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# Beyond the project cycle: an evaluation of agroforestry adoption and diffusion over the medium term in a south Indian village

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## Abstract

Few studies explicitly assess the temporal and spatial dynamics of agroforestry adoption occurring beyond the project cycle. Where *ex-post* evaluations are published, abandonment of introduced agroforestry after project cessation is often reported. This paper presents an analysis of agroforestry adoption in a poor, peri-urban village in semi-arid south India, where 97% of initial adopters had retained their plots six to eight years after implementation. The intervention was facilitated by BAIF, an Indian non-governmental organisation specialising in natural resource management. The complex technological package promoted was known as 'wadi' and comprised fruit trees planted in crop fields, with a boundary of multi-purpose trees and integrated soil and water conservation measures. Sixty four agroforestry plots belonging to 43 households were surveyed in 2010/11 and interviews were held with both adopting and non-adopting farmers. Beyond retention, a quarter of adopters had expanded the practice on to additional areas of land and some diffusion to initially non-adopting farmers had also occurred. Adopters were found to have modified the practice to suit their own objectives, capabilities and constraints, highlighting that adoption is more than a simple binary choice. The study demonstrates the importance of external support for adoption of agroforestry. The intervention was not, however, particularly pro-poor with adoption occurring disproportionately among relatively wealthier households with larger landholdings. Where poorer households adopted, this tended to occur later. Participation was entirely voluntary and, by 2011, conversion of suitable farmland to agroforestry had reached 18%; while beneficial to individual adopters, this patchy coverage arguably limits the potential for enhanced ecosystem service provision at landscape-scale.

**Keywords:** Adaptation; Adoption dynamics; BAIF wadi; Diffusion; Ex-post evaluation; Fruit-based agroforestry

## Abbreviations

BAIF	BAIF Development Research Foundation
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
GPS	Global positioning system
KML	Keyhole Markup Language
MPT	Multi-purpose tree
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (India)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NRM	Natural resource management
NRSP	Natural Resources Systems Programme
PUI	Peri-urban interface
SWC	Soil and water conservation
TDF	Tribal Development Fund

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## 1 Introduction

2 The potential of agroforestry to intensify smallholder production systems, contribute to food security and  
3 poverty reduction, and enhance the delivery of critical ecosystem services is well-documented (De Schutter  
4 2010; Garrity 2004; Jose 2009; McIntyre et al. 2009; Pretty et al. 2011). Substantial investment in agroforestry  
5 research and development since the 1980s has resulted in impressive scientific and technological advances  
6 (Atangana et al. 2014; Sanchez 1995). However, extension efforts appear to have achieved limited success to  
7 date, with various commentators highlighting the slow and uneven nature of agroforestry adoption (Jerneck and  
8 Olsson 2013; Kiptot et al. 2007; Meijer et al. 2014; Mercer 2004; Pattanayak et al. 2003; Shiferaw et al. 2009).  
9 Rigorous adoption studies have proliferated over the past two decades seeking to explain the factors that  
10 constrain uptake. Most have employed an econometric approach with regression models based on household  
11 survey data derived from a single snapshot in time (Pattanayak et al. 2003). Such studies have generated  
12 important insights relating to farmer decision-making and the key determinants – e.g. farmer preferences,  
13 resource endowments, market incentives, bio-physical factors, and risk and uncertainty (Pattanayak et al. 2003)  
14 – that influence initial uptake of promoted technologies. This approach alone, however, is insufficient if we are  
15 to advance our understanding of the complexity of long-run adoption dynamics (Kiptot et al. 2007). Addressing  
16 this point seems of crucial importance since, as Mercer (2004: 331) has argued, ‘agroforestry systems can  
17 contribute to sustainable land use only if they are *adopted and maintained over long time periods*’ (emphasis  
18 added).

19 Agroforestry is necessarily a long-term investment given the lengthy gestation period required for tree-based  
20 practices. While new varieties of annual crops and associated inputs can be evaluated over the course of one or  
21 two growing seasons, agroforestry technologies usually require several years before the benefits and costs of the  
22 newly introduced tree component can be fully assessed (Franzel and Scherr 2002; Mercer 2004). Agroforestry  
23 extension projects, however, tend to be time-bound and resource-constrained and there is rarely the opportunity  
24 to monitor and evaluate long-term outcomes occurring beyond the formal project cycle (Scherr and Müller  
25 1990). This creates challenges for adequate assessment of technology adoption since doing so is ‘often difficult  
26 in the immediate aftermath of a project’ (Tripp 2005: 144). Nevertheless the vast majority of studies focus on  
27 the early phase of adoption – i.e. that taking place during or soon after an intervention – and therefore neglect  
28 the dynamics of adoption and diffusion occurring over longer temporal frames (Kiptot et al. 2007). Recognising  
29 that the design and targeting of future extension projects could be enhanced by a better understanding of the  
30 adoption process beyond initial uptake, German et al. (2006) advocate the need to ‘track the fate’ of introduced  
31 natural resources management (NRM) technologies such as agroforestry over time.

32 High rates of discontinuation with trialled agroforestry practices in post-project years have been reported in a  
33 number of studies from different parts of the world (Adesina and Chianu 2002; Dahlquist et al. 2007; Mercado  
34 et al. 2001; Mercer et al. 2005). It is evident that not all farmers who test new technologies go on to fully adopt  
35 them (Keil et al. 2005; Kiptot et al. 2007). This raises questions over whether adoption figures reported in end of  
36 project evaluations present an accurate indication of outcomes. Do short-term “successes” lead to sustained  
37 changes in land management or do farmers frequently abandon agroforestry after the withdrawal of project  
38 support? Conversely, other studies (Browder et al. 2005; Kiptot et al. 2006; Wambugu et al. 2012) report  
39 farmer-to-farmer diffusion of introduced technologies taking place, suggesting that in some cases the reported  
40 level of adoption attributed to a given intervention might understate longer-term uptake and spread.

41 In addition to possible abandonment or diffusion, it is also important to consider how introduced practices are  
42 implemented, adapted and managed. Figures purporting to quantify the scale of adoption and diffusion can be  
43 misleading since they can give the impression that  $N$  farmers have adopted  $X$  technology in a uniform and  
44 standardised manner. It is more likely that farmers experiment with and modify new agricultural and NRM  
45 technologies in order to achieve a best fit within their own specific household circumstances and land  
46 management objectives (Barrett et al. 2002; de Graaff et al. 2008; Douthwaite et al. 2001). In the case of  
47 agroforestry, it has been suggested that ‘adaptation is the rule rather than the exception’ (Scherr and Müller,  
48 1991: 245). Again, adaptation is a process likely to evolve over extended time periods.

49 For these reasons, there is a clear case to be made for revisiting agroforestry project sites some years after  
50 interventions have ended, in order to assess the temporal dynamics of adoption, adaptation and diffusion  
51 occurring beyond the project cycle. This paper addresses this gap, reporting upon the findings of a follow-up  
52 case study conducted in 2010 in one south Indian village, where an agroforestry project - funded by the UK  
53 Department for International Development (DFID) – was implemented between 2001 and 2005. The primary  
54 aim of the study was to ascertain what remained of the agroforestry plots established with project support.  
55 Assuming that at least some of these plots were still in existence, the secondary aim was to examine how the  
56 introduced practice was being managed by adopting farmers and whether diffusion to other households not  
57 involved in the original project had occurred. The paper consists of two parts: a description of the initial  
58 agroforestry extension effort and the *ex-post* survey and analysis.

## 59 **Research context**

### 60 *Natural resource management (NRM) and livelihoods in the peri-urban interface of Hubli Dharwad,* 61 *India*

62 From the mid-1990s, under the Natural Resource Systems Programme (NRSP), DFID funded a series of linked  
63 research projects in the peri-urban interface (PUI) of Hubli-Dharwad, a twin city in northern Karnataka. Led by  
64 a multi-disciplinary team of natural and social scientists from UK universities in collaboration with local  
65 academics and NGOs, the research explored the implications of urbanisation for NRM and livelihoods strategies  
66 of the poor living in the surrounding area. The research showed that management of natural resources is  
67 particularly challenging in the peri-urban context (Brook et al. 2003). Proximity to the city creates opportunities  
68 for non-farm employment which is attractive given typically higher wage rates in comparison to rural labouring;  
69 wage competition, however, results in difficulties for farmers to hire labour at rates they can afford to pay and  
70 can thus negatively impact on farm management (Nunan and Shindhe 2003). Anecdotal evidence suggests that a  
71 growing number of farmers neglect their agricultural enterprises in favour of alternative occupations or  
72 supplementary income in the city. The proximity of urban markets intensifies the extractive flow of natural  
73 resources from villages to the city; urban demand for fuelwood and building poles drives rapid depletion of peri-  
74 urban tree resources and valuable top-soil is removed to supply brick-making industries (Nunan and Shindhe  
75 2003). Degradation of common pool resources is widespread, as evidenced by catchments lacking vegetative  
76 cover and water harvesting structures falling into disrepair.

