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Rehabilitation of Degraded Agricultural Lands (RDAL) in Kandy, Badulla and NuwaraEliya in Central Highlands.

**Documentation of sustainable land management (SLM) technologies and approaches to promote experience sharing and knowledge management through SriCAT website (**www.sricat.net)

**Introduction**

RDAL project has already developed information sharing platform on SLM namely Sri Lanka Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (SriCAT) - www.sricat.net. This website will be further developed as the Sri Lanka’s National Land Information Sharing Platform. The website has been designed in the same format of the WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies).

WOCAT provides standardized, user-driven, open-access, globally used tools and methods for the documentation and assessment of sustainable land management practices. SLM in the context of WOCAT is defined as the sustainable use of land resources – including soils, water, vegetation, and animals. WOCAT focuses on efforts to prevent and reduce land degradation and restore degraded land through improved land management technologies and approaches. All practices may be considered, whether they are indigenous, newly introduced through projects, or recent innovations by land users. All information documented through WOCAT questionnaires is made available in the Global SLM Database and can be used to spread SLM knowledge and improve decision-making for further implementation and dissemination of SLM practices.

Many countries follow this WOCAT format in their national land information sharing platforms and follow the same format in reporting such information. This gives uniformity in sharing global land information and experience. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) officially recognize WOCAT as the primary recommended Global SLM Database for best practices.

SriCAT has been designed in all three languages and RDAL project is now trying to promote the platform among relevant government agencies, private organizations and individuals to share their experience and information related to sustainable land management in Sri Lanka. RDAL project conducted a discussion with WOCAT secretariat and the Ministry of Environment, and they are in agreement to support RDAL project to further improve this website as a standard and national land information sharing platform. The SriCAT will also be used as information sharing platform under UNCCD program as well.

Therefore, the RDAL project needs to identify and document successful technologies and approaches developed by the project and other relevant agencies to update them in the SriCAT web site.

There are many government and private organizations working in the area of land resources management. They promote policies and programs to ensure sustainable use and protection of land resources. However, effective information sharing strategies to be introduced to individual stakeholders such as farmers and local land users to mainstream SLM in local contexts. Hence, SriCAT attempts to document all this information and publish them. In addition to that, a guideline for SLM good practices will be developed by the project as well.

**The following steps would be conducted to complete these activities.**

Step 01: Virtual initial meeting with stakeholders and interested parties to build their awareness on WOCAT documentation procedures.

Step 02: SLM technologies and approaches practiced by stakeholders and interested parties around the Island will be collected with the support of Ministry of Environment.

Step 03: Innovative/ effective technologies and approaches suitable to document under the WOCAT method will be selected by an expert committee.

Step 04: Document selected technologies and approaches and develop guideline for SLM best practices.

Step 05: National level awarding ceremony will be conducted under the patronage of Secretary, Ministry of environment to felicitate best innovative approaches and technologies.

**National Award Giving Ceremony**

A national level award giving ceremony will be conducted to acknowledge the best innovative approaches and technologies. The best approach and technology from three main sectors namely government, private and civil society (UN/NGO/CBOs) will be selected by an expert committee appointed by the ministry and the project.

Best ten technologies and 5 approaches will be documented according to WOCAT method and will be published and made available in international information sharing platforms like WOCAT.

A guideline for SLM best practices will be developed based on the information collected from the identified best technologies and approaches and published as a book.

Annexure 01:

Basic Information on SLM technologies practiced by individuals/groups/organizations

# Definitions

**SLM Technology:**

An SLM Technology is a physical practice in the field that controls land degradation and/ or enhances productivity. A Technology consists of one or several measures, such as agronomic, vegetative, structural, and management measures.

