



# Doc 3.4 : The Market Opportunities Survey (MOS) Tool and Forms

## Guidelines for use of the Market Opportunities Survey Form For Producers

### **1. Introduction**

Two different forms have been developed for the Market Opportunities Survey: one for producers and one for traders as the questions they need to be asked are slightly different. First the MOS-Producers questionnaire.

### **2. Information objectives**

The MOS-Producers form provides information on the situation of the producers of particular goods/services, which have been identified through the Community Demand Survey.

Results of the MOS for Producers will provide the following information:

- Reasons why local producers do not/cannot adequately supply the consumers in the community.
- Whether the producers think local production could be expanded/improved.
- What sources of technical and credit support are available from different agencies for the producers.

### **3. Data processing**

Individual interviews are conducted with producers using a standard questionnaire [see 2.2 below].

### **4. Selection of interviewees**

The interviewees to be selected should be local producers who deal in goods/services for which unsatisfied consumer demand was found in the CDS and for which there is a potential for employment creation as found through the CP.

The owner of the enterprise or somebody within the enterprise who has good knowledge of its operations should be the actual interviewee. There should be two or three respondent-producers for each product under review.

### **5. Data processing**

When all the interviews have been done, the MOS data is summarized using the form below.

### **6. Data analysis and interpretation**

#### **I. Unsatisfied demand for products**

A low level of production is an obvious reason for inability to supply the demands of local buyers. It may be that the enterprise has only a few regular customers, in which case the owner may think that all his/her customers are satisfied.

Often however, the producer will say that he/she is 'unable to satisfy all the demands of the customers'. In this case, s/he should be asked to estimate the demand not met. (which gives an idea of how much production could still be increased).

If financial assistance is the only reason for low production by the enterprise, this problem has to be solved first before new employment can be created within this business (either an extra employee of an existing business or as a new business producing the same product). Financial problems alone are not a suitable reason for a TREE training course. The TREE training officer should then look at other products with unsatisfied demand where potential skills training courses is the problem.

## **II. Potential for expanding/ improving local production**

Some enterprise owners want to limit their operations to employ only family members: they do not want to hire (and pay) workers from outside. Many believe that they would not maximize income from the business if they start paying wages to outsiders. If employment is being considered through expansion of an existing business therefore, it is important to find out first if the owner is willing to expand its operations. If so, the targeted increase in production should be related to the estimated unsatisfied consumer demand.

If the owner is going to expand his business, what he will do e.g. marketing and financing, increased labour force, will have a direct bearing on what TREE should do. If such actions will not increase the needed workforce, there is no point in conducting a vocational skills training course. If on the other hand, additional workers will be needed, this will guide TREE in identifying the kind of skills training courses needed and the number of trainees that can be expected to be employed upon completion of the training.

## **III. Sources of financial and technical assistance**

Absence of financial and technical assistance can be the reason why an enterprise cannot satisfy the demand for its products. This is important to assess the potential expansion of a business.

The information in this section will show what financial and technical assistance is available and where these can be found. This information is very important if the establishment of new (self) employment activities is to be encouraged.

## **IV. Other Producers of Similar Products**

Information about other producers of similar products, may give a more general picture of this enterprise. The existence of common problems, will give TREE programme a good idea of the potential for wage/self employment creation in the area being considered.

# Market Opportunities Survey Form for Producers

Village/Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Producer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Product/s:** \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Unsatisfied Demand of Local Consumers

A. What is your business' **average volume of production** for \_\_\_\_\_ (type of product) per day/week/month /cycle?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **per** \_\_\_

## B. Unsatisfied demand for this product

Are there situations when you are not able to meet the demand of some of your current or potential customers for the product?

\_\_\_ **No**

(If respondent immediately answers none, ask him/her to think of the past few weeks or cycles. If the answer is still none or not any more, go to Section II);

\_\_\_ **Yes**

Which of the following specific type/s of demand/s by the customers for your product are you not able to satisfy?

- \_\_\_ quantity asked;
- \_\_\_ quality lower than what customers want;
- \_\_\_ design/style inappropriate;
- \_\_\_ prices too high;
- \_\_\_ others (specify):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(If the respondent has more than one answer, ask him/her to put the answers in order from 1 to 5, with **1** as the most common reason.)

## C. Reasons for inability to satisfy demand

What do you see as the reason/s for your not being able to supply the demands of all your current or potential customers?

