

A smallholder level decision support process improves resilience to climate change



May 2023















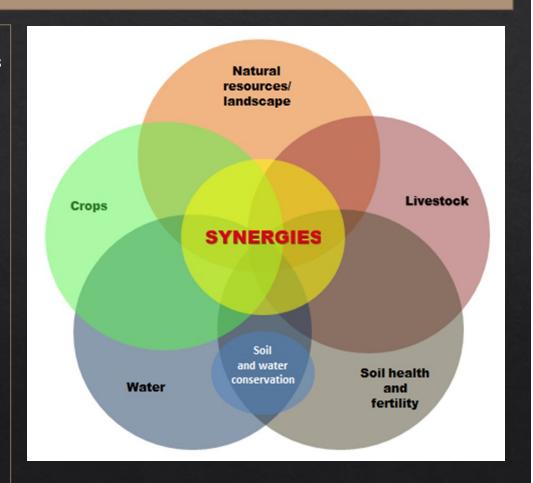
DSS Guiding principles

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

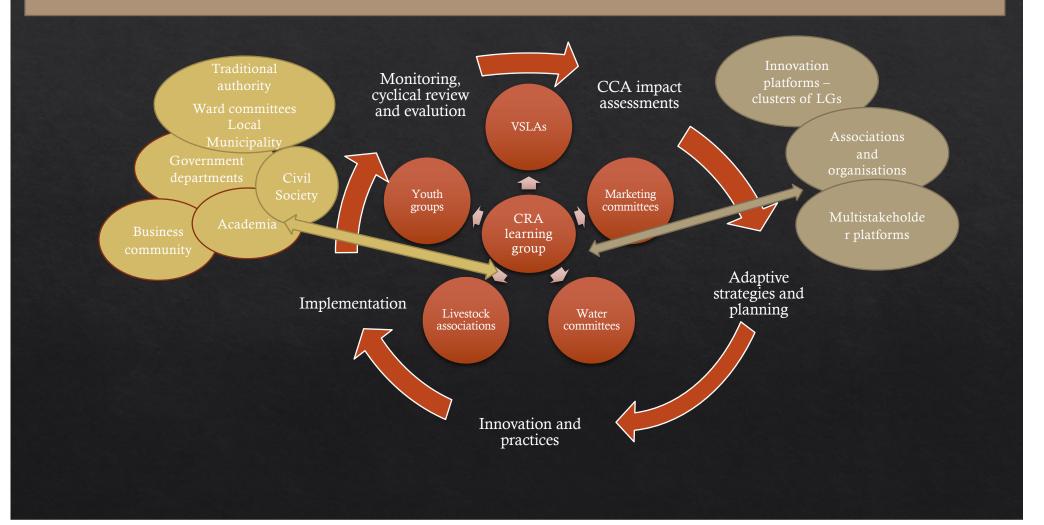
- ♦ Build on **community-based criteria**, indicators and priorities
- ♦ Generate transitional strategies
- Assess costs and benefits
- ♦ Link national and local planning mechanisms
- Strengthen local networks
- ♦ Promote **values other than financial** values
- Prioritize locally appropriate actions

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL

- ♦ Encourage **crop diversity** and **continuity**
- ♦ Ensure healthy soil
- Protect natural resource base and ecosystem services
- Reduce external inputs
- Make the most effective use of water and land for all purposes
- ♦ Enhance understanding and skills in storage, value adding, and marketing go beyond immediate markets

