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CB-NRM Stakeholders' Workshop

The JICA CB-NRM Project, Phase II organised a CB-NRM Stakeholders' Workshop on March 09, 2017 at MAF Conference Hall in Comoro attended by more than 100 participants from different Ministries, Development Partners (DPs), Municipalities, NGOs, Watershed Councils, Media Persons etc. The basic objective was to introduce CB-NRM mechanism to wider audience/stakeholders and initiate a debate on the role of CB-NRM mechanism in watershed management.

The Stakeholders' workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Manuel Mendes, the former National Director of NDFWM. Mr. Mendes highlighted that JICA CB-NRM Project established a concrete model of community-based sustainable natural resource management during Phase I, which could be further expanded by other DPs. In fact, many DPs are now interested in implementing Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) as a part of their projects and some of them have already started PLUP.



Key Presentations of Stakeholders Workshop

- Introduction to the CB-NRM Phase II Project by Mr. Ippei Itakura, Chief Advisor, CB-NRM Project
- Experience of HALARAE in CB-NRM Implementation by Mr. Bernardus Bolim, HALARAE
- Expectations of Civil Societies on CB-NRM for NRM and community development by Mr. Xisto Martins, RAEBIA
- Introduction of Inter-Ministerial Technical Commission for Watershed Management by Mr. Pascoal do Carmo, Chief Cabinet of General Directorate of Forest, Coffee and Industrial Plantation
- Overview of Development Partners (DPs)' Projects and its Implications by Mr. Manuel Mendes, National Director of NDFWM
- Case Study of Noru Watershed Management Council by Mr. Domingos Verdial, President of Noru WMC
- Roles and Effectiveness of CB-NRM in watershed management by Mr. Adelino Rojario, Chief Department of Reforestation and Soil and Water Conservation, NDFWM



Key issues and resolutions from the workshop

The participants of the workshop flagged off many issues in forest conservation, land degradation, erosion of hills and mountains etc. including the key challenge to change the mind-set of the communities, who have apparently been the main drivers of forest degradation and deforestation. It was agreed among the participants that CB-NRM project could be one of the solutions as it had shown some results in changing the community's mind-set applying its participatory approaches, making consistent efforts, and ensuring multi-stakeholders engagements etc. The challenge shared among the participants which lies ahead is how to scale it up over the country through collaboration with various stakeholders.

Key comments provided by the participants for CB-NRM expansion:

- ✚ There is a need for researches/studies on the impact of CB-NRM on conservation land, forest and water resources, which would help building arguments for CB-NRM expansion with other Ministries and DPs;
- ✚ The DPs could be possible institutions to promote CB-NRM in other Municipalities creating demonstration models but some of them need to work with the MAF Municipality for sustaining the efforts even after their projects; hence, the focus of capacity building should be placed on the MAF Municipality offices ; and
- ✚ Need for engagements with other Ministries/ Departments both at the national and municipality levels is evident for expansion of CB-NRM.

In addition to CB-NRM, the workshop also introduced the Inter-Ministerial Technical Commission on Watershed Management recently formed by relevant ministries. There are a lot of expectations for the commission on the coordination of efforts in forest and watershed management. At local level, Watershed Management Councils have been set up at Noru and Raumoco Watersheds to coordinate efforts of different actors. The purpose and functions of the councils were presented. Discussion among the participants illuminated a need for official guidelines for formation of local level watershed management councils.

At the end of the workshop, Mr. Hikoyuki Ukai, Chief Representative of the JICA Timor-Leste Office appreciated the efforts of MAF and DPs, and emphasized the need for coordination among various stakeholders working on forest and watershed management with recognition that MAF can play a crucial role in this direction. He commented that it might not be effective to start with discussion on the methodologies of the CB-NRM mechanism for its dissemination in the country; rather positive changes brought by the mechanism should be shared among the stakeholders, so as to provide impetus for them to introduce it in the their jurisdictional areas and/or projects.

Study tour to Fadabloco

As part of the CB-NRM Stakeholders' Workshop a study tour was organised to Fadabloco on March 10, 2017 to understand effectiveness of CB-NRM mechanism implemented by JICA CB-NRM Project during phase I. More than 40 participants from MAF, DPs, and NGOs interacted with the community and visited different farms (bench terracing, contour compost, compost making, preparation of liquid fertilizer etc.), and cassava chip production by the women's group. A wrap up meeting was held with the villagers to discuss the observations and queries. The village leaders candidly conveyed the message that they succeeded because of collective efforts and transparency in operations. The women's group will continue its efforts, even if it does not get any support from RAEBIA or any other agency, as the members know the techniques and skills and are organised.



Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP)

The Project is not at the final stage of PLUP in Fahisoi (Liquidoe), Fahisoi (Remexio) and Fatisi (Laulara). The village regulations were finalized after consultations at the Aldeia level and now the communities are being assisted to organise Tara Bandu ceremony. The second batch of OJT has started on May 29, 2017 and PLUP is now embarked on in Sucos – Cotelau (Laulara), Maumeta (Remexio) and Manucasa (Liquidoe).

DPs and Local NGOs in 2nd batch OJT on PLUP

- UNDP – DARDC Project
- USAID– Avansa Agrikultura Project
- Conservation International
- MAHARU, CVTL, HADEER, OHM, PROSPEK, CIACS, IMI, MALAEDOI

Micro Program

After completion of PLUP, the implementation of micro program (Sustainable Upland Farming Promotion - SUFP) has started in Fahisoi (Liquidoe), Fahisoi (Remexio) and Fatisi (Laulara). The Project assisted communities to form beneficiary groups in each Aldeia of Suco, oriented them on their duties and responsibilities, and organised a study tour to phase I villages of the Project to see the demo plots, contour terracing, compost making, contour compost application etc. Following the study tour, sites for field demonstration have been selected in each Aldeia. The Project has also assisted the partner NGOs to prepare annual work plans for each village to implement the micro program.

The implementation of micro program provides an opportunity for the field extension workers to participate in On the Job Training (OJT) to gain knowledge and practical skills for Sustainable Upland Farming. The on-farm training is spread over a period of nearly one year (May 2017 to March 2018), which is basically a 1-2 day training per week in target villages covering the following themes:

- Compost (preparation, maintenance, and application)
- Soil conservation techniques (contour delineation using A-frame, contour compost, bench terrace etc.)
- Crop selection, seed selection and planting of upland crops (e.g. maize, beans and sweet potatoes)
- Organic liquid fertilizers (preparation and application)
- Planting of hedgerow and cover crops
- Building animal pen
- Post-harvest management including seeds storage

Local NGOs in OJT on Micro Program

- OHM
- PROSPEK
- IMI
- MALADOE

The OJT on Micro Program was started on May 03, 2017 with participants from MAF (Technical staff and extension officers from MAF Aileu and Technical Staff from NDFWM), and local NGOs. Currently the participants have gone through the on-farm training on preparation of compost and the delineation of contour lines using A-frame.



Roadmap on CB-NRM

Development of a roadmap for expansion of the CB-NRM mechanism is one of the key outputs of the Project for Community-Based Sustainable Natural Resource Management Project Phase II. The roadmap will be the MAF official document to guide its staff towards sustainable management of forests and other natural resources in critical/important watersheds in the country. A Working Team was official formed by order of Director General, DGFCIP on May 3, 2017. The team has representations from three National Directorates of DGFCIP (NDFWM, NDCN and NDCIP). The 3rd meeting of the working team was held on May 12, 2017 to discuss the draft work plan of the working team and processes to be followed. Nine MAF officials and two CB-NRM project members participated in the meeting. The work plan and schedule were finalised with the inputs of the members. The roadmap would be a long-term master plan for sustainable management of important watersheds in Timor-Leste using the CB-NRM mechanism, which should be in line with the strategy and operation plan of MAF and would be referred as the basis of the annual plans of the relevant national directorates in future. The next meeting of the working team would be held in July 2017 to analyse the stakeholders of CB-NRM and watershed management. Before the meeting the members would collect data on existing and planned interventions on CBNRM and watershed management from their respective departments as well as from other directorates under MAF. The Project is also helping the Working Team in stakeholders' analysis. CB-NRM Project Team members are in constant touch with different DPs to collect information on their existing and upcoming projects, and explore possibilities for collaborations to implement CB-NRM.



Livelihood improvement activities

During May 2017, the Expert of CB-NRM Project organised a series of training programs for the communities and staff of NDFWM MAF and national NGOs (RAEBIA and Halarae) on cultivation of mushroom. Training programs were conducted in Fahisoi (Liquidoe), Fahisoi (Remexio) and Fatisi (Laulara) to help the communities in identifying different varieties of mushrooms, harvesting and storage techniques. The training on mushroom cultivation included skill transfer on the use of spawn block, production of mother seeds/ spawn etc. In addition to mushroom cultivation, training programs were conducted for the communities belonging to above villages to produce orange syrup, pomelo syrup, and candies from pomelo peel.

Upcoming Events

- Tara Bandu Ceremony in three villages in July 2017
- Meeting of the Working Team on Roadmap in July 2017
- On-farm training on delineation of counter lines using A-frame in July and August 2017
- Training on Mushroom cultivation and food processing in Nov 2017

For further details, please contact us:-

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