

Development Cooperation Sweden and Kenya

Natural Resources and Environment



NATURAL RESOURCES IS A PRIORITY SECTOR IN SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH KENYA. PROGRAMMES ARE SUPPORTED IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND SANITATION AS WELL AS LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. WELL MANAGED NATURAL RESOURCES NEED TO BE AT THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS THIS NEED.

Already in 1974, Sweden embarked on a soil and water conservation programme in Kenya, which over a quarter of a century successfully reached over 1.5 million farmers, increasing their production and improving environmental protection.

This programme fed into the preparation of a new national agricultural extension policy and the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP), which Sweden has supported since 2000. The programme is now in its second phase and is introduced in focal areas in all districts. The NALEP approach is today seen as the most efficient and appropriate way of doing extension service by government. The new National Agriculture Sector Extension Policy, NASEP, is promoting this approach.

NALEP is transforming an earlier conventional, top-down, extension service to a broader, farmer oriented service. This is creating dynamic effects at the small-holder level, facilitating increased and diversified production and marketing. The focus is on encouraging a shift from subsistence

farming to commercial production.

NALEP builds on a human rights based approach and the principles of participation, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability. Men and women are empowered to claim their rights while the government is responsible to create an enabling environment for food production and ensure food security for the most vulnerable groups. As poverty is multi-dimensional, training and sensitisation work include issues like human rights and HIV and AIDS. Gender awareness and women's participation is stressed. Women- and child headed households, are particularly targetted.

Challenges

The programme does encounter some constraints. One is the still persistent inadequate financial services. Another is the weak interest of the private sector, which often regards business with small scale farmers as unprofitable. A third constraint is the difficulty to reach larger markets. To improve on that account, the Sida funded roads



Photo: Simon Maina

In the Gatei village, the farmers have started cultivating passion fruit instead of coffee.

programme supports the building, maintenance and rehabilitation of access roads in rural areas.

The programme reaches over 500,000 farmers and supports the formation of over 3,000 Common Interest Groups each year. By 2012, three million farmers are expected to be reached.



In Kenya, only five per cent of all land is owned by woman.

Sector development

On the agricultural policy and institutional level side, Sweden has assisted the work of the Agricultural Sector Coordination Unit (ASCU). This unit has prepared a development strategy and supported the formulation of a number of other related policies. It has further analyzed capacities and constraints among public and private stakeholders important for the successful implementation of the agricultural sector strategy. Among other initiatives, Sweden is funding an Innovation Fund for Agriculture and Agribusiness in support of market driven agricultural production, processing and marketing.

Financial services

To ensure improved access to financial services, Sweden is supporting The Financial Sector Deepening Trust Fund, FSD, which builds capacity at all levels of the financial sector. Sweden is not earmarking funds to rural areas but has contributed to the expansion of the fund's activities in rural areas. The fund also monitors access to financial services country-wide.

Water projects

Kenya suffers from chronic water stress with 80 per cent of the land

being arid or semi-arid. In most of the country the water resources are scarce and less than half of the population has access to safe or improved drinking water. This, and inefficient management of the water resources is a source of conflict. But there is a potential for further and more efficient exploitation of available water resources, through large and small scale systems for water harvesting and utilisation.

Sweden has supported Kenya in the water sector for more than three decades, moving from early supply-driven construction of large installations to today's smaller, demand-driven projects with community participation and ownership as well as improved government management.

Based on the Kenya Water Act 2002 a new programme was initiated in 2005, jointly funded by Sweden and Denmark.

The new institutional arrangement has established a Water Resources Management Authority with regional offices who are to oversee the efficient utilisation and environmental sustainability of the water resources. Water Resources Users Associations are established at local levels to cater for the interests and needs of water users. Water Services Boards at regional level are responsible for provision of services. The providers, who implement and operate schemes, may be community groups or commercial operators.

These institutional reforms, complemented by capacity building, has established a more efficient management of the water resources, under the coordinating leadership of the Ministry. But such radical restructuring takes time to settle and challenges remain to be handled.

Focus on rural areas

The poverty focus of Sweden's cooperation strategy implies an emphasis on improved water and sanitation facilities for poor people in both rural and urban areas. A substantial part of Swedish funding in this sector is thus geared towards small-scale projects

in vulnerable areas. Through the creation and co-funding of a Water Services Trust Fund, a large number of community owned projects have been and are carried out, reaching well over a million people.

Rural projects are identified, implemented and maintained in a participatory process. The local CBO and communities are trained in leadership, democratic principles, project management etc. In addition, sensitisation and training is given on issues like gender, environmental management and HIV/AIDS.

When a project is funded, the community carries out the project. A strong local ownership of the water installation is thus achieved, which greatly enhances its maintenance and sustainability. Women and youth are encouraged to take leadership roles in Water user associations and Water resource user associations.

Environmental programme support

There is an increasing recognition of the importance of ensuring effective environmental management in Kenya as an integral part of poverty reduction strategies. Recent reports have highlighted the seriousness of ecosystem stress in many parts of the country. This constitutes a major threat to development and undermines living standards. Deforestation, ineffective water resource management and soil erosion seriously impact on rural livelihoods. In the urban areas, water quality and waste disposal problems are increasingly severe.

Complementary to Sweden's engagement in the agriculture and water sectors, Sweden thus also funds the Environmental Programme Support, where Denmark is the lead donor.

