



Republic of Malawi

**The Project for Community Vitalization and
Afforestation in Middle Shire (COVAMS)**

Annual Report 2011



For better life, better environment

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1. Preface

The year 2011 was the fourth year for the project for Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire (COVAMS), and from November 2011 COVAMS entered the final year of the project period. This annual report was produced in the same manner as the previous three reports in 2008, 2009 and 2010 to share information with officials and organizations concerned. The report describes the progress of COVAMS activities and achievement toward the objectives of the project. It is the hope that the report will help all the readers to understand COVAMS activities and achievements together with some difficulties on the ground.

Activities in the year 2011 were generally same as the ones in previous year. The order of the activities was as follows; i) Final stage of the 2010 activities with 169 villages and demonstration plots, ii) Review meeting from 31 January to 4 February 2011, iii) JCCM 06 for progress check and authorization of plan for the year on 22 February 2011, iv) 2011 activities with 244 villages from February 2011, and v) Lead farmers' plenary meeting on 11 May 2011. In addition to the ordinary activities, planning process for post COVAMS cooperation started in June 2011. Activities were implemented as planned and achieved good result again in the year 2011. Detail of activities and results are described in activity part of this report, however, some of the highlights of the activities in 2011 are as follows.

First item is result of 2010 activities which have come to the end with 169 villages in first quarter of the year. In soil erosion control, more than 5,800 households practiced contour ridge planting. Total area of farming garden conserved was estimated 950 ha after area survey which was conducted by lead farmers. Total volume of soil prevented from erosion was estimated from 8,000 m³ to 12,000 m³ by using result from the demonstration plots in Chuma and Chiwalo. Most of the farmers who practiced contour ridge planting expressed increase of yield in their conserved garden despite the erratic rain fall in the season. In tree growing activities, seedling production was carried out as normal practice and more than 210,000 seedlings were produced and as a result 197,000 seedlings were transplanted in various places. Direct sowing experiment in Kantumbiza village showed promising result of germination rate by the end of April 2011 and continued to grow until next rain started in November 2011. Reflecting the result of germination and survival rate, COVAMS promoted direct sowing toward 2011/2012 planting season.

Second one is lead farmers' plenary meeting which was held on 11 May 2011 at COMESA hall with lead farmers and village headmen from 169 villages. COVAMS planned the meeting as good opportunity for publicity and first step of the expanding soil conservation activities to all Middle Shire catchment areas. Guest of honour was Principle Secretary of Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment, Mr. A. Livunza. Selected village headmen and lead farmers presented their achievements to the audience. The meeting achieved its objectives to motivate lead farmers

and village headmen to enforce commitment in soil erosion control and tree growing activities and to draw attention and interests from invited guests.

Third one is modification of training process. It had been a challenge how to increase participation rate of the training and practicing rate of trained technologies in the villages. Training process in 2011 was modified in three points to improve the situation. One was introduction of training participation card, second was specific period of training determined by COVAMS management, and third was specific training frequency based on the number of households in villages. These modifications contributed to increase in participation rate significantly from 50% in the previous season to more than 80% in this season. Practicing rate is not known yet since data is still under process of collection.

The last one is planning for post COVAMS cooperation. The project entered into the final year of cooperation, and both Malawian and Japanese sides started to plan about after COVAMS cooperation. To secure continuation and step up the activity, the official request was made in August 2011 from Malawian side to Japanese Embassy. COVAMS organized a meeting in December for JCC members to enhance understanding of COVAMS extension method and achievement. It is the expectation that government departments concerned are going to have strong wills to expand soil conservation activities in Middle Shire by using COVAMS extension method.

There were several difficulties as usual in the course of implementation. Most affected difficulty in the year 2011 was fuel shortage in the country. Monitoring various activities was very difficult without mobility for both extension staff and management team. Fuel shortage was a nationwide issue, so COVAMS could not do much to improve the situation except securing communication channel by means of mobile phones and use of bicycle taxis. Another difficulty was demonstration attempt in July and following months by civil society. Offices were closed to avoid any dangerous situation. Those two issues were very much different from previous years.

As stated earlier, details of activities, achievement and challenges are described in following part of the report. It is the hope that the report will help readers to grasp whole picture of the project activities and importance of soil conservation and tree growing activities which contribute lot to the development effort of the nation.

2. Activity Plan 2011

It was agreed in the project that the area should be expanded even 2011 and should cover whole area of TA Kapeni and TA Kuntaja, which would count 244 villages. Upon increasing the number of villages, the project planned to increase some more extension officers and made it 20 extension officers.

Basically, the activity of last year would be continued this season in the same way. However, it was suggested to make some adjustment in some areas such as CCOs' area in-charge, trainers for TOT, training period, training delivery method, and its reporting and payment system.

