

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Nepal

Project/Initiative Title: CWDS

Scale: many communities Nos. farmers: 600 farmers Hectares: 250 ha

Agro-Ecological Zone: V-III

Improvement types

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

Success	Limits
3c, 4a	2b

A. Key Impacts

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

SA practising farms are diverse having several elements/enterprises of crops and livestock with mixed/multiple cropping and biodiversity maintained which in turn has increased the natural capital in terms of fodder, fuelwood, timber available on the farm besides maintaining the green look of the farm throughout the year. This has led to improved soil fertility by more organic matters going back to the farmland. The increased green coverage on the farm and more organic matter content in the soil prevent soil erosion, more important factor in the hill farming of Nepal, in particular

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

So-called modern farming practices has pushed the farming community to remain under stress and dependent on external factors. The concept of SA is based on the efficient utilisation of local resources without undermining the productivity and biodiversity values. The initiatives at our project sites has led to the organised 20 groups of farmers'/women's for income generating activities; saving & credit groups for financing the activities and community groups for natural resource management within the area.

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

Because of the availability of regular farm produce (vegetables in particular), nutritional/health status of family members including the children has improved. Successful functioning of the groups is the result of leadership capacity development at the community level. SA practice is not externally introduced but initiated locally and its success depends on the farmers' experimentation of different options and alternatives and that is how SA is expanding in our area as well.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

Integration of several enterprises is the key in SA which helps in providing regular farm outputs, giving increased productivity in total. This also helps in minimizing the risks of economic loss in adverse condition/calamities as there are several elements on the farm. The

increased organic matter content in the soil and biodiversity on the farm under SA practices yield to increased productivity.

Changes in input use: The maximum and efficient utilisation of local resources in farming is the key to our success in our approach to SA.

Change in local/ regional food security:

The SA practising farms do not use any chemical fertilizers and pesticides but still get their regular farm produce which has increased their confidence in maintaining food security better than before SA adaptation

A very small scale initiative by CWDS in SA during 1992 has been successful in making few households converted to organic practitioners with economic and ecological gains and many more (from practitioners, elites to policy -makers) to be positive/supportive towards SA practices.

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		
Type 2		
Type 3	x	The efficient utilisation of farm/household residues, green manuring and agroforestry with livestock integration are the key elements in SA adaptation.
Type 4	x	
Type 5		
Type 6	x	Adult education through adult literacy classes has remained our initial activity followed by participatory methods in identifying needs; group approach in implementing and managing the activities.
Type 7	x	Locally managed Saving and Credit groups are handling the credit and financial needs of the people. CWDS is supporting in strengthening the groups through training, follow-ups and exposure visits.
Type 8		
Type 9	x	Direct marketing to consumers is in practice but on a very small scale limited to organically produced vegetables and culinary herbs only.

		Organic tea is being processed, packaged and marketed abroad in which we are technically associated in organic matter management of the tea estates/farms.
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C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C1 – Key Lessons Learned

In our situation, it is very hard to work on the line government agencies are not so positive/favourable.

The genuine efforts/initiatives provide satisfaction after seeing its positive impact at different levels.

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

Bringing the community together in realising the importance of their inherent strength in managing local resources for sustenance/improvement in farming enterprises has significant contribution. CWDS' input of technicians, animators and technical knowhow have played vital roles.

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

The double edge national policy of being positive to SA in principle but remaining unattentive in practice is the limiting factor in making SA practices more widespread and accepted.

C4 – Policy issues

Hesitant (policy not in action) policy and no institutional commitment to promote SA are preventing the spread of SA practices, although a very small breakthrough (of including few SA activities in the annual program of the Department of Agriculture and Nepal Agri. Research Council from last year) is in progress through our continued involvement in setting the successful examples in SA on the ground at the farmers' fields.

C5 – Scaling-up

More site specific demonstrations/training with technical backups is the need of the time to make our SA related initiatives spread in different parts of the country in order to demonstrate the positive impact of SA on national scenario for sustainable development of the economy.

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

Contact person: S. P. YADAV/President & Executive Director–CWDS

Address/ Email: P. O. Box 7923 Kathmandu-NEPAL cwds@wlink.com.np

E. Project Narrative

CWDS has introduced Effective Microorganisms (EM) technology in Nepal during 1996. The integration of EM technology has hastened the SA adaptation process which has led to the

increasing demand of technical assistance from CWDS in sustainable/organic farming in different parts of Nepal.

Organic Farming – A success Story

Mr. Jas Ram Tamang is a young and energetic person who bought 13.5 ropani of land in Ward No. 3 of Okharpauwa Village Development Committee in 1969/70. He said "he had a very hard time to start farming in his field since there was nothing being cultivated before he bought this land". There were only one or two trees. The soil was very poor. However, he started with some local varieties of buckwheat, radish, millet and maize but the production was very low. He applied chemical fertilizer which was available in the near market. After the continuous application of fertilizers, he was able to increase the production of his produce for sometimes but later in 1985/86, the trend of production went down. Then he had only three members in his family and the production was not sufficient to sustain his family for the whole year. He had to find some other sources of income in order to sustain the family for the whole year. He started doing some labor job as well as the carpentry work as an alternative source of income. He was very innovative since beginning and was looking for some alternatives to improve his land. Somehow or the other, he came up with the idea that he needs to plant some trees in his land. The basic principle behind this was to maintain the diversity. During the year 1986/87 he planted some trees having fuelwood and fodder values. He came to know about CWDS and thus got himself associated with it. With the help of CWDS, he started organic farming in a fairly small fragment of his land (1/4 of a ropani) in 1994/95. He was very enthusiastic and hard working. In 1994/95 he started growing different kinds of vegetables organically. The production was satisfactory. After two years, the soil condition of his land was improved. He got motivated and thought of continuing organic farming. In 1996, he cultivated organic vegetable in one 1.5 ropani of land. He started getting good results and was happy with what he was doing. By this time there was a great deal of improvement in the soil condition of his land. The only problem he faced was the infestation of the pest because he had stopped using chemical pesticides. In the second half of the year, he again came up with the idea that he needs to practice multiple cropping to get rid off the pest. In the meantime, CWDS had already introduced EM in its project area. Mr. Tamang had no hesitation to use EM in His field. Within one & half year i.e. 1997/98 he again extended the area of his land only for organic farming from 1.5 ropani to 8 to 9 ropanis. He was growing different kinds of vegetables, maize, millet and potato. He found that the rate of production in organic farming was better than that of chemical farming. At present, the total members in his family are six and he does not have to rely on outside sources of income. The production is enough to sustain his family from his own field. At present, he also has one buffalo and some chicken in his house. Besides sustaining the family, he started marketing his surplus produce in Kathmandu, and could save money out of it. During the last few months, he marketed his organic produce viz., cucumber, radish, pumpkin, chayote and some leafy vegetables in Kathmandu and could earn around Rs. 8,000/-. He concluded, "he wants to be an organic grower in the future because it doesn't pollute the environment and the soil". He again added, "organic farming will change the fate of a farmer". His neighbors never knew what he was doing in the part but now-a-days, they have realized the importance of organic farming and its prospect in the future. The condition of the soil has been improved so much that only two persons will be enough to maintain his field.

