

Doc 3.6. Guide for participatory discussions of potential new economic activities or expansion of existing ones

The purpose of the discussions is to arrive at one or two ideas that provide the best potential “fit” for the community, for further exploration through detailed feasibility studies. The discussions should focus on stakeholder’s understanding of their community and their interests in relation to the ideas, not the technical details of the ideas.

As a preliminary step, the TREE developers should review all the potential ideas from the surveys to identify those that appear to have the best potential from the perspective of availability of resources for production and market for sales, of people reasonably able to do the work, and financial viability, based on the information gathered in the research.

In principle there should be no more than five ideas selected for community review, and fewer may be appropriate, although there should be at least two.

The discussions start with a brief description of all of the ideas to be discussed (they may be written down or have identifying drawings, so people are clear which one they are discussing). Then each idea is discussed in turn, with a more detailed description and the opportunity to ask clarifying questions to start.

Discussions should cover four areas plus an opportunity to add additional points. Where appropriate, flip chart or other visual aids can be used to keep track of points. At the end of the discussion of each idea, the facilitator should sum up the general opinion of the idea from the group’s discussion.

The four discussion areas are:

<p>Materials and resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the community familiar with the new product/service? • Are there sources of supply for any materials needed? Are the raw materials locally available and accessible? What are the costs of the raw materials? How could they be financed? Any own sources? Are there any implications for other inputs (electricity, water and etc)? • Other thoughts?
<p>Economic impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think that new employment or income could be created from this activity? Is the activity economically and financially viable? • Are there any links/relations to existing and future development strategies for the locality/region? • Would this new activity change how people currently work or earn income? • Other thoughts?
<p>Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think people in the community would be interested in doing this activity?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think they have all the skills and experience they need to do so? What are the training needs? Who are the potential trainees/training providers/instructors? What are the estimated training costs? Can they be organized at a cost of the local institutions? • Other thoughts?
Social impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would this be a new type of activity for women, persons with disabilities or other groups in your community? • What concerns (gender/disability/diversity/environmental) might members of the community have about this new activity? • Other thoughts?
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other things that come to mind when you think about this new activity in your community?