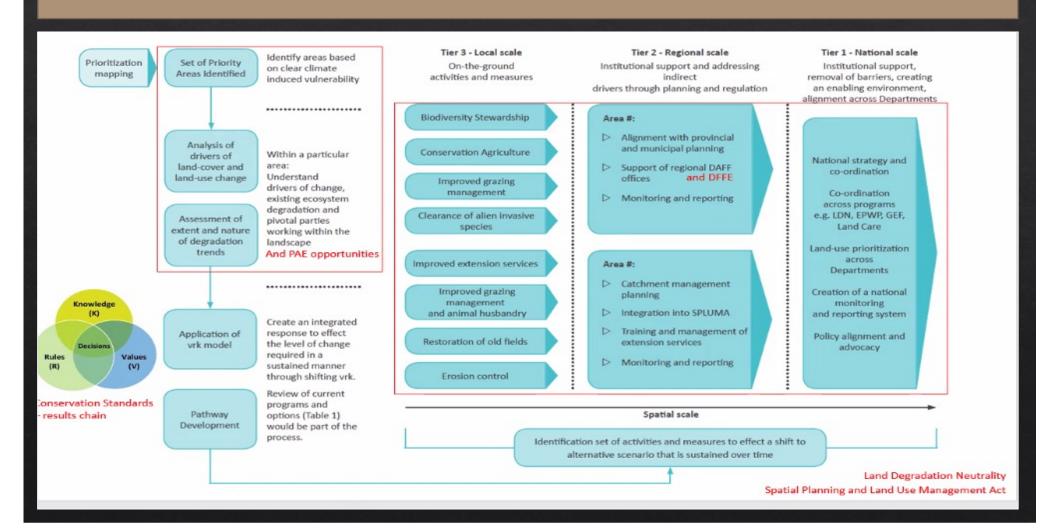


CRA learning groups: Process for development of social agency



		INTERVENTIONS AND PRO	OCESSES TO BUILD	IMPROVED DECIS	ION MAKING AND	
PRESENT SI	PRESENT SITUATION		ENCY	GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES		
	Joint analysis				Joint decision making	
Actions	(Outcomes)	Actions/Outcomes	Co-learning (Outcomes)	Actions/Outcomes	(Outcomes)	
Focus group discussions and mapping: socio-ecological patches		Focus group discussions/ Thematic workshop: CC, resource issues (erosion, alien invasion, wetlands and rivers, water access, grazing management)	Socio-ecological mapping: Impact of human interventions and climate on the environment	Adaptive planning workshop using layered socio ecological maps (expert and community combined)	Management plan for water and land resources	
Village walks for detailed resource discussions and mapping (key informants)	Present situation in land use and management, including needs and issues (emerging from discussions)	Community workshops on CC impact (social, economic, farming, resources). Adaptive strategies (communities and stakeholders combined)	CC impact and adaptive strategies		Build improved systems and social agency	
Expert ecological mapping (GIS) incl EIA, Veld assessment, water resource survey etc. (with key informants)	Collect and	Prioritization of adaptive measures, and practices	Village based learning groups	Further social organisations develop (including markeintg, microfinance, water livestock etc.)	Linked youth groups in resource management and enterprise development	
	analyse information	Experimentation with new practices and innovations in Climate resilient agriculture (Individual smallholders and support organisations) Seasonal review and re-planning	CRA experimentation and implementation	Iterative experimentation with CRA practices to tackle more complex issues, Stakeholder engagement - innovation platforms and multi stakeholder forums etc		
Focus group discussions,individual interviews	Local structures and decisions made by them, including factors that influence individual and community decision making (emerging from discussions)	Thematic focus areas: water access and management, livestock and grazing management, natural resources management, Marketing committees, VSLAs Further engagement with stakeholders for expanded implementation options around water and resource management	options and implement Learning group discussions and prioritization of urgent issues	Committees discuss, plan and implement (with support) prioritized actions in thematic areas LGs, committees and community structures engage in resource management projects with a range of stakeholders		
				OUTCOMES	Improved participatory decision making to support implementation and innovation Improved governance - new community based structures Improved governance improved rules and logistics within community based	
					structures . Improved governance- coherent collaboration with stakeholders and role players.	

