

Comment Form [FR4]

February 25, 2016

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| Title of the Project | Desertification and Livelihood in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia | | |
| Research Term | FR4 | Project Leader | TANAKA Ueru |
| General advice and comments of the PEC: | | | |
| <p>The PEC noted with approval that the project has made major efforts in developing, with local people, agricultural techniques to combat desertification, in particular in West Africa. The project also gained wide recognition for its work as indicated by the large number of prizes awarded to the project and its members.</p> | | | |
| <p>In the discussion, a number of points came up for further consideration during the last year of research. Some reflection on the technology development and adoption process would be useful -- would it be possible to do a formal assessment of the impacts of the process? This could include questions such as what the success factors and obstacles were, what kind of people were likely to adopt technology or play key roles in the dissemination process, and what the prospects are for continued local use of the technology as the project withdraws from the localities. The PEC wondered about the balance between the introduction of technology and bottom-up development and this could also be analyzed in some detail.</p> | | | |
| <p>A second area of debate related to the bigger picture of the project. With research going on at a local scale in a large number of sites across continents, what are the prospects of scaling-up beyond the local level? While the main focus of the research has been on the customization of technology, is it also possible to standardize the results for application in a wider area? How can the successes in the field be used as insights for policy? Would the project's engagement with the Great Green Wall Initiative be a mechanism for reaching national governments or international organizations such as UNEP? The project rationale makes prominent reference to the UNCCD – how can findings and lessons be made relevant to that convention? As the project enters its final year, there will be a need to summarize the results across the continents.</p> | | | |