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Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management in Agro-Pastoral Production Systems of Kenya

January – March Narrative Report 2016



Prepared for:
United Nations Development Programme - Kenya

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2K

Cover photo: *Farmer tries out mechanized hay harvesting in Mbeere North*

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AESA	Agro Ecological System Analysis
ASALs	Arid and Semi- Arid Lands
DEC	District Environmental Committee
FFS	Field Farmer School
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GOK	Government of Kenya
KAPSLM	Kenya Agricultural Productivity Sustainable Land Management Project
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
KES	Kenya Shillings
KSPCA	Kenya Society for the Protection & Care of Animals
MOLD	Ministry of Livestock Development
PFS	Pastoral Field School
PMU	Project Management Unit
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework

INTRODUCTION

This progress report covers the period January to March 2016 and provides an account of progress achieved relative to planned activities for the quarter. The report also includes progress in administrative and management matters.

It is notable that the implementation of project activities during this quarter has been slow due to delayed funds release by the Government. Despite this drawback, the project was able to undertake some of the planned activities for the quarter and will roll over the unfinished activities to the 2nd quarter (April to June).

Achievements

Output 1.1: Knowledge based land use planning

❖ Test soil fertility in Pilot sites

The results of the soil tests conducted by the project in Mbeere North and Narok North sub counties and led by National Agricultural Research Laboratory were released to farmers. In Narok, the soil test results were released to 296 farmers. In Mbeere North, 10 FFS received their soil fertility test. The results will guide farmers in the decisions whether or not to use fertilizer, and the best appropriate agricultural practices to carry out on their farms to improve on the productivity of their farms.

❖ Weaning/graduation of existing Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

The sub counties have started the process of weaning the existing FFS in preparation for their graduation. All the existing FFS will be graduated in the 2nd Quarter.

❖ National Conference on SLM

The project in collaboration with KALRO, UoN and JKUAT developed the theme of the national conference on SLM to be held from 25th to 27th May 2016. The call for Abstracts was advertised in the Daily Nation and also shared with network of partners. The objective of the conference is to bring together land users, planners, policymakers, scientists and civil society organizations from research organizations, universities, government and non-governmental organizations to share knowledge and experiences on Sustainable Land Management.

Output 1.2: Community-based experiential learning on SLM

❖ Training best agro-pastoral practices

In preparation for the short rains, the district team has conducted an average of 3 trainings per



Land Preparation for FFS learning

Farmer/Pastoral Field schools on sustainable agriculture and water harvesting. In Narok North, 7 training sessions were conducted for 93 farmers on poultry management, environment management, drought tolerant crops, disease control and housing, livestock feeds conservation, maize agronomy and bean production. In Kyuso, 9 training sessions were conducted for Kyeni Kya Manzyundu and Suvia FFS on conservation agriculture, goat farming,

soil conservation and post harvest management. In Mbeere North, 57 training sessions were conducted for; Kabachi, Kuui, Kauraciri, Kioneki, Mwireri and Gacuriri FFS.

❖ Establishment of SLM award for FFS and schools in pilot districts

SLM award scheme is ongoing in the pilot sub counties to motivate and provide incentives to FFS innovators and students in primary and secondary school. In the quarter, all schools under the SLM award scheme were monitored to gauge their performance.

❖ Exchange programme for FFS

In Mbeere North, 28(17F, 11M) FFS members from 5 FFS visited Muranga, Baringo, Nakuru



Farmers tour –expectations levelling

and Nyeri Counties. The visit enhanced their knowledge on water harvesting for crops and fodder production, dairy farming in the dry areas, pasture production, small scale irrigation, beekeeping/honey refining and Melia production.

❖ *Field Days for Farmer Field Schools*

Field days are one of the avenues through which the farmers show-case their knowledge and also learn from the innovators in the districts. In Mbeere, one (1) field day with the theme ‘Diversifying livelihoods through sustainable land management practices and promoting livestock based trade’ was held at Karambari. A total of 114 (32M, 82F) persons participated.

Output 1.4: Rehabilitation of degraded lands

❖ *Rehabilitation of pastures*

Rehabilitation of the degraded lands through pasture re-seeding and tree planting continued in



Demo on grass harvesting in Mbeere North

the pilot districts. In Mbeere North,

125 kg of grass seeds (62kg C. gayana & 63Kgs E. superba) has

been procured to rehabilitate approximately 100 acres of

degraded lands. The project also supported a demo on pasture

mechanized harvesting and conservation. A total of 103

Farmers attended (23M, 80F). In addition, a demo on pasture/ fodder

value addition was held for Ovarire, Kandutu, Kuui, Kioneki and Njiga

FFS. A total of 50 members (22M, 28F) were trained. In addition, the farmers also dug 1300m of terraces and laid 550m of stone terraces.

In Narok North district, 12,750 metres were laid with terraces to promote soil conservation. A total of 1200 fruit and tree seedlings were planted in farms in Mulot and Ewaso Ngiro. One tree nursery was established at Katakala to enhance production of tree seedlings to improve rehabilitation. The project also sourced 54.5kgs of tree seeds from KEFRI and will aid in establishing tree nurseries to support rehabilitation. In addition, 10 farms in Ewaso Ngiro were planted with rhodes grass to enhance rehabilitation. A total of 50 hectares of degraded land was rehabilitated.

Output 1.5: Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

Field missions were undertaken in all pilot districts with the purposes of monitoring implementation progress. In Narok, PMU together with visitors from South Sudan working in collaboration with FAO visited the project sites and interacted with FFSs. They shared best practices on implementation of Farmer Field School Methodology.