- lack of raw materials:
- not enough sources to buy more
- lack of finances to buy more
- difficulty in transporting raw materials
- lack of tools/equipment:
- outdated/old implements
- not enough implements to produce more:
- no sources to buy more
- lack of finances to buy more
- needs more workers (specify type):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- outdated/inefficient technology
- low quality of products
- high cost of production
- design and/or style are inappropriate
- others (specify):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(If more than one reason is given, ask respondent to put the answers in order from 1 to 5, with **1** as the most important.)

## **II. Potential for Expanding/Improving Production**

### **A. Willingness to expand/improve production:**

Do you intend to expand or improve your production?

- No (Go to Section III)
- Yes (Go to B.)

### **B. Percent increase if production is expanded/improved**

If you do expand/improve your production, by what percentage would you increase the Module of your product per day/week/month/cycle?

\_\_\_ % increase in production per \_\_\_\_\_.

### **C. Actions to be taken to ensure success in expanding production**

If you go ahead with expansion/ improvement of your production, what actions will you take to be successful?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

(Refer back to Section I-C, and review if actions to be taken match the reasons given for inability to supply demand. If no actions are given for one or more of the problems mentioned in Section I-C, ask respondent what s/he will do about these problems and add the answers to the list above.

**D. Need for workers in case of expansion/improvement**

If you go on and expand/improve your production, will you need:

- \_\_\_ additional workers;
- \_\_\_ to train your current workers;
- \_\_\_ no additional workers or training of current workers?  
(go to Section III)

If you hire additional workers, how many and what type of workers do you think you will need?

<u>Number</u>	<u>Type of Worker</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

If your current workers need training, what kind of skills do they need to learn and how many of them will be trained?

<u>Number</u>	<u>Type of Skill</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**III. Sources of Financing/Technical Assistance**

**A. Sources of Financing**

1. If you do not mind my asking, what are the sources of financing for your business?

(Ask about percentages only after respondent has mentioned all sources of business funding)

%	Source	Location
_____	Self: _____	_____
_____	Family: _____	_____

_____ Relatives:	_____	_____
_____ Friends:	_____	_____
_____ Coop:	_____	_____
_____ Rural bank:	_____	_____
_____ Others (specify):	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

2. (If more than one source of funds)

You have listed \_\_\_\_ as your sources of finance. What is your estimate of the percentage each source contributes to the total funding of your business?

**B. Sources of Technical Assistance**

To improve your business operations, do you get advice from anyone?:

	<b>Source</b>	<b>Location</b>
1.	Government Agency:	
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
2.	N G O s:	
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
3.	Others	
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

**IV. Other Producers of Similar Products**

**A. Estimated number of producers in the community**

1. Are there other producers of your product in this community?

- \_\_\_ No
- \_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_ About How Many?

2. If you know some of the producers, can you tell me the names of some of them and where they can be found?

<u>Name of Producer</u>	<u>Location</u>
-------------------------	-----------------

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**B. Common problems of producers relative to inability to meet demand of local buyers**

Earlier you gave some reasons why you are not able to supply all the demands of some of your customers. Which of these reasons do you think are problems which the other producers also have?

- \_\_\_ lack of raw materials
- \_\_\_ not enough sources
- \_\_\_ lack of finances to buy more
- \_\_\_ lack of tools/equipment
- \_\_\_ outdated/old implements
- \_\_\_ not enough implements to produce more
- \_\_\_ not enough suppliers to buy from
- \_\_\_ not enough finances to buy more
- \_\_\_ needs more workers (specify type):

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ outdated/inefficient technology
- \_\_\_ high cost of production
- \_\_\_ low quality of products
- \_\_\_ design and/or style are inappropriate
- \_\_\_ others (specify):

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**(If more than one problem is given, ask respondent to put answers in order from 1 to 5, with 1 as the most serious.)**

**V. Potential for Employment Creation**

**A. Suggestion for Utility of Unused/Abundant Raw Materials**

1. There are a number of unused/underused raw materials available in the community. In your own opinion, what products could be made out of them?

<u>Raw Material</u> (List from CP)	<u>Potential Product/s</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you were to begin another business, which two of the products you mentioned above would you produce?

Product

Why?

_____	_____
	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____
	_____

**B. Other new product(s) that can be profitably produced?**

Regardless of where the raw materials come from and/or where the market will be, what other new products could be produced in the community?

