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by: Fana Tesfaye

SLUF

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Alemayehu Mengistu (Ass.Prof)

National Workshop Conducted

A 3 days Workshop from March 16-18, 2009 on "The Vetiver System application for Soil & Water Conservation, Environmental Protection and Land Rehabilitation in Ethiopia" was organized and conducted by SLUF in collaboration with The Vetiver Network International (TVNI) and Sida with the aim of scaling out/up the use of the vetiver system for Soil & Water Conservation, environmental rehabilitation, stabilization and protection of infrastructures.



Opening Speech by Mr. Seleshi Getahun, MoARD

Vetiver is rapidly emerging as one of the most important methods of Soil and Water Conservation, Environmental Protection, and Land Rehabilitation in Ethiopia.



KeyNote Address by

Mr. Abdulhady Mohammed, Sida

The overall objective of the workshop was to enhance the use of vetiver grass in Ethiopia through the sharing of international and national experiences among invited participants and 16 highly experienced resource persons.



Mr. Daniel Danano, (MoARD) Facilitating





A total of 173 participants and policy making bodies from government & nongovernment organizations, research and higher education institutions, farmers, individuals and the private sector working on environmental protection and food security in Ethiopia have participated. Eight of the resource persons were from abroad representing TVNI while eight were Ethiopians.



Workshop participants' group picture

The workshop provided a good platform for sharing worldwide experiences, creation of awareness, networking and scaling up of the use of Vetiver System in Ethiopia.

At the end of the workshop an Adhoc committee, with the responsibility of establishing the vetiver System network was formed by volunteer members representing the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (MoARD), Jimma Research Center, Coffee

enterprise, Sustainable Land Use Forum (SLUF), Consortium for Integration of Population Health and Environment (CIPHE), EthioWetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA), and Anno Agro Industry P.L.C to advance the promotion of the vetiver System in Ethiopia.

In summary the workshop discussed on the vetiver System applications including: Agriculture, Soil and Water conservation, Land rehabilitation, Slope Stabilization, treatment of Contaminated water, Community and Watersheds, Future Vetiver System Research, up Scaling (Training, Publications and information, Plant material, Technical Specifications, Institutional and Service Organization role) and Policy



Mr. Dick Grimshaw, making conclusion

In conclusion Mr. Dick Grimshaw, Chairman, The Vetiver Network International said: "At this time of increasing hazards from climate change and population demand The Vetiver System would appear to be the best stand alone technology that, if widely applied, would at





low cost and without high demands on professional and financial resources, result in significant and sustainable improvement of water and land resources. Based on the past 20 years of experience in Ethiopia and other

countries wide up-scaling of VS in Ethiopia could be done relatively quickly (10-20 year program) and would have great impact on poverty reduction and the betterment of a sustainable environment."

Ethiopian Vetiver Network (ETVN) Established

On the first adhoc Committee meeting conducted on July 31, 2009 SLUF facilitated the establishment of the Ethiopian Vetiver Network in accordance with the mandate given to the Ad Hoc Committee by the participants of the national workshop on "The Vetiver System for Soil and Water Conservation, Environmental Protection and Land Rehabilitation in Ethiopia" conducted 16-18 March in Addis Ababa.

On the occasion:

- SLUF was nominated to host the network which is named as "Ethiopian Vetiver Network (ETVN)".
- All districts where Sustainable Land Management program is going to be implemented and SLUF's Sub-Grantee Organizations were nominated to be part of the network.

➤ A **Steering Committee** consisting of a Chairperson Ato Daniel Danano, Deputy Chairperson Dr. Tesfaye Kumsa and a Focal person Ato Debela Dinka, was established.

➤ The need for establishing **Subcommittees** under the Steering Committee by thematic areas was proposed and approved as follows:

A) Knowledge Management, Documentation, Networking and News Letters/publication group: -

- W/rt Fana Tesfaye (chairperson)
- Ato Daniel Danano
- Ass.Prof. Alemayhu Mengistu and
- Ato Debela Dinka





B) Leadership, Advocacy, lobby, Funds soliciting and Monitoring & Evaluation group

- Ato Negash Teklu (chairperson)
- Dr. Habtemariam Abate
- Dr. Tesfaye Mebrehatu
- Ato Zeleke Tesfaye
- Ato Abdissa Megerssa and
- Ato Nekahiwot Beyene

C) Training, Research & Extension group

- Dr. Tesfaye Kumssa (chairperson),
- Ato Mulualem Berhane
- Ato Baye Mekonen
- Ato Habetamu Wubeshet ,
- Ato Alemu Mekonen,
- W/r. Rahel Asrat and
- Ato Tesfu Kebede

1st ETVN meeting conducted



ETVN 1st meeting in progress

The 1st ETVN members' meeting was conducted on July 31, 2009 hosted by SLUF in Addis Ababa. The major agenda of the meeting was the establishment of ETVN.