77 While easy access to urban markets creates opportunities for natural resource-based livelihoods – e.g. the  
78 production of perishable goods such as fruits, vegetables and dairy products – the capability to exploit them is  
79 socially differentiated. The poor, often lacking in the assets, knowledge and skills required to reorient and/or up-  
80 scale their production to meet urban demand, tend to remain locked into low-return activities subject to  
81 diminishing access to natural capital (Gregory and Mattingly 2009). Recognising this trend led the research  
82 team to engage poor local stakeholders in participatory planning for enhanced livelihoods and improved NRM  
83 (Halkatti et al. 2003). Measures identified in the planning process included increasing tree cover through  
84 agroforestry, rehabilitation of catchments and water harvesting structures, promotion of improved crop varieties,  
85 integrated pest management, vermicomposting, small ruminants for income generation and livestock health  
86 initiatives. Six pilot villages were selected, action plans were developed and modified, and implementation  
87 through local partner NGOs took place from 2001 to 2005. This paper will focus on the outcomes of  
88 agroforestry extension activities conducted in one village – Channapur – by the NGO BAIF Development  
89 Research Foundation (hereafter simply BAIF).

### 90 *BAIF's 'Wadi' agroforestry approach*

91 BAIF was established in 1967 with a commitment to sustainable development in rural India. The initial focus  
92 was on livestock development, particularly improved dairy husbandry, as a strategy for reducing the poverty of  
93 small/marginal farmers and the landless. Subsequently its programmes were expanded to take a more holistic  
94 approach to NRM and livelihood enhancement through watershed development, farm-forestry, sustainable  
95 agriculture, agri-business and formation of people's organisations. During the 1980s, BAIF began to work  
96 intensively with tribal communities in the hill tracts of southern Gujarat. Severe degradation of natural  
97 resources, particularly of the forest upon which tribal people in the area had traditionally depended, was a

98 primary driver of chronic poverty; households were unable to secure their subsistence from small-scale rainfed  
99 agriculture in eroded uplands, malnutrition and morbidity rates were high, and distress migration in the dry  
100 season was a common survival strategy (BAIF 2011; Bhatt 1990). In an attempt to address this situation, BAIF  
101 initiated a holistic tribal development programme (BAIF 2013). The core component was an innovative tree-  
102 based farming practice - known locally as *wadi* – which was co-evolved with tribal communities through a  
103 people-centred approach to technology development and dissemination (Mahajan et al. 2002).

104 *Wadi* comprises agricultural, horticultural and silvicultural components integrated in small (0.2 – 0.6 ha) plots of  
105 private farmland (Fig. 1). This complex package is described in some detail here since it is not well-known  
106 outside of India and will be the subject of subsequent papers. The following elements are central to *wadi*  
107 agroforestry:

- 108 • Wide-spaced rows (typically 8 - 10m apart) of grafted fruit trees as the primary commercial crop and  
109 source of supplementary household nutrition;
- 110 • Annual subsistence and/or cash crops cultivated in interspaces between fruit trees;
- 111 • Multi-purpose trees (MPTs) of mixed species grown along the plot boundaries at approximately 1m  
112 intervals to act as a windbreak and source of fodder, firewood, green manure, poles and timber;
- 113 • Perimeter fencing of the plot using locally available dry woody materials to protect the trees from  
114 livestock, particularly during the early years of establishment;
- 115 • Physical soil and water conservation (SWC) measures – e.g. bunding, gully plugging, terracing, etc. – to  
116 minimize soil erosion and retain moisture *in-situ*;
- 117 • Low-cost water harvesting structures - e.g. farm ponds, small-scale lift irrigation, etc. – to aid plot  
118 irrigation.

119 *Wadi* agroforestry is usually implemented in conjunction with other community-level interventions. These  
120 include the creation (where feasible) of check-dams and open wells for irrigation and potable water, formation  
121 of farmer groups and cooperatives for processing and marketing of horticultural and dairy produce, and other  
122 income generating activities aimed particularly at households with low natural capital endowments.

123 Over the past three decades, BAIF has supported in excess of 180,000 households to adopt *wadi* agroforestry in  
124 nine states of India (BAIF 2013). Funding has come from numerous national<sup>1</sup> and international<sup>2</sup> donor agencies.  
125 The model has proven adaptable and, with some modification, has been successfully implemented in semi-arid  
126 areas as well as the humid hill tracts where it first originated. From 2005, in recognition of the success of  
127 BAIF's tribal development programme, the *wadi* approach became institutionalised through the Tribal  
128 Development Fund (TDF) created by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).  
129 This fund has been used to support the replication and up-scaling of BAIF's work by a network of NGOs  
130 operating nationwide. By 2012, NABARD had sanctioned more than 400 projects through the TDF with the aim  
131 of assisting over 300,000 tribal households in 26 states of the country to adopt *wadi* (website of NABARD<sup>3</sup>).  
132 Although the majority of *wadi* projects are implemented with deprived tribal communities, the model has also  
133 been successfully applied with small-scale farmers in non-tribal areas.

## 134 **The intervention**

### 135 *Site baseline characteristics*

136 Channapur (15° 16' N; 75° 05' E) is a small village in the Northern Transitional Zone of Karnataka, lying  
137 between the Western Ghats and the dry plains of the Deccan Plateau to the east. The region receives an average  
138 of 750 mm of rainfall per annum which falls predominantly during the south-west monsoon (June to  
139 September). The village is 13 km south of the city of Hubli and was selected for inclusion in the project due to  
140 the visible extent of material deprivation, manifest in poor physical infrastructure, absence of basic facilities and  
141 low natural resource endowments. A preliminary baseline survey conducted in 2001 revealed a total of 252

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<sup>1</sup> Union Government of India (various ministries and departments); State Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan; National Bank of Agriculture Rural Development (NABARD); Council for the Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART); various philanthropic trusts.

<sup>2</sup> The European Union; German Development Bank - KfW Bankengruppe.

<sup>3</sup> See: [oldsite.nabard.org/farm\\_sector/tdf.asp](http://oldsite.nabard.org/farm_sector/tdf.asp)

142 households with a population of approximately 1500 people. The village comprised predominantly lower-caste  
143 Hindu (68%) and Muslim (32%) households. Illiteracy rates were very high, particularly among females at 94%  
144 of those aged six and over. Median household income was just US \$200 per annum. A participatory wealth  
145 ranking exercise was conducted early in the project in order to identify the characteristics of wealth/poverty in  
146 the village context. Facilitated by NGO staff already well-known in the village, in an open meeting held in the  
147 evening to encourage high attendance, participants identified a set of indicators that could be used to rank  
148 households according to their relative wealth. Five ranks were defined: rich, upper middle, lower middle, poor  
149 and very poor. The proposed indicators comprised mainly measureable aspects of material wealth, such as area  
150 of landholding, access to irrigation, number and type of livestock, ownership and size of household dwelling,  
151 ownership of vehicles and agricultural equipment, occupations of working members and number of household  
152 dependents; more subjective elements such as perceived 'bad habits' and social standing were also included.  
153 Using these indicators as a framework, a group of key informants (one from each street in the village) later met  
154 to collectively agree and assign a rank to every individual household by sorting name cards into five  
155 corresponding piles. The majority (>70%) of households were ranked 'poor' or 'very poor' (Fig. 2).

156 Channapur comprises a total of 586 ha of land. State-owned forest (mainly eucalyptus) plantation accounts for  
157 85 ha and a further 120 ha is degraded scrub used for rough grazing and collection of firewood. Discounting  
158 areas of physical infrastructure and substantial parcels of uncultivated wasteland, there is around 300 ha of  
159 cultivated farmland within the village boundaries. Distribution of landholdings among households living in the  
160 village was found to be highly inequitable (Fig. 3). Approximately one third were landless while the mean  
161 holding of land-owning households was 1.4 ha (ranging from 0.1 ha to 9.3 ha). Less than 10% of cultivated  
162 land in the village was irrigated in 2001, with a small number of borewell installations belonging to relatively  
163 wealthier households. Natural resource-based activities – agriculture and livestock rearing - were the main  
164 sources of livelihoods. Around a quarter of individuals derived their primary occupation from farming on their  
165 own land while the majority were primarily employed as agricultural labourers. Many individuals, particularly  
166 in the long dry season, also commuted to Hubli for work as daily-wage labour in markets, construction sites,  
167 factories and haulage enterprises.

168 The village landscape undulates with slopes of up to 30%. Altitude ranges from 550 m to 680 m above sea level,  
169 with lower-lying ground to the south and east of the village (the lowland area; Fig. 4) and higher ground to the  
170 north and west. The red soils in the area, consisting mainly of eutric nitosols with subsidiary ferric and chromic  
171 luvisols, possess a shallow and often eroded quality with a low water holding capacity leading to rapid drying-  
172 out once rains cease. Only one crop can typically be grown per annum. Decline of tree cover over preceding  
173 decades has contributed to the erosion of soils through increased rainwater run-off, resulting in increased silting-  
174 up of village 'tanks' (small reservoirs formed by check dams). In the general absence of irrigation facilities, crop  
175 cultivation is dependent upon the vagaries of the south-west monsoon, which has become increasingly erratic in  
176 recent years. Cotton was the main cash crop grown in 2001, along with sorghum, millets and groundnut for  
177 subsistence and market. Rice was traditionally cultivated in the more fertile low-lying basin to the south and east  
178 of the village where fields were often banded to impound rainfall. Reported crop yields were low and annual  
179 incomes of less than US \$100 /ha were common. Given low returns to investment, farming was becoming less  
180 of a priority for many households, especially those with small rainfed holdings.

