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Submitted by Andrew Katta
Title: Ag. National Project Manager
Date Submitted: 23rd April 2019

1. Title of Mission: Woodlot maintenance training workshop for targeted pilot communities

2. Mission - Places visited and Period (incl. of travel days): Makolerr, Mawoma, Robana and Moyamba Junction (9th - 19th April 2019)

3. Objective of Mission:

- Develop an understanding of Woodlots plantation maintenance concepts and practices towards sustaining community woodlot management.
- Conduct hands-on participatory exercises of under brushing, pruning and mulching on the woodlot plantation
- Facilitate the formation of Woodlots Management Committees in the targeted Communities

4. Mission Member:

Mission Member(s):

- Andrew Kata – IGSE/UNDP
- Mariama Jalloh – Driver, UNDP

4. Cost n.a. (UNDP/GEF)

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Brief Summary of the Mission:

The Energy Efficient Production and Utilization of Charcoal project aims to bring economic, social and environmental benefits through the production of certified charcoal from renewable woodlots and through the promotion of improved cookstoves to reduce fuel wood/charcoal demand, while improving users' health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Sierra Leone. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) and the Ministry of Energy (MoE) provided technical support in the design and establishment of renewable bioenergy woodlots for 'Certified' Firewood and Charcoal Production based on a value chain approach.

In all, over 48.6 ha. of Acacia Mangium, Acacia Auriculiformis Tectonia Gratis, Australia Eucalyptus, Cashew nuts, Mango, Elies and Gmelina Aborea trees were planted in Mawoma, Makolerr and Robana communities in the Mawoma section of Port Loko District and Moyamba Junction in Moyamba District. The establishment of renewable bioenergy woodlots is an attempt to serve as learning hubs for the scaling out of sustainable approach for the production of 'certified' firewood and charcoal production in Sierra Leone.

The renewable bioenergy woodlots intercropped trees with priority food crops served as an effective platform for sustainable land-use management to secure food, generate early income from surplus food, keep weed free. This multi-stakeholder collaboration platform was used to strengthening relevant local groups' mindsets on the need to change from indiscriminate cutting of trees for fire woods and charcoal burning to sustainable firewood and charcoal production in their communities.

What remains a challenge, though is understanding of Woodlots concepts and practices towards sustaining community woodlot management. To address this, a two-day field training workshop was conducted for each woodlot community where a team of facilitators from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and UNDP engaged stakeholders on practical training in each of the woodlot communities. Workshop participants include a total number of 90 community stakeholders per community from Moyamba Junction, Mawoma, Makolerr and Robana woodlot communities.

➤ **Key activities:**

360 people were trained (Female -119: Male 241). The Workshops comprised of Ninety (90) participants each per the four communities including men and women.

- The workshops took the form of a day theoretical training on Woodlots maintenance concepts and practices followed by a day practical session.
- The theoretical trainings and practical sessions enhanced participants' understanding of Woodlots maintenance concepts and practices including under brushing, pruning and the establishment of fire belts towards sustaining woodlot in a community.
- Participants discussed issues, options and mechanisms related to protection and management of the community woodlots.
- Trainer facilitated discussions on the need to establish Woodlots Management committees in each of the of community plantations to management the woodlots as an exit strategy
- Participants learnt that woodlot maintenance and management require activities such as under-brushing, pruning, tending, insects' damages, wildfire or any activities in the woodlot be kept.
- The practical sessions saw under-brushed and establishment of fire belts of the community woodlots.
- The under-brushing was fast and effective as a one-step brush reduction. It reduced unwanted trees and brush to nutrient rich mulch which will help retain water; low ground disturbance created instant erosion control barrier; reduce risk of fire and reduced or eliminated haul offs.
- At the end of the training sessions, participants were able to put into practice woodlots maintenance activities including under brushing, pruning, establishment of fire belts and the formation of Woodlots management committees as an exit strategy.
- Community participants agreed on lists of action points which included re-planting of the trees consumed by wild fire for the Makolerr and Robana Communities

➤ **Lessons Learnt**

- Fire belts can protect woodlots from wild fire
- The under-brushing increased the property value of the woodlots

➤ **Recommendations**

- There is a need for the project to support the Makolerr and Robana communities with seedlings to replace fire consumed trees. However, this may not feasible for now since the project ends December 2019
- Community groups to monitor fire belts especially during the dry seasons for wild fire and during the burning of farms close to the Community woodlots.
- UNDP to engage the Forest Division of the Ministry Agriculture and Forestry to discuss the Exit strategy including the handing over of the Woodlots to the Forestry Division and the Woodlots Management committees (Membership -15 per community) already established.
- UNDP and MAFF teams to continuously engage the community people in respect of the management, supervision and care of the wood lot.

6. Key counterpart (s) and persons you met in each location and their contact details:

- Sahr Kellie – Deputy Director of Forestry – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
- Anthony Koroma – Forester, Port Loko District
- Pa Alimamy Computer Kanu- Section Chief, Mawoma Section, Koya Chiefdom, Port Loko District
- Joe Kandeh Targay – Forster, Moyamba District
- Community people of Makolerr, Mawoma, Moyamba Junction and Robana.

7. Follow-up Action Matrix

Actions to be taken	By Whom	Expected Completion Date
• Write BTOR	Andrew Katta – Ag. PM, UNDP	24 th April 2019
• Formation of Woodlots Management committees as an exit strategy.	Woodlots Community stakeholders	18 th -20 th April 2019

8. Annex



Fig1: Mawoma woodlot before under-brushing



Fig 2: Mawoma woodlot after the under-brushing



Fig3: Clearing of fire belts at Mawoma woodlot



Fig 4: Practical training session at the Moyamba Junction Woodlots



Fig 5 Replanted Makolerr Woodlots after consumed by wire fire in 2016



Fig 6 Cross-section of training participants at the Woodlots Plantation site



Fig 7 Facilitation meeting for the formation of the Woodlots management Committee to take over the management of the Wood lots as an exit strategy