

# Organic Exchange Farm Development Program

World Congress on Organic Cotton  
September 2009



## The Farmers' Yarn

A facilitated farmer self-assessment programme exploring the triple bottom line impacts of organic cotton production



# Why do we need additional impact assessment in organic cotton?

➔ For farmers, environment and communities

↓  
Monitor progress & Verify impacts

↓  
Against claims & expectations

↓  
Against other production systems

↓  
Against global sustainability challenges

↓  
Understand contexts and go beyond organic certificate



# Why do we need additional impact assessment in organic cotton?

Monitor consistency of approaches to farmer development

Meet ethical and value expectations of consumers and brands

Create a consistent understanding of social, economic and environmental goals of organic cotton production



# What is the Self-Assessment?

A scorecard

a semi-formal  
group  
discussion

Facilitated by  
local staff  
in ICS groups

- Environmental Management
- Agronomic Management
- Social Development
- Economic Development
- Health and Education
- Food Security and Nutrition



# Design and Development Goals

Track impacts

Identify  
emerging  
Issues

Auditable and  
verifiable

Global

Local

Different  
Production  
systems

Different  
socio-economic  
contexts



# Progress to date

- Trials in Turkey, Benin, Senegal, Uganda, India and Peru
- Review and improvement of methodology
- Integration with Traceability system
- Development of draft training manual
- Implementation beginning
- More trials coming: Paraguay, Brazil, South Africa, India, West Africa and repeats in previous others