After a self introduction of the participants a film focusing on Sustainable Land Management pilot project experience of SLUF conducted in

Wedeb Eyesus Kebele; East Gojam Zone of the Amhara Regional State was presented and the film raised interest among participants.

Following the film show Dr. Habtemariam Abate, Executive Director of SLUF, presented updates on Vetiver System Scaling up program of SLUF. Finally a





thorough discussion on the establishment of ETVN was made and reached to a consensus that the name being the Ethiopian Vetiver Network (ETVN), the hosting organization or secretariat being SLUF, the Chair person being Ato Dainiel Danano (MoARD SLM), the D/Chair

person being Dr Tesfaye Kumssa (Ano-Agro Industry) and the Focal person being Ato Debela Dinka (Programme Manager, SLUF).

The 2nd ETVN meeting was scheduled to be on August 28, 2009 with GTZ Oromia identified to host the meeting.

2nd ETVN Meeting Conducted

The 2nd ETVN meeting was conducted on August 28, 2009 hosted by GTZ Oromia in Mojo town. The meeting was started by endorsing the 1st meeting's minute and followed by a discussion focusing on two major agenda:

1. Development of action plans of subgroups/subcommittees

After endorsing the minutes of the 1st meeting the network revised the structure and size of subgroups/committees to be formed under the network and came up with 3 major subcommittees named: Knowledge Management, Documentation, Networking and News Letters/publication group, Leadership, Advocacy, lobby, Funds Soliciting and Monitoring & Evaluation group and Training, Research & Extension group.

Each of the three subcommittees then prepared their own tentative action plan and presented for a plenary. It was agreed that in general the problems and activities to be addressed were fully incorporated but need further enrichment and a detailed action plan need to be prepared and presented for the 3rd ETVN meeting.



Group action plan preparation in progress





2. Experience sharing visit to Oromia SLM project area at Mojo.

ETVN steering committee visited GTZ-SLMP Oromia nursery site where vetiver seedlings are propagated and distributed for various governmental and non-governmental organizations.



GTZ Oromia
vetiver nursery
Site field visit



On the visit, Ato Habtamu Wubeshet, GTZ Senior Experte briefed about vetiver Grass Propagation and field transplanting techniques for ETVN members.

Finally all the participants agreed to conduct the 3rd meeting from 23-25 October, 2009 at Lemmu Kossa farm of Coffee Plantation and Development Enterprise. CPDE agreed to host the 3rd ETVN meeting.

Major Achievements of the past 6 months (March - September 2009)

Vetiver System Scaling up Update

Progress of Sustainable Land Use Forum (SLUF)

- Familiarization and awareness creation discussion conducted with high level policy making bodies of MoARD on the scaling up program of SLUF. SLUF and representatives from TVNI visited state Minister of Agriculture & the Director of Extension Directorate.
- Planting materials for vetiver grass propagation and field transplanting identified (Illuababora/farmers, Jimma Agricultural Research Center (JARC), Anno Agro-Industry plc, Nigat Bio-farm, Awada Agricultural Research Center (Yergalem), Wondo Genet Agricultural





Research Center, GTZ -SLM Oromiya and, Gedeo Zone (Cherecha, Koti, Chiefie and Dilla Nursery Sites)

- Field visit to west and southern Ethiopia was organized for vetiver network international members who came to Ethiopia as resource persons of the vetiver system applications international workshop



Field visit to western Ethiopia

- Vetiver included into the technical package of the MoARD-SLM project
- SLUF became member of the Technical Committee for SLM project of MOARD
- SLUF organized a ToT program on the vetiver grass applications for 37 staffs of relevant Governmental (Sustainable Land Management Programme) and Non Governmental organizations.



Classroom & field training in progress

23 of the TOT programme participants have also made experience sharing visit to western Ethiopia (Anno Agro Industry, Uka area SWC, Gumero Tea Plantation, Wichi wetland rehabilitation, Sor vetiver nursery, Jimma Agricultural Research Center, and Sokoru IWSM).



Vetiver hedgerow for farmland SWC (Anno)



Soil band stabilization (Uka, metu)





Vetiver grass hedgerow in stumped coffee, Jimma

- The National Vetiver System application workshop proceeding has been published and some documents of vetiver technologies posted on SLUF website (www.sluf.org.et) and CIPHE website (www.phe.ethiopia.org.et)
- SLUF developed two projects to promote the vetiver system and submitted to donor agencies



The rehabilitated Wichi wetland, Metu



Explanation on vetiver nursery management

- SLUF raised about Birr 6.2 million from Sida to implement the 2009 environmental protection programme through 7 Sub-Grantees and 1 pilot SLM site, where the promotion of the vetiver system is the main component.
- Different vetiver system application manual & books were distributed to members, sub grantees and other stake holders who are implementing the vetiver system.
- 2 staff members of SLUF participated in the SLM project familiarization of TOT training program organized by MoARD on April 2009 as resource person on vetiver system application & dissemination strategies.

