

Identifying Resources

Identifying resources necessary to achieve a home gardener's goals



OVERVIEW

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Gardeners will be able to critically evaluate the resources available to them and how these resources can help them achieve their gardening goals.

DURATION



MATERIALS NEEDED

- A shaded discussion area close to where gardeners can conduct a group walk to identify resources around their community
- Flipchart and markers
- Pencils and notebooks for all gardeners



KEY CONCEPTS

Let's start talking about the resources gardeners already have rather than what they lack!



NATURAL

Soil, chicken manure, plants and seeds, water sources, air, light



PHYSICAL

Tools and buildings



HUMAN

Labor, knowledge, technical capacity



SOCIAL

Support from family and community, labor sharing



FINANCIAL

Money, bartering, work-trades

- Gardeners have untapped resources all around them. Let's help them identify new ways of using these resources.
- We find that there is immense wealth around us when we go around our community and think about new ways to use the resources available to us.
- When gardeners share their knowledge about local resources, it helps them build confidence in their own knowledge and ability and allows them to learn from each other.

TRAINING AGENDA

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|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1 | Introduction and warm-up | DISCUSSION | 10 min |
| 2 | Setting our gardening goals | DISCUSSION | 30 min |
| 3 | How to build our ideal garden | DISCUSSION | 1 hour |
| 4 | Identifying the resources around us | PRACTICAL ACTIVITY | 1.5 hour |
| 5 | Closing discussion | DISCUSSION | 10 min |

1. Introduction and warm-up

Welcome gardeners to the training. Do a brief introduction to today's topic and review the training agenda. You may want to outline the training agenda on your flipchart or board so gardeners can see it when they arrive.

Conduct a warm-up exercise or ice-breaker to make sure all gardeners feel welcome and are ready to fully participate. Suggested warm-up and ice-breaker activities can be found in the Facilitator's Guide: Encouraging Learning through Participant Engagement.

2. Setting our gardening goals

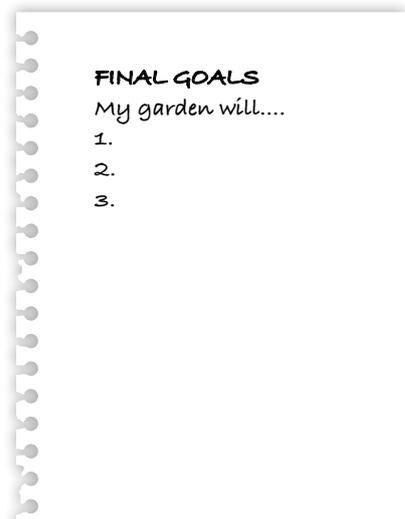
INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

GOAL OF DISCUSSION: Gardeners envision their future gardens and identify their garden goals.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Flipchart and markers
- Pencils and notebooks for all gardeners

1. Engage gardeners in a visioning exercise of what their ideal garden would look like. Start by asking them to think in their heads or write in their notebooks what their garden goals are: "My garden goals are..."
2. Ask gardeners to share these goals and discuss some of the following questions as a group:
 - What are some examples of successful gardens they have seen and why were they successful?
 - Will their gardens look different after several seasons of gardening? Better? Worse? Why is this important?
 - Is it possible for their garden to serve multiple purposes? How will they make sure their gardens best serve them and their households?
3. Ask gardeners to review the garden goals that were mentioned during the discussion. List these goals on your flipchart for all to see.
4. Ask gardeners to revisit the original goals they thought about or wrote in their notebooks and revise them as necessary.



3. How to build our ideal garden

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

GOAL OF ACTIVITY: Gardeners identify the different resources needed to build a successful garden.

FACILITATOR PREPARATION: A flipchart divided into five columns

MATERIALS NEEDED: Flipchart and markers

1. Engage gardeners in a discussion around the resources needed to build a successful garden:
 - What do we mean by 'resource'?
 - What are some local examples of resources?
 - What resources do we need to build a successful garden?
2. As gardeners name resources, write them in the different columns so they are grouped into the 5 Resources categories. When they have finished, write the name of the category at the top of each column and explain the concept of the 5 Resources.
3. Ask gardeners if they can think of any additional resources that can be added to the list.
4. Discuss which resources can be found locally.

