



A cluster of innovators in Kabale District, Uganda, with the national coordinator, Alex Lwakuba (far left).

Promoting farmer innovation (Ouganda)

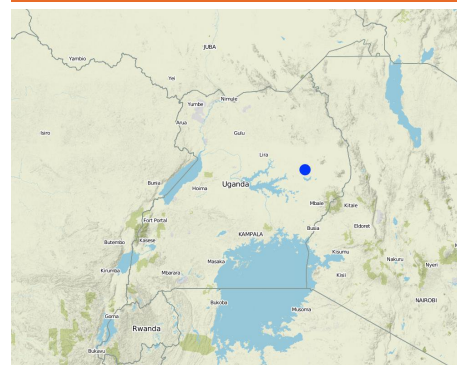
DESCRIPTION

Identification of farmer innovators in SWC and water harvesting, and using them as focal points for visits from other farmers to spread the practices and stimulate the process of innovation.

Aims / objectives: The Promoting Farmer Innovation (PFI) approach seeks to build on technical initiatives - innovations in the local context - developed by farmers themselves in dry/marginal areas where the conventional approach of transfer of technology from research to extension agents, and then on to farmers, has so often failed. The approach basically comprises identifying, validating and documenting local innovations/initiatives. Simple monitoring and evaluation systems are set up amongst those innovative farmers who are willing to co-operate. Through contact with researchers, extra value is added to these techniques where possible. Farmer innovators are brought together to share ideas. Finally, best-bet technologies, in other words those that are considered to be good enough to be shared, are disseminated through farmer-to-farmer extension. This takes two forms. First, farmers are brought to visit the innovators in their farms. Secondly farmer innovators are used as teachers/trainers to visit groups of farmers - including FAOs farmer field schools in some cases. Only in this second form of extension is an allowance payable to the innovator. A ten-step field activity methodology has been developed.

Methods: At programme level, there is capacity building of in-line extension and research staff, who are the main outside actors in the programme. In each of the countries the project has been implemented through a government ministry, which partners various NGOs in the field. The principle, and practice, is not to create separate project enclaves, but to work through existing personnel, sharing buildings and vehicles that are already operational in the area. A programme development process methodological framework shows how the ultimate goal of institutionalisation can be achieved. PFIs first phase, completed in 2000, was financed by the Government of The Netherlands, through UNDP, and was active in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

LIEU



Lieu: East Africa (parts of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda), Ouganda

Géo-référence des sites sélectionnés

- 33.892, 1.88

Date de démarrage: 1996

Année de fin de l'Approche: 2000

Type d'Approche

- ☐ traditionnel/ autochtone
- ☐ initiative/ innovation récente locale
- ☒ fondé sur un projet/ programme



A cluster of innovators in Kabale District, Uganda, with the national coordinator, Alex Lwakuba (far left).



Farmer-to-farmer extension: a female innovator shares her skills.

OBJECTIFS DE L'APPROCHE ET ENVIRONNEMENT FAVORABLE

Principaux objectifs de l'Approche

The Approach focused mainly on SLM with other activities (Better land husbandry practices (eg composting, crop selection))

Improve rural livelihoods through an increase in the rate of diffusion of appropriate SWC/water harvesting technologies based on farmer innovation, and through farmer-to-farmer exchange visits. At a higher level: to demonstrate the effectiveness of such an approach so that it can be institutionalised.