### 181 *BAIF's extension approach*

182 BAIF were already implementing the *wadi* model successfully through an EU-funded project with around 1000  
183 farmers in a nearby cluster of villages. It was seen as an ideal intervention in the context of Channapur. The  
184 objectives were to: (1) increase the total productivity of farming systems through *in-situ* conservation of  
185 resources, (2) enhance soil fertility and reduce dependence on external inputs, (3) help participants to develop  
186 more secure sources of food, fuelwood, fodder and green manure, (4) boost incomes through marketable fruits,  
187 and thus (5) provide viable land-based alternatives to urban migration. BAIF began by holding a series of public  
188 meetings and consultations to promote the concept. Smallholders in the village were initially sceptical about the  
189 viability of tree-based farming under rainfed conditions. They observed that although a few wealthier  
190 households in the village had converted land to fruit orchards, these were typically large in size and irrigated  
191 through borewell installations. To address such concerns, exposure visits to pre-existing rainfed *wadi* plots

192 elsewhere in dryland Karnataka were arranged at no cost to interested farmers. Through a process of dialogue  
193 and peer-learning, farmers in Channapur became more confident in the viability of establishing agroforestry on  
194 their own lands. Technical instruction was provided through on-farm demonstrations. Uptake of *wadi* occurred  
195 in a staged pattern over three years: 23 households elected to trial the technology in 2002, followed by four  
196 more in 2003 and another five in 2004; one household subsequently rejected *wadi* soon after establishment  
197 leaving a total of 31 households managing fledgling *wadi* plots when the project terminated in 2005.

198 BAIF estimated the implementation cost of *wadi* to have been in the region of US \$100 per one acre (0.4 ha)  
199 plot established. Plot layout generally adhered to the typical model (Fig. 1), although flexibility in  
200 implementation was permitted to allow for variation in plot size, shape and topography. Simple tools (e.g.  
201 spades, pickaxes, clay watering pots) were provided at no cost to the farmers involved, and small financial  
202 incentives were offered in lieu of the days of labour expended in preparatory groundworks (e.g. digging planting  
203 pits, creating trench-cum-bunds<sup>4</sup> and excavating farm ponds). While fruit grafts were purchased from trusted  
204 sources, a local nursery supplying MPT seedlings was considered to be essential; this was established on an  
205 irrigated field belonging to a wealthy household and operated by landless women from the village for a small  
206 income. A total of 2,367 fruit grafts and 12,787 MPT seedlings were distributed free of charge to participating  
207 households. By the end of 2004, each household involved had planted 470 trees on average, representing a 17-  
208 fold increase in the number of trees present on their combined lands. Despite severe droughts experienced  
209 during 2002 and 2003, reported rates of tree survival by 2005 were impressive, exceeding a target of 75%  
210 survival for fruit trees and 50% for MPTs. This was attributable to the technical training provided by BAIF  
211 project staff in appropriate planting and after-care methods such as planting MPTs on trench-cum-bunds  
212 designed to capture rainwater *in-situ*, seepage irrigation of fruit trees using locally made earthenware pots with a  
213 small hole in the base, regular application of organic mulch in shallow basins around the fruit trees and shading  
214 using simple structures made from locally available materials. Nineteen households (60%) had also used project  
215 support to construct farm ponds (10m x 10m x 3m) located in the lower part of their *wadi* plot or adjacent field.  
216 These harvest rainwater runoff and serve both to replenish the groundwater table and provide a source of water  
217 for protective irrigation of fruit trees.

218 In 2005, as part of wider efforts to build-in participatory monitoring and evaluation into all of the DFID project  
219 interventions, a group discussion and voting session was held with 25 of the *wadi* adopting farmers present.  
220 Farmers' perceptions of *wadi* were measured according to a set of mutually agreed indicators; the outcome was  
221 clear evidence that the project and the introduced technology had been favourably received (Table 1). However,  
222 the *wadi* plots were still in the early establishment phase at this point; as the trees matured over the coming  
223 years it was expected that farmers would continue to evaluate the practice in light of management costs and  
224 returns from multiple system components. Farmers' perceptions of *wadi* as a technology were therefore liable to  
225 change over time and, although the early signs of success were promising, the long-term sustainability of *wadi*  
226 agroforestry in Channapur was still uncertain.

## 227 **Methodology**

228 In 2010, five years after the DFID project activities formally ended, the opportunity arose for the lead author to  
229 undertake an ex-post assessment of *wadi* adoption and management in Channapur. Fieldwork was conducted  
230 over eight weeks in June and July 2010 supplemented with short visits in December 2011 and July 2013.

### 231 *Data collection*

232 In order to assess what remained of the agroforestry plots established during the project, data were collected  
233 through detailed plot surveys. This being a small village, a complete census approach was taken with all  
234 agroforestry plots within the village boundary surveyed; thus there was no sampling. Sixty-four plots with  
235 planted fruit trees were surveyed by boundary walking with a Garmin Etrex GPS unit to record location and  
236 extent. In 61 of these plots, trees were counted (disaggregated by species for fruit trees but not for MPTs due to

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<sup>4</sup> Trench-cum-bunds are constructed across the slopes of the plot and along field boundaries. Trenches are dug and the excavated soil is used to construct a bund along the lower side of the trench.



237 time constraints) and observations were recorded relating to the types of intercrops cultivated and the  
238 presence/absence of SWC measures and irrigation sources. Short interviews were held with 37 (86%) of the 43  
239 households whose agroforestry plots had been surveyed. These were usually conducted with the household  
240 head, although other family members were sometimes present. They took place either in the agroforestry plot or  
241 in the household dwelling and typically lasted around 30 minutes. A predesigned interview schedule was  
242 administered through a local field assistant working in the state language of *Kannada*, with translated responses  
243 recorded on paper. Plot survey data was first verified and then additional information was collected on levels of  
244 fruit tree mortality and restocking. Further open-questions focused on management practices and challenges,  
245 product utilisation and future expectations. Interviews were also conducted with 17 households who had not  
246 adopted fruit-based agroforestry to explore the constraints to adoption. Nine of these households were selected  
247 on the basis that they had taken part in training and exposure visits provided by BAIF before ultimately deciding  
248 against adoption. The others were randomly selected from a list of land-owning households who had been  
249 ranked either poor or very poor in the wealth ranking exercise conducted during the intervention. BAIF field  
250 staff were also consulted on an informal basis to get useful background information on the project and also to  
251 cross-check information emerging from discussions with farmers.

## 252 *Data analysis*

253 Quantitative data from plot surveys and information gathered from farmers on mortality and restocking were  
254 organised and interrogated using Microsoft Excel and IBM SPSS Statistics. Descriptive statistics are presented  
255 in this paper. Qualitative interview data were assembled in a spreadsheet and analysed to identify commonalities  
256 and differences in responses. Mapping data collected was visualised for initial verification purposes by  
257 converting the GPS locations (recorded as WGS1984 decimal degrees) into .KML (Keyhole Markup Language)  
258 locators for display within Google Earth<sup>®</sup>, given the non-availability of backdrop mapping. The KML data were  
259 then converted into points within ArcGIS 9.3.1 (ESRI, 2009) and individual locations edited where  
260 misalignments appeared against the Google Earth backdrop, visualised using the Arc2Earth (Arc2Earth, 2012)  
261 extension. The point data were then used to digitise polygons, where land use and ownership information were  
262 attached to the parcel shapefile attribute table records. Areas of individual polygons were then obtained, as the  
263 projected Web Mercator referencing system used with Google Earth facilitates geometry calculations. The  
264 location of the village boundary, roads, forest plantation, common land and water tanks were also captured using  
265 the method outlined. In order to assess elevation of the land parcels, ASTER 30m Global Digital Elevation  
266 Model v.2 data (Tachikawa et al. 2011) for the study area were obtained, which were the highest resolution data  
267 available. From this and local observations the area defined as lowland was delineated.

## 268 **Results and discussion**

### 269 *Adoption and retention of fruit-based agroforestry*

270 By 2010-11, a total of 40 households residing in Channapur had converted one or more plots of land to fruit-  
271 based agroforestry systems. All 31 households that were trialling the BAIF *wadi* model at the end of the project  
272 in 2005 were found to have retained their plots. Nine additional households that had not received BAIF project  
273 support had adopted a similar practice on some part of their landholding. Relative wealth (defined by the  
274 villagers themselves during the wealth ranking exercise in 2002) was found to be related to the timing and rate  
275 of adoption in Channapur (Table 2). Of eligible land-owning households, 67% of those ranked rich had adopted  
276 fruit-based agroforestry compared with 32% of the two combined middle classes and just 14% of the combined  
277 poor and very poor classes. It is worth noting, however, that households ranked 'rich' in Channapur would not  
278 be considered especially wealthy in other villages in the surrounding area.