National EbA framework



Smallholder CCA decision support system: individual and facilitated

Info func	rmational tions	relationa functions	systems functions						
	Information intermediary	Knowledge translator	Knowledge broker	Innovation broker					
	Enabling access to information from multiple sources	Helping people make sense of and apply information	Improving knowledge use in decision- making; fostering the co-production of knowledge	Influencing the wider context to reduce transaction costs & facilitate innovation					
	Local good practice	Climate Change dialogues	Farmer level experimentation to test practices	CoPs and innovation platforms					
Activities and processes	Best practise options	Impacts of CC	Introduction of new practices and ideas to try	Benchmarking for visual indicators					
	Stakeholder engagements	Adaptive strategies	Learning and mentoring						
	Materials and information	Appropriate practices	Assessment of outcomes and impacts						
	Internet based platform		Cyclical, iterative learning and implementation						
	Facilitator-Farmer Decision Support System								

The outputs/outcomes of the process

A choice of appropriate, tested practices and technologies for implementation at homestead and field level across a range of bioclimatic regions

A locally relevant decision support system (DSS) for implementing CRA and SWC practices in smallholder farming systems in South Africa Baskets of options for use at community level for introduction of concepts, awareness raising and implementation, across a range of bioclimatic regions

Recommendations for appropriate knowledge mediation, learning and dissemination strategies for CRA in smallholder farming systems

A model for communitybased monitoring of CRA indicators.

DSS outline

Start with desktop information re CC information for the locality and general farming information, then go on to focus group discussions and individual interviews

Focus group and individual interviews, walkabouts

- Size
- Resources: physical, environmental
- Resources: socio-
- Social/institution
- Management capacity/technol ogy

Vulnerability context

Link to practices flow chart

Attendance registers,

Aspiration

- Gardening
- Field cropping
- Livestock
- Trees, incl fruit

• Water

• Soil health management

management

- Crop management
- Livestock management
- Natural resource management

Farming system

1 page descriptions-PP

Practices

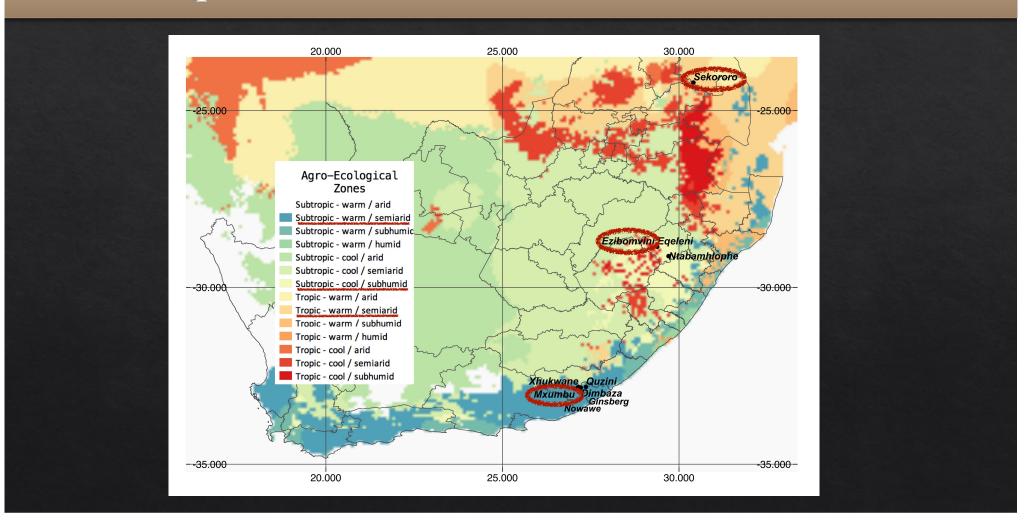
- Water flow management
- Infiltration
- Greywater management
- RWH
- Irrigation
- Soil erosion control
- Increased organic matter
- Microclimate management
- Crop diversification (including varieties, calendars
- Conservation Agriculture
- Agroforestry
- Livestock integration

