

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Ethiopia

Project/Initiative Title: FAO Freedom from Hunger

Nos. farmers: 2300

Hectares: 2150

Agro-Ecological Zone: VI

Improvement types

1x	2	3x	4	5	6x	7	8	9
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Success and Limits to spread

Success	Limits
1b, 1c, 3a, 3e	2b, 3a, 3e, 5a, 5b

A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Sweet potato	5000-7000 kg/ha	30,000-40,000 kg/ha	

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- ?? Compost is now substituting for synthetic fertiliser
- ?? Organic farming
- ?? Neem extracts (seed and leaf) used to tackle the problem of insect pests
- ?? Planting different varieties of crops side by side and observing advantages of growing with maize
- ?? There is land degradation due to continued ploughing of land for grazing but by using soil conservation methods with compost application methods, nutrients are now in the soil

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

- ?? During 1984/5 drought farmers out-migrated from these areas, now as a result of extension activities from FAO-FFHC/AD, the previously migrated farmers started to settle in the project areas.
- ?? Incomes of each family increased at least 2-fold after the initial stages of the project (formerly annual income did not exceed \$120 US whereas now it is more in the region of \$190-220 US).

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- ?? Formerly most farmers were hungry for at least 3 months a year, but after the introduction of sweet potato due to its early maturing characteristics they were able to produce three times in a year, so calorie requirement was filled
- ?? Farmers more able to cope with drought after training days
- ?? Incomes increased 2 times

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? Now use neem rather than pesticides

?? And manures rather than fertilizers

B. Types of Sustainable Agriculture Improvements

- Type 1: Better use of available renewable natural capital
- Type 2: Intensification of single sub -component of farm system
- Type 3: Diversify by adding new productive natural capital and regenerative components
- Type 4: Better use of non-renewable inputs and technologies
- Type 5: Social and participatory processes leading to group action for making better use of natural capital
- Type 6: Human capital building through training-learning programmes
- Type 7: Access to Finance
- Type 8: Add value by processing to reduce losses and increase returns
- Type 9: Add value by direct or organised marketing of produce to consumers

	Yes/No	Narrative
Type 1	x	Composting, multiple cropping
Type 2		
Type 3	x	New variety of sweet potato, increasing species diversity, IPM
Type 4		
Type 5		
Type 6	x	Farmer to farmer extension Problem identification with farmers Monitoring and evaluating with farmers
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

- ?? Flexible organisational mandate
- ?? Bureaucracy kept to a minimum due to organisational structure
- ?? Strong linkages with line ministries and organisations, Ministry of Agriculture, Institute of Agricultural Research and others

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

- ?? Unfavourable/ unstable market prices
- ?? Lack of support for sustainable agriculture practices
- ?? Over-emphasis of support for high external input application activities and inputs
- ?? Poor transportation networks
- ?? Lack of financial resources
- ?? Limited local resources

C4 – Policy issues

- ?? Over-emphasis of support for high external input application activities and inputs

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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