





# An Introduction to Technology Stewardship for Agricultural Communities of Practice

## COURSE WORKBOOK

### An Introduction to Technology Stewardship for Agricultural Communities of Practice

**Course Workbook** 

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# SESSION 1: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF TECHNOLOGY STEWARDSHIP

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Introduction to Technology Stewardship for Agricultural Communities of Practice

### Worksheet 1.1 (a): Discussion on Communities of Practice

Let's begin with identifying a Community of Practice in the case study and thinking about who might fit the role of technology steward.

Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.

-Wenger E., R. McDermott, W. Snyder (2002). Cultivating Communities of Practice. Harvard Business Press. (p. 4)

Tech stewards most often are members of the community they serve. They just happen to pay attention to technology issues in the community's life.

-Wenger, E., N. White, J. Smith (2008). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CP Square. (p.25)

### Review Case Study PART A

Discuss each of these questions in your group and write down your responses.

- What community of practice (COP) is identified in the case study?
- What other possible communities of practice might exist in this region? Consider the various issues and concerns listed in the case study booklet. A COP might be narrowly focused on a specific domain. Or it might have a more general focus.
- List two ways that members of a COP might interact to share expertise as a group?
- Who is filling the role of technology steward in the case study?
- Who else might be able to fill the role of technology steward in the case study?
  - Who understands the community well? Who is trusted?
  - Who is likely to be paying attention to ICT use in the community?

## Worksheet 1.1(b): Discussion on Principles of Stewarding

Let's examine the community's priority, the ICT tool, and the principles that will guide the tech steward in helping the community in the case study.

### Review Case Study PART B and PART C

Discuss each of these questions in your group and write down your responses based on details in the case study.

Review the key principles of stewarding:	Discuss with your group and write your notes here
<i>Vision before technology:</i> What is the priority need that the community members identified at the meeting?	
<i>Keep it simple</i> : What is the most obvious choice of ICT tool for this community to address that need? What are some of the advantages? What are the disadvantages of this choice?	
<b>Understand failure/build on success:</b> What are some signs of success if this choice of ICT tool is effective? What kind of information will you need to collect to determine if it is a success?	
True or false: the chosen ICT tool must perform as intended for it to be a successful campaign.	
If true, then why? If false, then why not?	
<i>Use the knowledge around you</i> : Who in the community, or elsewhere, could assist the technology steward in this case?	

Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. Portland: CPSquare.

## Worksheet 1.2: Classifying Community Priorities

Let's classify and rank the identified priorities of the community of practice in the case study into one or more orientations.

### **Review Case Study PART D**

Use this Spider Diagram to plot out the two priority orientations described in the case study.

Use the scale on the diagram to rank each orientation, with 5 being most important. Based on the details in the case study, plot a third orientation that might be important to the community.



Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CPsquare.

In the following table circle the primary orientation(s) for some other examples with different kinds of priorities.





## Worksheet 1.3: Choosing an ICT Tool

When choosing an ICT tool, it is important that it is *fit for purpose*. In other words, the tool and its features must be able to support the activity for which it will be used.

Note that an ICT tool is not the same as a *platform*. A platform or 'app' (e.g., Google, Facebook) generally includes a set of ICT tools.

### Review Case Study PART E

The Tools Landscape diagram helps to find a good fit between the choice of ICT tool and the community dynamic and activities it can support. This diagram already includes some examples.

Locate the ICT tool from the case study on this diagram. Does it favour participation or documentation? Synchronous or asynchronous communication? Individual or group action?



Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CPsquare.

### Understanding the Tools Landscape: Exercises

Look at the table below and read the activity descriptions. Then turn to the next set of pages and circle the ICT tool from the Tools Landscape chart that best fits each of the described activities.

Note: In some examples there may be more than one ICT tool that is required to support the activity.

Exercise	Campaign Description
А	A radio station runs a campaign and asks its listeners to send questions for its weekly farm radio broadcast;
В	The community members want to be able to report any risks or hazards they observe in the area. They would like to see these reports plotted on a map and posted on the Internet for government officers to see;
С	Farmers would like to be able to have easy access to real-time market prices on crops;
D	An extension officer wants to create a collection of images and short video clips in response to questions from farmers about their crops. The officer would like farmers to be able to rate and comment on the items in the collection.

Exercise A: Circle the ICT tool(s) that are a good fit for this purpose

A radio station runs a campaign and asks its listeners to send questions for its weekly farm radio broadcast;



Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CPsquare.

Exercise B: Circle the ICT tool(s) from that are a good fit for this purpose

The community members want to be able to report any risks or hazards they observe in the area. They would like to see these reports plotted on a map and posted on the Internet for government officers to see;



Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CPsquare.

Exercise C: Circle the ICT tool(s) from that are a good fit for this purpose

Farmers would like to be able to have easy access to real-time market prices on crops;



Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CPsquare.

Exercise D: Circle the ICT tool(s) from that are a good fit for this purpose

An extension officer wants to create a collection of images and short video clips in response to questions from farmers about their crops. The officer would like farmers to be able to rate and comment on the items in the collection.



Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CPsquare.

### Worksheet 1.4: Planning and Managing a Campaign

A well-defined campaign goal includes three important details. Complete these sentences based on the details in Part D of the case study:

The specific <u>target</u> of the campaign was to \_\_\_\_\_

The specific <u>activity</u> of the campaign was \_\_\_\_\_

The community of practice involved in this campaign was \_\_\_\_\_

### Review Case Study PART F

Discuss these questions with your group and write down your answers.

1.) What key factor influenced the decision on when the campaign would take place? How long did the campaign run?

2.) What other kinds of factors might influence the timing or duration of a campaign?

3.) The case study describes some of the activities of the Tech Steward prior to the launch of the campaign. What were they?

