PRACTICAL GUIDELINES: Ranking or Scoring

Classifying and scoring are useful tools for distinguishing differences between varieties or new farming methods being tested. The following steps can be followed:

1. Clarify the varieties/ plots/ plants that are to be compared.
2. Clarify the criteria that you want to use in the comparisons (practical guidelines, choice of criteria).
3. Which methods do you want/ will use for distinguishing differences: classifying or scoring?
4. Explain the rules and show the processes i.e. who will do what.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking = in order</th>
<th>Scoring = defined scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Classify the varieties/ plots/ plants in order from best to worst</td>
<td>a. Define the scores, for example: 1 = bad, 2 = some problems, 3 = average, 4 = good, 5 = very good</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. The farmer explains why he has ranked the varieties in this way</td>
<td>b. The farmer scores each variety/ plot/ plant for each criterion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. With the farmer, sum up and repeat the order as well as the reasons for the classification in order to confirm the interpretation</td>
<td>c. The farmer explains why he has given each score</td>
</tr>
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Advantages of ranking:

- Enables you to determine which is the best option
- You can compare a maximum of 5-7 varieties/ plots/ plants
- Facilitates an open discussion on the advantages, drawbacks, reasons behind decisions

Advantages of scoring:

- Allows you to understand the preferred options and whether they are acceptable or not
- You can evaluate a large number of plots
- You can make statistical analyses and compare the data of different localities

Drawbacks of ranking:

- Difficult to compare the results of one field with another

Drawbacks of scoring:

- You must establish clear, precise criteria and maintain the same scale while scoring