THE BENEFITS OF THE FARMER FIELD SCHOOL TO RECENT PARTICIPANTS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

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Introduction
This poster will present the observed benefits of the Farmer Field School in two farming communities in Trinidad namely South Aranguez and Caura in North Trinidad. At the first full-fledged field school, participants cultivated cabbages in the vegetable producing area of South Aranguez, Trinidad. In the second school participants from the Caura Valley cultivated cabbages. In the third school the same group of Valley participants revisited the cultivation of Cabbages.

The Trinidad and Tobago Office of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International (CABI) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) implemented the activity with funding from the European Union. The Ministry of Agriculture Land and Marine Resources provided logistic and personnel support.

Purpose of the Poster Presentation
The poster will present the methodology, which culminated in the conduct of the Farmer Field Schools. It will highlight the involvement of all stakeholders in a ‘bottom-up’ participatory process. It will describe the conduct of the schools through experiential learning of Integrated Pest Management. It would demonstrate non-educational benefits, which the school provided.

Major points to be shared
i. The FFS can facilitate technology transfer among farmers.
ii. The FFS instills a new confidence among participants to understand and sustain their Agro-ecological environments.
iii. The FFS brings farming communities together in a unique and productive manner. It improves relationships between farmers and researchers.
iv. The FFS is an advance on the previous doctrine of the Farming Systems Research and Extension Methodology.
**Conclusion**

The FFS was successfully implemented in selected areas in Trinidad. It is relevant and responsive to local concerns. It will improve farmer capacity, and the quantity of environment friendly agricultural practices. It will enhance collective action and invigorate support systems to work with the farming community.

The poster presentation has educational importance to demonstrate the value of the FFS as a teaching tool, which could continue Extension’s self help philosophy. It demonstrates the validity of the longstanding Extension Methodology of Experiential Learning.