

Module 2.4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT		STATEMENT OF INTENT Farmers contribute towards the economy of the local community and engage stakeholders effectively
Measures		Notes
Better management practice	<p><i>Preferential employment opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living on the farm, or in close proximity to the farm receive preferential opportunity • Farmers participate in community capacity building initiatives <p><i>Consultation and engagement with local communities and stakeholders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers consult and pro-actively engage with local communities and other stakeholders 	<p>Preferential employment opportunities Although difficult to measure, farmers should make every possible effort to contribute towards the establishment of a sustainable local economy. One of the ways to achieve this is by adopting a policy of employing residents from the local community or from labour tenants on the farm. People living on the farm, or in close proximity to the farm, should receive preferential opportunities for employment.</p> <p>Consultation and engagement with local communities and stakeholders There is growing evidence that agricultural growth and efficient management of natural resources are dependent on the political, legal and administrative capabilities of rural communities to determine their own future and to protect their natural resources and other economic interests (Rukini, 2004). In the absence of this power, the result is an abuse of common property resources, disenfranchisement of rural people, especially women, and the weakening or breakdown of rural economic institutions (Rukini, 2004).</p> <p>Farmers are therefore encouraged to pursue a process of pro-active consultation and engagement with local communities and other important stakeholders, either independently, or through a local forum, support group, non-government organisation or other participatory mechanisms. The objective would be to establish both stakeholder and community needs and aspirations, as well as farmer needs and aspirations, and work towards a commonly agreed goal for the mutual benefit of all participating parties. While this might seem a challenging prospect, experiences elsewhere have indicated that sound community and stakeholder relationships are a contributing factor towards a sustainable and peaceful future.</p>