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. It 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.

**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.

**Relative importance of advantages & disadvantages of practices**

**Overall preference of practices**

**Advantages**
- Reduced risk
- Low upfront investment
- Quick returns
- Tenure or other security
- Fertilizer
- Intercropping
- Bunds
- Double cropping
- Tree planting

**Disadvantages**
- Too expensive
- Too lengthy to reap benefits
- Too labor-intensive
- Tenure or other security
- Fertilizer
- Intercropping
- Bunds
- Double cropping
- Tree planting