

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Uganda

Project/Initiative Title: Ox Cultivation Project, Atabu

Nos. farmers: 125

Hectares: 750

Agro-Ecological Zone: II/V

Improvement types

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

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

A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Fish			New crop

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

Given the appropriate ox-cultivation techniques training given to the beneficiaries, soil erosion has been kept to its lowest level which means soil fertility has more or less remained the same. Given that the open forest cover of the project area has not been destroyed and water sources are properly kept while others have been protected. Near most of these springs (both protected and unprotected) are fish ponds to supplement fish caught from rivers and swamps. Wetlands have remained intact since the beginning of the project in 1993. Each of the 126 farmers that have so far benefited from the project cultivate four to six hectares of land annually.

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

There has been significant impacts on the local economy. Apart from the increased income availability, and more livestock bought, the standard of living of the local community has improved. The most important is that the beneficiaries are able to afford essential commodities with ease. Rural-urban migration has been checked and level of subsistence have rose. Farmers organizations (groups) have been farmers to market crops which ensure good pay for their crops.

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

The level of famine has been considerably minimised with food availability almost throughout the year.

The farmers involved in the project are able to cope with market changes since they are farmed in groups and have a united voice. They are also able to reach better markets far away since they have transport as groups (they have a 1 ton TATA lorry).

The groups that have benefited most have been the children and the aged. Since there has

been food availability throughout the year, they are not malnourished. The general population are also healthy. Yet the poor farmers have also benefited since their land is ploughed by the rich in return for their labour.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

Since 1993, there has been steady increase in food production. By mid 1994, there was surplus production for sale. This has raised the level of income of the beneficiaries. Since this has been a revolving credit, many more farmers are gaining access to credit without collateral. Today a total of 126 farmers have been trained in sustainable (appropriate) ox-cultivation techniques and agriculture methods that lead to sustainable land use. Natural resource management has been part of this training and the farmers have farmed themselves into the management groups (one for fish farming and the other for tree planting). The above has also led to farmers buying livestock whose number has increased from 3 in 1992 to 206 today.

First of all, the 126 beneficiaries with their households have already benefited from the improved methods of farming, especially appropriate ox-cultivation, residue management and marketing. These include the traditional green manuring, multiple cropping, integrated pest management and soil conservation which the training also helped to improve. In addition to the above, the poor farmers have also learnt from them. This generally means all the people of the project area are now benefiting from the project. This project has since last year been adopted in three other neighbouring places

The influential technological innovation has been the need to improved on the rudimentary methods of farming especially the use of hard tools which did not allow for large scale production. This was as a result of cattle rustling in the 1980s which led to looting of all the livestock and abandonment of ox-cultivation. This project was therefore an effort to restore ox-cultivation BUT this was however 'improved ox-cultivation'.

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	
Type 2	x	
Type 3	x	
Type 4		
Type 5	x	Participatory approaches of working with the community especially the beneficiaries have been used. This also included

		field work with farmers whereby their innovations have been identified and improved on. In this way farmers were satisfied with the new innovations improved from theirs.
Type 6	x	
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

Most of the beneficiaries are members of the Association, hence they take the project to be theirs. They are highly involved in the decision making process of the project and Association in general. The project staff are also members of the community of the project area, hence they also take the project with value. Collaboration with other organizations with the district, Uganda and external have also been crucial in that they were able to come in areas where the project could not score.

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

At macro -level, structural adjustment policies, unequal terms of global trade, unfavourable market prices and high debt burden have been unfavourable to the project. Nationally, poor agricultural research focus, poor subsidies and poor transport infrastructure (especially road network) is to blame while at organization level, the very low resource (financial) base is responsible for low performance level of the project.

C4 – Policy issues

At macro -level, structural adjustment policies, unequal terms of global trade, unfavourable market prices and high debt burden have been unfavourable to the project.

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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