COVAMS
Community Vitalization and Afforestation in the Middle Shire, Malawi

Malawi Government
Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment
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Location of COVAMS

Malawi
Area: 118,000 km²
Population: 14 million

Middle Shire
Area: 7,350 km²

Project Area
Area: 575 km²

Malawi

Area: 118,000 km²
Population: 14 million

Blantyre
City

Nkula Dam

Shire River

TA KAPENI

TA KUNTAJA

5km
The Framework

1. Targeted Area
Middle Shire area that supply 93% of total electricity in the country and Adjacent to Blantyre, the largest commercial city in the country.

2. Background
Heavy siltation of Shire River caused by farmland development and Charcoal production poses a big problem to power generation capacity.

3. Purpose
Villagers practice sustainable forest management and conservation through the improvement of livelihoods to mitigate siltation in the Shire River.

4. Activities
land conservation, re-afforestation, natural regeneration, bee keeping, vegetable growing etc.
The Extension Methodology

1. PRODEFI approach

PRODEFI approach (following 5 principles) which was developed in one of the JICA projects in Senegal has been adopted.

① Trained in their respective villages
② Conducted with available local resources (human & material)
③ Matches with the villagers’ needs
④ Opened to all members in the village
⑤ Repeated as long as there is demand

2. Lead Farmer system

COVAMS incorporate lead farmers who are selected in each village and trained by extension staff as trainers to villagers
Results and Observations

COVAMS training approach encourage villager’s initiative and maintain cost-efficiency.

Target area is large and rapid dissemination is required.

★ Number of villages
   169 (20,377 Households) in 2010/11
   244 (33,587 Households) in 2011/12

★ Attendance rate of all households
   50%

★ Adoption rate of the message and technology
   25% (in first year)
Project Activity 1
Conducting Technical Training

2008
- Soil Erosion Control
- Gully Control
- Tree Growing
- Beekeeping
- Irrigated Vegetable Growing
- Fish farming
- Improved Stove Making
- Business Management

2009
- Soil Erosion Control
- Gully Control
- Tree Growing
- Beekeeping
Project Activity 2
Foster Lead Farmers

Soil Erosion Control
From 2009

Tree Growing
From 2010

Flow of the training
Extension Officer
Lead Farmers
Fellow Farmers
Conclusions

★ Improved extension delivery methods increase the chances of policy implementation at local level as evidenced by the experience by COVAMS project approach.

★ Use of locally available resources and villagers as part of trainers ensures sustainability after project phase out.