TOTs of LFs for 75 villages where CCOs were not available in 2010 operation were conducted by Senior LFs. Their performance was observed and assessed by 2 CCOs during the operations. It was recommendable results according to the CCOs. However, at the COVAMS review meeting, most of CCOs suggested that TOT of LFs should be conducted by them even though the number of the villages was increased up to 244 from 169. The management was a little sceptical on the suggestion made by CCOs, though, it was agreed that CCOs would do the TOT of LFs.

No training deadline in its implementation was set previously, and also the training was divided in several phase in especially tree growing training. Those seemed to make the LFs confused in that how the training should be conducted. Many cases in the tree growing training, it was observed that the training was not a training but forced labour. Many people were deployed to contribute labours in pot filling, sowing seeds and planting the seedlings. To make LFs and farmers clearly understand the meaning of training, the management decided to set a deadline of conducting training and that training is to be conducted in one phase, no more division in phases. However, LFs are expected to give some technical support for the participants at their practice.

The delivery of training method also changed from plenary approach to group approach officially. CCOs reported that LFs approached to their fellow farmers through clan system and that was their idea. The management thought that the technologies must be disseminated to all villagers to contribute the mitigation of siltation in Shire River. Hence, the approach should rather take delivery principle than waiting one. In this sense, group approach was better option, and so implemented.

Reporting and payment method was also changed. The payment was based on the number of participants previously, but changed into fixed amount per training. The number of training per village would be planned by the management side depending on the how many groups can be formed in that particular village. The number of groups is determined by the number of households. To figure out the number of groups, the total number of households was divided by 20.

On top of those above things, the distance between ridges in maize growing was set as flexible in a range of 75cm to 90cm in order to facilitate practice by more people who had worry about workload and inputs increase. Another additional was to introduce direct sowing method in tree growing providing participants of training in tree growing with some seeds.

In gully control, analysis on the cost effectiveness of check dam in large scale should be done together with nurturing some officers to be capable to design and give instruction on construction of the check dams.

3. Activity

PO0: Arrangement of project operation structure

| Quarter | Activity events |
|-------------------------|---|
| January – March 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication among Officials related to the project: On February 22nd, JCC meeting was held in Lilongwe at Forestry Department. COVAMS annual review workshop was held from January 31st to February 4th. Steering committee meetings were held in each month from January to March. ● Publicity of the project activity COVAMS calendar produced for villagers and other concerned officials. |
| April - June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication among Officials related to the project: Steering committee meetings were held in each month from April to June. ● Publicity of the project activity COVAMS news letter No. 4 and No. 5 were publicized. COVAMS activities were broadcasted through interviews to CCOs. |
| July - September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication among Officials related to the project: Steering committee meetings were held in each month from July to September. Field visit by the SC members was conducted in September's SC meeting. ● Procurement of motorbikes 3 motorbikes were procured and delivered to COVMAS office in September. ● Publicity of the project activity COVAMS news letter No. 6 was published in August. |
| October - December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication among Officials related to the project: Steering committee meeting were held in each month except December. Presentation on the COVAMS activity results was made for officials concerned at |

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| | <p>Forestry department on December 6th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publicity of the project activity COVAMS news letter No. 7 was published in November. Presentation on COVAMS activities as practical example of extension method in the national symposium on climate change and environment on 19th to 21st October. |
|--|--|

PO1: The target villagers acquire knowledge and skills regarding productive activities including tree growing and Soil conservation