5 RESOURCES BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is easy to get discouraged if we think we are not capable of achieving success or achieving good results from our actions. If we focus our energy on finding deficits in our current situation, we will most likely find them. We start thinking it will be too difficult to change our current situation, so we end up not trying or not trying very hard. But if we change our mindset and instead focus on finding new resources or strengths that we can apply to our situation, we will find that little changes over time end up helping us achieve our goals. Building a positive mindset is especially important for gardeners who may have experimented with gardening in the past and gotten discouraged when they had poor yields, suffered from pest infestations, or been asked to grow something by a well-meaning extension agent or NGO that they did not know how to use when it came time to harvest. These gardeners will be skeptical that they should try any new practices that YOU introduce to them!

To encourage gardeners to build a garden that best suits them and their household's needs, we will help them think about how they can use the resources that are already all around them - rather than asking them to invest time and money into a garden that is not right for them. When we think about resources as belonging to one of five categories, we see that many helpful things already exist around us. The five categories of resources are: Natural, Physical, Human, Social, and Financial. Resources can be owned by individuals or households - or they can be collectively owned or available to the entire community. For example, a wheelbarrow (Physical resource) may be individually owned, but a nearby forest (Natural resource) may be owned or used by the entire community or surrounding communities. Sometimes, a resource can fall into two categories, such as a stream that is used by many community members for irrigation water. The stream is a Natural resource for a gardener who wishes to use it to water their garden, but it may also takes Social resources for that gardener to have the rights or social status to access the stream if not all community members have equal access to this water. We might also see that increasing one resource leads to an increase in another resource, such as when we sell livestock (Natural resource) to gain money (Financial resource). The opposite may also be true, for example if we invest money in our garden (Financial resource) but we do not see good yields (lower Natural resources). Our goal is to build our stock of resources in all categories so that we have a rich toolkit to draw from when we embark on a new project, such as growing a garden.

Examples of 5 Resources



1. NATURAL

Natural resources are the natural elements around us that we must nurture so we can use them to better our situation.

Soil, forests, land, water, plant and animal diversity, locally-available fencing materials

2. HUMAN

Human resources are the capabilities possessed by us and our community.

Our knowledge and skills, our good health and nutrition, the skills and health of our family or community members

3. SOCIAL

Social resources are our connections to other people, our membership in groups, and our ability to barter and benefit from the people around us.

Religious groups, savings groups, community groups, collective land clearing or transporting vegetables to market, good relationships within our community

4. PHYSICAL

Physical resources are the infrastructure or things around us that help us achieve our goals.

Tools, equipment, machinery, buildings, other built resources

5. FINANCIAL

Financial resources are the money or wealth you have.

Cash, savings, credit, assets available for selling



4. Identifying the resources around us

PRACTICAL ACTIVITY

GOAL OF ACTIVITY: Gardeners are encouraged to become observers of their own environment, identifying the richness of resources that they have around them that can help them meet their garden goals.

STEP 1. Organize gardeners to go on a group walk to identify natural resources in their local area that are useful for home gardens. Many of these resources are freely available, for example, animal manures, plants that can be used for mulching, or ashes from cooking fires. **Ask gardeners to each pick up at least one resource on their walk to bring back with them.**

STEP 2. After the walk, gather gardeners in a circle and ask them to show their resource to the group. They should **explain what their resource is and what it is used for.** Encourage gardeners to explain how the resource will help their garden.

STEP 3. At the end, ask gardeners to think about how the resources they saw will further their gardening goals. Ask gardeners, **“what new resources did you see that you are excited about? How will you use this resource to further your gardening goals?”** Have as many gardeners share their thoughts as possible.



Photos by Elin Duby

5. Closing discussion

Ask gardeners to share with the group:

1. Something they learned in the session
2. How they are going to use this in their own homestead