279 During the first year of the project, adoption of the introduced *wadi* practice occurred overwhelmingly among  
280 households from the relatively wealthier end of the spectrum (Table 2). Nineteen (91%) of the 23 households  
281 who used BAIF inputs to establish *wadi* systems in 2002 were ranked in the upper three classes; this number  
282 included five of the rich households who had independently established fruit orchards in the 1990s and 18 new  
283 adopters. Over the course of the project, the proportion of poorer households participating increased and  
284 accounted for 60 percent of all cases of adoption occurring during 2003 and 2004. Six cases of first-time

285 adoption were found to have occurred independently of BAIF support either during or after the project. Two  
286 cases involved plots established through investment of household capital in the acquisition of planting materials  
287 from private nurseries. In the remaining cases, households had used subsidised planting stock made available  
288 through a World Bank funded watershed development programme known locally as *Sujala* (Milne 2007), which  
289 operated in the area from 2005 to 2007. In addition to these new cases of first-time adoption, it is notable that  
290 eight households who had adopted *wadi* during the project had subsequently extended the practice by  
291 establishing additional plots. This had been achieved in all cases through the use of subsidised planting materials  
292 provided through *Sujala*.

293 Wealthier farmers tended to have larger farms, so adoption was similarly found to relate to farm size (Table 3).  
294 Thirty two percent of all households with landholdings of one hectare or more had adopted compared to only  
295 13% of those with holdings of less than one hectare. This suggests a possible threshold in farm size below which  
296 farmers considered the risk of trialling the new practice to be particularly acute. Those households that adopted  
297 also tended to have a higher proportion of working individuals engaged in agriculture on their own land as a  
298 primary occupation, whereas individuals in eligible non-adopting households were mainly engaged as wage  
299 labour in agriculture or in the city (Fig. 5). This suggests that households that farm their own land perceived a  
300 greater incentive to adopt agroforestry, whereas those depending heavily on other livelihood activities were less  
301 inclined to invest resources in this way.

### 302 *Extent and spatial distribution of plots in the landscape*

303 The 64 fruit-based agroforestry plots surveyed can be classified into three groups (Table 4): (1) orchards that  
304 pre-dated the intervention (before 2002); (2) *wadi* plots established with BAIF support during the intervention  
305 (2002-2004); and (3) *wadi*-like plots established without BAIF support either during or after the intervention  
306 (2002 onwards). BAIF-mediated *wadi* plots were by far the most numerous, representing roughly two thirds of  
307 all agroforestry plots surveyed. They covered a total area of 20.1 ha with a mean plot size of 0.5 ha. Plots  
308 created independently of BAIF since 2002 were a similar size – mean 0.4 ha - but were fewer in number and  
309 covered only 7.0 ha in total. By comparison, the nine commercial orchard systems that predated the intervention  
310 were much larger with a mean size of 2.0 ha.

311 An area of 45.9 ha of land was found to be under fruit-based agroforestry systems. However, as indicated in Fig.  
312 4, six of the plots surveyed (4 BAIF *wadi* plots and 2 pre-existing orchards) lay just beyond the southern  
313 boundary of the village. Thus the extent of fruit-based agroforestry within the village boundaries was calculated  
314 to be 40.7 ha – or 14% of total village land estimated to be under cultivation. The plots were largely  
315 concentrated on the more marginal upland areas to the north and west of the village (Fig. 4), revealing a clear  
316 preference by farmers not to plant trees in the lower-lying and more fertile areas to the south-east of the village  
317 that are traditionally associated with rice paddy. If this lowland area of ca. 90 ha is therefore excluded from the  
318 calculation, the coverage of fruit-based agroforestry rises to 18% of all less-favourable agricultural land  
319 available in the village. Within farms, as shown in Fig. 6, considerable variation was found in the extent of land  
320 converted to fruit tree-based agroforestry (all types). This was the case both in absolute terms, with households  
321 converting anywhere between 0.1 ha and 7.9 ha of land, and in proportional terms, with anywhere between 5%  
322 and 100% (mean 49.8%) of their total landholding being converted. Among adopters there was no clear  
323 relationship between area of landholding and proportion of land converted to agroforestry.

### 324 *Tree densities*

325 During the intervention, BAIF recommended that farmers establish one acre (0.4 ha) *wadi* plots with 40 fruit  
326 trees (or 100 trees /ha) and 500-600 boundary-planted MPTs (or roughly 150 trees / 100 metres). By the time of  
327 the *ex-post* analysis, in 2010, project adopters were found on average to be managing the fruit component of  
328 their *wadi* plots at slightly higher than recommended density (mean 114 fruit trees /ha). There was substantial  
329 variation, however, with densities ranging from just 39 fruit trees /ha to 287 trees /ha. Plots established  
330 independently of BAIF since 2002 had a similar average density (mean 124 fruit trees /ha) but ever greater  
331 variability (ranging from 21 to 415 fruit trees /ha). Plots that pre-dated the BAIF intervention were managed at  
332 much higher average density (mean 214 fruit trees /ha), again with plot-level variation (ranging from of 90 to  
333 316 fruit trees /ha).

334 The substantial variation in plot-level densities of fruit trees can be seen as a consequence of both choices made  
335 by individual farmers over plot-layout and differential levels of subsequent mortality and restocking. BAIF's  
336 recommended planting density is designed to allow sufficient space between rows of fruit trees for continued  
337 cultivation of agricultural intercrops. However, during interviews with adopting farmers, some reported having  
338 planted at lower density in order to allow wider spaces for easier and prolonged intercropping. In contrast,  
339 others had chosen to plant at higher density, offsetting the loss of some additional space for intercropping  
340 against larger expected fruit production in the future. Plots with particularly high densities (>150 /ha) resembled  
341 more traditional orchards, where farmers clearly prioritised the fruit trees and accepted substantially reduced  
342 space for agricultural production. Mortality had occurred in all plots, reportedly due to combinations of drought,  
343 pest and disease, and fire (both accidental and deliberate arson), but levels were highly variable. It is notable that  
344 in BAIF plots with fewer than 75 fruit trees per hectare (n=12), levels of reported mortality were particularly  
345 high with around 45% of fruit trees planted having been lost on average. It is also notable that efforts to re-stock  
346 were reported in less than half of these plots and at very low levels, with farmers planting an average of just five  
347 (range: 0 - 21) additional fruit trees. Discussions with farmers and BAIF staff indicated that such outcomes were  
348 typically the result of neglect, owing to issues including disputes over ownership, shortages of labour (due to  
349 old-age, ill-health, alcoholism, etc.) or prioritisation of off-farm livelihood activities. The majority of BAIF plots  
350 – those with densities of more than 75 fruit trees per hectare (n=26) – were generally under more committed  
351 management. Reported mortality of fruit trees was lower, with losses of around 25% on average, and some  
352 degree of restocking had been attempted in all plots, with farmers planting an average of 19 (range: 4 – 41)  
353 additional fruit trees.

354 Average densities of boundary-planted MPTs were lower than recommended by BAIF in all three plot classes.  
355 In BAIF *wadi* plots the mean density of MPTs was 81 trees per 100 boundary metres, double that of non-BAIF  
356 plots established since 2002 (38 trees per 100 metres) and nine times higher than recorded in the older orchard  
357 systems (9 trees per 100 metres). The higher densities of MPTs found in *wadi* plots was a clear outcome of the  
358 importance that BAIF had placed on promoting these as a key component in the multi-functional system design.  
359 Nevertheless, there was very substantial variation in densities (ranging from just five to 227 MPTs per 100  
360 metres), indicating that some farmers perceived the potential benefits to be much greater than others.  
361 Divergence in initial planting densities combined with uneven mortality rates accounted for the variation.  
362 Where farmers had established agroforestry using their own resources or with subsidy from the Sujala project,  
363 the importance placed on MPTs was evidently secondary to that afforded to other system components (fruit  
364 trees and agricultural intercrops).

### 365 *Tree species*

366 Table 5 provides a complete list of all tree species recorded in the agroforestry plots surveyed. *Mangifera indica*  
367 (mango) and *Manilkara zapota* (sapota) were the most abundant fruit trees in the BAIF-mediated *wadi* plots.  
368 BAIF promoted these species due to their economic value as commercial crops and their known suitability for  
369 cultivation within this agro-climatic zone. Of the two, mango proved most popular with farmers, especially in  
370 rainfed systems (70% of *wadi* plots) since it was perceived to be more tolerant of a low moisture regime than  
371 sapota. In contrast, *Psidium guajava* (guava) and sapota were the two choice species in pre-existing orchard  
372 systems, where borewell irrigation (100% of plots) gave farmers greater confidence to cultivate these more  
373 “water-hungry” crops. Non-BAIF plots established since 2002 contained roughly equal numbers of these three  
374 species but, again, mango was the preferred crop in rainfed systems (53% of plots) while sapota and guava  
375 dominated in the irrigated systems (47% of plots). Plot-level richness of fruit species in BAIF-mediated *wadi*  
376 plots was found, on average, to be slightly higher (4.2 species) than recorded in the pre-existing orchard systems  
377 (4 species) and substantially greater than in non-BAIF plots established since 2002 (2.4 species). BAIF *wadi*  
378 plots were also observed to be richest in species of MPTs grown. All *wadi* plots contained a mix of MPT species  
379 drawn from twelve promoted by BAIF during the intervention. In contrast, in all non-BAIF plots the range of  
380 species observed was much narrower and one species – *Tectona grandis* (teak) – was overwhelmingly dominant  
381 due to its known value as high-grade timber and the ready availability of seedlings in local nurseries. The  
382 overall richness of tree species observed in BAIF *wadi* plots was an outcome of both the deliberately broad mix  
383 of species offered by BAIF during the project leading to diverse systems from the outset, combined with the

384 diversification strategy employed by some farmers when planting additional species into their plots to supply  
385 household demand for particular products (e.g. fruits such as coconut, lemon and papaya).

