

# **PROPOSAL: FUNDING DISSEMINATION OF KITUI BARRAGES PROJECT EXPERIENCES**

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this proposal is to seek funding for an external consultant to write up the Kitui Barrages project experience. This project was financed by Wateraid. Monitoring data has been collected over the construction period.

It is proposed that Prof. D. B. Thomas be hired to write-up the material. Prof. Thomas initially came to Kenya as a researcher on drylands agriculture in 1955. Since then he held research jobs in Government research centers and teaching jobs in universities. He recently retired from the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the University of Nairobi. His research has concentrated on the rehabilitation of arid and semi-arid lands. Kitui district falls into these lands. He has extensive publication record within which is contribution to **More People Less Erosion**, the current major work exploring the relationship of soil and water conservation techniques to development. He has researched and supervised graduate work on development in the semi-arid lands including specific research on river barrages, terracing, erosion and land reclamation.

## **Target Audience**

The booklet to be produced will be targeted to the institutions which work in the semi-arid areas. Among these are district government agencies in agriculture and water development, NGOs and CBOS. The aim is to offer this technology as a cost-effective and sustainable approach to provision of domestic and production water in the semi-arid lands.

## **Nature of Message**

River barrages as methods of collecting water for domestic and production use are an old technology. However, they have not been used in great density to assure a complete water net to communities. Usually one structure is built to serve only a few people. SASOL's approach is to have a complete water-net. The SASOL project has put 35 dams on one river stretch of about 20 km. The objective was to begin to show how the barrage system can provide water for domestic and production including ground water recharge. This is done at low unit cost, from an investment and social organizing point of view, compared to other techniques, for example, surface dams or boreholes, used by many agencies to develop water resources in arid and semi-arid land. The technology is thus not only affordable in poor communities but is so highly divisible that almost any community can implement it thereby creating sustainable water resources. This approach affects the welfare of women immediately. This is important in the area for more than sixty percent of the households are female headed for men migrate as part of family drought coping mechanisms.

In Kitui, the barrage system has had very immediate and direct effect on the time and health of women, on production and on the environment. Women used to walk more than ten kilometers. to collect water. This was usually in twenty liter cans. The water so provided was not enough for food preparation and family hygiene. Girl children were often pulled out of school to assist in the water collection chores. These chores left little time for other economic and social activities not to talk about the negative impact on women health particularly and community health in general.

Lack of water also impacted negatively on animal production. Animals used to trek the same distances for watering thereby loosing condition and picking disease as they tramped the public pathways. Availability of water was therefore a bottleneck to better health and production for there was not enough for both human and animal use.

Soil and water conservation techniques have been introduced in the communities so as to not only protect the investment in the barrages but also to improve agricultural production as well as protecting the fragile natural resources.

These are the key messages which the booklet will document not only form the implementing agency documentation but from the community point of view.

### **Replication Possibilities**

SASOL's long term objective is to document this technique for replication in other semi-arid lands. SASOL has already been approached by many CBOs and NGOs to assist in their water resources development. Since the booklet will emphasize **how to**, it is expected that many other agencies and individuals will get the information they need to initiate similar work. Key in replication efforts will not only be the physical technology but community organization techniques used by partner CBOs.

### **Fund Management**

It is proposed that the grant holder be SASOL Foundation, who will contract Prof. D. B. Thomas: All funds will be for this sole purpose with out providing for overhead to any of the partner organizations. Fund management and accounting to Wateraid (UK) will be done by Maji na Ufanisi(Water & Development), the inheritors of the Water Aid Project in Kenya. Publication copyright will be held by SASOL. There will be acknowledgment that Water Aid (UK) funded the initial work on Kiindu river. It will also be acknowledged that this publication is part of a series Maji na Ufanisi is publishing.

### **Funding Timing and Flow of Funds**

It would be ideal to get the funds during March, 1998. Fifty percent of the funding could be made available at inception and the remaining fifty percent of submission of camera ready work and acceptance of the same by the client, SASOL.