| Quarter | Activities |
|----------------------|---|
| January – March 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Selection of target villages: Identification of new target villages was done in February and they were confirmed in March by TAs. ● Preparation of training: TOT in gully control was conducted by CCOs for new LFs in January and February. Explanation meeting was done by FMO for TAs on 8th and 14th March. Explanation meetings for GVH and VH were conducted on 19th and 21st March. CCOs conducted sensitization meetings for new villages and review meeting in the villages of 2008 to 2010 from March to April. Gully control training manual was prepared and shared with the office of Land Resource Conservation. Harvesting of Maize of the project demonstration plots was done in March. ● Implementation of training: Field day was conducted by CCOs of agriculture extension officers in February. Out planting training in tree growing was conducted by LFs in January to March. Gully control training was conducted in February and March. ● Monitoring LFs’ meetings were conducted by each CCO and the contents of the discussion were presented in CCO monthly meetings. Monthly CCO meetings were held twice in each month. |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| April - June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparation of training: Sensitization meeting at village level in 2011 villages and review meeting in 2008 to 2010 villages were conducted by CCOs and completed in June. Election of LFs was done in all the 2011 villages, completing all the election in June. 4 of Field day were conducted by CCOs in April. Households survey was instructed to LFs in May. TOTs / Brush up for CCOs in soil erosion control and tree growing were done in May. TOTs for new LFs and were conducted by CCOs in May and June. Brush up course for LFs of 2008 to 2010 was conducted in June. Measuring of maize yields from the project demonstration plots was done in May. ● Implementation of training: Training in soil erosion control and tree growing had started in June. ● Monitoring Lead Farmers' plenary meeting was held on 11th May at COMESA hall. CCO fortnightly meeting was held in each month. Area survey for contour ridging was done. |
| July – September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparation of training: TOTs in Soil erosion control a tree growing for new LFs were completed in July. Household survey was competed in July. Brush up course for LFs of 2008 to 2010 was completed in July. TOT in small scale gully control was conducted for the new LFs by CCOs in September. ● Implementation of training: Training in Tree growing and soil erosion control was continued throughout this period and ended in September. ● Monitoring: CCO fortnightly meeting was held in each month. SC members' field visit was conducted. Area survey in soil erosion control was compiled in September. Measuring eroded soil in the project demonstration plots was done in August. |
| October - December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparation of training: 4 remaining TOT for LFs in small scale gully control was conducted. Maize planting at Project demo-plot was done in Nov. 4 Research purpose demo-plot on compost effect against termites were set, and maize seeds were planted in December. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementation of training: Soil erosion control training by LF was conducted in a village, and tree growing training in some villages was also done and completed all the training for those two subjects. Gully control training started in Oct. until the end of the month as first period. The second period will start from January 2012. ● Monitoring: Scrutiny and collection of training report started in October, and it continued up to Nov. CCO fortnightly meeting was held in each month. Area survey in soil erosion control was started in December by LFs. |
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PO2: Capacity of the target villagers is enhanced to access necessary resources for productive activities including tree growing

| Quarter | Activity |
|--------------------|--|
| April – June 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resource coordination: WESM was visited by FMO in resource coordination, and information of how to make proposal and its conditions were distributed to the villages. Regional office of Total Land Care(TLC) in Zomba was visited by FMO and RDA. |
| July - September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mbawe Gully countermeasure demonstration ● Resource coordination Follow up to TLC on distribution of inputs for tree growing. |
| October – December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mbawe Gully countermeasures demonstration Chiwalo made an additional check dam by the effort of the village in Oct. Maintenance work was done in Nov. and Dec. ● Resource coordination MEET was visited and how to acquire grants from the organization was shared with the management, SC members and CCOs. <p>A market survey was conducted. A list of prices for forestry produce prevailing in some popular markets around Blantyre city was compiled and shared with CCOs.</p> |

PO 3: Capacity of the counterparts is enhanced in supporting productive activities including tree growing

| Quarter | Activity |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2011 January - March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OJT for capacity building of CCOs A lecture was conducted by an ex-trainee on 10 th March. Study trip to Nkula dam by CCOs and FMOs was made on 11 th March. |
| April - June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OJT for capacity building of CCOs: Lectures were conducted by those who were ex trainees in April and May. TOT in Beekeeping was conducted for CCOs in June and 5 of them completed. |
| July - September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OJT for capacity building of CCOs: Not done |
| October – December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OJT for capacity building of CCOs: A lecture was conducted by Mr. Kozi who went to Kenya A combined lecture was conducted by two ex-trainees, Mr. Mpate and Mr. Masanjala to Japan in Nov. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidelines Revision of COVAMS SVTA guidelines was completed and circulated for proof reading among the management staff in December. |

4. Achievement in SVTA

4.1 Operation mechanism

The previous operation of the training was reviewed and concluded that there were many rooms to improve. Especially confirmation of participants one by one on the households list took huge amount of time due to complication caused by mercenary attempt of LFs. It was indispensable process to settle payment for the training fee of LFs. From the view point of how to simplify the confirmation of participants, the management staff tried to rebuild operation mechanism.

One of the traits of the new mechanism is that there is no necessity of confirming training participants one by one; instead the payment is to be settled according to the number of conducted training which is to be allocated to each village by the management beforehand. This idea brought positive change in their participation in training.

Below are the steps of the newly developed mechanism;

1. Allocation of number of training

The number of training is to be figured out with dividing the total household number by 20. For instance, a size of 100 household village will be allocated 5 times of training and additional one more training for those villagers who missed the training. Hence the total number of the training is 6 in this village.

2. Grouping of the village households
The LFs are going to divide the entire village by the allocated number of groups without neglecting the traditional clan set-up. With above example, 5 groups should be formed but the number of household in a group can be flexible.
 3. Planning of training schedule
Rough schedule should be designed together with the group leaders and village authorities, and inform it to each group member through the group leaders.
 4. Implementation of training by LFs
Training should be conducted at the place the group suggested. The number of participants are to be grasped through Training Participation card (TP card) which provided to all the households by the management beforehand. The participants of the training shall submit the card to the LFs. In case there are so many villagers left out without attending the training and should they request more training after completion of allocated the number of training, the LFs can request the management to add another training. However, the request should be made under the consent from village head.
 5. Report submission to the management by LFs
Two training report are needed to be produced by the LFs. One report is needed to produce right after the training conducted indicating all the contents were covered by ticking, while the other one is for the payment sake in order to confirm the number of training courses conducted. The LFs are to submit both training reports to CCOs when they confirmed that there is no more training demand.
 6. Payment of the trainers' fee
After scrutiny of the report submitted by the management, the number of training is to be confirmed and payment will be made.
- ✧ Assessment of the new mechanism
- Allocation of number of training
The number of participants in one training session became somehow fair. However, many cases were found that LFs reported as if they completed the allocated training number despite it was split a training session into two training sessions; e.g. allocated four training sessions, and training was conducted twice only. But LFs reported as if it was four times of training sessions conducted by splitting the twice of the training.
 - Introduction of TP card

