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CHANGE
tomorrow today.

Early Learning from BRiLSS Project – Challenges and Progress

SWISSAID Myanmar Team

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- Partnership with Local organizations from Southern Shan and Kachin
- Focus on Agro-Ecology

✓ Five Key Partners

✓ Shwe Danu, KMSS, SSLDO, METTA, KBC

✓ Other 14 Partners in Capacity Building Programs/ Learning Alliance Meetings

Building Resilient Livelihoods In Southern Shan (BRiLSS) Project

Poor rural women and men in Southern Shan have voice, choice and opportunity to achieve food sovereignty and livelihood resiliency through agro-ecological farming and equitable/ fair engagement with farm based market systems.

- ✓ 20 Months old project
- ✓ Agro-ecological farming experimentation and farmer group development
- ✓ Farmer to Farmer Extension Officer (FFEO)

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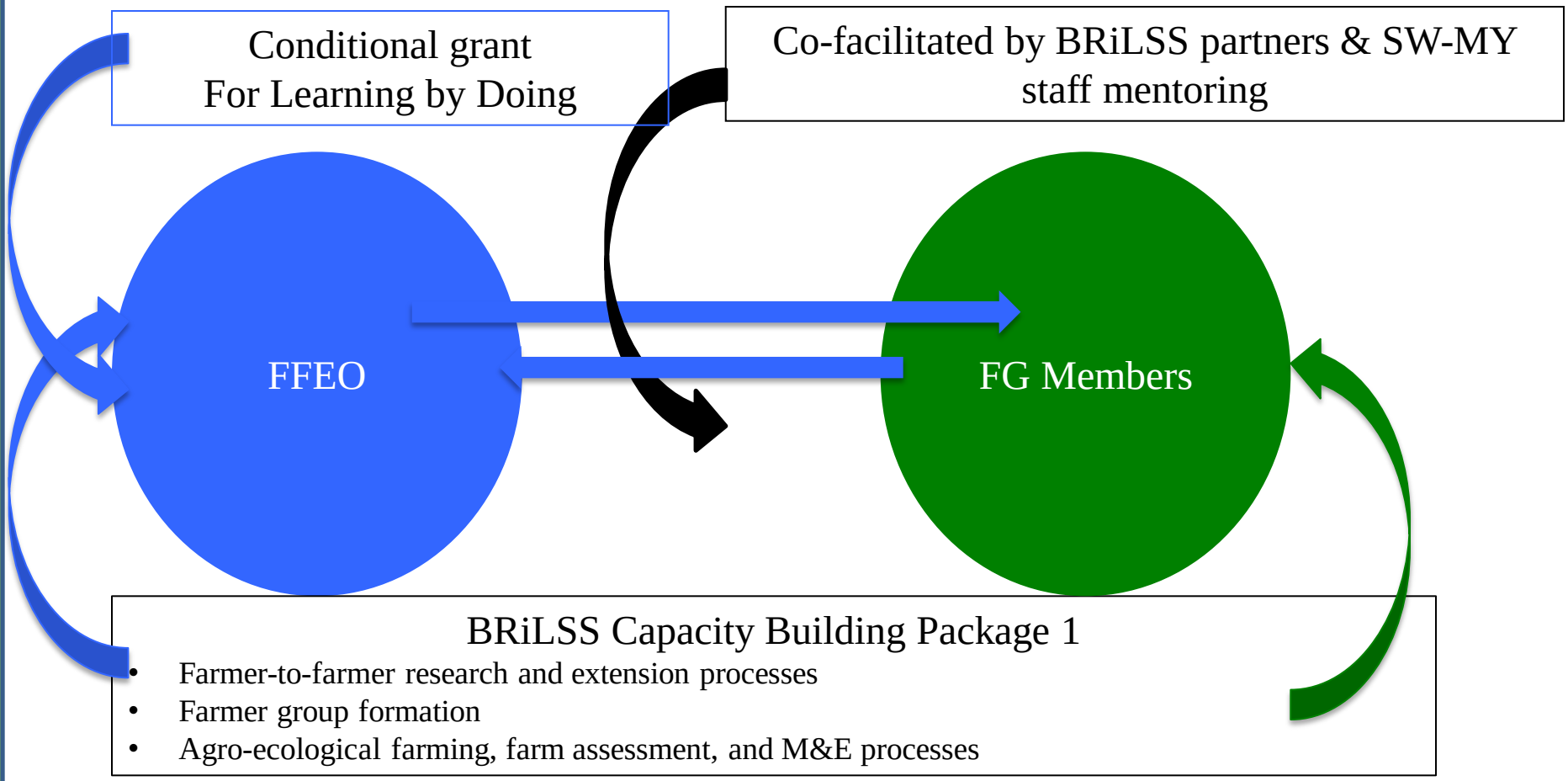
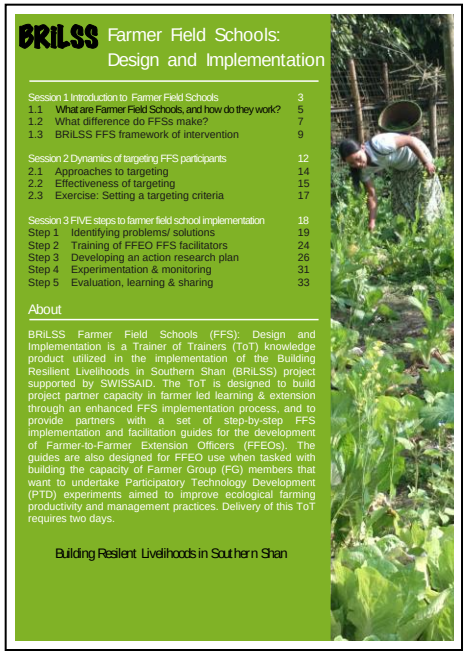
BRiLSS focus on "Ecological Integrity" centers on a 5 STEP process

