

**MODERNIZING EXTENSION
ADVISORY SERVICES WORKSHOP
(MEAS)**

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**Managing Natural Resources:
Concepts and Strategies**

Background

- High demand on the forest and water usage
- Depletion of the eco-system;
- The need to develop concepts and strategies for the management of the natural resource in local community

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

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;

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;

Definition of Natural Resource

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

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.

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.

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 resources;

- **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.
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- **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;

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;

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.

Continue

- **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.