

JT GROUP COMMUNITY REFORESTATION & SUPPORT PROGRAM (RCSP)

PROJECT PROFILE

Funding and Timeframe

The Community Reforestation and Support Program is funded jointly by Japan Tobacco International and Japan Tobacco Incorporated. The program is being implemented by Total LandCare with support from Washington State University. Phase I of the project was conducted over a period of 4 years in Malawi and Tanzania from 2007-2010. Phase II covers another 4 year period from 2011-2014.

Problem Statement

Population pressures in Malawi and Tanzania impact directly on renewable natural resources, agricultural productivity, employment, marketing, food security, poverty, health, and education. For many areas, land holdings are shrinking in size and becoming more fragmented. Traditional practices that preserved the integrity of natural resources are dying out and marginal areas have been brought under cultivation. Continuous cropping is now the norm, often in monocultures with little or no fallowing and few inputs. The rising demand for agricultural land and wood for fuel and building materials has led to serious levels of deforestation. Most deforestation in Malawi and Tanzania has occurred on traditional and private land where wood is regarded as a free resource, but encroachment into protected lands is increasing due to declining enforcement by government. Tobacco is a special concern because of the vast amounts of wood used for leaf curing and shed construction. The attendant loss of biodiversity is often accompanied by adverse changes in climatic and hydrological regimes. The result threatens important water catchments leading to diminished stream flows, risks of floods, and siltation of rivers, dams, and lakes. These problems have far-reaching effects on agriculture, fisheries, industry, trade, and health.

Today, rural households across the region face many inter-related constraints characterized by a) frequent food shortages; b) overdependence on maize, a moisture/nutrient-demanding crop; (c) environmental degradation; (d) limited access to inputs, credit and capital; (e) acute shortages of energy and safe water; (f) poor knowledge and skills to adopt productivity-enhancing technologies; (g) weak extension services, and (i) lack of market information.

Collectively, these problems have led to a vicious cycle of increasing poverty that is eroding the productive capacity of agriculture and the natural resource base. Eliminating these growing threats requires a long term commitment of resources under a strategy that tackles the root causes of the problems in a holistic manner.

CONCEPT AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROPOSAL

Background

It is clear from the foregoing that Malawi and Tanzania face complex social, economic and environmental problems that resist swift and simple solutions. In their struggle to survive, people are unable to balance immediate short-term needs with sound resource use. The situation needs to be reversed to sustain livelihoods with minimal dependence on foreign assistance.

In response to this situation, the Tobacco Industry has embarked on a program to promote sound agricultural practices and reforestation with the mutual interest of securing the long term sustainability of tobacco production in the region.

The challenge is to produce fast results. This challenge is compounded in areas where trees are relatively abundant, making it doubly difficult to convince people that tree planting is a valuable and worthwhile endeavor. Paying for the services rendered is often viewed as a simple solution, but it also becomes a trap that many programs fall into, frequently leading to poor rates of tree survival and growth from poor outplanting practices and neglect after establishment. Ultimately, the costs involved become unsustainable, especially when the results are less than satisfactory. The struggle is then to start over using a participatory approach, explaining the need for communities to commit their land and labor to a worthy cause without payment. Making this transition can be more difficult than initiating the approach from the outset, despite the training and skills imparted from earlier top-down efforts. Examples of past failures using this type of approach are well documented in the literature.

Purpose

The aim is to reduce the problems of deforestation in tobacco growing areas, while improving the livelihoods of rural households engaged in growing tobacco.

Key Objectives

1. Reduce deforestation by improving the economic use and management of natural resources to supply wood energy and construction materials for tobacco curing and domestic household needs on a sustainable basis focusing on the following interventions:
 - Tree planting with a concentration at the household level to build self-sufficiency.
 - Sustainable management of natural woodlands.
 - Introducing energy-efficient tobacco curing barns and kitchen wood stoves to reduce wood consumption.
 - Planting local bamboo to replace wood for many products and uses, thereby reducing pressure on woodlands.
2. Increase and diversify farm productivity to improve household food security, nutrition, and incomes through low-cost, sustainable systems of irrigation linked to good markets.
3. Enhance village and household health standards by introducing low-cost methods to provide safe water and sanitation.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Project Approach and Extension Strategy

The project will use an integrated approach to empower communities to take responsibility for improving their livelihoods through intensive training and extension services. Field staff will support and participate in the establishment and management of all practices with farmers so that activities are conducted correctly and in a timely manner.

