EXPLORING THE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE COMMUNITY BASED AGROFORESTRY MANAGEMENT IN GULU, UGANDA

Using the DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework as a guide to better understand the current state of communities so that new techniques can be implemented to strengthen livelihood assets and provide communities with the support they need to successfully raise, plant, and maintain trees.

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PROJECT CONTEXT

There is heavy deforestation in Uganda because of the need for fuelwood. Kijani Forestry provides farming communities with seeds and on-site trainers that help farmers grow, plant, and maintain different species of trees. Farmers plant the trees grown among their crops and can use tree branches to make charcoal for household use. Through this initiative, farmers can support reforestation and benefit from the multiple uses and environmental benefits of trees.

PROBLEMS

Not all farmers participate in agroforestry projects, or they begin projects and then abandon them.

The survival rate of trees needs to be improved.

The job performance of on-site trainers as well as the quality of their relationships with farmers is unknown.

OBJECTIVE

Identify the factors that discourage farmer participation in agroforestry activities

METHODOLOGY

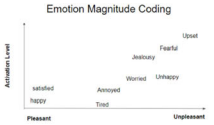
Data Collection Methods

- Semi-structured Interviews
- Group Interviews
- Roleplays
- Ethnography

Participant Profile

- Community Leaders
- Farmers
- Trainers
- Men and Women over the age of 18

Emotion Magnitude Coding



Farmers' attitudes towards agroforestry activities were assessed through the use of emotion coding. Each emotion was taken directly from the interview responses and then given a magnitude based on its activation level. Emotions with a higher activation level can influence decision making behaviors among individuals.

Both the trainers' ("Subcounty Coordinator") and farmers' interview responses were identified as an attitude, value, or belief. The data was coded under the assumptions that attitudes can shift, beliefs are difficult to change, and values cannot be changed . Responses were separated into one of the three categories and then the responses within the categories were coded to better describe the most common responses. The codes for each group were then compared using a Venn Diagram. In the figure below, values are represented in green, beliefs in blue and attitudes in purple.

ANALYSIS

Themes coding, Emotions coding, Motif coding and Attitudes, Beliefs, and Values coding were used to interpret interviews, roleplays, and ethnography. Visual examples of "Emotions coding" and "Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs coding" are pictured to the left.

RESULTS/FINDINGS

Farmers become discouraged and abandon agroforestry projects because of multiple factors such as:

-Recruiting bias
-Lack of strong social capital
-Lack of natural capital and risk of losing natural capital
-Feelings of powerlessness, lack of agency, and lack of project ownership
-Perceived return on investment
-Time poverty

APPLICATION OF FINDINGS

The findings from this study will be used to help Kijani Forestry structure staff and community training activities in a way that that encourages the growth of human capital, social capital, and technical knowledge simultaneously. By considering the social factors that influence project and activity planning, Kijani Forestry can prepare training and resources that help farmers and trainers learn how to recognize and mitigate social conflict so that groups maintain strong participation and reciprocity.

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