Product

Why is it needed?

_____	_____
	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____
	_____

### 3.2 Market Opportunities Survey for Traders

**Guidelines for use of the survey form.**

#### 1. Introduction

As mentioned earlier, two specific forms for the Market Opportunities Survey have been developed: one for producers and one for traders. The forms are similar, but some of the questions they need to be asked are different. This section covers the MOS for Traders.

#### 2. Information objectives

The MOS-Traders form provides information on the situation of the traders in particular goods/services, which have been identified through the Community Demand Survey.

Results of the **MOS for Traders** will provide the following information:



- The reasons why local traders do not/cannot adequately supply the consumers in the community.
- Solutions which local traders think can be considered to meet consumer demand.
- Suggestions for employment opportunities in the community.

### **3. Data processing**

As with the MOS-Producers survey, the MOS-Traders survey is carried out through individual interviews with traders using a standard questionnaire (below).

### **4. Selection of interviewees**

The interviewees to be selected should be traders who deal in the goods for which unsatisfied consumer demand was found in the CDS and for which there is a potential for employment creation as found through the CP.

The selected interviewees should be knowledgeable about the situation of local producers.

The owner of the enterprise or somebody within the enterprise who has good knowledge of its operations should be the actual interviewee. There should be 2 or 3 respondent-traders for each product under review.

### **5. Data processing**

When all the interviews have been completed, the MOS - Traders data is summarized using the form below.

### **6. Data analysis and interpretation**

#### **I. Unsatisfied Demand for Products**

Firstly, information on the quantity of sales of the specific product under review, needs to be related to unsatisfied demand for the product. Low sales can either mean there is very little demand for the product in the community or that there is not a good enough supply. It may be that, as with producers, the trader has a few regular customers and so feels that the demands of his/her customers are all satisfied.

Often however, the trader will say s/he is unable to satisfy all customers, in which case s/he should be asked to estimate the demand not met (which gives an idea of how much the business could be increased).

The traders may also have a good idea of the nature of the problem(s) of the local producers/suppliers which will help decide whether or not there is a need for training to meet unsatisfied demand.

#### **II. Potential for Expanding/Improving Local Production**

Traders are often in a good position to know what the customers want and what causes their product dissatisfaction. Their suggestions on how production by local producers can be expanded or improved will be very helpful in finding out whether TREE programme will have a role to play.

### III. Potential for Employment Creation

As local businessmen, traders may have interesting ideas on other potential wage/self-employment activities that could be successfully undertaken in the community.

The MOS-Traders information will be reported in the same way as that from the MOS for Producers [see above].

### Market Opportunities Survey Form for Traders

Village/Community: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Trader: \_\_\_\_\_ Product/s: \_\_\_\_\_

#### I. Unsatisfied Demand of Local Consumers

A. What is your business' **average sales Module** for \_\_\_\_\_ (type of product) per day/week/month /cycle?

\_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Unsatisfied demand for this product

Are there situations when you are not able to meet the demand of some of your current or potential customers for the product?

\_\_\_ **No**

(If respondent immediately answers none, ask him/her to think of the past few weeks or cycles. If the answer is still none or not any more, go to Section II).

\_\_\_ **Yes**

Which of the following specific type/s of demand/s by the customers for your product are you not able to satisfy?

- \_\_\_ quantity asked
- \_\_\_ quality lower than what customers want
- \_\_\_ design/style inappropriate

- \_\_\_ prices too high
- \_\_\_ others (specify):
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

(If the respondent has more than one answer, ask him/her to put the answers in order from 1 to 5, with **1** as the most common reason.)

**C. Reasons for inability to satisfy demand**

What do you see as the reason/s for your not being able to meet the demands of all your current or potential customers?

- \_\_\_ not enough stocks available
- \_\_\_ Sources cannot supply quantities ordered
- \_\_\_ Lack of finances to buy more stocks
- \_\_\_ sources cannot supply higher quality product
- \_\_\_ sources cannot supply design/style wanted
- \_\_\_ purchase costs from suppliers are high
- \_\_\_ lack of transport to bring the product from its source to community;
- \_\_\_ others (specify):
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

(If more than one reason is given, ask respondent to put the answers in order from 1 to 5, with **1** as the most important.)

**D. Sources (suppliers) of the product**

From where or whom do you buy most of the stocks of the product?

