



FAO/A. Conti/Zambia

Welcome to the third issue of the SARD Initiative Newsletter!

The third issue of our newsletter reviews recent news, events and projects of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative. Information on the Cultural Indicators technical paper is provided and a call for peer reviewers made. An example of a SARD Good Practice occurring in Kenya is described to support our call for submissions of SARD Good Practices to contribute to the creation of a compendium of SARD Good Practices. We introduce our new Resource Facility Manager and announce two new publications, a Solution Exchange Booklet and the SARD Project Toolkit. Further information on the activities carried out by the Sustainable Development Facility is provided. Finally, details on other SARD events and training opportunities are also given.

The SARD Initiative newsletter provides updates and information on activities implemented by the Initiative and its progress and achievements in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The newsletter is addressed to different stakeholders implementing SARD and is devoted to stimulating dialogue among them, facilitating innovative approaches, exchange of lessons learned and good practices, as well as information and knowledge sharing.

It is distributed by e-mail and circulated among civil society organizations, government representatives, project managers and other stakeholders working on SARD. Please feel free to forward it to other interested parties.

This newsletter can also be downloaded from the SARD Initiative website www.fao.org/sard/initiative

The SARD Initiative Newsletter

Issue 3

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With the contributions of civil society



Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Indicators

Since 2002, FAO has been working with Indigenous Peoples' organizations to identify Cultural Indicators for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, a subject which was highlighted by the Indigenous Peoples' focal point as their top priority for the SARD Initiative. This interest was also expressed in the "Declaration of Atitlán" (2002) which emphasized the importance of Indigenous Culture for sustainable agriculture and food systems. With FAO support, the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) developed and administered a questionnaire on this subject in 2002 and produced a report on findings in 2003. In order to follow-up on this issue, FAO produced a draft Technical Paper, financed by the Government of Norway, entitled "*Cultural indicators of Indigenous Peoples' food and agro-ecological systems*".

The Technical Paper identifies ten indicator areas that relate to the interactions between food, agro-ecological systems and culture with the aim of promoting discussion, negotiation, and agreement on the most relevant indicators that should be considered in development interventions involving or affecting indigenous people.



FAO/D. Boerma/Peru

The paper is targeted towards Indigenous Peoples' organizations, UN agencies and other development actors and will include practical recommendations to avoid the erosion of indigenous cultures in the process of globalization and development.

The Technical Paper was presented at the '2nd Global Consultation on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples' (Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, 7-9 September 2006). The next

step is to carry out a peer review of the paper to verify, adapt and select the most relevant Cultural Indicators. If you would like to receive a copy of the Technical Paper and provide comments please email Eve Crowley or Stefania Menchinelli at: SARD-Initiative@fao.org by 15 October 2006.

Get involved with the SARD Initiative's effort to report to CSD 16-17 *Submit a Good Practice case study!*

The SARD Initiative announces a call for Good Practice case studies for a **Compendium of Demonstrated SARD Good Practices**. The Compendium will be a collaborative piece, featuring submissions from different organizations, and will be reported to the United Nations Commission of Sustainable Development in its 16 and 17th sessions (2008-2009) when agriculture and rural development will be on the Agenda. This will be an important opportunity to put forward evidence of SARD good practices that could inform CSD decisions.

Researchers and practitioners working to achieve SARD and interested in proposing good practices for the Compendium should submit a case study by the **30 November 2006**. Case studies should be original in nature* and clearly state the problem and the approach followed to address it, highlighting any innovative elements, lessons learned, success factors and constraints for replication. The case studies should follow the template we provide and define the scale of impact, specifying simple measurements of economic, environmental and social impact. Case studies should not exceed 3,000 words (5 pages, plus annexes) and should be written in English, French or Spanish.

All contributions will be reviewed and the best selected according to their completeness, quality, scale of impact, relevance to SARD and the three dimensions of sustainability. All good quality case studies, including those not selected for the Compendium, will be featured on the SARD Initiative good practices database. The technical and editorial committee may also request revisions prior to acceptance.

