

Topics for FFLG seminar

1. Expectations for today's learning
2. FFLG principles and terminology
3. FFLG group process and support structures
4. Training course for FFLG external facilitators

Farmer Farmer Learning Group video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qB-FkLiff8I&feature=youtu.be>



1. Expectations for today's learning

- What FFLG questions and issues do you expect to understand better after today?
- In groups of three, each of you present the 3 main questions and issues you would like to learn more about
- In the group agree on three questions and issues
- Plenum reflection

2. FFLG principles and terminology

- FFLG – what does it mean?
- Social capital
- Rotational visits
- External facilitator
- Internal facilitator

What does it
mean?
Farmer Family
Learning
Group

Farmers (depends on the production of vegetables, crops and animals for a living)

Families (include both wife, husband, children and grand parents, because farming is a family business)

Learning (mutual learning to implement new ways of improving life in all matters of life)

Groups (a group is a number of persons that agree to work together for a joint purpose)

FFLGs Inspired by the Farmer Field School (FFS) Approach - but Different

Conventional FFS

- based on establishing a central learning field
- learning follows the growth cycle of the selected enterprise
- Learning managed by a trainer



Organic Farmer Family Learning Group

- Each farm is unique and a learning entity.
- Involves farmers rotating from one farm to another
- Promotes whole household participation.
- Focus may differ from farm to farm
- Learning guided by an external facilitator (building confidence among farmers)
- Social impact through group cooperation

FFLG is a
group which –
by the support
of a facilitator
aims to:

- Empower farmer families to shape and own their own development process by taking responsibility and action to change their situation
- Improve organic farming and marketing practices, on each farm and jointly in the group for food security and income generation
- Increase technology transfer to farmers through mutual learning
- Empower farmers to advocate for their rights
- Improve all aspect of the life of the farmer family (relationship, housing, cooking, sanitation, income, farming, health etc.)

FFLG builds

- Trust among members
- Openness
- Ownership
- Commitment
- Sharing
- Equality
- Respect
- Empathy



Social capital

- The networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.
- Benefits that come from the cooperation between individuals and groups
- Social capital is present when individuals through interaction with others solve common problems e.g. share seeds to improve seed quality
- Social capital builds on trust, communication, shared objectives and norms

Rotational visits - Core element of the FFLG group for mutual learning

- Rotational visits among the family farms for mutual - on farm - learning to improve farmers livelihood and increase social capital among FFLG members
- A structured learning process including observation, addressing challenges, discussions, reflection and sharing resources
- In principle all members of a FFLG have their turn where they open up the farm and the FFLG assist to improve the farm

An example - Rotational visit to Saghi farm

1) Welcome and introduction to
the farm by host farmer and
external facilitator



An example - Rotational visit to Saghi farm

2) Walk through the farm and
introduce the different
productions



3. Practical work on the farm



4. FFLG Reflection on learning, feed back to host and Q&A.



External facilitator

- Role of External facilitator is to facilitate the development of the FFLG and the capacity building of members according to their needs and objectives (group management,, decision making, planning, technical training and advice, rotational visits)
- Is continuously capacity build by the project through training courses, network meetings, exchange visits to other FFLGs and study tours during the project
- She is is not paid - benefits are knowledge and status among peers
- Either a member of the FFLG or a ressource person from the local community or a staff of the implementing NGO
- Trains the internal facilitator to gradually take over her task

Internal facilitator

The role of the internal facilitator is in principle the same as the external facilitator