- Reducing tillage and minimizing soil disturbance
- Practicing permanent soil cover with crop residues and green manures
- Practicing crop rotation and intercropping
- Applying soil amendments
- Eliminating chemical based pesticide use & replacing with natural products and alternative approaches

Capacity Development of FFEO and Farmer Groups





BRiLSS FFS Process

1 Generating ideas for experimentation based on solving farm problems or learning interests

2 Identification of knowledge needs and delivery of targeted capacity building needs

3 Development of farmer specific experiments

4 Development of an action plan complete with specific indicators to reflect success/ intended results

5 Village based farmer-to-farmer reflection and evaluation

FFEO
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Experiments

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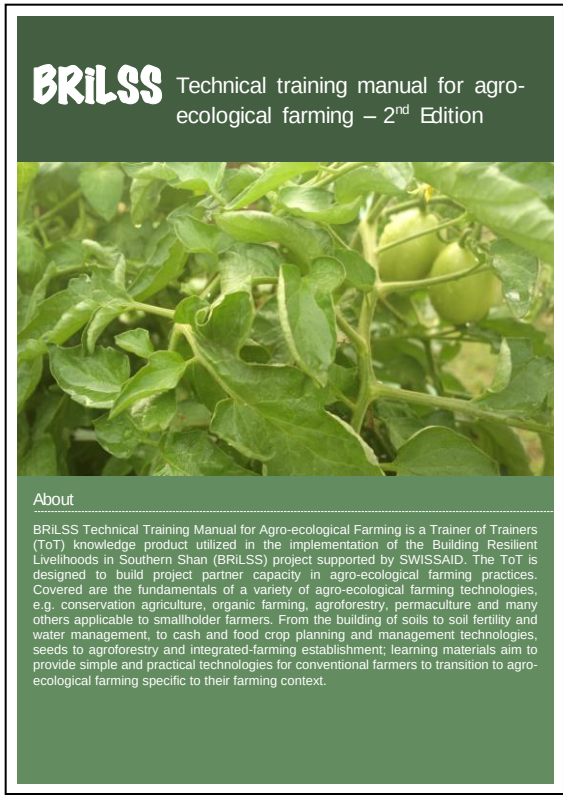
FFEO

Focus of experiments

One - Two Year Experiments

1. Reducing tillage and minimizing soil disturbance
2. Practicing permanent soil cover with crop residues and live mulches/ green manures
3. Practicing crop rotation and intercropping
4. Applying soil amendments
5. Eliminating chemical based pesticides use, & replacing with natural products and alternative approaches



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Short-term Experiments

1. Tuber/ seed selection, plant spacing and selected agro-ecological farming practices
2. Costs & benefits of going organic – quantity, quality, profit
3. Use of a green manure (Niger), and or legume integration within the cropping system
4. Application of soil/ plant growth amendments (Vegetable focus) - various IMOs + other additives, e.g. Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ), Fish Amino Acid (FAA), Fermented Rice Bran(FRB)
5. Companion planting + intercropping
6. Integrated livestock rearing: Growing crops for protein feed + crop residues & forage silage for carbohydrate feed.

