

## Agroforestry Farmer Field School (AFFS) in AgFor Project, in Sulawesi Indonesia

**Focus of AFFS:** Agroforestry Garden Management

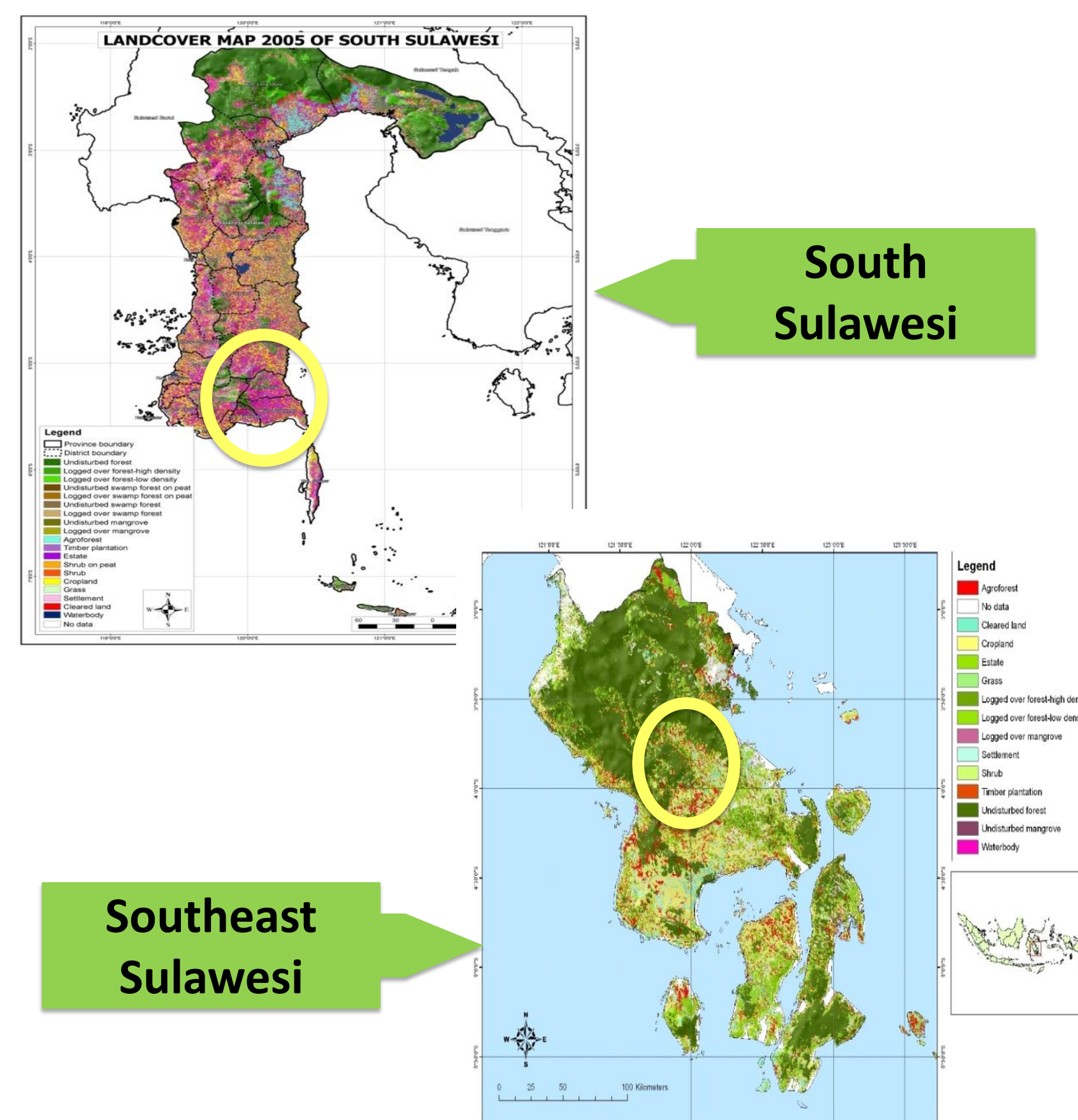
**Rationale:** Garden management is greatly diverse among farmers and will need more than 1 year to know the impact of any changes in the system. Thus, extension approach on garden management should focus to enhancing farmer's analytical skills and farmer's sources of information that are essentials to enhance farmers' way of thinking in deciding best-fit management to improve their garden productivity.