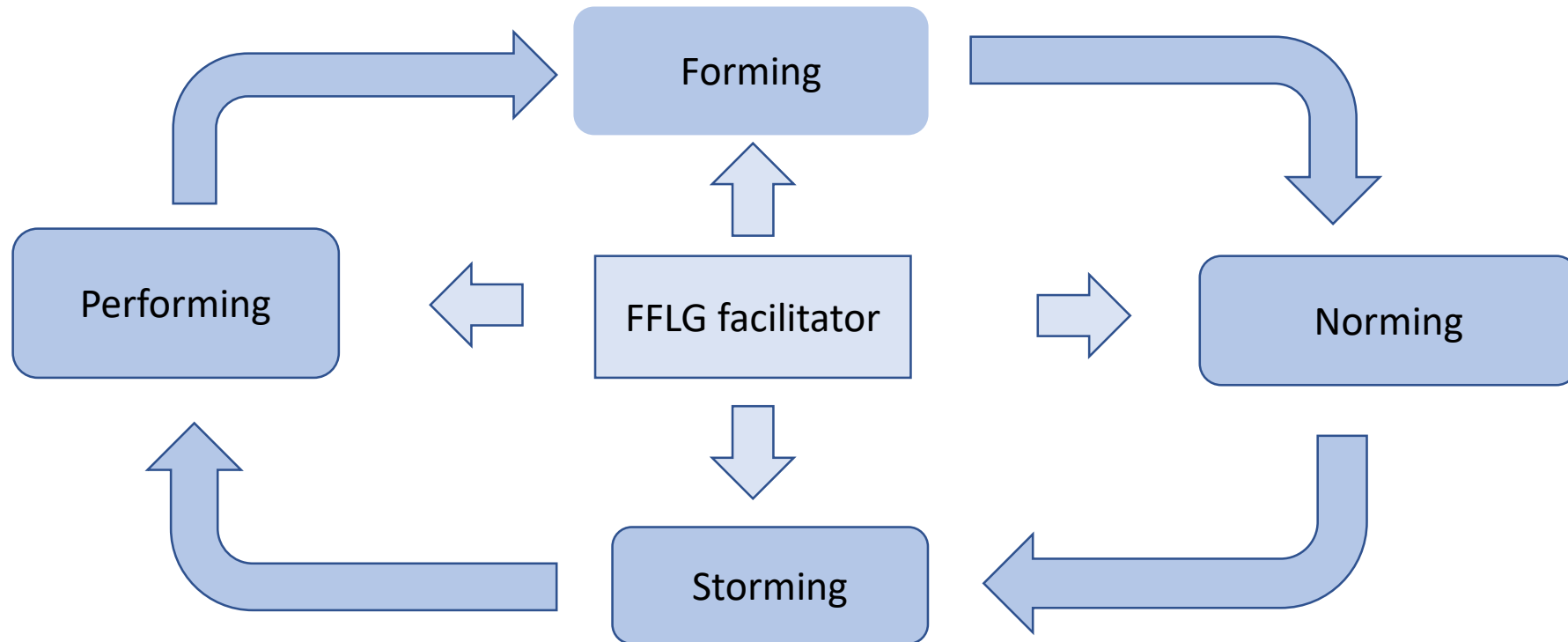
Is a member of the FFLG and is elected by the FFLG

Is capacity build by the external facilitator

Gradually takes over the facilitation responsibility from the external facilitator.