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FFEO

- Kone Thar Village, Pindaya Township
- Four Children
- A commercial mono-crop potato and cabbage grower
- Practices

✓ The use of green manures – specifically Niger

✓ Recycling of crop residues (previously burned)

✓ Balanced application of cow manure

✓ Niger, Potato, Cabbage

Mrs. Aye Nyein

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FFEO

Mrs. Aye Nyein

Cultivation Units & Costs (Ks)				Now	Before
Type of Input	Quantity	Unit	Unit price	Expense	Expense
Land preparation(machine)		1	5000	5000	5000
Seed potato	60	viss	200	42000	42000
Organic fungicide	0.4	viss	15000	6500	
Cow dung	2	cards	9000	18000	
	1	card	9000		9000
Harvesting	2	labors	2500	5000	5000
Carry charges from field to house	10	bags	500	5000	
	8	bags	500		4000
Niger seeds for green manure crop	4	tin	250	1000	-
Chemical fertilizer	1	bag	16,500		16,500
Chemical pesticides and fungicides					11,800
Loading charges				6000	-
			Total Costs	88,500	93,300
Yields, Sales, & Profits					
Product	Yield	Unit	Unit price	Revenue (Ks)	Revenue (Ks)
Potato (small size)	120	Viss	100	12,000	
Potato (medium size)	195	Viss	300	58,000	
Potato (medium size)	220	Viss	220		48,400
			Total Profit (Ks)	-18,500	-44,900

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FFEO

- Tha Khaw Village, Pindaya Township
- Mother of 2 Children
- A smallholder farmer, cultivating a mix of crops at different times of the year, e.g. garlic, upland rice, sunflower and soybean
- Intercropping Garlic with Bean
- Next season, Intercropping sunflower with soybean

Mrs. San Kyi

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FFEO

Mrs. San Kyi

Cultivation Units & Costs (Ks)				Now	Before
Type of Input	Quantity	Unit	Unit price	Expense (Ks)	Expense (Ks)
Land preparation	3	labor	3,500	10,500	10,500
Compost application	2	labor	3,500	7,000	7,000
Direct seeding	10	labor	2,000	20,000	20,000
Irrigation	18	time	3,000	54,000	54,000
Weeding	14	labor	2,000	28,000	28,000
Harvesting	13	labor	2,000	26,000	26,000
Cutting the upper stem	-	labor	-	6,500	6,500
Grading for the market	2	labor	3,500	7,000	7,000
Garlic seeds	30	Viss	3,500	105,000	105,000
Chemical fertilizer (Compound)	2	bag	40,000		80,000
Chemical fertilizer (Urea)	10	Viss	700		7,000
Cow Dung				30,000	
Insecticide					30,000
			Total Costs	**294,000**	**381,000**
Yields, Sales, & Profits					
Product	Yield	Unit	Unit price (Ks)	Revenue (Ks)	Revenue (Ks)
Garlic	335	Viss	2,700	904,500	
Garlic	420	Viss	2,000		840,000
			Total Profit (Ks)	**610,500**	**459,000**

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FFEO

Mrs. Su Hlaing Win

- Pha Yar Ni Village, Pindaya Township
- Mono-cropping Groundnut farm
- Intercropping Groundnut with Sunflower
- Next season Niger seed cultivation

