

SDC in DPR of Korea

2017 – 2020 SLDM Programme

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

2017 – 2020 Sustainable Livelihood and Disaster Mitigation Programme, SLDM

Land degradation is best averted before it becomes a major problem. Erosion and water runoff can be checked through appropriate landscaping and cropping.

Starting in 2004, SDC and MoLEP (Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection) introduced Agroforestry (AF) approaches on sloping land by establishing so-called Sloping Land User Groups (SLUGs), which have now become legally recognised entities to manage allocated slopes for reforestation and environmental protection. Applying AF permits SLUGs to generate income on sloping land while protecting the environment. This has demonstrably been a win-win approach through structural and non-structural measures in preventing soil erosion and fostering sustainable farming production for SLUG members' households. In 2012, in order to enhance sustainability, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Water Shed Management were piloted for the first time in the field. Environmental protection and DRR approaches evolved through the introduction of integrated watershed management and bioengineering methods and reforestation using valuable tree species.

The SLDM programme incorporates over 300 SLUGs in 11 Counties. More than 80% user group members are women, and over 10,000 families benefit directly or indirectly.

The new **SLDM programme** represents a continuation of the previous Sloping Land Management programme (SLM), but with an inversed logic: while sustainable food security and sustained livelihood remains important, DRR becomes the principle concern of the intervention. The SLDM programme objectives strengthen communities in order to be less vulnerable to natural hazards while simultaneously attaining higher food security. The programme reduces erosion risks by applying and promoting agroforestry techniques and DRR mitigation measures. SLDM enriches biodiversity and merges the aim of environmental protection with food security of communities.

Outcomes are defined as a) Communities protect their life-sustaining resources against risks of flood, drought and plant pest and b) Communities cultivate, harvest and market a balanced variety of nutritionally relevant crops.

Sloping Land User groups supported by SDC serve as models for the dissemination of SLDM techniques to 11 counties in 3 provinces. Over 300 SLUGs and their communities receive know-how and abilities to devise and implement erosion-control measures (e.g. through bio-engineering structures) and to think holistically about the risks in their environment.

Background Information

80% of the DPRK is covered by mountains and upland slopes and only 16.6% of its surface are arable.

Due to chronic food shortages and insufficient energy availability in the 1990s, hill lands began to be deforested for cultivation. This unsustainable sloping land exploitation practice led to soil erosion, natural hazards such as landslides and even flood risks to downstream areas where residential and farm lands are located.

A framework agreement for the cooperation in sustainable Sloping Land Management (SLM) in DPRK was reached in 2004 between SDC and MoLEP. The goal was – and remains – the promotion of ecologically sustainable, economically viable and socially beneficial management of sloping land by improving soil fertility, preventing soil erosion and meeting the needs of local people in terms of food diversity.

The importance of protecting and managing sloping land properly has been gaining momentum in the DPRK since the 2000s. With the approval of the National Agroforestry Strategy Legislation in 2015 along with a 10-year Action Plan, MoLEP is now targeting nationwide 350,000 ha of land for Agroforestry cultivation based on SLM methodologies by 2023.



Budget

| Year | Budget CHF |
|-------------|------------|
| 2009 - 2016 | 3'500'000 |
| 2017 - 2020 | 2'400'000 |

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