

MODERNIZING EXTENSION ADVISORY SERVICES WORKSHOP

(MEAS)

A POWER POINT PRESENTATION

TOPIC:

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: STRATEGIES AND CONCEPTS

PRESENTED BY: DAVID M.KOLLEH

CUTTINGTON UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND SUSAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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AUDIENCE: STUDENTS, FARMERS, CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

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I. BACKGROUND

As society moves from a primitive way of life to a more highly complex civilization, there exists a high demand on the forest and water usage. That demand is increasing at an alarming rate as population increases. It is of critical importance to protect, conserve and restore the natural resources of our planet earth—soil, water and forests. The protection and sustainable management of the biodiversity and eco-system is crucial for the survivability of future generation. It is being realized that increasing food production alone cannot move poor rural people permanently out of poverty. Building the capacity of smallholders' means helping rural communities to work together effectively, manage their own money and natural resources, engage in profitable enterprises and learn how to innovate. Farmers directly depend on natural resources for securing their livelihood. This training therefore provides a broader set of skills farmers need to understand and support a robust enterprise approach and to build local people capacity managing their natural resources.

II.METHOD: PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

- >Local people are key agents of change;
- > It is they who know and understand their problem and can best offer some of the most practical solutions.
- >A participatory approach enables field agent to learn together with local people;
- > It helps them realize that they can solve their problem.

III.GOAL: To improve livelihoods and reduce community's impact on global climate change through natural resource management.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- >To help participants learn about key concepts and strategies related to the management of natural resources such as water, soil, plants and eco-systems;
- > To help participants acquire skills that will be transferred to farmer group they work with;
- > To help participants to have better understanding of their needs and responsibilities in regard to managing the natural resources in their community;

V. Expected outcomes

- > Participants will have better understanding of some of the basic usages and management practices in natural resources;
- > Know how nutrients cycle through nature;
- > Acquired some basic concepts to better manage the natural resources in their environment;

VI. Definition of Natural Resource

- > Any asset obtained from our environment such as water, soil, plants, animals, minerals sun energy and many others.

6.1. Two types of natural resources

A Renewable Natural Resource

> It is one that can grow, or whose supplies can be replenished through natural processes (plants, animals, insects,). Being renewable does not mean that these resources automatically last forever.

6.2. A Non-renewable Natural Resource

> It is one that can be used up, one that will not replenish itself (oil, coal, minerals, or rock). The use of these resources should carefully be monitored.

VII. Implementing a Natural Resource Management Plan

> Engaging Community

*identification of target group (farm/plot, community or watershed;

* Conduct of initial meeting

*Motivate target group assess and explore improvement in the management of their resource;

Understanding the Community Context

> Understanding the local context more than the biophysical environment.

> Planning with the local community;

> Understanding of the socio-economic and policy context in which people build their livelihoods.

Mapping Natural Resource Problems and Opportunities

>It helps farmer groups identify and map the resources in their area;

> Mapping helps to gather inputs from affected members of the community;

> Farmers will be helped to identify problematic areas-so-called hotspots and areas with high potentials.

Making Natural Resource Management Effective

- > Farmer groups and community develop an action plan;
- > Identify intervention and achieving desired objectives;
- >The change agent will guide group in identifying a package of appropriate management interventions for the different priorities (time line and resources) are key.

Managing a Natural Resources Project

- Building new skills (demonstration plot, pilot or on-farm trials and *Purchasing of materials needed to test these new ideas);
- Adaptive “management” approach,
- Enabling farmers to examine the effects of their effort and to change;

Monitoring Progress

- Monitoring helps track the implementation of the natural resource management plans.
- It measures progress, and also assesses the impact of the activities;

VIII. Managing Natural Resources: Concepts and Strategies

- >To live longer and healthy lives we must work hard to maintain this balance.
- > Building Sustainable Livelihood;
- >Sustainable livelihoods are good management practices securing food and income for the entire family;

IX. CONCLUSION

Natural resource management plays a vital part in the development of any nation and its sustainability of its citizenry. Policy related to wise use of the limited resources of Liberia is crucial as its people embark on sustaining a lasting peace and development. One key approach is the participatory methods which enable farm families to actively explore and experiment with new ideas. Instead of passively listening to lectures about new technologies. By taking active part in decision-making process, farmer groups, community groups, and farm families are on a good path to take ownership of solutions and to apply them to their own setting.

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