

Draft Training Workshop Report

Capacity building for community groups about the potential of forest/tree protection



January, 2014

1. Introduction

REDD+ is to create incentives for the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, carbon stock enhancement, conservation and sustainable management of forests in developing countries. REDD+ mechanism is an important international effort to mitigate climate change effects. The capacity building training workshops were organised to introduce local communities to global climate change and to REDD+ activities in the local communities. The aim of the capacity building exercise was to enhance knowledge among various stakeholder groups, especially local communities, so that they are equipped to actively participate in the developments and policy building regarding climate change.

The objectives of the training were to: (i) create awareness about global climate change and REDD+ in local communities (ii) provide communities with information on opportunities and risks associated with trees/forest protection under a REDD+ regime, and (iii) discuss the rights and responsibilities of communities to ensure successful forest/trees protection (and REDD+ projects). About 100 participants from 10 communities benefitted from the capacity building training workshops.

2. Methods and contents of training programme

The training covered duration of one day at each of the three project sites, namely Breman Asikuma, Enchi, and Kintampo (see Annex 1 for outline of programme). At each site, participants were invited from different communities to attend the day's training workshop. The selection of communities was based on the pilot sites selected for the implementation of the main project activities. Thus each community selected was situated in the areas of the following pilots: Bedum-Portal REDD+ project in the Central region, North Kintampo-Shea REDD+ project in Brong Ahafo region, and Enchi/ CRIG cocoa REDD+ project in Western region. The training workshops took place on November 15, 20, and 27, 2013 at Breman Asikuma, Enchi and Kintampo respectively.



Scientists from CSIR-FORIG conducted the training using different training methods and techniques, including interactive presentations with illustrations; discussions; brainstorming; and question and answers. Training handouts and other relevant literature were presented to the participants as reference materials.

Participants were taken through the following issues during the training (Annex 2: main presentations slides):

- a. Basic concepts of REDD+
 - discussed issues of global warming, deforestation and degradation, its links to climate change, forest protection, overview of carbon market and overview of PES and REDD+
- b. Opportunities and risks of REDD+
 - discussed opportunities that REDD+ projects offer the communities, potential risks that may arise and how they can be avoided/mitigated; as well as how REDD+ fits into the overall livelihood, forest management and land use systems of the local area.
- c. Rights, responsibilities and expectations of communities
 - the training discussed rights of communities including those on participation, seeking clarifications on their participation in REDD+ activities and issues of possible benefits sharing among others. Carbon rights and REDD+ issues were also discussed as well as the expected roles and responsibilities of communities in ensuring successful REDD+ project.

3. Participation

Ninety four (94) participants from ten (10) communities in the three project sites participated in the training programme (Annex 3: Participants' lists). The participants were mainly farmers, community opinion leaders (traditional rulers, District Assembly members, Unit Committee members, heads of farmer associations), as well as staff of Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission, COCOBOD, and produce buying companies. The participants showed keen interest in the training programme, as they actively contributed in the discussions and brainstorming sessions. Key comments mentioned and the general questions asked by participants during the training are presented in Tables 1 and 2 respectively.



4. Conclusion

The capacity building training workshop facilitated knowledge acquisition in participating communities for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The training enabled participants, mainly local communities to understand climate change, its impacts and the urgency of solving deforestation and forest degradation menace. They gained understanding of what REDD+ is and appreciated potential benefits, opportunities and risks of forest protection and REDD+ initiatives. The participants were appreciative of the training and expressed their desire to share the knowledge gained with other farmers in their respective communities. They also expressed appreciation to ITTO and the Swiss Confederation through

the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) for their financial support for the training programme.

Table 2: Comments/suggestions by participants during Discussions

DISCUSSION POINTS OR QUESTIONS	COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS		
	ASIKUMA	ENCHI	KINTAMPO
Opinion on an outsider making decision without consulting community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No commitment from the community members on project/activity to be undertaken b. There will be lack of transparency and trust in the execution of the activity/project c. Benefits to community will not be known d. Community members will not do what is expected or needed because they will feel disrespected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We will not agree; we will not participate in such project b. We will need to do further discussion on the project for us to get a better understanding before participation c. Such a work cannot go on well d. There need to be consultation with communities before such project can be implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We will not be happy with the idea and therefore refuse participation b. There will be no understanding among community members c. Tree planting will not work well d. Few people taking decision on behalf of a whole community will not work
Effects of outsiders making decision without consulting communities and how participation should be made effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Let community members know the truth about the project, especially let them know the benefit of the project b. People will apply only what favours them on the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dialogue with communities for them to see the benefits of the project; if not there will be conflicts b. Individuals in the community must be consulted directly or else they would not participate in the project c. Empower communities through consultation d. We will feel discouraged e. The program will not be successful or sustainable because community participation will not be effective f. Conflicts may arise as acceptance of the project may be low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The project won't last. There will be no commitment in doing the work which will make the project unsuccessful.
Who should own carbon rights?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Include the tree planter to the old benefit sharing group established by the FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Give carbon right to the land owner b. Carbon right should go to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Carbon rights should be for the government b. Stakeholders engaged in carbon