3. FFLG group process and support structures

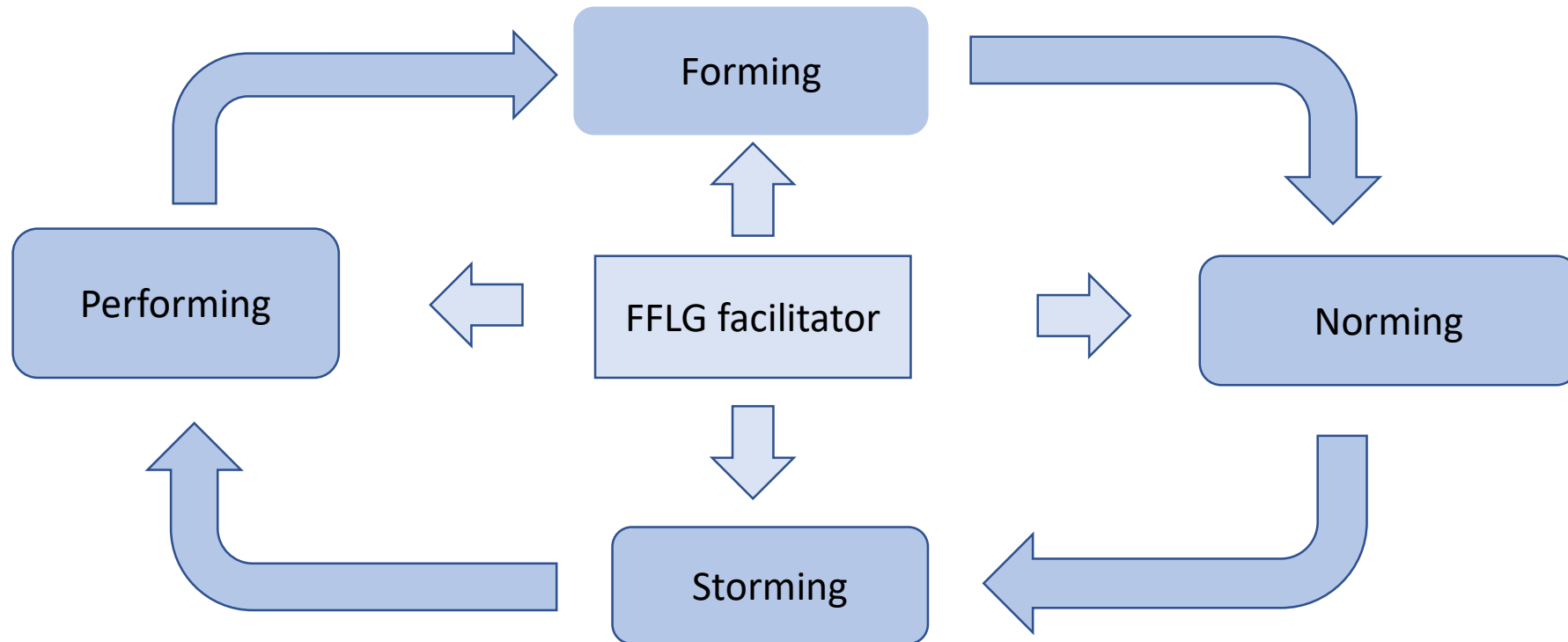
FFLG group development



FFLG Forming (establishing)

- Sensitisation meetings for farmers in target district about FFLG
- NGO facilitates the establishment of a group of farmers or an existing group enrolls
- External FFLG facilitator elected by the FFLG
- External FFLG facilitator trained by the project
- External facilitator introduces FFLG approach in the group
- The group in principle decides to go for FFLG and organic agriculture

FFLG group development



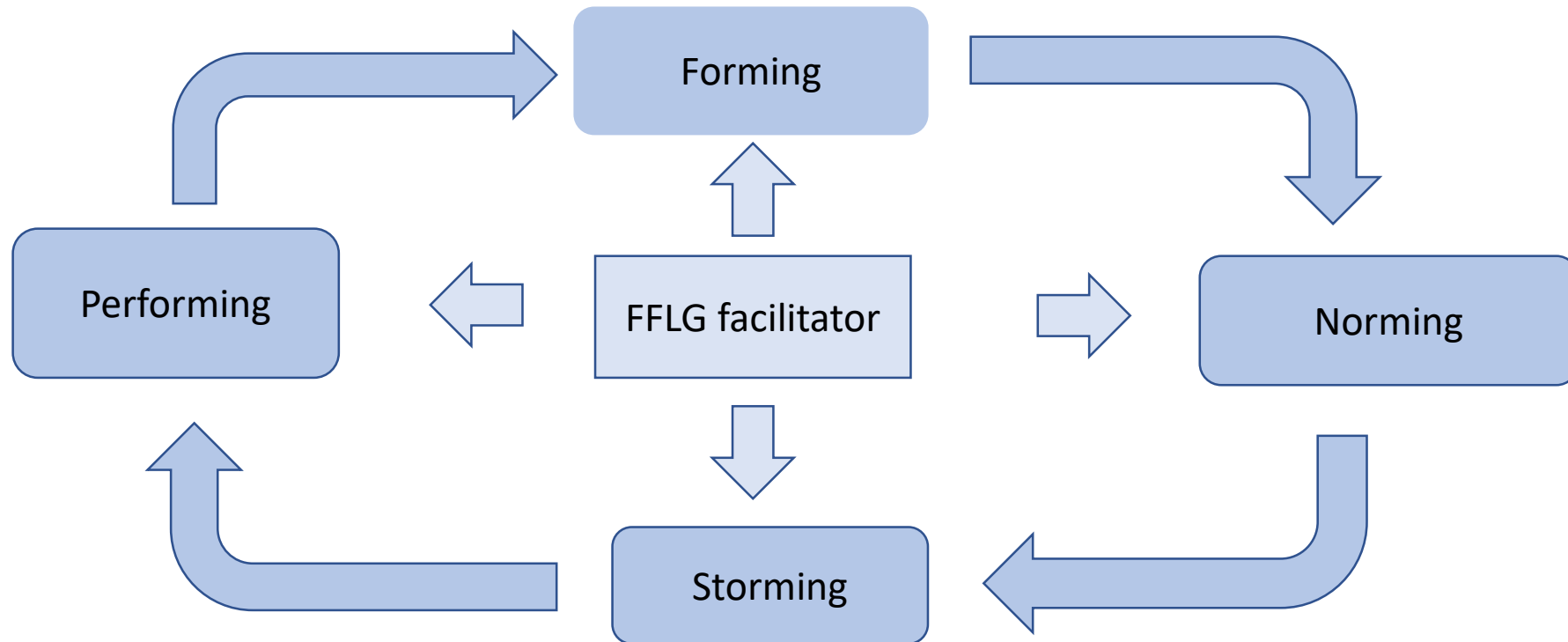
FFLG Norming

How do we cooperate?