The appeal of this approach lies in the synergistic nature of the interventions promoted to ensure sustainability. In this context, communities and households benefit directly through increased crop and wood yields, more productive use of labor, and opportunities to increase incomes by developing enterprises from agricultural and natural resource products.

The results will lead to growing demands among communities within and outside project sites to participate in different components of the program under the following strategy:

- Improve efficiencies by the following practices:
 - Combine tree and bamboo seedlings in the same nurseries with similar management techniques – sowing, watering, weeding, thinning, root pruning, hardening etc.
 - Locate tree nurseries next to tobacco seedbeds for easy access to water and irrigation equipment (treadle pumps/watering cans), labor efficiency in watering and caring for seedlings, and supervision / monitoring by field staff.
- Establish collaborative agreements with interested Government entities and Tobacco Supply Companies in targeted areas to support and complement extension services.
- Liaise with Government Agencies on the need to revise / strengthen policies and related enforcement on a) indiscriminant cutting of indigenous trees, and b) land tenure issues that promote shifting cultivation and related impacts on deforestation.
- Programs will be serviced by field technicians, each responsible for a concentrated cluster of clubs and households to facilitate training and extension support on forestry, irrigation, water and sanitation:
- The scale of the program will be expanded by leveraging the resources of selected NGO partners who are interested in receiving technical/training support from TLC.
- Impacts will be greater and more visible due to the synergistic effects of an integrated approach involving the collaboration of many villages and traditional leaders under a common goal.
- Results will attract interest from other service providers and neighboring communities.

Management and Staffing Structure

WSU and TLC will oversee the projects in both countries through WT Bunderson and ZD Jere. Funds will be channeled via WSU to each country program to meet financial, staffing and resource needs. Other support will be provided from TLC headquarters in Malawi to setup the project and to assist with field operations, training, accounting, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. Staff based in each country are as follows.

1. **Project Manager** will manage and administer the project and its staff in line with the objectives of the project.
2. **Operations Manager** will have responsibility to supervise field staff and to provide technical and logistical support for implementing each component of the program.
3. **M&E Officer:** In Phase II, an M&E Officer will be recruited to handle the collection, analysis and documentation of field results.
4. **Administrator/Accountant** will have responsibility for inter-office communications, procurement of equipment and supplies, and accounting of all expenditures in accordance with TLC policies and procedures.
5. **Full-time Field Coordinators** will have responsibility for community/farmer training and promoting the establishment of all program components with targeted communities. The number will increase from 4-8 in Phase II for each country.

Site Selection

Criteria for selecting specific areas of operation in each country include the following:

- ➔ Sites where tobacco is a major crop for smallholders.
- ➔ Sites where deforestation is serious but not to the extent that rehabilitation is impossible.
- ➔ Communities with strong leadership and interest in participation.
- ➔ High potential for adoption of proposed interventions.
- ➔ Logistically accessibility year-round for extension and market support.
- ➔ Low risk of conflict from other programs – sites not targeted by other development initiatives that could lead to conflicts with the proposed program.

Malawi: Sites will be located the Districts of Mzimba and Rumphi in the North, and in the Districts of Mchinji and Ntchisi in the central region. All are key tobacco growing areas but poorly represented by development programs in forestry, irrigation, water and sanitation.

Tanzania: The Sikonge and Urambo areas in Tabora are targeted based on the importance of tobacco in these areas and related concerns over livelihoods and the environment.

TARGETS AND TIMEFRAME OF IMPLEMENTATION

The targets under Phase I and Phase II are shown in **Tables 1-3** by component for each country.

