

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) steps for implementation in the field

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is both a technical practice and community development approach used to support local communities to restore their natural environment through the systematic pruning and management of remnant vegetation in agricultural, pastoral and communal land. The practice involves thinning the shoots from tree stumps or wild saplings to rapidly foster their growth into mature trees. Increased tree cover provides numerous benefits such as improved soil fertility, wind breaks, increased firewood and climate change mitigation (World Vision Australia, 2021).

FMNR is a methodology developed by World Vision International. Additional Information can be found here: [Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Manual | Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action | World Vision International](#)

Following are the steps WHH is piloting to implement FMNR activities at the field level in Afghanistan.

Step one: Mobilization of WMC, FMNR Champions and FMNR participants

- Mobilization of village elders/Water Management Committee (WMC) members. As the members of the WMC are mostly the village elders and community influencers, the main concept of FMNR should be explained to them through an awareness session.
- Encourage the WMC to have close coordination with the NGO regarding the implementation of FMNR's activities in the targeted communities.
- Ask the WMC members to find the people who have interest in FMNR (called FMNR champions) to be the focal point between the NGO selected community and WMC.
- Encourage WMC members and FMNR Champions to do information sharing within their communities to identify farmers interested and willing to participate in the activity (FMNR participants are self selecting – all are welcome).
- Provide a basic tool kit for each village (to be kept by the WMC committee member and/or FMNR champion) that can be loaned out to FMNR participants when they want to do pruning. The tool kit includes: a pruning saw, gardening scissors (secateurs), large gardening scissors (loppers), hatchet with wooden handle, a sharpening stone and working gloves.

Step two: Overall observation and assessment by the WMC members and FMNR Champions.

- After sensitization, the WMC members conduct an assessment with the FMNR Champion of where trees could grow in their area and damaged / cut trees in the target villages.
- They should record the following information:

- How many trees are damaged or cut?
- What is the type of land and where are the damaged and cut trees located?
- Are they on private lands or communal lands?
- What are the types and varieties of the available trees and the damaged /cut trees?
- Why are people in their village cutting trees, and if there are any barriers to the idea of FMNR?
- The WMC members submit the collected data to the technical person of the NGO.
- NGO staff conduct a survey to check the findings of the data observed and reported by the WMC members.

Step three: Training – theory and practical support to FMNR participants

- In each village, compile a list of the farmers interested in FMNR and connect them with the WMC and FMNR champions.
- NGO staff to conduct training on the theory and benefits of FMNR at the village level to WMC members, FMNR Champions and FMNR farmer participants. Ensure that female trainers are available to train female participants. The theory is presented in the provided powerpoint (additional information is available in the FMNR manual: Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Manual | Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action | World Vision International)
- NGO staff to follow up and provide practical training and ongoing support at the village level to WMC members, FMNR Champions and FMNR farmer participants. Ensure that female staff are available to support female participants.
- Host ‘Exposure visits’ with FMNR participants from different villages to see how FMNR can be applied at the village level, on farm land, on grazing land, in the village and on communal lands.

Step four: Tracking and keeping the records

- Develop a proper database for keeping the records and tracking activities related to the FMNR (number of trees grown and number of participants). Maintain a filing system for keeping hard copies of supporting documents.
- Develop a sensitization and training plan for WMC’s and each village.
- Develop a plan to visit each participating village regularly to assure they are keeping the pruned trees safe (safe from livestock, children, cutting and other factors which affect the growth of trees).
- Regular reporting on the progress and brainstorming solutions to barriers.
- Sharing lesson learned from the different contexts (environmentally and culturally)