



DIOCESAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (DCDS) NORTH KARAMOJA DIOCESE

Experience with CA among the
Pastoralist setting in Karamoja

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Biography and Session Introduction

- Achen Beatrice Dorcas is the Livelihood Project Officer of the Diocesan Community Development Support (DCDS). She holds a Bachelor Degree in Adult and Community Education of Kyambogo University- Uganda.
- Her presentation focuses on a background to Conservation Agriculture (CA) in the Karamoja context, strategies employed to start CA, lessons learnt, achievements and challenges.

Experiences in implementation of CA in Karamoja a case in kotido.



Background Information:

- ❑ DCDS began implementing the CA programme in 2011
- ❑ Empowered local churches in North Karamoja diocese as direct beneficiaries in the disaster prone areas to rebuild their eroded food security nets due to persistent hazards they face.
- ❑ The project supported 29 groups with a total of 900 direct beneficiaries .

Background Cont'd...

- The goal of the programme is **“to contribute towards improved food security of 48 manyatas in 12 local churches by 2017”** with the **purpose** “to facilitate 12 local churches to design and implement food security interventions focusing at increased food production, access and consumption in 48 manyatas by December 2017”.



CA definition.



CA can be defined as a group of technologies that are interdependent based on 3 principles that gives maximum and sustainable benefits.

- Minimum soil disturbance or direct seeding if possible
- Permanent soil cover
- Rotational cropping

CA activities in the project area

- Establishment of demonstration plots of three levels/stages
- Training selected farmers on CA Methodologies and principles in the demonstration plots.
- Training Local church leaders to take the lead in the mobilization and sensitization of the community.
- Development of the lead farmers Concept.

Approaches used to start CA in Karamoja.



- Building the capacity of local church leaders and farmers.
- Support households in establishment of micro enterprises i.e. VSLA.
- Stimulate water harvesting and storage facilities for small scale irrigation i.e. kitchen gardens.
- Support community food and seed storage initiatives.
- The established demonstration gardens in selected areas.
- Continuers supervision and monitoring
- Use of Church leaders/ Prayer meetings.
- Use of lead farmers in mobilizing, sensitizing, training.

Achievements

- Many members of the community are now practicing CA in their demo gardens
- Some groups not supported by DCDS begun to call the nearby lead farmer supported by DCDS to teach them in vegetable growing
- Other community members begun to copy from them the new way of farming though still on a small scale



Demo one



Demo two



Demo three



Demo three





Other Interventions employed:

- ❑ Environmental Conservation through Sand Dam Construction- With the help of the community.
- ❑ Supporting VSLA Initiatives
- ❑ Cereal Banking
- ❑ Support Exchange Visit Initiatives
- ❑ Support Market Linkages
- ❑ Training on Post harvest handling, Pest and disease Control and Group dynamics and mgt.

Achievements Cont'd....

- ❑ The Community have now developed saving culture which used not to be the case.
- ❑ Some farmers have opened up large plots of land in lobanya.
- ❑ 3 Sand dams were constructed through support from the community.

CA BENEFIT



CA benefit cont'd



Income generation



CA BENEFIT



Best farmer group in the district







Lessons Learnt.

- To practice all the principles of CA at once is not an easy thing to copy given the illiteracy level of farmers in the region.
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- There is also good relationship between the implementing partner and the community which makes it easy to run the programme.
- The implementing partner being a church has more understanding of the communities' needs and at the same time it has accessibility to easily mobilizing the community to take the lead in implementing the programme.
- The use of biblical teaching has been instrumental to changing communities' attitude towards doing development work without receiving payment as is the practice of other development partners.
- Use of cover crops .
- The community does understand the programme better through learning by doing strategy due to its low level of literacy.

Sand Dam....



Bible study/prayer meetings together with work.



Challenges



- ❑ Termites eating away the mulch
- ❑ Illiteracy that brought in negative attitude
- ❑ Unstable weather conditions.
- ❑ Demonstration gardens still in small quantities



Conclusions.

CA is the way to go

Let us adopt the method to reduce conflict related to food insecurity.

Questions?.....