To grasp the number of participants, it was introduced. Each training subject has two sets of TP cards and the participants were expected to use the card accordingly. However, distribution of the TP card was wrongly done by the LFs and the cards were used regardless. The participants are to write the date of the training participated on the TP card but there were many cards whose date was falsified. It was inferred that the action was made with intension of falsifying the number of training conducted.

It was still observed that some LFs tried to increase the number of participants of a training session despite there is no increase on the trainers' fee.

Many villagers expected a provision of inputs with this card and it became one of the reasons that the number of training participants increased.

➤ Implementation of training in group

Training is supposed to be conducted at the convenient venue of the group. Hence it became delivery service of training. This also made one of the reasons that number of training participants increased.

➤ Setting of training implementation deadline

Training was not started at the beginning of the period set. They said that it because of other activities in the villages like circumcision ceremony. Most of the villages started in later stage of the period and it was kind of in a hurry situation.

Misinformation on the deadline by CCO was rampantly observed. The deadline for soil erosion control and tree growing was set as end of Aug. but it was informed to LFs as end of Sept. instead.

➤ New reporting form

There are two report form; report form 1 and 2. Report form2 requires ticking the training contents to confirm if they have covered it with some signature of group representative and CCO, while report form 1 requires name of the group representative and their signature and total number of participants of each training session. It looks very simple but LFs seem to find it still complicated. As the result, some of LFs did not submit the reports to the management although they know that without the submission of the reports, there is no trainers' fee payment.

CCO was expected to scrutinize the report before submission but very few CCOs did it. It means that they did not give much help when LFs write the report.

➤ Overall

The preparation to educate CCOs and LFs had been not enough because of delayed production of the TP card and training report as well as inadequate instruction on the mechanism. Many steps before implementing the training made LFs a little confused.

Preparation should be done adequately before start the training season is the lesson learnt. It might be necessary to tweak the mechanism in each step.

4.2 LFs' Plenary meeting

Lead Farmers' Plenary meeting was executed on 11th May 2011 at COMESA hall in Blantyre, inviting 1100 of LFs and Village Heads including Group Village Heads and head of VDC members. The actual attendants were around 760 and 171 of LFs and VHs respectively.

The purpose of this meeting in such enormous size was to appeal the effectiveness of the approach that COVAMS carries on to higher officials and other concerned districts through the words of LFs and VHs in their activities and achievements on the ground. Six of LFs and VHs were selected by CCOs and they delivered intended message quite well to all the attended officials.

The guest of honour was Mr. Anthony Livunza, Second Principal Secretary of The Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment. Another invited guest, Mr. Akihiko Hosino, The Deputy Resident Representative of JICA Malawi also made a speech.

The invited officials from other concerned districts were able to attend the meeting and they were somehow impressed with the scale of the COVAMS activity and went home with some understanding on the project.

4.3 Soil erosion control

The total area of conserved field in 2009 / 2010 was aggregated around 950ha with 5,700 farmers out of 167 villages (The result of contour ridging practice in 2010 planting season, October 2011). It looks the increase is in direct proportion to the increase of number of villages. With this effort of the farmers, the protected soil in the field would be estimated 7,980m³ to 11,970m³ in that season.

The training was conducted from July to September 2011 in most of the villages. The number of participants tremendously increased. Although multiple participants from a household was observed, the rate of training participation became around 90% against the entire households in the target area. CCOs attribute the increase to the new approach which segments the village by clan. Since LFs come to the clan premises for the training, the farmers are encouraged to participate in, and also when they hear that other clan members are going to participate, they tend to take the same action not to be left behind, at the same time they encourage each other for participation. This is a CCOs' analysis.

The area survey for the planting season of 2011/ 2012 is taking place from December 2011 and the deadline of submission of the report was set as end of January 2012. According to the CCOs, the number of farmers who practice the contour ridging has been increased quite a lot among the villages of 2008 to 2010.