#### 386 *Soil and water conservation measures*

387 A key feature of BAIF's *wadi* model is the integration of SWC measures designed to reduce soil erosion and  
388 retain scarce rainwater *in-situ*. The need for SWC is evidently more pronounced in rainfed plots than in those  
389 with a source of irrigation where access to water "on-tap" removes or substantially reduces the constraint on  
390 system productivity posed by scarce and erratic rainfall. As noted, 30% of BAIF *wadi* plots were irrigated by  
391 borewell and here farmers had tended not to prioritise SWC measures, although some had constructed farm  
392 ponds with a view to aiding groundwater recharge. By contrast, in many rainfed plots farmers were observed to  
393 be actively maintaining farm ponds, trench-cum-bunds and basins mulched with organic matter around fruit  
394 trees. However, this was not universally true; some farmers had decided against installing these measures, while  
395 others reported having deliberately removed them (by filling in trenches and ponds, levelling bunds, etc.) after  
396 the project in order to maximise available space for crop cultivation. In pre-existing orchard systems, borewell  
397 irrigation was ubiquitous and SWC measures were not common. In plots created independently of BAIF since  
398 2002, more than fifty percent were borewell irrigated but field bunds were present in most cases, having been  
399 incentivised under the Sujala watershed project.

#### 400 *Agricultural intercrops*

401 Intercropping was practiced to varying degrees in all but two of the 38 BAIF *wadi* plots and in all of the non-  
402 BAIF plots created since 2002. Maize and cotton were the predominant choices of crop along with sorghum,  
403 groundnut, various millets and vegetables. In pre-project orchards, despite the high density of fruit trees,  
404 intercropping was still practiced to a limited extent on five of the nine plots with maize the dominant choice of  
405 crop. With fruit trees reaching maturity (12-18 years old) however, space and light available to intercrops had  
406 substantially diminished. Discussions with farmers revealed that the increasingly large volumes of fruit  
407 produced in these plots more than compensated for reduced crop yields. In *wadi* plots, canopy closure was not  
408 yet an issue although there had been an inevitable loss of space for crop cultivation. This was more pronounced  
409 in plots with higher densities of fruit trees and where farm ponds and trench-cum-bunds were maintained.  
410 Differences of opinion regarding the effects of trees and SWC measures on crop performance emerged during  
411 interviews with farmers; many felt that *wadi* plots were now more productive, due to perceived improvements in  
412 soil fertility and/or water availability, while others felt that a reduction of space and competition between trees  
413 and crops had a negative effect on output. Comparison was not straightforward as many farmers reported  
414 varying the choice of intercrop from one year to the next and none kept written records of plot-level crop yields.

#### 415 *Tree products*

416 From field observations and discussions with farmers, it was evident that *wadi* plots were beginning to provide  
417 adopting households with tree products. Mango and sapota trees had started fruiting from the fifth or sixth year  
418 after planting, but reported yields were variable and of low magnitude. This was primarily due to the trees still  
419 being juvenile although, during interviews, farmers also highlighted a number of challenges relating to the  
420 management and productivity of fruit trees. A significant issue, mentioned by 11 (29%) farmers, was lack of  
421 water supply in rainfed plots for protective irrigation of fruit trees during the dry summer months. Another  
422 frequently reported concern, mentioned by seven farmers (18%), was over unseasonal rains and heavy morning  
423 fogs occurring during the mango flowering season, which reputedly caused flowers to shed thereby reducing  
424 fruit yield. Theft of fruit was also reported in a number of interviews, although farmers indicated that this was at  
425 generally low levels and attributed it mainly to children from the village. On the whole, farmers were positive  
426 over future prospects, with substantial increases in fruit yields anticipated in the coming years as the trees  
427 approach maturity. Despite the limited volumes produced by the time of the field work, around one quarter of  
428 households reported having been able to sell quantities of fruit in local markets. For the majority, however, fruit  
429 produced at this stage was used only to provide a valuable source of supplementary household nutrition,  
430 particularly for young children. In the orchard plots that predated the BAIF intervention, fruit production was  
431 considerably greater due to both the relative maturity of these systems (12-18 years old) and the typically higher  
432 densities of fruit trees present. Farmers involved reported that annual earnings from sales of fruit were in the

433 region of US \$500 /ha of orchard. Four had entered into contractual relations with local middlemen who  
434 supplied labour to guard, harvest and market the fruit in return for an agreed share of the profits.

435 The majority of *wadi* adopters reported that they were coppicing and pruning boundary-planted MPTs to  
436 provide a regular source of firewood from their own fields and supplement or replace collection from degraded  
437 communal scrubland a kilometre or more to the east of the village. Tree leaves were used as green manure and  
438 for fodder, and some farmers were also growing grasses and *Stylosanthes hamata* for fodder along internal plot  
439 bunds. Harvesting of MPTs for sale of timber had not yet occurred, although a number of farmers reported  
440 having coppiced poles for use in constructing farm implements and in repairing or renovating household  
441 dwellings. It was clear from discussions with farmers that they were aware of the future timber value of the trees  
442 – particularly teak – with many expressing the view that these provide a form of security against future  
443 contingencies and are an asset that can be passed down to their children (c.f. Chambers and Leach 1989). Given  
444 the low numbers of MPTs in the older orchard systems, few other tree products were generated.

#### 445 *Reasons for non-adoption*

446 Of the 17 non-adopting farmers interviewed, the majority (70%) were from the poor and very poor wealth  
447 classes. Principal among the reasons for non-adoption during the BAIF intervention were concerns regarding  
448 shortages of water, land and labour (Table 6). Drought and the absence of irrigation facilities had put off many  
449 of these farmers who doubted the practice would be profitable under rainfed conditions. Farmers also reported  
450 having been reluctant to convert land since they only had small landholdings and relied upon their existing  
451 agriculture for subsistence; they feared that crop yields may decline substantially when trees were introduced  
452 and felt they could not afford to take the risk. Lack of available household labour was also an issue in some  
453 households, either where there were few healthy working members or where existing livelihood activities were  
454 perceived to leave insufficient resources to invest in trialling and adopting a new practice. Work in the city was  
455 often seen as a constraint to investing in the land. Interestingly, when asked about their non-adoption in the  
456 years after the BAIF project, some farmers expressed regret at having passed up on the opportunity. While  
457 labour availability remained a commonly cited constraint to adoption, the most common reason offered  
458 concerned lack of available capital to invest in acquiring the planting materials from commercial nurseries.  
459 Having seen small rainfed systems develop successfully on the lands of neighbours, these farmers no longer  
460 considered the availability of land or water to be a major limiting factor. But investing scarce household  
461 resources in establishing a *wadi*-like system without any external support was a risk few seemed willing (or  
462 able) to take.

## 463 **Conclusions**

464 In reflecting on our findings, we will use the recommendation of Scherr and Müller (1991: 243) ‘to distinguish  
465 three levels of “agroforestry adoption” in evaluating project impact:

- 466 1) willingness to test new agroforestry components and practices, i.e., to establish the new systems on the farm  
467 on an experimental basis;
- 468 2) willingness to maintain and manage the new agroforestry system, i.e., trees are not uprooted or abandoned,  
469 intercropping is continued, and the farmer continues to observe and evaluate costs and benefits of managing  
470 the system;
- 471 3) extension of the agroforestry system on other pieces of land, or re-establishment at the end of the life-cycle  
472 of the longest-growing component, i.e., acceptance of the technology as part of the farming system.’

473 In the case of Channapur, 32 households had achieved the first level of adoption by showing willingness to test  
474 the new *wadi* agroforestry practice on some part of their farm. In respect of the second level of adoption, the  
475 BAIF *wadi* intervention has achieved remarkable success. Only one farmer subsequently abandoned the practice  
476 and this occurred during the project itself. The remaining 31 adopting households (97%) retained their *wadi*  
477 plots six to eight years after initial establishment. However, in 2010, the process of evaluating the costs and  
478 benefits of managing the plots was still ongoing. Increasing availability of tree products for household  
479 consumption was valued, but market sales were low due to the typically small volumes of production. Higher

480 incomes were expected in the coming years as the tree components reach maturity, but there was still much  
481 uncertainty over long-term financial returns. While the orchards that pre-dated the BAIF intervention provide  
482 some indication of the possible magnitude of future fruit production, the fact that these systems are typically  
483 large, high-density plantations irrigated through borewell means they are not directly comparable to the majority  
484 of *wadi* plots that are small, lower-density, rainfed systems. Due to this uncertainty, it is conceivable that future  
485 abandonment could still occur should the *wadi* systems fail to meet farmers' expectations. This emphasises the  
486 need to track introduced technologies over extended periods if the long-run impacts of agroforestry  
487 interventions are to be fully assessed.

