Intercrop of maize and groundnut in a farmer's baby demo (Amale Balla Sunday)

Promoting intercropping through baby demos (Uganda)

poto matino

DESCRIPTION

A demonstration site is established where farmers come and learn about good intercropping practices. They are then tasked to replicate this practice at their homes in the baby demos.

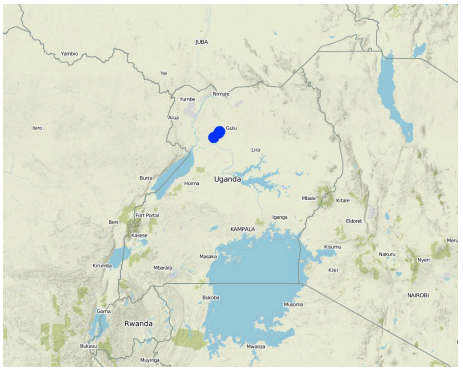
The baby demo approach involves establishing a mother demo in one location where members of the farmer group can come and learn about the technology of interest (intercropping in this case). The farmers who participate in the demo are then tasked to replicate what is carried out in the demo by establishing smaller baby demos at their homes so that whatever is performed in the mother demo, they transfer the knowledge to their own baby demos. This helps to take the ideas in the demonstration to the farmers' homes so that they can appreciate what is being done on the demo and own the technology being implemented.

This approach was promoted because most farmers in northern Uganda practice inappropriate intercropping methods where they plant together two cereals in the same garden and call it an inter crop e.g maize and rice or millet and sorghum. Baby demo helps the farmers to know that they can implement the practices on their own hence increasing sustainability of the approach. It also helps neighbours and family members who are not participating in the demonstration activities to learn from the baby demo.

During the project activities, a demonstration site was identified in collaboration with the farmer group, a field was established by the group members consisting of 35 people on average (composed of men, women and youth). The demo area measured about 10m x 10m. Each participant was then given a handful of seeds to go and establish their demo of approximately 8m2 on estimate.

The farmers then implemented the demo and baby demos with intercropping of maize and beans. Joint monitoring and evaluation was later carried out.

LOCATION



Location: Alero, Koch Goma, Anaka and Purongo Sub-County, Nwoya District, Northern Uganda, Uganda

Geo-reference of selected sites

- 32.02556, 2.67785
- 32.00286, 2.65211
- 31.87541, 2.53765

Initiation date: 2014

Year of termination: 2017

Type of Approach

- ☐ traditional/ indigenous
- ☐ recent local initiative/ innovative
- ☑ project/ programme based

Farmer's baby demo in his own garden (Amale Balla Sunday)

Baby demo example of a farmer who planted beans only (Atibo Christoper)

APPROACH AIMS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Main aims / objectives of the approach

improving farming systems resilience, farmers appreciation of the technology within their own farms

Conditions enabling the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Social/ cultural/ religious norms and values**: community group membership
- **Institutional setting**: good institutional framework
- **Collaboration/ coordination of actors**: more than 3 parties involving government and non governmental, local farmers
- **Policies**: PMA-Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture, a Government policy aimed at ensuring adoption of modern farming technologies Vision 2040-A government policy aims at transforming uganda's agriculture from subsistence to commercial farming.
- **Knowledge about SLM, access to technical support**: various agencies,
- **Markets (to purchase inputs, sell products) and prices**: good market access and transport network

Conditions hindering the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Markets (to purchase inputs, sell products) and prices**: middle men cheating producers

PARTICIPATION AND ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

Stakeholders involved in the Approach and their roles

What stakeholders / implementing bodies were involved in the Approach?	Specify stakeholders	Describe roles of stakeholders
local land users/ local communities	farmers	implementing the demo
community-based organizations	farmer groups, Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) groups	work as a team at the demo
SLM specialists/ agricultural advisers	District Agriculture/extension officers,	organise farmers
researchers	CIAT	Monitoring and evation output, analysis of effectiveness of the method
teachers/ school children/ students	teachers	part of farmer groups
NGO	ZOA, Rural Initiative for community Empowerment (RICE), Forum for comunity transformation (FCT)	Participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME)
private sector	business community	PME
local government	District, sub county and parish officials	liase with local communities, PME
national government (planners, decision-makers)	NARO -	Policy framework analysis
international organization	IFAD, CIAT, IITA, ZOA-	initiation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project activities

