

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: China

Project/Initiative Title: UNDP Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development Project in Jinping and Malipo Counties of Yunnan Province
1998 (feasibility study 1995)

Scale: many communities Nos. farmers: 150 Hectares: 300
households

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

1 x	2x	3 x	4 x	5	6 x	7x	8 x	9
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A. Key Impacts

A1 - Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Maize	1500-3000 kg/ha	2000- 10500 kg/ha	33-250
Cassava	15000 kg/ha	20000 kg/ha	33
Pigs/cattle	1 head/ha	3 head/ha	200

A2 - Impacts on natural capital

The construction of bio -gas tanks among the farmers with the loan from this project helps to prevent cutting trees by 60%, and meanwhile as the sediment in the bio-gas tanks is used to improve the fertility of the arable land, the use of chemical fertiliser reduced. These have quite positive impact on the environment. At the same time, in our project the local farmers have much enthusiasm in the forestation activities, the tree coverage rate in the project areas increased by around 20%.

A3 - Impacts on local community (social capital)

- 1) The poverty in the project areas has been somewhat reduced as the farmers do not go hungry now and can have some clothes to wear.
- 2) The farmers have turned from pure self-sufficient production to commodity production. They have started selling their products from field and from household by products processing activities to the market to earn cash money.
- 3) The farmers can afford the children at school age for school education.
- 4) Indigenous personnel such as farmer vets have been trained.
- 5) Active participation from women is greatly enhanced.
- 6) Rules and regulations on forest and land management have been established at village level.
- 7) 1054 Credit Groups formed in Malipo County and Jinping County

A4 - Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

In the past time, farmers in our pilot villages used to raise animals (mostly pigs) in a very extensive way. Under such circumstances, the public hygiene conditions were very bad and

animals got diseases easily. What's more, their home gardens were left idle since what planted in the gardens were often damaged by the animals. With this project, the villages become more tidy and clean as the pigs are raised in pig-pens and animal manure is used for the bio-gas. Meanwhile, people started planting vegetables and cash crops around their house. Eating fresh vegetables is good to their health, and the planting of cash crops helps to earn more money to improve their living standard. The villages become more tidy and clean as the pigs are raised in pig-pens and animal manure is used for the bio-gas.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

Changes in input use: Before the project, the input was only invested in crop production. After the project, the input usage is more diversified such as on children's education, buying new high yield seeds, purchasing farm machines, constructing houses, building pig pens and bio-gas tanks, etc

Change in local/ regional food security: Before the project, the local farmers usually ran short of food for 2-4 months; after the project, their food security can be secured as they can use the cash from their income generating activities of micro finance project to buy food to eat.

Although this sustainable agriculture component has not been implemented in large scale, a demonstrative model has been established and the revolving fund mechanism guarantees the further expansion of the project.

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	Land improvement: terracing; in rocky areas, use dynamite to get rid of the stones to make arable land
Type 2	x	New vegetable production
Type 3	x	Introducing the planting of green manure crops on the edges of the terraced field, which can add to the fertility of the field and meanwhile consolidate the terrace Promoting denser double line plantation of corn, and bean-corn intercropping
Type 4	x	Introducing artificial insemination technique to the farmers for pig raising New methods of pig raising such as uncooked fodder Timely vaccination to pigs to help the farmers to guarantee their

		rate of return
Type 5		
Type 6	x	At the early stage of this project, anti-illiteracy campaign has been carried out for adult farmers. And participatory methods have been adopted during the whole process of this project.
Type 7	x	This project has several components, among which micro finance (MF) and sustainable agriculture are the two main ones. The sustainable agriculture activities are carried out in those villages where MF activities are also being carried out simultaneously. The group organization for the MF has also exerted a positive function for the sustainable agriculture.
Type 8	x	The vegetables cultivated with the sediment from the bio-gas tank instead of chemical fertilizer can sell at a higher price (10~20% higher) in the nearby towns.
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C1 – Key Lessons Learned

In terms of administration of the project, simplification of management levels and decentralization are necessary. Always lay emphasis on the beneficiaries. How to use the input, in form of grant or loan may lead to quite different result. When it is used in the form of loan, users very often use it with much care and therefore the loans are used more efficiently. Another aspect is that as it is used in form of loan, the revolving fund can be used to cover more beneficiaries. Poverty alleviation needs holistic components.

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

The Chinese government has adopted the sustainable development strategy. The local people have strong wishes to alleviate poverty and improve their living standard. At the provincial level, there established a Working Station for the Experts of UNDP Poverty Alleviation Projects to provide better coordination and management to the project. The experts are empowered to make import decisions according to their expertise and local conditions. At county level, the project office coordinate well with other departments such as local agriculture bureau, forestry bureau, animal husbandry bureau etc. to guarantee timely technical service to the farmers.

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

The former policy used to focus on the economic increase instead of environmental protection and social development. It takes time to realize the transition from pure economic development to sustainable development.

C4 – Policy issues

The former policy used to focus on the economic increase instead of environmental protection and social development. It takes time to realize the transition from pure economic development to sustainable development.

Because some of the farmers in the project areas are still living in extreme poverty, there is the pressure to quickly increase the grain output for subsistence. This leads to the continue use of non-organic fertilizer and adds to the difficulty of the promotion of agroforestry. The total input for this project is not large, therefore the input for sustainable agriculture is very limited. The money constraint has somewhat prevented the spread.

C5 – Scaling-up

The mass awareness of sustainable development needs to be aroused through approach such as environmental education.

During the promotion of technologies and policies, it is necessary to adapt to local conditions

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

Yao Yunsong...

Address/ Email: Foreign Economic Technology Cooperation Division
Bureau of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation
175, Beijing Road, Kunming, China
email: yaos@ynmail.com