

literature references. This section also is under development, and if you have suggestions for material to be included, please let us hear about it. There are alternatives for organization of the book, if you have a preference, please let FSSP hear.

Each chapter is oriented to a specific situation and is specifically relevant to a team or group. Other chapters are relevant. The book is cumulative, in the sense that a team working on any one phase is expected to be familiar with those chapters dealing with earlier phases. In some cases and for some purposes, teams will need to be familiar with the chapters on succeeding phases.

E. Farming Systems Research and Extension (FSR/E)

FSR/E is a term used widely and with many meanings, all legitimate. In order that all the different usages can be accommodated, this book does not apply a strict definition of FSR/E. There are two basic criteria for FSR/E, which can be considered as minimum criteria. One is that the problems that research and extension work on, and the technology they deal with, are selected on an adequate base of knowledge and understanding of the relevant systems of farming. The second is that technology innovations proposed are tested (a) in the farming system(s) in which they are expected to perform and (b) by criteria of those systems.

All countries, no matter how severe their resource constraints, can adopt the FSR/E approach, using this simplified concept. At the same time, countries can add such criteria as the multi-disciplinary approach and wholistic approach to the extent their resources allow.

A central theme of this handbook is that FSR/E is an integral part of the general R/E process. This means that until FSR/E is worked into the R/E process, that process is incomplete and inadequate. It also means that FSR/E is not a substitute or replacement for other components of the R/E process. This explains why this handbook is really oriented to research and extension, not simply FSR/E. Since FSR/E is integral to research and extension, and since research and extension are incomplete without FSR/E, there is no logical way to deal with FSR/E out of the R/E context. There is also no logical way to deal with R/E that does not embody the FSR/E characteristics. Some workers in fact, hold FSR/E to mean the total R/E process conditioned by the FSR/E approach.

F. The Farming System

The farming system also is not strictly defined. "System" is a tricky concept. There all sorts of systems and sub-systems surrounding a farm and the farm family. A user must define the system for the specific task at hand, and FSR/E workers have defined a wide range of systems.