**CGIAR Research Program on   
Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)**

**Organisational Baseline Study:  
Overview Report for Usambara - Lushoto, Tanzania (TZ0105)**

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# INTRODUCTION

This is a report of the Organisational Baseline Survey (OBS) carried out in February 2012. The interviews were conducted at nine organisations that were working or collaborating with farmers and/or the community in Lushoto District which is in the West Usambara Mountains in Tanzania. The research site is in a mid to high altitude ecology, with wet seasons in spring and autumn (1200-1300 mm per year). The site includes two agro-climatic zones: Humid Warm Zone and Humid Cold Zone, and diverse micro eco-zones allowing for mixed crop-livestock and intensive farming systems at higher elevation and agro-pastoral farming systems at lower elevation. Soil erosion is an issue due to steep sloped terrain. The district is the most densely populated rural district in the country, as its excellent climatic conditions attract farmers and tourists alike. The Usambara Mountains further provide natural resources products to the population of the area and beyond. High population and lack of by-laws (or the ability to enforce them) has led to a failure in implementing measures to improve environmental services.

CCAFS' organisational-level baseline studies supplement the quantitative household baseline surveys and the qualitative village baseline studies at the same locations.

The objectives of the organisational baseline study are to:

* Provide indicators to allow us to monitor changes in behaviours and practices of locally relevant organisations over time
* Understand the provision of information/services at the local level that informs farmers’ decision making about their livelihood strategies in response to climate change

# ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED

Prior to this organisational study, CCAFS conducted a participatory village study within the Usambara site. Participants of the village study were asked to create an institutional landscape of their community by listing the most important organisations that were active in the area and then providing information on how they were involved in the community. Specifically, the participants were asked which organisations were involved in food security activities, food crisis situations, and natural resource management (NRM) work. CCAFS then took this list of organisations and provided it to the interviewer conducting the Organisational Baseline Survey. The interviewer was given leeway to eliminate an organisation s/he believed was not relevant and to add any organisations that may have been left out of the village study discussions.

The village survey generated a list of 14 organisations for this site. Six were selected for interview after their relevance to the Organisation Baseline Study was established. Three additional organisations were selected for interview based on the interviewer's assessment.

Tabulated below is the list of organisations interviewed, omitted and added with a brief description of their activities.

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| Organisation | Main areas of activity |
| (DALDO-K) District Agricultural and Livestock Office -Kiungulai (Livestock Specialist) | is a local government organisation which provides training and raises awareness on livestock related topics. It has helped farmers to establish fodder species, milk collection centres and marketing channels. It further improves small ruminant breeds and encourages farmers to adopt soil and water conservation methods on their farms, as a condition for receiving livestock services. |
| (DALDO-Ma) District Agricultural and Livestock Office - Mahoo (Crop Specialist) | is a local government organisation which works to improve agronomic practices to increase yields and food security. |
| (DALDO-Ms) District Agricultural and Livestock Office - Mshana (Land Use Planning Officer) | works closely with the two organisations listed above. According to its top three current objectives it aims to eradicate poverty, ensure households across the district are food secure and create an awareness of climate change. |
| (ED-ELCT) East Diocese-ELCT | is a Lutheran Church which has a Community Development section through which it is involved in government projects (including: Mradi wa maji - Water Project and Mradi wa Kufuga Kuku- Poultry Rearing Project). It also has connections with Heifer International and Red Cross, which channel their assistance through them. Under the Red Cross, ED-ELCT distributed food once during a famine and helped extend tap water. Under the Poultry Rearing Project and Heifer International it has provided women's groups with improved chickens. |
| (UCU) Usambara Cooperative Union | promotes the production of quality coffee in the area. It provides farmers with good quality seedlings, and helps them to access coffee markets. |
| Added Organisations | Activities and/or Why they are included |
| (AFRIWAG) AFRIcan Women’s Aids working Group | began working in the area relatively recently. Its focus is helping AIDS orphans and the families that take them in. AFRIWAG supports the orphans in getting an education and being food secure. |
| (ULT) Usambara Lishe Trust | promotes the production and marketing of fruits and vegetables. It also offers training on organic farming, safe use of pesticides and other agricultural inputs. |
| (UWG) Ubiri Women's Group | this group promotes value addition in fruits and vegetables, with a focus on natural methods of food preservation and organic farming. It now sells its products in hotels around the country and even exports to neighbouring countries. Although it is still developing, it is becoming profitable. |

