

May 6th 2020

Start time; 09:13

Finish time; 14:00

Sustainable livelihood- Sustainable landscapes workshop: Sogeram.

1. Activities carried out.

- What was done?

Introduction to the project. The purpose of the project, its objectives and activities explained in simple terms and discussed with the participants. Land Use Planning under objective one introduced and discussed in the hope that through communication and co-operation, issues or land use problems that need to be resolved will be identified.

- Who participated?

Five people attended plus Dege and me taking the total to seven.

They are; Abraham, Sisiauca, Joe, Mrs Joe, Mrs Umari, Dege and Ernest.

- Challenges encountered

- Small number of participants resulting in less contribution to discussions.
- We as facilitators being biased and having an interest in the outcome of the LUP process.

2. Outcome

As usual a slow start for the first day with less contribution to discussions.

The composition of the group (Mothers and children/youths) did not allow for meaningful discussions on Land Use Planning activities however, they did point out some immediate problems and needs. These are listed below in order of their importance.

2.1 Food crops (taro,yam,cassava,and banana)

- Decrease in yield
- Crops are not healthy and seem to wilt and rot away.
- Pest (beetle), known to destroy palms but has now switched to food crops especially bananas.
- Old gardens normally hold seeds and seedlings for the next planting season. This is not the case today as most die out before the next gardening period.

2.2 Clean water

- Access to clean drinking water especially in dry periods. Current sources of clean water is rain at wet seasons, and creeks on dry months but only for a short period as the water becomes unsafe for drinking.

2.3 Cash crops (cocoa,betel nut,and vanilla)

- Pests
- Market

2.4 Transport

- Access to markets and services.

2.5 Health services

- Access to basic health services

2.6 Better houses

- Long term family houses

In addition to the above the group also raised the following concerns.

- Food shortage problem is forcing the community to resort to other forest sources such as sago, marita, food trees.
- Currently there is no income earning activity the family is engaged in mostly due to cash crop and transport problems.
- Projects previously started are incomplete and or not showing cause.

3. Setback

- I had to suspend at least three days work after the first session when Dege insisted I do so. This happened soon after we learnt that the surrounding families were coming to participate. The decision caused disagreements and debate between Dege and me as I have requested their participation. Umari was also on his way.
- Dege's health condition is having an impact on work schedules. He is becoming very selective with accommodation, food, outdoor activities, and travelling.

4. Suggestions

- Dege and I need to agree on an approach to take when conducting project activities with communities, especially Sogeram. Dege's attitude, probably stemming from his long acquaintance with the family, is inappropriate and contradictory to that required for facilitation. Freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are prerequisites for participation and transparency.
- I don't need to be with Dege every time. He can do the drop off and pick up runs or, to save costs I don't mind travelling on PMVs to get to the sites. All I need to do is arrange with the locals to assist me get there and back. Dege could join me on site when he is required depending on the activities.
- I have only started introductions to the project and the land use planning activity involved. I feel a need to go back and finish what I've started and hopefully this would iron out the disappointments caused. I am at the moment in discussions with Dege for a re-visit.