- Agree on group objectives and action plan
- FFLG rules and regulations formulated
- Group management (agenda, record keeping, minutes,
- Planning of regular FFLG meetings
- Planning of schedule for rotational visits



FFLG group development

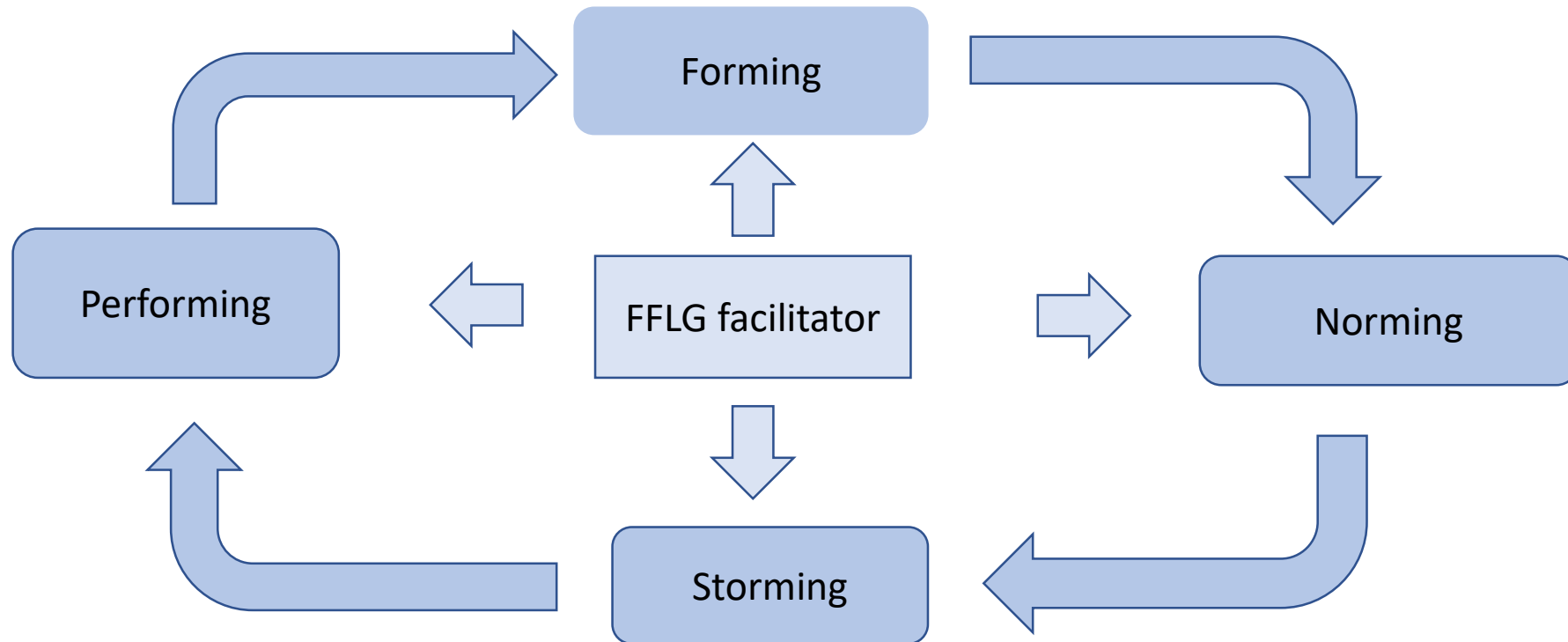


FFLG Storming

- How do we overcome challenges?

- Listening, communication and conflict resolution skills
- Dialogue based on mutual respect
- Increased social capital
- Implementation of action plans
- Challenges:
 - Consequences of Group management
 - Concur to rules and regulations
 - Maintain regular meetings
 - Implement rotational visit

FFLG group development



FFLG performing (a mature group)

- Taking the FFLG group to the next step of social capital
- Mutual learning in the FFLG from rotational visits motivates further cooperation
- Group objectives, plans and actions grow more ambitious:
 - Advocacy actions initiated
 - Joint marketing
 - Mutual support e.g. in the case of domestic violence or death
 - Saving and credit group
 - Joint enterprise e.g. diary cattle or meat goat raising

