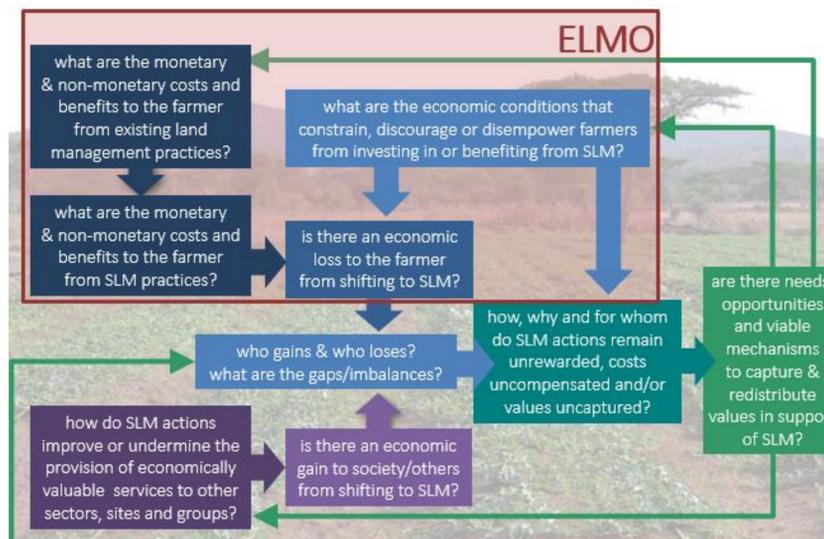


Evaluating Land Management Options (ELMO)

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Background

- ✓ Without understanding what (and why) farmers need and are able to carry out, SLM uptake is likely to remain very limited.
- ✓ ELMO is participatory tool to assessing farmers' land management decision preferences & trade-offs. Is mainly concerned with identifying the social and economic drivers of land management decisions & understanding farmers' preferences for different SLM practices.
- Intention is to better understand farmers' own perceptions and explanations of the benefits, costs, advantages, disadvantages & trade-offs associated with different land management choices as they relate to their own needs, aspirations, opportunities and constraints



Reference summary of ELMO process, content & outputs

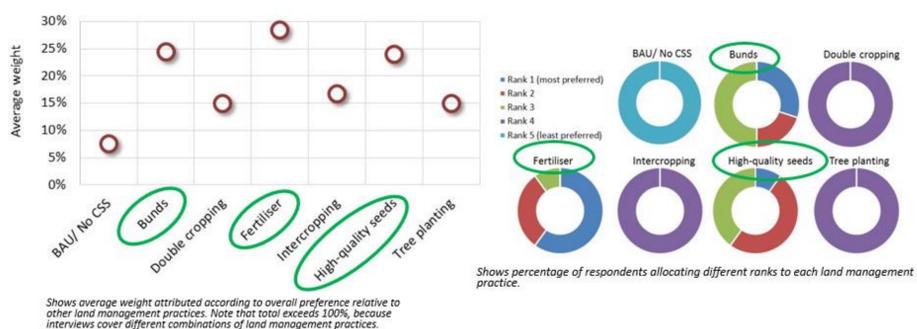
QUESTIONS	STEPS	TOOLS	INFORMATION GENERATED
What are the key conditions and characteristics that underpin farmers' LM decisions?	1 Identify LM techniques, costs, benefits & (dis)advantages	Focus group discussion	• Identifies LM techniques & features to be investigated via ELMO
	2 Record respondent characteristics	Checklist	• Basic information on the respondent's socio-economic & farming background.
	3 Define LM techniques & baseline	Structured discussion	• List of LM alternatives to be discussed in the interview; • Common understanding of what different (S)LM techniques involve & how they are carried out; • Baseline data on farmer's "business as usual" cropping and land management situation
What is the relative importance of different factors in determining (enabling or constraining) farmers' LM choices?	4 Rank LM costs & input requirements	Ranking on scale	• Indication of how easy or difficult each type of cost or input is for the farmer to afford, access or allocate.
	5 Score LM costs & input requirements	Scoring	• Relative cost burden incurred to the farmer in each input category, compared across all LM alternatives.
	6 Rank LM benefits & desired outcomes	Ranking on scale	• Relative importance of each type of potential LM outcome to the farmer; • Indication of how essential & desirable each type of outcome is to the farmer when making LM choices.
	7 Score LM benefits & desired outcomes	Scoring	• Relative generation of benefits provided to the farmer in each outcome category, compared across all LM alternatives.
What are farmers' preferences for alternative SLM practices, in relation to their needs?	8 Rank LM advantages & positive attributes	Ranking on scale	• Relative advantages associated with LM alternatives; • Indication of how important each advantage is to the farmer when making LM choices.
	9 Rank LM disadvantages & negative attributes	Ranking on scale	• Relative disadvantages associated with SLM alternatives; • Indication of how important each disadvantage is to the farmer when making LM choices.
	10 Rank and weight LM alternatives overall	Ranking & weighting	• Relative rank of each LM alternative in terms of farmer's overall preferences; • Overall factors driving choice between LM alternatives.

Feedback loop for assessing SLM costs & benefits

Benefits/applications

- Informs design of interventions which are **acceptable, feasible & sustainable** – according to farmers' own needs, preferences & aspirations; which can help overcome **constraints & barriers** to SLM and tap into the economic gains and potentials associated with them.
- Identify ways of **changing the economic conditions & circumstances** that cause land degradation, and set in place opportunities and rewards which will make SLM economically viable, desirable & profitable land management option

Overall preference of practices



Relative importance of advantages & disadvantages of practices

