



Zenab for Women in Development

Report on the Results of Preliminary Agricultural Questionnaire (2012)

By

Dr. Hanan Abd el Tawab

Agricultural research scientist

Address; Gedarif Research Station – Agricultural Research Cooperation

E.Mail hanan GRS@yahoo.com.

Telephone NO: 0111302112- 0911433228

Introduction:

How best to get some preliminary experiences from 500 women farmer in 5 locations (100 per location) in Gedarif namely; **Elhamra, Suraf Saeed and Wad el Sanosi** representing the southern high rain fall environment, while **wad Daeef** represented the middle environment and the low rainfall environment was represented by **Kilo 6**. These women board members (500 poor small scale women farmers) told us their dream of establishing a farming system that was actually very different from all existing ones in Gedarif, as far as they and we hope quite different from what exists in the whole of Sudan. We visited the piece of 5or ten fed of their farm land that has been bought from a local leaders in their localities.

We arises their hopes and wishes to success to donor to do their best in enabling them to meet their goal. We think of establishing a rural development, focused on (the livelihood problems of) local Communities. This development will do interactive applied research technologies on solving these problems and meeting the related needs, and must therefore be set up starting at this very farming livelihood level. Twelve questions had been registered. After we discussed and plan for these different questions at various meetings in various compositions. Preliminary questionnaire is some of the outcome of these discussions.

The objectives of the questionnaire are to;

1. Up scale these women abilities, enhance their confidence level on them selves and the working group.
2. Put the worker of the project on the right way in selecting the local leaders for each location group, depending on their adoption abilities, interest, intellectual abilities, experience from indigenous knowledge and skill successes as farmer responsive to sudden crisis such as unpredictable climate and market changes those face women farmer e.g how rationally she objected her limited in puts, in priorities and /or alternatives to cope with changes.
3. Enhance income generation.
4. Improve productivity and production.
5. up grade food subsistence and live hood of the women.
6. Activate gender training in agricultural aspects.
7. Utilization of valuable indigenous Knowledge's and experiences of these women in solving their problems.
8. Begin from they need us to be, thereby enhanced the adoption rate of the requested skills, ideas or practices packages of technologies in form of solutions to their requests.
9. Conclude ultimately most significant, egret, common problems and their priorities to the mentioned women groups.

Materials and Methods:

The method used was the informal learning method, while the approach was participatory approach in open discussion with each mentioned at their location. The plan is to begin with asking and answering of questionnaire in open way using the participatory approach, the reflections of previous questionnaire try to seek about social, economical, environmental a issued concerned with women famer live hood and their responses to the unpredicted climatic changes.

Results and discussion:

Question 1.

What is the subsistence and cash crops that farmer use and/ or request?

All of 5 locations at low , middle and high rainfall at environments , the 5 groups agreed 100%in using **sorghum, sesame, millet ,cow pea, Okra and Karcadi**, while **ground nut , Foul Abugawi and Ancoleeb or Sweet sorghum** are only grown under high rainfall at environments. Wad el Sanosi representing the southern high rain fall environment but don't grow Foul Abugawi and the low rainfall environment Kelosita don't grow ground nut, Foul Abugawi and Ancoleeb (Sweet sorghum).

Question2.

What are the requested varieties seeds of sorghum, sesame millet, ground nut?

a.Sorghum;

Arfa commercial Gadamak ;is 100% requested al the 5 locations

Tabat; high crop water requirement therefore 40% of women and only high rains locations Elhamra and Saraf Saeed requested it.

Gadambalia bloom; unknown except at Wad Daeef, because this location seemed to be selected in previous NGOs agricultural project e.g in other locations farmers don't differentiated between fetarita types except in this location ,also they awareness with the technologies is high as in variety Gadambalia bloom not released under research yet) 20% farmer requested it.

Akar; 20% farmer requested it at Saraf Saeed only.

Korakolo and Wad el Kawahla; 20% farmer requested it at Kiloleta only.

b. Sesame:

Promo; 100% of farmer request this ARC released variety.

Abu Nama; released as Kinana-1 and Kinana-2 80% of farmer request this ARC released variety, while 20% of farmer at wad el Sanosi don't want it(lower awareness to the released technologies).

