

SDC in DPR of Korea

2015 – 2016 SLM Programme

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Land degradation is best averted before it becomes a major problem. Erosion and water runoff can be checked through appropriate landscaping and cropping. The importance of protecting and managing sloping land properly has been gaining momentum in the DPRK since the 2000s, a country which is mostly covered by mountains and hilly areas.

Based on the dialog between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and its partner in the DPRK, the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection (MoLEP), a framework agreement for the cooperation in sustainable Sloping Land Management (SLM) in DPRK was reached in 2003. The goal was – and remains – the promotion of ecologically sustainable, economically viable and socially beneficial management of sloping land by improving soil fertility, preventing soil erosion and meeting the needs of local people in terms of food diversity.

Starting in 2004, SDC and MoLEP introduced Agroforestry (AF) with new approaches on SLM by establishing so-called Sloping Land User Groups (UG), which have now become legally recognised entities registered with the County Forest Management Board to manage allocated slopes for reforestation and environmental protection. Applying AF permits UGs to generate income in a stable and protected environment. This has demonstrably been a win-win approach through structural and non-structural measures in preventing soil erosion and fostering sustainable farming production for households of members of the UGs. In 2012, in order to enhance sustainability, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Water Shed Management were piloted for the first time in the field.

The SLM achievements of good practices on Agroforestry were well received by the Government. The 4th National Workshop on Agroforestry in 2013 led to the development and approval of the National Agroforestry Strategy legislation along with a 10-year Action Plan, a process funded by SDC and supported with external international expertise.

Based on this success, the SLM programme is now in its 6th two-year phase and currently strengthening the capacity of MoLEP in order to enhance its ability to meet its national target, as well as to expand the programme to 220 UGs in two provinces by the end of 2016 with an emphasis on integrated Disaster Risk Reduction. Several technical manuals on innovate AF techniques on Sloping Land Management have been developed and published in collaboration with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) since 2008.

Background Information

80% of the DPRK is covered by mountains and upland slopes and only 16.6% of its surface are arable. Due to chronic food shortages and insufficient energy availability in the 1990s, hill lands began to be deforested for cultivation. This unsustainable sloping land exploitation practice led to soil erosion, natural hazards such as landslides and even flood risks to downstream areas where residential and farm lands are located.

Nationwide, MoLEP is now targeting 360,000 ha of land for Agroforestry cultivation based on SLM methodologies by 2023, which represents a dramatic increase over its original 2011-2015 target of 150,000 ha.



Budget

Year	Budget EUR	Beneficiaries
2016	620'000	220UGs/MoLEP
2015	600'000	180 UGs/MoLEP
2014	520,000	159 UGs/MoLEP
2013	325,250	123 UGs
2012	311'400	93 UGs
2011	305'636	87 UGs
2010	444'109	63 UGs
2009	287'888	34 UGs

Contact Information

Swiss Cooperation Office DPR of Korea
Yubo Street 3, Daedonggang District
Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Phone +850 2 3817 645
E-mail pyongyang@eda.admin.ch

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/countries/north-korea.html>