

# Agriculture Project Sustainability Checklist

**Purpose:** The purpose of this document is not necessarily to answer each question with a yes or no, but rather as a bullet point list to help think through strengths and weaknesses of starting a new project or revisiting an existing project. Not all the questions apply in every situation. It is another tool to help keep us focused on a sustainable vision.

## Researching a technology

- ✓ Will it create more dependency or paternalism?
- ✓ Does the technology respond to the farmers' felt needs?
- ✓ Does the technology utilize the resources available in the community?
- ✓ Is the technology simple to understand?
- ✓ Will the technology be sustainable?
- ✓ Is the technology culturally acceptable to the community?
- ✓ Can the poorest of the community attain this technology?
- ✓ Does the technology bring glory to God (no alcohol, tobacco, or other vices) ?
- ✓ Is it labor intensive rather than capital intensive?
- ✓ Are you avoiding doing for the farmer what he can do for himself?

## Developing a new technology

- ✓ Have you tried it on your own test plot?
- ✓ Are you starting slowly?
- ✓ Has the technology been successfully tried in other areas and regions?
- ✓ Can the local market absorb it (think transportation, storage, processing, marketing, etc.)?

## Introducing a new technology

- ✓ Can it be developed into a teaching program?
- ✓ Can spiritual principles be interwoven?
- ✓ Does the technology afford an opportunity for farmers to work together?
- ✓ Are you starting small?
- ✓ Are you limiting the technology (not introducing too many ideas at once)?

## Success of the new technology

- ✓ What are your goals and objectives in implementing this technology?
  - ✓ What would happen if this program fails? Would there be negative impacts?
  - ✓ Will it bring a recognizable impact quickly (in a new area, a project like a tree program might take discouragingly long)?
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## *Definitions*

- Felt need* - the deficiencies or difficulties people perceive in their community.
- Paternalism* -a system of dependency where a community or an individual looks to an outside source such as an NGO to supply their needs as a child does to a parent.
- Sustainability* - Broadly used word. In our context, when a technology, project, or program is able to exist without any outside intervention and will continue to do so long after the initial source is gone.
- Technology* -Any plant, product, or scientific knowledge, regardless how simple or complex, that will advance a community or individual's wellbeing. *Example: spacing corn evenly in a row is a new technology in some communities.*

The logo for Agri-Plus features the word "Agri-Plus" in a brown, serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a green leaf-like shape on its left side. The word "Plus" is in a standard serif font.

*Walking with Farmers in Developing Countries*