

Mapping a farm with a climate change adaptation approach is the first phase of transforming a conventional field into a model farm.



Ideal model of a farm with its most important components.

Key questions

- Do you know the resources, potential, and limitations of your farm?
- What is your goal for the farm?
- How does your family see itself in the future?
- Where do you want to start?
- What resources can you count on?
- What are your sources of income?
- Do you have available manpower?

Why prepare a farm plan?

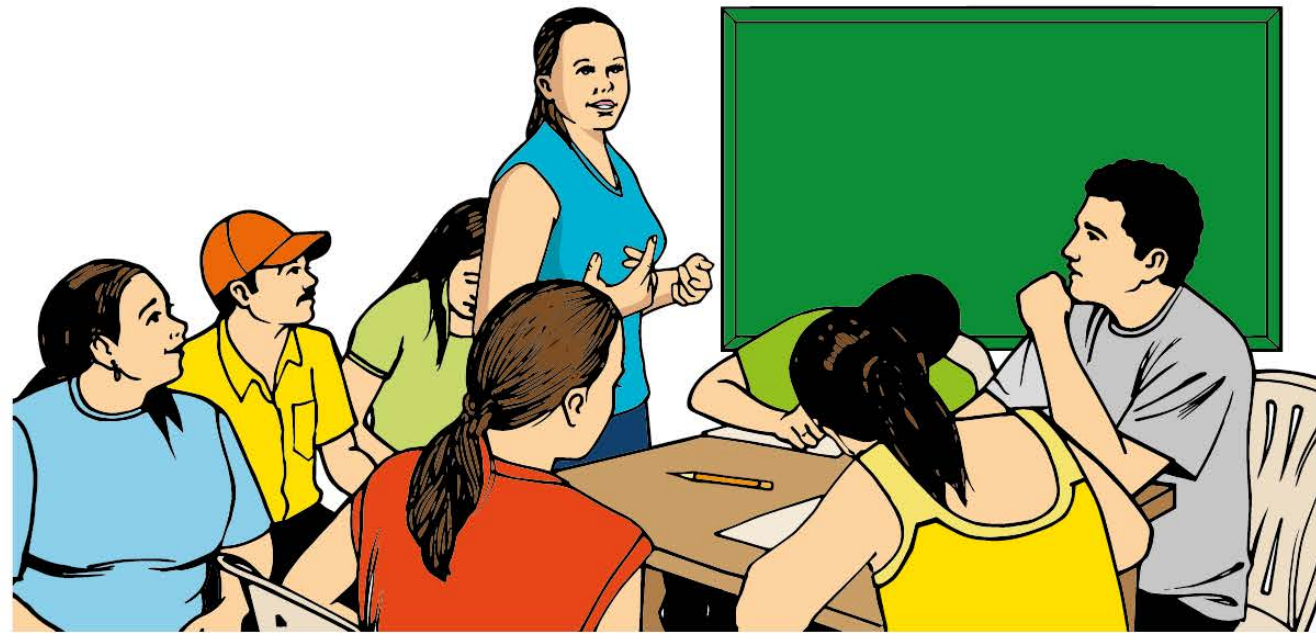
- It helps to analyse crops and their yields: what was produced, what was spent, and what profits were made; even when raising farm animals.
- It analyses everything that generates income in order to make decisions on where to improve first, as well as identifying where the family plans to obtain their food.
- Creating a farm plan makes it easy to clearly identify the need for training on how to manage different crops, and it gives the confidence to undertake financing activities and plan what to sell and when.

Step by step: Farm mapping

When making a map of the farm, the current state of the farm must be clear, with all the invested labour, including the cultivated varieties, the location of the house, conservation works, barriers, and trees. All the components of the farm must be drawn in detail, including pathways and streams.

Step 1

Educate the family on the importance of having a farm plan that includes implementing improvements in the short and long term, knowing your capacities and deficiencies in resources or manpower, and what technical capabilities you'll require.



Step 2

Take a tour of the whole farm with the family to understand its situation, and make a diagnosis and a map that responds to the following questions:

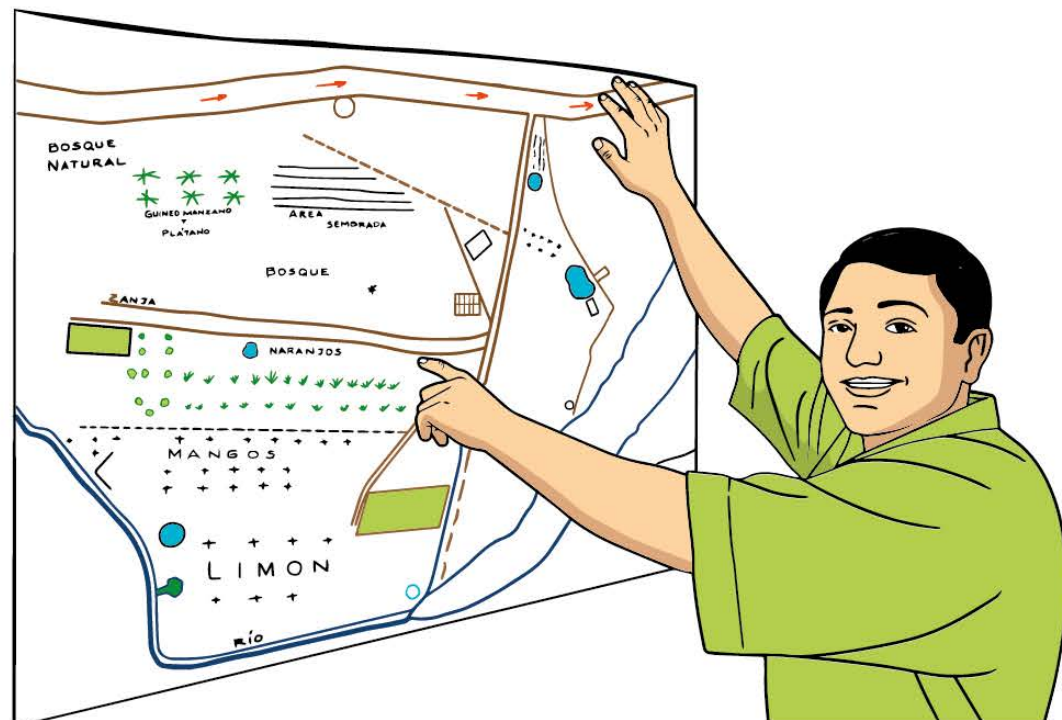
- What is there on the farm or plot?
- What types of trees are there?
- Do the crops seem to be developing well?
- What is the condition of the soil in terms of erosion, organic material, humidity, and weeds?
- Where does water run-off, and where does it pool and flood?
- What improvements does the family need to make?



Criteria	Notes on site 1	Notes on site 2	Notes on site 3
Slope			
Erosion			
Soil texture			
Rockiness			
Topsoil depth			
Fertility of the soil			
Flood risk			
Drought risk			
Winds			
Land use			

Step 3

Make a map of the farm. Draw the current map, and make another one of how you want the farm to be in three years' time. Locate the needed improvements in each part of the farm.



Step 4

Follow-up on activities according to the timeline.

It must be flexible because unexpected events can cause set-backs that the family cannot control. For example: floods, droughts, pests, and even family problems.



Step 5

Evaluate the farm plan.

- How is the farm plan going?
- Are the changes working?
- Has the quantity and quality of food increased?
- Are soil and water being conserved?
- What adjustments need to be made to the farm plan?
- Are other families benefitting from the new practices?
- Are the changes and practices earning a profit?