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FFEO

Mrs. Su Hlaing Win

Cultivation Units & Costs (Ks)				Now	Before
Type of Input	Quantity	Unit	Unit price (Ks)	Expense (Ks)	Expense (Ks)
Land preparation	1	hour	7,000	7,000	7,000
Land preparation	3	time	2,500	7,500	7,500
Direct seeding	2	labor	2,000	4,000	4,000
Weeding	15	labor	2,500	37,500	37,500
Harvesting	5	labor	2,500	12,500	12,500
Cutting the upper stem	30	basket	1,000	30,000	30,000
Carry charges from field to house				3,000	3000
Groundnut seed	16	pyi	3,000	48,000	48,000
Chemical fertilizer	0.5	bag	40,000		20,000
Cow Dung				36,000	
Chemical insecticide					1000
			Total Costs	**185,500**	**170,500**
Yields, Sales, & Profits					
Product	Yield	Unit	Unit price	Revenue (Ks)	Revenue (Ks)
Groundnut	30	Basket	12,000	360,000	
Groundnut	15	Basket	12,000		180,000
Sunflower	3	Basket	16,000	48,000	
Sunflower	1	Basket	16,000		16,000
			Total Profit (Ks)	**222,500**	**25,500**

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FFEO

Challenges to implementation and documentation

- No significant challenges towards implementation and or documentation for those FFEOs who understand well
- Challenge is within the analysis outside of the obvious cost/ benefit analysis.
- It is estimated that 50% of FFEOs cannot manage their experiment well, however, SW-MY and its partner supporting them to improve their experimentation and recording.

FFEO

Changed views towards commercial farming and influencing others

- **Pindaya**

✓ Hardest geographical areas to change farmers' behaviors/ views from conventional farming approaches

✓ Beyond a cost/ benefit attitude

✓ People want to produce safe food;

- **FFEOs working hard at transitioning towards agro-ecological farming**

✓ Applying their techniques to their whole farm in the following cultivation seasons because of Their early result

✓ Interest in agro-ecological farming is growing in the Pindaya area, and across all BRiLSS sites… MORE EVIDENCE SHARING is the KEY to influencing change.

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BRILSS Community Group Formation

About

BRiLSS Community Group Formation is a Trainer of Trainers (ToT) knowledge product utilized in the implementation of the Building Resilient Livelihoods in Southern Shan (BRiLSS) project supported by SWISSAID. The ToT is designed to build project partner capacity in community group formation processes, then to be applied at the field level in the formation of, or strengthening of existing farmer groups and enterprise driven self-help-groups. The first two sessions of the ToT focus on building, or renewing, project partner knowledge on group dynamics, stage formation processes respective of member behaviors, and group charter building. Session three provides partners 'Step Guides' to be used when forming community groups. These guides aim to bring community members from the development of their vision, mission, and goals, through to the development of a complete group charter officiating the group. Action planning and evaluation steps are also included. Delivery of this ToT requires two days.

Building Resilient Livelihoods in Southern Shan

FG 41

Group formation

1 Membership establishment, VMG setting

2 Setting group roles and membership responsibilities

3 Group charter development

4 Action planning & delivery

5 Evaluating progress

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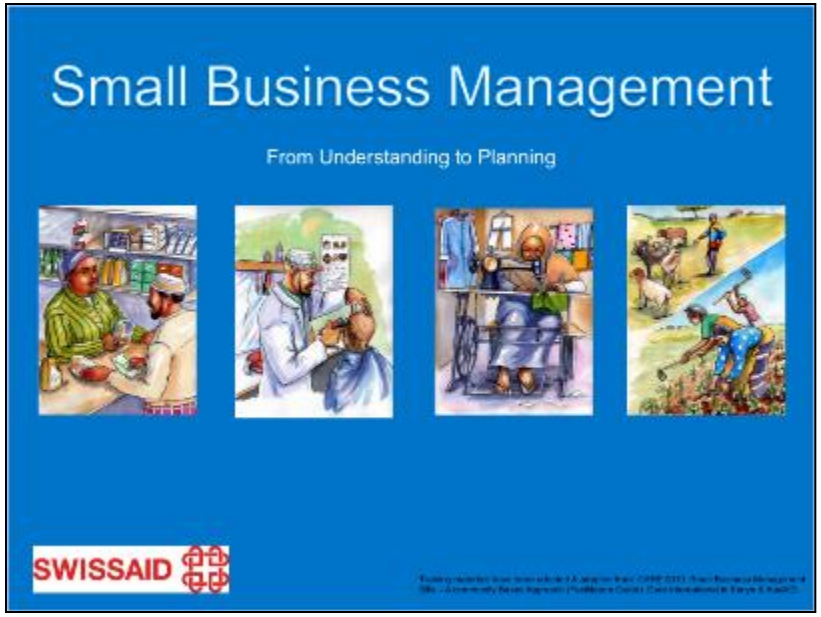
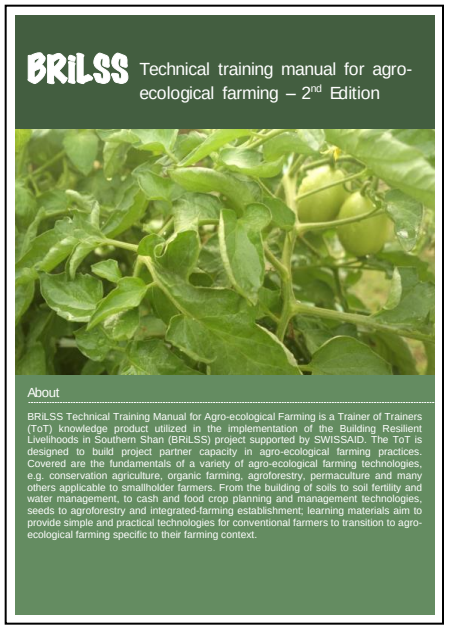
Building Resilient Livelihoods in Southern Shan





