

# Capacity Assessment of Commercial Seed Producers: Lessons from Pilot Study

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## Abstract

Sustainability of Commercial Seed Producers Group (CSPs) depends upon how far they have developed basic capacities to sustain their ongoing activities. Recognising this issue, CSPs were assessed against five basic capacities identified through focused group discussions with CSP members and Municipal Community and Commercial Coordinator. The five basic capacities include: institutional; technical, management, financial and networking capacities. Two CSPs namely Ruxio and Esperansa Moris Diak from Aileu were taken for this pilot study in December 2015. This capacity assessment result clearly informs the MAF extension staff to identify areas of strength that need to be maintained and strengthened for the CSPs. It also indicates the key areas of shortcomings in the selected capacities that require further support for improvement. The capacity assessment tool found to be useful in rationalising efforts of MAF staff to improve CSPs performance in future.

## II. Methods



Focused group discussion was held with the Municipal Community and Commercial Seed Coordinator and CSP Members to get consensus on the five basic capacities. Three sub-criteria were also developed for each of the five basic capacities. Likert scale was applied to allow the Coordinator to express how much

he agree or disagree with a particular statement on the capacities. The Coordinator undertook the assessment of both the CSPs as he was mainly responsible for establishment and strengthening of CSPs for more than two years.

### List of major criteria and sub-criteria for capacity assessment of a CSP:

Major criteria	Sub-criteria
<b>Institutional Capacity</b>	1. CSP solidarity is high 2. CSP has collective action to realise a common vision 3. Gender equality (>30% women as members)
<b>Management Capacity</b>	1. CSP Leader is active and democratic 2. CSP members are active 3. CSP manage assets in transparent manner
<b>Technical Capacity</b>	1. CSP follow good agricultural practices in collective seed plot 2. CSP members follow good agricultural practices in individual land 3. CSP is less reliant on MAF Extension Officer
<b>Financial Capacity</b>	1. CSP collects fund for investment 2. CSP records details of expenses 3. CSP records details of income
<b>Networking Capacity</b>	1. CSP has functional relation with MAF Office 2. CSP has good relation with local authorities (Suco and Aldeia Chiefs) 3. CSP has good links with market players (seed buyer, input supplier)

## IV. Conclusion

This capacity assessment exercise clearly informs the MAF extension staff to identify areas of strength that need to be maintained and strengthened for the CSPs. It also indicates the key shortcomings in the selected capacity that need to be improved by the CSPs in future.



