

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Ecuador

Project/Initiative Title: Manejo Agroecológico de la Micro Cuenca del Censo 1992

Scale: Many communities Nos. farmers: 80 families Hectares: 110

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

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

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- Soil erosion has been reduced by terraces and contour hedges
- Biodiversity by sowing and planting native species (cultivos and trees)
- Protection of wells, agroforestry (ten hectares)

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

- One main objective of the project is to reinforce community management. This has been achieved. The project has helped to stop definitive migration (there are also other reasons for this)
- In one community the women formed an organisation which manages community land and small animals.

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- Quality of nutrition has improved in the families.
- Knowledge on sustainable agriculture has been given in courses .
- Farmer experimentation has increased, investigating associations and adaptation of native tree species
- Efficiency of irrigation techniques has been improved.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- The main result has been to reintroduce crop association (for example: peas and barley, rye and lentils, potatoes - quinua and broad bean, etc.) and new crops (vegetables and fruits). This has helped to increase food security.

Input changes:

- Better use of organic matter, beginning of use of green manure, fewer burning of plants residues.
- Although poverty levels haven't changed food security has been improved

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	• Terraces, contour hedges
Type 2		
Type 3	x	• Green manure, crop association • Agro forestry with native species.
Type 4		
Type 5	x	• Institutional co-ordination (with others NGO's) • Water management groups • Non formal education • In the execution of the project there has been participation of formal and non formal groups of farmers
Type 6		
Type 7	x	
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C1 – Key Lessons Learned

- It's possible to improve conditions of life (nutrition, community organisation, self esteem, food security, etc.), in conditions of extreme poverty

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

- There haven't been many NGO's working in the zone
- When the project started there were already functioning local organisations
- The campesinos (farmers) wanted to maintain their conditions of "campesinos"
- Subsistence agriculture is considered like an "insurance" against any labour market risks

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

- The necessity of migration makes difficult labour for agricultural activities
- Decision making on agricultural activities needs a "consensus" of the family
- Difficulties in communication between campesinos and professionals

(technicians)

C4 – Policy issues

- Costs of recuperation of natural resources are high
- Soil conservation practices give success only at mid term
- It's difficult to fund (obtain funding) for "experimental" proposals
- The agricultural of the poor (campesinos) is generally not seen as having a future

C5 – Scaling-up

- Knowledge about local organisations (ex. How do they function)
- Knowledge about local agricultural practices
- Finding out how to promote participation in each stage of the process
- The technical proposals have to be easy to adopt with few costs and successful in short / mid terms

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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