

Farmer Field Schools for Post-Civil Conflict Rural Development in the Kachin State of Myanmar

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Introduction

Background

- 30 years of civil war
- Low levels of education and training
- Low agricultural productivity (rices: ca. 2 t/ha)
- political instability

Project Framework

- Multi-partner approach with Metta (co-ordinator), KIO, KBC, Diocese, NDA
- Simultaneous work on the process and on production techniques

Methodologies

- Community baseline analysis and planning
- Learning process through Farmer Field Schools
- Integration of organic production techniques and natural resources management
- Participatory M & E
- Field days and cross visits
- Action research (CARD)
- Farmer trainers

FFS Research Topics

- production of quality seed
- seedling preparation and transplanting techniques (SRI)
- comparison of varieties
- soil fertility management
- Plant compensation in pest management



“Trainees preparing an insect zoo for entomological studies”

Objectives

To develop the capacity of local organisations and communities in designing, planning and implementing farmer field schools for improved productivity, income and decision-making ability



"Women studying the findings of the Farmer Field Schools during their Field Day"

Results - capacity building

no. of FFS facilitators trained (2000, 2001)	53
no. of FFS conducted (2001)	77
no. of farmers trained (2001)	476 (386 m; 90 w)
no. of farmers trained (2002)	1 617
visitors to the FFS	> 7000

Results – production

	FFS	Farmer practice
Yield	5,4 t/ha	2,65 t/ha
Prod.cost	47 460 ks	32 100 ks
Return	74 400 ks	42 400 ks
Net return	26 940 ks	10 300 ks

Conclusions

- Yield increases in rice raised farmers' interest
- Upland farmers visiting the FFS are demanding trainings in upland crops
 - Farmer trainers will play an important role for the expansion of the project
 - High management skills required from all project partners