

The Usefulness of the Small Farm Resource Center for Ag Development

By

Abram Bicksler, Ph.D., ECHO Asia Impact Center

Ricky Bates, Ph.D., Penn State University

UHDP

iClicker Quiz

- Using your iClicker, answer the following to the best of your ability:
- I have:
 - A) started a Small Farm Resource Center (SFRC)
 - B) taken a tour of an SFRC
 - C) attended a training at an SFRC
 - D) never been to an SFRC
 - E) don't know what an SFRC is

iClicker Quiz

- Answer the following to the best of your perception:
- Small Farm Resource Centers (SFRCs) still are useful tools in development
 - A) Strongly disagree
 - B) Slightly disagree
 - C) Neutral (neither agree or disagree)
 - D) Slightly agree
 - D) Strongly agree

Introduction and Project Background

- Agricultural extension in Asia has existed since 535 B.C. in China
- Agricultural extension promoted by William Carey in India in the 18th century
 - 5 ac of land near Calcutta to study new crops for the region
- Sam Higginbottom (1910) established agricultural institute in Allahabad, India
 - Modern farming techniques and implements
 - Improved crops and livestock breeds
 - Still in existence



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Introduction and Project Background



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- Brayton Case (1923) established Pyinmana Agricultural School in Burma
 - Provided agricultural education for young Burmese and outreach to communities
 - Improved livestock and crop breeds
- Rise of the NGO SFRC- after WWII
 - Usually associated with an NGO or religious institution focused on underserved populations

Introduction and Project Background

- Rise of the NGO SFRC after WWII
 - Example: Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center (MBRLC) begun in 1971
 - ECHO founded in early 80's
 - Dr. Martin Price (of ECHO) wrote concept paper on the SFRC in 1992
 - However, started to fall out of vogue- Farmer Field Schools, Farmer Led Extension, and PRA coming to forefront



Introduction and Project Background

- Baseline
 - No systematic evaluation undertaken
 - Loose grouping of SFRCs in Asia (known by ECHO?)

Asking the question: Antiquated or Adaptable?

**Is the SFRC still of use to agricultural communities
as a valuable extension and outreach tool?**



Methodology and Approach

- Funding through MEAS- effort to strengthen global extension work, esp in Global South
- Chose 7 SFRCs throughout SE Asia
- Contacted all directors in Dec with written survey covering 36 questions
- Conducted personal visit to all SFRCs to collect information



Methodology and Approach

- 3 days at each SFRC
 - 1-1.5 days with staff
 - Stakeholder identification
 - SWOT
 - Interviews
 - Needs assessments
 - Perceptions surveys
 - 1-1.5 days with beneficiaries/stakeholders
 - Interviews
 - Needs assessments
 - Perceptions surveys



Methodology and Approach

- Created 7 Case Studies (1 for each Center)
- Created a Synthesis/Lessons Learned about all of the centers
- Lessons Learned will be our focus today



The SFRC Model

- In its simplest form, an SFRC is:
 - A research-extension tool
 - That coordinates trials at a central site
 - As well as potentially on the fields of individual farmers
 - With the purpose of evaluating,
 - Within the community,
 - Ideas that have been proven elsewhere





The SFRC Model

This adaptive research is

- Conducted directly by the NGO (missions organization, individual, other institution)
 - And local farmers
- Extended to the community
 - After it has been proven and verified

The SFRC Model

- Some marks of “typical” (if there is such a thing) SFRC include:
 - Involves minimal risk to local farmers
 - Employs innovative (non-mainstream?) approaches
 - Builds such confidence among stakeholders that resources and ideas are readily and organically adopted and adapted
 - Extends resources that are readily (culturally) accepted



The SFRC Model

- Some marks of “typical” (if there is such a thing) SFRC include:
 - Has a distinct focus group (geographic, ethnic, linguistic, etc.) with determined needs
 - Identifies and utilizes early adopters and “positive deviants”
 - Is not necessarily limited to agriculture, but may include other social-development foci, such as:
 - Health
 - Sanitation
 - Energy
 - Water resources
 - Citizenship...



