Members of the Chepang community discuss technical aspects of contour bunding. (Tamanag Bir Bahadur)

Sharing labour to implement contour bunding (Nepal)

Janasakti aadanpradhan gari bhajo halne padhiti karanwanan (Main contributor: Bir Bahadur Tamang, LI-BIRD)

DESCRIPCIÓN

Members of a community can work together to help prevent soil erosion and increase productivity by working collectively to establish contour bunds.

Aims / objectives: Over generations, the ethnic minorities of Nepal, who practice fireless shifting cultivation, known as 'gujultyaune', have successfully used contour bunding to control soil erosion, promote water retention, and increase crop production. Contour bunding is a proven sustainable land management practice in areas where the soil productivity of marginal, sloping, and hilly lands is very low. While it is both low cost and simple to implement, it does have the drawback that establishing contour bunds is very labour intensive. When members of a community work together to establish contour bunds the whole village can benefit.

Methods: By working collectively, a community can establish contour bunds that will benefit everyone and not individual farmers alone. The first step is to plan a course of action and to select the sites. Members of the community, who are thoroughly familiar with the landscape that the community inhabits, get together to discuss where the contour bunding will be most successful and benefit the greatest number of farmers. This planning phase is best carried out during the dry season before the rains begin. Once the sites are selected, everyone participates in the slashing of materials on the shifting cultivation lands. After the slashed materials have been allowed to dry for some weeks, the community assembles to gather these into rows that will form the bunds. Every member of the community participates according to their ability.

Stages of implementation: The steps for sharing labour to establish contour bunds in a community which practises shifting cultivation can be summarized as follows:
• The community meets to finalize a plan of action.
• Everyone participates in the slashing of shifting cultivation plots.
• The slashed materials are collected and allowed to dry.
• The slashed materials are formed into rows that will constitute the bunds.
• Everyone participates and eventually, the land between the bunds is prepared for the cultivation of crops.

LUGAR

Lugar: Tanahun, Gorkha District, Nepal

Georreferencia de sitios seleccionados
- n.d.

Dato de inicio: n.d.

Año de conclusión: n.d.

Tipo de Enfoque
- [x] tradicional/ local
- [ ] iniciativa local reciente/ innovadora
- [ ] proyecto/ basado en un programa

Members of the Chepang community discuss technical aspects of contour bunding. (BB Tamang)

Many attended the community awareness programme which was held before the technology was implemented. (BB Tamang)

METAS DEL ENFOQUE Y ENTORNO FACILITADOR

Propósitos/ objetivos principales del Enfoque

The Approach focused mainly on SLM with other activities (increasing crop production)

To increase crop yields and help to prevent soil erosion in communities that practise shifting cultivation by getting the whole community to participate in establishing contour bunds.

The SLM Approach addressed the following problems: The main stumbling blocks to this approach are a gap in the sharing of traditional knowledge, lack of the money needed for investment, community conflicts over allocation of resources, and overall poor social cohesiveness.

Condiciones que facilitan la implementación de la/s Tecnología/s aplicadas bajo el Enfoque

Condiciones que impiden la implementación de la/s Tecnología/s aplicadas bajo el Enfoque

- **Disponibilidad/ acceso a recursos y servicios financieros** : Individual farmers do not have sufficient resources to implement the technology on their own Treatment through the SLM Approach: By sharing labour everyone benefits without any outlay by individual farmers
- **Entorno institucional**: Groups are not aware of how to mobilize for community empowerment Treatment through the SLM Approach: Raise level of awareness and enhance capacity on how to mobilize the community and on how to institutionalize the process
- **Conocimiento de MST, acceso a apoyo técnico**: Traditional knowledge on contour bunding is not shared Treatment through the SLM Approach: Technical information is shared when the technology is implemented

PARTICIPACIÓN Y ROLES DE LAS PARTES INTERESADAS INVOLUCRADAS

Partes interesadas involucradas en el Enfoque y sus roles

¿Qué partes interesadas/ entidades implementadoras estuvieron involucradas en el Enfoque?	Especifique las partes interesadas	Describa los roles de las partes interesadas
usuarios locales de tierras/ comunidades locales		This technology is straightforward; the community of land users can implement it without external input. This is a sustainable land management practice in areas where shifting cultivation is practised. These areas have typically been inhabited by poor and marginal groups like the Chepang, Magar, Dalit, and Gurung groups.