4.4 Tree growing

Majority of the farmers who joined the tree growing activity were in a group form. The farmers are used to be compelled to join the activity for assessing the fertilizer subsidy. Therefore, it is difficult to assess how many people really gained knowledge through the participation in the training because many just come as labourers. However, CCOs somehow collected data of the number of seedlings planted in 2010 / 2011 planting season.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Year | 2010 / 2011 |
| No. of seedlings raised | 224,257 |
| No. of seedlings planted | 197,835 |

As the number of participants in the training for contour ridging increased, training for tree growing is also increased its number of participants. The duration and timing of the training was also the same as the one of soil conservation. The training used to be have two sessions such as nursery establishment including its management and out-planting. However, the project decided not to separate anymore. Regardless of the arrangement, the participation rate became around 80% in 2011 training season.

However, CCOs reported that there were several cases that the farmers segregate the nurseries by project like EU and COVAMS. The reason why they do like that is because of incentives promised by the project. Since COVAMS project has no provision of incentives, it is always the case that the seedlings which are raised under the COVAMS project would not be taken care properly like poor watering, and consequently the seedlings dried up. Especially difficulty of obtaining fertilizers of this year affected watering to the seedlings around September to October 2011 because they had to cue for sometimes several days at the depot.

It was observed during the CCOs meeting that CCOs were also segregating the seedlings by the project with very strong ownership to COVAMS. Such strong ownership towards the project is commendable, but it is not really good for the farmers. Rather they supposed to find a way not to segregate them. The CCOs were advised by the management that the seedlings of COVAMS ones should be incorporated to the other nursery since they are the same village's property. Subsequently, CCOs reported that the farmers transferred the seedlings to the other nursery and they started to take care of them.

Apart from the seedlings raising method, direct sowing method was introduced to the famers in 2011 by providing seeds for all the 244 villages. The distributed species are *Albizia lebbbeck* and *Senna spectabilis*. Normally the project doesn't provide any materials for the farmers except for training purpose, but the project did it for promotion sake. The quantity of the prepared seeds

were figured out by the following formula; 70% of the entire households x 50 stations. Total weight : Senna Spectabilis 111.6kg, Alibizia Lebbeck 264kg.

With this preparation of seeds, it was expected that around 23,800 of households will be able to access to the seeds and practice the direct sowing method.

As a result, about 44% of entire household accessed to the seeds for direct sowing. Unfortunately, the rain pattern was quite different from normal ones, so there seems to be cases that the farmers could not plant all the seeds. Besides, the seeds planted in October to November did not germinate well but from December, it seemed to have a good germination. Despite such experience, the farmers prefer this method and they are saying that they will continue it even next season, according to the CCOs.

The project requested the CCOs from Forestry Department to establish demo-plot for the direct sowing method and three did. In the demo-plot, the germination appeared not bad. The result will be compiled in 2012.

4.5 Gully Control

The training was planned in two phases. One is in October and the other is in January to February. The result is being collected as of February to March 2012. Since very few data has been compiled so far, not much report can be made here.

4.6 Resource coordination

One CCO who was promoted to forester was assigned as FMO in resource coordination. However, it seemed to be overloaded for the person having two roles of FMO and CCO at the same time. He tried his best but not much work was done as FMO. In September, the management replaced him with another officer from Forestry department. Although he is attached to another project he performed well.

One group village wrote a proposal to ESCOM in requesting some inputs, but it was held for quite a long time without proceeding. The new FMO tried to submit it to ESCOM but unfortunately it was too late for the year 2011. In 2012, it was submitted to ESCOM.

The new FMO in resource coordination visited other organizations such as TLC, MEET and WESM and collected information from them on their conditions to apply and application form and area of their support.

It looks quite difficult for the villagers to write a proposal so CCOs definitely need to help the villagers with it. However, CCOs say that they are not confident to write a proposal, neither. Hence the FMO is planning to have training course for them on proposal writing in 2012.

Total Land care as usual supported the villagers with some inputs provision, although the support was made for those groups which met a deadline of constructing fences for a nursery. The inputs provided were as follows;

- 1) Watering can: 80
- 2) Polythene tubes: 175,000
- 3) Nail cutters: no data
- 4) Tree seeds

Unfortunately the quantity of the support was quite limited this year, as compared to the number of the target villages. Besides, inadequate coordination among the CCOs created a situation of unfair distribution of inputs. With this experience, it was confirmed that more commitment of FMO in resource coordination will be required. At the same time, it was agreed that supported resources should be coordinated through the FMO.

