



Meeting of farmers, agricultural producers and agricultural policy makers in the framework of the mentorship programme (Mongolian National Crop Farmers Association)

Conservation agriculture knowledge sharing and mentorship programme (Mongolie)

Zaluu tarialanchiin mentor khutulbur

DESCRIPTION

The Approach aims to ensure the sustainability of the agricultural sector by training and mentoring young farmers in conservation agriculture to improve soil fertility and health and maintain productivity.

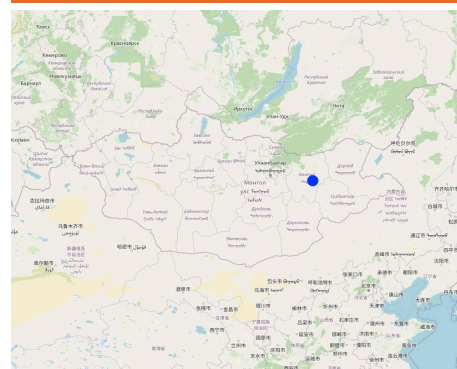
Within the framework of the mentorship programme, companies introducing innovative technologies in the agricultural discipline such as conservation agriculture, are selected as mentors and connected with young entrepreneurs who are new to this type of activities. Based on main principles of mentorship, the conservation agriculture knowledge sharing and mentorship program aims to transfer knowledge and skills gained from real-life experiences, lessons, failures, and successes of experienced farmers to young farmers.

The mentors develop a technology card, showing main steps how to apply the technology to the young farmers. Farmers further share their experiences and knowledge gained during technology adoption through group chats and group pages on the social media, giving advice on how to fix any problems and uploading their stories of how they overcame problems in the same situation. The mentorship program involves workshops combined with in-person training to provide fundamental understanding of the SLM technology and practical field visits. In order to empower young farmers, the Mongolian National Crop Farmers Association organized an introductory training course on mixed cropping technology and conservation agriculture (CA) in 2022. As a result of the training, young farmers who were interested in this technology became members of the mentorship program with the condition that they modify their equipment, machinery and field specifications/requirements (e.g. fencing and leaving cover on the soil surface) to adapt to CA. Total of 9 companies from nearby provinces, Dornod and Khentii, participated in the program as mentees. The mentorship program on Mixed Cropping and CA is led by Khentiin Tarialan LLC which is successfully implementing these technologies in Khentii province.

In order to sustainably maintain the mentorship program, the Mongolian National Crop Farmers Association and the project "Promoting Dryland Sustainable Landscapes and Biodiversity Conservation in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia" implemented by FAO and WWF organize workshops for young farmers in the non-agricultural season (winter) and conduct field visits before the agricultural season (spring) every year, helping to spread good practice and knowledge.

In 2023, the mentor gave methodological advice to young farmers during a classroom lecture on how to maintain plant health, develop mixed cropping and crop rotation maps, take soil samples with specific equipment, and how to check crop quality followed by a field visit during which participants obtained knowledge about positive impacts of mixed cropping and CA on soil restoration and financial benefits as well as at first year results, lessons learnt (success and failures) and problems encountered. A total of 129 farmers from Dornod, Khentii,

LIEU



Lieu: Takhilgat bag, Khentii province, Kherlen soum, Mongolie

Géo-référence des sites sélectionnés

- 110.99228, 47.57177

Date de démarrage: 2022

Année de fin de l'Approche: sans objet

Type d'Approche

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

Sukhbaatar, Darkhan, Bulgan, Tuv and Selenge provinces participated in this training. In addition, a closed group has been set up to share information using social networking sites, and a mentor uploads short videos on the internet to introduce the technology to people who are interested. In the future, it is planned to increase the number of mentors and topics. Because this program is organized on a need-based and volunteer basis, parties participate with a positive attitude. Basic requirements including financial support, communication and cooperation are needed to support and sustain the implementation of the program.



Under the mentorship program, the mentor who has successfully implemented conservation agriculture shared his experience with young farmers. (Javzansuren N.)



Young farmers involved in mentorship program field visit to discuss the importance of conservation agriculture and its positive effects on the environment and economy. (Oyungerei Ts.)

OBJECTIFS DE L'APPROCHE ET ENVIRONNEMENT FAVORABLE

Principaux objectifs de l'Approche

The primary objective is to establish a knowledge-sharing and training network for farmers, enabling them to exchange their observations, achievements, and challenges gathered from actual experiences, and to introduce modern agricultural technologies that are resilient to climate change and have a positive impact on soil and biodiversity.