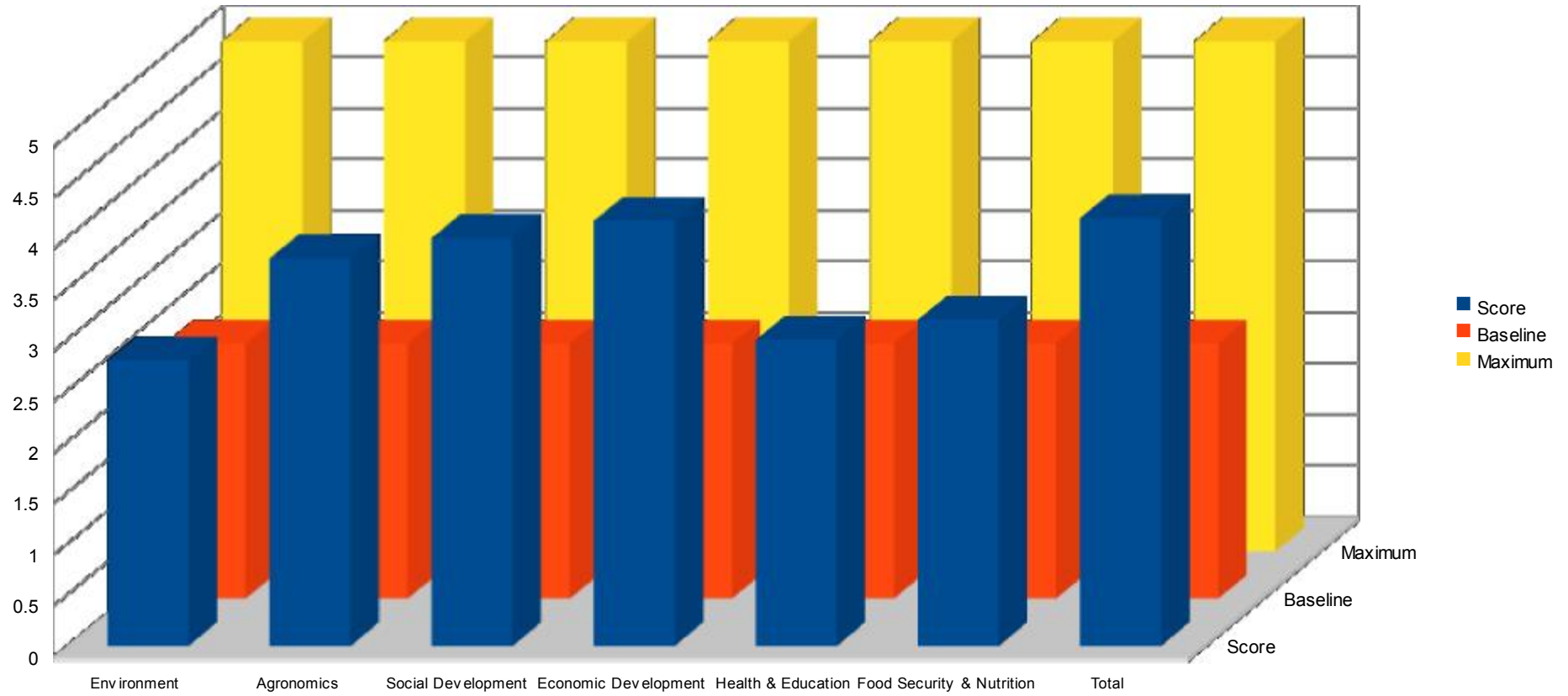


# Outcomes and Goals

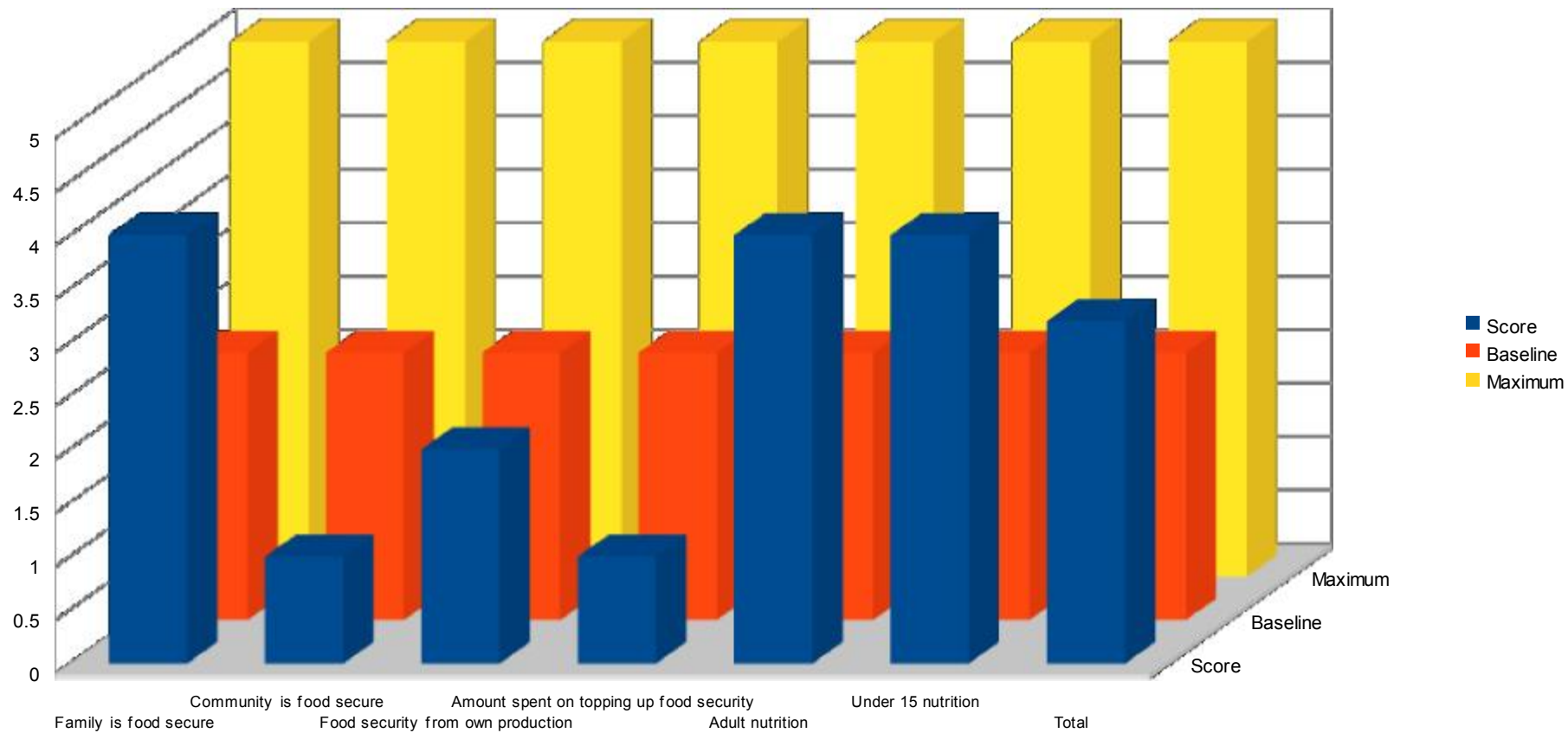
- Semi-structured format enables farmer discussion and reflection.
- Helps farmers identify training and education needs, investment needs
- Helps external partners invest in the right areas.
- Help brands and retailers communicate real impacts and explain cost differentials and product additional value to consumers and shareholders



### Summary



### Food security & nutrition



# Understanding results

- Results do not always reflect on group but may help understand context
- Results need to be understood in the context of each group
- Restitution should always be accompanied by notes