Focus group discussions, individual prioritization

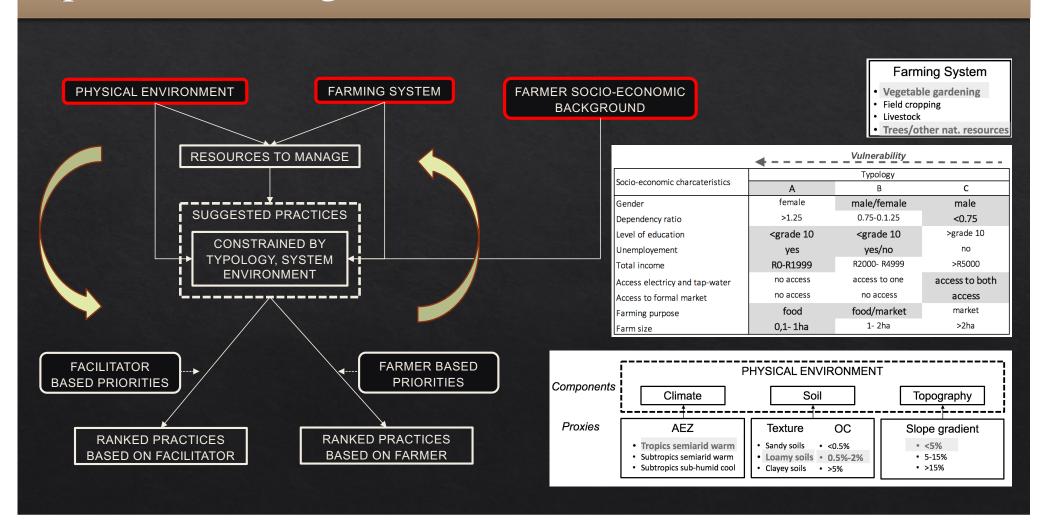
- Labour
- Cost
- Ease- technical
- Productivity
- Soil health
- Water use efficiency
- Knowledge

