

TRAINING REPORT ON CONTOUR FARMING



Picture: Trainees are observing Nano watershed model (Gentle Slope / Moderate slope / Steep slope)

*A Joint Initiative of SAPLING and Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI),
Bandarban*

26-27 April 2017

PREPARED BY: Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI), BANDARBAN

Introduction: A two days staff Training on Contour farming was organized by the Sustainable Agriculture and Production Linked to Improved Nutrition Status, Resilience and Gender Equity (SAPLING) program and conducted by the Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI), Bandarban Center from 26 to 27 April, 2017 at SRDI conference room, Bandarban. Total 22 participants were attended in the scheduled training at SRDI Bandarban center. Senior Scientific Officer (SSO) of SRDI, Bandarban and 2 associates were facilitated this training covering the topics stated below:

Session No.	Topics	Day
1	Land capability class, vegetation and land use, Micro-economic (house hold) farming scenario in 3 hill districts.	Day-1
2	Crop suitability, cropping pattern and methods of soil management considering different characteristics of hilly soil (Soil PH, Soil texture)	Day-1
3	Soil erosion, types of soil erosion, causes of soil erosion, harmful effect of soil erosion and different steps for controlling soil erosion	Day-1
4	Land slope, determination of slope, Classification of slope, Hill height classes.	Day-1
5	What is contour? Advantages of contour farming. Tools for identifying contour line. What is “A” frame? How to prepare ‘A’ frame? Advantages of use “A” frame.	Day-1
6	Use of “Hedge row” method for reducing soil erosion in cultivation on hilly slope	Day-1
7	Different Methods for controlling gully. Use of Jute-Geo textile technology to recover erosion land.	Day-2
8	Use of Bench terrace method in contour for cultivation throughout the year in hilly slope.	Day-2
9	Soil sample collection method for soil testing. Use of balanced fertilizer and methods of identification adulterated fertilizer (Practical)	Day-2
10	Plant nutrient element, Classification, Sources of nutrient, available form of nutrient	Day-2
11	Presentation on research findings of SRDI, Bandarban	Day-2
**	Field visit to farmer’s field and different research plot in SRDI campus	Day-2

Methodology: Training was conducted both followed lecture method, practical sessions and field visit at the demonstration sites for physical observations of ‘A’ frame using for contour line preparation and hedge row preparation, gully control point, soil erosion determination matrix, geo-jute application etc.



Picture: SSO of SRDI facilitating the training session in training room

Objectives: Sapling aims to develop around 25 contour farming demonstration plots as part of learning center over the Life of Award (LOA). Contour farming is a proven technology in CHT in protecting soil erosions at hill sides of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices. In CHT (Bandarban) people are used to involve Jhum (slash and burn) cultivation in a traditional way for crop production. Jhum cultivation ultimately caused for significant soil loss at the hill sides. Sapling wants to mobilize the beneficiary community to contour farming from traditional Jhum cultivation through sapling established contour farming demonstration plots.

Participants: A total of 22 sapling project staffs including of 3 Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) from Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) were participated the two days training. The participants were confirmed by the sapling project and it was residential training. All the participants were very much positive and enthusiastic & actively participated in each of the training session. In the training, participants were exchanged and shared their views and ideas openly and expressed that this training was very much effective which would enable them to serve the sapling purpose.

Pre and Post-test: A pre and post-test was conducted among the participants the results shows that the participants were attentive and able to increase their interest level and did tremendous progress in the post-test whose were relatively low scorers in the pre-test. The average score of pre-test and post-test results is as follows:

Participants	Pre-test score ranges	Average score	Post-test score ranges	Average score
SAPLING-HKI	60-84%	72%	78-100%	89%
SAPLING-Caritas	12-84%	48%	78-100%	89%
SAAO-DAE	50-70%	60%	82-94%	88%

Lessons learnt: SRDI is renowned governmental organization is working on soil erosion controls in CHT areas since 1990. They already are introduced different types of techniques for sustainable land management. Contour farming is one of them and already established as proven technology in part of SLM technology; SRDI is establishing demonstration plots; learning plots etc. among different communities to disseminate easy and effective SLM techniques e.g., contour farming, geo-jute using etc. for soil erosion control. Now a day, many people become interested to introduce contour farming in their agricultural plots but it is widely practiced on commercial plots. The training participants were highly interested and happily received this training and opined for receiving more training in near future as soil erosion is a major concern of Bandarban areas.



Picture: Practical session in the field

Training materials:

- Using lap-top, multi media
- VIPP card, Banner, flip cart
- Bamboo for “A” frame, Black board
- Brown paper, marker, folder, posters, leaflets, booklets
- Note pad, Pen and name card etc.

Recommendation: If possible, more training can be conducted with SRDI, as this institute has so many recognized experts and as a governmental organization SRDI is assigned for reducing soil erosion in CHT. For all field staff especially for field facilitators (FFs) as they are the front line staff and directly working with the project participants so it is easy for them to disseminate message to the participants and convey to mobilize the communities for soil protection in introducing contour farming in their agricultural plots.

Annex-1: Results of pre and post-test for two days training on Contour farming for SAPLING project staff and Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAOs) at SRDI conference room (26-27 April 2017)

Sl No	Name	Position	Pre-test	out of	Post-test	Out of	Organization
1	Aung Kyaw Shan	TO-AH	30	50	41	50	HKI
2	Khairul Mostofa	FF	31	50	41	50	Caritas

3	Shibly Sadek	US	15	50	48	50	Caritas
4	Thoihla Marma	FF	12	50	39	50	Caritas
5	Noel Chakma	FF	24	50	49	50	Caritas
6	Joney Khyang	FF	14	50	47	50	Caritas
7	Atal Chakma	TO-Hort	32	50	39	50	HKI
8	Gopan Kanti Chowdhury	SAAO	33	50	47	50	DAE
9	Numong Prue	SAAO	35	50	47	50	DAE
10	Kamrul Hasan	Env. Sp	42	50	50	50	HKI
11	Masud Kabir	TO-Hort	35	50	50	50	HKI
12	Kristashi Khisa	US	42	50	50	50	Caritas
13	Arup Ratan Chowdhury	US	38	50	50	50	Caritas
14	Joyanal Abedin	US	39	50	50	50	Caritas
15	Sudarshan chakma	FF	19	50	49	50	Caritas
16	Sin Mamang Marma	FF	6	50	43	50	Caritas
17	Thoi Aung Prue Marma	FF	12	50	47	50	Caritas
18	Pinku Chowdhury	FF	27	50	43	50	Caritas
19	Salem Bawm	FF	24	50	40	50	Caritas
20	Tri Ratna Chakma	FF	40	50	47	50	Caritas
21	Nirmal	SAAO	25	50	41	50	DAE
22	Way Sai Prue Marma	FF	23	50	49	50	Caritas

Annex-2: Some photographs of the training



Picture: Training participants are observing SRDI experimental plot in SRDI campus



Picture: Training participants with SRDI Trainer and HKI Director-Food Security & Livelihood