



Capacity Building for Entrepreneurship Centered Around Trees Outside Forests

Module 2: Tree plantation and Cultivation
**Lecture 5: Success stories from real-life tree
farming ventures**

Introduction



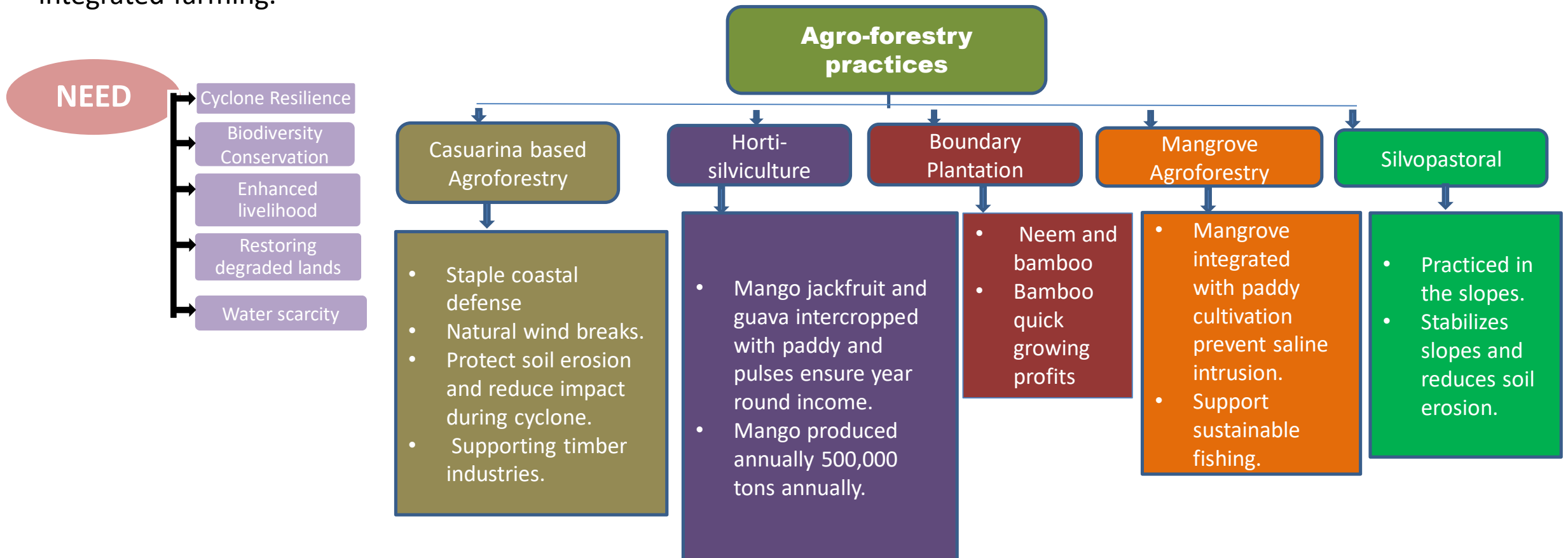
- In the present earth, where resources are limited and demands are more, one cannot depend on natural and conventional way to get resources. With decrease in forest and tree cover to avail the limited resources plantation has become necessary for survival, as even the air we breathe is not clean.
- Plantation is carried in different ways from monoculture to multiple species with innovation and scientific techniques. In India, numerous farmers have embraced plantation for their livelihood, transforming their land, nurturing both ecosystem as well as their private land.
- Directly, plantation have an impact in income, green cover, communities, soil health and biodiversity. Apart from direct impact it has other indirect impact like, way of life, recreation and so on. This has led to visionary effort for plantation for sustainable and prosperous future, with initiatives taken by govt., NGO's civil societies, individuals etc. Such initiative have blossomed a success stories for plantation.
- This success stories has become an inspiration for planting of more trees.

Odisha community



Odisha have an extensive coastline, lush plains and hilly terrain with environmental challenges. The state faces recurring issues like cyclones, soil erosion and deforestation. In this context , agroforestry is a transformative solution.

Historically, Odisha's agrarian communities practiced tree crop integration to support food security, fodder and forest based products. Post independence deforestation and monoculture farming weekend the practice of integrated farming.



Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh (Shri Balakdas Rajpoot)



- Transformed degraded land by planting over 200 tree species.
- Annual income exceeding ₹1 lakh from tree farming.
- Actively promotes **agroforestry** by training fellow farmers and distributing saplings.
- **Technical Support:** Received hands-on training from ICAR-CAFRI, Jhansi, which included techniques like ber grafting and pruning.
- **Significance:** His success story serves as an inspiration for sustainable agricultural practices in semi-arid regions.

Important lessons: Resourcefulness and innovation, Diversification, Sustainable agriculture, Way to increase income, Environmental stewardship.