Prioritization - criteria

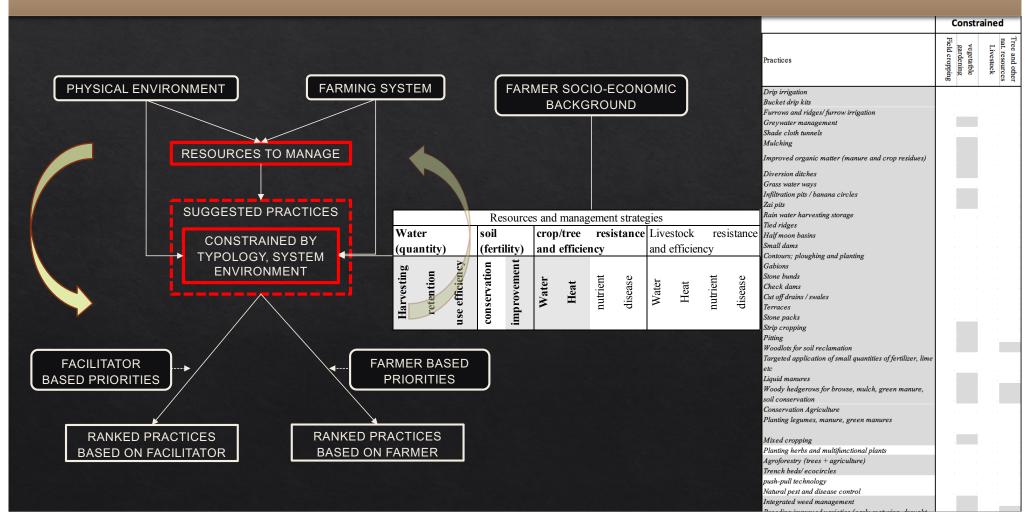
DSS example: Individual-online



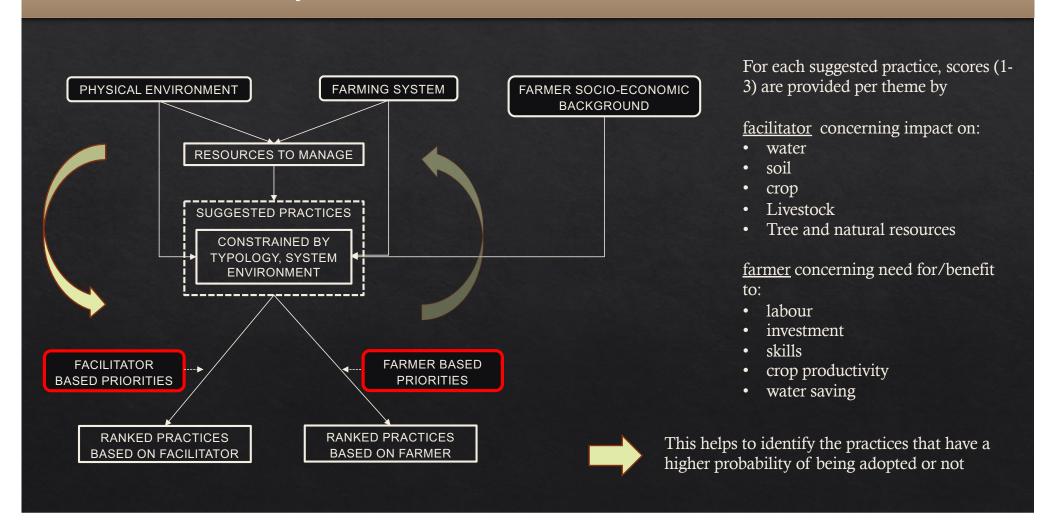
Input for DSS: e.g. Farmer in Sekororo



Output of DSS: Suggested practices



Prioritization by farmer & facilitator



FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS:

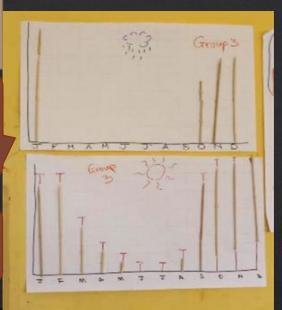
CC dialogues – effects (past, present, future), seasonality, impacts, practices, prioritization criteria

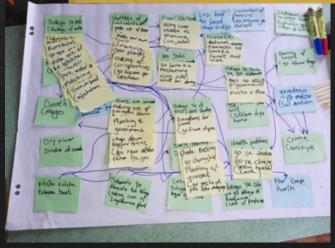
WORKSHOPS OUTLINE (CCA workshops 1-3)

- 1. What we are seeing around us, what has been happening (nature, economy, society, village, livelihoods, farming) (list main issues (biophysical, social, economic) with ranking of vulnerability, organisational mapping, financial flows and services mapping,
- 2. Past, present, future of farming activities and livelihoods (timelines and trends)
- 3. Climate vs weather *(role play)*
- 4. Scientific understanding of climate change (Power point input)
- 5. Seasonality diagrams of temperature and rainfall generally what it is, what is changing (seasonality diagrams)
- 6. Reality maps (choose temp, or rainfall): draw up mind maps of impacts (Impact mapping)
- 7. Turn impacts in to priority goals (positive statements) and think through adaptive measures that we know of or think could work (Adaptation strategies)
- 8. Introduce a range of practices (facilitation team) related to these goals to broaden potential adaptive measures (A4 picture summaries and power point presentations)
- 9. Walkabouts and individual interviews (transect walks, key informant interviews, mapping of local innovations/adaptations)
- 10. Prioritization of practices matrix using farmer level criteria for assessment (matrix ranking and scoring)
- 11. Planning of farmer experimentation, learning sessions and implementation of practices (Individual experimentation outlines, lists)