4.6 Achievement in other activity

Study trip

Place: Nkula dam

Participants: CCOs, FMOs and AEDC of Lunzu

Date: March 11, 2011

C/P Training

The project was able to send some of the counterpart to several training in Japan and Kenya.

| Name | Period | Title | Recipient | Position |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Mr. Kasawe | Apr.1 – Apr. 30, 2011 | Farmer-led Extension | JICA Obihiro of Agriculture and veterinary Medicine | CCO |
| Mr. C.C. Masanjala | Aug 20-Oct 24, 2011 | Forest and watershed conservation with participatory approach | JICA Tokyo | Field Management Officer (Training) |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Galeta | Oct 22- Nov 26, 2011 | Mitigating climate change in Africa through social forestry | Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya | Assistant Regional Forestry Officer |
| Mr. J. Andiwochi Mr. W.W. Chinzukira Mrs. T. Lipato | Oct. 28- Nov 27, 2011 | Supporting regional development by utilizing local natural resources | JICA Chubu | CCO |

Seminar / Reporting meeting / Workshop/

1. CCO Annual Review Workshop

Date: January 31st to February 4th, 2011

Target: CCO / COVAMS management staff

Purpose: To review project activities and make a work plan

2. The 7th Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

Date: February 22nd, 2011

Target: JCC Members and COVAMS management staff

Purpose: To report project progress and a plan

3. Lead Farmers Plenary Meeting

Date: May 11th, 2011

Target: Lead Farmers, Steering Committee Members, PIU/COVAMS management staff, and Concerned headquarters officials

Purpose: To present the results of COVAMS activities to higher officials and to publicize it through media as public relation activity.

4. Schedule management workshop

Date: September 15th, 2011

Target: CCOs

Purpose: To discuss with CCOs on how to manage scheduled activities and come up with some solutions

5. COVAMS project's achievement sharing meeting

Date: December 6th, 2011

Target: JCC members and other concerned staff from Forestry Department

Purpose: To share the project's footage and achievement

Public Relations

1. The National symposium on climate change and environment

Date: October 19th to 21st

Purpose: To introduce COVAMS extension approach.

Organizer: UNDP

Presenter: Mrs. Chauluka

2. JICA's World

Date: June, 2011

3. JICA Home page News

Focus on Malawi, Title: Saving the land

4. International Agriculture and Forestry cooperation

Purpose : Introduction to COVAMS extension approach

Contributed by Mr. Sato

5. ODA white paper

6. Asahi Shinbun

5. Project Budget

5.1 JICA budget

Project activity :

MK16,861,424.97 (January 2011 ~December 2011)

Equipment and Machinery :

MK 2,274,000.00 (3 Motorbikes)

5.2 Malawi Government budget

Total amount:

MK15,081,489.00 (January 2011~December 2011)

6. Visitors

| Date | Visitor | Purpose | Attendants |
|------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| February 13-14 | Mr. Ejima Director General JICA Global environment Department | Site visit and discussion | Mr. Sato |
| March 2 2011 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan | Site visit | Mr. Sato Mr. Mkuwapatira |
| April | Ms. Furuta Deputy Editor of JICA's world Magazine | Publicity | Mr. Sato |
| May | Mr. Wilkinson Jica Public Relations Advisor | Publicity | Mr. Sato |
| September 7 th | World Bank and Ministry of Economic Planning | Site visit | Mr. Mkwapatira |
| September 14 | Mission of Africa region Forest fire survey | Site visit | Mr. Mkwapatira |
| September 26 | JOCV member | Site Visit | Mr. Sato |
| September 28 | Malawi 経済企画開発調整 省職員視察 | Site visit Verification of activity | Mr. Mkwapatira |
| November 24 | Mr. Ogawa First secretary of Embassy of Japan | Site visit | Mr. Sato |
| December 3-4 | Asahi Japan news paper company | Site visit Collection of news data | Mr. Sato |
| December 9 | Mr. Kobayashi Counselor of Embassy of Japan | Site visit | Mr. Sato |
| December 23 | Mr. Okada Chief advisor of OVOP project | Site visit | Mr. Kanazawa / Ms. Kawamoto |

7. Project staff

7.1 Long term expert / Short term expert

| Name | Position | Period |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Akira Sato | Chief Advisor | 2007.11.6 – 2012.11.2 |
| Hiroyuki Kanazawa | Rural Development Advisor | 2007.11.13 – 2012.11.2 |
| Mika Kawamoto | Project Coordinator | 2007.11.6 – 2012.11.2 |

7.2 Malawian staff

| Name | Position in Government | Title in COVAMS | Period |
|------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Mrs. C. Chauluka | Regional Forestry Officer (S) | Project Director | 2008.4 – present |
| Mr. P. M.H. Mkwapatira | Assistant District Forestry Officer | Project Manager | 2007.11 – present |
| Mr. G.E. Kamanga | Planning Officer (Monitoring and evaluation) Forestry | Field Management Officer Resource coordination | 2011.8 – Present |
| Mr. J.J. Chigwiya | Senior Forestry Assistant | Field Management Officer Monitoring | 2008. 5 – present |
| Mr. C.C Masanjala | Forester | Field Management Officer Training | 2008. 8 – present |
| Ms. B. Kumbaniwa | Forestry Assistant | Field Management Officer | 2008. 5 – 2010.3 |
| Mr. J. Andiwochi | Forestry Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2008. 1 – present |
| Ms. G. Kalagho | Forestry Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2008. 1 – present |
| Mr. S.B. Mbewe | Forestry Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2008. 1 – present |
| Mr. F.A.B. Mpate | Forester | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2008. 5 – present |
| Mr. P. Mphande | Forester | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2010. 4 – present |

