SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Malawi

Project / Initiative Title: Lipangwe Organic Demonstration Farm Project - Ntonda Area

Nos. farmers: 450 Hectares: 500

Agro-Ecological Zone: V

Improvement types

1x	2	3x	4	5x	6x	7	8	9

Success and Limits to spread

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

A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before / Without	After / With	% change
all			20-75

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

?? For the project centre we opted not to buy any fertilizer or pesticide as demonstration to the community. However, individual members bought less fertilizers for comparisons in their fields. We believe reduction in the use of inorganic fertilizers will indeed be related to people's health. Reason is that chemicals affect people when taken e.g. DDT, while organically planted crops are not only nutritious but also disease-free.
?? Experience no soil or less soil erosion because of land husbandry practices.
?? No water pollution because no chemicals used.

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

?? So far 17 members were trained in land management skills.
?? There is already one local resource management group in the area. However, because of tremendous increase in membership the second group will be formed in due course.
?? Individual group members used organic farming methods and have harvested enough to sustain their families year round.
?? Members of this project harvested enough for sale and for food to sustain them. Since the project has just been launched we are unable to give specific examples to show differences between our group and the people around.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

?? During first year of cultivation (i.e. 1994 / 1995 season) there has been significant increase in yield despite the problem of drought. For example:
?? Maize - $1^1/_2$ acre harvested 4 tonnes.
?? G / nuts - 1 acre harvested 2.3 tonnes unshelled nuts.

?? Sorghum - 1/2 acre harvested 4 tonnes.
?? This production was rather affected by drought but previously we would reach this far after heavy application of chemical fertilizers.
?? About forty farms belonging to forty farming families have adopted sustainable agriculture approaches. The area involved is about 120 km2. Number of people benefiting is about 25,000 * This approach has indeed been copied by farmers in neighbouring villages. About fifty farming families.

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	?? Construction of marker ridges and contour ridges as a measure to check soil erosion, ?? agroforestry, i.e. inter-cropping, planting accacia albida, sesibani sesiban, ?? application of liquid manure,
Type 2		
Type 3 Type 4	x	?? green manure kraal manure, ?? mulches ?? cover crops.
Type 5	x	?? Involvement of group members in planning and implementation of the project ?? More than 25 farm clubs ranging from 30-35 members of each farming club have been involved in this program
Type 6	x	?? Establishment of demonstration farm through participatory approach and communal cultivation. Establishment of village plots for other people to see for themselves.. ?? Organization of field days.
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C3 – Limitations preventing spread
?? Over-emphasis of support for high external input agricultural activities e.g. government

campaign for farmers to buy fertilizer.

?? Lack of support for sustainable agriculture activities i.e. government extension workers do not dwell much on organic farming.
?? Inequitable / inappropriate land tenure e.g. fragmented pieces of land, which is not easy to mechanize.
?? Lack of human / financial resources.
?? Narrow agriculture research focus, to my knowledge not much is done to promote sustainable agriculture i.e. organic farming except agroforestry and land husbandry practices.
?? Distorting subsidies / support mechanisms.
?? Currency devaluation.
?? Unfavourable market prices.
?? Poor transportation networks.

C4 – Policy issues

?? Over-emphasis of support for high external input agricu ltural activities e.g. government campaign for farmers to buy fertilizer.
?? Lack of support for sustainable agriculture activities i.e. government extension workers do not dwell much on organic farming.

C5 – Scaling-up

?? With escalating costs of input costs, we are sure that many people are going to adopt organic farming methods. Hence we feel it will have positive impact.
?? This approach has indeed been copied by farmers in neighbouring villages. About fifty farming families

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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E. Project Narrative

This project adopts a community based approach which ensures that community members participate both as in dividual as well as in their respective community groupings in the planning and implementation of project activities. The use of participatory development methodologies such as participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tool facilitate this.

The traditional chiefs, village headmen and local community organisations such as village action groups and local clubs play a central role as stakeholders in mobilising communities in their respective areas of influence together with a team or well experienced volunteers based at the project sites. More than 25 farm clubs ranging from 30-35 members of each

farming club have been involved in this program. We expect more and more clubs to be informed in the near future.

The project targets communities with low income, facing diminishing land holding, far from reach to development messages and residents of rural areas. The living standards of the target population is generally low and even more worse where people are illiterate and/or unemployed.

The low status of living are triggered by lack of awareness and means to tackle below outlined obstacles to development:

Diminishing land holdings.
Capital constraint.
Unemployment.
Female discrimination (women do not receive similar opportunities as their male counter parts).
Hunger and malnutrition.
Exorbitant prices of farming inputs and land degradation.

Lomadef, a non-government organisation (NGO) program in Malawi integrates five programs.

Organic Farming/sustainable agriculture
Agroforestry
Land husbandry
Destification control

The project has an executive committee comprising 10 members and is responsible for day to day running of the project. We also receive pieces of advice from mother NGO (Christian service Committee) on matters relating to the running of the project. We have an internal auditor for financial management operations.