## Limitations or inconsistencies:

The interviewer observed a number of ways in which organisations may not be fully providing the services they offer, as well as reporting issues that interviewees themselves described. These are listed below:

The interviewee at DALDO-MA stated that a number of research technologies have been shelved ("are in the cabinet") because there is very little budget from the council for disseminating all of the technologies. Furthermore, he reported that many NGOs and Universities continue to pass their innovations through the ministerial level channel, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. This sometimes cuts out extension staff from the process completely. The interviewer noted that the crop section of DALDO has very few extension staff compared to the livestock office. He posits that the farmers' mindsets could be contributing to this as they may be less likely to report crop abnormalities and solicit advice on increased productivity for crops, whereas when it comes to livestock health, farmers will do whatever it takes.

DALDO-K, the livestock section, stated that it was facing financial constraints. One is transport, as some extension staff are allocated to big wards and the council does not provide a fuel allowance. Another is the fact that livestock treatment prices are too high for small scale farmers to afford. The provision of improved breeds is said to mostly dependent on NGOs (Heifer International and others). It is noted that in the rare cases that the government provides improved breeds, they are only in selected wards and only through the Artificial Insemination services based in Arusha. These instances are not considered to have a significant impact on the livelihoods in the community.

At the DALDO-MS, the land planning section, the interviewer observed that they were not visiting the sites regularly and thus were not rectifying degradation until it gets out of control. The interviewee stated that their main issue was that the council failed to enhance the village by-laws which are very important in land management. He also said that following elections, policy makers had failed to cooperate with stakeholders and extension workers in the ways they had committed to doing during the election. Thus making it impossible to meet stated goals and improve the livelihoods of their voters. He added that requests they receive, through the government instituted community participatory project Opportunities and Obstacles to Development, are generally not agriculture or livestock based. Instead they ask for schools, bridges, roads or dispensaries to be built.

Overall the interviewer notes that the majority of organisations' members were not well versed in their organisation's activities and some were unable to make any contributions during the interview. (AFRIWAG was a noted exception, with all the staff able to contribute freely and seeming to know all about their organisation).

The interviewer also noted a weak link between most organisations and the ward extension workers from the Lushoto district council. This was evident as most were unaware of who was involved in which activity. On the other hand, the interviewer noticed that the extension officers were not working closely with the organisations as a result of donor fatigue.

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

## Natural resource management:

A number of the organizations listed natural resource management activities. There seems to be some understanding of the need for environmental protection and conservation, tree planting and water management. A large number of the activities surround responsible farming practices, which is not surprising considering it is a relatively populous area.

In regard to planning and management, DALDO-MS trains community farmer committees to identify their resources and areas which need conservation measures to make them arable. It also carries out land use planning in all villages. Meanwhile, DALDO-MA states that it is involved in land use management. ED-ELCT constructs water infrastructure. DALDO-MA provides information about proper and efficient water utilization for irrigation where necessary, while UTL focuses on drip irrigation. DALDO-MS works to avoid encroachment on water sources for agriculture and revive traditional irrigation practices. DALDO-K advises farmers to protect water sources.

Environmental conservation in its entirety is promoted by UGW. ULT focuses on soil and water conservation in highland areas. DALDO MS advises farmers on soil and water management, and implements general conservation measures. DALDO-K is providing its livestock services to farmers on the condition that soil and water conservation methods are adopted on their farms.