488 Beyond retention, eight project adopters (25%) were found to have created additional plots thereby increasing  
489 the extent of the practice on their landholdings and, thus, achieving the third level of adoption. There was also  
490 evidence of diffusion to other farmers who had not initially adopted. That extension and diffusion had occurred  
491 gives strong indication that farmers in Channapur possess increasing confidence in the *wadi* practice. While it is  
492 the case that most adopters have not taken up *wadi* on a whole-farm scale, converting on average around 50% of  
493 their landholdings, this form of agroforestry does appear to have been accepted as a long-term component of  
494 farming systems in the village. That said, it should be noted that the vast majority of cases of extension and  
495 diffusion occurred using heavily subsidised planting materials from the unrelated *Sujala* watershed project,  
496 rather than through investment of households' own financial capital. The limited adoption and expansion  
497 observed without external programme inputs points to the importance of outside agency in facilitating  
498 agroforestry adoption, through activities such as farmer mobilisation, technical support and distribution of  
499 quality germplasm.

500 In assessing management practices, considerable variability was observed among adopting households. This was  
501 most evident in terms of plot-level tree densities, where lower densities reflected either difficulties in  
502 management (high mortality and low levels of restocking) or a strategy to minimise loss of space for crop  
503 cultivation, and higher densities reflected greater commitment to managing the new tree component (lower  
504 mortality and/or investment in restocking) and a strategy to maximise output of tree products. Farmers' selection  
505 of fruit tree species appears to have been heavily influenced by the availability of water; those with access to  
506 irrigation facilities tended to prefer sapota and guava for their higher economic value, while those with rainfed  
507 systems favoured mango as it was considered to be less water-demanding and to have greater tolerance to  
508 drought-conditions. Farmers with irrigation facilities also tended to place less importance on SWC measures  
509 given the year-round availability of water. While adoption of SWC measures was more prevalent among  
510 farmers lacking access to irrigation, such measures were not observed in all rainfed plots and this seemed to  
511 reflect differences of opinion regarding the costs and benefits of installation and maintenance. Intercropping was  
512 practiced on nearly all plots with a wide variety of crops cultivated. The extent to which cultivation was possible  
513 varied as a function of available space and farmers had mixed opinions regarding the effects of integrating trees  
514 and SWC measures on crop productivity. The key point here is that whereas adoption of NRM innovations is  
515 typically seen as a dichotomous choice, it is evident that adopting farmers in Channapur have implemented and  
516 subsequently managed the *wadi* 'model' in different ways, giving rise to substantial variability in plot  
517 configurations and likely performance. Therefore we suggest that it is important for agroforestry adoption  
518 studies to give due consideration to the ways in which technologies are managed and adapted as a central aspect  
519 of the complex adoption process, rather than representing adoption in simplistic binary terms.

520 Notwithstanding the success in terms of retention, expansion and diffusion, the outcomes of this agroforestry  
521 intervention were not especially pro-poor. Adoption rates were proportionately much higher among households  
522 ranked in the upper three wealth classes, where farm sizes tended to be larger and a greater proportion of  
523 working individuals derived their primary occupation from cultivating their own land. The corresponding low  
524 level of adoption among households ranked 'poor' and 'very poor' was related to low natural capital  
525 endowments, strong aversion to risk, and proximity to a city offering alternative livelihood opportunities.  
526 However, it is worth stressing that prior to BAIF's intervention, the number of households practicing fruit-based  
527 agroforestry in Channapur was low – just eight in total – and the majority (75%) were ranked 'rich' (Table 2).  
528 Our follow-up research found that 40 households had now adopted and just ten (25%) were ranked 'rich', with  
529 similar numbers from the other wealth classes. Thus, it is evident that the intervention has promoted a more

530 equitable distribution of agroforestry and ensured that it is not only the richest households in the village who can  
531 derive environmental and economic benefits from the integration of trees on their farms. BAIF's extension  
532 approach was deliberately inclusive, with exposure visits and on-farm demonstrations available to all interested  
533 farmers irrespective of wealth or status, and it is not clear that more could have been done to facilitate adoption  
534 by a larger proportion of poorer land-owning households. Had the project operated in the village over a longer  
535 time period – thereby allowing greater opportunity for farmers to evaluate the new practice on the lands of  
536 neighbours before making a decision – it is conceivable that more households ranked 'poor' and 'very poor'  
537 may have decided to adopt. But this is not certain and, in any case, extension projects – given typical financial  
538 and operational constraints – cannot continue indefinitely.

539 Although three quarters of land-owning households in Channapur had not adopted fruit-based agroforestry, 18%  
540 of all farmland deemed suitable (non-rice paddy) within the village boundaries had nonetheless been converted.  
541 Around half of this was directly attributable to the BAIF intervention; indirectly the figure was higher, since  
542 BAIF's extension effort influenced later expansion of the *wadi* practice, albeit in often simplified form, through  
543 the Sujala watershed project. While this is an impressive achievement considering the relative brevity of the  
544 *wadi* project's operational period, when viewed at landscape-scale, agroforestry coverage in Channapur  
545 resembles a patchwork effect (Fig. 4). In recent times there has been much discussion regarding the role of  
546 agroforestry in enhancing ecosystem service provision (Jose 2009; Rapidel et al. 2011). While for delivery of  
547 some ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, it probably makes little difference how trees are  
548 distributed in the landscape, for others, such as controlling soil erosion, it can matter a great deal. Adoption of  
549 *wadi* agroforestry is likely to be important for individual farmers in terms of *in-situ* conservation of moisture  
550 and nutrients, but can a non-systematic scattering of plots in the landscape make a significant difference to  
551 large-scale soil erosion? This is arguably the most pressing environmental problem in Channapur given the  
552 associated decline in soil fertility and silting-up of water bodies. BAIF's *wadi* approach was voluntary, with  
553 households free to choose whether or not they wished to participate. There is strong justification for this given  
554 the ethical issues associated with more coercive approaches and the disappointing outcomes they have produced  
555 (Pretty and Shah 1997). Nevertheless, we suggest that a purely voluntary, household approach is unlikely to  
556 result in adoption that is optimised to address watershed- or landscape-scale problems. BAIF have recognised  
557 this and have been piloting an area-based approach in Gujarat that integrates individual farm-level action with  
558 community initiatives at catchment-scale (BAIF 2012). Effective collective-action, however, requires substantial  
559 investment in mobilisation and coordination (Kerr et al. 2007; Shiferaw et al. 2009), which is likely to make it  
560 both more challenging and more costly to implement.

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## TABLES

**Table 1 Indicators and outcomes of a participatory monitoring and evaluation exercise held in 2005 with 25 *wadi* adopting farmers. Source: Unpublished project documentation.**

Indicator	+	=	-	Reasons
Changing attitudes towards agroforestry	23	2	0	Two farmers felt that the work required in caring for trees in drought conditions was onerous, but the rest thought it worthwhile considering future benefits. According to the group, originally other farmers in the village had thought they were “crazy” to plant trees on their plots and had laughed at them. Now the same people expressed regret that they had not been involved.
Increased capacity to manage agroforestry	25	0	0	Before the intervention most farmers had no confidence in establishing fruit trees. Now it is seen to be possible with the integration of low-cost SWC practices.
Changes in crop development	25	0	0	Composting and mulching is a normal part of the management system and all farmers observed signs that crops benefited from improvements in soil fertility.
Changes in soil moisture retention	25	0	0	Farmers observed an extended sowing period and also crops in <i>wadi</i> were seen to resist the dry weather better than crops in neighbouring fields.
Increased fodder availability.	24	1	0	One farmer had not yet felt the benefit from very recently planted fodder species. Others are confident about sustained availability of fodder even in the dry summer months.

