



COVAMS



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Procedures to Village Selection

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

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The project for Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire

Procedures to village selection

This is a working paper as a project document of the procedures taken to select target villages for year 2008 in order to implement PRODEFI approach.

Summary

Two TAs, TA Kapeni and TA Kuntaja are the target areas for the project activities.

The first activity the project took was to set criteria for selection of target villages in order to implement PRODEFI approach. 10 criteria were set after a discussion by project staff including a Malawian counterpart. After the setting of the criteria, target areas and tentative 14 PIU members were selected accordingly. The project designed a survey questionnaire to conduct Bio-physical and socio-economic conditions in the areas, and the PIU members conducted the survey with total number of 8 villages selected two prioritized villages in each group village which scattered from south to north of Lunzu river flowing between the two TAs.

The intention of the project staff was to select a village in each group villages. The project however, made second thought and came up with an idea of selecting areas near Blantyre, considering the efficiency of project activities as this is the first year of the project. Finally, 7 villages (3 in TA Kuntaja and 4 TA Kapeni) and 11 PIU members are selected for the year 2008.

1. Steps

The project team took the following procedures of the work for selection of villages;

- i) Setting of criteria for village selection
- ii) Nomination of candidate Project Implementation Unit members
- iii) Preliminary village selection
- iv) Survey of bio-physical and socio-economic conditions
- v) Physical observation of the site
- vi) Selection of villages for year 2008
- vii) Selection of PIU members

2. Setting of criteria for village selection

10 criteria were set initially for selection of target villages. These are the following;

1. Good leadership by village headman
2. Can afford land for tree planting
3. Hazard area (erosion, barren, bare land)

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4. Availability of water for irrigation purpose
5. Previous experiences of communal work in the village
6. Current positive action towards the tree planting by the community
7. The village economic conditions
8. The village which is not taken for the study or pilot project
9. Opinions from TA, ADD and CD
10. Accessible to the village

However, another criterion is added after the review of the criteria in order to avoid conflict between the different organizations and deliver an equal opportunity to villages in the target areas, which is “No organization is operating on Afforestation”. With this criterion, the extent of areas is focused on Kapeni Western and Northern areas and Kuntaja Eastern and Northern areas.

3. Nomination of candidate Project Implementation Unit members

Upon selecting the target areas, the project decided to select field extension officers as PIU members whose duty areas are within the target areas. As a result, 15 members were nominated to be PIU members from various sectors such as Forestry extension officers, Agriculture extension officers and Community development officers.

4. Preliminary village selection

One Traditional Authority (TA) consists of several group villages and so does a group village headman with villages. This is the administrative structure in Malawi.

In the selected areas of the project, there are 4 group villages in each area, those are Mchere, Jamison, Manjombe and Kumponda, and Kachakwala, Mdala, Lemu and Kammata in TA Kapeni and TA Kuntaja respectively.

The project suggested PIU members to nominate 4 villages in each group village according to the village selection criteria and prioritize among the four villages. The PIU members were going to conduct bio-physical and socio-economic surveys for two villages, and the results would be compiled for comparison between the villages for selection. (see Table 1)

5. Survey of Bio-physical and socio-economic conditions

5.1 Preparation of the survey

A draft survey sheet for the bio-physical and socio-economic conditions was designed and conducted its trial in Chuma and Zwanya village in TA Kuntaja and TA Kapeni

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Table 1: Villages selected tentatively

TA Kapeni			TA Kuntaja		
Group village name	Prioritization	Village name	Group village name	Prioritization	Village name
Mchere	1 ✓	Whayo	Kachakwala	1 ✓	Kachakwala
	2	Kandiwo		2	Nseule
	3 ✓	Mchere		3 ✓	Wilson
	4	Post Masulani		4	Chigonawaya
Jamison	1 ✓	Masangano	Mdala	1 ✓	Kantumbiza
	2 ✓	Cedrick		2	Kalombola
	3	Kampaka		3 ✓	Kafere
	4	Kajawo		4	Chinkanda
Manjombe	1 ✓	Mtema	Lemu	1 ✓	Masangano
	2	Wotala		2 ✓	Makanani
	3	Maliyana		3	Michongwe
	4 ✓	Ben Ligogo		4	Kasawala
Kumponda	1 ✓	Kamwendo	Kammata	1 ✓	Chitawira
	2	Khwisa		2 ✓	Chuma
	3	Biyani		3 ✓	Tambala
	4 ✓	Chiwalo		4	Chimseusawa

*The villages with ✓ mark have conducted the bio-physical and socio-economic survey. Chuma village is selected as pilot village.

respectively. After the trial, the project staff had discussions with the enumerators of extension officers and within the project staff to review the survey sheet. As a result, the survey sheet was modified to make it simpler and finalized. At the same time, it was observed that the number of the participants in a survey will not require many since the questions are simple. Then the project decided to invite around 10 people such as Village Development Committee members, chairmen and secretaries of other committees and 5 ordinary people to minimize time.

The project suggested to the PIU members to form teams (see table 2). A team should be assigned at least one lady officer in order to conduct the survey as well as project activities effectively, with consideration to gender issues.