The SFRC Model

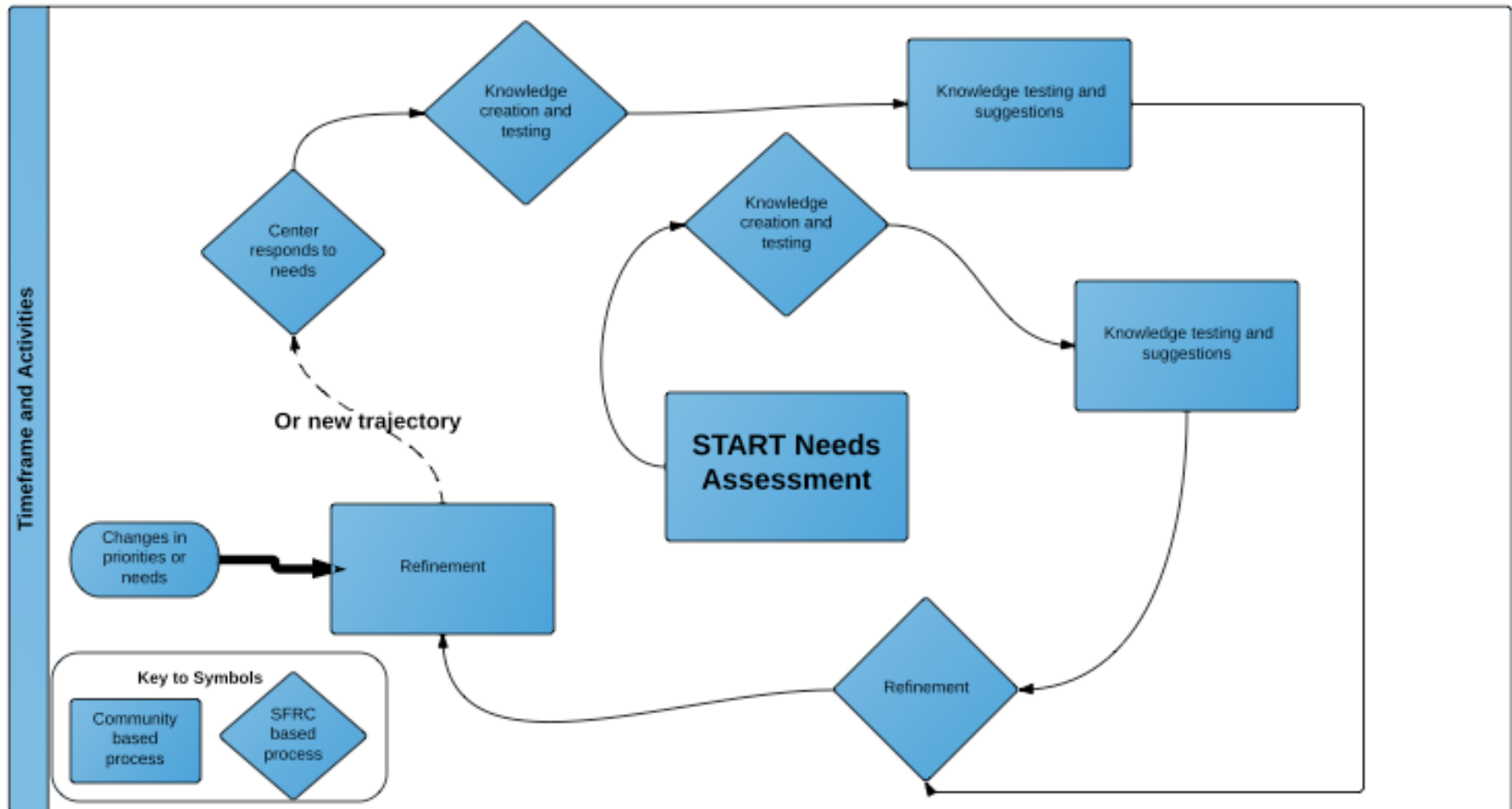
- Some marks of “typical” (if there is such a thing) SFRC include:
 - Places a priority on community-based services
 - Is rooted in a local context
 - Is often defined by organic growth, outreach, and adoption



The SFRC Model

- Overall goal:
 - Local farmers/beneficiaries are:
 - Encouraged to learn how to do their own testing of new ideas
 - Adopt those successful technologies
 - Adapt those technologies and improve upon them
 - Extend the adopted/adapted technologies to their fellow farmers and back to the SFRC
 - Community food security and livelihoods are improved within the scope of the objectives of the community