Seasonality diagrams; rainfall, heat

Impacts; reality map





Climate char	nge impacts on livelihoods and farming				
	KZN	EC	Limpopo		
Water	Less water in the landscape; streams and springs dry up, borehole run dry, soils dry out quickly after rain	Less water in the landscape; streams and springs dry up, borehole run dry, soils dry out quickly after rain	Less water in the landscape; streams and springs dry up, borehole run dry, soils dry out quickly after rain		
	Dams dry up	Dams dry up	Dams dry up		
	Municipal water supply becoming more unreliable	Municipal water supply becoming more unreliable	Municipal water supply becoming more unreliable;		
			Need to buy water for household use – now sometimes for more than 6 months of the year		
			RWH storage only enough for household use.		
Soil	More erosion	More erosion	More erosion		
	Soils becoming more compacted and infertile	Soils becoming more compacted and infertile	Soils becoming more compacted and infertile		
			Soils too hot to sustain plant growth		
Cropping	Timing for planting has changed-later	Timing for planting has changed-later	Can no longer plant dryland maize		
			All cropping now requires irrigation – even crops such as sweet potato		
			Drought tolerant crops such as sorghum and millet grow=but severe bird damage		
	Heat damage to crops	Heat damage to crops	Heat damage to crops		
	Reduced germination and growth	Reduced germination and growth	Reduced germination and growth		
	Seeding of legumes becoming unreliable	Seeding of legumes becoming unreliable	Seeding of legumes becoming unreliable		
	Lower yields	Lower yields	Lower yields		
			Winter vegetables don't do well - stress induced bolting and lack of growth		
	More pests and diseases	More pests and diseases	More pests and diseases		
	Loss of indigenous seed stocks		Loss of indigenous seed stocks		
Livestock	Less grazing; not enough to see cattle through winter	Less grazing; not enough to see cattle through winter	Less grazing; not enough to see cattle through winter		
	More disease in cattle and heat stress symptoms	More disease in cattle and heat stress symptoms	More disease in cattle and heat stress symptoms		
	Fewer calves	Fewer calves	Fewer calves		
	More deaths	More deaths	More deaths		

Climate Change impacts as discussed by smallholders



Natural resources	Fewer trees; too much cutting for	Fewer trees; too much cutting for	Fewer trees; too much cutting for firewood		
	firewood	firewood			
	Decrease in wild animals and indigenous plants	Decrease in wild animals and indigenous plants	Decrease in wild animals and indigenous plants		
	Increased crop damage from wild animals such as birds and monkeys	Increased crop damage from wild animals such as birds and monkeys	Increased crop damage from wild animals such as birds and monkeys		
	Availability of indigenous vegetables has decreased		No longer able to harvest any resources due to scarcity		
			Increased population puts pressure on resources		
Social	More diseases	More diseases	More diseases		
	Increased poverty and hunger	Increased poverty and hunger	Increased poverty and hunger		
	Increased crime and reduced job opportunities	Increased crime and reduced job opportunities	Increased crime and reduced job opportunities		
			Increased food prices		
			Increased conflict		
			Inability to survive		

Climate Change impacts as discussed by smallholders – continued.

We are being punished by God for not living correctly

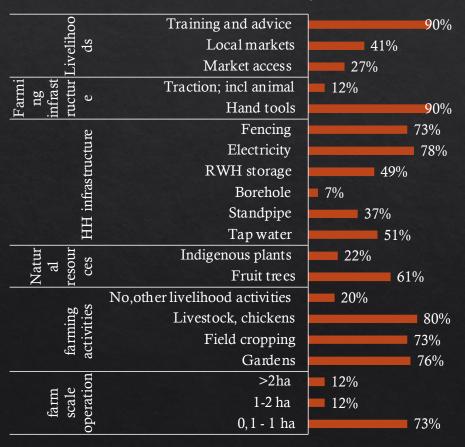
Climate change is a reality and we will need to find different ways to do thing to survive

It feels as if the end of the world is coming



Individual interviews and walkabouts

Baseline information: Vulnerability assessment



- ♦ Lay of the land; land use patterns, ecological stresses, climate stresses
- ♦ Local adaptations