Lead agency

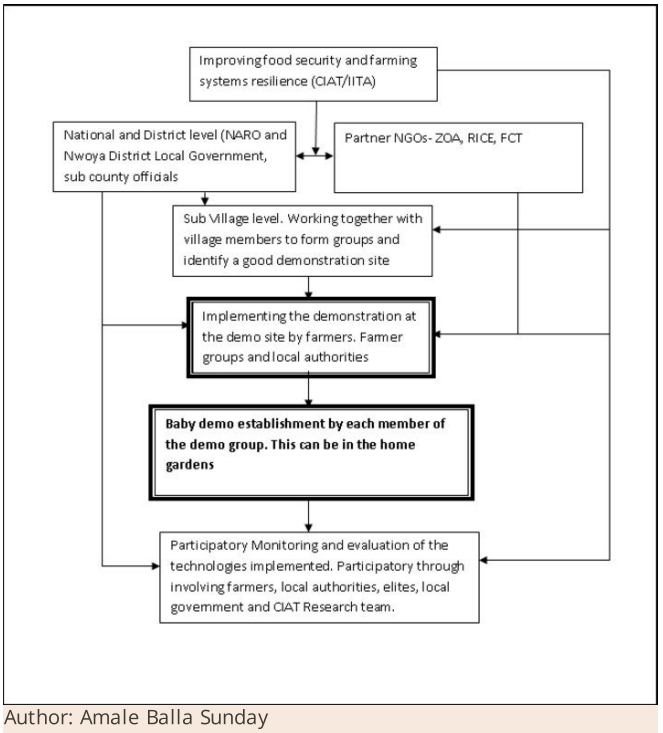
CIAT

Involvement of local land users/ local communities in the different phases of the Approach

	none	passive	external support	interactive	self-mobilization	
initiation/ motivation			✓			CIAT-draft of project for increasing food security and farming systems resilience in East Africa through wide scale adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural Practices
planning			✓			CIAT/IITA/IFAD-establishment of objecttives, sourcing of funds.
implementation				✓		farmer groups formed, then they implement the demo at demo site and baby demos at their own homes. Stakeholders at village, sub-county, district and national levels also involved.
monitoring/ evaluation				✓		Participatory monitoring and evaluation where farmers were able to rank the performance of their crops under the demo and baby demos, challenges, and possible solutions.

Flow chart

flow chart of implementation of baby demos



Author: Amale Balla Sunday

Decision-making on the selection of SLM Technology

Decisions were taken by

- ☐ land users alone (self-initiative)
- ☐ mainly land users, supported by SLM specialists
- ☑ all relevant actors, as part of a participatory approach
- ☐ mainly SLM specialists, following consultation with land users
- ☐ SLM specialists alone
- ☐ politicians/ leaders

Decisions were made based on

- ☑ evaluation of well-documented SLM knowledge (evidence-based decision-making)
- ☐ research findings
- ☐ personal experience and opinions (undocumented)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The following activities or services have been part of the approach

- ☑ Capacity building/ training
- ☑ Advisory service
- ☑ Institution strengthening (organizational development)
- ☑ Monitoring and evaluation
- ☑ Research

Capacity building/ training

Training was provided to the following stakeholders

- ☑ land users
- ☐ field staff/ advisers

Form of training

- ☐ on-the-job
- ☐ farmer-to-farmer
- ☑ demonstration areas
- ☐ public meetings
- ☐ courses

Subjects covered

intercropping with legumes and cereals

Advisory service

Advisory service was provided

- [x] on land users' fields
- [ ] at permanent centres

Institution strengthening

Institutions have been strengthened / established

- [ ] no
- [ ] yes, a little
- [x] yes, moderately
- [ ] yes, greatly

at the following level

- [x] local
- [ ] regional
- [ ] national

Describe institution, roles and responsibilities, members, etc.

Farmer groups for implementation of of technology, involvement of different age groups and gender in the implementation of technologies.

Type of support

- [ ] financial
- [x] capacity building/ training
- [ ] equipment

Further details

Monitoring and evaluation

Participatory Monitoring and evaluation (PME)

Research

Research treated the following topics

- [ ] sociology
- [ ] economics / marketing
- [ ] ecology
- [x] technology

CIAT based research output

FINANCING AND EXTERNAL MATERIAL SUPPORT

Annual budget in USD for the SLM component

- [ ] < 2,000
- [x] 2,000-10,000
- [ ] 10,000-100,000
- [ ] 100,000-1,000,000
- [ ] > 1,000,000

Precise annual budget: n.a.

