

Fencing pasture to demonstrate pasture rehabilitation (Zevarshoev Askarsho)

Rehabilitation of Pasture Land through fencing (Tajikistan)

Барқароркунии чарогоҳ бо усули маҳкамкунии гирду атрофи он

DESCRIPTION

The approach demonstrates the effect and importance of rotational grazing by fencing certain areas of land in pasture areas as well as it demonstrates the rehabilitation process in comparison to the open space which is overgrazed. The approach involves mobilizing communities to observe the rehabilitation process by not grazing in the area for a certain period of time.

Community member's understanding, especially the members of PUUs, is low on the rehabilitation techniques of degraded pasture and the effect of rotation on a timely use of different pasture plots. In order to demonstrate the result of grazing a demonstration site in the area of one hectare was fenced. In comparison to this plot the community routinely grazed the open space, next to the fenced plot. In a short period of one season the result demonstrates that the plot, which is fenced, is faster rehabilitated compared to the open space next to it, which was uncontrolled grazed by the community .

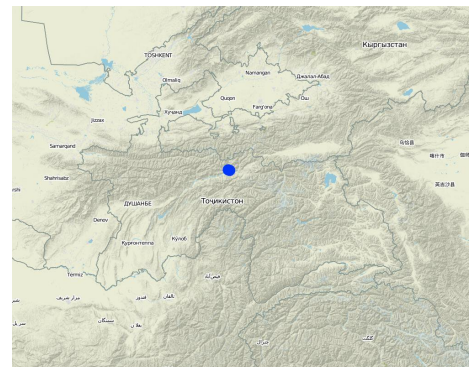
The result also shows that productivity is increased in that plot and was used for collecting fodder for off-season during wintertime.

Through organizing field days and exposure of farmers to this area, farmers understanding on applying rotation and sustainable use of pasture area is increased.

The approach was applied in the open field of community pasture, which has been previously overgrazed and abandoned as unused land. In collaboration with the community level organization the land use rights were arranged for one of the land users and the territory was fenced in the area of one hectare. The fenced area was protected for only one season but showed good results compared to the open field next to it nonetheless.

In a short period the approach demonstrates how effective applying a sustainable grazing plan is, which land users also liked. Community members, who also owned livestock acquired a simple approach to protect their pasture and applied the approach when developing their pasture and livestock management plan.

LOCATION



Location: Sub-ordinate district of the republic, Central Asia/Tajikistan/Rasht Valley, Tajikistan

Geo-reference of selected sites

- 71.0, 39.202
- 70.96852, 39.20948

Initiation date: n.a.

Year of termination: n.a.

Type of Approach

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



Fencing of the open pasture area (Zevارشoev Askarsho)



Fencing degraded pasture area and tree planting to stabilize the land (Zevارشoev Askarsho)

APPROACH AIMS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Main aims / objectives of the approach

The main objective to use this approach is to raise awareness of the community members on the cause of overgrazing and demonstrating the technique of rehabilitation and sustainable use of pasture through effective pasture rotations.

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

- **Social/ cultural/ religious norms and values:** There are no obstacles from any norms to contribute to the sustainable use of the natural resource. The religious and cultural norms are motivating sustainable use of pasture resource, especially the religious norms considering the nature as a gift from heaven.
- **Land governance (decision-making, implementation and enforcement):** The approach motivates ownerships interest over land resources and demonstrates the private interest in protection and rehabilitation of the land resource.
- **Knowledge about SLM, access to technical support:** The approach is not very technically, just simple fencing which is applied in all aspects by community.

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

- **Availability/ access to financial resources and services:** Access to materials for fencing the big area of land in other communities for replication can be problematic. Moreover, pasture land is considered as common community resource, therefore there are less incentives for investing financial resources.
- **Workload, availability of manpower:** Because of high rate of migration of youth there is not enough manpower available in these rural areas, which is making it difficult for older generation to work in the field.

