Experience with applying the Legume CHOICE tool

1. **When did you most recently apply the tool? In which communities and with how many farmers?**

The tool was tested in June 2015 on selected community farmers drawn from the four Kenya project implementation sites in Nyaribari Chache and Kitutu chache North sub counties of; and Rongo and Suna west of Kisii and Migori Counties respectively. Eighteen farmers were invited in each site while taking into consideration wealth typologies: 6 high resource, 6 medium resource and 6 low resource farmers. Thresholds for the typologies were land area, livestock holding and fertilizer use. A total of 39 farmers turned up for the activity.

2. **How did it go? Was the tool easy to apply and were the instructions clear? What difficulties were encountered?**

The exercise went on well. The tool was easy to apply given the instructions were precise and clear. However, a few challenges were encountered during the process:

- ✓ The tool requires sufficient time to finalize. For instance, community needs assessment requires rather longer time that could not be possible during FGDs. This step was skipped
- ✓ There was no clear difference between pairwise ranking and scores from participatory matrix scoring hence the pairwise ranking results was not reported
- ✓ Representation by gender and resource endowment was not uniform
- ✓ Low participation since not all invited farmers turned up for the exercise

3. **Did application of the Legume CHOICE tool help to inform the current set of legume interventions that are being applied in field sites? If not, give an indication of why this is.**

Yes, the tool assisted project team to identify promising legume interventions based on community dialogue (achieved through FGDs) and expert knowledge. It is the data from the FGDs that were analyzed using the tool in order to decide on legume options to be implemented in the current cropping season. However, after obtaining a set of legume species recommended for the implementation sites, further work was involved especially in assessing biophysical compatibility and availability of the proposed legumes.

4. **What do you see as the next steps in refining the Legume CHOICE tool and making it more useful?**

We suggest that as we continue to develop and refine the tool, biophysical assessment component be integrated into the tool.

5. **Would there be merit at this stage in conducting trainings on the use of the tool with external stakeholders? If not, when should we conduct trainings and what needs to happen before we carry out trainings?**

Another meeting should be organized soon for the project team to brainstorm, refine and familiarize more with the tool before conducting trainings with external stakeholders.