* Not previously published anywhere else.

Read the definition of a SARD Good Practice at: www.fao.org/sard/en/init/964/1578/index.html
Guidelines on how to collect information for Good Practices and the template to follow to submit a good practice case study will be posted on this webpage shortly. Please check back soon.

Find examples of good practices at: www.fao.org/sard/en/init/1574/1846/index.html
Questions, comments and case studies should be addressed to: Eve Crowley, Elisa Distefano or Sofia Naranjo.
Email: SARD-Initiative@fao.org

Community-managed livestock production and slaughterhouse: a good practice case study:



FAO/ R. Lemoyne/Kenya

Pastoralist communities in Kiserian, Kenya faced several constraints to make a living off their cattle. Due to the lack of adequate infrastructure for slaughtering, they used to slaughter the cattle in the open air, an unhygienic practice that resulted in lower quality products. No private slaughterhouses had been established due to the frequency of droughts and consequent variability in numbers of livestock for slaughter. Similarly, markets in the surrounding communities were too small whilst larger markets, such as that of Nairobi, were too far and difficult to reach. In order to overcome these constraints, 16 members of the Keekonyokie Maasai clan joined forces in 1981 to establish a slaughterhouse and form a livestock production and trade association.

The association, which in 1992 was registered as an official company, functions in the following manner: Five to six times a year, a group of members from the association travel to Tanzania to buy up to 200 animals and transport them to Kiserian. In order for

the slaughterhouse to maintain a constant level of production, members contribute varying numbers of cattle according to their capacity (between one and five). After the cattle are slaughtered, meat is certified by two government-sponsored veterinarians on site. The veterinarians also check the workers for occupational diseases, once every six months.

Once a month, the board of directors meets to distribute the revenue among the members through a twofold process. Firstly, cattle are restocked and each member receives back an equal number of cattle to the share originally contributed. Secondly, a social dividend that covers an agreed amount for health, education and funeral expenses, is given to each member and his family.

Members have been able to achieve higher incomes due to the 'quality premium' that certified meat provides and have improved their financial security due to the existence of a guaranteed market for their livestock. The slaughterhouse has also generated off-farm employment opportunities; aside from the 16 managing members, there are 15 permanent workers and 50 casual workers.

In 2004, some members received training in holistic management which enabled them to improve their grazing methods. This is expected to lead to lower environmental impacts in arid and semi-arid environments of the region. Nonetheless, other environmental concerns that the slaughterhouse poses still need to be addressed, namely polluting effluent, concentration of cattle dung in surrounding lands, and unsanitary conditions in the adjacent areas. Similarly, there is room for improvement in employment regulations, particularly regarding health and safety training and greater inclusion and acknowledgment of women's work.

The Keekonyokie slaughterhouse is a good example of a community initiative to overcome constraints typical of a rural setting in order to build a more sustainable future and an improved livelihood. The SARD Initiative aims to support groups like the Keekonyokie slaughterhouse by providing technical support through the Kenya Livestock Working Group.

For more information contact the Kenya Business and Industry Major Group Focal Point Michael Kibue: sardlivestock06@yahoo.com or Paola Termine (FAO-SARD): paola.termine@fao.org

Canadian Resource Facility Manager joins FAO-SARD team in August 06

Under a new agreement between FAO and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Government of Canada is contributing the expertise of a senior policy advisor to fill the position of SARD Resource Facility Manager for a one-year period beginning in August 2006. **Ms. Colleen Hyslop** has been appointed to the post with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Strategic Policy Branch. Her tasks will include promoting demonstrated good practices and appropriate technologies through a web-based inventory, developing communications materials, and analyzing gaps in available information and resources to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Ms. Hyslop brings to the team recent experience as manager of the Risk Reduction program with the AAFC Pest Management Centre. She directed the program's work with agricultural organizations to develop sustainable pest management strategies and foster the adoption of beneficial practices by farmers. Previously, she worked with Environment Canada in several areas, including endangered species, environmental assessment, and wildlife conservation. Ms. Hyslop obtained a Master of Science degree in biology from the University of Calgary in 1978 and a graduate diploma in International Development & Cooperation from the University of Ottawa in 1989.

