

An efficient working process, built on complementary actions, involving most local stakeholders, and beneficial for a wide range of target groups!

The project's working process was characterized by a diversified action plan related to the project's objectives and relevant to the local target groups. Each step of the implementing process was jointly and consensually organized with the involved partners and stakeholders. The whole process was built on a succession of 3 complementary phases, i.e.:

- Phase 1:** Organization of demand-driven trainings/courses based on theoretical materials and supported by practical field sessions in a limited number of pilot zones. The aim was to assess the implementation process and adjust the inconveniences before extending to more pilot areas. The trainings/courses were performed by a selected group of local trainers from different local organizations acting in environmental, forestry and agriculture sector in Tajikistan. Different target groups such as foresters, forest and land users, farmers, rural communities, women and school children have been involved. The training sessions reflect actual topics related to forest/land use problematic in the concerned pilot areas, e.g. land restoration, forest/land sustainable management, erosion control, agroforestry, horticulture, efficient use of water, etc.



Field training sessions

During this phase several training sessions have been also organized for the benefit of the local trainers. The aim was to improve their methodological and pedagogical capacity and guide them to provide the different target groups of trainees with appropriate, useful and accessible information.

- Phase 2:** Extension of the activities to other pilot areas, all over the country, through applying "learning by doing" approach. Accordingly, the project has implemented a variety of practical trainings and contributed in realizing useful actions having "demonstrative" and "income generating" purposes. The priority was given to activities susceptible to provide local communities with additional incomes and bring added value for their products such as plantations of fruit trees, organization of small scale nurseries, bee keeping, fruit processing, valuable medical herbs cultivation, etc.



Income generating activity: Bee keeping

- **Phase 3:** In addition to regular training of trainers responsible for the formulation and the performance of the courses, the project has also centered attention on capacity building of trainees who revealed skills and competencies and expressed their interest in getting additional knowledge.

Accordingly, a number of trainees (men and women), from different region of the country, have been accompanied in a learning process guided by a group of senior trainers. This started by organizing some sessions on “basic” topics related to forest/land use in Tajikistan. Then, the priority was given to targeted subjects, suggested by the trainees themselves and which characterize the specificity of the context and the problems that are facing in their own living environment.

Some concrete results!

- ➔ **59 theoretical and practical training courses with 954 trainees from different target groups (foresters, forest and land users, farmers, etc.) in 20 districts in Tajikistan as well as in cross border areas (Afghanistan).**
- ➔ **11 training sessions for local trainers;**
- ➔ **20 income generating activities with totally 358 beneficiaries;**
- ➔ **Plantation of a total of 317 hectares, out of which 297 hectares of forest trees and 20 hectares of fruit trees.**



Valuable Informative and instructive materials for the benefit of the local stakeholders!

The project has elaborated a compilation of didactic and instructive materials illustrating useful and updated information; reflecting several factual needs, problems and challenges facing the forestry and land use in Tajikistan, and recommending realistic and appropriate solutions and alternatives.

In deed, the content of each implemented course (theoretical or practical) was structured, formulated in accessible way, edited as **hand outs** and distributed to the target groups. Most of the trainings/courses implemented in the frame work of the project activities have been systemized and edited as **proceedings**, and distributed to the targeted groups, local organizations and institutions, notably those working with (vocational) training in the sphere of environment, forestry and land use in Tajikistan.

Moreover, several **field books, guidelines and brochures** on actual and specific topics relevant for the local stakeholders, have been elaborated, edited and distributed. An instructive movie about erosion control was made for use for training courses, etc. To keep informing partners, stakeholders and other local organizations about the progress of the project's activities, a sequence of newsletters reproducing the main steps of the implementation process and the significant realized actions or events.



Some illustrations of the informative and instructive materials elaborated during the project

Project's concluding seminar: Learned experience and the way to develop the achieved results!

The project's concluding seminar was held in Dushanbe the 28th of May 2015. In this working session took part representatives of local partners, international organizations and different target groups who have been involved in the working process (rural communities). The aim was to discuss and share views about experiences learned from the project's activities and formulate perspectives to develop the achieved results.



During this interactive meeting, the participants gave a positive assessment for the results achieved by the project; they linked this with the project's applied approach, i.e. constructive combination of theoretical and practical pedagogy.

The participants have particularly underlined the project’s efforts regarding capacity building of different target groups through performing a wide range of practical courses and supporting diverse activities relevant for the rural communities. There was a common conviction that such approach and results are a strong basis to structure a sustainable set up of extension services and vocational trainings that would lead to rural development in Tajikistan.



Representatives of local partners, international organizations and local communities discussing the project’s achieved results and the way to develop them



In this perspective, the audience made accent on how to instruct and guide rural people and communities to develop business activities and promote green economy initiatives that could bring added value for local grown products, generate incomes and create employment possibilities, notably for disadvantaged rural people (women and men).



The participants raised also several aspects which purposely concern the necessity of organizing and implementing extensive “community-based training program” to increase “entrepreneurship skills” of rural communities and provide them with useful information and practical support regarding effective use of production services and facilities (processing, preserving and marketing of products).

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