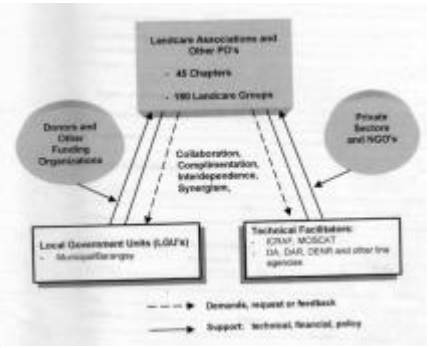


LANDCARE - Claveria Landcare Association (CLCA)

Philippines

Associations that help diffuse, at low cost, soil and water conservation technologies among upland farmers to generate income while conserving natural resources.

Aim/objectives: In parts of the Philippines, farmers who are interested in learning and sharing knowledge about sustainable land management and new SWC measures organise themselves into the so-called 'Landcare' associations. These self-help groups are a vehicle for knowledge exchange, training and dissemination of SWC technologies. A main objective is the empowerment of farmers' groups in their efforts to improve their livelihoods as well as the environment. Landcare has three components and aims at strengthening collaboration between those: (1) grassroot farmers' organisations (Landcare organisations); (2) technical facilitators, for example the World Agroforestry Centre (formerly the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry: ICRAF) and government and academic agencies and (3) Local Government Units (LGUs). The Landcare associations are structured as municipal groups, village groups (barangay level or affiliate peoples' organisations), and village sub-groups (sitio or purok level). This ensures effective dissemination of technologies from the municipal level down to the smallest village. To give the associations a legal status, they are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Landcare associations conduct regular monthly meetings to promote exchange of information, ideas, and experience, thus promoting spread of SWC technologies. Extension service is carried out through the Local Government Units, which allocate 20% of their development funds for Landcare related activities such as meetings, training and visits, and nursery establishment. Farmers organised in Landcare groups have better access to technical and financial support for SWC activities from LGUs and other technical facilitators.

Methods: LGUs also enact local laws to encourage adoption of SWC technologies, such as giving tax incentives, and Landcare members are given priority access to programmes and financial assistance. Landcare acts as a guarantor against loans. The facilitating agencies provide technical assistance, and also help create an environment of dynamism among Landcare groups. A link is created between Landcare associations and these service providers. Landcare enhances sharing of labour, builds camaraderie, and encourages group decisions on matters relating to SWC. The approach is spreading rapidly: from the original one association with 25 members in 1996, this increased to 45 groups with over 4,000 members by 1999.

left: Map of the Philippines highlighting Claveria, Misamis Oriental; and Lantapan and Malitbog, Bukidnon.
right: An organogram that points out important actors within the approach.
Location: Misamis Oriental,
Approach area: 142.00 km^2
Type of Approach: traditional/indigenous
Focus: mainly on conservation with other activities
WOCAT database reference: A_PHI004en
Related technology(ies): Natural Vegetative Strip (NVS) (PHI03)
Compiled by: Not registered
Date: Before 1992
Contact person: Dennis Garrity, ICRAF-Southeast Asian Regional Program, Bogor, Indonesia; D.Garrity@cgiar.org

Problem, objectives and constraints

Problems

- Land Degradation. - lack of appropriate local organisations and institutions. - low adoption of SWC technologies. - financial problems. - food/nutritional insecurity.

Aims/Objectives

- organise farmers with common concerns, problems, needs and aspirations into self help groups. - establish farmers' groups as conduits for financial and other support for SWC technologies. - empower farmers' groups in their efforts to improve their livelihoods as well as the environment. - strengthen working linkages between farmers and the LGU, NGOs and technical facilitators. - promote sharing of new technologies, information, ideas and experiences about sustainable agriculture and natural resources management among Landcare groups and members. - facilitate collective efforts in activities - which cannot be carried out at household level (eg communal nurseries). - assist in the marketing of agroforestry-derived products of the members, and to develop links to studies on agroforestry based farming

Constraints addressed

	Constraint	Treatment
technical	insufficient knowledge of farmers on land and animal husbandry	farmers training and cross visits to nearby farmers.
financial	insufficient capital	Members of Landcare are recommended to lending institutions for production loans.
legal / land use and / water rights	insecurity of land tenure - since some land is classified as forest land and belongs to the government.	Speed up the land reclassification and land registration program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Participation and decision making

Stakeholders / target groups


planners


land users, individual


SLM specialists / agricultural advisors


land users, groups

Approach costs met by:

local community / land user(s) (LGU)	80%
international non-government (ICRAF)	20%
Total	**100%**

Annual budget for SLM component: US$

Decisions on choice of the Technology(ies) mainly by land users supported by SLM specialists

