

## Day 1: Foundations of Innovation in Agroforestry Networks

Day 1 introduces fundamental concepts of innovation and network facilitation. Participants will learn the stages that an agroforestry innovation typically goes through and how an advisor can support progress at each stage. They will also identify key actors in innovation networks and how to engage them, and practice techniques for sparking creativity in groups. By the end of Day 1, everyone will have a solid grounding in innovation process management – from planting the seed of an idea to organizing an initial network and generating momentum.

### Schedule at a Glance (Day 1)

09:00–09:30	Welcome & Introductions
09:30–10:45	Session 1: Understanding Innovation & Co-Creation
10:45–11:00	Break
11:00–12:30	Session 2: Actors and Networks – Who to Involve?
12:30–13:30	Lunch
13:30–15:00	Session 3: Creative Techniques for Idea Generation
15:00–15:15	Break
15:15–16:30	Session 4: Building a Vital Network (Exchange, Dialogue, Structure, Challenge)
16:30	Day 1 Wrap-Up & Reflection Assignment

*(Note: Timing can be adjusted based on participant number and interaction level. Each session includes interactive components as detailed below.)*

### Welcome & Introductions (09:00–09:30)

Begin the day by setting an inclusive, engaging tone. **Welcome** participants as they arrive, and do a brief round of introductions. Since this module is about networking and innovation, use an introduction activity that highlights the network present in the room: for example, a “network mapping” icebreaker. Provide a large map or flipchart and have each person place a pin or sticky where they come from and share one agroforestry challenge they are passionate about. As each person introduces themselves, draw lines or arrows between related challenges or regions to visually create a network on the map. This reinforces that we have a diverse group with varied expertise – a mini innovation network in itself.

After introductions, **review the agenda** for both days. Emphasize the workshop’s interactive nature: “We will be *doing* innovation, not just talking about it.” Establish some quick **ground rules** for a productive learning environment (e.g. respect each perspective, one person speaking at a time, it is fine to disagree but aim to build on ideas, etc.). You might invite the group to suggest norms, modelling a participatory approach.

Finally, introduce the module’s *purpose*: “We’re here to learn how to help innovations flourish. Agroforestry is full of great ideas – our job is to connect the right people and guide the process so those ideas grow into reality.” Pose a quick question to get minds engaged: “What words come to mind when you hear ‘innovation’?” Take a few responses and note them. Likely terms like “new ideas,” “change,” “risk,” or “improvement” will emerge.

**Tip for Success:** From the start, model the facilitation techniques you will be teaching. During introductions, practice *active listening* (paraphrase what people share to show understanding) and *inclusive facilitation* (if someone is quiet, gently invite them in). This sets the tone that everyone’s voice matters – a key principle in innovation networks.