

Farmer Field Schools to Transfer Technology and Innovation for Vegetable Production in East Java, Indonesia

Hanik Anggraeni Dewi¹; Evy Latifah¹; Putu B Daroini¹; Joko Mariyono²

1) Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology – Indonesia;

2) Agribusiness Study Program Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang - Indonesia

Abstract

This study assesses farmer field schools (FFS) processes and impacts on chili and tomato in East Java. Tomato and chili are the leading vegetable commodity in East Java. The study employed a set of data that have been compiled by the Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology of East Java in 2021. The assessment was done using a participatory rural appraisal approach across 12 different project sites and an intensive interview with 250 FFS-graduate farmers for the individual survey using structured questionnaires. Likewise, a group survey was conducted using participatory methods with 10-12 farmers from each group. For this purpose, the “before and after” method of impact assessment framework; and a method of evaluation approach were applied since the FFS participants stated impacts were based on the results, they have seen at the participatory managed experiment plot. The results clearly show that FFS has increased the vegetable farming capability and knowledge of the FFS-participating farmers. The yield increased along with reduced uses of pesticides and other inputs. FFS impacted the dynamics of the farmer association. After attending a crop season-long FFS, farmers’ knowledge on plant protection and soil fertility improvement increased significantly. In conclusion, FFS has successfully delivered improved knowledge and skill on chili and tomato farming and vegetable production in general to the farming communities. The FFS has strengthened the group formation and social capitals related to vegetable farming in the remotely located communities.

Keywords: farmer field schools (FFS), impact assessment, chili and tomato production, rapid participatory approach, East Java - Indonesia.