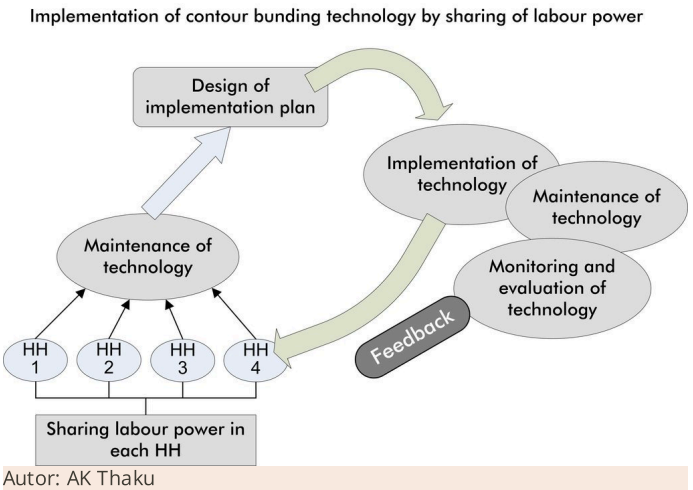
Involucramiento de los usuarios locales de tierras/ comunidades locales en las distintas fases del Enfoque

	ninguno	pasivo	apoyo externo	interactivo	auto-movilización
iniciación/ motivación					✓
planificación				✓	
implementación					✓
monitoreo y evaluación	✓				
Research	✓				

Demand created by the community
Through discussions the whole community is involved in deciding what sites are to be contoured and how the bunding technology is to be implemented.
The whole community is involved in planning the sites, slashing the biomass, and forming the contour bunds.

Flujograma

Each household (HH) contributes labour and the community works together to implement contour bunding.



Autor: AK Thaku

La toma de decisiones en la selección de Tecnología MST

Las decisiones fueron tomadas por

- [x] solamente usuarios de tierras (autoiniciativa)
- [ ] principalmente usuarios de tierras con el apoyo de especialistas MST
- [ ] todos los actores relevantes, como parte de un enfoque participativo
- [ ] principalmente por especialistas MST en consulta con usuarios de tierras
- [ ] solo por especialistas MST
- [ ] por políticos/ líderes

La toma de decisiones se basa en

- [ ] la evaluación de conocimiento MST bien documentado (la toma de decisiones se basa en evidencia)
- [ ] hallazgos de investigaciones
- [ ] la experiencia personal y opiniones (no documentadas)

APOYO TÉCNICO, FORTALECIMIENTO INSTITUCIONAL Y GESTIÓN DEL CONOCIMIENTO

Las siguientes actividades o servicios fueron parte del enfoque

- [x] Construcción de capacidades / capacitación
- [x] Servicio de asesoría
- [ ] Fortalecimiento institucional (desarrollo institucional)
- [x] Monitoreo y evaluación
- [ ] Investigación

Construcción de capacidades/ capacitación

Se proporcionó capacitación a las siguientes partes interesadas

- [x] usuarios de tierras
- [ ] personal de campo/ consejeros

Forma de capacitación

- [ ] en el contexto de trabajo
- [x] de agricultor a agricultor
- [x] áreas de demostración
- [x] reuniones públicas
- [ ] cursos

