

# ELMO – the ten key steps

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

1. Identify “master list” of the SLM techniques in a FGD

3. Define the LM alternatives that will be discussed during the interview and to understand the farmer’s “business as usual” cropping and land management baseline.



4. Rank on scale LM costs & input requirements to find out the farmer’s perceptions of the availability and affordability of LM inputs and costs.



(distribute the cost/input cards along the scale according to how they perceive the access, availability and affordability of that cost or input to them)

5. Score LM costs & input requirements to investigate the farmer’s perceptions of the relative costs of each LM alternative in terms of the cash and non-cash inputs that are required to establish and maintain it.

	BAU / No SLM	Grass Strips	Box Ridges	Contour Terraces	Compost & Manure
Own/family labour		2 counters	3 counters	4 counters	1 counter
Bought inputs	3 counters	2 counters	4 counters	1 counter	5 counters
Free materials	4 counters	3 counters	2 counters	1 counter	5 counters
Technical knowhow	1 counter	2 counters	3 counters	4 counters	5 counters

6. Rank on scale LM benefits & desired outcomes to find out how important different LM benefits and desired outcomes are for the farmer: which ones are most/least essential in terms of her/his needs, wants and livelihood circumstances



7. Score LM benefits & desired outcomes to investigate the farmers’ perceptions of the relative benefits of each LM alternative in terms of the cash and non-cash outputs that are generated.

	BAU / No SLM	Grass Strips	Box Ridges	Contour Terraces	Compost & Manure
Increased cash income	3 counters	2 counters	4 counters	1 counter	5 counters
Better food production	1 counter	2 counters	3 counters	4 counters	5 counters
Enhanced crop yields	2 counters	3 counters	4 counters	1 counter	5 counters
More drought protection	1 counter	2 counters	3 counters	4 counters	5 counters

2. Establish the respondent’s household and farming background

8. Rank on scale LM advantages & positive attributes to investigate the farmer’s perceptions of the advantages associated with different LM alternatives, as well as indicating how important s/he considers these positive attributes to be: which ones s/he thinks are the most significant in terms of her/his needs and wants



Respondents rank advantage cards according to how significant s/he considers each positive attribute to be in light of his/her needs, wants and livelihood circumstances

(The LM choices should be ranked vertically under each advantage card, depending on the extent to which the farmer thinks that each displays that positive attribute.)

9. Rank on scale LM disadvantages & negative attributes to investigate the farmer’s perceptions of the disadvantages associated with different LM alternatives, as well as indicating how important s/he considers these negative attributes to be: which ones s/he thinks are the most significant in terms of her/his needs and wants.



Respondents rank disadvantage cards according to how significant the respondent considers each negative attribute to be in the light of his or her needs, wants and livelihood circumstances.

(The LM choices should be ranked vertically under each disadvantage card, depending on the extent to which the farmer thinks that each displays that negative attribute.)

10. Rank and weight LM alternatives overall to assess the farmer’s relative preference for each LM alternative. This brings together all information and discussions held earlier interview into a single, final, weighting and ranking of different SLM choices in their entirety.



Line up SLM cards in order of ‘importance’ and distribute counters between the cards, to show the relative weight of preference that they ascribe to each LM alternative in comparison to the others. Also, Also ask respondent to state the reason that they have ranked and weighted each LM technique in that way.