Challenges in using tools and methods of WOCAT for national and local land management programmes in Tanzania

Tanzania, a country with scenic attractions such as the Serengeti Plains, the Ngorongoro Crater, Mount Kilimanjaro and Selous Game Reserve (54,600 km²)

Efforts to increase land and agriculture production

Colonial era up to 1961

Free economy/Globalization era

Ujamaa era up to 1980s

Post Colonial era up to 1970s

Under UNDP/GEF project, MALF (Agriculture) has executed the following two major activities:
- Farm survey, assessment and recommend for SLM
- Instituting demo plots on SWC in each hamlet.

Approaches adopted was WOCAT tools sandwiching in a step by step land use planning whereby six steps are recommended to avoid conflict among users.

1) Preparation, 2) PRA for integrated land use, 3) Mapping existing land uses, 4) Participatory land use, 5) Implementation of land administration, 6) Management plan and its implementation.

Every parcel of farmland was demarcated using GPS and data processed using GIS software. A database was made for every farm with information on the owner, farm size, current cropping, land degradation status, recommendation given for SWC measure

General Challenges hindering implementation of SLM and WOCAT Tools

1. Insufficient enabling policy and environment
2. Weak capacities at institutional, community and stakeholders
3. Insufficient partnership, coalition and investment

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Towards building resilience of smallholder farmers in Northern Uganda

Experience of engaging SLM tools under WOCAT methodology

Amidst severe shocks: land degradation, post two decades of insurgence linked to unprecedented poverty levels, land use conflicts and climate change impacts, small scale farmers in Northern Uganda are using undocumented and unevaluated agriculture-based practices. These include technologies and approaches with potential to increase the adaptive capacity of communities as well as the ability to contribute to landscape health. A 3-step WOCAT methodology comprising of a framework for a participatory process for appraisal and selection of scalable sustainable land management (SLM) options has been adopted to facilitate building capacity of extension agents to identify, document, evaluate and disseminate SLM across scales (plot, farm, community, landscapes and national).

1. Three-step WOCAT Methodology.

STEP 1: Mutual learning, identification of degradation hotspots and interventions.
- Reconnaissance field study
- Establishment of expert group
- Participatory mapping and stakeholder analysis
- Inception workshop

STEP 2: Training and Documentation.
- Trainers of Trainer (TOT)
- Developing inventory of SLM practices
- Training in audio visual
- Operational national database

STEP 3: Selection of practices for implementation
- Stakeholder workshops at district level
- Degradation mapping
- Action planning
- Demonstrations
- Exchange visits

2. Some emerging successes include.
- 36 technologies documented
- National Database
- MOU with Ministry of Agriculture
- Working with UNCCD desk
- 35 Extension capacity build
- Student attachments
- Draft knowledge products (Catalogue and Policy brief)

3. Addressing the challenge of scaling up.
What we are doing to bridge the gap between knowledge and action;
- Empower extension through training;
- Produce and facilitate use Knowledge products;
- Stakeholder dialogue;
- Innovation platform for social learning;
- Facilitating policy mechanisms for scaling

4. Impediments.
The following are the complications that are encountered so far;
- Low capacity of extension demanding protracted training including mentoring and coaching;
- Facilitating site teams to remain interested, including enhancing their mobility;
- Poor and erratic Internet connectivity inhibiting online documentation.

5. Key Actors.
- Farmers
- Government
- Private sector
- Research
- Academia
- NGOs

6. Desired Outcomes
Strengthened knowledge management systems and access to information; increased communication and outreach in ways that increase the visibility of champion farmers and the benefits accruing from using SLM; institutional and policy reforms with incentives to reward adopters as well as strengthening property rights

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