



Productive activities

COVAMS carried out training courses in productive activities since early 2008. The training courses were planned based on the request from villagers following the PRODEFI principles¹. Training subjects covered by COVAMS were 1) Business management, 2) Fish farming, 3) Vegetable growing, 4) Beekeeping, 5) Improved stove making and 6) Tree growing.

As mentioned in the News Letter No.1, COVAMS provides practical training with necessary materials for training. After the training, villagers implement productive activities by utilizing result of the practical training.

Fish farming, vegetable growing and beekeeping activities have completed one cycle of the production, and villagers got harvest. Business management knowledge was fully utilized to manage properly harvested crops to the next cycle of production.

All training courses started from lecture and continued to practice. Following are some of the training scenes captured in the villages. One of the PRODEFI principles, training for all could be observed from the scenes.



Lecture in the church



Lecture under trees

Fish Farming (Chuma Village)

12 villagers of Chuma were given training on basic principle of Fish Farming in April 2008. Villagers had spent their time to construct a fish pond for almost 6 months. After that they were trained on fish feeding and visited Domasi farmers who were doing fish farming. They learnt how Domasi farmers were managing fish farming. As the third training, Fish pond management training was conducted in June 2009. Finally, they harvested 11 Kg of fish in August 2009. It took more than one year to complete one cycle of activity from preparation to harvest.



Fish Pond Construction



Harvest Practice



Harvest

Vegetable Growing (Kamwendo village)

Vegetable growing in the dry season is one of the good income generating activities. 30 villagers of Kamwendo village were trained on vegetable growing in March 2009 at the end of rainy season. 18 villagers succeeded to grow cabbage, onion and tomato. They sold the harvests and kept some profit to buy seeds for next cultivation.



Sowing Bed Construction



Nursery Management



Harvest

Beekeeping Training (Chiwalo Village)

Villagers are interested in beekeeping very much after seeing the result of harvest in Chiwalo village. Many villagers realized considerable amount of cash income after selling of honey. Beekeeping can contribute a lot in the tree growing activities since flowers of plants are source of honey production. Beekeepers recognize importance of existing vegetation and try to increase trees and plants by planting them.



Bee- suit Making



Beehive Construction

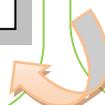
Sequences of Beekeeping Training



Honey Harvest and Processing



Beehive Hanging



Integrated Village Training Approach (IVTA) and Specified Village Training Approach (SVTA)

At the consultation survey in 2009, COVAMS training approach in productive activities was named as Integrated Village Training Approach (IVTA), since it is covering many subjects based on the request from villagers. Training in soil erosion control and tree growing subjects were named as Specified Village Training Approach (SVTA), since it is set training subjects by COVAMS on specific subjects.



For further information and Questions, please contact

The Project for Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire

c/o Regional Forestry Office (South) P.O.Box 5493, Limbe, Malawi

Tel/Fax: +265-1-847-432 covamsproject@gmail.com

1) PRODEFI is the former JICA technical cooperation project in Senegal. It stands for *Projet Communautaire de Développement Forestier Intégré* in French. English translation is *Integrated Community Forestry Development Project*. There are Five principles; [1] Participants are trained in their respective villages [2] Training is conducted with available local resources (human & material) [3] Training matches with the villagers' needs [4] Training is open to all members in the village [5] Training can be repeated as long as there is demand