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5/3/98

TOR: STUDY OF SASOL KITUI WORK FOR DISSEMINATION

(DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION WITH PROF. THOMAS)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to document the work done in Kitui in conjunction with provision of water for schools , through school wells, for communities, through river barrages. Whereas the primary approach has been the provision of water, other activities have been undertaken. Among these are training communities in development prioritization and health and sanitation. Community members have been trained in specific tasks related to soil and water conservation. SASOL has also trained a large complement of masons to undertake the construction of wells and barrages. Since most of the work is implemented with large community participation , training has been undertaken in community organizing, stores management. This social organizing for the implementation of the project is just as important as the physical structures for long term sustainability of development in the area.

Since the purpose is to show how a particular approach can lead to long term development the study will perforce concentrate on showing not project sustainability but development sustainability. Thus information of innovations and other activities undertaken by the communities because of the project will be emphasized.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The study will be focused on producing an initial summary booklet and later a comprehensive study targeted to the peoples and institutions concerned with semi-arid lands development. The primary target is semi-arid lands farmers. The secondary targets are district government agencies , ngos, cbos as well as training institutions with interest in agriculture and water resurreicts development.

The aim of the two publications is to offer this technology as a cost-effective and sustainable approach to provision of domestic and production water in the semiarid 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 semiarid 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 losing 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.

Schools are particularly hard hit by lack of water. This is more so during drought years when school feeding projects close for lack of water. The provision of school wells and/or tanks seeks to address the issue of water for general school use, health and as part of enabling them to function even in drought years. Water provision is accompanied by limited health and hygiene interventions.

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 preliminary booklet and the major work will document not only from 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.

TIME FRAMES

It is envisaged that the booklet will be prepared to camera ready stage by May 15, 1998. The major study will be due by end of 1999.

CONTRACTING MODALITIES AND DELIVERABLES

The initial contract will be for 45 days and at the rate of USD 250 per day.

Payment scheduling will be

20% at provision of an inception work plan.

20% at submission of first draft:

20% at completion of final draft

40% at submission of camera ready draft.

The deliverable attached to this is the camera ready booklet. However, it is clear that some of the work related to the later publication can be done at this period.

Contract for subsequent work will be issued before the end of the first contract.

Work will be submitted to Prof. G-C. M. Mutiso. Field work in Kitui will be handled by Sam Mutiso.

PROVISION OF BACKGROUND MATERIALS

The required materials pertaining to the project will be provided at SASOL Kitui office or At MAJI NA UFANISI Office in Nairobi.

FIELD WORK TRANSPORT

Transport will be provided or reimbursed at AA rates.