Governance in the area of environment has been weak in Kenya. The programme has since 2006 contributed to improved environmental governance by strengthening the capacity at the policy and enforcement levels, as well as supporting civil society to raise awareness, put forward its demands to government

and participate in planning and implementation of work at national and local levels.

At the policy level the programme has supported the preparation of a new environmental policy with stakeholder participation; the incorporation of environmental issues in sector plans and strategies and strengthened the Ministry's capacity to monitor and mainstream poverty and environmental issues.

The support to community and civil society initiatives, through the Community Development Trust Fund and the Community Environment Facility, has included:

- awareness and advocacy campaigns on poverty-environmental linkages provided by selected NGOs/CBOs;
- a programme of community projects implemented to address local environmental problems, and demonstrate innovative approaches and a package of training modules, tools and partnership models for community participation in decentralised environmental management prepared by CSOs.

As part of its ongoing and future commitment within the natural resources sector, Sweden assists Kenya in its preparation and implementation of a climate change response strategy.

Continued economic growth is contingent on better natural resource management and mitigation of the detrimental impacts of climate change, to which poor individuals and families in rural areas are particularly vulnerable. Kenya is increasingly prone to droughts and flooding, a trend which is expected to worsen as climate change intensifies.

Land reform

Land is a source for serious conflicts in Kenya, as ownership is skewed and tenure insecure.

Sweden has supported government and civil society in the development of a new land policy. This has been approved by Cabinet and is a basis for land reforms that aim at improved



Stephen and Jennifer Maswage, and their fellow villagers in Kwihore village in East Kuria, have built a number of fish ponds, and are also growing improved varieties of cassava and sweet potato.

Diversified production for the market

Stephen and Jennifer Maswage is a farming couple in Kwihore village in East Kuria, where the homesteads dot the hilly, lush landscape. They are standing by a fish pond and feel things are improving.

– We started a community group already in 2002 and with training from NALEP we have built these fish ponds, started bee keeping and improved our crops, says Stephen Maswage.

Fish ponds have become a popular new business in the area and gives both protein rich food to the families and income from sales. Improved varieties of cassava and sweet potato has increased yields.

Behind the tangible results, that the Maswage couple and their fellow villagers can appreciate, is a process. Initially a focal area is identified, and a development committee is formed and trained. The local NALEP officer, Charles

Mbuyi, explains.

– We start out by carrying out a baseline study and preparing a Community Action Plan together with the villagers, where we also involve local organisations and the private sector, if possible.

Intensive extension services are carried out during the first year and a productive relationship built up with the community for continued extension support.

– We focus on farming as a business, introducing new opportunities, linking farmers to other service providers and to the market. Common Interest Groups are formed around business opportunities identified by the farmers, says Charles Mbuyi.

– It is good to have our groups, says Jennifer Maswage. We can work together, we can share ideas and we get more training and advice from the extension officer.

land use, improved access to land for commercial activities, environmental protection, protection of water resources and food security. It protects property rights and forms a basis for a more effective land information system and improved land registration. A challenge is that only five percent of all land is owned by women.

Sweden supports a cooperation between the Swedish Land Survey Board and the Ministry of Land for improved registration at national and district level. A company has been procured to support institutional building of the land sector and development of a land information system.

Support to Rural Roads

Sweden has been supporting the roads sector since the 1980s, with a focus on rehabilitation and maintenance of the rural road network. The support is under the government's Roads 2000 Strategy which promotes maintenance of the road networks using local resources, labour based methods and the private sector. The current programme covers Nyanza Province in Western Kenya. Main highlights of the support include job creation, private sector support by promoting small-scale contractors and promoting improved governance through participation of the rural

communities in the planning and management of the road improvement works. Targeted gender policies have assured increased participation of women in road construction, as contractors and as employees.

Achievements include 1,200 km of improved road and 1.5 million person-days of employment generated. 200 small-scale contractors were trained, of whom 30 per cent were women.

For further information:

E-mail: ambassaden.nairobi@foreign.ministry.se

www: www.swedenabroad.se/nairobi

Restored dam collects water

During dry periods, the only source of water in the Mwala location in Machakos district has been the Athi river. Women have to walk 5-10 km to fetch water. But here in Mwala there was an old earthen dam, that had come into disrepair.

Hearing about the possibility of funding, a group of community members formed a CBO – The Ki-bau Water Project. In cooperation with the Water Services Board, they were connected to a Support Organisation, which trained them on organisational, water and environmental issues and later on supported them during implementation.

The project was funded by the Waters Services Trust Fund, with a manual contribution by the community. The CBO chairman, Mutunga Soo, and his fellow members, proudly demonstrate the successful result – a fenced-in pond, a reconstructed dam wall and below that a water point to which the dam water is piped and filtered. A cattle trough has also been built. The community has also built 10 VIP latrines in the area.



Photo: Per-Ulf Nilsson

The rehabilitated water pan and new water point in Mwala draws people from near and far.

It may seem small and insignificant, but makes a tremendous difference not only to the 4000 inhabitants in the immediate community.

– We were very lucky, says Mutunga Soo. When we had completed the dam there was one big rain, which filled it. Since then there has been no rain, but still we have some water in the pond. It is the only pond with water in an area where 60 000 people live.

Understandably there is a line of people and donkey carts waiting

at the water point, where people pay two shillings for each jerrycan filled.

In addition to the continued management of the water project, the CBO is now a founding member of the local Water Resource Users' Association with a continued responsibility to care for the water resources. Their immediate plan is to work with the rehabilitation of the catchment area, by sensitising people on the need to plant trees on the surrounding, eroded hills and in the homesteads.