Abu Soofa; 40% of women farmer request this variety, because it is late, with high crop water requirement and only high rains locations Elhamra and Saraf Saeed suited it. The mane Abu Soofa is the local name of released variety Kidir.

Kidir; Unknown except at Wad el Sanosi , where only 20% of farmer asks about Kidir.

Abd el Razig ; is local variety only grown at Kiloleta.

c.Ground nut:

Omix; is local variety only grown at Saraf Saeed.

Sodary (2 seeds); well knwn by 80% of women farmer, in other wards among all ground nut grower.

Eljabalia (3 seeds); 20% farmer requested it, at Saraf Saeed only.

d. Millet:100 % of farmer request white varieties, while only 20% farmer at el Hamra request green varieties.

Question3.

What tools do the women request for the manual jobs?

Saloka; the majority of women farmer (80%) requested Saloka, with the exception of those live in Kiloleta (20%).

Fas; 40% of women farmer request Fas, they work at Wad el Sanosi and Wad Daeef.

Kanasa; Kanasa is 100 % requested.

Malood and Toria; 60 % of women farmer, those work in low to moderate rain fall areas request Malood and Toria, instade these the remainder 40% at high rain fall at El Hamra and Saraf Saeed request

Kadanka.

Mungal; the majority of women farmer (80%) requested Mungal, with the exception of those live in Wad el Sanosi (20%).

Question4.

What are the requested Machines?

Tractor: is 100 % requested.

Wide level disc (WLD): is 100 % requested, where the common practice is the WLD used twice in plowing , the first called Kasra awolla for weeding after weeds germination, then the second use of WLD is for sowing as seeds broad casting machine.

Ridger: Is no longer used, moreover unknown to 100 % of women farmer in the mentioned groups. But it is the suitable machine to develop water harvesting techniques, so as response to the climate changes.

Disc harrow; is not known among women farmer.

Question 5.

What is the common weeding method their number& time of it application per the season?

There is first pre-emergence one as mentioned previously, then twice manual weeding after sowing. Using **Kadanka** at el Hamra and Saraf Saeed, while **Malood and Toria** are used in the reminder locations. All women agreed in that, they don't use chemicals herbicides as precautions for children an animals in home.

Question 6

What are the cash crops that can be introduced?

Sun flower practice most applicable in all villages 100% known than 100% unknown cotton.

Question 7.

What type of rotation does the farmer perform?

Kiloseeta ; women as low rainfall area rotate sorghum and sesame .The remainder groups **at moderate to high rainfall 4 locations use sorghum, sesame, millet, and ground nut. Cow pea** is interred in the rotation in Wad Daeef only.

Question 8.

What are the major pests & diseases infested farmer field in different crops?

Sorghum;

Weeds	insect	diseases
1. Striga	1. Midge	1. Smut
2. Tubass	2. Mouse	
3. Adar	3. Central shoot fly	
	4. American boll worm	

Sesame;

Weeds	insect	diseases
Weed sensitive	1. Sesame seed bug (Antad)	1. Leaf curle
	2. Web worm (Surfa)	2. Bacterial blight (Dum)
	3. American bollworm	
	4. Antigastra (mushata)	

Millet; American boll worm insect larvae.

Ground nut; insect pests considered are either Termites or Worms of wet of soils.

Cowpea; Blister beetle insect.

Question 9.

How they store their yield after harvest and is there any need for stores building?

They all agreed in storing in their homes. In addition to that only at El Hamra there is commercial store to rent by many farmers. Yes, they are 100% agreed in that there is an urgent need for them.

Question 10.

What animal types they used to rare?

Goats and sheep; they are 100 % agreed in raring goats and sheep; they depend on plant residues feeding till the beginning of the new season. In some dry season they forced to sell animals to avoid the feeding cost.

Poultry and cows; 80% women rare chicken, doves and cows except 20% at **Wad el Sanosi** (seemed to be poor and less developed no milk and no white meats or eggs in their meal that means low health and high medical costs).

Women avoid manure of goat, sheep and cow in fertilization to be free from weeds pests. Women can use portray for manure.

Question 11.

What about environmental protection aspects How do they treat their environment?