Progress of Ethiopian Rural Self Help Association (ERSHA)

(One of SLUF's member organizations)

- ERSHA conducted post ToT training and experience sharing visit on vetiver Grass Technology for 11 participants (9 staff &

4 Government staff) from July 30th - 1st August 2009 in accordance to the action





plan developed on the ToT & Experience sharing visit on the Vetiver Grass Technology conducted from 24 June - 4 July 2009 by SLUF. The training program covered characteristics & features of the Vetiver Grass propagation techniques, application of the vetiver technology, and approaches to be followed by ERSHA in promoting the grass.

- On the experience sharing visit the participants visited Fanya juu and graded bund stabilization, use of vetiver leaves for roof thatching, vetiver hedgerows for SWC, Water way stabilization, wetland rehabilitation, function of "Idirs" as CBOs, and Sor vetiver nursery site and Metu EWNRA project



Trainee at GTZ nursery site, Mojo



Water way stabilization (Metu)



Newly planted vetiver hedge row connected to water way

Progress of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) Sustainable Land Management Project

- After attending the ToT and Experience sharing visit on vetiver grass applications conducted from 24 June - 4 July 2009 by

SLUF, different activities have been accomplished to implement the action plan:

- Addis Ababa Sustainable Land Management briefed its staff





- Wolisso participant delivered a written report to the office.
- Gambella participant delivered a written report to the office and conducted an awareness creation session to the steering committee.
- Gimbichu participant delivered a written report to the office
- Raya Azebo participant delivered a written report to the office, made presentation for the staff including handing over the CD and plantation for multiplication started on the nursery.
- Alichu Wiriro participant delivered report to the office and 270 clumps planted on the nursery.
- Multiplication and distribution of vetiver grass
 - Oromia Region, Sigmo Woreda 25,000 clumps multiplied, Billo Nopa woreda 65,000 clumps multiplied & 85,300 distributed., Omo Nada woreda 15,600 clumps multiplied
 - Gambella Region, Godere Special woreda 10,000 clumps multiplied and 20,000 distributed.
 - Beneshangul Gumuz region, Assosa woreda, 65,000 & Kemashi wereda 16,250 clumps multiplied.
 - Woliso, Gobu Seyo & Gimbi are also multiplying and distributing.

*Progress of African Development Aid Association (ADAA)
(SLUF's Sub-Grantee and member organization)*

- 119 farmers, Development agents and experts from Agricultural and Rural Development office (11Female) were trained on physical and biological Soil and Water Conservation and vetiver system applications for 3 days (2 days theoretical and 1 day practical) by a resource person from Agricultural and Rural Development office and ADAA field staffs. Following the practical session farmers received

vetiver grasses (108,333 slips) and planted on 10.83 km hedge rows.



Training in progress





Vetiver plantation in progress

- 7,500 tillers (2,500 slips) of vetiver grass distributed and planted in the central nursery; moreover 10,000 tillers (3330 slips) planted in the compound of ADAA.
- 325,000 tillers of vetiver have been distributed to 140 farmers (18Female) on 10.8 km of degraded farm lands.

Progress of Ethio-Wetlands & Natural Resources Management Association (EWNRA)

(SLUF's Sub-Grantee and member organization)

- Capacity Building
 - Training on vetiver system and integrated natural resource management to 37 (10Female) local farmers conducted.
 - Training on vetiver System and Natural Resource Management for 26 (7Female) government office staffs conducted.
- Natural Resources and Wetland Management through Promotion of Vetiver System
 - 57.36km of Fanya juu, 14kms of waterway and 15.75km of cutoff drain were constructed with the active participation of 174 (25Female), 161 (5Female), and 145 community members respectively.
 - 51,013 Vetiver clumps were purchased from a total of 326 farmers.
 - 51,013 vetiver grasses were planted within the project area with the participation of 320 (20Female) farming community members.
 - 320 (20Female) farmers' income raised through the selling of 51,013 vetiver Clumps. They obtained a total of birr 51,013.00.





Progress of Lem-Ethiopia

(SLUF's Sub-Grantee and member organization)

- Vetiver grass Pre-training workshop to decision makers conducted from August 20-21, 2009.
- Training on Vetiver Grass for SWC conducted to 42 male household model farmers.