Decisions on method of implementing the Technology(ies): mainly by land users supported by SLM specialists

Approach designed by: national specialists, international specialists, land users

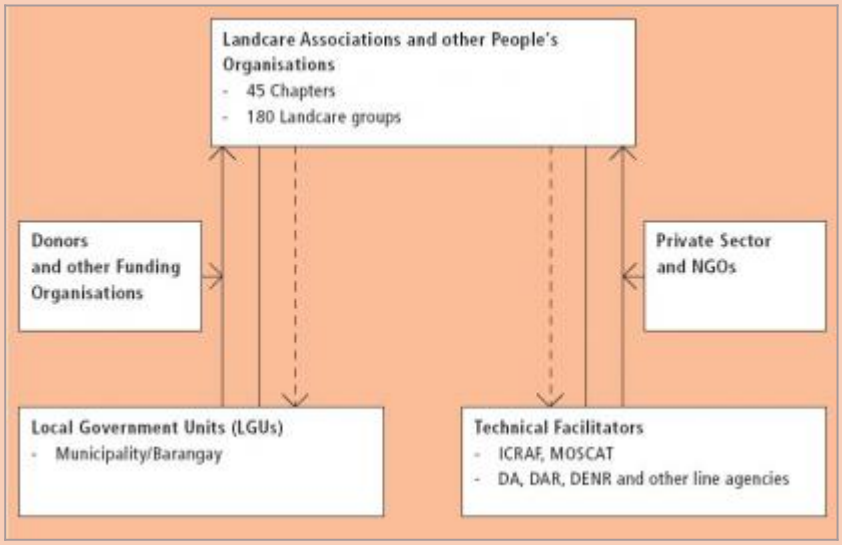
Implementing bodies: local community / land users (Local government units (LGU's)), international non-government (ICRAF), government (Department of Agriculture)

Land user involvement

Phase	Involvement	Activities
Initiation/motivation	Interactive	Mainly:public meetings; partly: rapid/participatory rural appraisal
Planning	Interactive	Mainly: public meetings; partly: rapid/participatory rural appraisal
Implementation	Self-mobilisation	Mainly: responsibility for major steps; partly: responsibility for minor steps
Monitoring/evaluation	Interactive	Mainly: measurements/observations; partly: public meetings;
Research	Interactive	on-farm; supported by LGU, academics, ICRAF

Differences between participation of men and women: Yes, moderate
Men attend public meetings and make the major decisions regarding field activities. Women carry out home-related/domestic tasks.

Involvement of disadvantaged groups: Yes, great
Members of Landcare regardless of wealth status have equal voice. Policy decisions are arrived at collectively. However, decision on the farm is done by the farmer himself.



Organogram: The diagram demonstrates the collaboration, complementarity, interdependence and synergism between the actors. Explanations: ->Support (technical, financial, policy) --->Demands, requests, feedback IC

Technical support

Training / awareness raising:
Training provided for land user
Training was on-the-job, demonstration areas, site visits / farmer to farmer
Training focused on Training (by LGU, ICRAF, academics) in tree nursery establishment and seeding, soil sampling and soil fertility assessment, layout of contours for natural vegetative strips, and pest and disease control in the farm

Advisory service:
Key elements:
1. Trainings and visit
2. Formation of Landcare groups
3. Technical backstopping to Landcare groups

1) Mainly: government's existing extension system, Partly: projects own extension structure and agent 2) Mainly: government's existing extension system, Partly: projects own extension structure and agent; Extension staff: specifically hired project employees
The extension system is quite adequate to ensure continuation of activities. Some farmers are trained and used as extension agents, especially for layout of contour lines. The extension service of the government is now carried out through the LGUs. Its functioning is adequate, but most of the staff tend to be poorly motivated and are lacking in direction. Planning is still 'top-down' from national/regional level. Activities and projects are target driven and set by

Research:
Yes, great research. Topics covered include sociology, technology
Mostly on-farm research.

External material support / subsidies

Contribution per area (state/private sector):
.

Labour: Voluntary. land preparation, nursery establishment, laying out contour, maintenance of contour strips

Inputs:
- Agricultural (seeds, fertilizers, etc): seeds, tree & coffee seedlings, fertiliser,. breeding animals, partly financed

Credit: Credit was not available There has been no credit provided directly for SWC activities (some land users may have obtained credit but not directly for SWC activities, although SWC practitioners were given preference for loans for fertilizers, seeds.

Support to local institutions: Yes, great support with training

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitored aspects	Methods and indicators
bio-physical	Regular observations
no. of land users involved	Regular measurements

Changes as result of monitoring and evaluation:
There were no changes in the approach.

