-6 FFSs in 3 beneficiary communities

In 2015, 33 (2AEAs and 1District Extension Officer) field officers were engaged as part of FFS/TOT training on 4 trials at Agona East District. These officers were drawn from 11districts in 4 regions (Central, Eastern, Greater Accra and Volta). The participants in turn concurrently established 17 FFS in their respective communities to inculcate or emulate lessons learned. A total of 447 farmers were involved in 17 FFS; comprising 247 males, 190 females and 77 youth in the 11 districts.



An AEA giving a presentation at one FFS sessions



A resource person (Dr. Joe Manu) interacting with the trainees on one of the FFS plots