Farmer sharing the technology with his fellow farmers.

LANDCARE - Claveria Landcare Association (CLCA)

** Associations that help diffuse, at low cost, soil and water conservation technologies among upland farmers to generate income while conserving natural resources.**

In parts of the Philippines, farmers who are interested in learning and sharing knowledge about sustainable land management and new SWC measures organise themselves into the so-called ‘Landcare’ associations. These self-help groups are a vehicle for knowledge exchange, training and dissemination of SWC technologies. A main objective is the empowerment of farmers’ groups in their efforts to improve their livelihoods as well as the environment. Landcare has three components and aims at strengthening collaboration between those: (1) grassroot farmers’ organisations (Landcare organisations); (2) technical facilitators, for example the World Agroforestry Centre (formerly the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry: ICRAF) and government and academic agencies and (3) Local Government Units (LGUs). The Landcare associations are structured as municipal groups, village groups (barangay level or affiliate peoples’ organisations), and village sub-groups ( sitio or purok level). This ensures effective dissemination of technologies from the municipal level down to the smallest village. To give the associations a legal status, they are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Landcare associations conduct regular monthly meetings to promote exchange of information, ideas, and experience, thus promoting spread of SWC technologies. Extension service is carried out through the Local Government Units, which allocate 20% of their development funds for Landcare related activities such as meetings, training and visits, and nursery establishment. Farmers organised in Landcare groups have better access to technical and financial support for SWC activities from LGUs and other technical facilitators.

LGUs also enact local laws to encourage adoption of SWC technologies, such as giving tax incentives, and Landcare members are given priority access to programmme and financial assistance. Landcare acts as a guarantor against loans. The facilitating agencies provide technical assistance, and also help create an environment of dynamism among Landcare groups. A link is created between Landcare associations and these service providers. Landcare enhances sharing of labour, builds camaraderie, and encourages group decisions on matters relating to SWC. The approach is spreading rapidly: from the original one association with 25 members in 1996, this increased to 45 groups with over 4,000 members by 1999.
- organise farmers with common concerns, problems, needs and aspirations into self help groups.
- establish farmers’ groups as conduits for financial and other support for SWC technologies.
- empower farmers’ groups in their efforts to improve their livelihoods as well as the environment.
- strengthen working linkages between farmers and the LGU, NGOs and technical facilitators.
- promote sharing of new technologies, information, ideas and experiences about sustainable agriculture and natural resources management among Landcare groups and members.
- facilitate collective efforts in activities - which cannot be carried out at household level (eg communal nurseries).
- assist in the marketing of agroforestry-derived products of the members, and to develop links to studies on agroforestry based farming.

**Members of Landcare are recommended to lending institutions for production loans.**

**Speed up the land reclassification and land registration program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).**

**Local government units (LGU’s) facilitated the organisation of farmers. Specialists established the linkage between Landcare and LGUs/NGOs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Land user driven (bottom-up). Spontaneous adoption with technical assistance from donors</th>
<th>Working land users were mainly men (Men do the main job in the field. Women do home-related agricultural activities e.g. corn shelling. Men do the heavier works (plowing, harrowing). Women in light</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>ICRAF facilitated the organisation of farmers. Specialists established the linkage between Landcare and LGUs/NGOs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local government units (LGU’s)</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
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</tbody>
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**Spontaneous adoption with technical assistance from donors**

Working land users were mainly men (Men do the main job in the field. Women do home-related agricultural activities e.g. corn shelling. Men do the heavier works (plowing, harrowing). Women in light.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>public meetings, rapid/participatory rural appraisal, workshops/seminars</td>
<td>Confirm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>organisation of major and minor activities: coordination of casual labour</td>
<td>Confirm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>measurements/observations, public meetings, interviews/questionnaires</td>
<td>Confirm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on-farm research supported by LGU, academics, ICRAF</td>
<td>Confirm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanations:  
- **Support (technical, financial, policy)**  
- **Demands, requests, feedback IC**

The diagram demonstrates the collaboration, complementarity, interdependence and synergism between the actors.

**LANDCARE - Claveria Landcare Association (CLCA)**

**Local Government Units (LGUs)**
- Municipality/Barangay

**Donors and other Funding Organisations**

**Technical Facilitators**
- ICRAF, MOSCAT
- DA, DAR, DENR and other line agencies

**Private Sector and NGOs**
The approach has greatly helped land users in the implementation of soil and water management technologies. Farmers now adopt ‘natural vegetative strips’ (NVS). Large farms (> 3 ha) have generally evolved into commercial production of tree crops (coffee) and trees (timber).

Land tenure is still an important factor in adoption of SWC technology. Providing simple technology in establishment and maintenance enhance adoption. Landcare groups exist where tenants are members. They adopt SWC technology.

Did other land users / projects adopt the Approach? Many other NGOs, local government units (LGUs) and line agencies have adopted - and further adapted - the Landcare approach in their respective areas. The approach has been proven effective and it is now being looked upon as a model for the implementation of SWC and other related activities, particularly in Mindanao.

Landcare has become an integral part of civil organisation.
Landcare is a triangulation of grassroot organizations (farmers), local government units (LGU's), and technical facilitators. The financial resource required for this approach are imbedded in the regular budget of municipal or barangay. The LGU's (politicians) consider Landcare groups as political machinery and voting blocks. If they

**Technologies: Natural Vegetative Strips (NVS)**

- Enables facilitation of NVT (Natural Vegetative Technology) by LGU's
- Enables facilitation of NVT (Natural Vegetative Technology) by LGU's
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- Provides a vehicle for participatory research and technical interventions and ensures that newly-developed technologies are appropriate
- Makes extension activities cost effective
- Ensures sustainability of actions
- Ensures sustainability of actions
- Ensures sustainability of actions
- Ensures sustainability of actions

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

- Over reliance on ICRAF on technical innovation → Encourage farmers to conduct farmer level experimentation.
- Lack of leadership and organisation skills of some Landcare leaders, who are unable to guide groups into cohesive, dynamic organisation. It takes time to get consensus and to make them work together → Landcare group leaders need to be better trained in leadership skills group facilitation and participation. Some farmers join Landcare expecting handouts or grants → Project objectives and strategies should be explicitly explained to farmers.
- Over-emphasis of political patronage by some LGUs alienates people of different orientation/background → Encourage a more transparent government at LGU particularly at barangay level.

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**Assistance needed**

- Campbell, Andrew. 1994. Landcare: Communities shaping the land and the future. Allen and Unwin, St. Leonard, New South Wales, Australia: ICRAF-Philippines, College of Forestry, UPLB, College, Laguna, Philippines