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Table2: Team composition.

TA Kapeni		TA Kuntaja	
Group village	PIU members	Group village	PIU members
Mchere	Mr. Nsiku Mrs. Machinjili Mr. Andiwochi	Katchakwala	Mrs. Mulekano Mr. Khomba Mr. Nkhoma
Jamison	Mr. Kasawe Mrs. Salamu Ms. Kalagho	Mdala	Mrs. Chagoma Mr. Bauleni Mr. Mbewe
Manjombe	Mr. Thole Mrs. Andiwochi Mrs. Banda	Lemu	Mrs. Mulekano Mr. Nkhoma Mr. Khomba
Kumponda	Mr. Chisale Mr. Nsiku Mrs. Banda	Kammata	Mrs. Chagoma Mr. Bauleni Mr. Mbewe

The survey schedule was planned by the teams, coordinating the date of the survey so that there would be no conflict with other teams and their duties.

5.2 Conducting of survey

The survey was conducted from Feb. 4, 2008 and ended on Feb. 18, 2008 using survey sheet for bio-physical and socio-economic conditions (refer to the survey sheet) designed by the project. The survey was completed within half day in most of the villages although the number of participants in some village was large. The results were compiled (refer to survey results on bio-physical and socio-economic conditions) and shared with the project staff.

6. Physical observation of the site

A part from the surveys, the project staff also made site visits to know the physical features of villages. As a result, gullies are more often observed in villages of southern part than the villages near Lunzu River and Lirangwe River which are northern part, although the villages near rivers seem to have poorer soils for cultivation.

Cropping pattern is also different. Groundnuts are planted more in the northern part and the growth of maize seems not so good, compared to the ones in the southern part.

7. Suggestions for village selection from project overall advisor Mr. Noda

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Mr. Noda made some suggestions for the village selection after site visits, these are;

- More critical situation was observed in the southern part when it comes to the magnitude of contribution to siltation to Shire River, although soil fertility in the northern part seems to be poorer than the one in the southern part.
- Considering the efficiency of the project activities, it is better to start from southern part so that more close monitoring to gain effective experience can be made.
- Closer villages may increase the efficiency on time consumptions for delivery of training materials and other things and impact of the project activity, and
- The villages with large number of households should be considered as several villages for the implementation of trainings.

8. Village selection

3 JICA experts and one Malawian counterpart shared the result of the bio-physical and socio-economic conditions survey results. During the discussion on village selection among the members, the followings had become the most critical criteria for decision making;

- the efficiency of the project activities
- size of the village
- situation of soil erosion

The situation of erosion made no difference on the survey results. Hence, the project staff used the observations during the site visits for decision making.

As a result of the discussion, the following villages showed in table 3 have been selected.

Table 3: Selected villages as target for year 2008

TA Kapeni			TA Kuntaja		
Group village	village	No. of household	Group village	Village	No. of household
Kumponda	Zwanya	56	Kammata	Chuma	76
	Chiwalo	79*		Chitawila	58*
	Kamwendo	144*		Tambala	56*
Manjombe	Mtema	500*			

Note: The numbers of household with * are not confirmed yet as of Mar. 10, 2008. It is according to the survey results.

The project was initially going to select 10 villages in each year. However, it may cause anxiety to the project staff and the PIU members to handle such number of villages in the first year without any experience in PRODEFI approach. Therefore, the project

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decided that it should be commenced from smaller number and gradually be increased as experience is gained.

The three villages in TA Kuntaja are close to each other as located in one group village. There is another group composed of two villages Masangano and Makanani village, near these three villages selected in another group village. This group will be a reserve for this year in case the training activities implemented smoothly in the three villages. Mtema village in TA Kapeni has large extent of boundary and large number of households, could be considered as five villages. Therefore, the project selected only four villages this year in this TA. Although Mtema village belongs to different group village from other three, the access road is the same as the others so time efficiency can be maintained

9. Selection of PIU members

Initially fifteen extension officers were cooperating to the project activities, especially for the bio-physical and socio-economic survey. As the villages selected for year 2008, it has been reduced to 11 PIU members whose duty areas are around the selected villages.

Table 4: Team, PIU members and in charge villages.

TA Kapeni			TA Kuntaja		
Village	Name of PIU	Office	Village	Name of PIU	Office
Zwanya	Andiwochi	Forestry	Chuma	Mwachumu	Agriculture
	Chisale	Agriculture		Khomba	Forestry
Kamwendo	Banda	Agriculture	Chitawira	Bauleni	Agriculture
Chiwalo	Kalagho	Forestry		Mbewe	Forestry
Mtema	Thole	Agriculture	Tambala	Chagoma	Community
	Nsiku	Community		Bauleni	Agriculture

10. Lessons learnt

The project gave an explanation meeting with the PIU members on the bio-physical and socio-economic conditions survey sheet and composition of the participants. However, some of the PIU members seemed not to have properly understood. Before conducting some surveys, the project should give more time to explain the questions and conditions without rushing.