# Details of Information Provider

## Name:

## Designation/ Occupation:

## Organization:

## Address

## Mobile:

## Email:

# Details of SLM Technology (please use separate form if there are more than one)

## Name of the technology (if known):

## Locally used name:

## Locations (GN Division/s, DS Division and District):

## Land Extend (ha):

## Total cost occurred during the period of 2015 – 2020:

## Short description of the technology:

## Specify how the Technology was introduced:

🗌 as part of a traditional system

🗌 land users’ innovation

🗌 during experiments/ research

🗌 through projects/ external interventions

🗌 other (specify): ………………………………..

##

## Main purpose(s) of the Technology

*Several answers possible*

🗌 improve production (crop, fodder, wood/ fibre, water, energy)

🗌 prevent (avoid), reduce land degradation; restore/rehabilitate land (reverse land degradation) (soil, water, vegetation)

🗌 conserve ecosystem

🗌 preserve/ improve biodiversity

🗌 create beneficial economic impact (e.g. increase income/ employment opportunities)

🗌 create beneficial social impact (e.g. reduce conflicts on natural resources, support marginalized groups)

🗌 reduce risk of disasters (e.g. droughts, floods, landslides)

🗌 adapt to climate change/ extremes and its impacts (e.g. resilience to droughts, storms)

🗌 mitigate climate change and its impacts (e.g. through carbon sequestration)

🗌 other purpose (specify): ……………………………………………………………………………………………

## Current land use type(s) where the Technology is applied

🗌 Cropland *(land used for cultivation of crops (field crops, orchards)*

🗌 Grazing land (*land used for animal production)*

🗌 Forest/ woodlands (*land used mainly for wood production, other forest products, recreation, protection.)*

🗌 Settlements, infrastructure

🗌 Waterways, waterbodies, wetlands

🗌 Mines, extractive industries

🗌 Unproductive land

🗌 Protected areas

🗌 Other (specify):

## Current land use system(s) where the Technology is applied

🗌 High In-put Vegetable

🗌 Low In-put Vegetable (Rain-fed)

🗌 Rice

🗌 Home garden

🗌 Tea (Small holder/ plantation)

🗌 Fruits

🗌 Other

………………………………………..

………………………………………..

………………………………………..

## Main types of land degradation addressed by the Technology

🗌 soil erosion by water

🗌 soil erosion by wind

🗌 chemical soil deterioration

🗌 physical soil deterioration

🗌 biological degradation

🗌 water degradation

🗌 other

# Photos of the technology

Annexure 02:

Basic Information on SLM approaches practiced by individuals/groups/organizations

# Definitions

**SLM Approach:**

An SLM Approach defines the ways and means used to implement one or several SLM Technologies. It includes technical and material support, involvement and roles of different stakeholders, etc. An Approach can refer to a project/ programme or to activities initiated by land users themselves.

# Details of Information Provider

## Name:

## Designation/ Occupation:

## Organization:

## Address

## Mobile:

## Email:

# Details of SLM Approach (please use separate form if there are more than one)

## Name of the Approach (if known):

## Locally used name:

## Locations (GN Division/s, DS Division and District):

## Land Extend (ha):

## Implemented Period of the Approach: Start Date: End Date:

## Total cost occurred to implement approach:

## Short description of the Approach:

## Type of Approach

🗌 traditional/ indigenous

🗌 recent local initiative/ innovative

🗌 project/ programme based

🗌 other (specify):……………………………...

## Main aims/ objectives of the Approach

# Main motivation of land users to implement SLM

*Several answers possible.*

🗌 increased production

🗌 increased profit(ability), improved cost-benefit ratio

🗌 reduced land degradation

🗌 reduced risk of disasters

🗌 reduced workload

🗌 payments/ subsidies

🗌 rules and regulations (fines)/ enforcement

🗌 prestige, social pressure/ social cohesion

🗌 affiliation to movement/ project/ group/ networks

🗌 [environmental](http://dict.leo.org/ende?lp=ende&p=/gQPU.&search=environmental) [consciousness](http://dict.leo.org/ende?lp=ende&p=/gQPU.&search=consciousness)

🗌 customs and beliefs, morals

🗌 enhanced SLM knowledge and skills

🗌 aesthetic improvement

🗌 conflict mitigation

🗌 other (specify): …………………………………….

