

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION OUTCOMES

The lesson learned from the study on indigenous fodder and soil improving tree and shrub species is that the studies are supposed to be scaled up to cover more species both within the study and outside the study areas. Within the study area, the lessons can be disseminated or scaled up at the farm, homestead, and landscape and watershed level. A total of seven major issues were identified from the workshop and the group discussion forum:

a) Germplasm

The lack of planting material is repeatedly identified as one of the most important constraints to the wider dissemination of tree and shrub related innovations. As a result, the need for a sustainable supply of germplasm is strongly voiced. Apart from the efforts of the Forestry Research Center (FRC) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), there is no institution in Ethiopia that is responsible for the multiplication and distribution of tree seeds. There is still a huge gap between seed demand and supply of the various tree and shrub species. Small-scale private and community based initiatives need to be initiated and supported.

b) Partnership issues

Partnership issues are another important factor for the scaling up of potential species. Partnerships in scaling up offer high potential benefits: organisations with complementary strengths, resources and 'reach' can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their scaling up efforts. The workshop participants stressed the need to identify possible actors, develop plans of action, define responsibilities and design strategies for mobilizing resources.

c) Policy issues

Free grazing has been identified as the most relevant bottleneck for sustainable land use and for the aggravation of degraded lands. It hinders long-term

investments such as tree plantings. Livestock causes considerable damage to young planted trees. The need for a livestock rearing policy or community agreement was stressed, and suggestions for schemes reviewing national and regional land use and tenure policies were made. An facilitating policy environment is critical for a successful scaling up of natural resource management innovations. Policy interacts with scaling up in several different ways: policy constraints may limit the dissemination of new tree-related innovations, policy incentives may be drawn upon for promoting their adoption, and policy makers may be engaged in promoting or even financing scaling up activities (Franzel *et al.*, 2004). Whereas much attention is paid to how policy affects the uptake of new tree-related innovations, little consideration is given to directly engaging policy makers in the scaling up process. Raussen *et al.* (2001) argue that policy makers, both at the local and national level, are an often untapped resource in scaling-up strategies.

d) Local institution issues

Local institutions are the most important entry points, especially for mass mobilization and technology dissemination. Because local institutions are based on interests, group members are more or less homogeneous. A farmer is usually a member of more than one institute. That means if one farmer is informed about a technology, he or she can quickly disseminate their knowledge to other members, so the information exchange is fast.

e) Networking issues

Here, the importance of the establishment of networking among various partners and stakeholders for information sharing was discussed. Networking among stakeholders would help to bridge the information gaps about tree-related technology alternatives, to understand the issues which are critical for the dissemination of tree-related innovations, to undertake

appropriate actions for the dissemination of technologies and to reach out to the large number of technology users.

f) Capacity building issues

Capacity building, especially the importance of training at all levels, was identified as a key factor for effective scaling up. Organization of regular seminars, training programmes and exposure visits are considered important for a wider dissemination of tree-related innovations.

g) Resource issues

The identification of potential and sustainable financial sources is the key to an effective scaling up of lessons or successes.

The issues identified from the workshop and the groups' discussion forum can be useful inputs for developing scaling up strategies of potential fodder and soil-improving species. It is, therefore, an urgent requirement to the research institutions and other partners to develop scaling up strategies and implement the strategies accordingly.

References

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