Temas avanzados

Servicio de asesoría

Se proporcionó servicio de asesoría

- [ ] en los campos de los usuarios de tierras
- [ ] en centros permanentes

Monitoreo y evaluación

bio-physical aspects were regular monitored by land users through measurements; indicators: Land users regularly monitor the organic matter and moisture content of the soil and establish plants in bunds technical aspects were regular monitored by land users through measurements; indicators: Land users regularly monitor terrace formation and soil erosion socio-cultural aspects were regular monitored by land users through observations; indicators: The community observes and comments on the degree to which contour bunding is implemented economic / production aspects were regular monitored by land users through measurements; indicators: Land users note crop production and how it affects their cash income area treated aspects were regular monitored by land users through measurements; indicators: Land users regularly monitor small patches used in shifting cultivation no. of land users involved aspects were regular monitored by land users through observations; indicators: The whole community participates in observing how many people are involved management of Approach aspects were regular monitored by land users through measurements; indicators: The whole community participates There were few changes in the Approach as a result of monitoring and evaluation: Gradually, farmers in other communities are also adopting the same approach

FINANCIAMIENTO Y APOYO MATERIAL EXTERNO

Presupuesto anual en dólares americanos para el componente MST

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

Precise annual budget: n.d.

Approach costs were met by the following donors: national non-government (LI-BIRD): 20.0%; local community / land user(s): 80.0%

Los siguientes servicios o incentivos fueron proporcionados a los usuarios de las tierras

- [ ] Apoyo financiero/material proporcionado a los usuarios de tierras
- [ ] Subsidios para insumos específicos
- [ ] Crédito
- [ ] Otros incentivos o instrumentos

ANÁLISIS DE IMPACTO Y COMENTARIOS DE CONCLUSIÓN

Impactos del Enfoque

	No	Sí, un poco	Sí, moderadamente	Sí, mucho
¿El Enfoque ayudó a los usuarios de tierras a implementar y mantener Tecnologías MST? The approach was a good way of improving sloping land management.			✓	
¿El Enfoque empoderó a grupos en desventaja social y económica? Moderate improvements were noted in Chepang, Magar, and Dalit households who benefited from this approach and improved their livelihoods			✓	
Did other land users / projects adopt the Approach? Those who implemented this approach cited improved soil fertility and the increased productivity of cash crops like legumes as a plus point.		✓		

Motivación principal del usuario de la tierra para implementar MST

- [x] Prevent Soil erosion

Sostenibilidad de las actividades del Enfoque

¿Pueden los usuarios de tierras sostener lo que se implementó mediante el Enfoque (sin apoyo externo)?

- [ ] no
- [x] sí
- [ ] incierto

This is a community-based approach; each community formulates its own rules and regulations.

CONCLUSIONES Y LECCIONES APRENDIDAS

Fortalezas: perspectiva del usuario de tierras

Fortalezas: punto de vista del compilador o de otra persona recurso clave

- Effectiveness (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Improve the approach by continuing to work together to design, plan, and implement.)
- Increases social cohesiveness (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Continue to work collaboratively)
- Decreased workload (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Over time, the group decisions that work best no longer need to be revisited and less time is spent in discussions.)
- Quick implementation of sloping land management measures (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: As the group learns to work together they can taking advantage of their synergy to quickly implement new measures.)
- Empowerment (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Encourage the community with technical backstopping)

Debilidades/ desventajas/ riesgos: perspectiva del usuario de tierrascómo sobreponerse

Debilidades/ desventajas/ riesgos: punto de vista del compilador o de otra persona recurso clavecómo sobreponerse

- Some members contribute more than others Each member of the group needs to be made aware of how they can contribute.

REFERENCIAS

Compilador
Shreedip Sigdel

Editors

Revisado por
Fabian Ottiger

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Personas de referencia
Shreedip Sigdel (shreedip.sigdel@icimod.org) - Especialista MST
Bir Bahadur Tamanag (btamang@libird.org) - Especialista MST

Descripción completa en la base de datos de WOCAT
https://qcat.wocat.net/es/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_2604/

Datos MST vinculados
n.d.

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- Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research, and Development (LI-BIRD) - Nepal

Proyecto
- n.d.

Referencias claves

- Indigenous knowledge of farmers in the shifting cultivation areas of Western Nepal, Regmi, BR; Aryal, KP; Subedi, A; Shrestha, PK; Tamang, BB (2001):