Cycle of Extension Knowledge Refinement Between Communities and an SFRC



iClicker Quiz

- I have been to/experienced the following conducted by an SFRC:
 - A: On-Center demonstrations
 - B: Off-Center demonstrations
 - C: On-Center trainings
 - D: Off-Center trainings
 - E: Off-Center extension



The SFRC Model in Practice

- On-center demonstrations and research



The SFRC Model in Practice

- On-center demonstrations and research



The SFRC Model in Practice

- On-center demonstrations and research



The SFRC Model in Practice

- Off-center demonstrations



The SFRC Model in Practice

- Off-center demonstrations



The SFRC Model in Practice

- Off-Center Demonstrations



The SFRC Model in Practice

- On-center trainings



The SFRC Model in Practice

- Off-center trainings



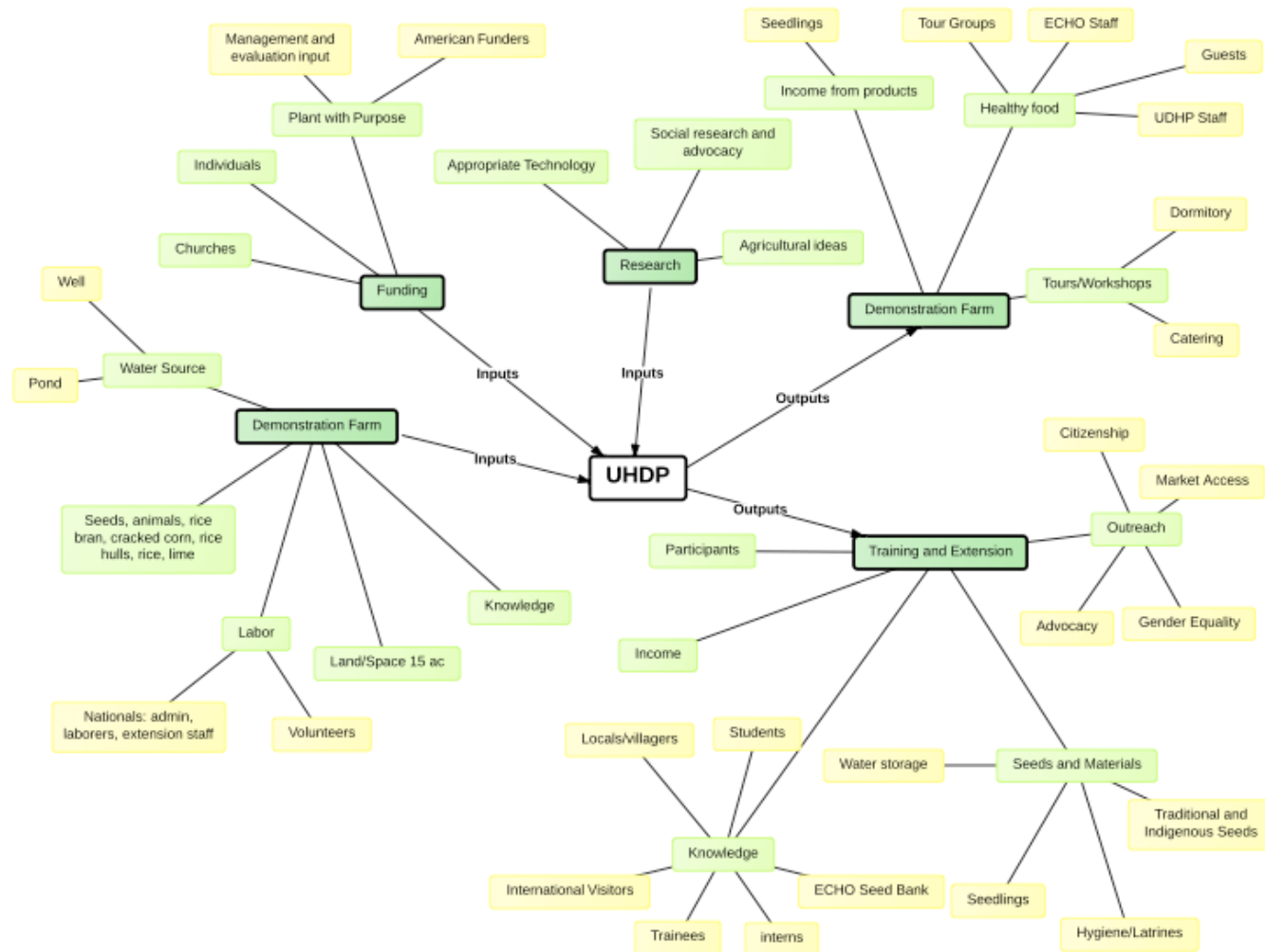
The SFRC Model in Practice

- Off- center extension



The SFRC Model in Practice

- Typically, very tight input-output loops; reduces dependency, saves money



The SFRC Model in Practice

SFRC Name	Location	Director/Contact
Ntok Ntee	Mondulkiri, Cambodia	Ken Thompson
FCI	Indochina	Contact Authors
Sustainable Agriculture Training Center (SATC)	Hmawbi, Myanmar	Saw Hei Moo
Aloha House	Puerto Princessa, Philippines	Keith Mikkelsen
Siloam Karen Baptist Life Development Center (CUHT)	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Suwan Jantarayut
Thai Lahu Christian Churches (TLCC) Bi-Vocational School	Doi Saket, Thailand	Marting Chaisuriya
Upland Holistic Development Project (UHDP)	Mae Ai, Thailand	Bunsak Thongdi

Methodology and Approach



iClicker Quiz

- How Many SFRCs were studied for this case study?
 - A: 1
 - B: 5
 - C: 10
 - D: 7
 - E: 9

Aloha House

- Year Founded: 1999