4.) In this case did the Tech Steward or the community require any special training, administrative approval, or financial support to set up the technology for the campaign?

5.) Imagine the details of the case were different. Can you suggest an example of a choice of ICT tool or platform that would require special training, administrative approval, or financial support?

6.) The case study describes some of the activities of the Tech Steward at the end of the campaign. What were they?

7.) How did the Tech Steward collect information to assess whether the campaign had met its objective?

- Before the campaign:
- During the campaign:
- After the campaign:

8.) Based on the Results and Conclusion section of the case study, what impact did the Tech Steward and the campaign have on this community of practice? Introduction to Technology Stewardship for Agricultural Communities of Practice

## SESSION 2:

## ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY AND CREATING A CAMPAIGN

## WORKSHEETS

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Introduction to Technology Stewardship for Agricultural Communities of Practice

## Worksheet 2.1: Identify a Community of Practice

The Tech Stewardship approach focuses its efforts on communities of practice as the unit of engagement and transformation. Leadership and social influence are important factors in changing practices related to ICT choice.

Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.

-Wenger E., R. McDermott, W. Snyder (2002). Cultivating Communities of Practice. Harvard Business Press. (p. 4)

You are likely a member of a community of practice but may have never thought about it before.

Consider the statements in the following table. To what extent do they reflect your interactions with others in your field? Can you identify a community of practice to which you belong?

If you can't identify an existing COP, can you imagine a community of practice that might be created to serve your professional development and/or business interests?

Indicator of a community of practice	Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
We meet regularly on topics of mutual professional interest	
We share information about current events and new practices	
Conversations happen easily on professional subjects	
We share a common set of basic knowledge and skills	
We provide advice and assistance to each other	
We are familiar with similar tools, processes, and professional/business requirements	

We share stories, inside jokes, and jargon	
We share an outlook on the world	
We want to help each other learn and improve their professional practice	
We identify as a group	

Share and discuss with your partner, then discuss as a group. List the communities of practice that you have identified with your group:

To what extent is ICT being used by or within these communities of practice? Is it effective? Is it being used to its full potential?

Choose a community of practice with your group members, give it a name, and write it down here with a brief description of its "*shared concerns [and] passion about a topic*":

## Worksheet 2.2: The Technology Steward

Tech stewards most often are members of the community they serve. They just happen to pay attention to technology issues in the community's life.

-Wenger, E., N. White, J. Smith (2008). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CP Square. (p.25)

Technology Stewardship is a community leadership role. People take on the role for several reasons (often more than one):

- No one else is doing it
- Satisfaction in serving the needs of the community of practice
- Establishing and helping to realize a vision for the community
- Personal learning and growth
- Professional development and advancement

The Tech Steward role is typically part-time and voluntary. In some cases, it is an *ad hoc* response to address a specific problem or opportunity. Other times it is a longer term and strategic commitment on the part of the community.

The demands of the role vary by community and by situation. Technology Stewardship can take on many different possibilities. *No one size fits all*.

There are five primary streams of activity in the Tech Steward role:

- 1. Understanding the community, its needs, and its aspirations
- 2. Be aware of ICT choices and developments of interest to the community
- 3. Help the community make informed choices about ICT tools and platforms
- 4. Help the community experiment with ICT choices
- 5. Help the community to integrate effective ICT choices into everyday use

This course has been designed to introduce the Technology Stewardship approach. Some participants will see themselves as doing tech stewardship already, and this course may help them to improve their practice.

Others will see it as a role they could fulfill to help serve the interests of their community.

Those participants not interested in serving as tech stewards can still benefit from understanding the role and telling others about this approach.

Take a moment to review the questions in the following table and then discuss with your group members.

Reflecting on the role of the Tech	n Steward
Are you interested in serving your community as a tech steward? If not, do you know someone else that could fill this role?	
What is your background and experience with ICT?	
How much energy and time do you have for stewarding?	
How will you learn what you need to know as a steward?	
What is your relationship to the community you serve?	
What is your relationship with community leaders? Are you a community leader?	
How do you interact with community members, individually/as a group?	
What or who gives you credibility to serve as a tech steward?	
Who else is interested and could help you by offering support and resources?	

How do your responses to these questions compare with those of your group members? Do you have a Tech Steward in the group? Do you have potential Tech Steward in the group?

Write down some key points and questions from your discussion to share with the class.

## Worksheet 2.3 Community Characteristics



### LIFECYCLE: Where is your community with respect to its stage of maturity?

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Just forming: we need basic tools to connect as a community

Self-designing: we have a strong sense of what we want to accomplish as a community of practice but haven't got there yet



Growing and restless: we have some accomplishments behind us and are ready to try something new with the community



Stable and adaptive: we are satisfied with what we are doing now but willing to try new ideas if they provide benefits

### CONSTITUTION: How Diverse is your Community?

What are the different types of members and what are their levels of participation in the community?

#### How spread apart is the community in terms of location and time zones?

No spread				Wide spread
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

#### What language(s) do members speak?

Single language Multiple language				
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

## How would you rank gender, age, or other cultural diversity among the community membership?

Low Diversity				High Diversity
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

### How connected is your community to other communities?

How much do you want to control boundaries of the community? Do you want the community interactions:

To be private and secure? To be open and shared widely? For some to be private and some to be public? Do you need ICT tools or platforms in common with other communities?

Yes No Not sure

Does your community have (or need) support for ICT use from an oversight organization or government department?

Yes No Not sure

Based on the answers to the last three questions, how would you rank your community in terms of its level of independence when choosing ICT tools/platforms:

Independent Dependent on ot				lent on others
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

Add up the score from the rankings in the CONSITUTION section: \_\_\_\_\_

**Score of 15-20** suggests a community with **high level of diversity** and dependence within an organizational context or tight linkages to other communities. The choice of ICT will need to strike a balance between accommodating different user needs and preferences, while providing ability to integrate with other ICT tools and platforms.