Performing groups

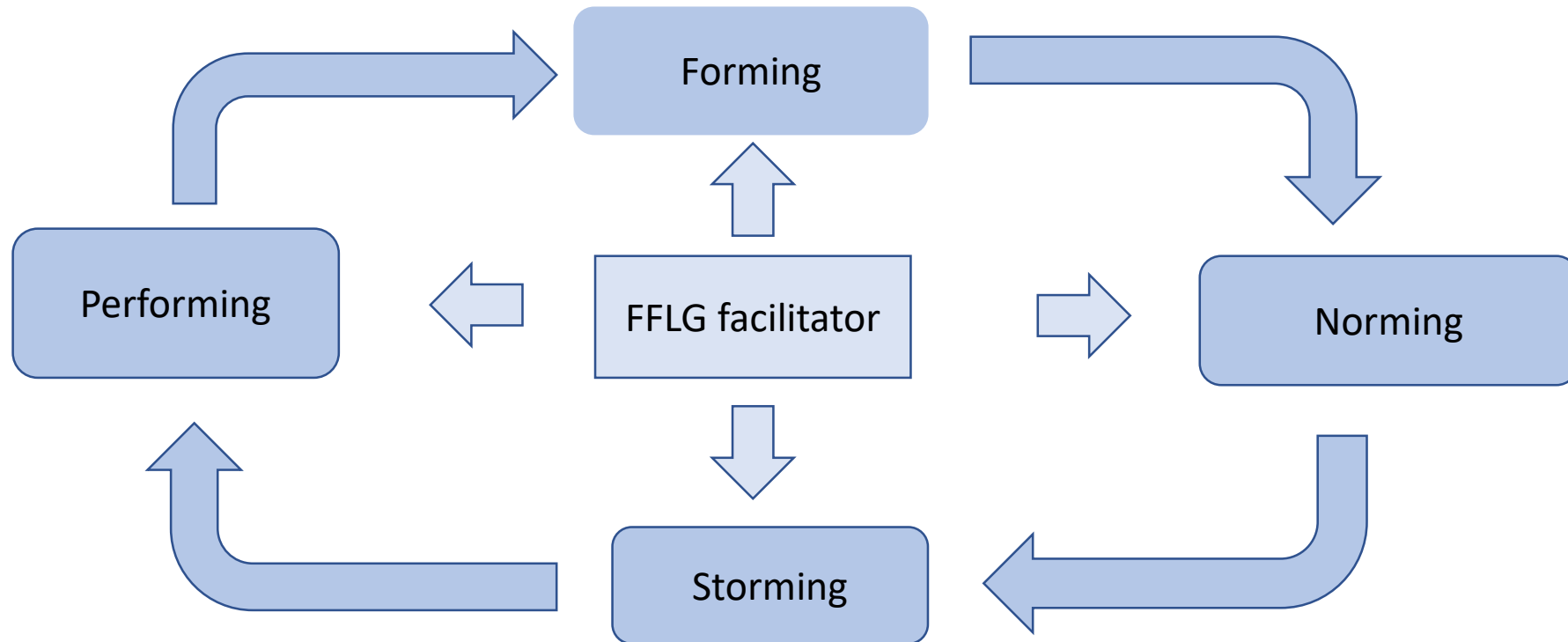
Dairy production



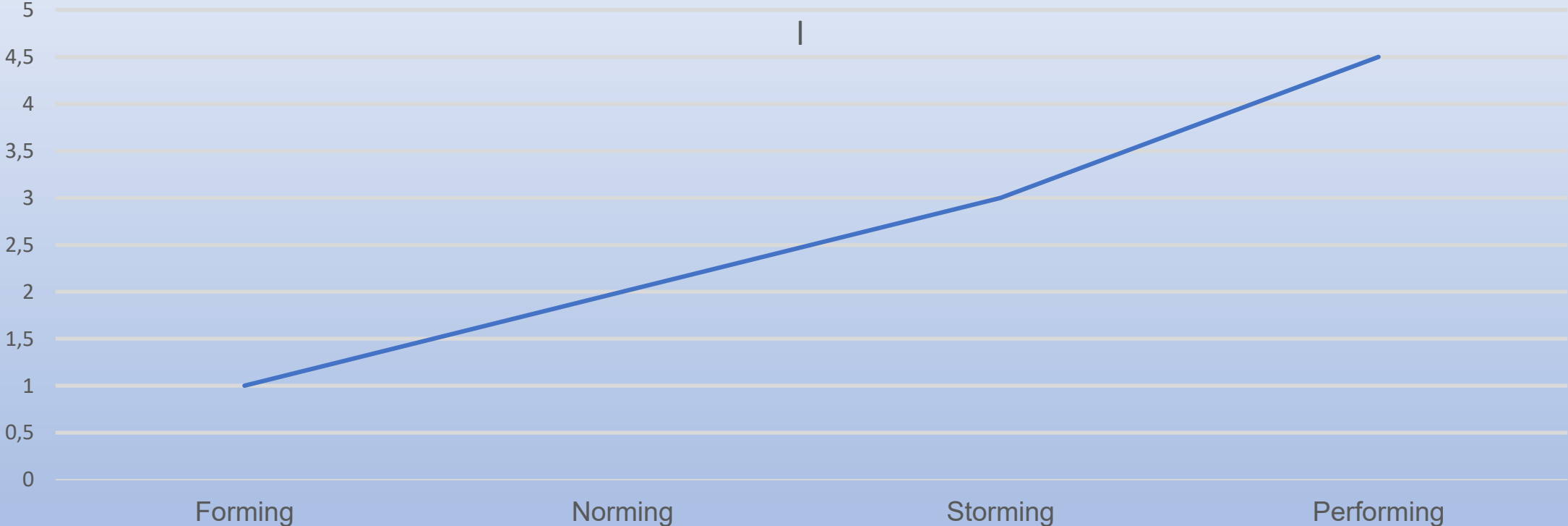
Goat meat and milk



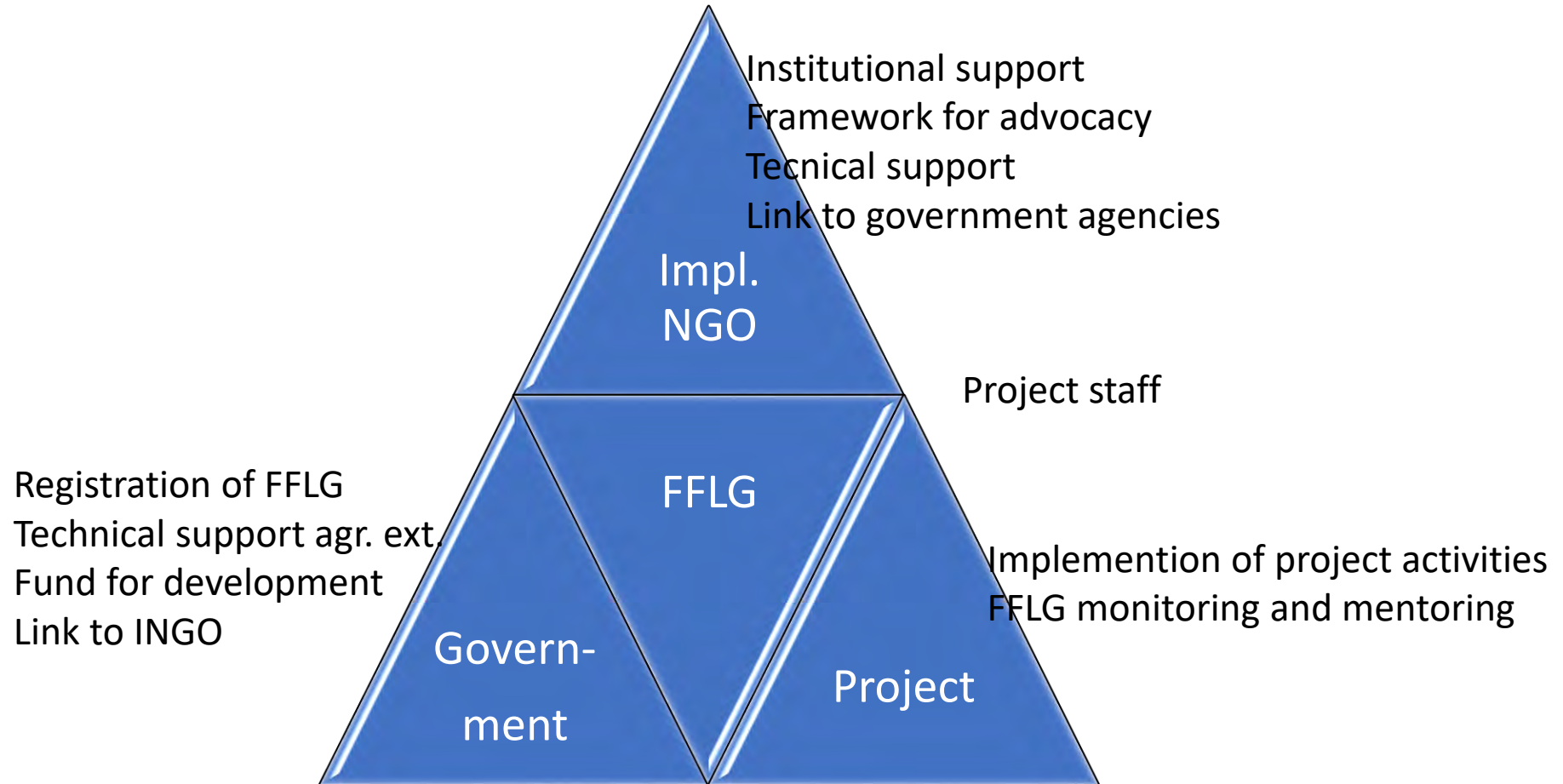
FFLG group development



Social capital development in a FFLG over time



Support structures for the FFLGs (Zanzibar)



Project activities facilitating FFLG development

FFLG facilitation process

- Conduct five sensitization meetings for farmers
- Existing UWAMWIMA farmer groups are invited to develop into FFLGs
- 25 FFLG external facilitators elected by FFLGs
- FFLG groups elect internal FFLG facilitator
- Implement the FFLG meetings and rotational visits
- Introduce organic farming methods to the FFLGs
- Development of FFLG action plans
- Baseline on the newly established FFLGs
- Facilitate the implementation of good governance, management and record keeping practice among the FFLGs

Implement FFLG rotational visits



Project activities facilitating FFLG development

Training (totally 1.375 man days)

- Training of FFLG facilitators in FFLG approach and organic agriculture for 15 days (375 man days)
- 3 day workshop annually for 50 external FFLG facilitators and 20 extension officers on cross cutting issues (150 man days)
- 3 days training of FFLG facilitators in advocacy at district and shehia levels followed up by one day semi-annual meetings (250 man days)
- Train 50 facilitators in market analysis/market assessment and basics of accounting and micro business planning (150 man days)
- Train FFLGs facilitators and chairmen in gender balanced governance, management and record keeping for 3 days (300 man days)