The SLM Approach addressed the following problems: - poor supply of relevant recommendations from research for small scale farmers in marginal areas - poor delivery of SWC technologies (where they exist) to farmers - lack of motivation of research and extension staff - isolation of promising ???innovative??? SWC/water harvesting ideas which address low crop yields, land degradation and poverty - lack of exchange of this knowledge

Conditions favorisant la mise en oeuvre de la/(des) Technologie(s) appliquée(s) sous l'Approche

Conditions entravant la mise en oeuvre de la/(des) Technologie(s) appliquée(s) sous l'Approche

- **Normes et valeurs sociales/ culturelles/ religieuses** : Favoured farmer syndrome: where too much attention is given to particular innovative farmers and jealousy is aroused in others Treatment through the SLM Approach: Avoid working with innovators who are so exceptional that they are outside society and others cannot relate to them. Rotate the farmers who are used as learning points: in other words once another farmer has adopted the technology, use him or her as the focal point.
- **Disponibilité/ accès aux ressources et services financiers**: Danger of identifying innovations that are good technically but too expensive for ordinary farmers to implement. Treatment through the SLM Approach: Linked to point (1) above: beware of farmers who are too exceptional/too rich.
- **Cadre institutionnel**: Lack of motivation of research and extension institutions Treatment through the SLM Approach: Bringing them together with farmer innovators
- **Cadre juridique (régime foncier, droits d'utilisation des terres et de l'eau)**: Who gets the credit for the particular innovation? Treatment through the SLM Approach: Important to make sure that an innovation is traced back within the locality to its roots, identifying the 'owner'. Especially important when a name is attached to an innovation. The existing land ownership, land use rights / water rights hindered a little the approach implementation Farmers will only invest time and effort in innovation when they have secure land use rights (though not necessarily ownership), which is the case in all the areas where PFI has been operational. Access to land for women was a problem which inhibits women innovating.
- **Autre**: Cultural: Gender imbalance in identification of innovators: women overlooked Treatment through the SLM Approach: Gender sensitisation and training: bring together the identifiers with the farmers - male and female.

PARTICIPATION ET RÔLES DES PARTIES PRENANTES IMPLIQUÉES DANS L'APPROCHE

Parties prenantes impliquées dans l'Approche et rôles

Quels acteurs/ organismes d'exécution ont été impliqués dans l'Approche?	Spécifiez les parties prenantes	Décrivez le rôle des parties prenantes
exploitants locaux des terres / communautés locales		
Spécialistes de la GDT/ conseillers agricoles		
ONG		All involved et different levels: after implementation mainly government and NGO
gouvernement national (planificateurs, décideurs)		All involved et different levels: after implementation mainly government and NGO

organisation internationale		All involved et different levels: after implementation mainly government and NGO
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Organisme chef de file

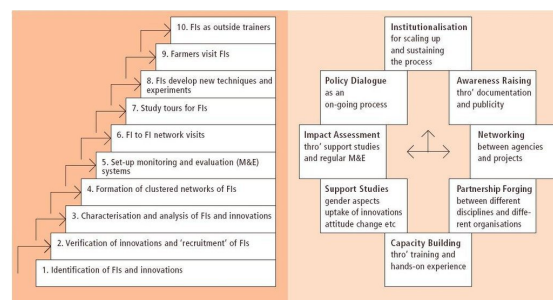
International specialists in collaboration with/after discussions with national specialists and land users

Participation des exploitants locaux des terres/ communautés locales aux différentes phases de l'Approche

	aucun	passive	soutien extérieur	interactive	auto-mobilisation	
initiation/ motivation		✓				public meetings, interviews/questionnaires, workshops/seminars, rapid/participatory rural appraisal; interviews/Participatory Rural Appraisals etc
planification		✓				rapid/participatory rural appraisal, interviews/questionnaires, public meetings, workshops/seminars; interviews/Participatory Rural Appraisals etc
mise en œuvre				✓		Mainly: farmer-to-farmer exchange, responsibility for minor steps; partly: responsibility for major steps; interviews/Participatory Rural Appraisals etc
suivi/ évaluation				✓		Mainly: public meetings, measurements/observations; partly: workshop/seminars; monitoring, using forms designed mainly by specialists
Research				✓		on-farm

Diagramme/ organigramme

Farmer innovation methodology left: Field activities: the ten steps– from identification through to using innovators as trainers. (Critchley, 2000) right: Programme development processes: the framework