**Score of 5-10** suggests a community that has a **low level of diversity** and is relatively independent of organizational context with few or no dependence on other communities. The choice of ICT is flexible but will need to find consensus within the community to arrive at an optimal solution. However, future integration with other communities and ICT systems may be problematic.

**Score of 10-15** is in the **middle range** and suggest the need to choose ICT tool/platform that provides some flexibility for community members and is capable of integration with other systems.

### ASPIRATIONS: What are your community's ICT interests and skills?

### How interested are your community members in using or trying ICT tools and platforms?

Not Interested Very Intereste				
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

### What is their capacity for learning new ICT tools and practices?

Low capacity				High capacity
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

#### What is the average current level of ICT-related skills among community members?

Novice users				Expert users
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

### Is there probability of conflict in the community when introducing new ICT practices?

Low probability High proba					igh probability
	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

How many ICT barriers are members willing to cross to use a new ICT platform? (e.g., need to create new accounts and passwords, need to download new apps)

Unwilling				Very willing
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

Add up the score from the rankings in the ASPIRATIONS section: \_\_\_\_\_

**Score of 18-25** suggests a community with **high level of tolerance** for experimentation with new ICT choices; however, with this enthusiasm comes strong opinions that could lead to potential conflict. The choice of ICT can be ambitious but the Tech Steward will want to provide lots opportunities for constructive feedback from community members during the campaign to help diffuse points of conflict.

**Score of 5-12** suggests a community that has a **low level of tolerance** for experimentation with new ICT choices. The choice of ICT should be modest and address an immediate need for the community. The Tech Steward should start with a short and simple campaign using existing ICT as a way of introducing community members to a new practice. If the potential for conflict is high, the Tech Steward will want to provide lots opportunities for constructive feedback from community members during and after the campaign to help diffuse points of conflict

**Score of 12-18** is in the **middle range** and suggest a community that is willing to experiment with modest new ICT choices. The Tech Steward should start with a short and simple campaign but look for opportunities to introduce more advanced practices if the community members seem interested. Be careful not to overwhelm community members by making too many demands on their practice. Be aware of potential points of conflict within the community and work to mitigate them by providing members with opportunities to provide feedback and voice concerns.

### ACCESS: What are your community's technological constraints?

What ICT devices do members have access to on a regular basis?

Basic mobile phone Smartphone Tablet computer Desktop computer with Internet Desktop computer without Internet Laptop computer with internet Laptop computer without internet Telecentre or cybercafé with computers and Internet Radio TV Other: Other:

#### What level of internet access is available to most members of the community?

No internetAlways available				
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

What financial constraints might affect ICT use by community members? Do they use pre-paid accounts for their ICT devices and/or Internet access? Do they share or pool resources to pay for internet service?

How much time/when are most members able to be online and using ICT?

Never Once a week Several times a week Daily Anytime/always

The Tech Steward should help the community to choose ICT tools/platforms that are suited to the local access conditions and constraints. Consider these elements when designing the campaign and the campaign evaluation plan. Consider the cost implications of using the ICT tool. Consider how the ICT tool and internet access fits into the daily routine of the community members.

Check the boxes in the diagram below to create a profile of your community of practice.



## Worksheet 2.4 Community Consultation

Following the principle *Vision before Technology*, the Tech Steward consults with the community members to discuss challenges and opportunities that ICT might be able to address.

Not all problems will be suited to an ICT solution but sometimes this will only be discovered during or after a campaign.

There are various participatory methods for community consulting and you may have experience with some already. The Problem/Opportunity Tree is a method we use in this course.

### 2.4(a) Problem Tree Exercise

Begin at the **trunk**: what is a problem that our community of practice is facing right now? Write down a list of problems if there is more than one that comes to mind.





Go to the **roots**: what are the causes, situations, factors that have led to the problem? Why does the problem exist? There may be more than one cause.

Then go to the **branches**: what are the effects created by the problem? How do we experience the problem in our daily routines, practices, or group processes?
#### 2.4(b) Opportunity Tree Exercise

Having identified the problem, the causes, and effects we then consider the opportunities available to the community for making changes.

Start with the **branches**: What is our vision for the future? What outcome do we want to experience in our daily routines, practices, and group processes?



Go to the **roots**: What actions, changes in practice, routine, or situation will need to take place to help us achieve our objective? What role can ICT play in helping us to achieve the objective?

Go to the **trunk**: How do we restate the problem in a positive way? What is the objective and outcome we are trying to achieve with a change in practices and routines?

# Worksheet 2.5 Establishing the Campaign Goal

Review the Opportunity Tree exercise and what you wrote down for the Roots (means) needed to address the problem.

The following ranking table will help us understand how to act by translating *means* into *communication actions* for the community of practice.

#### 2.5(a) Translate Means into Action

Rank each type of action from 1 to 5 (5 being most relevant or important) based on the list of means identified in the Opportunity Tree exercise.

