

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Kenya

Project/Initiative Title: Comm MAD Programme
1995

Scale: many communities Nos. farmers: 500 Hectares: 1000

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

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

Success	Limits
4a,6a	3a,6a

A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Maize	2000 kg/ha	4000 kg/ha	100

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- ?? More trees planted
- ?? Soil erosion reduced
- ?? Natural water cycle maintained
- ?? Species biodiversity increased

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

Communal work enhanced through efforts of farmer groups

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- ?? Crops diversified, household health and nutrition improved due to better diets.
- ?? Child mortality reduced
- ?? Farmer experimentation enhanced

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? Increased use of organic matter
- ?? Food security still not very good however due to adverse climate and poverty

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	Soil and water conservation
Type 2	x	Organic farming
Type 3	x	Agroforestry
Type 4		
Type 5		
Type 6	x	PRA, Farmer participatory research, community based village groups, collaboration with research and development institutions (both Government and NGO
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C1 – Key Lessons Learned

Local solutions are easily sustained by the communities

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

- ?? Goodwill from communities served
- ?? Relative peace and political stability

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

- ?? Weak policy support for agricultural products (free market)
- ?? Adverse climate conditions

C4 – Policy issues

Inadequate funding and support for networking and meetings

C5 – Scaling-up

Needed:

- ?? Exchange of ideas between actors in different parts to discuss what has and what has not worked
- ?? Adoption of participatory approaches and methodologies by all actors

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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E. Project Narrative

The C-MAD programme works in a 'low-potential' part of South Nyanza, western Kenya. The programme area has a single rainfall season, and the land is badly degraded due to overgrazing and deforestation. The project began as a straightforward tree-planting effort, expanded to incorporate soil conservation, soil fertility and organic farming methods, and now focuses on whole farm improvements. The social processes incorporate participatory learning methods, farmer-based research groups, strengthening community and village groups, and collaboration with government and non-government research and extension agencies.

It works with about 500 farmers in some 1000 hectares, who have seen maize yields improve from about 2 to 4 t/ha. Income has also increased for many farmers following the cultivation of fruit (citrus, orange, mango, pineapple). The project reports increased local employment through growth in demand for on-farm labour. The cultivation of vegetables in home gardens has further improved domestic food security. The project also reports reduced child mortality and improved health and nutritional status.