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Design and allocate carbon rights to all beneficiaries-tree planter, landowner, chief c. If aerial photographs are used to measure carbon, portion of these rights can be allocated to the district assembly. d. The community should have the right to sell carbon if the trees were planted by them, but if naturally regenerated, the government should sell it giving a percentage to the community e. Laws should be properly designed to share rights equally to all stakeholders. f. The farmer should be given the rights and not the land owner or government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> government c. At the landscape level carbon right should go the farmer d. All those who matter (stakeholders) should have carbon right e.g. chief, District Assembly, FC, community e. For family lands, a consultation with family members is needed to define carbon rights. f. Farmers who planted the trees. 	<p>activities (government, land owner, farmer)</p>
<p>How should REDD funds reach community members or beneficiaries?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pay money to participating farmers b. Give the money to the community c. Proper laws must be put in place to avoid cheating in the sharing of funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Put community money into community accounts b. REDD funds to community should pass through the chiefs. c. Funds should pass through the governments to the communities d. Farmer engaged in REDD activities should get 2/3 of funds and 1/3 shared between community and chief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pay monies directly to farmers b. REDD funds should be paid through an established agents (not government) who will then pay the individual farmers that directly participate in REDD+ activities.

Table 2: Some general questions/comments by participants

ASIKUMA	ENCHI	KINTAMPO
If carbon is air, how can you capture air (carbon) for sale?	What happens to already existing REDD related activities that farmers are now engaged in e.g. tree planting	How would one get access to the carbon market? Who verifies that indeed one has planted trees that qualify for REDD+?
In some areas, even planted trees are removed to make way for development projects such as rural electrification. How can this be avoided under REDD+? (How can we avoid cutting down trees planted under REDD+ to make way for supposed development projects on the land?)	Where would seedlings be obtained from for planting under REDD+? Who buys or pays for them?	What type of tree species qualifies for REDD+? What trees do we plant to gain carbon rights? How do we obtain seedlings for planting?
Where is the market for REDD+ located?	Is the cutting of trees at the end of one seasonal cycle of cocoa allowed under REDD+?	Who owns the carbon in naturally regenerated trees that has been tendered by the farmer?
In order to encourage others to engage in REDD+ activities, it may be better to use existing forests such as sacred groves as basis for REDD+ payments	Sharing of carbon benefits must be done in such a way that farmers would get greater portion to incentivize them to continually participate directly in REDD+ activities Monies that accrue from the project must go to individual community members through three means <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chiefs 2. Community created account for REDD with the various committee chairs for the various farmer-groups as signatories to the account 3. Through Government 	What happens to already existing planted trees (REDD activities); will they be counted when actual REDD activities roll out?
What is the guarantee that trees planted under REDD+ will be protected and will not be removed through illegal activities. What is the government doing to protect trees under REDD+?	What happens to already planted trees existing before the actual implementation of REDD+? Do they also qualify as REDD+ activity?	The focus or participating should not be so much placed on REDD money that will be obtained from the carbon market, but rather focus more on the co-benefits that REDD will bring to the community
Government's involvement in the actual implementation of REDD+ activities will be a disincentive to local communities. Government should	Government must cease the importation of spoilt and damaged vehicles into the country as they are mostly associated with the excessive release of	The issue of elites capture of carbon rights and benefits exist. To avoid this, carbon money designated for communities should be put in

only monitor REDD+ activities.	carbon.	their individual accounts
Who will provide tree seedlings for farmers to plant under REDD+? What tree species qualify under REDD+?		We those farmers/community members who are not included in the Vicdoris association, how do we joint this association. Vicdoris already has an existing group of farmers they work with. What will happen to those who are not part of the group but want to participate in REDD+ activities in the area? How do we join the project and/or REDD+ activities in the area?
How do we ensure that tenant farmers who engage in REDD+ activities benefit from REDD+ payments/benefits?		
The various benefit sharing systems used in sharing harvested cocoa must be employed in the carbon rights allocation.		

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Programme outline

- 8:30 a.m. Registration of participants
Tea/Coffee
- 9:00 a.m. OPENING
- Brief self introduction
- Welcome Address, District Forest Manager
- Brief overview of ITTO project, workshop objectives and expected outcome
- 10:00 a.m. Basic concepts of REDD+
- Global warming, climate change and forest protection
- Overview of carbon market
- Discussion, including question and answers
- Break
- 11:30 a.m. Review (brainstorming and question and answers)
Overview of PES and REDD+
Participation of local communities in REDD+
Discussion
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 2:00 p.m. Review (brainstorming and question and answers)
Opportunities and Risks of REDD+
Carbon rights and REDD+
Discussions (rights and benefit sharing)
- 3:30 p.m. General Discussion
Question and Answers
Overview of Next steps of project
- 4:00 p.m. CLOSING

Annex 2: Power point presentation slides

See attachment

Annex 3: List of Participants

See attachment