- \_\_\_ local producers
- \_\_\_ local wholesaler/retailer
- \_\_\_ nearby towns/provincial capital
- \_\_\_ regional trading centre
- \_\_\_ national capital city.

**II. Potential of Local Production**

**A. Actions local producers could take to improve production**

1. How, do you think, local producers could improve their production? (If there are no local producers, go to Section III)

- \_\_\_ increased availability of raw materials
- \_\_\_ better and/or more tools/equipment
- \_\_\_ better production technology
- \_\_\_ more and/or better skilled workers
- \_\_\_ updated design and/or style
- \_\_\_ others (specify):

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2. If the production problem/s of current number of local producers are solved, do you think their total combined output of the product will be:
- \_\_\_ enough to satisfy the local demand
  - \_\_\_ more than enough to satisfy local demand
  - \_\_\_ not enough to satisfy the local demand

### III. Potential Employment Creation

#### A. Suggestion for use of unused/abundant raw materials

1. There are a number of unused/ underused raw materials in the community. In your opinion, what products could be made from them for which there would be a demand?

<u>Raw Material</u> (list from CP)	<u>Potential Product/s</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. If you were to begin a production type of business, which two of the products you mentioned above would you produce?

<u>Product</u>	<u>Why?</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
	_____

#### B. Other new product(s) that can be profitably produced?

Regardless of where the raw materials will come from and/or where the market will be, what other new products can be produced in the community?

<u>Product</u>	<u>Why is it worth producing?</u>
_____	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____

Potential new economic activities suggested from the above TNO surveys should then be summarized as follows: (This form is the basis of the report on the TNO surveys)

### 3.3 Potential New Economic Activities

#### I. Potential Economic Activity

One copy of this section should be completed for each proposed enterprise

A. **Description of the economic activity**

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B. **Nature of economic activity**

- new to programme site, but present in the adjacent villages;  
 new to programme site and not present in adjacent villages;

C. **Basic justification for recommendation**

- there is a big demand for the good/s or service/s in the community that is not being met by suppliers and/or producers;
- there is a big demand for the good/s or service/s in nearby villages/districts that are not being met by suppliers and/or producers;
- raw materials can be regularly made available to the programme site and at reasonable prices;
- others (specify):

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D. **Source(s) of information**

<u>Specific Source</u>	<u>Contact Person, if any</u>
------------------------	-------------------------------

1. Agency

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

2. Business enterprise(s)

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

3. Others:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E. **Site(s) for recommended economic activity**

Which will be the best areas in the programme site to set up the economic activity?

<u>Recommended Areas</u>	<u>Why?</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**II. MARKETING**

A. **Product**

1. What specific types of good/s or service/s will be produced by the recommended economic activity?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who will be the main **ultimate users** of the good/s or service/s to be produced?

individuals/families (ultimate users)  
 offices  
 production business establishments  
 other, (specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who will be the main **target buyers** of the of the good/s or service/s to be produced by the proposed economic activity?

individuals/families  
 production business establishments  
 labour contractors  
 intermediaries<sup>1</sup>:  
 middlemen  
 wholesalers  
 retailers  
 other (specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Many enterprises sell their goods or services to different channels of marketing, such as intermediaries, who in turn sell the products to the ultimate users.

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4. Where are the main target buyers located?

<u>Area</u>	<u>Specific location</u>
___ local community	_____
___ surrounding communities	_____
___ district capital	_____
___ adjacent towns	_____
___ provincial capital	_____
___ regional trading centre	_____
___ adjacent regions	_____
___ others, (specify):	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. If product is manufactured or processed in other areas, why will target buyers purchase the good(s) or service(s) from new producers in programme site?

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**B. Competitors**

Current producers of the good/s or service/s are from:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Specific location</u>
___ local community	_____
___ surrounding communities	_____
___ district capital	_____
___ adjacent towns	_____
___ provincial capital	_____
___ regional trading centre	_____
___ adjacent regions	_____
___ others, (specify):	_____
_____	_____

**III. Production**

**A. Raw materials/production inputs**

1. What are the raw materials and/or production inputs needed to produce the product and where will their main sources be?