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

- **Cadre institutionnel:** The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry and local administration, UNDP-FAO, General department of Land Planning, Geodesy and Mapping support the mentorship program.
- **Collaboration/ coordination des acteurs:** As a result of the collaboration among the UNDP-FAO, WWF and Khentiin Tarialan LLC, other farmers can share their experiences and knowledge.
- **Cadre politique:** The agricultural policy at national and local level may support multi-species agriculture with high-productivity, because of their positive effects on soil protection and sustainable use. The local administrative support entities aimed to rehabilitate degraded land by renting land and providing soft loan.
- **Gouvernance foncière (prise de décisions, mise en œuvre et application des décisions):** It is a form of support to include it in local land management planning.
- **Connaissances sur la GDT, accès aux supports techniques:** Volunteer members of the mentoring program, facilitate knowledge sharing and give technical support.
- **Charge de travail, disponibilité de la main-d'œuvre:** The implementing conservation agricultural technologies has the potential to reduce labour costs related to pest control, herbicide and fertilizer application

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

- **Disponibilité/ accès aux ressources et services financiers:** Not every farmer has the opportunity to upgrade his/her machinery and take advantage of bank subsidy programs. For circulation and investment purposes banks lend to food and agricultural enterprises low loans with interest rates from about 5 to 8 per cent and 5-15 billion tugruks for 2-7 years (2023).
- **Marchés (pour acheter les intrants, vendre les produits) et prix:** Main factor affecting costs is inflation. Thus, it can have a great effect on purchasing equipment, seeds and other input. Currently, there is no demand of some of the crops on the market (e.g. flax).

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	Local agricultural companies and young farmers. Currently, a total of 9 agricultural companies from Dornod and Khentii provinces are participating in this program.	Exchange and enhance knowledge, connect problems and find solutions together. They are responsible for monitoring soil quality change in their field.

Spécialistes de la GDT/ conseillers agricoles	Batnaran B., Mongolian, farmer. He implements mixed cropping and Conservation Agriculture in Kherlen soum, Khentii province. Currently, he is the only mentor, sharing his knowledge and training other participants. More mentors are planned to become involved.	Develop technical cards, present technological solutions, give advice and information on social networks, host Facebook group and Youtube channel.
ONG	Mongolian National Crop Farmers Association	Organize training courses and meetings, distribute information and offer networking space for participants and farmers.
gouvernement local	The Department of Food and Agriculture in Khentii province	Provide policy support related to land tenure and provide loan for farmers, disseminate information about mentorship program, carry out external monitoring on yield, and methodological recommendations for farmers
organisation internationale	UNDP-FAO, WWF	International organizations provide financial support to organize meeting and practical training. These activities help to improve communication between farmers, broaden participant range, disseminate information on technology. Also, they provided variety of seeds that were not commonly planted in Mongolia - so that farmers can create their own seed bank.

Organisme chef de file

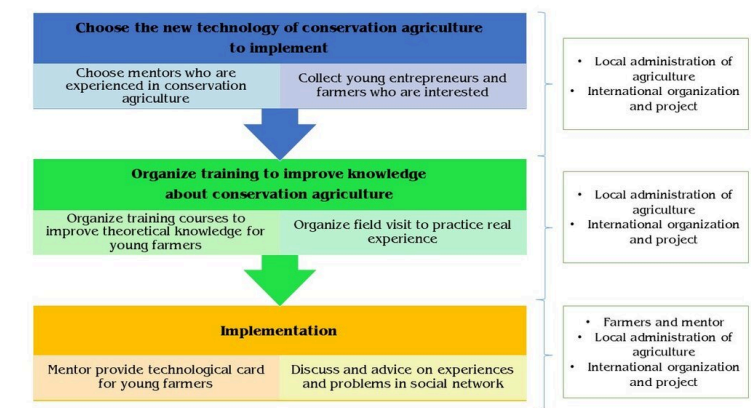
Under the goal of revitalizing the agricultural sector of the province, the Department of Food and Agriculture in Khentii province demonstrate leadership on policy level and policy implementation.

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

	aucun	passive	soutien extérieur	interactive	auto-mobilisation	
initiation/ motivation					✓	As a result of the first regional meeting, the farmers were motivated to introduce new technologies and joined the initiative to develop their farms properly under the guidance and support of the mentor.
planification	✓					The training course and meetings are mainly organized by the Mongolian National Crop Farmers Association, International Organizations and the Department of Food and Agriculture of Khentii province.
mise en œuvre					✓	Farmers began the process of upgrading or adapting their machinery according to the mentor's recommendations and started to plant according to the technological card prepared by the mentor.
suivi/ évaluation		✓				As the initiative is still in its beginning phase, local communities have not been directly involved in monitoring and evaluation of the Approach. But farmers implementing the conservation agricultural technology evaluate changes in soil quality and biodiversity through observation and soil sample analysis. In addition, agricultural specialists of local government evaluate the process of mentorship program based on report.
learn/research				✓		Land users have gained knowledge and experience through the use of printed and electronic resources and applying in their field.

