

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Zaire

Project/Initiative Title: Rural Development Program, De Verre Naasten - Malemba Nkulu. 1993

Nos. farmers: 100

Hectares: 50

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

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

Success	Limits
1b, 1c, 3c	2c, 5a, 5b, 6b

A. Key Impacts

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

Through the credit scheme poor groups with little or no collateral (mainly women) get access to seed. We have adapted elements of the Grameen Bank. One of the effects is that group members start to help each other on each other's fields. This year there are 16 of those credit groups with each 4-6 members. Each group has to set up also a savings scheme (in kind) to cover calamities on their group. We don't know yet how this is functioning.

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- ?? Through training courses (awareness, problem analysis, cooperating, etc.) and literacy classes (for women) participants have got more confidence on their own capabilities.
- ?? Participants have changed from people which said they were not able to change their own situation and demanding things to be done for them to people organizing themselves and taking initiatives (building a bridge, improving village roads, setting up a system to help group members, organizing their own literacy class).
- ?? Through the credit and saving scheme the food availability of the participants has improved as well as the quality, some they had more protein rich food.
- ?? The first year the scheme was open only for women this year also for men but we want to focus it on the poor farmers.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? Through the introduction of a small credit scheme for soya bean and peanut seed production of these species has increased within the total group in the first year. Many participants were able to save seed till next year instead of having to buy it again. The second year (this year) demand has risen and the scheme is now covering a wider area
- ?? This year only some of the groups are experimenting with a green manure (mucuna). It is a trial year. The area covered at this stage is an area of 30 by 30 km. In this area we work on 8 villages with different activities.
- ?? Credit scheme ? 90 people; literacy classes ? 160 women; group training ? 70 people. Some of these people participate in more than one activity. The approach has not yet

been copied in neighbouring areas but demands for assistance from groups out of those areas have started to come in.

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		
Type 3		
Type 4		
Type 5		
Type 6	x	Since our start in January 1993, only now we see a change on the attitude of the people participating on our program. We also see a growth on self confidence. We try to help people solve their own problems instead of solving them for them. They participate in as much as possible different stages of the work. We facilitate (by means of training of group delegates, exercises and courses) the groups to see their own situation, think about causes and consequences of their problems, look for solutions, plan and execute activities and evaluate. Helpful methods are GRAAP Training for Transformation and PRA and PTD techniques.
Type 7	x	Credit scheme
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

- ?? Besides the above activities we have an internal program of staff training. Staff is recruited locally and did not have any training or development issues. This had the advantage that they were not locked on other approaches. They got training on the spot. At the same time it is a constraint as well.
- ?? From the organization there were no constraints about the approach, scope or kind of activities if they were accompanied by sound arguments we got all the space we needed to develop the program and adapt it.
- ?? Another important aspect in the commitment of the organization to stay on the area for at least 10-15 years.

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

- ?? Very high devaluation rate - saving problems, impact on the credit scheme.
- ?? Large price differences between city and rural areas agricultural products have a low value while other products have a low value while other products (soap, salt, clothes etc.) are expensive.
- ?? Very bad infrastructure - very few possibilities to transport products to consumer areas as well as local and regional.
- ?? Corruption and fraud - diminishing even more the profits.
- ?? Human resources - schools don't work properly for already a couple of years. Staff need a lot of additional training and it has its impacts on the possible activities of the groups as well.
- ?? Political unrest - there is no support and back up from the government. Roads are not repaired, school and health programs function only by the grace of HGO's and missionaries.

C4 – Policy issues

Political unrest - there is no support and back up from the government. Roads are not repaired, school and health programs function only by the grace of NGO's and missionaries.

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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