- Location: Palawan, Philippines
- Size: 6.9 ac / 2.8 ha
- Main Approaches: Orphanage and sus ag farm offering trainings and consulting
- # Staff: 14
- # On and Off-Farm Activities: 55
- Beneficiaries: 20,000 people; including communities, online users; children; tour groups
- Unique Findings: farm is profitable and offsets 25% of orphanage operating costs; uses profit sharing with employees; impact is extended using the internet

TLCC Bi-Vocational School

- Year Founded: 2001
- Location: Doi Saket
- Size: 6.7 ac / 2.7 ha
- Main Approaches: Religious, agricultural, and vocational training
- # Staff: 10 combined with BS
- # On and Off-Farm Activities: 10
- Beneficiaries: 12,000/ 40 congregations; mainly Lahu communities through training of students
- Unique Findings: Students and target communities very interested in engagement through extension

Averages

- Average Years: 16 years old
- Average Size: 59.9 ac / 24.2 ha
- Average Cost to Build: \$242,143
- Average Cost to Operate: \$28,515
- Average # Staff: 12
- Average # On-Center Activities: 43.7
- Average # Off-Center Activities: 3.3

Averages

- Average # Stakeholders: 12.9
- Total # of Beneficiaries: 72,500
- Average # of Beneficiaries: 10,357
- Average cost to build per beneficiary: \$43.9 USD
- Average cost to build per beneficiary over time: \$8.4 USD
- Operating cost per beneficiary: \$7.9 USD

Lessons Learned



Lessons Learned

- The SFRC model works particularly well among marginalized/ underserved populations
 - Esp. where government extension is not-present
 - Or government extension is present but focused on commodity crops
- SFRCs focus on local farming communities
 - But often extend reach & impact beyond their locality and focus group