Table 1: Phase I Targets for Each Country

OVERALL PROGRAM	2007 TARGETS		4-YEAR TARGETS	
	Malawi	Tanzania	Malawi	Tanzania
Clubs (Malawi) / Primary Societies (Tanzania) (#)	500	32	2000	42
Participating Households(#)	10 000	4 000	40 000	6 000
Participating Beneficiaries (#)	50 000	20 000	200 000	30 000
Forestry Program				
Bamboo Seedlings (#)	100 000	100 000	400 000	400 000
Tree Seedlings (#)	1 900 000	1 900 000	7 600 000	7 600 000
Natural Woodlands Under Management (ha)	100	100	400	400
Improved Kitchen Stoves				
Villages (#)	50	50	200	200
Households with Improved Stoves (#)	500	500	2000	2000
Winter Irrigation (Treadle Pumps & Stream Diversion)				
Clubs (#)	10	10	40	40
Households (#)	100	100	400	400
Water and Eco-Sanitation				
Shallow Wells with Hand Pumps				
Villages (#)	25	25	100	100
Shallow Wells Installed (#)	25	25	100	100
Eco-Sanitation Pit Latrines				
Villages (#)	50	50	200	200
Households with Pits Constructed (#)	500	500	2000	2000

Table 2: JT Group Project Phase II: Malawi Targets by Program and Year

PROGRAM COMPONENTS	MALAWI TARGETS FOR PHASE II				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Cumulative Participation					
Districts (#)	4	4	4	4	4
Villages (#)	400	525	650	750	750
Participating Households (#)	8 000	10 500	13 000	15 000	15 000
Total Beneficiaries (#)	40 000	52 500	65 000	75 000	75 000
Forestry Program					
Production & Planting Tree Seedlings (#)	3 000 000	4 000 000	4 000 000	4 000 000	15 000 000
Natural Regeneration of Woodlands					
Area (ha)	150	150	150	150	600
Trees (#)	187 500	187 500	187 500	187 500	750 000
Improved Kitchen Stoves					
Villages (#)	100	125	125	150	500
Households with Improved Stoves (#)	2000	2500	2500	3000	10 000
Low Cost Irrigation					
Treadle Pumps					
Clubs (#)	15	15	15	15	60
Households (#)	150	150	150	150	600
T-pump Kits Delivered (#)	150	150	150	150	600
Stream Diversion					
Club Sites Established (#)	10	10	10	10	40
Households (#)	100	100	100	100	400
Input Packs Delivered (#)	100	100	100	100	400
Conservation Agriculture					
Households (#)	200	250	250	300	1 000
Area (ha)	80	100	100	120	400
Safe Water					
Villages (#)	40	40	40	40	160
Shallow Wells Installed with Handpumps (#)	40	40	40	40	160
Households Impacted (#)	2000	2000	2000	2000	8 000
Eco-Sanitation					
Villages (#)	40	40	40	40	160
Households with Eco-Pit Latrines (#)	500	500	500	500	2 000

Table 2: JT Group Project Phase II: Tanzania Targets by Program and Year

PROGRAM COMPONENTS	TANZANIA TARGETS				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Cumulative Participation					
Areas in Districts (#)	4	4	4	4	4
Villages (#)	250	250	250	250	250
Participating Farmers (#)	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000
Total Beneficiaries (#)	25 000	25 000	25 000	25 000	25 000
Forestry Program					
Production & Planting Tree Seedlings (#)	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	12 000 000
Natural Regeneration of Woodlands					
Area (ha)	150	150	150	150	600
Trees (#)	187 500	187 500	187 500	187 500	750 000
Improved Kitchen Stoves					
Villages (#)	100	125	125	150	500
Households with Improved Stoves (#)	2000	2500	2500	3000	10 000
Low Cost Irrigation					
Treadle Pumps					
Clubs (#)	10	10	10	10	40
Households (#)	100	100	100	100	400
T-pump Kits Delivered (#)	100	100	100	100	400
Conservation Agriculture					
Households (#)	50	50	50	50	200
Area (ha)	20	20	20	20	80
Safe Water					
Villages (#)	40	40	40	40	160
Shallow Wells Installed with Handpumps (#)	40	40	40	40	160
Households Impacted (#)	2000	2000	2000	2000	8 000
Eco-Sanitation					
Villages (#)	40	40	40	40	160
Households with Eco-Pit Latrines (#)	500	500	500	500	2 000