Diagramme/ organigramme

Implementation phases of knowledge sharing network and mentorship program in conservation agriculture.



Auteur : Ogtontsetseg D.

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

Formats de la formation

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

Sujets abordés

Under the topic of conservation agriculture and its special technologies to implement, methods such as crop rotation, intercropping, mixed cropping, and leaving plant stubbles and residues in/on the soil, how they are implemented, their advantages and disadvantages were introduced.

Service de conseils

Le service de conseils était fourni

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

Land users can take methodological advice from a mentor as well as specialists from local government. Within a limited group and based on social networks, there was an opportunity to receive advice on relevant issues from time to time.

Suivi et évaluation

The farmers implementing the technology monitor changes in soil quality through observation and soil sample analysis. Soil samples collected from field are analyzed in an accepted laboratory. Local government institution does external monitoring on the Approach.

Recherche

La recherche a traité les sujets suivants

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

To implement the technology, the farmer reviewed literature from many national and international sources. In addition, he had contact with scientists, who helped in deciding what and how to implement.

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: 4430.0

Total annual budget of technology is approximately MNT 165.5 million or \$ 48 000. This includes labor, implementation of the technology, fuel, purchase of seeds, etc. as well as organization of training courses, field visits, networking and backstopping, monitoring costs and all other expenses.

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

Crédits

Conditions : The Mongolian government has decided to provide an investment loan with purpose of supporting the food and agricultural industry in 2023. The credit grants 3-5 year loans with an interest rate of 5-6 percent to farmers in order to improve circulating capital and investment. The credit volume ranges from 5 to 15 billion, depending on the bank and the size of the farm.

Fournisseurs du crédit : The Mongolian government has signed an agreement with 10 commercial banks in Mongolia. The banks are offering soft loans with an interest rate of 5-6 percent, while the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is covering the gap between interest rates, charging 13 percent.

Destinataires du crédit : It can be an individual land user or farmer, a group such as user groups or associations and/ or a cooperative.

Autres incitations ou instruments

Participants were eligible for subsidized loan from the Agricultural Development Fund which has ended in 2023. The Agricultural Corporation was established in 2021 by the Mongolian government. The Agricultural Corporation is a state-owned limited liability company that provides necessary products for the agricultural development of Mongolia with discounted prices and loans to farmers, allowing to repay the loans with the products produced by them. The corporation is mainly responsible for purchasing all kinds of seeds, fertilizers, plant protection substances, fuel, machinery and equipment from the domestic and international market. The farmers have the possibility to purchase equipment with discount price.

ANALYSES D'IMPACT ET CONCLUSIONS

Impacts de l'Approche

	Non	Oui, un peu	Oui, modérément	Oui, beaucoup
Est-ce que l'Approche a autonomisé les exploitants locaux des terres, amélioré la participation des parties prenantes? The mentorship program enabled participants to gain knowledge and experience in conservation agriculture and land restoration by organizing trainings, field visits, meetings and discussions, a fundamental basis for the successful implementation of the technology. Moreover, it supports communication and collaboration among the different stakeholders such as local administration, international organization, companies and local land users.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Est-ce que l'Approche a permis la prise de décisions fondées sur des données probantes? Because first-hand experience of conservation agriculture in the field is shared through the mentorship programme, farmers base their decision to adopt conservation agriculture on the knowledge they have gained from training, the technical and financial support they can receive and the belonging to the mentorship programme and resulting network.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Est-ce que l'Approche a aidé les exploitants des terres à mettre en œuvre et entretenir les Technologies de GDT? The mentorship program allows for the dissemination of knowledge about conservation agriculture, including both the establishment and the long-term maintenance of such practices. Furthermore, the farmers participating in the mentorship programme can seek advice through a social network and direct contact with a mentor. By sharing knowledge about conservation agriculture with other farmers, advantages, disadvantages and potential of the technology are shown, as well as the long-term efficiency and benefits for land restoration.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Est-ce que l'Approche a amélioré la coordination et la mise en œuvre de la GDT selon un bon rapport coût-efficacité? Conservation agriculture is a cost-effective technology in the long term.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Est-ce que l'Approche a amélioré les connaissances et les capacités des exploitants des terres pour mettre en œuvre la GDT? A main goal is to improve and share knowledge about Conservation Agriculture. A mentor shares his knowledge with other land users, helping them to build and enhance their experience and knowledge.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Est-ce que l'Approche a amélioré les connaissances et les capacités des autres parties prenantes? The meeting, organized in 2023, involved all stakeholders and presented the results of the mentorship program as well as of Conservation Agricultural and its related technologies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Est-ce que l'Approche a construit/ renforcé les institutions, la collaboration entre parties prenantes? The Approach improved collaboration between stakeholders by organizing joint meetings and discussions. Generally, Mongolian National Crop Farmers Association and WWF -Mongolia jointly organize the training and meetings. Local government, farmers, international and non-governmental organizations discuss their results and problems to each other during the meeting. It allows to support further collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Est-ce que l'Approche a encouragé les jeunes/ la prochaine génération d'exploitants des terres à s'engager dans la GDT? The mentorship program aims to involve mainly young farmers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Est-ce que l'Approche a amélioré la capacité des exploitants des terres à s'adapter aux changements/ extrêmes climatiques et a atténué les catastrophes liées au climat? The Approach enhanced capacity of young farmers through training them on Conservation Agriculture, which improves resilient to climate change and disasters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

