

Shughuli za pamoja za wakulima wa mradi wa PLEC wilaya ya Arumeru

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Background

Work started in 1998 with both sites of sub-humid Ng'iresi/Olgilai and semi-arid Kiserian. It started with selection of sites and soils characterization followed by on-farm experiments. Different inputs were given to farmers in Kiserian and Ng'iresi/Olgilai. Initial experiments were unsatisfactory in Kiserian due to bad weather and average in Ng'iresi/Olgilai.

The following year 1999/2000 few farmer groups were initiated including local chicken production and environmental conservation. More farmer groups were initiated later during the year and earlier ones strengthened. By May 2001, 11 farmer groups had been established some of which were at the level of few households.

PLEC has enabled farmers work together and teach each other on different technologies towards improving what we are already doing on-farm together with neighboring villages and districts. Through the project it was possible for most farmers to visit different research institutions like Selian in Arusha, Lyamungo in Kilimanjaro and Ukiriguru Mwanza where we were trained in different fields in relation to agricultural production and diversification, and environmental conservation.

Outcomes.

Increased production and income from food and cash crops, services were brought closer to farmers and other items previously not available in the villages were made available. Examples include: Tree seedlings, improved pastures, eggs, milk, vegetables, chicken, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc. Other include planting of indigenous trees in water sources and rivers, farmer exchange of knowledge and practices, identification and conservation of indigenous endangered trees and other plant species, putting value in traditional foods, sharing of knowledge in traditional medicine and indigenous knowledge.

Researchers and extensionists and other experts greatly valued farmer activities. There was full time close collaboration between farmers, researchers and extensionists in all

crop and livestock production activities. Farmers were also trained in income and expenditure at household level.

Through PLEC it was possible for some of the farmers to obtain improved breeds of cattle, pigs, chicken, dairy goats and sheep. Agricultural inputs were also brought closer to farmers. Expert farmers were rewarded with different farm implements like wheelbarrows, matchets, spades, irrigation pipes, etc.

Farmers expectations

To continue and strengthen knowledge obtained through PLEC project and spread this knowledge to neighboring villages, regions and the whole nation. PLEC activities also be expanded. PLEC farmers should be further trained to meet national targets of food sufficiency and improved livelihood.

1. (a) Mwaka 1998 ndiyo mwanzo wa mradi huu katika vijiji vya Ng'iresi / Olgilai katika ukanda wa juu wa Kiserian na ukanda wa chini.

(b) Walianza kwa kuchagua maeneo ya kufanyia kazi na pia wakachukua udongo tayari kwa kuupima.

2. Baada ya udongo kupimwa na matokeo kujulikana wakulima walipewa mbegu, mbolea kwa ajili ya utafiti wa maeneo hayo ya Kiseriani na Olgilai/Ng'iresi. Kwa ukanda wa juu walitoa mbolea pekee kwa ajili ya mahindi na viazi mviringo.

3. Matokeo Ya Utafiti Wa Mwanzo

Kiseriani: kwa ujumla matokeo hayakuridhisha kwa sababu ya hali ya hewa.

Olgilai/Ng'iresi: matokeo yalikuwa ya wastani

4. (a) Msimu uliofuata wa mwaka 1999/2000 vikundi vichache viliundwa vya ufugaji wa kuku wa kienyeji na uhifadhi mazingira. Baada ya kupita miezi mitano vikundi vingine vilianzishwa na huku vile vya mwanzo vikiimarishwa. Hadi kufikia mwezi May, 2001 vikundi 11 vimeisha undwa pia:-

1. Vikundi vya mazingira viko (5) ukanda wa chini,
2. Vikundi vya kuku viko (2) viwili ukanda wa chini,
3. Vikundi vya mazingira viko (2) viwili ukanda wa juu,
4. Vikundi vya mazingira (shule) viko (2) viwili chini na juu,

5. Kuna baadhi ya vikundi binafsi (kaya)

5. (I) **Mafunzo / Ushauri**

Mradi huu umetuwezesha sisi wakulima kuungana na kupeana mafunzo na mbinu mbalimbali hasa juu ya shughuli zote tunazofanya katika vijiji vyetu na vya nje.

(i) **Ziara Ya Mafunzo**

Mradi umetuwezesha kwenda kutembelea na kuona au kupata mafunzo mbalimbali kwenye vituo vya utafiti vilivyoko ndani na nje ya mkoa. Mfano: Chuo cha utafiti Selian – Arusha, Chuo cha utafiti Lyamungo-Kilimanjaro na Kituo cha utafiti cha Ukiriguru-Mwanza.

6. a) **Mafanikio**

- i) Kipato kimeongezeka
- ii) Uzalishaji umeongezeka wa mazao ya chakula na biashara
- iii) Huduma kuwa karibu
Mfano: miche ya miti, majani, mayai, maziwa, mboga za majani, nyama ya kuku, sungura, sili na k.n.
- iv) Miti ya asili kwenye vyanzo vya maji au mito
- v) Kubadilishana utaalumu wakulima kwa wakulima na kuelimishwa kutokana na mafanikio binafsi ya wakulima mashambani mwao.
- vi) Kutambua na kudumisha miti ya asili, vyakula, madawa na Elimu ya asili
- vii) Watafiti kuthamini shughuli za wakulima
- viii) Wakulima, watafiti na wataalamu wa ugani kuwa karibu katika shughuli za kilimo na ufugaji.
- ix) Kutunza kumbukumbu za mapato na matumizi ya kila siku

6.b) Mradi wa PLEC umetusaidia kwa ushauri jinsi ya kupata mifugo

- 1. Mradi umetusaidia katika kuchangia upatikanaji wa mifugo kama ng'ombe, nguruwe, kuku, mbuzi wa maziwa, kondoo n.k.
- 2. Mradi wa PLEC pia umesaidia katika kuchangia upatikanaji wa pembejeo kama vile mbolea na zana za kilimo

3. Mradi pia umetufundisha juu ya kutunza kumbukumbu za mapato na matumizi ya kila siku.
- c) Wakulima wengine kupatiwa mifugo mfano:- nguruwe, mbuzi wa maziwa, kondoo, kuku na ng'ombe.
- d) Wakulima wengine wamebahatika kupewa whee-barrow, panga, jembe beleshi seng'eng'e ya kutengenezea wigo na wengine kupatiwa plau ya kutengenezea makingo.
- e) Wakulima wengine wamepewa vyakula vya kulishia mifugo kama:- pumba; kwa ajili ya kuku na ng'ombe
- f) Wengine walipewa kilo za kupimia uzito wa mazao yao
- g) Kuna wakulima waliopatiwa bomba kwa ajili ya kuwaoggesha mifugo, kunyunyizia mboga dawa na kahawa.

7. Mategemeo Yetu Wakulima Katika Mradi Wa PLEC

1. Kuendelea na kudumisha Elimu au ujenzi, tuliopata kwa kuuagawia wakulima majirani na jamii yote kuanzia ngazi ya kaya hadi Taifa, yaani:- familia zetu, majirani, vijiji, kata, tarafa, wilaya hadi taifa zima.
2. Tunomba mradi wa PLEC upanuke kwa maeneo ya kazi
3. Wakulima waanzilishi waendelezwe kwa kupewa Elimu zaidi – ili waweze kufikia malengo ya Taifa.