### Characterisation of AFFS:

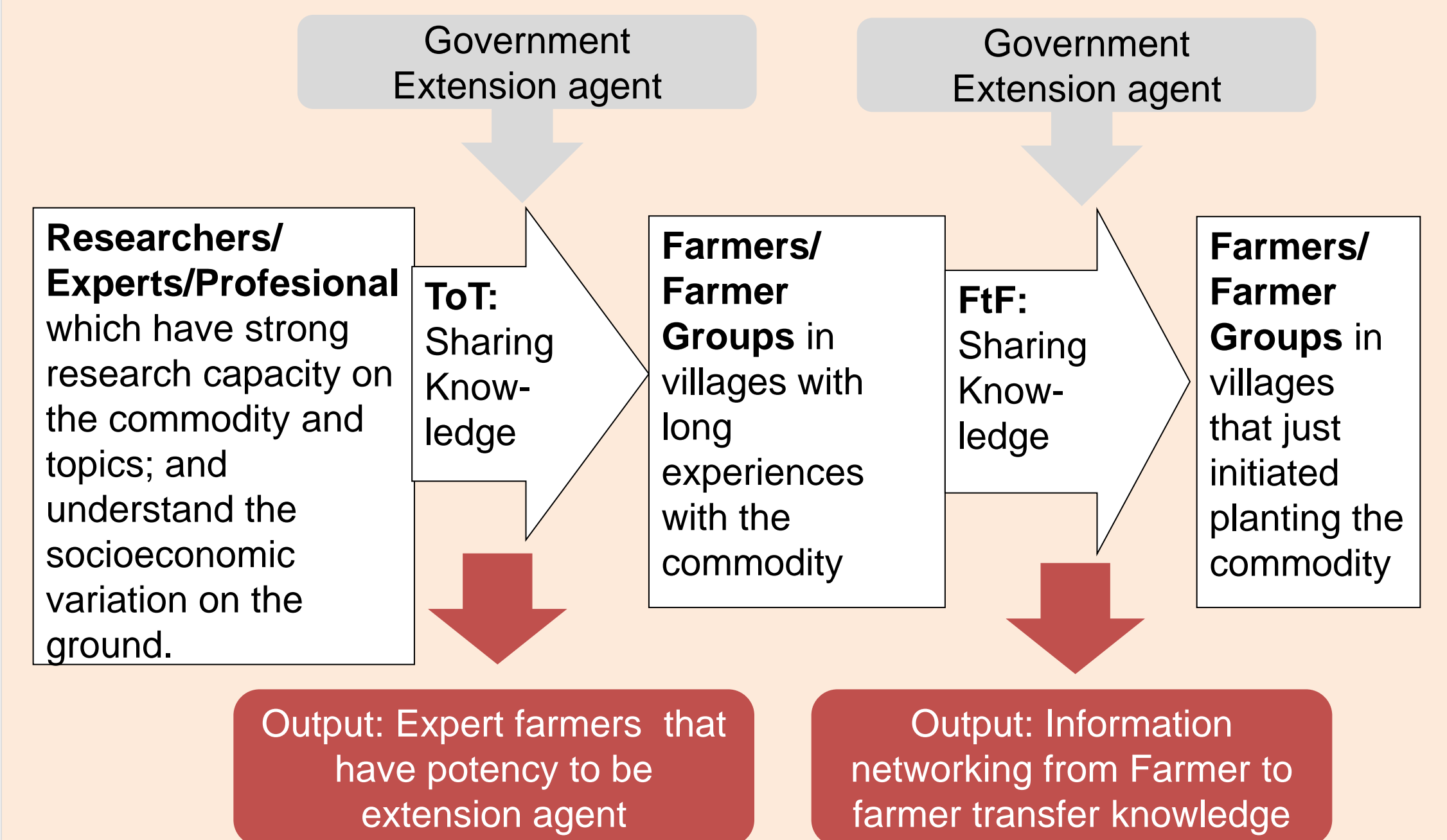
- Focusing on 5 commodities prioritized in the area
- Not as intensive as many FFS
- No pocket money for participants in attending AFFS
- Combining the researcher-to-farmer extension approach with farmer-to-farmer extension approach