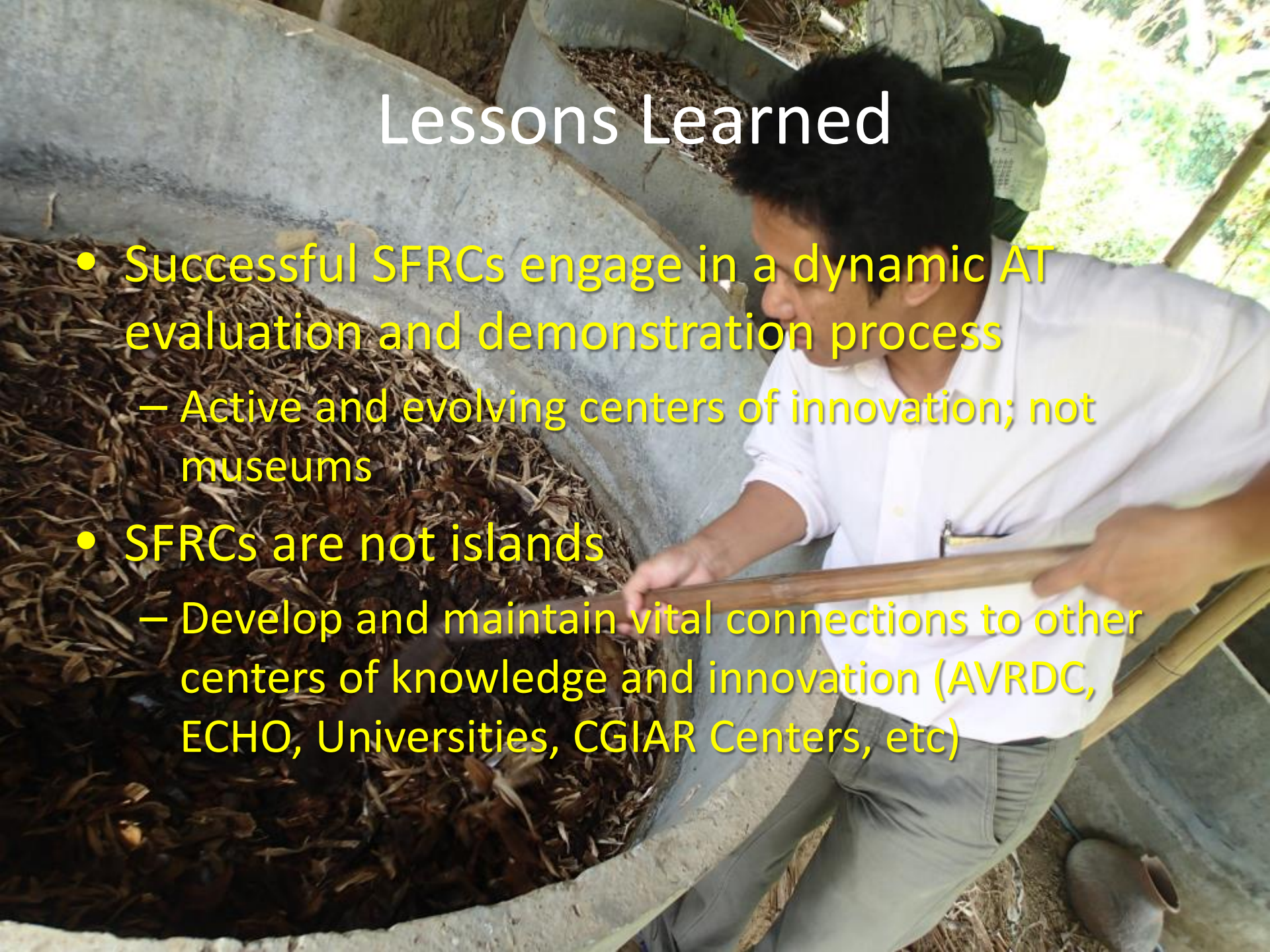


Lessons Learned

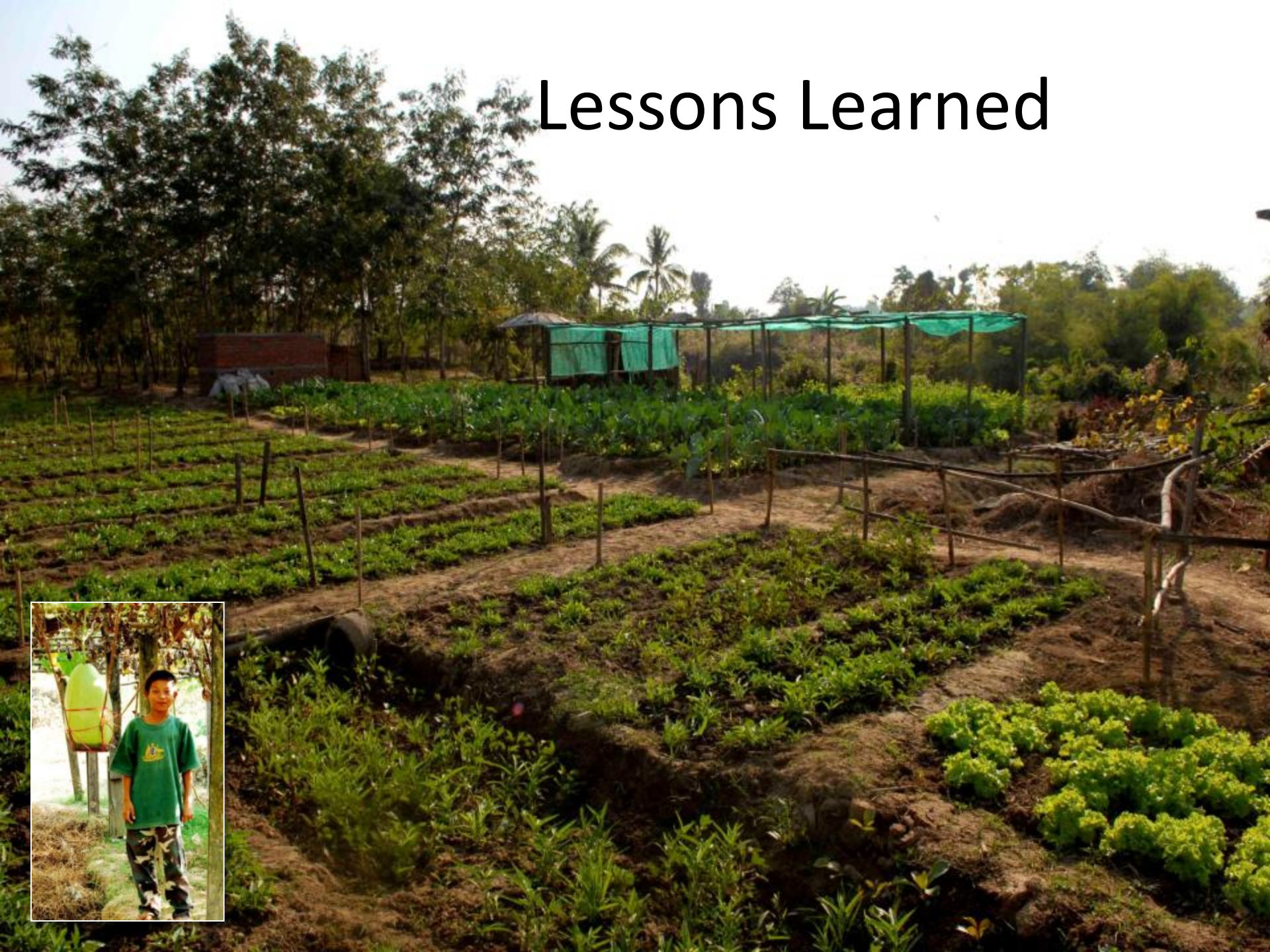


Lessons Learned

- Successful SFRCs engage in a dynamic AT evaluation and demonstration process
 - Active and evolving centers of innovation; not museums
- SFRCs are not islands
 - Develop and maintain vital connections to other centers of knowledge and innovation (AVRDC, ECHO, Universities, CGIAR Centers, etc)