## I. Introduction

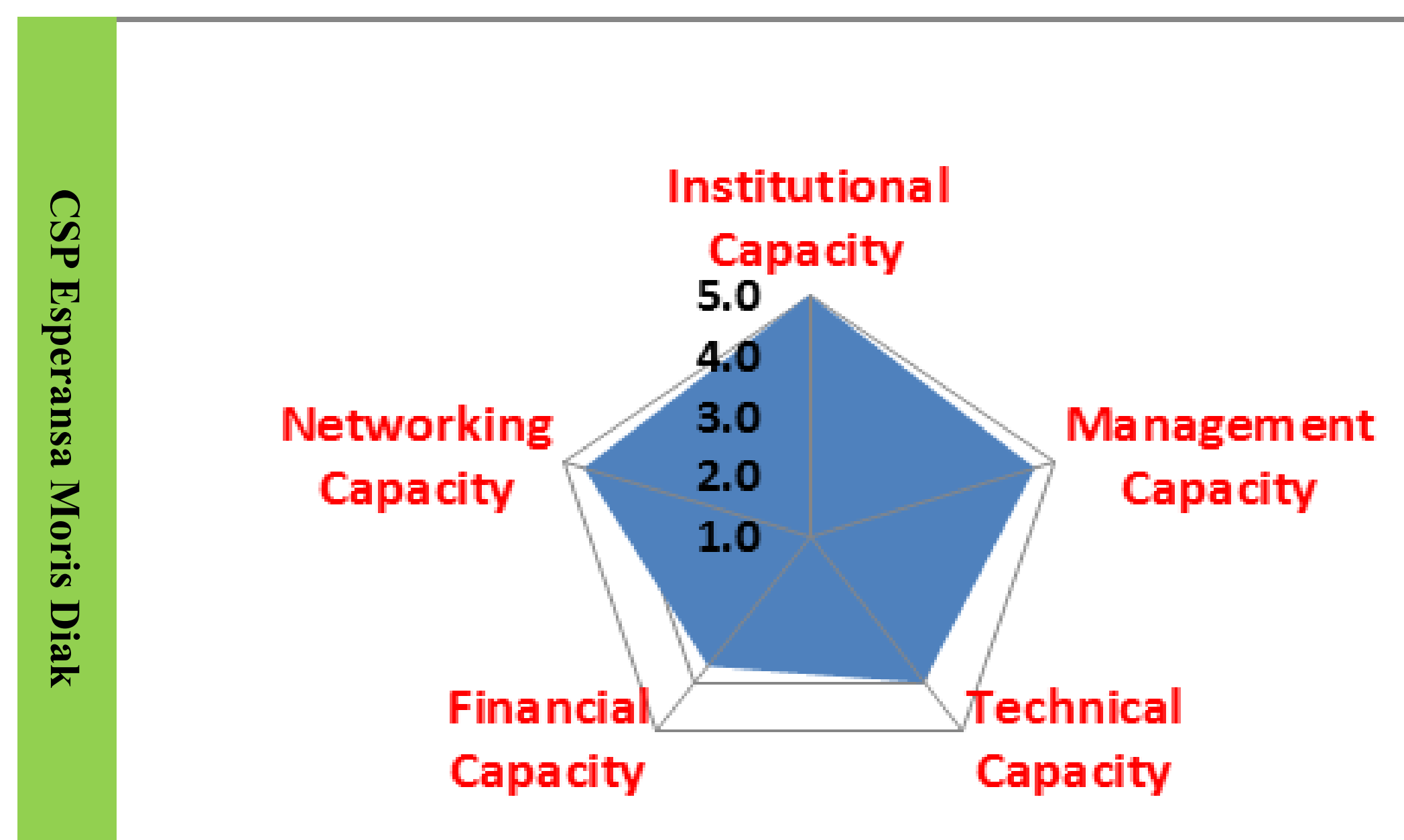
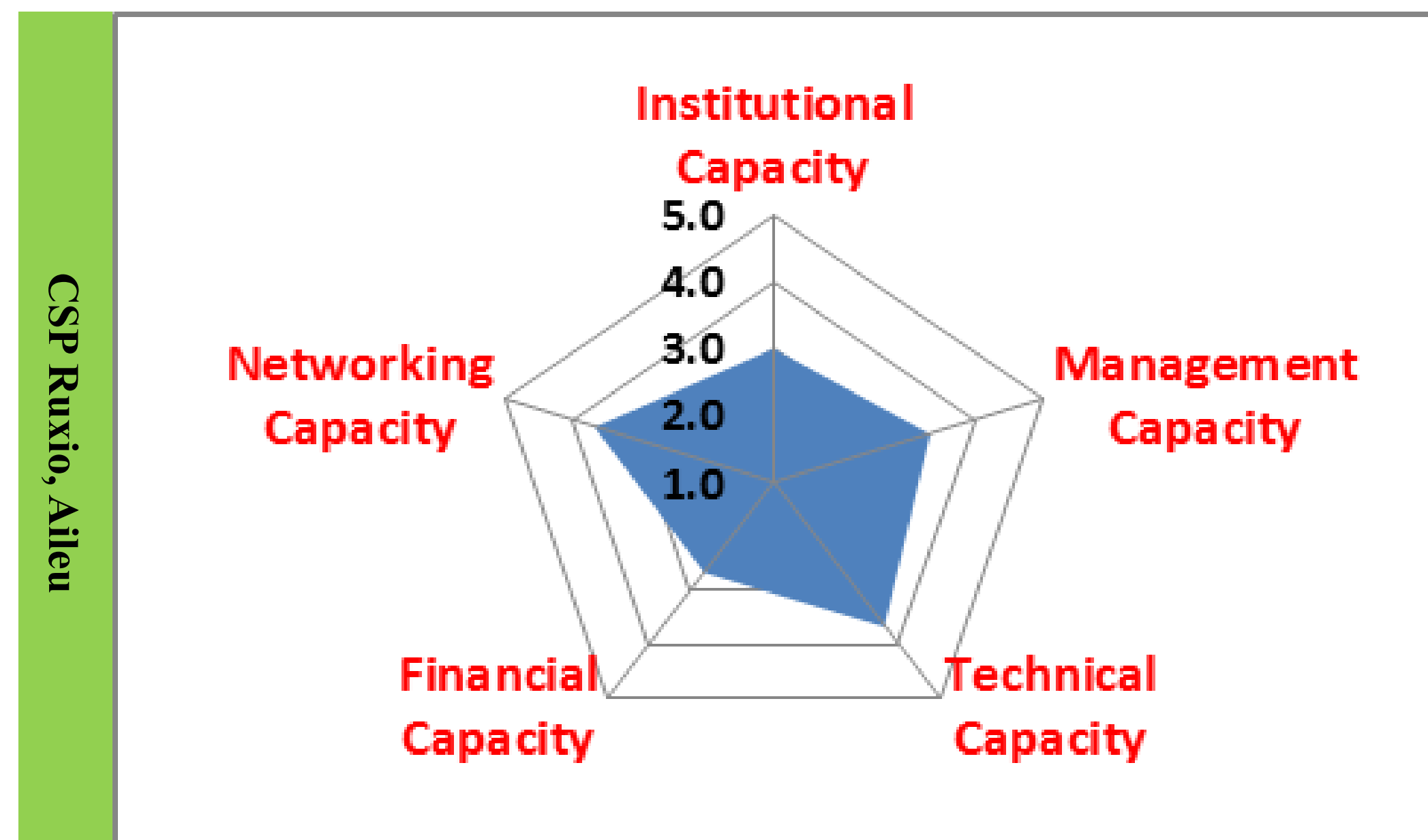
Sustainability of Commercial Seed Producers (CSPs) depends upon how far they have developed essential capacities to sustain their ongoing activities. After consultation with the Community and Commercial Seed Coordinator and members of Commercial Seed Producers, five capacities were identified as basic capacities for CSP. These include: institutional; technical, management, financial and networking capacities. Two CSPs from Aileu were taken for this pilot study in December 2015.

### Five basic capacities for CSPs

- Institutional:** Group is cohesive, gender sensitive and has a shared vision/work
- Technical:** Group and its members follow good agriculture practice for seed production and manage group asset well.
- Management:** Group has democratic leader, active members and less dependent on extension staff...
- Financial:** Group has collective fund for investment, clear record of income and expenses
- Networking:** Group has good link with extension staff, local authorities and market players.

## III. Discussion

Figure below reveals that CSP *Ruxio* scored low in all capacities. In particular, it was rated below the 'average' in institutional and financial capacities. While for technical, networking and management capacities it was rated either 'average' or 'good'. In case of CSP *Esperansa Moris Diak*, it was rated 'good' or the 'very good' in all five capacities except financial capacity. For example, institutional capacity of CSP *Esperansa Moris Diak* is very good compared to CSP *Ruxio* because the Chief (Leader) of former CSP is also the Secretary of National Association of Commercial Seed Producers due to his outstanding leadership skills and mentoring support to other CSP leaders and members.



Likert Scale: 5 = Very good, 4=Good, 3 = Average, 2 = Slightly bad, 1 = Very bad