Agriculture and Sustainable Natural Forest Management

“Towards a national Forest Policy that Promotes Natural Forest values and Sustainable Rural Livelihood in Tanzania”

Presented in the 3rd TTCS National Workshop on Biomass Energy @ Morena Hotel

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Outline

• Background
• The sector-Link
• Sector Requirements
• Challenges in the Linkage
• Sustainability
Background

• Tanzania has a rich natural resources for agricultural development. (94.5 million hectares of land of which 44 Arable)

Agriculture sector

• Important catalyst for economic growth, poverty alleviation, and food security
• Livelihoods over 80% of population
• Generates about 24.1 percent of GDP,
• Contributes 30% of export earnings
• Employment 75%
Agriculture sector ............

Characteristics

• Production dominated by small holders.
• Farm size 0.5-2 ha
• Rain fed
• Shift cultivation

BUT

growth in agriculture production and productivity are critical for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
Agriculture Requirements

1. Land
   – At the expenses of Forest? Farm expansion/Fertile land??

Hence – Shift cultivation

- **Shifting cultivation** has also resulted in encroachment of natural forest reserves.
Agriculture Requirements

2. Water for irrigation.....Catchment encroachment-vinyungu ???
Agriculture Requirements

3. Technologies
   – Enhance production-Farm implements (degrade forestland)

4. Policies
   – Regulate System and mode of production by providing directives based on country vision and priorities
Problem in the linkage

• Converting forestland to cropland,
  – Many forest ecosystems are at risk.
  **Why????**

• large-scale expansion of farm with increased demand for agricultural and forest biomass, is seen as a major threat

• Growing demand for food, fuel and fiber associated with population growth,

• Rising incomes and changing diets continues to drive deforestation

Therefore
Sustainability: Integration of agriculture forest systems with processing industries increases opportunities for positive feedback loops that reuse and recycle mass and energy flows and improve system performance.
Agriculture policy

• Vision: Agricultural sector that is modernized, commercial, highly productive and profitable; that utilizes natural resources in an overall sustainable manner (land water forest?)

Some Specific Objectives

• Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and linkages to increase efficiency and effectiveness;
• Protect and promote integrated and sustainable utilization of agricultural lands

THEREFORE’..........................
What is needed

• Enhance policy harmonization:

  Harmonizing forestry, Land and agriculture policies is fundamental for the implementation of integrated approaches to sustainable production and conservation

• Enforcement of Laws/By-laws

• Agreements Implementation

Internationally negotiated and ratified instruments are needed that systematically address integrated forestry/agriculture interactions. (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC)
What can be done...

- Strengthen practices and technologies that favor sustainable agriculture and Natural resources
  - **Smart Practices** eg:
    - Tree plantations
    - Agroforestry
    - Soil water conservation
    - Biogas
Thank you for listening