### Objectives of AFFS:

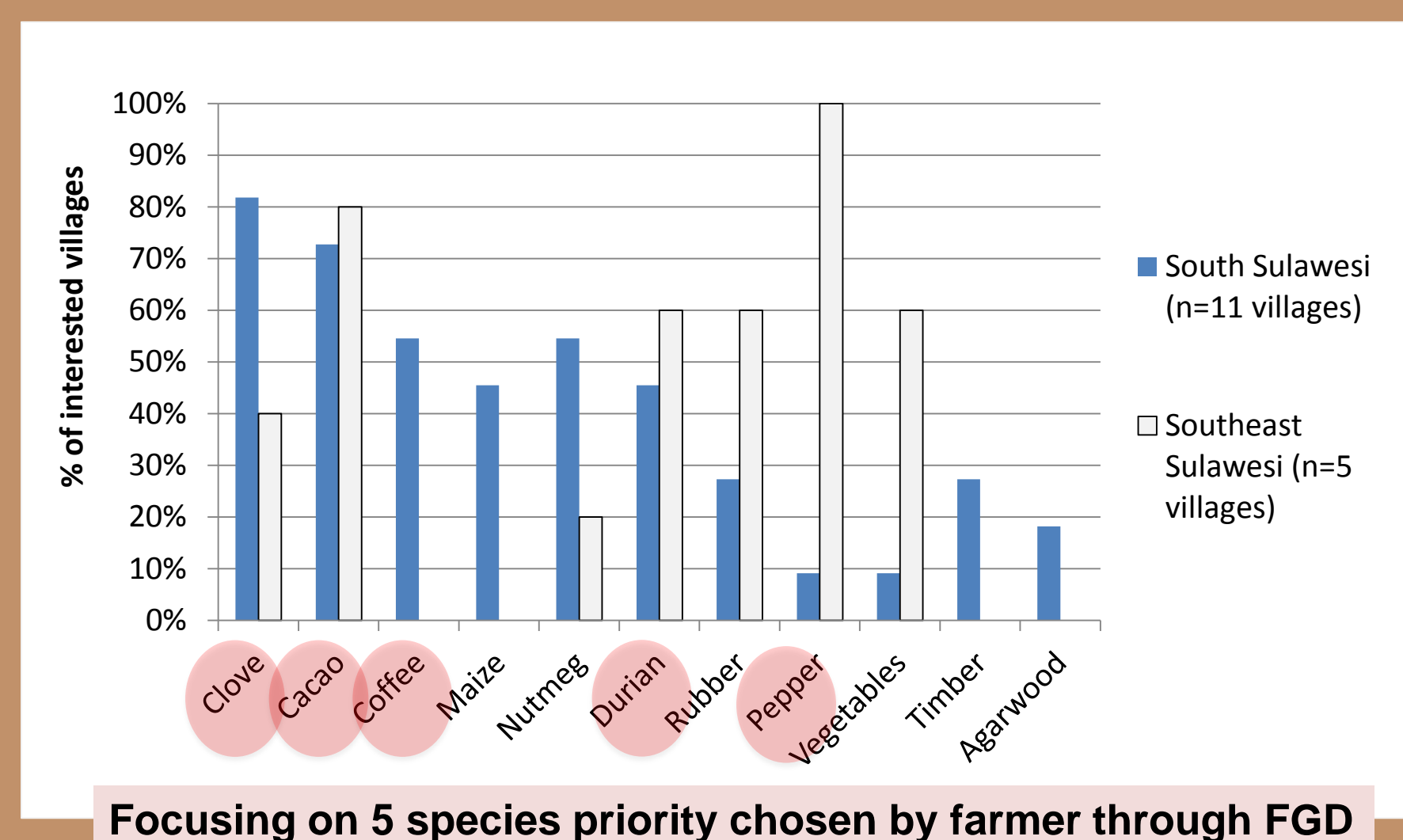
- Enhancing farmers' knowledge in Agroforestry Garden Management
- Providing innovative agroforestry extension approaches that uses demonstration plots as places to learn new technology; and can enhance farmers analytical skills and information networking;
- Preparing expert farmers that can play role as extension agents.



## Concept in Agroforestry Farmer Field School (AFFS) AgFor Sulawesi Project



## Implementation of the Agroforestry Farmer Field School in AgFor Project Sites in Sulawesi, Indonesia



Focusing on 5 species priority chosen by farmer through FGD



Scientist-to-farmer Transfer Knowledge



Farmer-to-farmer Transfer Knowledge



Testing the new knowledge in demonstration plots proposed by farmers through FGD.

Demonstration plots are constructed collectively through traditional collective action calls "gotong royong"