Lessons Learned

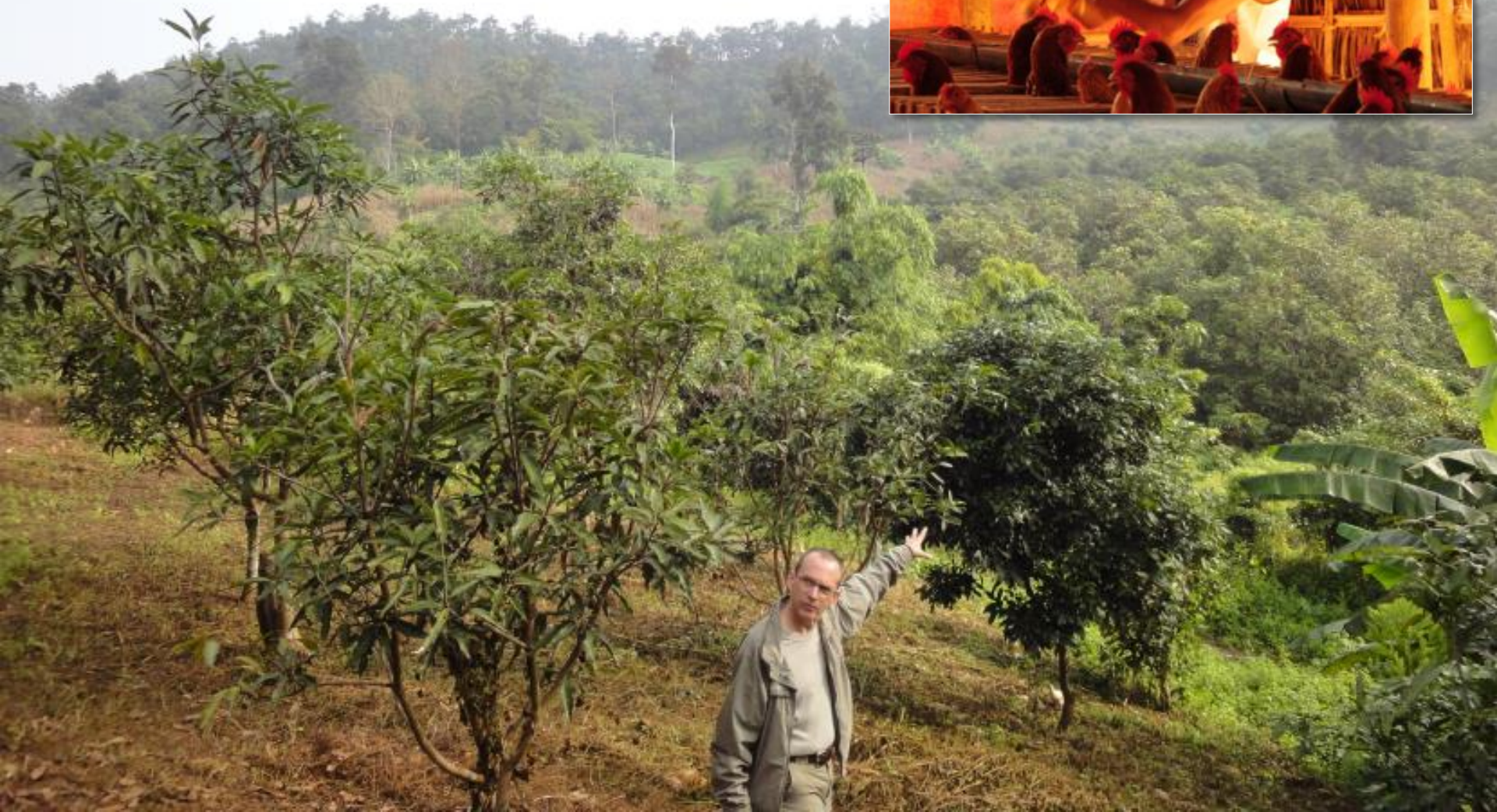


Lessons Learned

- Growth/scale-up is an organic process
 - Funding, capacity of Center, ability of staff
 - Infrastructure, land (amount and type)
- Successful SFRCs develop stable income streams
 - Evaluate to maintain profitability
 - Utilize as training tools



Lessons Learned



Lessons Learned



- Successful SFRCs develop long term goals for the Center and outreach efforts
 - Commensurable? Complementary? or Competitive?
- SFRCs develop and nurture multifaceted project repertoire
 - Language skills, diversified income streams, cultural identity, etc. (livelihood development)



Lessons Learned



Lessons Learned

- SFRCs possess a toolkit of approaches and methodologies
 - Large group training, strategic farm visits
 - Importance of trusted extension 'agent'
- Successful SFRCs understand, differentiate and target higher order needs (gender issues, citizenship, language) and basic physical needs (food, water, sanitation)