Encouraging forest protection is an activity for UWG, which also promotes the restoration of indigenous trees and fruits, as well as bee keeping as a way to conserve the forests with an income generating activity. DALDO-MS is working to conserve degraded areas through tree planting, encouraging farmers to establish their own tree nurseries and promoting tree planting. ULT offers training on the importance of fruit trees and UCU promotes tree planting on all coffee farms.

There are also activities in fodder and the promotion of zero-grazing. DALDO-K is involved in both. It encourages zero grazing and the planting of different fodder species, as well as explaining their importance for soil fertility and advising farmers to plant fodder in all physical structures. It further encourages farmers to use silage, stovers and store crop residue. UWG discourages free range grazing and ED-ELCT provides training about the advantages of zero grazing and the establishment of fodder species in fields.

A number of organizations are involved in spreading responsible farming practices. DALDO- MA and ULT provide training on integrated pest management (IPM), the latter also teaches the proper use of pesticides, and the use of organic manure or compost. DALDO-MS is working to reduce the use of industrial fertilizers and promote IPM, mulching and leaving crop residue to retain moisture. UWG promotes organic farming, without pesticides or industrial fertilizers.

Finally, two organizations are addressing the issue of clean, efficient energy. DALDO-K promotes the establishment of biogas plants as an environmentally friendly energy source. UWG trains people on how to make energy efficient stoves using local and available materials (sawdust and paper).

## Preparation to withstand extreme events:

There are not a lot of activities directed at enhancing preparedness to withstand extreme events. Those which are being implemented address the issue by focusing on improving food security, promoting drought tolerant crops and emergency relief.

DALDO-MS and DALDO-MA express that ensuring food security at a household level is a high priority. DALDO-MA further details that it advises farmers to be food secure at a household level and, depending on the forecast, advises farmers to plant drought tolerant crops (including cassava, finger millet and short term varieties of vegetables). Finally, ED-ELCT distributes food in collaboration with the Red Cross.

## Reduction of risk due to climate variability:

Organisations which are working to reduce risk due to climate variability are focused on diversification of income and farming, as well as improving food storage practices and spreading improved farming inputs.

DALDO-K promotes the use of livestock products and by products, including milk, manure, eggs, hides and skins, as potential income sources. As mentioned above, UWG promotes bee keeping. ED-ELCT encourages and establishes milk collection centres for income generation.

ULT promotes crop rotations with vegetables, fruit growing and cattle, and goat and chicken rearing to collect manure. It further provides training on the production, preservation use and marketing of fruits and vegetables. DALDO-MA offers training in food value addition, particularly for fruits and vegetables.

DALDO-MA is involved in proper crop storage facilities post harvest, and provides technical advice on the proper utilisation and storage of food. ED-ELCT offers training on food processing, particularly to extend the shelf life of fruits and crops. Similarly, UWG trains farmers on value addition in fruits and vegetables and how to preserve and package them.

Finally, DALDO-K states that farmers should have improved breeds, while DALDO-MA works to ensure farmers are using improved seed varieties. ED-ELCT distributes improved breeds of cows, chickens and goats in collaboration with international NGOs.

## Activities' Relationship to Climate Change:

There does not seem to be a strong focus on climate change. DALDO-K is the only organisation to directly address the issue of climate change. Two of its current objectives relate to climate change, the first is to, "Create awareness on climate change" and the other is to, "Collaborate with other partners to combat climate change impacts". There does seem to be an understanding of land degradation and the need for environmental conservation.

Due to the use of lists and concise descriptions, there is some ambiguity as to whether the activities in the above three subsections are climate change related activities. They have been listed because they do relate to climate change; however, in most cases there may be other reasons for implementation, such as to improve agricultural productivity or to overcome natural year to year variability. Thus, the organisations' climate change activities may be activities that date back to before there was a focus on climate change, and their attention to it is a by-product.