| Name | Position in Government | Title in COVAMS | Period |
|---------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Ms. E. Minthanje | Forestry Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2010.7 — present |
| Mr. C.G.C. Bauleni | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Agriculture, Kuntaja) | 2008. 1 — 2010.9 |
| Mrs. L.A. Banda | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Agriculture, Kapeni) | 2008. 1 — present |
| Mr. W.W. Chinzukira | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Agriculture, TA Kapeni) | 2008. 6 — present |
| Ms. E. Mwachumu | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Agriculture, TA Kuntaja) | 2008. 3 — present |
| Mr. M.J.L. Thole | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Agriculture, TA Kapeni) | 2008. 1 — present |
| Mrs. T. Lipato | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Agriculture, TA Kuntaja) | 2009. 4 — present |
| Mr. C. Kasawe | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2010.2 — Present |
| Mrs. E. Chasowa | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Agriculture, Kuntaja) | 2010.2 — present |
| Mr. M. Lipenga | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Agriculture, Kuntaja) | 2010.10 — present |
| Mrs. O.G. Pahuwa | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2011.2 — Present |

| Name | Position in Government | Title in COVAMS | Period |
|---------------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| Mr. K. Nkoma | Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2011.2 — Present |
| Mrs. A. Chagoma | Senior Community Development Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Community Dev. TA Kuntaja) | 2008. 1 — present |
| Mr. H.M. Nsiku | Community Development Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Community Dev. TA Kapeni) | 2008. 1 — 2009. |
| Mrs. J. Mulekano | Senior Community Development Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Community Dev. TA Kapeni) | 2009. 7 — 2009.10 |
| Mrs.N. Chisesele | Senior Community Development Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer (Community Dev. TA Kapeni) | 2009.11 — present |
| Mrs. H. Mkandawire | Community Development Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2011.02 — Present |
| Mr. L. Dumbula | Community Development Assistant | Conservation Coordinating Officer | 2011.2 — Present |
| Ms. J. Mbandambanda | Driver | Project Driver | 2008. 2 — present |
| Mr. H.L. Chiwaya | Driver | Project Driver | 2007. 11 — Present |
| Mr. P.S. Phiri | Driver | Project Driver | 2009. 4 — Present |
| Mr. K.K. Phiri | Driver | Project Driver | 2007.11 — 2009.3 |

8. Project products

| No. | Name | Month | Author |
|-----|--|----------|--------------------------|
| 1 | COVAMS Annual Report 2010 | February | Project management staff |
| 2 | Revised tree growing training manual | July | Masanjala Kawamoto |
| 3 | The result of contour ridging practice in 2010 planting season | October | Chigwiya Kanazawa |
| 4 | Revised COVAMS guidelines for SVTA | November | Kanazawa |
| 5 | News letters | | Kawamoto Kanazawa |

9. Activity plan for 2012

The following activities are planned for 2012

- ① COVAMS review meeting (February)
- ② Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting (February)
- ③ Monthly lecture for the project staff including trainees' feedback
- ④ Lead farmers' Plenary meeting (April)
- ⑤ COVAMS workshop
- ⑥ SVTA implementation for 75 villages of 2011
- ⑦ Trials of several approaches for weaned 169 villages for vertical expansion of activities
- ⑧ COVAMS Seminar (For 7 districts DC offices)
- ⑨ Phase 2 preparation meetings

10. Challenges of the project

2011 was significant year for COVAMS activity in several aspects such as LF plenary meeting, total number of villages, introduction of training participation card, improvement of training participation rate and entering to final year of cooperation.

In general activities went as planned from sensitization meeting to training in the villages. Total number of the villages covered was all 244 villages in the target area. Training participation card was introduced to simplify accounting process for the payment of training fee. It was not COVAMS intension but TP card worked like an invitation card for training and contributed to increase in participation rate. Information delivery to each and every corner of the village was also achieved through distribution process of TP cards.