Publication of a Solution Exchange Booklet in India : *"Integrating Sustainable Agriculture and Asset Building within the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act"*

On 5 September 2005, the Indian President approved the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA 2005). This act guarantees 100 days of employment a year to adults in rural households who are willing to do manual labour at the minimum wage. This represents a landmark in the history of social security legislation in India and a major initiative towards poverty reduction and income generation among rural poor families.



FAO/J. Isaac/ India

The SARD Initiative organized an initial brainstorming session (Delhi, February 2006) to identify possible methods for the SARD Initiative to support the implementation of NREGA in India. Stakeholders decided that some SARD good practices could be a useful focus for the type of pro-poor employment that NREGA supports. Stakeholders are now identifying relevant good practices such as indigenous people investments in infrastructure for natural resource management (NRM) and agricultural productivity enhancement (e.g. water harvesting, biofencing), as well as building and maintaining infrastructure that increases their access to markets and services.

The FAO representative in India and the SARD Initiative team are exploring this possibility in greater depth by consulting development practitioners in India. A query on how to integrate sustainable agriculture and asset building within NREGA was posted on 'Solution Exchange' (<http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in>), an initiative of the UN country team in India, which connects people who share similar concerns and interests through virtual communities. Twenty professionals working in international organizations, research institutes and NGOs responded to the query and provided practical recommendations. Respondents felt that in order for durable assets to be truly beneficial, communities must be involved in identifying projects through inclusive and participatory planning processes. Similarly, in order to guarantee that communities own and maintain the asset, public works must be demand driven.

Lessons from past experiences proved to be particularly valuable for orienting the future work of NREGA and of the SARD Initiative. An experience cited by a member from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, highlighted the importance of capacity

building in order to manage natural resources successfully. Similarly, the Gram Sabha (GS) and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) that received training to manage natural resources were better able to prepare a micro plan for the Employment Guarantee Schemes (EGS) public work projects in each village and to secure additional funds for their own projects. Another innovative project mentioned related to a community which was able to generate electricity from biological waste and thus create additional jobs. Respondents are convinced that under the NREGA, similar innovative community-led and -owned projects are possible. They provided a valuable set of SARD and asset building projects for that could be supported in the implementation of NREGA.

A consolidated summary of the responses, a list of recommended organizations and websites, and additional documentation can be downloaded from: ftp://ftp.fao.org/SD/SDA/SDAR/sard/solution_exchange_for_food_security.pdf



FAO/ G. Bizarri India

The Sustainable Development Facility

“The Facility for Sustainable Development and Policy Implementation Assistance” (GCP/INT/938/ITA) is an Italy-funded FAO pilot project aimed at supporting the sustainability and impacts of FAO projects involved in implementing Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD). During 2006, three projects were supported by the Sustainable Development Facility, including:

- **Guatemala**, April 2006. A mission was undertaken to study the outcomes of the Special Project for Food Security in Guatemala during 2004-2005. This project received support from the Spanish (GCP/GUA/009/SPA) and Italian

(GCP/GUA/011/ITA) governments. It involved a set of training and information dissemination activities, targeted towards decision makers at central and local levels, as well as highly-qualified technicians. The Sustainable Development Facility analysed documents, consulted 50 experts and beneficiaries, and undertook a set of field visits. The study concluded that the project was successful in influencing national policies and institutional frameworks on food security and in creating national capacity for policy implementation.