### Cross visit to Successful Farmers

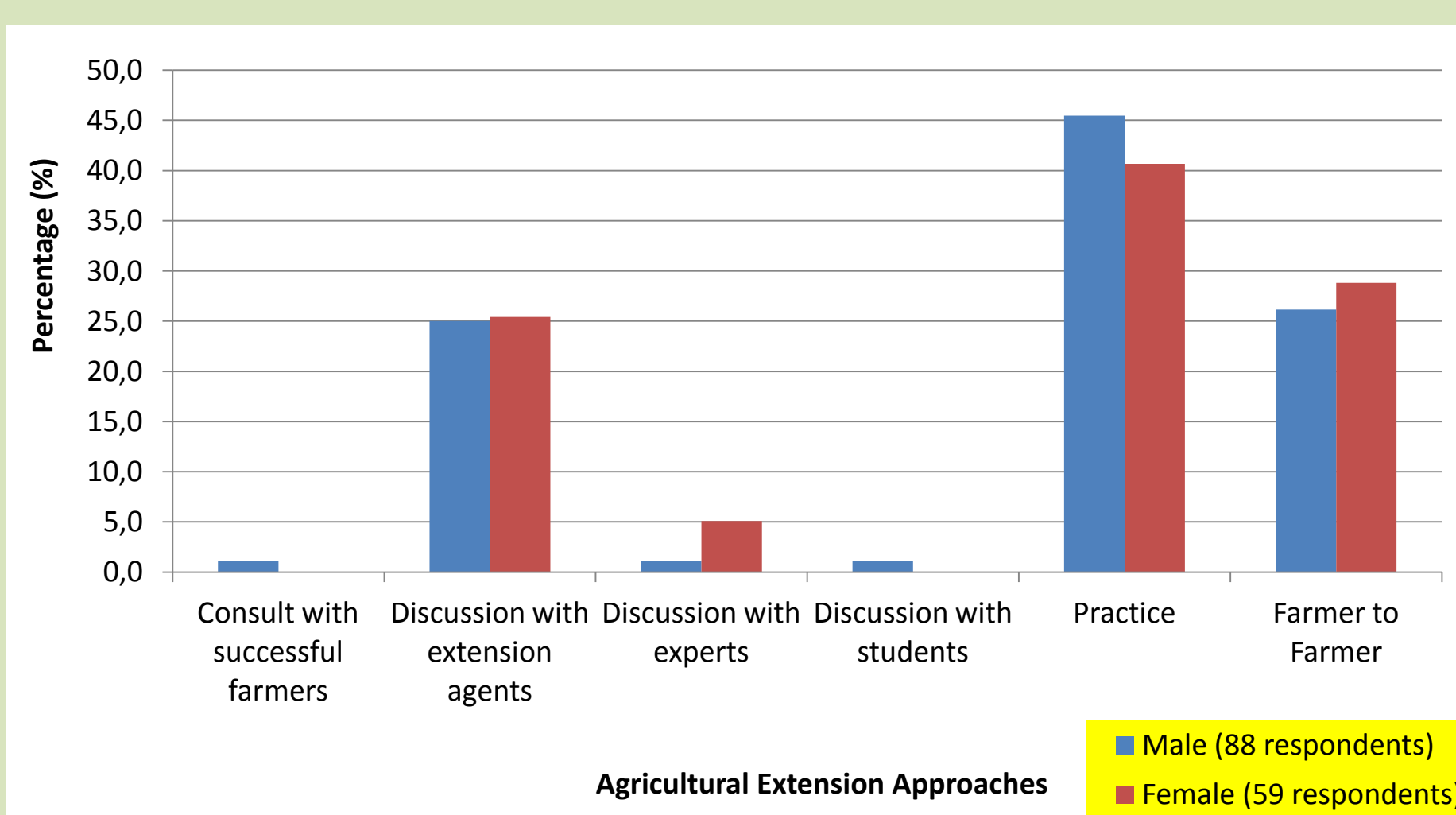


Planning for Action Plan to Test the new Knowledge

## Can Farmer Be An Agroforestry Extension Agent?

Based on the observation during the Agroforestry Farmer Field School in Sulawesi, farmers have potential role as agroforestry extension agents, particularly in places where:

- language become the barrier for information dissemination;
- level of education is low; and
- infrastructure accessibility (road, electricity, phone signal) to sources of information is low.



Moreover, results in our survey in the AFFS locations with 147 respondents in November 2012, showed that farmers tend to be as excited as having discussion with government extension agents when they are having discussion with their peers to obtain agricultural information and technology.

## How to prepare farmers to be extension agents?



Agroforestry Farmer Field School in AgFor Sulawesi project was also designed for enhancing farmers' capacity as facilitator and or as agroforestry information disseminator. Giving them a chance to talk in front of other farmers in the AFFS have given them valuable experiences to enhance their self confidence in developing their positive strengths. From 6 months of AFFS implementation to at least 500 participants of 13 villages, 8 potential farmers (7 men and 1 woman) from 2 villages were identified to have the potency as extension agents in the future.

However, their capacity need to be enhanced through 2 major points: (a) improving their linkage to the local government, and (b) improving their information networking to ensure they are able to update innovative information.

## Acknowledgment:

This study was funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under Agroforestry and Forestry For Sulawesi (AgFor Sulawesi) Project Implemented by ICRAF and partners from 2012 to 2016 in 3 provinces in Sulawesi (South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi and Gorontalo), Indonesia.

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