Sriram Chitlur, *et al.* Bengaluru, Karnataka



- **Founders:** Sriram Chitlur, Ashok J, and Srinath Setty established Hosachiguru in 2014
- Focuses on agroforestry, managing large land parcels for sustainable farming
- Captured 18 projects across 800 acres, primarily cultivating sandalwood, mahogany, and *Melia dubia*
- Generates an annual turnover of ₹20 crore
- Sells land with complete setups and charges for ongoing operations and maintenance
- Utilizes weather stations, moisture sensors, and automated irrigation systems to optimize farming practices
- Created jobs for over 100 local farmers, focusing on empowering women in agriculture



Haryana, India (Mr. Phool Kumar)



- **Background:** Began his journey in agriculture with traditional methods but faced challenges due to chemical use and declining yields
- **Transition to Organic Farming:** Inspired by a telecast on organic methods, he started exploring chemical-free farming in 2010
- **Implementation of the Jungle Method:** Attended a workshop by Subhash Palekar in 2017, learning about the "Five Layer Farming Model," also known as the jungle method
- Planted a diverse range of trees and crops using seeds rather than saplings, including 54 lemon trees, 133 pomegranate trees, 170 banana plants, and 420 drumstick trees
- **Economic Success:** Earned ₹1.5 lakh from one acre in the first year, which increased to ₹2.5 lakh in subsequent years. Utilized cow dung and urine for fertilization, minimizing costs and promoting sustainability
- **Community Impact:** Phool Kumar's farm has attracted local farmers who visit to learn about organic practices, and his produce is in high demand, leading customers to pre-order directly from him.



Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu (Mr. D. Bharani)



- **Background:** Successfully transitioned from conventional farming methods to organic practices
- Utilizes local tree trunks for constructing support structures for his crops. Focuses on cultivating various crops organically, including rice and bananas
- **Economic Success:** Harvested approximately 9.25 tonnes of organic rice per hectare using eco-friendly techniques. Achieved a net income of ₹80,000 from banana cultivation, with each bunch sold for ₹120-130
- **Innovative Techniques:** Employs organic fertilizers and practices such as using daincha (a green manure) to enrich the soil
- Serves as a role model for local farmers, promoting the benefits of organic farming
- Shares knowledge and techniques with fellow farmers to encourage sustainable practices



Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu (Mr. Ramesh Raja)



- **Background:** Discovered the value of an Indian Rosewood tree in his family's coconut grove, which inspired him to expand his tree farming efforts
- **Achievements:** Planted 1,200 Teak saplings and 10 Indian Rosewood saplings on 9 acres of land
- Recently harvested seven Teak trees for ₹1.40 lakhs and sold one Rosewood tree for ₹3 lakhs
- **Future Plans:** With around 700 trees remaining, Ramesh anticipates earning approximately ₹2 crores from future sales, leading him to plant more Rosewood and Red Sandalwood trees



Mr. Nagarajan, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu



- **Background:** Mr. Nagarajan transitioned to organic farming and planted 140 Alphonso mango grafts on 0.8 hectares
- **Techniques:** Utilized drip irrigation and organic fertilizers to enhance growth
- **Economic Success:** Harvested about 2,000 kg of mangoes in the first year, earning ₹24,000
- **Expected yields** could increase to 3,000 kg per year in subsequent years



Krishnappa Dasappa Gowda , Karnataka



Background: Paddy farmer employed chemical fertilizers and pesticides on 25 acre of land which required substantial investment for crop to survive, yet yields produced was meager . However, in 2005 he shifted to ZBNF(*zero budget natural farming*) after meeting *Subash Palekar* .

Model Adopted: Five- layer farming model/ acre.

Pillars of ZBNF for the model : Jeevamrutham, beejamrutham, Mulching and water ratio maintenance

| Strata | Species | Numbers | Yield | Revenue (per year) in rs. |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------|------------------------|--|
| First | Coconut | 30 | 300 coconut each tree | 1.80 lakh Total revenue |
| Second (Rotation) | Mosambi | 30 | Min 15 kg , max: 100kg | 1.5 lakh total revenue of the layer |
| | orange | 30 | Min 15 kg, max: 100kg | |
| Third | Banana | 200 | | 60,000 |
| | Areca nut | 400 | | 2.4 LAKH |
| Fourth (Rotaio) | Cocoa | 200 | 2 kg | |
| | Coffee | 200 | 2kg | |
| | Gliricidia | | | |
| | Vanilla | | | |
| | Black pepper | | | |
| Fifth | Ginger | | 10 quintals | 200-2000 in one quintal depending on quality |
| | Turmeric | | | |

Fig: Five layer Model



Lesson learnt: During the initial gestation period , results obtained were not satisfying , yet he time and again assessed the health condition of the soil, farming techniques and requirement. After constant and appropriate measures the outcome was successful and he taught the significance of adaptability, sustainability, diversification and community impact.

Jagdish Chandra Kuniyal, Sirkot, Uttarakhand

A 60yr old farmer , he transformed his barren land into a lush, thriving forest. He sparked a movement of environmental stewardship within the community

- He first started with a mission to plant guava and walnut but it did not meet his expectations.
- He experimented tree species like deodar oak and rhododendron, which could withstand harsh climate and this experiment was successful. He took utmost care of the plant throughout the time from digging deeper into the soil for water to protection from cattle.
- As the tree started growing ground water level began to rise and this water was distributed to the communities.
- After his success, villagers realized his effort and they also started planting and taking care of the plants. Thus, this had a broader impact.
- He became inspiration for others and other farmers started creating their own garden. One such powerful example is Harish Pandey, a 54-year-old farmer. He started planting trees not only for himself but for the whole community. To his garden attracted wildlife especially monkey thus indicating plants are thriving and helping ecosystem

Lesson learnt: Results cannot be obtained at once it requires Innovation, Experiments, trial and error, proper techniques for plantation, involvement of community. The indispensable wisdom is acting on own and this results into chain action.



Conclusion



- This success stories are powerful reminder for planting more trees and getting to know the transformative impact of planting trees on whole of the earth not only human
- This stories create awareness for adoption of innovation, techniques, resilience, sustainable practices, variability and more participation of individuals and communities.