

Doc 2.7. Generic Terms of Reference for Local TREE Committees

Local TREE committees are formed early in the TREE programme and arise from the stakeholder identification and awareness raising process. They are broad-based and include representatives of target groups, local government and non-governmental institutions and key members of the community, including employer and trade union representatives, women's organizations, disabled persons' organizations, individual employers, financial institutions, local government officials and NGOs.

The membership of these committees will vary according to the prevailing local context. It is important that local government representatives are included in these committees to ensure government support and the support of their departments throughout the programme. It is equally important that representatives from existing community groups, e.g., women's groups, youth groups, rural workers' associations etc. also participate in the work of the committees.

Suggested members of a local TREE committee:

- local government officer (or representative);
- representatives of relevant government agencies;
- locally active NGOs and religious organizations;
- representatives of women's organizations;
- representatives of youth;
- representatives from disabled persons' organizations;
- representatives of any other target/beneficiary group
- financial institutions active in rural development;
- (successful) local entrepreneurs.

Local TREE committees work closely with the local TREE implementing teams and assist in carrying out such activities as:

- contributing inputs to economic opportunities and needs surveys to identify employment and income-generating opportunities and constraints at the community level;
- contributing inputs to the gender and diversity analyses;
- contributing inputs to the determination of the feasibility of potential employment and income generating projects;
- contributing to the assessment of training needs;
- promoting participation in training and contributing to the selection of the trainees;
- assessing the need for other technical support, mobilizing that support, both among the members of the local TREE committees themselves and among partner agencies;
- assisting in the mobilization, where appropriate, of local associations to help achieve the programme's goals.

The participatory approach to decision making through the formation of local TREE committees ensures that the decisions made by the TREE programme management represent the interests of the beneficiaries and their communities.