

Pigeon pea to combat Desertification in Ribeira Seca watershed_Cape Verde



The low soil cover and inadequate practices on rain fed agricultural lands are major problems related to the fragility of the land, water erosion and desertification in Cape Verde.



Next Steps

- Date to send workshop report to participants : 3rd week of October
- Actions:
 - ✓ Field survey of potential areas
 - ✓ Identification of funding sources
 - ✓ Capacity building/sensitization
 - ✓ Implementation
 - ✓ Monitoring
 - ✓ Wide scale dissemination
- ✓ Farmers exchange visits hosted by farmers



Rainfed land treated with pigeon pea

Priority Remediation Strategy

- Priority strategy for effective and sustainable combat to desertification: strengthen vegetative cover of rainfed lands.
- **Pigeon pea technology** appears to be the simplest, most accessible, least expensive, socio economic acceptable technique with great impact on soil cover and land rehabilitation.
- Additional criteria proposed for social component to evaluate the technology: employment generation, law enforcement regarding animals invading agricultural fields, urban planning, articulation among institutions and on-going projects related to desertification and food security and quality.

Promoting Remediation in CAPE VERDE

WHERE:

- ✓ Rain fed lands vulnerable to soil erosion and desertification.
- ✓ Watersheds that will benefit from future dams, particularly on the upstream areas
- ✓ Rain fed lands that need crop diversification

WHO, HOW, WHEN : Effective stakeholders responsibility (table)

Stakeholder groups	Responsibility	When
Land users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implementation, maintenance and conservation of technologies ➤ Participation in capacity building, participatory research and monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rainy season 2012 ➤ 2011-2012
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding (acquisition of seeds, training, ..) ➤ Empowerment of local communities (capacity building, follow-up) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012 ➤ 2011-2012
Municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding (acquisition of seeds, training) ➤ Planning, monitoring, facilitation/articulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012 ➤ 2011-2012
INIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research, technical assistance ➤ Monitoring and dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2011-2012 ➤ 2011
DGASP/Delegations MDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Capacity building of farmers, technical assistance ➤ Funding, monitoring, legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012
Focal Point of CCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Information of projects/ programs on the combat of desertification ➤ Information on existing global mechanisms for funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2011

Local/regional policies that could promote wide adoption of the strategy:

National Plan to Combat Desertification (PAN_LCD) _UNCCD; Municipal Action Plan to Combat Desertification; Municipal Development Plan (PDM); National Action Plan for Environment (PANA)

Major obstacles to adopt mitigation priority:

- Inapplicability of the technology to arid climatic regions, with very low precipitation. To overcome this obstacle, lands should be treated with a more drought resistant species, such as *Aloe vera*. In arid regions, only irrigated lands can benefit from this technology.
- Poverty of some families forcing them to consume part of the distributed seeds as food rather than sowing. Solution to this vulnerability is more complex.



Steep slope rainfed land treated with pigeon pea combined with terraces

Key Policy Messages

- ❖ Farmers should be the **center piece** in the widespread implementation of technology and **be involved** in decision making regarding SLM
- ❖ **NGOs and extension people should sensitize and inform land users** about desertification issues, prevention and mitigation strategies
- ❖ **Decision makers should legislate on the use of SLM technologies** like cultivation of pigeon pea on steep rain fed lands
- ❖ **Local knowledge should be valued** at all level of decision making

Feedback

Workshop: rated good to very good

Farmers:

- "I recommend all my friends to plant pigeon pea in their land"
- "Pigeon pea helps woman to feed their children, get extra income, enrich the soil and protect their land from being carried away"

Technicians:

- "the DESIRE methodology enforced the participatory approach used in Cape Verde to combat desertification"
- "The project changed the attitude of land users regarding the use of Natural Resources"

UNCCD focal point:

"Objectives of DESIRE projects fit in the goals of UNCCD and the positive results should be applied to other watersheds in Cape Verde"