Priority Level (1 least – 6 most)	Action	Variants	Activities/Tools	Metrics
Meetings 1 2 3 4 5	We want to organize and hold meetings	<ul> <li>Face-to-face/ blended</li> <li>Online synchronous</li> <li>Online asynchronou</li> </ul>	-Participant polis -Breakouts	*Attendance *Participation *Outcomes *Cost savings
Conversations 1 2 3 4 5	We want to support open- ended discussions	<ul> <li>Single-stream discussions</li> <li>Multi-topic conversations</li> <li>Distributed conversation</li> </ul>	-Single topic threads -Multiple threads -FAQ area -Tagging -Rating ("like") -Subgroups -Private chats -Translation -Archiving -Search	*Contributions *Reponses *Contributors *Perceived usefulness
Projects 1 2 3 4 5	We want to organize and manage a project	Practice groups      Project teams      Instruction	-co-authoring -collaboration -subgroups -calendar -project mgmt -instruction -announcements	*Engagement *Impact *Cost-effectiveness *Perceived usefulness
Content 1 2 3 4 5	We want to gather and curate content/data	<ul> <li>Library</li> <li>Blogging</li> <li>Cataloguing</li> <li>Data gathering</li> </ul>	-uploading files -sharing files -viewing files -commenting -tagging, rating -curation -subscription/alerts -archiving -search -analytics	*Contributions *Usage *Cost-effectiveness *Perceived usefulness

Access to Expertise	We want to access expertise easily and quickly	Questions and requests Expert advice Shared problem solving Knowledge validation Apprenticeship/ mentoring	-simple Q&A -expertise search -FAQ -response rating -commenting -polls- -group messaging -private messages -following an expert -links to resources -search -automated responses	*Usage *Response *Timeliness *Cost effectiveness *Perceived usefulness
Social Networking	We want to connect with others in the community	Community news Finding local resources Shared problem solving Social capital Peer support	-finding others (directory) -profiles -social network visualization -1-1 interaction -group interaction -media sharing -tagging, rating -subgroups -following others -search -administration -privacy control	*Activity level *Social capital *Perceived usefulness *Cost-effectiveness

#### 2.5(b): Identify a Priority for the Campaign

A Spider Diagram can then be used to help visualize the priority actions that will contribute to the desired outcome. You can use the diagram multiple times to monitor and evaluate changes over time.

This exercise is best performed as part of the community consultation.

Plot the ranking of each action on the diagram and then draw a line between the points to form an outline of a web.

The action with the highest priority should be the focus for your first campaign.



Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CPsquare.

#### 2.5(c) Establish a Campaign Goal

The next step is to establish a goal for the campaign. As mentioned in <u>Part D</u> of the Case Study, a well-defined goal contains three important details:

- it sets a specific objective;
- for a specific action;
- with a clearly defined community of practice;

We can use the results of the Opportunity Tree exercise and Spider Diagram to help write the campaign goal:

#### The goal of the campaign is to

[objective from the Opportunity Tree]

#### by using ICT to

[priority action from the Spider Diagram]

for

[your community of practice].

# Worksheet 2.6: Create a Use Case Scenario

A use-case scenario describes a set of ICT-related activities that support the priority action and campaign goal. It identifies different *actors* who would use the system and different *functional requirements* of an ICT tool. This helps the Tech Steward to choose an appropriate ICT tool for the campaign.

There are four important parts in a use case scenario:

- 1. Actors: the people who use the system (e.g. Farmers, agriculture instructors, input suppliers). There are four types of actors:
  - active users (those who initiate activities)
  - passive users (those who receive information but do not initiate an action)
  - administrators (those who manage and control access to the ICT platform)
  - ICT tools (when they perform programmed responses or functions)
- 2. Activities: The actions performed by actors (e.g. send meeting schedule, request information or ask questions)
- 3. Sequencing: The order in which activities happen when a user interacts with a system
- 4. Value/Outcome: The intended value or process improvement created by performing the task as described in the campaign goal:
  - "Improve timeliness and reduce costs of communicating with farmers in the community."

The use case scenario should be imagined from a user's point of view. It describes in simple language who is involved and what activities take place in relation to the campaign orientation.

#### 2.6(a) Develop your Use Case Scenario

- On one set of cards or Post-it Notes (provided by your facilitator), list the main 'actors' (users and administrators) that will be involved in the campaign;
- On another set of cards or Post-it Notes (provided by your facilitator), list the ICT-related activities these actors will be doing during the campaign;
- Arrange your cards/Post-it Notes to show the sequence of activities. Use this arrangement to draw a simple Use Case diagram showing the actors and the activities that you expect to take place during the campaign.

#### Example of a Use Case Diagram

This picture is an example of a simple use case diagram based on the case study:



Based on the information presented in the diagram we can then create a list of actors and activities for the campaign. (Additional activities were added to the list after reviewing the diagram.)

Actors	Activities
Community members	Register with the system (join the group chat)
(Farmers)	Receive meeting schedule
	Confirm attendance at meetings
Technology Steward	Create group chat
(Extension officer)	Send welcome note to new members of the group
	Post schedules of meetings
	Post reminders of upcoming meetings
	Share information and important updates

### 2.6(b) Draw your Use Case Diagram:

Campaign goal:

#### 2.6(c) List the Actors and Activities from the Use Case Diagram:

Review your diagram carefully and discuss it with your group. Have you identified all the important actors? Have you identified all the important activities?

When you are satisfied that the diagram is reasonably complete, then list the actors and activities in the table below. The table will be used in the next session to help you generate a list of ICT tools for the campaign.

ACTORS	ACTIVITIES	

# SESSION 3: CHOOSING AN ICT PLATFORM AND RAPID PROTOTYPING

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Introduction to Technology Stewardship for Agricultural Communities of Practice

#### Worksheet 3.1: Matching Activities with ICT Tools

Refer to your Use Case Diagram from Session 2 write down the campaign goal you created in the previous session:

Now use the Tools Landscape graph to circle *all of tools* that can support the activities that were identified in your use case scenario. You can add tools that aren't on the graph if necessary.



Adapted from Wenger, White & Smith (2009). Digital Habitats: Stewarding Technology for Communities. CPsquare.

In the following table list the activities from your use case scenario in the previous session. Then match each activity with a tool(s) you circled in the Tools Landscape Graph. Note any features that they will need to support.

Activity	Tool	Features needed/wanted
÷		
÷		
÷		
÷		
÷		

### Worksheet 3.2: Choosing an Acquisition Strategy

Begin by first considering the most appropriate acquisition strategy for the campaign.

