



Promote Sustainable Soil Fertility Methods in Existing Farming Practices through the Introduction of Integrated Soil Fertility Management Technology

TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

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Integrated Soil Fertility Management is the application of soil fertility management practices and the knowledge to adapt these to local conditions, which maximize fertilizer and organic resource use efficiency and crop productivity. Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) also involves making the best use of inherent soil nutrient stocks, locally available soil amendments (for instance, crop residues, compost, animal manure, green manure), and inorganic fertilizers to increase productivity while maintaining or enhancing the agricultural resource base. These practices necessarily include appropriate fertilizers and organic input management in combination with the utilization of improved germplasm. Poor soil fertility and nutrient depletion continue to represent huge obstacles to securing needed harvest. Improving access to fertilizers is a necessary countermeasure, particularly when farmers develop skills in selecting which fertilizers are required and how to best derive benefits from their application. Shifting cultivation (slash and burn) is the traditional farming practice known in Liberia. Farmers move from one area of cultivated land to another in search of fertile soil for agricultural production.

CLIMATE RATIONALE OF THE TECHNOLOGY

Integrated Soil Fertility Management Technology contributes to adaptation needs by the maximization of crop production through improving the fertility of soils; minimizing nutrients losses; enabling the intensification of agricultural production and reduces pressure for the conversion of additional lands. The technology also guarantees the availability of food crops for rural people and help farmers earn more income.

AMBITION OF THE TECHNOLOGY

SCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND TIME-LINE

To achieve this, it will require the setting up of four (4) Integrated Soil Fertility Management facilities by 2025. This investment will enable Liberia meet its overall climate actions by reducing deforestation and improving farming practices for all 15 counties. The goal and objective of deploying and diffusing this technology are to reduce shifting cultivation, expose farmers to environmentally sound fertility management practices and provide a better opportunity for farmers to produce crops more sustainably. To achieve this, it will require the support and involvement of local traditional leaders as well as national level policy and decision makers. Other participants include institutions such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Environmental protection Agency of Liberia, research and training institutions, Agricultural NGOs, and Civil Society



Organizations are also expected to play some major roles. Gender mainstreaming is also key to the implementation of this technology.

EXPECTED IMPACTS OF ISFM TECHNOLOGY

Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) refers to making the best use of inherent soil nutrient stocks, locally available soil amendments (for instance, crop residues, compost, animal manure, green manure), and inorganic fertilizers to increase productivity while maintaining or enhancing the agricultural resource base

- It helps to reduce deforestation and contribute to biodiversity conservation.
- Minimize nutrients losses to the environment.
- Maximize crop production.
- Intensify agricultural production and reduces pressure for the conversion of additional lands.
- It enhances crop productivity and quality.
- It reduces the burdens of farmers on the purchase of fertilizers.

POLICY ACTIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION

EXISTING POLICIES IN RELATION TO THE TECHNOLOGY

- Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy 2008
- National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy 2009
- Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program 2009
- The New Policy for Agricultural Advisory Services of 2009

PROPOSED POLICIES TO ENHANCE TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION

- Identification of policy gaps impeding the development and transfer of the technology
- Legal and regulatory prescriptions to facilitate the development of the Technology

COSTS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES

In order to develop or revise policies around this technology, it will cost **USD9, 500.00** in financial and technical supports.

USEFUL INFORMATION

CONTACT DETAILS

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LINKS TO TNA REPORTS

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