Ezimbovini (KZN) walkabout:- shows heat and moisture stress in sweet potatoes, garden crops such as cabbages and CA intercropping trial with maize and beans

Potential adaptive measures

In all villages farmers have some ideas, or many, of potential practices for CCA

Area	Village	Natl resources/ landscape		Soil health and fertility (incl Manage soil movement)	Crops	Livestock	Other
Bergville	Thamela		RWH		Mulching		Savings groups
No previous improved p	s exposure to ractices				Manure and fertilizer		bulk buying
Bergville	Ezibomvini	Suggestions for	Spring protection	Compost	Natural P&D control Conservation	Plant fodder	
CA learnin (MDF)	g groups; 3-4yrs	Natural resource	RWH storage tanks; Jo-Jo tanks	Furrows	Agriculture	Fodder supplementation	
		management lag behind for most groups	Infield rainwater harvesting	Contours	Mulching		
			1	Diversion ditches	Tunnels		
			Greywater; tower gardens	Stone bunds			
			Infiltration pits/ banana circles				
			Small dams				

Stone bunds

- Rainfall: >150mm/year

- Temperature: >5°C

- Topography: 0,5%-5%

- Soil: all types – where stones and rocks are easily available

Gardens, fields

<0,1ha, 0,1-1ha, >2ha

- Low cost, local resources,

Labour intensive

DESCRIPTION

-Pack stone lines on contours to control water movement

- The stones are keyed into a shallow ditch and larger stones are packed downslope from the smaller stones to avoid stone lines form breaking and allow slow movement of water though the stone lines

-Planting can be done below the stone line as more water accumulates there, or just above the stone line in the accumulated silt and soil



Bucket Drip kits

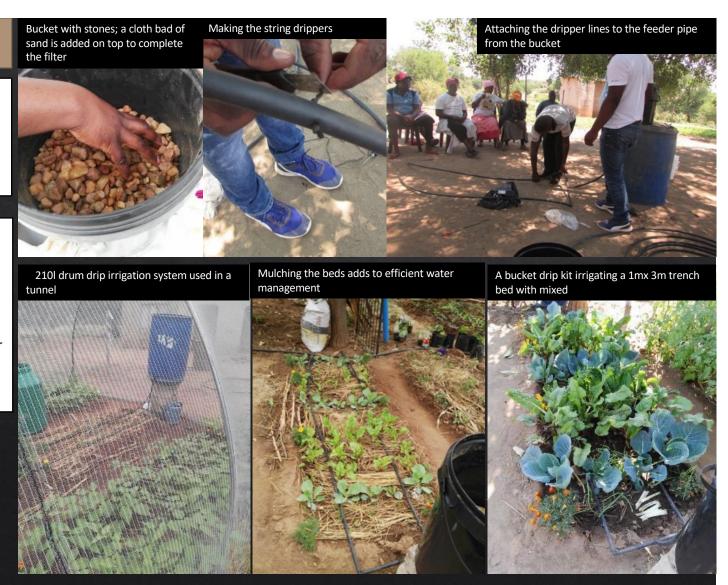
- Gardens
- <0,1ha,
- Medium cost, medium skills, including learning and mentoring
- Medium maintenance drippers need to be checked and cleaned regularly; medium labour intensive to set up, maintenance easy.

DESCRIPTION

- Stones and sand are placed in a bucket (20L) for filtration of greywater to be used in dripping system
- The drip kit is assembled on site making your own string drippers and choosing width of lines and spacing of drippers.
- 2 lines 30cm apart and 5 m long is good for a trench bed and provides 4mm of irrigation.
- Watering is done on a daily basis



A well functioning string dripper that makes a wetted circle around the dripper



PRIORITIZATION OF PRACTICES:

Oaks, Lepelle, Finale - Limpopo - Criteria used to assess impact of implementation of different practices