Be mindful that the campaign serves as a 'pilot' and might be the first step toward more advanced ICT tools and platforms for your community, so stick with the guiding principle: *keep it simple*.

Do you want to get up and running quickly but aren't ready or able to invest in an ICT platform yet?	Strategy 1: Use what you have
What are community members already using in their daily lives?	
Can you repurpose an existing platform or make small adjustments for the campaign?	
Are their skill gaps in the community that prevent an existing ICT platform from supporting the campaign?	
Will the campaign add costs to your community members when using of this platform?	

Do you need an ICT tool or features that aren't already available to the community but requires no money?	Strategy 2: Choose a free platform
Is the platform accessible to everyone that needs it?	
Can you live with advertisements on it?	
How important is control of your community data?	
How much work is involved in configuring and using this tool?	
Can the platform grow with usage?	
Are there any hidden costs?	

Does your community of practice have access to resources to pay for a commercial platform?	Strategy 3: Get a commercial platform/upgrade from free
Will the platform be accessible to everyone that needs it?	
Do you need all the tools and features it provides?	
Is the platform suited to your primary orientation and community focus?	
How much work is involved in configuring and using this platform?	
How easily can the platform integrate with existing ICT tools and platforms in the community?	
Are there any hidden costs?	

Do you have unique needs that aren't well served by any single platform? Are you not interested in or ready for a custom-designed platform?	Strategy 4: Patch pieces together
Do you have more than one ICT tool that you need to integrate into an activity?	
Do you have resources, time, and skills necessary to experiment with an unfamiliar platform?	
How much work is involved in configuring and using this platform?	
How easily can the platform integrate with existing ICT tools and platforms in the community?	
What support is available to assist with this platform?	
How much does it cost?	

Do you have unique needs not met by existing platforms? Do you have deep technical knowledge and support in your community? Do you have a developer?	Strategy 5: Build your own/hire a developer
Are you sure you are ready for this?	
Have already you conducted a campaign with a free/low cost platform first?	
Have you clearly defined the technological functionality, features, and back end support required?	
Have you clearly identified the administrative and security considerations?	
How willing is your community interested or willing to try something new and unfamiliar?	
What are your long term plans to support a custom-designed platform?	

# Worksheet 3.3: Identify your ICT Platforms

Once you have decided on a technology acquisition strategy, the next step is to identify the range of choices available within that category. ICT platforms are constantly changing, with new ones appearing frequently and other disappearing from the market.

Working with your group members, complete the sections of table that include some of the more common ICT platforms.

ICT Platform	Toolset	Key Features	Pricing Plan
Google			
Google			
Facebook			
f			
WhatsApp			

#### Strategy 1: Use What You Have



# Strategy 2: Choose a Free Platform

ICT Platform	Toolset	Key Features	Pricing Plan
mFisheries	geomapping SMS photo- sharing content repository podcast	Android app (currently listed as 'unreleased") suite of tools ('modules") for small scale fishers SOS communications with GPS data through SMS at-sea tracking and logging; alert notification by user group; weather updates camera tool some modules require registration last update Jan. 2018	Free
Namdevco-SMS	SMS	Any mobile phone price notification by commodity using keyword user pays SMS charge for receiving messages	Free
AgriMaps	geomapping content repository	Android app GPS-based mapping feature land profile and crop recommendation content last update July 2016	Free
AgriPrice	content repository; notification;	Android app price tracking of crops Google sign in required for notifications last update July 2016	Free
AgriExpense	database calculator	Android app online data backup Excel export of data multiple device sync last update Apr. 2017	Free

CABI Plantwise	content repository search tool	Android app on-demand factsheets browse by crop, by problem, by country ' practical and safe advice for tackling crop problems` expert information last update Jan. 6, 2018	Free
SR-Market	member directory search tool rating tool notification	Android app virtual market/forum for the small ruminants industry interaction takes place externally from the app last update Oct. 2016	Free
SR-Learn	content repository; member directory; notification;	Android app e-learning platform for farmers in sheep and goat industry connects to users existing CARDI account last update Oct. 2016	

### Strategy 3: Choose a Commercial Platform/Free or Upgrade

ICT Platform	Toolset	Key Features	Pricing Plan
FRONTLINESMS	SMS database API integration analytics	Desktop platform with mobile app can be used without internet connection SMS notifications for individuals or groups auto-forward to email contact database scheduling keyword interactivity database import/export 3 <sup>rd</sup> party API integration custom workflows (cost)	Free with tiered monthly subscription above 250 messages month
Textit textit	SMS IVR database API integration analytics	Desktop platform with mobile app SMS notifications for individuals or groups IVR tool design workflows with visual interface keyword interactivity scheduling contact database database import/export 3 <sup>rd</sup> party API integration	Free 1000 messaging credits; purchase additional credits \$20/\$40/\$140
Ushahidi	geomapping SMS search tool photo sharing notification visualization tool API integration	Desktop platform with mobile app (Android, iPhone) crowdmapping platform data management features 3 <sup>rd</sup> party app integration notifications by email submissions by SMS or mobile app tagging and rating of content database import/export(?)	Free basic; \$99/mo or \$499/mo for additional features

Slack	messaging	Desktop platform with	Free basic; \$8-
	group	mobile app (Android, iPhone)	15/per USer per
	messaging	team communication and	month depending on
🗱 slack	content	collaboration	features
	repository	private or group messaging	
	search tool	file sharing and collaboration	
	document	advanced archive and search	
	editor	features	
	file sharing	3 <sup>rd</sup> party app integration	
	photo		
	sharing		
	notification		
	API		
	integration		

# Strategy 4: Patch Pieces Together

ICT Platform	Toolset	Key Features	Pricing Plan
Zapier	API	Desktop platform	Free basic; \$20-
zapier	integration	3 <sup>rd</sup> party app integrator create workflows across apps with no coding requires some training for user	\$250/monthfor additionalfeatures
	API integration	Desktop platform 3 <sup>rd</sup> party app integrator create workflows across apps with no coding requires some training for user	Free

### Worksheet 3.4: Matching the Tools with the Platform

Having decided on a technology acquisition strategy, the next step is to identify the range of ICT platforms that include the tool(s) needed for your campaign. When completed, this table makes it easy to compare ICT platforms offering similar tools.