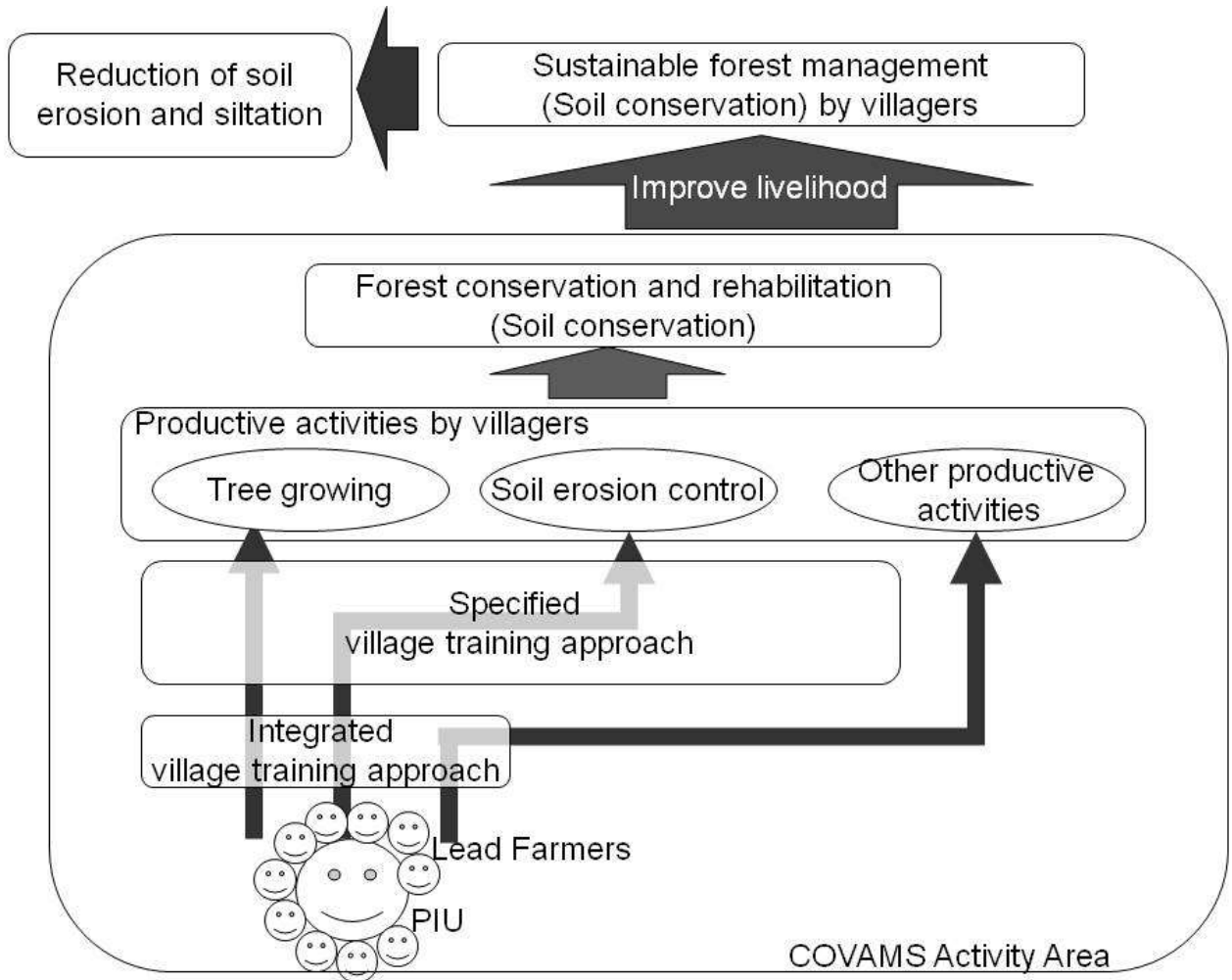
Although coverage of villages was increased and participation rate to training was very much improved, it was observed that the practicing rate of second year villages did not increase very much as expected at the beginning. This observation was reflected to the guidelines of COVAMS extension method as an intervention period of two years for training in one village.

At the review meeting held in February 2012, COVAMS decided to stop COVAMS training approach in 169 villages by following the guidelines because those villages had more than 2 times of training. 75 villages which started training in 2011 will continue with training approach but on request basis. For 169 villages, extension officers in charge proposed several activities to improve practicing rate of soil erosion control and tree growing activities. It could be change of emphasis from horizontal expansion to vertical expansion of idea.

As the project cooperation period entered to the final year, some preparation work had been started for expansion of soil conservation activity to wider area of Middle Shire. Final evaluation will be done to determine the result of the COVAMS and examine effectiveness and efficiency of the COVAMS extension approach. Towards the end of the cooperation period in 2012, COVAMS has to make best effort to appeal on the advantages of COVAMS extension approach to government organizations. It is the hope that further expansion of soil conservation activity in Middle Shire will be realized with strong support from Districts concerned regardless of whether there will be donor support or not.

Lastly, COVAMS would like to express a great appreciation to all 20 CCOs for their commitment and efforts to achieve such great progress and expect their continuous effort to accelerate progress towards the end of the project period and over the coming years. Many appreciations together with expectation of expansion go to implementing and collaborating government departments, District Council, public corporations, NGOs, and other organizations of Malawian side and JICA Malawi office and Japanese embassy for their tireless support and precious advices.

Appendix 1 : COVAMS Concept



Appendix 2 : SVTA implementation Structure