- 3 days training in the FFLG participatory monitoring system for 50 external facilitators (150 man day)

Mulching

- Organic farming method seen on Pemba



Project activities facilitating FFLG development (continued)

Network

- Organise quarterly network meetings among external FFLG facilitators
- Organizing 10 experience exchange visits among FFLGs annually
- 25 facilitators participate in seven days field visit to mainland Tanzania
- Annual workshop and network meeting among traders, hotels and FFLG farmers, where farmers presents their produce to potential costumers
- Organise annual experience exchange meetings among the FFLGs chairmen and facilitators on good governance and management
- Organize annual FFLGs days to share success stories to promote organic agriculture to other members in the communities both at district and shehia level

Network among FFLG facilitators



Project
activities
facilitating
FFLG
development
(continued)

Market access

- Conduct a marketing survey on the market for organic products in Zanzibar and identifying buyers
- Gather and disseminate market information to FFLGs
- Based on market information train FFLG facilitators on specific agricultural production issues proposed by FFLG members
- Facilitate the development of a collection center at Mwanakwerekwe market in cooperation with local authorities
- Annual workshop and network meeting among traders, hotels and FFLG farmers, where farmers presents their produce to potential costumers

Market access for red chili



Project activities facilitating FFLG development (continued)

Advocacy

- Facilitate semi-annual meetings between FFLGs and DADO concerning the inclusion of organic agriculture in the government system

Printed materials

- Manual on organic farming methods relevant in Zanzibar

Monitoring and mentoring

- Monitoring visits every 3 months to every FFLG (approx. 500 visit)
- Observations registered in monitoring template
- Ongoing mentoring of the FFLGs

4. Training course for FFLG external facilitators

Three modules

– one week each in the first year of the project

Key words for training of FFLG facilitators

- Learning process
- Active participation
- Ownership
- Take responsibility
- Need based
- Dialogue based
- Reflection and learning
- Practical applied learning
- Focus on technic and methods

FFLG training module 1 objectives

- Understand the basic principles of the FFLG approach and are able to communicate them to their FFLG
- Can perform their role as external facilitator in the FFLGs
- Appreciate and acknowledge the rotational visits principle of the FFLGs
- Understand the basic principles Organic Agriculture
- Have been introduced to organic farming methods in general and to two specific organic farming techniques

Module 1 Topics covered

FFLG

- Host team role and responsibilities
- Norms and code of conduct
- FFLG approach introduction
- External and internal facilitator role
- Rotational visits introduction and practice
- Meeting agenda
- Group work benefits
- Social capital
- Evaluation

Organic agriculture

- OA principles introduction
- Introduction to one bio-pesticide
- Introduction to the nitrogen fixation plant mucuna