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	members of dehqan/peasant farms, land owners	to serve as manpower to fence and protect from herds encroachment into the plot
community-based organizations	village organizations	organize and mobilize communities to learn from the demonstration and incentives to establish similar plots into their pasture areas.
researchers	from university	to observe the process of rehabilitation and the trends of degradation prevention
local government	land committee, environmental protection committee	support by providing land title over the land plot and provide incentive for rehabilitation of such degraded lands

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

	none	passive	external support	interactive	self-mobilization	
initiation/ motivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community members that grazed in the area and did not have official ownership over the land were not very interested in rehabilitation of the degraded lands, as they have other open areas for grazing.
planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The community is not very much aware of the effect and impact of approach in contributing into the prevention of degradation.
implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	External support from project motivates community members to work by themselves and to follow up on the process.
monitoring/ evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	During the monitoring by project staff, community members were interested to learn and observe the rehabilitation process.

Flow chart

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

Pasture management techniques on how to graze; the impact of overgrazing; how to protect pasture; carrying capacity of pasture.

Advisory service

Advisory service was provided

- on land users' fields
- at permanent centres

During the field visit technical support and recommendation were provided to land users.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring of the approach from time to time shows the clear result of the approach effects. During monitoring, project technical staff checked the progress and evaluated the results on how the situation changed with applying the approach. The difference was reflected in the progress reports and also shared with land users to better understand the approach implementation results.

FINANCING AND EXTERNAL MATERIAL SUPPORT

Annual budget in USD for the SLM component

- < 2,000
- 2,000-10,000
- 10,000-100,000
- 100,000-1,000,000
- > 1,000,000

Precise annual budget: 1200.0

ELMARL project, funded by World Bank and implemented by Committee on Environmental Protection

The following services or incentives have been provided to land users

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

Financial/ material support provided to land users

The project is funded by SDC, implemented by MSDSP and materials for fencing (nets, columns etc.,) were provided under this project to community.

net for fencing
fencing materials (nets, columns for fixing the net) was provided to fence the area around



Labour by land users was

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

IMPACT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Impacts of the Approach

<p>Did the Approach empower local land users, improve stakeholder participation? Land users learnt how effective the approach can contribute to the rehabilitation of degraded pasture area as a result of overgrazing.</p>	<p>No Yes, little Yes, moderately Yes, greatly</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Did the Approach help land users to implement and maintain SLM Technologies? Simple technology of fencing was applied to demonstrate the effect of the chosen approach.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Did the Approach improve gender equality and empower women and girls? Women/girls who are mainly responsible for fodder provision to livestock appreciate the approach, because it can easily can easily help to provide big amounts of fodder.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Did the Approach improve issues of land tenure/ user rights that hindered implementation of SLM Technologies? Those community members who do not own land are provided with incentives to get access to the those land abandoned and overgrazed. They are supported by the fencing project to rehabilitate and cultivate additional fodder crops.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Did the Approach improve the capacity of the land users to adapt to climate changes/ extremes and mitigate climate related disasters? The approach motivates land users to rehabilitate degraded pastures, which also prevents natural hazards and improve carbon sequestration.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Did the Approach lead to employment, income opportunities? Through improving land conditions fodder was collected from the area, which brought additional income as the need to buy additional fodder for livestock was lowered.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Main motivation of land users to implement SLM

- increased production
- increased profit(ability), improved cost-benefit-ratio
- reduced land degradation
- reduced risk of disasters
- reduced workload
- payments/ subsidies
- rules and regulations (fines)/ enforcement
- prestige, social pressure/ social cohesion
- affiliation to movement/ project/ group/ networks
- environmental consciousness
- customs and beliefs, morals
- 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
- yes
- uncertain

When land users knowledge and understanding improved on how controlled grazing can contribute to pasture rehabilitation they started to apply the approach in a bigger pasture area. After the approach showed good results the community started to consider rotational grazing in their pasture and livestock management plan, which the community develops every year.

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Strengths: land user's view

- rehabilitation of the pasture
- clear demonstration of results in a short period of time

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

- demonstrates results in a short term
- affordable to demonstrate in different areas
- easily replicable, cost effective

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: land user's view how to overcome

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

- Failure because of other external shocks may results in land users not perceiving the approach . should be well documented to show the effect

REFERENCES

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Resource persons

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Full description in the WOCAT database

https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_3463/

Linked SLM data

Technologies: Pasture management in Western Pamir https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_1363/

Technologies: Establishment of a paddock system and improvement of degraded pastureland.

https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_4276/

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Key references

- Zevarshoev Askarsho, SLM specialist, 2016: upon request, free of charge

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