Lead Farmers and Demonstration Farming

The community identifies common farming problems and works with local ‘lead farmers’ to find ways of overcoming them, and then demonstrate the best solutions to others in the community.

Helps communities tackle the changing climate conditions they are facing.

Addresses locally identified problems with locally available and appropriate solutions.

Makes the most of local knowledge and encourages linking to government extension services.

Helps people grow more food and crops to feed their families and sell for income.

Get started

The aim is to make the most of locally available skills and knowledge to empower farmers to implement their own decisions in their own fields. It is all about self-help – communities helping each other. The volunteer works with the lead farmers, preferably with help from local extension officers, to identify a small number of farming methods that they think will address the community’s main farming problems.

✔ Adults learn better when they see something and have a go for themselves. Make sure you include lots of observation and practise and discuss what works and what does not work as well.

To get started, find out who is interested in taking part and select which agricultural problems to address. Select ‘lead farmers’ trusted by the community and organize trainings for lead farmers to test and demonstrate new farming techniques.

Find the full guidance in the Easy Volunteer Actions Handbook at: www.livelihoodscentre.org