Other

- Role of UWAMWIMA and TOAM

Module 2 objectives

- Have been introduced to four methods to improve soil fertility
- Are familiar with the most common pest and diseases
- Are able to practice the basic principles of the FFLG approach
- Are capable of performing their role as external facilitator in the FFLGs
- Will implement the rotational visits principle of the FFLGs
- Understand the difference between Organic Agriculture and FFLG

Module 2 Topics covered

FFLG

- Reflection technics roles and learning
- Group governance
- Contructive feed fack
- External facilitator individual work plan

Organic agriculture

- Soil fertility technics: organic manure, green manure, mulching and crop rotation
- Farming systems
- Pest and desease control in general and in tomatoes and egg plant
- Permaculture introduction
- Water management

Module 3 objectives

- Can practice farm planning at their own farm and introduce farm planning in their FFLG
- Have been introduced to farm record keeping as a way to improve farm planning
- Know the advocacy process and have identified issues for collective advocacy in their FFLG
- Understand the causes of soil erosion and methods to prevent soil erosion
- Are familiar with the principles and methods of sustainable water management

Module 3 topics covered

FFLG

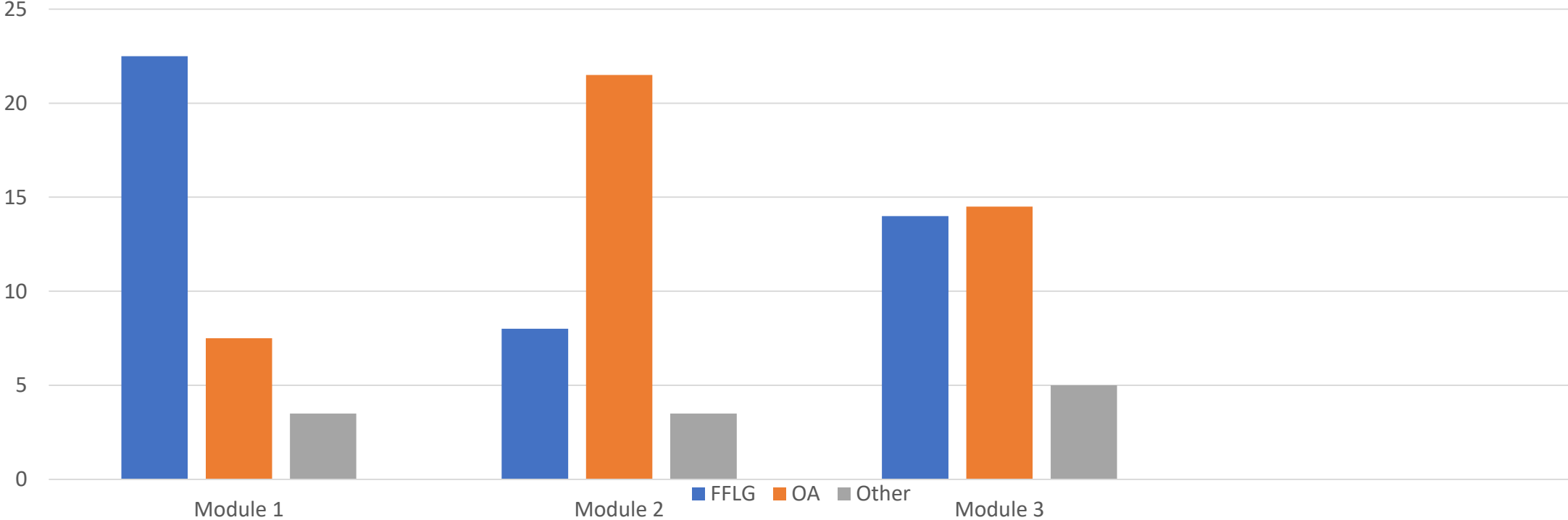
- Advocacy process
- Benefit and challenges of FFLG
- Planning of FFLG development
- Access to government funds

Organic agriculture

- Farm Planning Cycle
- Crop rotation
- Seasonal planning
- Farm record keeping
- Soil erosion causes
- Challenges and solutions in water management

Training of external FFLG facilitators

Time spent on FFLG, OA and other issues



FFLG training methods

- Presentations by participants and trainers
- Host team
- Level expectations
- Recap
- Group work
- Role play
- Buzz groups
- Plenum presentation and discussion
- Increase the circle
- Brainstorm
- Practical field exercise
- Debate
- Reflective teams
- Group reflection
- Gallery
- Cut and mix
- Feed back
- Evaluation
- Q&A

Asante
Sana

