

# SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

**Country:** Tanzania

**Project/Initiative Title:** Ileje Food Crops Production Project - Mbeya Region - Ileje District. 1989

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

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

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

## A. Key Impacts

### **A1 – Productivity**

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Maize	555 kg/ha	750 kg/ha	35

### **A2 – Impacts on natural capital**

- ?? Sharp decrease of pesticide/fertilizer application. The decrease is more related to late availability and/or high cost.
- ?? More soil erosion and low soil fertility/soil nutrients. Generally very low crop yields if no fertilizer applied except in newly opened land for cultivation.
- ?? Great change in biological diversity. Most of the native plants are distinct. The wild animals also have perished except some traces of the spotted hyena. Cattle population has gone down by about 10% because of high mortality rates. Pigs have been introduced in the area as new domesticated animals.
- ?? Muddy rivers show that substantial erosion is taking place in surrounding catchments. Although there are no measurements but it is possible that the waters are also full of chemicals e.g. fertilizers, pesticides, etc.
- ?? Serious deforestation which is estimated at around 70%. However, mango trees have been planted around homesteads.
- ?? About 70% of the land is intercropped with ridging being the most common village practice.

### **A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)**

- ?? Ileje District, by and large, is a drought stricken area. Farmers in the project area are putting much more pressure to be supplied with short maturing varieties. There is for example, a very high demand for Kito maize variety which has been nicknamed by farmers in the area as "mkombozi", a Swahili word which means "saviour".
- ?? For market changes, there are two practical examples of how farmers involved in the project cope with it. Last harvest season 1004/95, a group of female farmers (PRE group of the project) in one village refused to sell maize below Tshs 3,000 per bag. Another group of female farmers in another village refused to sell paddy rice below Tshs 10,000 per bag. There was no direct influence by the project on these decisions.

### **A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system**

Basing on impact study done in 1993, 4 years after start of project:

- ?? acreage remained almost the same (2.5 acres per farmer). Yields have slightly increased on average from 4.5 bags/acre to 6.05 bags per acre.
- ?? Four years ago farmers were growing mainly maize as a food as well as cash crop. Presently all farmers have diversified and sunflower and rice are now becoming very important crops in the area.
- ?? There is a drop of farmers using chemical fertilizer from 58% to nearly 25%. However, there is an increase in number of farmers using organic fertilizer from 40% to about 50%. In fact, nowadays all farmers owning cattle use farm yard manure for crop production instead of burning or throwing it away.
- ?? Nearly 70% of the farmers are using natural pesticides to control insects in field crops.

A good number of farmers are practicing multiple cropping, applying farm yard manure and using chemical fertilizers with greater care because of economical reasons.

### **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	?? Use of livestock (cattle) manures which is well prepared (decomposed) in pits.
Type 2		
Type 3	x	?? Introduction of animal power in the farming systems. ?? Crop diversification. Introduction of new crops and own varieties. Most of the introduced crops were grown traditionally but abandoned due to changes or evolution of agriculture e.g. African agriculture (LEISA) to modern agriculture (HEIA).
Type 4		
Type 5		
Type 6	x	?? Farmers participation in various stages. The project uses the Participatory Research and Extension (PRE) process whereby farmers analyse problems, look for solutions, experiment, evaluate and exchange knowledge.
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

## **C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints**

### ***C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success***

- ?? The internal structure of the project comprises of three sections namely Agriculture, Farmers Organization and Support Service each with a head. Then there is Team Management which deals with the day to day matters of the project and forward them (especially those related to policy) to the Working Committee and Board for final decision and implementation. Despite the distinct sections, the project operates in the spirit of team world. Planning and Evaluation of activities are done jointly. Moreover the incentive package in form of higher remuneration increases commitment to the project by the staff.
- ?? Networking with other organizations is usually accorded highest priority. Whenever necessary the project always seek for resource persons and consultants from other organizations. Project staffs also participate (sometimes as (co) facilitators) in activities organized by other institutions. Furthermore, the project uses the extension workers employed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

### ***C3 – Limitations preventing spread***

- ?? Inequitable/inappropriate land tenure.  
e.g. The irrigation approach of the project is based on three concepts i.e. sustainability, integration into the farming system, and gender. Therefore both technical and organizational aspects are taken up simultaneously with farmers participation taking an upper hand. Construction work has been delayed because of poor farmers participation Farmers are bit hesitant because they are not sure whether they will benefit from the irrigation schemes as they have no land title deeds.
- ?? Over-emphasis of support for higher external input agricultural activities and inputs.
- ?? Narrow agricultural research focus.
- ?? Research still hinges around high external input, no or little recognition and respect on indigenous knowledge. Practitioners of indigenous knowledge have been downgraded by the government to an extent of even being called witch doctors. IF CPP is finding it very difficult to revamp the use of medicinal plants because traditional healers are diffident about expressing their opinions.
- ?? Limited local resources.
- ?? Poor transportation systems.
- ?? Poor roads reduce accessibility of the area. Transportation costs are very high and consequently producer prices are very low.

## **D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative**

Ileje Food Crops Production project PO Box 160 Itumba Tanzania
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