



1st CADEP Regional Technical Training Workshop for Horn of Africa on Collection, Documentation and Sharing Good Practices for Combating Desertification

Held from 25th September to 6th October 2017, Nairobi, Kenya

Introduction

The African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa (AI-CD) has been developed with an objective of making nations and communities in Sub-Saharan Africa resilient to climate change by promoting measures for combating desertification. This objective will be achieved through three outputs namely; Building networks, Knowledge sharing, and Improving access to finance. A series of activities towards achieving objectives of AI-CD will be implemented jointly or harmonized with related initiatives within AI-CD participating countries which include 7 (seven) countries in the Horn of Africa namely: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

In Kenya, AI-CD activities have been harmonized with those of Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Republic of Kenya (CADEP - SFM), a collaborative project between the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). CADEP-SFM is implemented through five components, namely; Policy Support, Pilot implementation at County level, REDD+ readiness, Tree breeding for drought tolerance, and Regional Cooperation. The Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) is the lead organization in implementing the activities of on Regional Cooperation Component 5. One of the main activities under CADEP-SFM Component 5 is to build capacity of partner institutions within participating Horn of Africa countries towards combatting desertification. Capacity will be built during various regional events which include; fora and meetings, technical training workshops and conference.

The 1st CADEP Regional Technical Workshop for Horn of Africa was held from 26th September to 6th October 2018, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Training Workshop was implemented by KEFRI in collaboration with JICA. Twenty (20) participants were trained and were drawn from seven (7) Horn of Africa countries participating in the AI-CD namely; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Purpose of the Training Workshop

The purpose and outputs of the 1st CADEP Regional Technical Training Workshop are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Purpose and expected outputs for the 1st CADEP Regional Technical Training Workshop

Purpose	Expected outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Create awareness of African Initiative objectives, activities and outputs.ii. Familiarize, discuss and understand application of CADEP-SFM tools for identifying, collecting, documenting, storing and sharing good practices in Natural Resources Management (NRM) for combating desertification, drought and land degradation.iii. Provide an opportunity for participants from the same country to collectively propose, discuss and develop action plans for collecting, documenting, storing and sharing good practices in NRM.iv. Build capacity of participants to mobilize resources for African Initiative implementation.v. Propose Common Interest Groups (CIGs) for sharing information on combating desertification, drought and land degradation.	<p>At the end of the technical training workshop, the participants would have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Acquired a common understanding of African Initiative objectives, activities and outputs.ii. Gained knowledge and practical skills of application of CADEP-SFM tool for identifying, collecting, documenting, storing and sharing good practices.iii. Enhanced their capacity to identify, document, store and share good practices in NRM.iv. Gained hands on experience on use of KEFRI CADEP-SFM data base.v. Improved capacity for resources mobilization.vi. Enhanced capacity to develop relevant extension materials.vii. Developed country specific Action Plan for collecting, documenting, storing and sharing good practices.

Workshop Delivery Approach

The Training Workshop applied several modes of delivery approaches to meet the outputs. A workshop approach was emphasized to facilitate better understanding of concepts and application of CADEP-SFM tools for identifying, collecting, documenting, storing and sharing good practices. The Training Workshop included presentations by facilitators and participants; group work and discussions; and field visit to selected farmers in the drylands of Kenya for participants to familiarize and understand the concepts as well as practically apply the CADEP-SFM tools for identifying, collecting, documenting, storing and sharing good practices in Natural Resources Management (NRM) for combating desertification, drought and land degradation. Participants also shared information on combating desertification by presenting good practices from their countries.

Feedback from the participants after the training

After the Training Workshop t an end of training evaluation was undertaken by the participants to assess the overall perception of the workshop delivery process and interactions, and the ability to apply lessons learnt.

The major responses include;

- i) Comments on web portal
 - ✓ There are challenges in accessing internet, electricity and infrastructure in some countries, hence there may be difficulties in accessing the web portal in participating countries. There is therefore need for modification on how to communicate and share good practices and other information
 - ✓ The website is user friendly but more should be done to make it more friendly and easy to use and access
- ii) Comments on field visits
 - ✓ Team work spirit was good
 - ✓ The field visit was interesting, innovative and commendable
 - ✓ Farmers were willing to share their knowledge
- iii) Most important activities one intends to undertake after the Training Workshop
 - ✓ Collection of good practices
 - ✓ Upload good practice on the CADEP-SFM Web Portal
 - ✓ Enhancing staff and institutional awareness

Participants suggested that in future training, more time be allocated to capacity building on resource mobilization.

The responses from the participants were of great importance to the CADEP-SFM implementing team and will be used in planning and implementation further meetings and fora.

Workshop outputs

- Participants applied CADEP-SFM tools to collect data during the field visit and compiled three (3) good practices. The three good practices were later edited and uploaded to the CADEP Web Portal.
- However, participants identified lack of resources as a major challenge in applying the knowledge gained in collecting and compiling good practices in their countries.

Pictorial



Opening Ceremony



Group work



Field work



In-house training