Practical training of vetiver Grass plantation



Training on vetiver Grass for SWC in progress

- 350 clumps of vetiver provided to 20 farmers whose land is exposed to savvier soil erosion.

Progress of Support for Sustainable Development (SSD)

(SLUF's Sub-Grantee)

- 110 meters check dam constructed and planted with vetiver.
- 3,000 vetiver slip distributed to other SSD projects in Afar.
- 8,800 vetiver slip produced and 11,600 planted along farm lands, main canal and around Lekuuma Pond.

Progress of Water Action (WACT)

(SLUF's SQ and member organization)

- 80 (20Female) farmers were trained on practical soil and water conservation measures.
- 59 (45Female) farmers were trained on nursery management for both vetiver and multipurpose tree seedling production.





Training on vetiver nursery management in progress

- A total of 5,000 clumps of vetiver grass purchased and planted on 2.1km soil bunds of 21 (11Female) households' farmland.

- 15 farmers selected and organized in two groups for vetiver grass production and multiplication on private/individual nurseries.



Bund stabilization using vetiver grass

Progress of Jimma Research Center

- Distributed 500 clumps to Agrifeft Ethiopia (Enebsse Sar Midir, SIDA/SLUF)
- Distributed 500 clumps SLUF (Gojam)
- Distributed 600clumps to Gonder.
- Distributed 3000clumps to Silte zone (S.N.N.P.R.S. Alecho Wurrro wereda Rural Development Office).





Success story

The Vetiver Man of Tulube

(by: Debelu Dinka & Nekahiwot Beyene, SLUF, September 2009)

Mr. Gezahegn Gudeta Shana is a 42 years old farmer in Tulube Kebele/Village of Mettu Wereda/District, Illuababor Zone of Oromia Regional State. He is married to W/ro Bizunesh Bekele and they now have 5 sons.



Gezahegn used to help his father, Gudeta, in farming when he was young and up to completing his 9th grade education. He began full time farming in 1985 right after his father's death.

According to Gezahegn he was first trained in the use of Vetiver Grass (*Chrysopogan Zizanioides*) for SWC in 2005 by Mr. Tilahun Semu, field Project Coordinator of

Ethio-Wetlands & NRA based in Mettu Wereda.

Right after his exposure to the vetiver system with the help of Development Agents (Das) assigned in his village, he prepared 3,570 meters of Fanya juu terrace in his farmland and planted two pickups height vehicle load of vetiver tillers. Right now (up to Sept. 2009) his 7 hectares of farmland are covered with 4,370 meters of green and beautiful vetiver hedgerows. The 800 meters of vetiver tillers planted this year (2009) are directly planted on farmland without making Fanya juu terraces hence saving labor and time.

Asked as to what benefits he got from planting vetiver, Gezahegn replied that moisture and soil are well conserved due to vetiver hedgerows and got more than 50% yield increment of maize. Coupled with good cultural practices such as row planting and weeding and proper application of fertilizers (DAP & UREA) Gezahegn have got a yield of 8.7 to 10 tons/ha of maize which is 4.5times





above average of 2 tons/ha in Mettu Wereda. He further reiterated that apart from SWC he uses vetiver leaves for forage, thatching of cattle-sheds and grain stores, and as ornamentals.

On the other hand Gezahegn has started generating income from sales of vetiver clumps for planting material for the 1st time. He earned Birr 5,000 (USD 400) this year by splitting 2,500 meters of vetiver hedgerows into 5,000 clumps. He confidently stated that he has more than enough vetiver planting materials to sell and generate more income in the years to come.



Due to the quality of his farm attributed to vetiver hedgerows he is multiplying improved composite maize variety on 3.5 ha of his farm on contract bases for Illuababor Agriculture and Rural Development Office (ARDO).

Farmer Gezahegn Gudeta has played a role model in scaling out the practice of using vetiver grass in his village in particular and Mettu Wereda and other parts of Ethiopia in general through training other farmers and sharing his experiences.



SLUF monitoring team visiting Maize plot with vetiver

On top of his farming activities, supported by his wife & children, Gezahegn is currently serving his community in the capacity of Tulube Watershed Management Committee member and Chairperson of Tulube Farmers Cooperative, and Sor-Gaba Farmers Cooperative Union. The union is the apex of 56 cooperatives in 12 Weredas of Illuababor Administrative Zone.





Farmer Gezahegn was asked as to what his future ambition is. He said that he wants to have TV and DVD sets, to get local and

international news. However, he could not afford to bring electric power line to his residence. Therefore, he appealed to get support for a household solar power.



vetiver used as boarder demarcation by Farmers in Illubabor

ETVN biannual Newsletter

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