BRiLSS Technical training manual for agro-ecological farming – 2nd Edition

About

BRiLSS Technical Training Manual for Agro-ecological Farming is a Trainer of Trainers (ToT) knowledge product utilized in the implementation of the Building Resilient Livelihoods in Southern Shan (BRiLSS) project supported by SWISSAID. The ToT is designed to build project partner capacity in agro-ecological farming practices. Covered are the fundamentals of a variety of agro-ecological farming technologies, e.g. conservation agriculture, organic farming, agroforestry, permaculture and many others applicable to smallholder farmers. From the building of soils to soil fertility and water management, to cash and food crop planning and management technologies, seeds to agroforestry and integrated-farming establishment; learning materials aim to provide simple and practical technologies for conventional farmers to transition to agro-ecological farming specific to their farming context.

BRiLSS Building Resilient Livelihoods in Southern Shan

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN & MARKET ASSESSMENT
Southern Shan State, Myanmar

October 2016

BRiLSS Monitoring & Evaluation Field Manual

About

BRiLSS Monitoring & Evaluation Field Manual is a knowledge product utilized in the implementation of the Building Resilient Livelihoods in Southern Shan (BRiLSS) project supported by SWISSAID. The manual is designed to build project partner knowledge on M&E processes, and act as a guide to field based monitoring, evaluation and reporting needs. The manual has a specific focus on qualitative and quantitative assessment processes vis-à-vis Farmer-to-Farmer Extension Officers (FFEOs), Farmers, Farmer Groups, Self-Help-Groups, Village Development Committees, and CSO partner capacity building and development progress.

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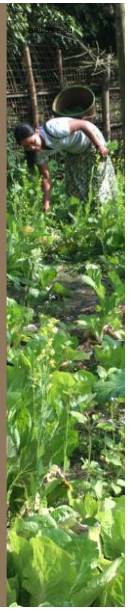

BRiLSS Postharvest improvement strategies for smallholder agro-ecological farmers

About

BRiLSS Postharvest Improvement Strategies for Smallholder Agro-ecological Farmers is a Trainer of Trainers (ToT) knowledge product utilized in the implementation of the Building Resilient Livelihoods in Southern Shan (BRiLSS) project supported by SWISSAID. The ToT is designed to build project partner awareness on sources of economic losses post harvest, as well as pinpoint areas where small improvements can be made to turn losses into gains. The learning materials are also designed to be used by village based Farmer-to-Farmer Extension Officers (FFEOs) when tasked with building the capacity of Farmer Group (FG) members that want to integrate improved postharvest technologies into their everyday farm management efforts. Delivery of this ToT requires one-two days.