Impacts of the Approach

Improved sustainable land management: Yes, great; The approach has greatly helped land users in the implementation of soil and water management technologies. Farmers now adopt 'natural vegetative strips' (NVS). Large farms (> 3 ha) have generally evolved into commercial production of tree crops (coffee) and trees (timber).

Adoption by other land users / projects: Yes, many; Many other NGOs, local government units (LGUs) and line agencies have adopted - and further adapted - the Landcare approach in their respective areas. The approach has been proven effective and it is now being looked upon as a model for the implementation of SWC and other related activities, particularly in Mindanao.

Training, advisory service and research:

- Training effectiveness

  School children / students: fair
  Agricultural advisor / trainers: good
  Politicians / decision makers: good
  Land users*: good
  Teachers: good
  SLM specialists: excellent
  Planners: excellent

- Advisory service effectiveness

  School children / students: fair
  Teachers: fair
  Technicians / conservation specialists: good
  Politicians / decision makers: good
  Planners: good
  Land users*: good

- Research contributing to the approach`s effectiveness: Greatly
  Landcare groups technical needs are growing and evolving to many directions. Research results are fed to the Landcare groups to meet their needs as well as to get feedback for the technology. Farmers appreciate, evaluate and accept or reject the technology on the basis of joint evaluation.

Land/water use rights:
Help - greatly in the implementation of the approach. Land tenure is still an important factor in adoption of SWC technology. Providing simple technology in establishment and maintenance enhance adoption. Landcare groups exist where tenants are members. They adopt SWC technology.
The approach did reduce the land/water use rights problem (moderately). Land ownership promotes wider adoption of SWC technology as farmers invest to something certain. Tenants are not that willing to immediately adopt SWC technologies.

Long-term impact of subsidies:
The impact of incentives has still to be reviewed and evaluated. Although incentives certainly hasten the adoption of SWC technologies, in some cases interest is not sustained once these incentives are discontinued. There should perhaps be some system of preferential assistance to those who adopt technologies without incentives.

Concluding statements

Main motivation of land users to implement SLM:

Sustainability of activities:

Yes the land users can sustain the approach activities without support.
Landcare has become an integral part of civil organisation. Landcare is a triangulation of grassroot organizations (farmers), local government units (LGU's), and technical failitators. The financial resource required for this approach are imbedded in the regular budget of municipal or barangay. The LGU's (politicians consider Landcare groups as political machinery and voting blocks. If they

Strengths and → how to sustain/improve	Weaknesses and → how to overcome
1) Promotes rapid adoption of SWC technologies. Provides easy and fast access/implementation of SWC technologies → Encourage meetings and cross-visits between Landcare groups to share knowledge, ideas and experience. Encourage Landcare members to participate in information and education campaigns. Encourage Landcare members to IEC	1. Over-emphasis of political patronage by some LGUs alienates people of different orientation/background → Encourage a more transparent government at LGU particularly at barangay level
2)Encourages farmers to gain access to services and financial support from LGU, technical facilitators and service providers → Promote strong leadership among Promote strong leadership among Landcare groups. Encourage Landcare groups to be very open in requesting financial and technical assistance.	2. Some farmers join Landcare expecting handouts or grants → Project objectives and strategies should be explicitly explained to farmers
3) Provides a vehicle for participatory research and technical interventions and ensures that newly-developed technologies are appropriate → Encourage expression of needs by different Landcare groups.	3. It takes time to get consensus and to make them work together particularly at early stage → Landcare group leaders are to be trained in leadership skills and group facilitation and participation
4) Makes extension activities cost effective → Encourage farmer-to-farmer transfer of technology. LGU's to share the cost of technology transfer	4.Lack of leadership and organisation skills of some Landcare leaders, who are unable to guide groups into cohesive, dynamic organisation. It takes time to get consensus and to make them work together → Landcare group leaders need to be better trained in leadership skills group facilitation and participation
5) Ensures sustainability of actions → Continue to strengthen Landcare groups. Develop leadership skills.	5. Over reliance on ICRAF on technical innovation → Encourage farmers to conduct farmer level experimentation.
1) Access to technology is easier and faster → Encourage regular meeting, cross visits, informal sharing and training	1. participation entails time to be away from farm work → Meetings and discussions should be scheduled during evenings or holidays.
2) Promotes social integration and addresses other social issues which are beyond individual household capacity to solve (burials, weddings, etc) → Encourage regular meeting and conduct activities to enhance social integration	2. Individual problems not easily addressed, as few members are frank and open → Encourare everybody to share their problems and concerns
3) Makes farm workers easier → Encourage workgroups	