Doc 2.4. Identifying partner organizations

For the implementation of TREE it is important to select organizations that have demonstrated capacity and experience in community-based approaches in development activities, are gender sensitive and have been functioning well. It may be useful to liaise with national or local programs for the promotion of gender equality to obtain information on their activities such as gender sensitization programs, identify good practices related to the promotion of gender equality and build useful partnerships with the TREE program.

Discussion with local authorities:

Objective to look into the possibility of conducting a TREE programme in the district and assess their ability support for skills training and post-training support:

During interviews with potential partners, the TREE team needs to discuss and assess:

- Their willingness to engage in a transparent decision-making process with the community especially the target groups;
- Their capacity to conduct or support objective assessment of local employment opportunities;
- Their linkages with other organizations and programs involved in rural employment and livelihood promotion ;
- Their knowledge of dominant economic activities, current unemployment and under-employment situation; available resources and raw materials in the locality (particularly those presently exported from the area for further processing elsewhere) and prevailing economic/employment opportunities (e.g. recently successful or failed businesses) and job preferences of young women and men;
- Existence of training venue/potential training venues;
- Capacity building needs of trainers
- payment for direct training costs (local contributions?) and post-training support;
- Other required post-training support (e.g. social preparation, inputs supply, marketing, etc.).

Discussion with with government agencies:

Objective to look into the possibility of conducting of institutionalizing and mainstreaming the TREE methodology at the national level:

During interviews with potential partners, the TREE team needs to discuss and assess:

- Number of staff (administrative/field).
- Capacity Building needs
- Familiarity with community-based training programs
- Mandate and target groups.
- Rural and livelihood Programs / projects engaged in:
  - employment promotion / livelihood;
  - skills training,
  - entrepreneurship development, etc..,
  - promotion of gender equality,

- o appropriate technology promotion
- Source of funding
- Possible areas of collaboration with TREE.

Discussion with financial institutions

Objective to assess their interest and capacity to provide post-training support

During interviews with potential partners, the TREE team needs to discuss and assess:

- Conditions of loan and credit availability:
  - o maximum amount of loans;
  - o type of economic activities for which loan is provided (whether only manufacturing, or also services, trade);
  - o disbursement in cash or kind;
  - o repayment period;
  - o interest rate.
- Collateral requirements:
  - o land, real estate,
  - o tools and equipment;
  - o character loans/guarantor;
  - o residency requirements.
  - o Individual or group collaterals
- Approval procedures:
  - o to what extent is decision-making decentralized;
  - o average time to complete loan application procedure.
  - o Actual number of loans to small businesses.

Discussion with Local and regional NGOS

Objective to assess their interest and capacity to provide or support economic opportunities assessment, training and post training support

During interviews with potential partners, the TREE team needs to

- Ask about the history, geographical scope and type of NGO (political/ welfare/ service/ development-oriented).
- Assess the number of staff (administrative / technical field officers).
- Determine Source of funding
- Discuss the type of activities they are engaged in:
  - o Rural development,
  - o non-farm income generation/employment promotion,
  - o credit/lending;
  - o skills/entrepreneurship development training.

- Assess their knowledge of the local socio-economic context
- Discuss ideas for employment promotion:
    - available local resources
    - access to special technologies
    - skills and entrepreneurship development training
- Discuss possible linkages with the TREE program.