- ☒ augmenter la production
- ☒ augmenter la rentabilité/ bénéfice, rapport coûts-bénéfices
- ☒ réduire la dégradation des terres
- ☒ réduire les risques de catastrophe
- ☒ réduire la charge de travail
- ☐ paiements/ subventions
- ☐ règles et règlements (amendes)/ application
- ☐ prestige, pression sociale/ cohésion sociale
- ☐ affiliation à un mouvement/ projet/ groupe/ réseaux
- ☒ conscience environnementale
- ☐ coutumes et croyances, morale
- ☒ améliorer les connaissances et compétences en GDT
- ☐ améliorer l'esthétique
- ☐ atténuer les conflits

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

Previously, a mentor provided advice and knowledge to other farmers through a social network and direct contact. Financial support from international organizations has enabled more farmers to participate in the mentorship program. Further, the local government can organize training, and also the mentor can personally run this program through the social network and extension center. The number of people who are interested in mentorship program is gradually increasing.

CONCLUSIONS ET ENSEIGNEMENTS TIRÉS

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

- The mentorship programme supports farmers in implementing Conservation Agriculture by training them in fundamental knowledge, particularly it involves young farmers who are the future land users.
- Young farmers can quickly learn about Conservation Agricultural saving time and can get instructions and advice directly from a mentor with real experiences.
- It is possible to disseminate knowledge to more people on a small budget.
- Communication between farmers and collaboration between organizations can be improved by the Approach. During the meetings and field visits, problems and successes are discussed and experiences shared.

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

- It is a fast way to practice young farmers in implementing conservation agriculture.
- The social network allows participants to quickly share knowledge and experiences with each other and easily communicate with a mentor.
- Understanding CA from people who have implemented CA. Farmers are motivated to implement conservation agriculture because of its sustainability.
- It provides the opportunity to solve problems as a team, collecting different experiences and solutions.

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

- In order to organize training in wide range, it needs financial support. Financial support from other sources, including international organizations and projects.
- Implementing CA requires farmers to adapt their equipment to the technology, which has a high initial cost. There are soft loans from banks to support sustainable land use. The farmers can get this kind of loan.

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

- The training course and the field visit require a certain amount of money. Thus, the mentorship program may slow down without financial support. It needs to get financial support or participants can give payment for the programme.
- It requires coordination to plan trainings and field visits, and means of communication to reach farmers. To work consistently with local government and farmers.
- Currently, there is only one mentor training farmers. Therefore, the number of mentors with different experiences needs to be increased. To detect new mentors with experience of conservation agriculture.

RÉFÉRENCES

Compilateur

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Editors

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Examineur

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Personnes-ressources

Batnaran Batdeleg (dayanbat@gmail.com) - exploitant des terres
Javzansuren Norvanchig (javzansuren@wwf.mn) - organizer
Oyungerel Tsend (oyungerel.tsend@fao.org) - organizer

Description complète dans la base de données WOCAT

https://qcat.wocat.net/fr/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_6995/

Données de GDT correspondantes

Technologies: Атаршсан газрыг сэргээж эргэлтэд оруулах хөрс хамгааллын газар тариалан
https://qcat.wocat.net/fr/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_6933/

La documentation a été facilitée par

Institution

- Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Geoecology (IGG) - Mongolie

Projet

- Global coordination project for the SFM Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (GEF-FAO / DSL-IP)

Liens vers des informations pertinentes disponibles en ligne

- Youtube channel hosted by mentor: <https://www.youtube.com/@covercropmongolia9564>
- Facebook page sharing experiences on social network: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063508026054>

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