Prises de décision pour la sélection de la Technologie de GDT

Les décisions ont été prises par

- ☐ les exploitants des terres seuls (auto-initiative)
- ☒ principalement les exploitants des terres soutenus par des spécialistes de la GDT
- ☐ tous les acteurs concernés dans le cadre d'une approche participative
- ☐ principalement les spécialistes de la GDT, après consultation des exploitants des terres
- ☐ les spécialistes de la GDT seuls
- ☐ les responsables politiques/ dirigeants

Les décisions ont été prises sur la base de

- ☐ l'évaluation de connaissances bien documentées en matière de GDT (prises de décision fondées sur des preuves tangibles)?
- ☐ les résultats de recherches?
- ☐ expériences et opinions personnelles (non documentées)

SOUTIEN TECHNIQUE, RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITÉS ET GESTION DES CONNAISSANCES

Les activités ou services suivants ont fait partie de l'approche

- ☒ Renforcement des capacités/ formation
- ☒ Service de conseils
- ☒ Renforcement des institutions (développement organisationnel)
- ☒ Suivi et évaluation
- ☒ Recherche

Renforcement des capacités/ formation

La formation a été dispensée aux parties prenantes suivantes

- ☒ exploitants des terres
- ☐ personnels/ conseillers de terrain
- ☒ SWC specialists, extensionists/trainers

Formats de la formation

- ☐ sur le tas
- ☐ entre agriculteurs (d'exploitants à exploitants)
- ☐ zones de démonstration
- ☒ réunions publiques
- ☒ cours
- ☒ farm visits

Sujets abordés

Staff seconded from Ministries of Agriculture/NGOs provide: (1) methodology training for participating staff (2) presentational skill training for farmer innovators and (3) training in gender aspects.

Service de conseils

Le service de conseils était fourni

- ☐ dans les champs des exploitants?
☒ dans des centres permanents

Name of method used for advisory service: Farmer innovator approach; Key elements: There are new roles for government/NGO extension staff under this methodology - as trainers and faci, Identify farmer innovators, form networks of farmer innovators, which meet, Bring farmers to se 'best bet' innovations; 1) Advisory service was carried out through: government's existing extension system, non-governmental agency; Extension staff: mainly government employees 3) Target groups for extension: land users

Advisory service is quite adequate to ensure the continuation of land conservation activities

Renforcement des institutions

Institutions ont été renforcées ou mises en place

- ☐ non
☐ oui, un peu
☒ oui, modérément
☐ oui, beaucoup

au niveau suivant

- ☒ local
☐ régional
☐ national

Décrivez l'institution, ses rôles et responsabilités, ses membres, etc.

Type de soutien

- ☐ financier
☒ renforcement des capacités/ formation
☐ équipement

Plus de détails

training (see also Annex A3)

Suivi et évaluation

bio-physical aspects were regular monitored by 0 through observations; indicators: soils, moisture technical aspects were regular monitored by 0 through observations; indicators: inputs socio-cultural aspects were ad hoc monitored by 0 through measurements; indicators: number of men/women participating economic / production aspects were regular monitored by 0 through observations; indicators: yields area treated aspects were ad hoc monitored by 0 through observations; indicators: None no. of land users involved aspects were ad hoc monitored by 0 through observations; indicators: None There were few changes in the Approach as a result of monitoring and evaluation: Some changes, for example (a) increased numbers of women identified as innovators in response to gender sensitisation/training and (b) ???rotation??? of farmer innovators used for training - that is not using the same farmers all the time, as this can create envy. E.g. also better integration with government services/system for technical backstopping and extension

Recherche

La recherche a traité les sujets suivants

- ☐ sociologie
☐ économie/ marketing
☐ écologie
☒ technologie
☒ socio-economics

Theoretically, researchers should respond to the farmers??? research agenda, though this has proved difficult to achieve in practice. Apart from process monitoring of the methodology, which has led to improvements, technical research into the innovations has been relatively weak.