**Table 2 Temporal pattern and rate of adoption by wealth class**

Wealth rank	Eligible land-owning HHs	Year of 1st adoption of fruit-based agroforestry							Total AF adopting HHs	Overall rate of adoption
		Pre-2002	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
Rich	15	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	10	67%
Upper Mid	15	-	6 <sup>b</sup>		-	-	-	-	6	40%
Lower Mid	32	-	4	1	3 <sup>b</sup>	1	-	-	9	28%
Poor	48	-	2	3	3	1	-	-	9	19%
Very Poor	59	2	2	-	-	1	-	1	6	10%
Unranked	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Total	171	8	18 <sup>a</sup>	4	6	3	0	1	40	23%

<sup>a</sup> Five households owned orchards that predated the project but also adopted *wadi* using BAIF inputs in 2002 (n= 23; 18+5)

<sup>b</sup> Two households (one in 2002 and one in 2004) adopted during the BAIF project years (2002-2004) but used their own resources

**Table 3 Rate of adoption by landholding class**

Landholding class	Total HHs in class	Agroforestry adopting HHs in class	Overall rate of adoption
≥4 ha.	12	5	42%
>3<4 ha.	12	5	42%
≥2<3 ha.	15	6	40%
≥1<2 ha.	56	14	25%
<1 ha.	76	10	13%
Landless	81	0	0%
Total	252	40	23% <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Excludes landless households

**Table 4 Extent of agroforestry plots by plot type**

Plot type	No. of plots	Total area (ha)	Mean plot area (ha)*
Pre-existing plots (<2002)	9	18.8	2.0 (2.3)
BAIF-mediated <i>wadi</i> plots	38	20.1	0.5 (0.3)
Non-BAIF plots (2002>)	17	7.0	0.4 (0.4)
TOTAL	64	45.9	0.7 (1.0)

\* Values in parentheses are standard deviations from the mean

**Table 5 Tree species and utilisation**

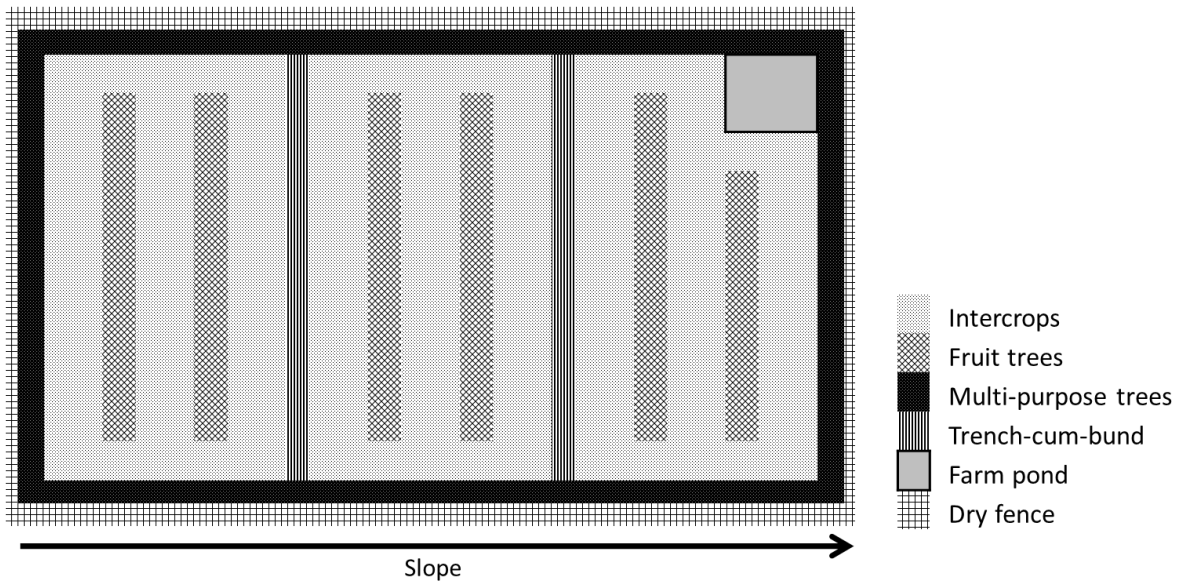
	Scientific name	Common name	BAIF	Utilisation
Fruit tree species	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Cashew	✓	Fruits; nuts
	<i>Carica papaya</i>	Papaya	X	Fruits
	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut	X	Fibre; fruits; fuel; leaves; oil
	<i>Citrus x limon</i>	Lemon	X	Fruits
	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Mango	✓	Fruits; timber
	<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	Sapodilla / Sapota	✓	Fruits
	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	Curry leaf	✓	Edible leaves
	<i>Musa spp.</i>	Banana	X	Fruits; leaves
	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Guava	X	Fruits
	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Amla	✓	Fruits
	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Tamarind	✓	Edible pods; timber
Multi-purpose tree species (MPTS)	<i>Acacia spp.</i>	Babul	✓	Fuel
	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem	X	Fuel; medicine; oil; timber
	<i>Casurina equisetifolia</i>	She-oak / Beach oak	✓	Fuel; poles
	<i>Dalbergia sisoo</i>	Indian rosewood	✓	Fodder; fuel; timber
	<i>Erythrina indica</i>	Indian coral tree	✓	Fodder; fuel; poles
	<i>Eucalyptus spp.</i>	Eucalyptus	✓	Fuel; medicine; poles
	<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	Mexican lilac	✓	Fodder; fuel; green manure
	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silver oak	✓	Fuel; timber
	<i>Leuceana leucocephala</i>	Subabul	✓	Fodder; fuel; green manure;
	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Drumstick	✓	Edible leaves and pods
	<i>Sesbania sesban</i>	Egyptian pea	✓	Fodder; fuel; green manure
	<i>Senna siamea</i>	Kassod / Cassod	✓	Fuel; green manure; poles
	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	Teak	✓	Poles; timber

**Table 6 Reasons for non-adoption of agroforestry**

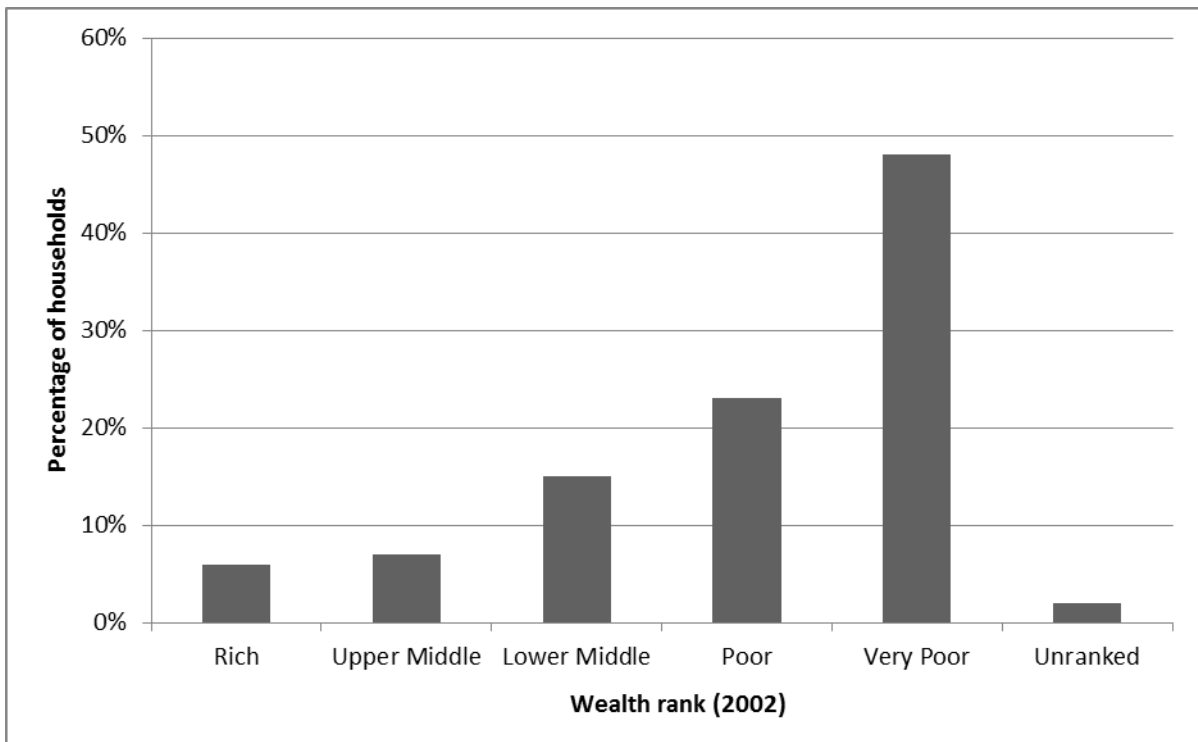
Reasons for non-adoption	Percentage of households (n=17)
During BAIF project years (2002-2004)	
<i>Water insecurity</i>	41%
<i>Small size of plot / risk of reduced crop yields</i>	35%
<i>Labour shortage</i>	24%
<i>Tenure insecurity</i>	18%
<i>Children not interested</i>	12%
<i>Shared land holding</i>	12%
Independently of BAIF in subsequent years	
<i>Lack of capital</i>	41%
<i>Labour shortage</i>	35%
<i>Tenure insecurity</i>	18%
<i>Not interested in adopting</i>	12%
<i>Land leased out</i>	6%
<i>Small size of plot / risk of reduced crop yields</i>	6%