Output 2.1: Livestock trade improved

❖ Support to the up-grading of the local breeds to increase productivity

In the quarter, the project supported improvement of local livestock breeds for purposes of increasing productivity and resilience against diseases. In Narok, the project procured and distributed 19 dairy goats to Olkilenyai FFS. The also project also distributed 90 kuroiler cockerels to upgrade local chicken breeds kept by the farmers in Suswa, Ewaso Ngiro and Mulot. In Mbeere, 10 dairy goats (9D,1B) were distributed to Mwireri FFS. In Dadaab, 10 German Alpine dairy goats were distributed to Welhar PFS. The project also distributed 31 kuchi birds to Kulan PFS.

Output 2.2: Access to market for alternative sustainable livelihoods options improved

In line with the project's objective of promoting livelihood diversification and value addition of products. In Narok, farmers were trained on honey harvesting and value addition and procurement of a centrifuge machine to assist farmers in processing honey was made. The livelihoods supported improves on food security and provision of incomes to the communities. In Mbeere North two 2 demos/ trainings on honey value addition were held at Ovarire beekeepers and Kauraciri. A total of 41 FFS members were trained (13M, 28F).

Output 2.4: Support increased agricultural productivity

Training on improved agricultural production was completed in the pilot districts. The communities are preparing their land in readiness for the short rain of April- June. In addition, Farmer Field schools tasked with management of established facilities such as water pan, borehole and spring were trained on resource management in Narok. In Dadaab, the project procured and distributed 30kg Simsim, 250 kg Maize, 80kg Sorghum, 25 tins of 50grms water melon and 60 kg Cowpeas that was planted in the Alkune drip irrigation farm.

Output 2.5 Support to Livestock Mobility

Livestock mobility in Narok district was enhanced through surveillance of diseases along common livestock migratory routes such as Narok-Suswa, Bomet/Narok - Chemorut, Ewaso Ngiro - Naroosura. Diseases identified included Blue tongue, PPR, and East Coast Fever. The exercise informed decision by the relevant departments to plan for provision of vaccines to counteract diseases. In

Output 2.6: Post-harvest losses minimized through better planning and private sector engagement

The project supported community adaptive capacity by improving post-harvest processes, reducing losses and vulnerability. In Narok, the project collaborated with meteorological department to develop advisories to assist farmers in preparation for the onset of April rains. Activities such as land preparation for cultivation, establishment of pastures and water harvesting. The information disseminated helped reduce losses as a result of prevailing weather conditions. In Mbeere North, 4 trainings were held on post-harvest management for Ovarire, Gacuriri, Kauraciri, Kabachi, Kuui farmer field schools. A total of 85 persons were trained (27M, 58F).

In Kyuso district, two trainings on Post harvest Management were also held to minimize losses for Makkki and Muungano FFS.

Output 2.7: Gender Mainstreaming in SLM policies and economic outcomes

The project continued to promote greater equality by empowering women and youth in decision making process, group leadership roles, project activities, resource management and allocation in all pilot districts.

Output 3.3: Implementation of charcoal rules tested on the ground

The project supported adoption of energy efficient technologies in the pilot sub counties. In Mbeere North, 7 demos were conducted on installation of household rocket stoves for Mwireri, Kauraciri, Gacuriri, Kabachi, Kioneki, Magacha, Kuui FFS, as part of promoting energy efficient technologies among pastoral communities in line with Outcome 3 of project. In Kyuso, a total of

120 energy saving jikos were procured and distributed to 120 FFS households. The FFS members that received the stoves were recorded so that the project monitors the use and efficiency of the stoves in Kyeni and Manzyundu. The adoption and use of the jikos will reduce deforestation since less fuel wood is required.

Administrative Matters

❖ Project Management Unit

- The National Project Manager participated in the Cabinet Secretary's brief by sector programme and project coordinators. The one day meeting that was held on 8th March 2016 in Nairobi and brought together Directors, Programme Officers and Coordinators from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.
- The National Project Manager gave presentation of SLM approaches, achievements, experiences, and lessons learnt and opportunities for up scaling to the participants of KAPSLM CSOs and CECs workshop in held 8th to 11th March 2016 in Mtwapa. The objective of the workshop was to develop a County Sustainable Land Management Investment Framework (CSIF) that will be used to guide the prioritization, planning and implementation, by both the public and private sector of current and future investments in SLM in Kenya.
- Tagging of equipments and furniture for, Mbeere-North, Kyuso and Dadaab sub counties have been done.
- On 17th March 2016, the project management unit led a delegation of FAO and Government Official from South Sudan in a field visit in Narok North District. The field visit included a visit to three farmer field schools.
- The project is also in the process of hiring consultants to develop project document for Phase two.
- TOR for SLM documentary has been drafted and shared with UNDP Communications.
- The project has been audited by Ernst and Young for the financial year 2015 (January to December). The report is yet to be released.
- Kyuso office done an engine over-haul of the project vehicle GKA 345Z.
- The project bought various stationeries and other supplies for office use.
- The project supported servicing/repair of project vehicles, renewal of insurance for both district and PMU vehicles.

- The AIEs for January to June have not been issued to all the pilot sub counties.

❖ **Field office**

- The sub county offices are involved in day-to-day implementation of project activities.

❖ **GOK FINANCE (2015/2016)**

- The project has been allocated a total of Ksh. 18, 000,000 as part of GOK co-finance for January 2016 to June 2016.
- The project has been allocated a total of Ksh. 68,000,000 as part of GOK co- finance for July 2016 to June 2017 Financial year.

Signatures:



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