Research was carried out on-farm

FINANCEMENT ET SOUTIEN MATÉRIEL EXTERNE

Budget annuel en dollars US de la composante GDT

- ☐ < 2 000
☐ 2 000-10 000
☐ 10 000-100 000
☒ 100 000-1 000 000
☐ > 1 000 000
Precise annual budget: sans objet

Approach costs were met by the following donors: government (national government): 20.0%; international (International agency): 60.0%; local community / land user(s) (-): 20.0%

Les services ou mesures incitatives suivantes ont été fournis aux exploitants des terres

- ☐ Soutiens financiers/ matériels fournis aux exploitants des terres
☐ Subventions pour des intrants spécifiques
☐ Crédits
☐ Autres incitations ou instruments

ANALYSES D'IMPACT ET CONCLUSIONS

Impacts de l'Approche

Est-ce que l'Approche a amélioré les questions foncières et des droits d'utilisation qui entravent la mise en œuvre des Technologies?

Gender sensitisation training may have helped. The problem is unlikely to be overcome in the near future.

Non
Oui, un peu
Oui, modérément
Oui, beaucoup

Principale motivation des exploitants des terres pour mettre en œuvre la GDT

- ☒ sans objet

Durabilité des activités de l'Approche

Les exploitants des terres peuvent-ils poursuivre ce qui a été mis en œuvre par le biais de l'Approche (sans soutien extérieur) ?

- ☐ non
☐ oui
☒ incertain

CONCLUSIONS ET ENSEIGNEMENTS TIRÉS

Points forts: point de vue de l'exploitant des terres

Points forts: point de vue du compilateur ou d'une autre personne-ressource clé

- Builds on local ideas (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Continue the approach and institutionalise.)
- Revitalises the extension service (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Train and make use of existing Government extension agents.)
- attractive to stakeholders at all levels (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Involve and inform stakeholders at all levels of plans and progress.)
- Gives land users more confidence in their own abilities (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Continue to prioritise farmers and keep them at centre of activities.)
- Offers new locally tested ideas/technologies which work (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Keep the focus on the farmers??? initiatives and use participatory technology development processes to improve these technologies.)

Faiblesses/ inconvénients/ risques: point de vue de l'exploitant des terres comment surmonter

Faiblesses/ inconvénients/ risques: point de vue du compilateur ou d'une autre personne-ressource clé comment surmonter

- Dependent on individual commitment and flexibility Training in skills and methodologies.
- Does not follow the conventional institutional chain of command Considerable training in skills and methodologies required.
- Sometime confers too much prestige on a particular group of ??? favoured farmers??? Rotate??? farmers who are the focus of attention.
- Researchers reluctant to respond to farmers??? agenda Effort needed to convince research staff of the need for, and potential benefits from, joint Critchley WRS (2000) Inquiry, Initiatives and Inventiveness: Farmer Innovators in East Africa. Phs Chem Earth (B), Vol 25, no 3, pp 285-288 Critchley WRS (2000) Inquiry, Initiatives and Inventiveness: Farmer Innovators in East Africa. Phs Chem Earth (B), Vol 25, no 3, pp 285-288 Critchley WRS (2000) Inquiry, Initiatives and Inventiveness: Farmer Innovators in East Africa. Phs Chem Earth (B), Vol 25, no 3, pp 285-288 Critchley WRS (2000) Inquiry, Initiatives and Inventiveness: Farmer Innovators in East Africa. Phs Chem Earth (B), Vol 25, no 3, pp 285-288 research with farmers.

RÉFÉRENCES

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Description complète dans la base de données WOCAT

https://qcat.wocat.net/fr/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_2418/

Données de GDT correspondantes

Technologies: Improved trash lines https://qcat.wocat.net/fr/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_990/

Technologies: Improved trash lines https://qcat.wocat.net/fr/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_990/

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Projet

- Book project: where the land is greener - Case Studies and Analysis of Soil and Water Conservation Initiatives Worldwide (where the land is greener)

Références clés

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