In the left hand column list the ICT tool(s) you identified on worksheet 3.1. In the middle column list the ICT platforms that include the tool(s) in the first column. Add notes about features, cost, etc., in the last column.

Tool/toolset required (from Worksheet 3.1)	Platform Option	Usage/features notes (incl. cost)
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	

#### Worksheet 3.5: Evaluate the Platform

On the previous table, each ICT platform is assigned a number from 1-6. Using that numbering system, circle the platform number(s) that you feel are best rated for each of the statements in this table. You can circle more than one platform in each row.

Compare the results after you complete this worksheet. Which platform number is most often circled? Is this the best choice for the campaign? What is the second best choice?

#### Fit for purpose

The platform has the tool we need for the campaign	1	2	3	4	5	6
The features of the tool(s) appear to be adequate	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is easy to configure (set up, maintain, operate)	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is easy for community members to use	1	2	3	4	5	6

#### Integration

It can be integrated with ICT the community has already	1	2	3	4	5	6
We can integrate it with other platforms/tools if needed	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is easy to integrate with other platforms/tools	1	2	3	4	5	6
It does not rely on another other platform to function	1	2	3	4	5	6

#### Performance

It can support enough users for the campaign	1	2	3	4	5	6
It allows for multiple administrators/profiles	1	2	3	4	5	6
It will scale up to meet our needs if it is successful	1	2	3	4	5	6

# Pricing

It is affordable for the campaign	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is affordable if we need to grow/scale up	1	2	3	4	5	6
Using this platform will not incur a cost burden for users	1	2	3	4	5	6
We do not need to request funds to try it for the campaign	1	2	3	4	5	6

# Vendor

The vendor has a good reputation (check reviews)	1	2	3	4	5	6
The vendor provides good support (check reviews)	1	2	3	4	5	6
We can accept the terms of service/end-user agreement	1	2	3	4	5	6
We can move our data to another platform later	1	2	3	4	5	6

# Security

The platform is secure enough for our purpose	1	2	3	4	5	6
The security features or policies do not present barriers to our activities	1	2	3	4	5	6

# Other considerations

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1	2	3	4	5	6

#### Worksheet 3.6: Prepare and Test the Prototype

Prototyping is the stage where we configure and test the ICT platform. In this step we configure the tool(s) on the platform to perform the activity as depicted in our Use Case Scenario. We test the configuration and fix any problems before launching the campaign.

Use this table to list the activities from your Use Case Scenario, match them with the tool(s) on the chosen ICT platform, then add any configuration notes. Check 'OK' in the Test Results column after the tool has been tested and is working as it should.

ICT Platform:	FrontlineSMS		
Activity	Tool/Feature	Configuration Notes	Test Results
farmer subscribes to receive messages	keyword function:`subscription using SMS`	Activity name: Join farmers group Create new group ' Farmers' Add welcome text	✓ OK Forgot to create group tested on mock phone
			ОК
			ОК

# Prototyping and Testing Worksheet

ICT Platform: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity	Tool/Feature	Configuration Notes	Test Results
			ОК
			ОК
			ŬK.
			ОК
			01/
			ОК
			ОК

# SESSION 4: PLANNING AND MANAGING A CAMPAIGN

# WORKSHEETS

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# Worksheet 4.2: Campaign Planning Checklist

Timing and Timeline	
Will you be ready for the demands on your time and attention when you launch the campaign?	
What external events, seasonal activities, or community schedules do you need to consider?	
How long will the campaign need to run?	

Implementation: Plan for the change process		
Who will be your main partners and/or community champions during the campaign?		
Have you received any formal approval that you might need from the community and/or sponsor to run the campaign?		
Will you need to provide any ICT training to community members before the campaign begins?		

Promotion, costs, community data		
How will you make community members aware of the campaign?		
How many community members do you expect to participate in the campaign?		
Have you calculated all the costs associated with the campaign?	ICT-related costs to you and/or the sponsor?	
	ICT-related costs to community members?	
	Other costs to you and/or the sponsor?	
	Other costs to community members?	

Security and privacy	
Who will have administrative access to the ICT platform? How will you manage admin access?	
Have you identified and made plans to mitigate any information security or privacy concerns related to ICT use during the campaign?	
Will you need pre-approval to share or disclose user information in the debrief memo?	

Learning: Plan for evaluation	
Have you created an evaluation plan?	
Do you have the resources you will need to collect evaluation information for the campaign?	
Do you have a backup plan if the campaign runs into unexpected difficulties?	

Ending the Campaign		
Have you collected all the information you need		
for your evaluation plan?		
What is the status of the ICT platform?	Continue using it	
	Shut it down and try something else	
	Pause and consult with community	
Will you need to make any changes to admin access on the ICT platform? Is user data secure?		
# 4.3 Creating a Campaign Evaluation Plan

Following the principle of *"Understand failure/build on success"* it is important for the Tech Steward to create an evaluation plan for the campaign.

"Evaluation is primarily concerned with determining the merit, worth or value of an established policy or planned intervention."

-Hall, I., D. Hall (2004). *Evaluation and Social Research*. Palgrave. (p.28)

Evaluation of a campaign is essential for the Tech Steward, the community, and sponsor to understand failure and build on success.