<u>Input needed</u>	<u>Main source</u>	<u>Specific Location, available</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. Tools/equipment:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Source</u>
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a. Tools: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Spare parts: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Repair/maintenance service: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Sources of technical assistance in production**

1. What are the different types of skills needed for production and their availability in the programme site?

<u>Skills Needed</u>	<u>Availability locally</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
_____	___	___
_____	___	___
_____	___	___
_____	___	___
_____	___	___
_____	___	___

2. If skills are available locally:

a. Are there unemployed workers with the skills who can be hired for new enterprises?

\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

If yes, which type of workers are available:



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b. If there are, do any of the skills available locally need improvement?

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**C. Product identification**

1. Using basically the same raw materials and tools and equipment needed to produce the proposed good/s or service/s, are there other types of products that can be done?

\_\_\_ Yes; \_\_\_ No

If yes, what is/are this/these?

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**IV. Financing**

**A. Sources of financing**

Apart from self-financing, what are the alternative sources of funding in and around the programme site?

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Location</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**V. Personnel/Management**

**A. Type of Organizational Set-up**

The most appropriate form of organization recommended for the enterprise (economic activity) to be set up is:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Main reason for recommendation</u>
___ individual	_____
___ family-based	_____
___ group	_____
___ cooperative	_____
___ others (specify)	_____

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Potential difficulties**

What are likely to be the main difficulties in successfully setting-up and operating a business of the proposed type?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3.4 Summary of Proposed New Economic Activities**

New economic activity	Main reason for recommendation	Skills training needed? Y/N
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**3.5 Possible Types of Group Enterprise Organization**

**i) Cooperatives**

Cooperatives are easily the most popular type of group enterprise. There are many different kinds of cooperatives: e.g. consumers coops, production coops, marketing coops, credit coops, service coops, transport coops and multi-purpose coops.

Cooperatives are designed mainly to help people do together what they cannot do alone. This can make the cooperative an appropriate group working arrangement for projects for those less capable of working on their own or for enterprises which cannot be carried out by one person.

**ii) Production Associations**

Some business enterprises start as small ventures among two or more friends, relatives, neighbours, etc., who share a common vision and interests. For various reasons, such as their small numbers, lack of interest, not in a position to fulfill all the required legal obligations, they do not register as a cooperative, but begin operations as an informal group or association.

This is often an intermediate phase of development. Some of these groups grow and eventually become large businesses, while others may later become formal cooperatives.

In some countries, associations are also eligible for support from government and lending institutions. For banks and other credit organizations, they have advantages, such as peer pressures and group responsibility, which can replace collateral and reduce their credit risk. Larger units also often have better management. For support services, it is also an obvious advantage to be able to deal with a small number of larger units rather than many small units or individuals.

As part of the TREE skills training, it may be decided to form the graduates into informal groups or associations. This would mean that they need to be provided with training on both how to manage a common income-generating project and how to work together as a group.

### **iii) Venture Capital Projects**

Venture capital projects are designed to bring together labour groups, who are looking for income and employment opportunities, and capital investors looking for business ideas to invest their money. There are several variations:

#### **a) Labour sub-contracting**

Here an organized group of skilled people (e.g. TREE graduates) enters into a production contract with a venture capitalist.

The terms of the agreement depend on the nature of the project. Sometimes it concerns only the payment for labour, in other cases it involves labour plus other costs. Such an arrangement eliminates (at least for the time being), the need for graduates to find capital to start a business/ project. However, a savings programme should also be introduced so that the group eventually raise their own capital requirements and eventually become independent.

#### **b) Anchor Projects**

Anchor projects refer to those production concerns which are technically attached to another firm such as those which produce inputs for manufacturing industries or agri-processing plants. The existence of the supplier group depends on the marketing firm, but at least the market, and sometimes the technology and product problems of the producer groups are taken care of.

#### **c) Industrial Partnerships**

These are formally organized business ventures of investors and groups of workers, who have agreed to pool their labour and capital resources for economic purposes. The resulting profits are distributed accordingly.

Within the TREE training programmes, use can be made of all these and other types of rural enterprises to ensure employment for their graduates. There are however, some important points which need to be considered if these type of arrangements are planned for TREE graduates:

- Special elements such as group formation and association entrepreneurship development should be included in the training programmes.
- Group savings and capital accumulation schemes should also be included in the course, to assure future self-reliance of the graduates.
- Partner firms/individuals need to understand the TREE approach that while provisional arrangements can be made, the trainees are expected eventually decide the working arrangements on their own terms and may decide to become independent of the partner firm.
- Groups should be formed and become used to regular saving **before** beginning the training course.