Oaks, Finale	Oaks, Finale, Lepelle: Impact of CRA practices									
SCALE: 1=1	SCALE: 1=low; 2 = medium, 3= high (agreement between participants)									
CRITERIA PRACTIC ES	Easy to do	More food	Better growth	Good water man	Better soil fertility	Score	Rank	COMMENTS		
Trench beds	1	3	3	3	3	13	5	Very good for growth, soil health and water management. The best practice- but difficult to dig		
Mulching	3	3	3	3	3	15	2	Less irrigation providing more food		
Furrows	2	2	3	3	3	13	4	more moisture, better growth, carries some fertility in the water		
Rock bunds	2	3	3	3	3	14	3	deep irrigation, catches more fertile soil		
Adding organic matter to the soil	3	3	3	3	3	15	1	easier than trench beds		
Crop varieties	1	1	1	1	1	5	7	we do not have the knowledge-but will be easy once we know		
Planting times	2	1	1	1	1	6	6	would be nice to have a calendar to remember.		



CRA implementation examples Limpopo 2019/20



Impact: Resilience snapshots; Individual interviews

Resilience indicators	Increase for Limpopo	Increase for KZN	Comment
Increase in size of farming activities	Gardening; 1% Field cropping; – 98% Livestock; 6%	Gardening – 18% Field cropping – 63% Livestock – 31%	Cropping areas measured, no of livestock assessed Dryland cropping has reduced significantly due to drought conditions and infertile soil
Increased farming activities	No	No	All involved in gardening, field cropping and livestock management
Increased season	Yes	Yes	For field cropping and gardening- autumn and winter options
Increased crop diversity	Crops: 21 new crops Practices: 11 new practices	Crops: 12 new crops Practices: 8 new practices	Management options include; drip irrigation, tunnels, no-till planters, JoJo tanks, RWH drums,
Increased productivity	Gardening; 120% Field cropping: 15% Livestock: 6%	Gardening – 72% Field cropping – 79% Livestock – 25%	Based on increase in yields (mainly from tunnels and trench beds for gardening CA for field cropping
Increased water use efficiency	45%	25%	Access, RWH, water holding capacity and irrigation efficiency rated
Increased income	13%	13%	Based on average monthly incomes, mostly though marketing of produce locally and through the organic marketing system
Increased household food provisioning	Vegetables; 7-10kg/week Fruit; 5-10kg/week Dryland crops (maize, legumes, sweet potatoes); 5- 10kg/week	Maize- 20kg/week Vegetables – 7kg/week	Food produced and consumed in the household
Increased savings	Not applicable	R150/month	Average of savings now undertaken
Increased social agency (collaborative actions)	2	2	Learning groups, farmer centres, local water committees
Increased informed decision making	5	5	Own experience, local facilitators, other farmers, facilitators, extension officers
Positive mindsets	2-3	2-3	More to much more positive about the future: Much improved household food security and food availability



Impact: Participatory impact assessment

	Soil; health and fertility	Money; income and savings	Productivity; acceptance of practice, saving in farming – equipment, labour	Knowledge; increased knowledge and ability to use	Food; how much produced and how healthy	Water; use and access	Social agency; Support, empower ment	Total
Conservation Agriculture	22	21	26	28	18	23	18	156
Savings	6	15	14	15	12	11	15	88
Livestock	19	11	18	7	5	12	11	83
Gardening	14	15	12	13	15	17	21	107
Crop rotation	16	12	13	12	12	15	10	90
Intercropping	12	13	15	12	11	11	9	83
Small businesses	11	17	15	10	20	11	9	93

In KZN positive impact of CRA and associated practices in order of importance: CA, gardening (tunnels, agroecology), small businesses (farmer centres, poultry), savings, livestock (integration – fodder, health)

Conclusions

- ♦ Systemic approach
 - ♦ Grounded in local contextualisation
 - ♦ For appropriate community led implementation and
 - ♦ Participatory impact assessment for
 - ♦ Incremental and cyclical improvements and behaviour change

Effective model for CCA; locally contextualised and owned

Appropriate for partnering in different contexts

Inclusion in IDPs, DDM