### Planning for Change

- Has the project team explicitly identified the main intended outcomes and how they are intended/expected to be realized and contribute to longer-term outcomes and/or impacts?
- Is and will implementation of a project (be) suitable to the country/site context and align to wider institutional (CIFOR-ICRAF) objectives?

### Scoping for Change

- What changes in knowledge, attitude, skills, relationships and/or behaviour are expected as a result of the intervention?
- How are the proposed outcomes expected to contribute to positive social, economic and/or environmental change? Potential negative change should also be captured (possibly informing re-assessment of assumptions).

### Monitoring for Change

- The concept of “end-of-project outcome” is important to consider during planning and evaluation. These are simply outcomes (as defined below) that would be reasonable to expect within the time frame, along the underlying assumptions of the project, and with the resources available.
- Monitoring can (and should) lead to re-assessments of assumptions and project direction, both positively (e.g. scaling up), or for e.g. the phasing out an activity and re-directing of resources.

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**Theory of change (ToC):** An explicit, testable model of how and why change is expected to happen along an impact pathway in a particular context (geography and time). A basic research-for-development ToC identifies the context and key actors in a system and specifies the causal pathways and mechanisms by which the research aims to contribute to outcomes and impacts. This is a testable model, one that should be revisited by project teams regularly to understand if underlying hypotheses and assumptions remain valid or should be adapted.

**Assumptions:** Conditions that must be present for the causal chain behind an intervention to hold. These often relate to factors, risks or context which could affect the progress or success of a development intervention. They should be made as explicit as possible by the team before implementation, while remaining open to scrutiny during implementation (see ToC above).

**Baseline:** An analytical description of the situation prior to research activities, against which progress can be assessed or comparisons made.

**Activities:** A measurable amount of work performed to convert inputs (ie. time and resources) into outputs.

**Indicator:** A quantitative or qualitative variable that represents an approximation of the characteristic, phenomenon or change of interest (for instance, efficiency, quality or outcome). Indicators can be used to monitor research and/or activities on the ground, to help assess for instance organizational or research performance. They should be linked to the ToC, and regularly populated, analysed and used as feedback loops by project teams, to help inform project direction and implementation, generate learning and re-assess assumptions.

**Outputs:** Knowledge, technical or institutional advancement produced by CGIAR research, engagement and/or capacity development activities. Examples of outputs include new research methods, policy analyses, gene maps, new crop varieties and breeds, institutional innovations, or other development outputs.

**Outcome:** A change in knowledge, skills, attitudes and/or relationships, which manifests as a change in behaviour, to which research outputs and related development activities have contributed.

**Impact:** A change in state or flow resulting from a chain of events to which research outputs and related development activities have contributed. Some examples: crop yield, farm productivity, household wealth (state) income (flow), quality of water (state), water flow (flow).

**Contribution:** Causal relationship in which an intervention is one of two or more causal elements leading, independently or in combination, to a change.

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*This infographic presents some CGIAR-endorsed Monitoring, evaluation, learning and impact assessment (MELIA) definitions to enable CIFOR-ICRAF streamlined reporting in projects such as Governing Multifunctional Landscapes in Sub-Saharan Africa (GML) and similar interventions. The definitions are designed to be used at each stage of a project, from inception to delivery to project closure.*