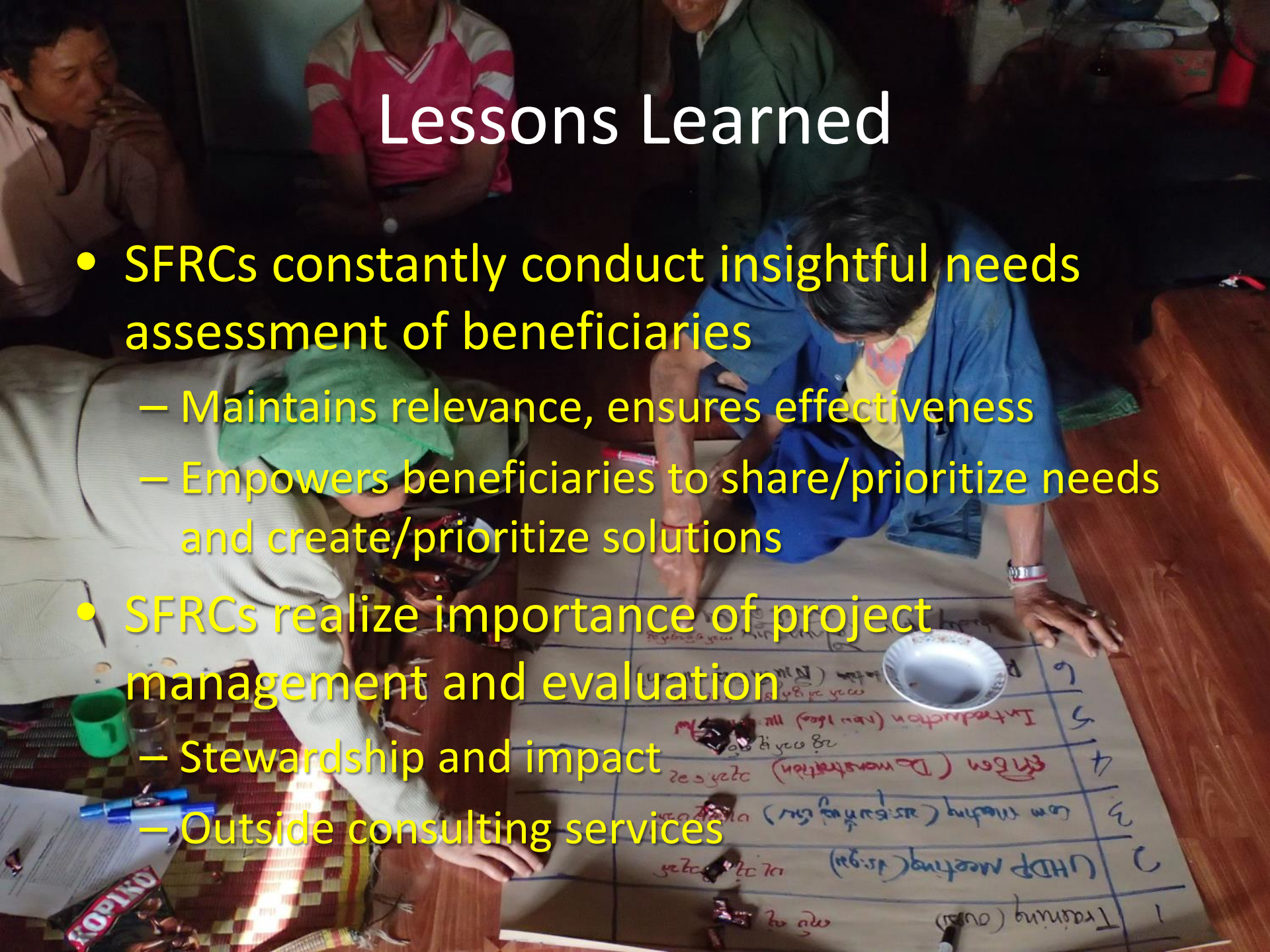
Lessons Learned



1	Training (over)	๑๕ มิ.ย. ๒๕๖๓
2	UHP Meeting (1st)	๑๗ มิ.ย. ๒๕๖๓
3	Com meeting (2nd)	๑๙ มิ.ย. ๒๕๖๓
4	EnGen (Demonstration)	๒๑ มิ.ย. ๒๕๖๓
5	Introduction (new 160)	๒๓ มิ.ย. ๒๕๖๓
6	Introduction (new 160 + 110)	๒๕ มิ.ย. ๒๕๖๓
7	Introduction (new 160 + 110)	๒๗ มิ.ย. ๒๕๖๓

Lessons Learned

- SFRCs constantly conduct insightful needs assessment of beneficiaries
 - Maintains relevance, ensures effectiveness
 - Empowers beneficiaries to share/prioritize needs and create/prioritize solutions
- SFRCs realize importance of project management and evaluation
 - Stewardship and impact
 - Outside consulting services



Lessons Learned



Lessons Learned

- SFRCs Work within the existing legal and nation-state framework
 - May limit scope / efficacy
 - Builds legitimacy; may win advocates
- Successful SFRCs look for appropriate champions



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 - D) Slightly agree
 - D) Strongly agree

Conclusions

- Religious affiliations have been vital to the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the SFRCs
- The topics and methodologies (focus areas as well as income streams) used by the SFRCs were very broad in scope
- SFRCs serve a vital role in collecting, verifying, and disseminating useful livelihood approaches to underserved and/or marginalized populations

Conclusions

- SFRCs seem most relevant when their approaches are rooted in needs assessment-responsive to changing needs
- Not antiquated, but adaptable to meet the changing needs of the clientele to whom they aspire to serve

Acknowledgements

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