



REPORT PERIOD: JAN 2011 – MAR 2011

SOIL EROSION CONTROL

The number of participants in the training of soil erosion control counted 10,428 and its practitioners reached 4,000 farmers in the aggregate of TA Kapeni and TA Kuntaja in 2010 after all the effort of LFs and PIUs.

The total number of households in these TAs is about 25,000 out of 169 villages; hence about 42% of entire households participated in the training, while the practitioners' ratio was 16%. Interestingly, the number was almost the same in both TAs in terms of participants. The number of practitioners looks very small but when it comes to 119 new villages of 2010, it was actually around 3,700 farmers out of 15,377 households, which counts 24%.

It means that the 50 villages of 2009 did not perform well in 2010. Main reasons would be one-one planting method of maize with distance of 75cm in between the ridges. This measurement seems giving them anxiety in a quantity of fertilizer application and labour for making ridges. The training contents should be revisited to make clear explanation in the difference between contour ridging and one-one planting method.



Contour Marker Ridge Making

TREE GROWING & OUTPLANTING

From July to November, Tree Growing training sessions were conducted by Lead Farmers in respective village. Total participants of training were 3,988 for TA Kuntaja, 4,454 for STA Kapeni. According to the PIUs' report, more than 221,257 seedlings had been raised by villagers.

From December to February, Out planting training sessions were conducted. Total participants were 1,340 for TA Kuntaja, 2,033 for STA Kapeni. More than 194,834 seedlings were outplanted in this rainy season.

TASK FORCE; NO DEVELOPMENT

During the period of January and March, there was no development regarding the task force meeting. The reason of halting was that arrangement of logistics for the meeting could not be finalized. The preliminary meeting to discuss how to get the fund for the meeting was called by DC's office but member could not meet, therefore, the first task force meeting was not able to call.

March and April is the time to start sensitization meeting in new villages, otherwise, it will be difficult to catch up the time for the activities in next planting season. By the end of March, DC's office promised to call the meeting early April 2011, so in next newsletter, there would be something to report.



Community Nursery Activity



Individual's Nursery



Out Planting

DIRECT SOWING

As a new development of tree planting activity, COVAMS introduced direct sowing as a trial in Kantumbiza village. According to Tree Growing Lead Farmers, villagers sowed seeds in 3,550 planting stations. The area of direct sowing site is estimated at 3,250m².

Germination at the early stage was good enough to draw attention from all villagers of Kantumbiza and neighboring villages.



Direct Sowing Site (Kantumbiza)

GULLY CONTROL TRAINING

During the three (3) months period of this fourth quarter (from January to March) the issue of training newly elected Lead Farmers for the Gully Control Training theme continued because it was not finished due to the festive season in December 2010 and for those Lead Farmers who had been trained before the festive season, were busy training ordinary farmers in their respective villages. According to the reports submitted, the sessions of TOTs for newly elected Lead Farmers were eighteen (18) with eighty one (81) (27Female and 54Male) newly elected Lead Farmers trained.



Small Check Dam (Bamboo and poles)

On trainings for ordinary farmers the sessions done during this period were again 15 with two hundred and seventy nine (279) (154Female and 135Male) Farmers having an opportunity of taking part in the trainings. These trainings for ordinary farmers were conducted from Just after Lead Farmers were trained up until the end of the rain season. This is so as the rain season is the only period when the effects of use of check-dams can be seen as erosion is still taking place. The impacts of the trainings are seen through the practice of check-dam construction by villagers in reclaiming their land i.e. at Nazombe, where villagers tried to reclaim part of the road which was being washed away by road side run-off.

COVAMS 3rd ANNUAL REVIEW AND PLANNING MEETING

The 2010 annual review and planning meeting for 2011 calendar year was held for the second time at Indaba executive lodge at Chigumula from 31st January to 4th February, 2011. AEDCs for Kunthembwe and Lunzu EPA attended for the first time and their participation contributed a lot to the planning of the new target areas for 2011. The participants comprised of Project Extension Officers, Field Management Officers, AEDCs and the Management team that comprised of both Japanese experts and their Malawian Counterparts.

The theme for this year's meeting was self introspection and this meant that most sessions were to be done in groups for the various teams to assess themselves on how they had performed in the just ended year and later make presentations of their findings and corrective measures instituted for improvement, for comments from the whole house. The management team focused their self scrutiny on how they had conducted monitoring, system of management were done and communication with PIUs and other stake holders; the FMOs focus was on information delivery, skills in planning and execution of plans and monitoring of field activities. The extension team looked at skills in training conduction, monitoring, advisory services delivery and understanding of project operation system.

The greatest outcome from the meeting was the target area extension in Kuntaja, which would include the whole of the Traditional Authority southern part, and three sections in TA Kapeni.

Four new PIUs were also added from Agriculture and Community Development sectors.



The 2010 COVAMS Project Annual Review Meeting in progress at Indaba Executive Lodge.



For further information and Questions, please contact

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