CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH

(CAMGEW)

AGROFORESTRY TRAINING WORKSHOP REPORT

TITLE

Practical agroforestry training workshops organised by CAMGEW in partnership with Tress for the Future-Cameroon program

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Presentation of CAMGEW

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a non profit created in October 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to tackle environmental and women's issues in Cameroon. CAMGEW works locally and thinks globally, integrating gender in solving environmental problems in Cameroon. CAMGEW believes that the future of our mother planet-earth is in our hands and also that the planet can be sustained by putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development. CAMGEW seeks to achieve her objectives by liaising with other like minded organizations worldwide. She has resolved to function according to core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in respect of its constitution. CAMGEW has as vision "Changing lives of women, children and communities while protecting the environment and as mission to fight poverty; promote sound environmental management, gender balance and economic sustainable development.

Presentation of Project area and project activities

Oku, Din and Vekovi where these trainings took place are found in Oku, Noni and Jakiri Sub Divisions respectively of Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. These localities are surrounded by the Kilum Mountain forest that hosts the largest remaining Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater lake called Lake Oku at altitude around 2500m.The population is English speaking. The forest has a unique ecosystem and is the largest remaining habitat for Bannerman's Tauraco-a red feathered bird that is only found in the Bamenda Highland Region and is classified under the IUCN Red-list as endangered. Kilum Mountain with altitude 3011 meters is the second highest mountain in Cameroon, central and West Africa after Mount Cameroon. Honey from Oku Forest is white in colour and is commonly called Oku White Honey. It is cherished nationally. It is certified as a Geographical Indication Product. Oku has a rich culture. Carving is highly practiced in Oku. The Kilum Mountain Forest is rich in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as herbs for medicine, rodents, wood for carving, bamboo which is used locally for construction and the Oku honey with its peculiarity of being white in colour. Oku is a touristic destination. The periphery of this forest is bare land where agriculture is practiced. This surrounding are hilly and sloping towards valleys. The forest peripheries are affected by erosion leading to unfertile soils with low crop productivity. There are very few trees on the slopes. This population depend on the forest for firewood. Although Din is far from the Kilum forest, they face similar problems because of its hilly nature with no trees. CAMGEW in partnership with ERUDEF-Buea and Trees for the Future –USA has decided to tackle this problem through training of peasant

farmers on agroforestry techniques and providing them with agroforestry seeds that will conserve the soil, increase soil fertility, fight erosion, serve as wind breaks, provide fodder and fuel wood to peasant farmers. The major economic activities that are practiced in these localities are agriculture and animal rearing. The people here cultivate food crops like corn, beans, potatoes and cocoyam. The dominant cash crop cultivated in this area is coffee and to a lesser extent cola nuts. Practicing agroforestry in forest peripheries will increase food production. CAMGEW trains farmers on the importance to plant agroforestry trees like Leucena and Acacia in peasant farmers' farms, reduce the use of chemical fertilizers by peasant farmers in the Oku and Noni Communities and stop unsustainable farming methods in these communities through her agroforestry program with these communities. CAMGEW organized 3 agroforestry training workshops, 1 in Oku (Ngvuinkei II), and 1 in Din (Noni sub Division) and 1 in Vekovi, Jakiri Sub Division. A total of 81 persons have been trained and agroforestry seeds of Leucena, Acacia and Tephrosia distributed to them.

Agroforestry training workshop objectives

These trainings had two objectives;

- Train community members on agroforestry techniques which are soil conserving, fight poverty and hunger
- Provide community members with agroforestry seeds to nurse and plant in their farms

To attain these objectives CAMGEW did the following:

- Community members were trained by-doing in the field on agroforestry nursery development using the bare root method.
- They were also trained on the importance of organic manure (compost) and how to produce organic pesticides.
- Lessons were given to community members on the importance of trees in their farms
- Presentations were made on the advantages of enclosing their animals (goats, sheep, cows, fowl, pigs) to get animal dung to use in their farms for soil fertility improvement and increase food production.

Methodology and activities used during training workshops.

Groups in the communities were informed about the training through Oku Community Radio, Churches, and posters. Registration forms were made available to groups in the CAMGEW-Oku office and focal points in communities. The training was offered in the local languages (Oku, Noni for Din and Lamnso for Vekovi) and in Pidgin English.

The principles of agroforestry were taught in the first part of the training workshop. These included lessons on sustainable land management, trees and global climate change, agroforestry technologies (windbreaks, living fences, alley cropping terraces and contour plantings, firebreaks, forest gardening, and integrated production systems), and agroforestry for livestock management, conservation techniques, integrated pest management, composting, perceived needs of the community, income-generating activities, major agroforestry species (L*euceana, Calliandra, Acacia, Tephrosia*), seed collection, storage, and pre-treatment, bare root nurseries & bare stem seedlings.

Practical work was done on the second part of the training. Participants had to do practical nursery development activities. They tilled the soil in a fenced area; they planted some seeds while getting information on how to plant them. The participants' learned-by-doing. Trainings were organised for one day each starting from 8:00 am and ending at 2:30 pm. Each participant received seeds of *Leuceana, Acacia, Tephrosia and Prunus africana* to nurse from where the seedlings will be uprooted and transplanted into farms.

Results of the training Workshops

CAMGEW has organised 3 training workshops on agroforestry techniques and has trained 81 persons from groups. More than 4 kg of Tephrosia, Leucena, Acacia and Prunus africana seeds have been distributed to farmers to develop their individual nurseries.

Place of the workshop	Date of training	Total participants	Total number of men	Total number of Women
Nkali-Din	21st March 2014	42	30	12
Ngvuinkei II	16th April 2014	28	10	18
Vekovi	23rd June 2014	11	11	0
Grand total	**81**		**51**	**30**

Challenges

CAMGEW had to move around to the beneficiary communities for training using motorcycle taxis through bad roads.

Some community members report that rats have eaten the seeds which were planted.

Conclusion

The trainings went on smoothly with the participants learning during the training workshops. One good thing CAMGEW staff observed in participants was their participatory nature in the training workshops. Old mothers and fathers who do not know how to speak English raise their hands and ask a question or share their knowledge on agroforestry techniques using their local languages. CAMGEW is proud that her team members could speak and understand the local languages. The training workshops were also forums for CAMGEW staff, and participants to share their knowledge on agroforestry techniques. CAMGEW learn a lot in the process from indigenous knowledge on agroforestry techniques from farmers. There was an integration of the traditional methods of farming and agroforestry techniques by trainers and community members.

Please find below workshop pictures with brief explanation

Participants listening to theoretical lessons on agroforestry technology (Ngvuinkei II)

Participants listening to theoretical lessons on agroforestry technology (Vekovi)

Participants listening to theoretical lessons on agroforestry technology (Nkali-Din)

Participants watch CAMGEW staff till the soil and learn by doing (Vekovi)

CAMGEW staff member nursing agroforestry seeds in Vekovi with participants watching and learning.

CAMGEW staff member nursing agroforestry seeds in Nkali-Din with participants watching and learning.

Participants learn by doing as they till the soil to nurse agroforestry seeds in the nursery.

Participants learn by doing as they till the soil tonurse agroforestry seeds in the nursery.

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Participants listern to lectures on a prepared bed for seed nursing in Nkali Din.

Agroforestry seeds of leucea and Acacia distibuted to participants in workshop.