# Impacts of the Approach

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *First, tick relevant impacts (tick boxes on the left). Then, for each selected impact, tick the extent* ***Did the Approach…:*** | **No**  | **Yes, a little** | **Yes, moderately** | **Yes, greatly** |
| 🗌 empower local land users, improve stakeholder participation? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 enable evidence-based decision-making? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 help land users to implement and maintain SLM Technologies? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 improve coordination and cost-effective implementation of SLM? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 mobilize/ improve access to financial resources for SLM implementation? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 improve knowledge and capacities of land users to implement SLM? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 improve knowledge and capacities of other stakeholders? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 build/ strengthen institutions, collaboration between stakeholders? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 mitigate conflicts? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 empower socially and economically disadvantaged groups? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 improve gender equality and empower women and girls? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 encourage young people/ the next generation of land users to engage in SLM? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 improve issues of land tenure/ user rights that hindered implemen­tation of SLM Technologies? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 lead to improved food security/ improved nutrition? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 improve access to markets? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 lead to improved access to water and sanitation? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 lead to more sustainable use/ sources of energy? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 improve land users’ resilience to climatic changes/ extremes and disasters? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 lead to employment, income opportunities? | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |
| 🗌 other (specify): ……………….. | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 | 🗌 |

# Stakeholders involved in the Approach

***What stakeholders/ implementing bodies were involved in the Approach?***

🗌 local land users/ local communities

🗌 community-based organizations

🗌 SLM specialists/ agricultural advisers

🗌 researchers

🗌 teachers/ school children/ students

🗌 NGO

🗌 private sector

🗌 local government

🗌 national government (planners, decision-makers)

🗌 international organization

🗌 other (specify): ...........................................

If several stakeholders were involved, indicate lead agency:

Comments:

# Photos of the Approach

Annexure 03:

Progress on National Action Program for Combating Land Degradation in Sri Lanka 2015 - 2024

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Programs** | **Total cost under your organization/institution budget from 2015 to 2020** | **Briefly explain key quantifiable achievements/ outputs** **Eg: No of events, restored area**  |
|  | Awareness raising and education of relevant local, national and international stakeholders on land degradation issues in Sri Lanka |  |  |
|  | Assessment of land related development policies, legislations, regulations and institution and recommend appropriate changes |  |  |
|  | Addressing environmental concerns in economic policies to ensure SLM |  |  |
|  | Incorporating SLM into poverty reduction programs |  |  |
|  | Promotion of integrated management of Central Highlands |  |  |
|  | Rehabilitation of degraded agricultural lands |  |  |
|  | Management of low-lying lands in the southwest costal belt for productivity improvement and maintaining ecological functions |  |  |
|  | Promote sustainable agriculture |  |  |
|  | Integration of livestock farming into Sustainable Land Management activities |  |  |
|  | Integrated biodiversity conservation for improvement of degraded ecosystems |  |  |
|  | Prevention of forest cover decline |  |  |
|  | Restoration of degraded forests |  |  |
|  | Conservation of natural grasslands (Pathana, Savanah, Damana and Villa) |  |  |
|  | Protection of streams, springs and waterspouts |  |  |
|  | Conservation of reservoir and canal reservation |  |  |
|  | Promotion of sustainable ground water management |  |  |
|  | Establishing a drought early warning system |  |  |
|  | Strengthening of adaptation mechanism to drought |  |  |
|  | Disaster risk reduction in vulnerable areas |  |  |
|  | Prevention of land degradation by development activities and industries |  |  |
|  | Prevention of coastal erosion and rehabilitation of degraded coastal areas |  |  |
|  | Study of linkages among ecosystem degradation, biophysical factors, socioeconomic conditions and cultural norms |  |  |
|  | Enhancing institutional capacity to address sustainable land management |  |  |
|  | Development of a Land Resource Information system |  |  |
|  | Development of a Knowledge Management System |  |  |