

Focus Group Discussions

Q: Can you explain again the observations needed to and NOT needed to bring to the FGDs?

A: Since FGDs are serving as the key method to validate the observed changes collected in the SSIs, the observed changes DO NOT need to bring into FGDs include:

- Observed changes have reached a high consensus during the SSI, e.g., if you interviewed 25 participants, and out of which, 22-24 of them have said ‘the crops are not growing well because of the drought’.
- Observed changes are in the climatic systems, such as temperature, rain, and snow etc., unless they are inconsistent.

Observed changes DO need to bring into FGDs include:

- Inconsistent observed changes regardless if they are in climatic system. For example, some of your interviewees mentioned that it is hotter in winter, while some mentioned it is colder in winter. In this case, the observed change should be brought to the FGD for a collective discussion.
- Observed changes with different drivers, e.g., some interviewees mentioned that the crops yield less now because of lack of rain, while some said the crops yield less now because it is too hot, therefore in such cases, the observed changes need to be included in the FGDs discussions.
- Different opinions between the local people and the researcher. This project is aiming to collect local perceptions of climate change impacts, so as researchers, you should always avoid influencing interviewees with your perspectives. However, when there are observed changes mentioned by local participants are not attributed to climate related drivers at all, while the researcher thinks (based on expertise and knowledge of the field) they are linked to climate change, such changes should be brought to FGDs as well for a discussion.