IFAD funded. 5 different demonstration groups were considered, one in each of the sub-county. Actual implementation cost could be obtained from CIAT.

The following services or incentives have been provided to land users

- [ ] Financial/ material support provided to land users
- [x] Subsidies for specific inputs
- [ ] Credit
- [x] Other incentives or instruments

	partly financed	fully financed
agricultural: seeds handful of seed for the baby demo	✓	

Labour by land users was

- [x] voluntary
- [ ] food-for-work
- [ ] paid in cash
- [ ] rewarded with other material support

Other incentives or instruments

refreshments during demonstration activities

IMPACT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Impacts of the Approach

	No	Yes, little	Yes, moderately	Yes, greatly
Did the Approach empower local land users, improve stakeholder participation? made participatory			✓	
Did the Approach enable evidence-based decision-making? farmers selected what should be implemented			✓	
Did the Approach help land users to implement and maintain SLM Technologies? implemented in their own gardens in the baby demos			✓	
Did the Approach improve coordination and cost-effective implementation of SLM? other farmers not able to be part of the demo learn from the baby demos				✓

Did the Approach mobilize/ improve access to financial resources for SLM implementation? directed towards technology transfer	✓
Did the Approach improve knowledge and capacities of land users to implement SLM? obtained training from the demo, then able to implement in their farms	✓
Did the Approach improve knowledge and capacities of other stakeholders? through PME	✓
Did the Approach build/ strengthen institutions, collaboration between stakeholders? many institutions involed	✓
Did the Approach mitigate conflicts? group membership and social relations in the demos	✓
Did the Approach empower socially and economically disadvantaged groups? voluntary participation involving all categories of people	✓
Did the Approach improve gender equality and empower women and girls? all gender equally participated, disadvanteaged women were highly encouraged to be part	✓
Did the Approach encourage young people/ the next generation of land users to engage in SLM? youth involved	✓
Did the Approach improve issues of land tenure/ user rights that hindered implementation of SLM Technologies? not part of objective	✓
Did the Approach lead to improved food security/ improved nutrition? better farm output as a result of the technology	✓
Did the Approach improve access to markets? marketing skills were taught	✓
Did the Approach lead to improved access to water and sanitation? not part of the objective	✓
Did the Approach improve the capacity of the land users to adapt to climate changes/ extremes and mitigate climate related disasters? technology is specifically CSA practice	✓
Did the Approach lead to employment, income opportunities? to field staff	✓

Main motivation of land users to implement SLM

- [x] increased production
- [x] increased profit(ability), improved cost-benefit-ratio
- [x] reduced land degradation
- [x] reduced risk of disasters
- [x] reduced workload
- [ ] payments/ subsidies
- [ ] rules and regulations (fines)/ enforcement
- [ ] prestige, social pressure/ social cohesion
- [x] affiliation to movement/ project/ group/ networks
- [ ] environmental consciousness
- [ ] customs and beliefs, morals
- [x] enhanced SLM knowledge and skills
- [ ] aesthetic improvement
- [ ] conflict mitigation

Sustainability of Approach activities

Can the land users sustain what hat been implemented through the Approach (without external support)?

- [ ] no
- [x] yes
- [ ] uncertain

simple and easy

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Strengths: land user's view

- Farmers appreciate the technology from within their homestead
- Other neighboring farmers or family members who did not participate in the demo can learn from the baby demo
- Farmer can easily reflect on the demo and compare with his baby demo

Strengths: compiler's or other key resource person's view

- Knowledge spillover has a wider coverage as people who did not get opportunity to participate in the main demo would learn from their neighbors.
- Project can be sustained for a longer period since the farmers can be tasked to do the baby demo in the following years.

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: land user's viewhow to overcome

- Farmer overlook the importance of baby demos saying it looks like children playing garden. establish a sizeable baby demo
- Domestic animals eat the crops in the baby demos. control the animals

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: compiler's or other key resource person's viewhow to overcome

REFERENCES

Compiler
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Editors

Reviewer
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Resource persons
Martin okello - land user

Full description in the WOCAT database
https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_3327/

Linked SLM data
n.a.

Documentation was faciliated by

Institution
- Uganda Landcare Network (ULN) - Uganda

Project
- Scaling-up SLM practices by smallholder farmers (IFAD)