Building Resilient Livelihoods in Southern Shan

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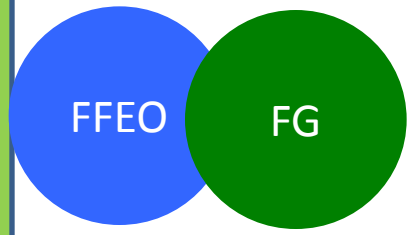

Building FG livelihoods

Co-facilitated by BRiLSS partners & SW-MY staff mentoring

FFEO

FG
Members

BRiLSS **Investment Capital Fund** – Business driven process to engage **value chains**

BRiLSS Capacity Building Package 1

BRiLSS Capacity Building Package 2

- Farmer group building & strengthening
- Postharvest improvement
- Small business development
- Marketing, contract negotiation and development
- Awareness building package

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FG
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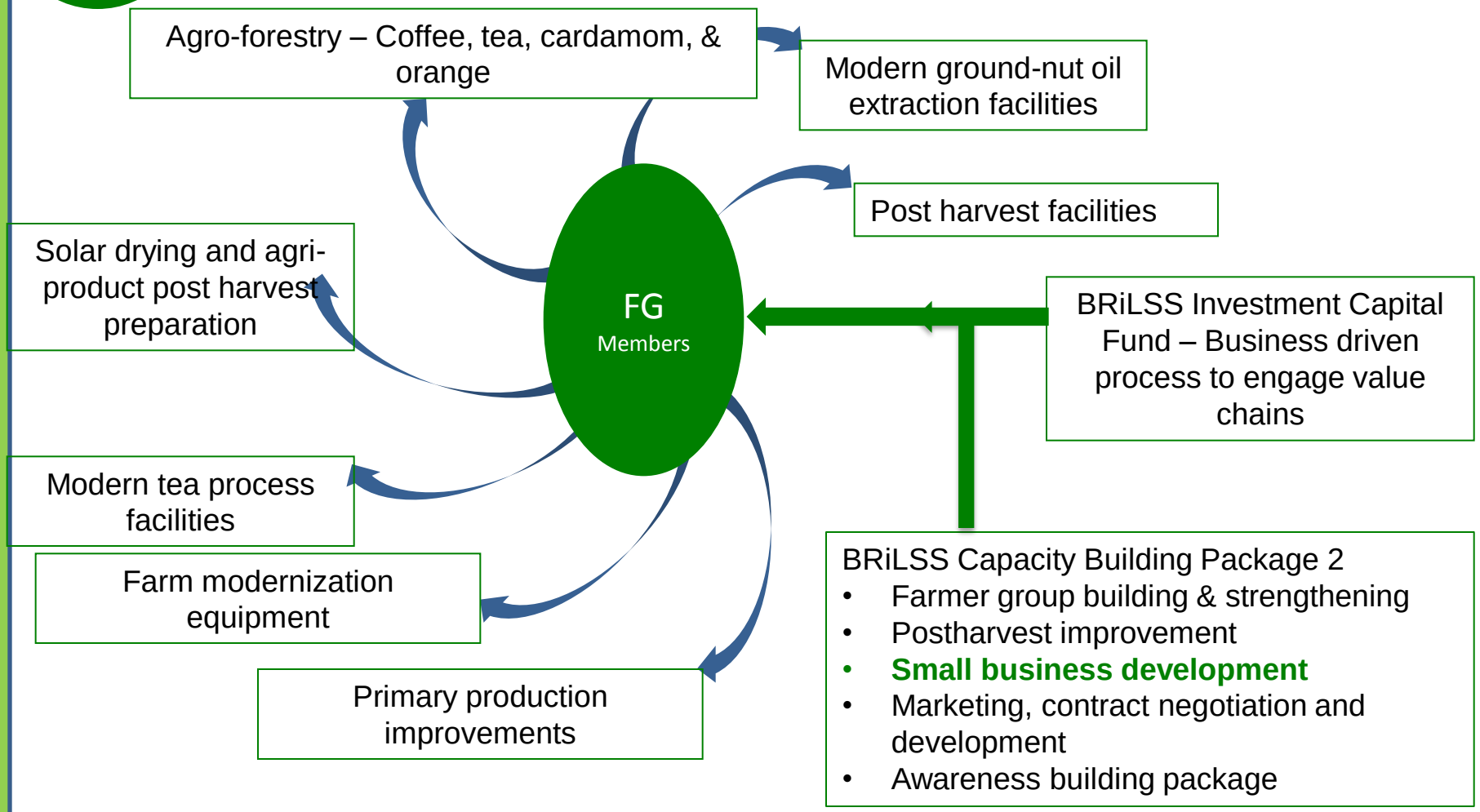
Capitalizing on value chain opportunities



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Provision of Tea Processing Materials

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Dryer and Machines

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