Evaluation has three essential features:

- it is a systematic collection of information, distinguished from casual observation and biased reporting, leading to
- an informed judgement about the value of the program being evaluated, providing
- evidence to aid decision making about next steps.

Creating an evaluation plan starts with the Tech Steward asking five key questions early in the pre-campaign phase:

- 1. What is the campaign goal?
- 2. When or how will we know if we have achieved it (metrics)?
- 3. Where will I get information (data) to assess the outcome of the campaign?
- 4. What methods can I use to collect that information?
- 5. Who can help me answer these questions? (*use the knowledge around you*)

From the previous sessions, we know that a well-defined campaign goal has three key ingredients:

A specific <u>outcome</u> for the campaign, for a specific <u>activity</u> with a specific <u>community of</u> <u>practice</u>.

We know if we have achieved the outcome by observing what happens during the campaign. We can measure effectiveness using four categories of <u>metrics</u>:

*Interaction*: the amount of activity on the ICT platform during the campaign. How many people joined the group? How many people posted messages? How many messages were posted? What time of day/day of week was activity most frequent? Do you see any patterns in the activity? Can you think of other measures of interaction?

*Engagement*: the type of activity on the ICT platform during the campaign. This is a more qualitative measure looking at the content of the interactions, such as the types of

messages posted and types of content shared, uploaded, rated, commented on, etc. Can you think of any measures of engagement?

*Influence:* the impact of the campaign relative to other methods of interaction and engagement. How many people are aware of the campaign? How many are participating (actively or passively) in the campaign? Has the campaign changed perceptions of ICT use? Has the campaign changed attitudes or perceptions of community members in relation to its intended outcome?

*Behaviour change*: the impact of the campaign on observable practices in relation to the intended outcome. Are community members doing things differently? Have they changed their communication practices? Has the campaign led to observable changes in professional or business practices of the community members in relation to its intended outcome?

Can you think of any other types of metrics that this list might have missed?

The evaluation plan is divided into three phases. Evaluation-related questions are asked and information is collected during each phase:

- Pre-campaign (achieve readiness)
- Mid-campaign (monitor and modify)
- Post-campaign (gather and report)

The Tech Steward should also consider four key influences on a campaign:

- The community members
- The sponsor
- The technology
- The Tech Steward

#### We combine these elements into an evaluation framework for planning.

The Evaluation Planning Table on the following page provides a worksheet for organizing the evaluation plan for a campaign. Use the blank worksheet to organize the evaluation plan for your campaign.

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# Improve the timeliness and reduce costs of exchanging messages between Extension officer and community members when scheduling meetings and

Campaign Goal:

responding to questions from veg. farmers in St. George County

What results do we expect to observe from this campaign?	Metric	Source of data	Method	Collect this data when?
Community members will be more aware of upcoming meetings; more community members will attend meetings	Interaction Engagement Influence Behaviour Other	Community members ICT platform Sponsor Steward's notes Other	Count and compare attendance at meetings	Pre-campaign Mid-campaign Post-campaign
The Extension officer (Me) will save some time and money on unnecessary travel	Interaction Engagement Influence Behaviour Other	Community members ICT platform Sponsor Steward's notes Other	Track cost and travel time; calculate savings	Pre-campaign Mid-campaign Post-campaign
Community members will use the group chat to send the Extension officer (me) questions	Interaction Engagement Influence Behaviour Other	Community members ICT platform Sponsor Steward's notes Other	Ask members about their intention to use the chat; count number of posts; examine content of the posts on the group chat	Pre-campaign Mid-campaign Post-campaign
Community members will find the chat a useful service that saves them time and improves interactions with me and others;	Interaction Engagement Influence Behaviour Other	Community members ICT platform Sponsor Steward's notes Other	Get feedback from the community members;	Pre-campaign Mid-campaign Post-campaign

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Campaign Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

What results do we expect to observe from this campaign?	Metric	Source of data	Method	Collect this data when?
	Interaction Engagement Influence Behaviour Other	Community members ICT platform Sponsor Steward's notes Other		Pre-campaign Mid-campaign Post-campaign
	Interaction Engagement Influence Behaviour Other	Community members ICT platform Sponsor Steward's notes Other		Pre-campaign Mid-campaign Post-campaign
	Interaction Engagement Influence Behaviour Other	Community members ICT platform Sponsor Steward's notes Other		Pre-campaign Mid-campaign Post-campaign
	Interaction Engagement Influence Behaviour Other	Community members ICT platform Sponsor Steward's notes Other		Pre-campaign Mid-campaign Post-campaign

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# 4.4 Collecting Information

Pre-campaign information is often needed to provide *baseline* data for comparison later.

Use this table to organize all the pre-campaign information collection methods list in the Evaluation Planning Table (Worksheet 4.3)

Dro	Cam	naian
Pre-	Cam	paign

Source	Method	Resources
Community members		
ICT Platform		
Sponsor		
Steward's notes		

Pre-campaign information is often needed to obtain feedback from community members and to make changes during the campaign. This is particularly important if the campaign is not proceeding as expected.

Use this table to organize all the mid-campaign information collection methods list in the Evaluation Planning Table (Worksheet 4.3)

Source	Method	Resources
Community members		
ICT Platform		
Sponsor		
Steward's notes		

# Mid-Campaign

Post-campaign information is needed to obtain feedback from community members to evaluate the outcome in relation to the campaign goal. This is particularly important for providing feedback to the community and sponsor about the results of the campaign. It also provides evidence to assist with decisions about next steps.

Use this table to organize all the pre-campaign information collection methods list in the Evaluation Planning Table (Worksheet 4.3)

Source	Method	Resources
Community members		
ICT Platform		
Sponsor		
Steward's notes		

### Post-Campaign

# 4.5 The Campaign Plan

The campaign plan is a summary of the details that have been worked out in the various steps so far.

