

ALTERNATIVE SOIL AND WATER AND WEED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR VLEIS

with emphasis on maize-rice systems

MODULE 7: EVALUATING ALTERNATIVES



This is the seventh of 7 training modules

A GROUP EXTENSION GUIDE USING PICTURES

Picture *EA1*: Mid season evaluations

Question: Do you recognise this picture?

Answer: Farmers inspecting the crops that were planted in the evaluations.

Explain:

- Everyone should undertake a field inspection of the crops
- Everyone should understand exactly what each treatment is.
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of each treatment
- Undertake a matrix ranking of the different treatments ranking each against the advantages and disadvantages that have been identified



Picture *EA2*: End-of-season evaluation

Question: Do you recognise this picture?

Answer: People discussing the trials after they have been harvested

Explain:

- The group should complete the evaluation that was undertaken during the mid season field days using the records that were kept.
- The crop from each treatment needs to be harvested, kept separate and measured.
- Yield may not be the only criteria that farmers want to consider. Other resources and their costs, such as labour or draft animals may need to be considered before drawing a final conclusion.
- This is best achieved by developing a **participatory budget** with farmers, which compares each of the technologies being tested.