Women farmer 60% those work at moderate to high rain fall grow **Neem** trees for shelter and ornamental purposes at their houses. Whereas, those live in **Wad el Sanosi**(low developmental rate general) and Kiloleta (low rain fall and bad environmental attitudes) village don't do so. On the other hand **Acacia's** trees are grown in all villages except Kiloleta. They are 80% agreed in that, they collect the dirtiness subjects from their houses or fields and burn it, in all villages except **Kiloleta. In Wad Daeef** there is certain cars come weekly for this job.

The W.C availability; there are traditional W.Cs in all villages mentioned villages except Kiloleta. But still all of the villages people used the bare soils in W.Cs job.

Question 12.

How do women farmers do to cope with the climatic changes?

They are highly responsive to, where 100% of them develop their own skills to cope with unpredictable changes;

There are common farmer innovated practices:

1. Sowing dates; indicated by cracks closure, certain depth in wetting front and /or weeds germination. Corresponding technology from ARC is an improved idea is 100ml rain fall.

2. Plants population;

As an adaptation to low rain-fall farmer lower plants density.

3. Weed control;

striga pest fighting with farmer practice called *surrualla*, by moving all biomass down, then (sorghum with re-grow from roots) at low rainfall areas.

Striga control with collection and pruning *striga* plants thereby eradicated its seeds bank in the soil (advances environmental issue).

Storage;

Traditional stores called **Suiba** and **Matmoura**.

Seeds; selection for improving seeds, the best heads kept them on heads as control against store pests.

What can be done to improve the present women farmer situation?

1. This project work was on theory and practice. The missing link in practice was often identified as *dissemination and absorption of results at the farm level* (so: well informed training for farmers is needed). Using farmer Field Schools can help to solve this problem.

2. Scheduling sowing times as sowing dates windows.

3. Techniques for water harvesting in low and moderate rain fall areas.

4. - increase awareness of the importance of such work;
5. Activate the agricultural extension on drawing greater attention to those women farmer communities;
6. For our present or future work, we could identify and discuss the first and second most important preconditions and requirements that we feel are (may be) insufficiently fulfilled:

Summary of requirements & preconditions:

Requirements:

First requirement:

The women mainly in machinery availability suffer from their small scale area, which is not preferable to tractor owners to plow. Because it is workability is more difficult, time consuming and per unit cost is high to him than lager area. Also the availability of additional machines is a necessity to **add value** to their products, Such as machines for;

1. Sorghum removes the outer layer of the seeds, grinding and packaging can lead to three times increment of price of the kilo and improve commodity quality.
2. Processing ground nut after women removal of the Alfa toxic inducer part from the seeds (healthy) to in form of paste.
3. Packaging Carcadi after it had been cleaned by women for export efforts

Second requirement:

There is a regent need to well established sustainable development, that capable to provide the mentioned groups with appropriate push to their socio-economical and environmental live hood issues.

Preconditions;

First each group have to be treated individually as in depth study, to conclude to separate solutions coincided with the specific population and locally settled

Scio-economical and environmental pressures. Also we need topping in founding priorities to poorer locations.

Second environmental precondition; the project environmental issues have to plan for growing Acacia's forest trees as shelterbelts at any location, surrounding each field to;

I. Match with following three facts;

a. Most of the vegetation cover had been cleared since the mid 40s as a result of the expansion of mechanization in farming.

b. More recently followed reactivation of forests and environmental laws and regulations.

c. Optimum land use and land distributions are tried.

II. Solve boundaries problems between farmers.

III. Meet shelterbelts purposes.

Impacts of the project on hard science environment and soft science socio-economics pattern on mentioned women live hood:

The out comes can be a middle science, which is trials to skill them how to be responsive in interacting with different problems.

The development will also aim directly at collecting knowledge for supporting agriculturally compatible regional development strategy. We proposed the following impacts:

1. Interactive applied participatory approach on these livelihood needs and other problems, as well as their immediate solutions feasible under present and improved future conditions of rural development;

2. Problem solving community based improved on farming system, containing examples of livelihood services and solutions established be used elsewhere Sudan.
3. Environmental improvement oriented climate compatible development, steering 1 & 2 under conditions of a changing climate.
4. Sustainable advances in economic situation lead to health education and luxury of the mentioned community.

With my best regards

To whom the women farmer may concern.