It is a single, short document that can be shared with community members and sponsor for feedback prior to starting a campaign.

You will find a template for the campaign plan on the next page. The plan should include each section but keep it short and concise. It should summarize the results of the planning process you have now completed.

# Campaign Planning Template

### Campaign Goal (worksheet 2.5c)

Describe the goal of the campaign. Include the three important details: (1) the specific goal; (2) the primary action; (3) the community of practice.

The goal of the campaign is to [objective] by using ICT to [priority action] for [community of practice].

## ICT-platform for the campaign (worksheets 3.5, 3.6)

Describe the ICT platform chosen for the campaign. What tool(s) does it include and what activities will it support? What features and functions will be used? If a contact or a database needs to be created for the campaign, how will that happen? How will the database need to be organized? (e.g., will you need to create separate groups). Who will have administrator access to the ICT platform before/during/after the campaign?

### Scale and Scope of the Campaign (worksheet 2.3)

Describe the anticipated scope, scale, and characteristics of the community of practice or user group that will be involved in the campaign (include both senders and receivers of messages). How many people will be participating? How much ICT interaction (e.g., messages being sent, content items being posted) might be expected during the campaign? What is the anticipated cost of messaging or other interactions for users and for the Tech Steward and/or sponsor?

### Timeline (worksheets 4.1, 4.2)

Describe the preferred starting and end dates of the campaign. Explain or indicate any important factors related to the timeline (e.g., seasonal opportunities, deadlines, etc.). Will the campaign run continuously, or is it a single action campaign? (e.g., email blast). List the key steps and deadlines for each stage of planning, implementing, and evaluating the campaign.

## Evaluation Plan (worksheets 4.3, 4.4)

Describe briefly how the outcome of this campaign will be assessed against the campaign goal. What kind of baseline information will you need to collect before starting the campaign? What kind of information will you need to collect during the campaign? What kind of information will you need to collect after the campaign? How will you obtain this information?

### Resourcing and Promotional Activities (worksheet 4.2)

List financial, technical, and human resources required to accomplish the campaign. If costs are adding up, what alternatives are available to reduce the campaign budget? Describe how the campaign will be promoted to the community, by whom, and what financial or human resources may be required to do so (e.g., creating posters)

#### **Questions and Concerns**

Describe or list any questions or concerns related to the campaign that you feel need further clarification during planning and before starting the campaign. Do you need any technical support? Do you need help with creating your evaluation plan? Are there any privacy, security or other risk issues to consider? How will you mitigate them? Can you reach out to another Tech Steward, or someone else, to help you answer these questions?

# 4.6 Reporting Back to the Community

After the campaign, the Tech Steward prepares a debriefing memo for the community. This is a short document very similar to the campaign plan reflecting on results and outcomes.

The memo should be concise and no longer than 2 pages. It can be posted online as a blog post or distributed as a hardcopy or digital document.

The memo provides an opportunity for community feedback and reflection on the outcome of the campaign in relation to its goal. It is essential for having conversations with the community members and the sponsor about next steps.

It is recommended that the Tech Steward organize a community meeting to discuss a draft version of the debriefing memo with community members. Ask for feedback on the document, especially next steps. Revise the document to include feedback from the community members and then share the final memo.

You will find a template for the debriefing memo on the next page it is nearly identical in structure to the campaign plan document.

Where appropriate, details from the campaign plan can simply be copied into the debrief memo to save time. However, note that the questions asked in the debrief memo are results and outcome oriented.

The memo should include each section but keep it brief and to the point as a summary rather than an in-depth report.

# Campaign Debriefing Memo Template

### Campaign Goal

Restate the goal of the campaign. Include the three important details: (1) the specific goal; (2) the primary action; (3) the community of practice.

The goal of the campaign is to [objective] by using ICT to [priority action] for [community of practice].

# ICT-platform chosen for the campaign

Describe the ICT platform chosen for the campaign. What tool(s) does it include and what activities will it support? What features and functions were used? If a contact or a database needs to be created for the campaign, how was that created? How was the database organized? (e.g., did you need to create separate groups, or categories?). Who administered access to the ICT platform before/during/after the campaign? Was the ICT platform secure? Did it present any privacy concerns during the campaign?

## Scale and Scope of the Campaign

Describe scope, scale, and characteristics of the community of practice or user group that was involved in the campaign (include both senders and receivers of messages). How many people did you expect to participate? How much ICT interaction (e.g., messages being sent, content items being posted) did you expect during the campaign? What was the anticipated cost of messaging or other interactions for users and for the Tech Steward and/or sponsor?

## Timeline

Describe the preferred starting and end dates of the campaign. Explain or indicate any important factors related to the timeline (e.g., seasonal opportunities, deadlines, etc.). Will the campaign run continuously, or is it a single action campaign? (e.g., email blast). List the key steps and deadlines for each stage of planning, implementing, and evaluating the campaign.

## **Resourcing and Promotional Activities**

List financial, technical, and human resources that were required to accomplish the campaign. If costs were too high, what alternatives did you try to reduce the campaign budget? Describe

how the campaign was promoted to the community, by whom, and what financial or human resources were required to do so (e.g., creating posters). Did you need assistance with the campaign?

#### **Evaluation and Results**

Describe briefly how the outcome of this campaign was assessed against the campaign goal. What kind of baseline information did you collect before starting the campaign? What kind of information did you collect during the campaign? What kind of information did you collect after the campaign? How did you obtain this information?

### **Next Steps**

Describe or list any outstanding questions or concerns related to the campaign that you feel need further clarification. What is the next step for the community? Continue with the ICT platform and integrate it into regular practice. Modify the ICT platform and campaign plan based on the results and try another campaign? Abandon the ICT platform and try something else? What did you learn about the community members and their communication practices? Do community members have any suggestions for a new or different campaign?