

## Session 15: WAY FORWARD

### Objectives

1. To integrate your new knowledge into a proposed 6-year rotation for your farm.
2. Discuss and suggest study circle topics for the future.



- **Let each and everyone present their plans on how to incorporate their new knowledge into their farming practices**
- **Help each other to improve the plans.**
- **Discuss ideas on how to collaborate within the group in the future.**

### How to put knowledge into practice

This manual presents a brief look at some important aspects of sustainable agriculture. If you have been mono-cropping or segregating plants, laying out your garden like a military parade ground in orderly rows, a change to sustainable agriculture will do wonders for your crops. Farming does not depend on luck but rather on careful planning, observation and making informed decisions at the right time. It may mean more work, but successful farming requires commitment.

The techniques that the group has been discussing can increase your yields, improve the quality of your products, improve the health of your soil and of your family, and give increased income. For this to be realized you should start testing and using your knowledge.

## **Some thoughts on your way...**

Our primary task is to support nature in maintaining itself. Nowhere is this more important than in caring for the soil, the very foundation of life on this earth. We must never forget that the important factor in soil fertility is the life present in the soil, the organisms that convert waste materials into ideal food for plants, upon which all animal life depends. Think of the soil as money in a bank account loaned to us as a birthright. If we do not operate this account according to nature's rules, which we have learnt by observation, our children will inherit a bankrupt account.

### **Plan your future studies**

What else do you want to learn in future? List the topics you think are of interest. Each participant should make his or her own list. Think about topics that are specific (not general), and topics that can lead to clear results within an acceptable time frame.

Also think about what study material you would use. If you prefer material especially made for study circles you should find out what topics are available. Your extension officer or the one introducing you to the study circle concept should have a list of the handbooks available. If there is no such handbook on your topic, you should inform your contact person/study circle organiser that you wish to study this topic and together you can find or order appropriate material for your studies.

Do you all wish to study the same topic or is there a need to split up and create more study circles? Have other people been interested in joining study circles? Would they be interested in any of the suggested topics? Could they be invited into the future study circles? Who would be the leaders? Are these leaders trained or is there a need for the chosen leader to have a session on how to lead the studies.