- **Vietnam**, May 2006. A mission was conducted to identify good practices and measures that could improve performance of the project ‘Capacity Building, Extension, Demonstration and Support for the Development of Market-Oriented Agroforestry in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam - Phase I (GCP/VIE/027/ITA)’. Capacity building in agro-forestry combined with measures to maintain people in forested areas until income can be generated from these activities is an example of the good practices identified.
- **Pacific Island countries**, June 2006. A field mission was held to participate in the Tripartite Review and Project Steering Committee meeting of the ‘Regional Programme for Food Security in the Pacific Island Countries’ (GTFS/RAS/198/ITA) which began in 2005. The mission supported the implementation of an improved monitoring and evaluation system and identified new funding opportunities to support continuity of the Regional partnership.

New Publication: The SARD Project Toolkit

A publication entitled SARD Toolkit for Project Designers and Managers was produced, with co-funding from the Governments of Norway and Italy, to support project staff and consultants, involved at various stages of the project cycle, to improve the sustainability and impacts of agriculture and rural development projects, including those projects that are already on-going. For more information and a copy of the toolkit please visit:

http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe2/pe2_060701_en.htm

The SARD Initiative

The Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative is a multi-stakeholder umbrella framework designed to support the transition to people-centred sustainable agriculture and rural development and to strengthen participation in programme and policy development. The Initiative helps to achieve SARD by supporting pilot efforts and building the capacity of rural communities, disadvantaged groups and other stakeholders to improve access to resources (e.g. genetic, technological, land, water, markets and information), to promote good practices for SARD, and to foster fairer conditions of employment in agriculture. This initiative contributes to the implementation of Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and offers all stakeholders an opportunity to participate in rural development to promote more equal benefit-sharing, reduce poverty, enhance livelihoods, and promote sustainable development. Since the launch of the SARD Initiative in Johannesburg by Major Groups and FAO in 2002, numerous new organizations such as policy advocacy and grassroots community groups at local and national level have expressed interest in implementation of SARD (Agenda 21) and participation in the SARD Initiative. Agenda 21 recognized the roles and responsibilities of **nine major groups of civil society**, which are **Indigenous Peoples, Farmers, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Local Authorities, Scientific and Technological Community, Children and Youth, Women, NGOs**. Participation in the SARD Initiative is open to all interested governments, Civil Society Organizations and Inter-governmental Organizations agreeing to the spirit of the Initiative and willing to contribute to it.

For more information, see our website at <http://www.fao.org/SARD/initiative>

Other recent and upcoming events

- Workshop on Up-Scaling Good Practices for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD). (17 May 2006, Rome, Italy).
- 2nd Inter-Agency Consultation on the Development of Policy Coherence on Child Labour in Agriculture (5 September 2006, Rome, Italy). A policy brief is being prepared with information gathered in the consultation and will be available soon.
- 2nd Global Consultation on the Right to Food and Food Security for Indigenous Peoples. (7-9 September 2006, Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua).
- Regional Workshop for Sub-Saharan Africa on Improving Tenure Security of the Rural Poor. (22 – 26 October 2006, Nakuru, Kenya).
- World Rural Forum (16 October 2006, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain)
- 32nd Session, Committee on World Food Security (30 October- 4 November 2006, Rome, Italy).
- 1st IFOAM Conference on Organic Certification (15-17 November 2006, Rome, Italy).

Training on SARD

A number of training courses related to SARD are available and can be accessed at the following sites:

- *Distance learning course: SARD Learning*. The core issue of SARD is capacity strengthening in order to give people the means to ensure their own development. This training course comprises four modules on education for rural people to disseminate sustainable technologies, economic and environmental skills, as well as information-sharing through extension services. This version is a first draft which needs improvements and is only available in CD Rom. Comments, critiques, as well as suggestions or examples are welcome. Readers will be informed when the final version is completed. To request a copy of the current CD Rom version please contact:
Jean Bonnal: jean.bonnal@fao.org or
Eve Crowley : Eve.Crowley@fao.org

The SARD Initiative would like to hear from any organization which has conducted training on SARD, in order to collect experiences and lessons, identify knowledge gaps and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Contact SARD-Initiative@fao.org