NB: Totals add up to more than 100 because some farmers gave multiple reasons

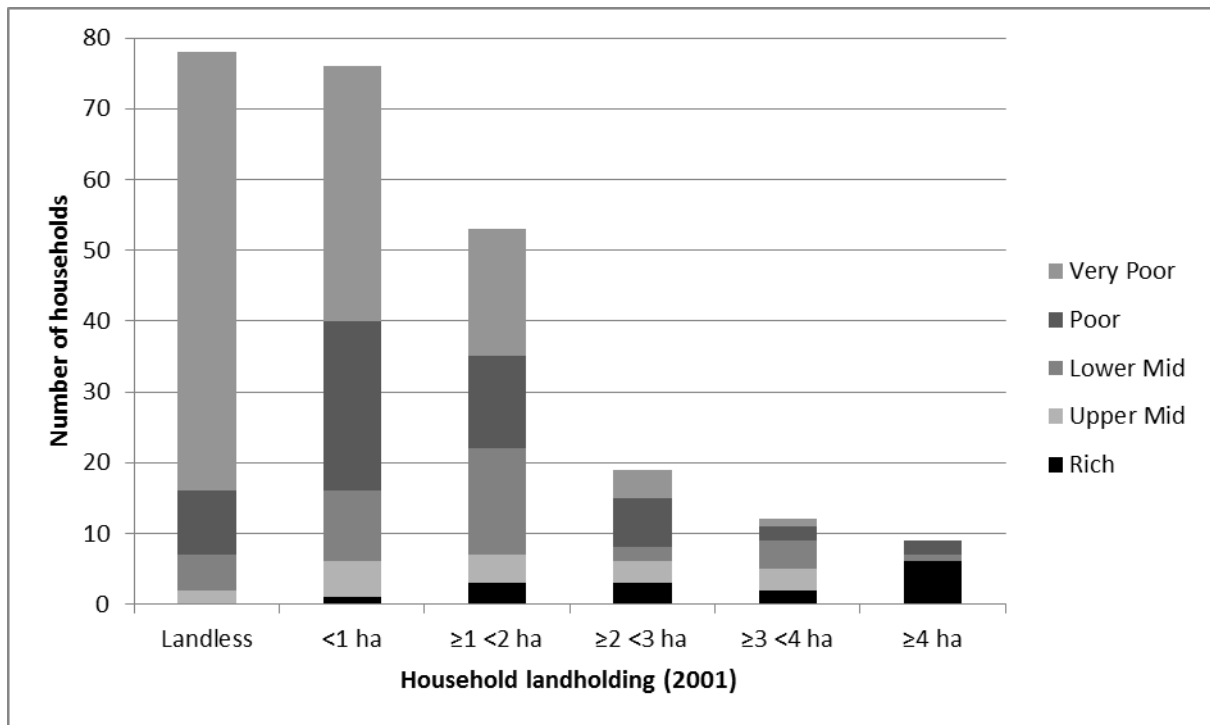
**FIGURES**



**Fig. 1 Schematic layout of BAIF Wadi model**

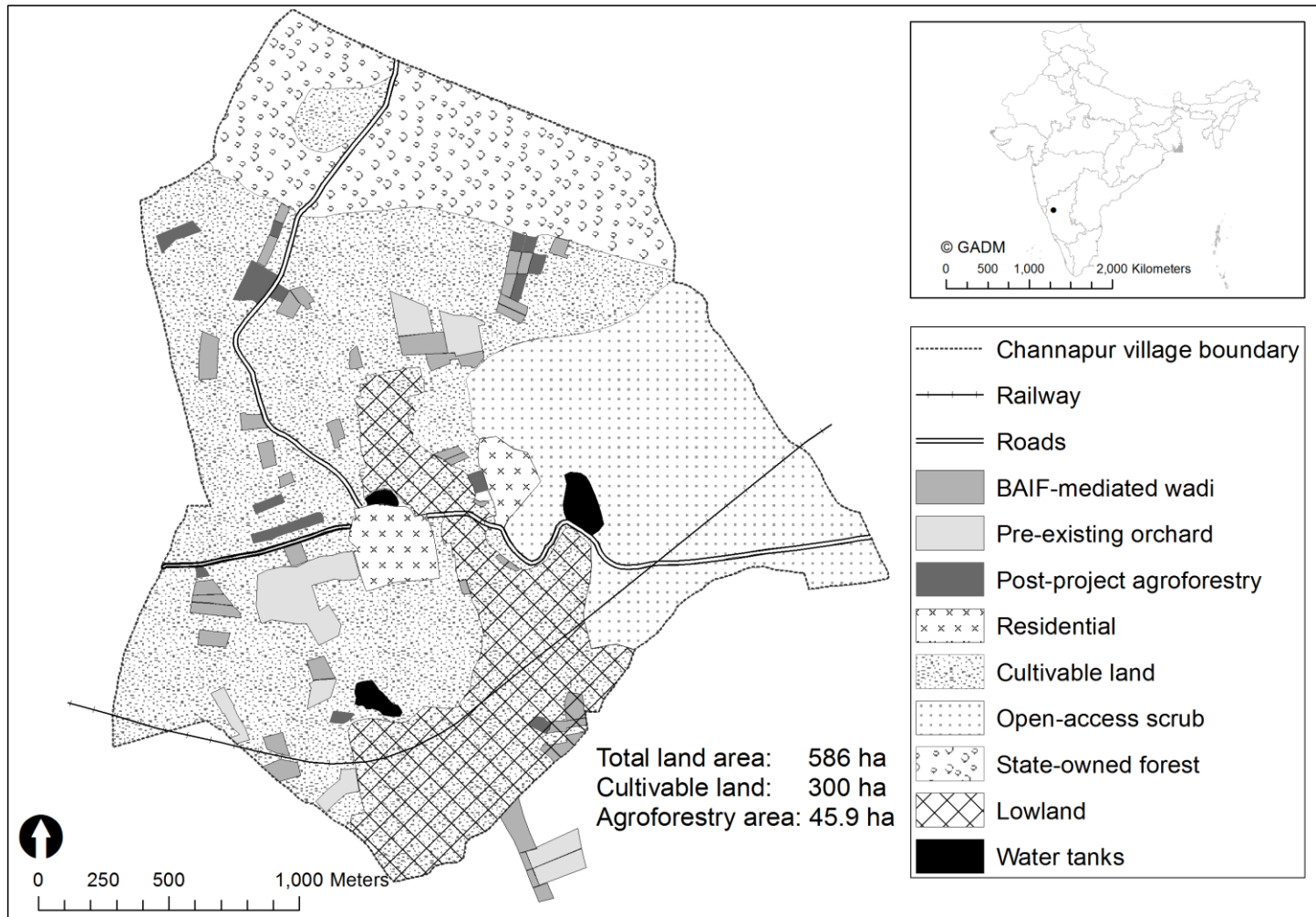


**Fig. 2 Participatory wealth ranking of households in Channapur**

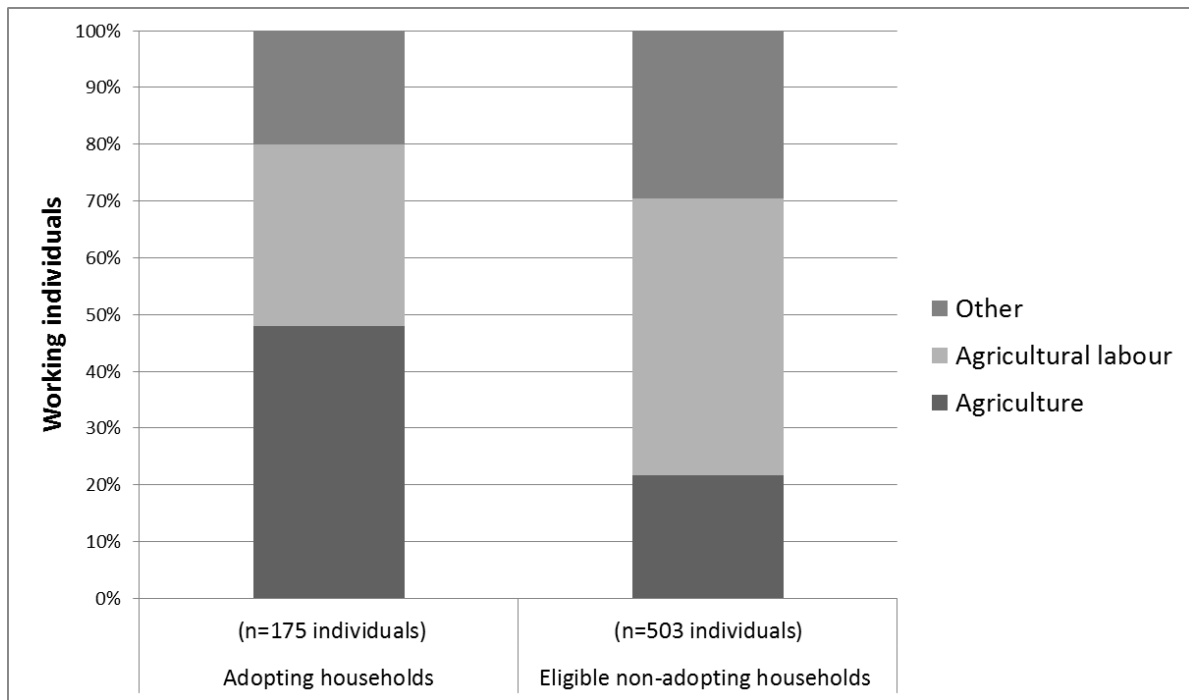


**Fig. 3** Distribution of household landholdings in Channapur by size class and wealth rank





**Fig. 4** Spatial distribution and extent of agroforestry in Channapur



**Fig. 5 Primary occupation, in 2001, of all working individuals within the 40 adopting households and 131 eligible non-adopting households**

