

STEP I: ORIENTATION

Duration: One day

Introduction

In the training programme participants may come from different countries and a variety of institutions, have diverse professional backgrounds, and consequently varying expectations of the course. Yet during the course people shall be working in groups and will frequently need to reach consensuses. The orientation step is an opportunity for all to introduce themselves and to achieve agreement and mutual understanding on how to proceed. It also enables participants to familiarise themselves with the area and meet local officials.

Objectives

- * **To discuss the nature and aims of the course.**
- * **To find out from trainees their own experience in agroforestry, what they hope to gain from the course, and how they would use the training in their future work. (Note: This list of trainees' expectations can be used in an evaluation of the course).**
- * **To modify the programme, if necessary, to suit trainees' needs.**
- * **To learn about the local context.**
- * **To discuss the extent to which trainees will be involved in decisions on the selection and design of methods and other matters affecting course content.**

List of Activities

1. Introductory briefing and discussion session.

2. Introductory talk on agroforestry.
3. Briefing session on local background.
4. Introduction to staff from government and other local organisations.
5. Field reconnaissance.

Activity 1. Introductory Briefing and Discussion

Trainers and any additional advisers introduce themselves, describe their backgrounds, their agroforestry experience, and give their views on the nature and aims of the programme.

Trainees respond and introduce themselves.

Issues raised are discussed.

The views of the meeting are synthesised and agreement reached on modifications to the programme.

Activity 2. Introductory Talk on Agroforestry

Definition and brief discussion of some agroforestry systems and practices.

Activity 3. Briefing Session on Local Background

A combination of external and internal speakers provide information on the political, social and environmental context of the study area. Government and local institutions are described, current land use policies explained, and other major socio-economic and environmental issues and trends summarised.

Activity 4. Introduction to Government Staff

The most important staff to be introduced are those belonging to institutions which will be involved actively

in the training programme. These may range from field extension workers to the District Administrator.

Activity 5. Field Reconnaissance

The intention of this activity is for participants to familiarise themselves with the geography of the study area and its key issues. Trainers plan the route and choose the issues beforehand. It is preferable for them to be accompanied by one or more local extension officials or farmers, so that the trainers may find out about the history and significance of what they see.

Example 1(i) below is the outline provided for the field reconnaissance trip undertaken on the second day of the Shurugwi training course.



Dr Jonathon Okafor, forester, demonstrates identification of Miombo tree species

Example 1(1) – Activity 5

Themes for Reconnaissance Trip

Method

The training team will visit predetermined sites within Ward 3, Shurugwi Communal Area. Each site illustrates a particular issue or set of issues. These will be introduced by one or more of the trainers. There will be time for a brief discussion and observation. Lunch will be provided at Donga. After lunch we will return to the Chitukuko for a plenary discussion. Participants should keep notes of their questions and observations for use in the plenary session and later.

Stop 1. *Miombo Woodland*

Themes: Ecology of *miombo* vegetation
Tree identification

Stop 2. *Transition from Commercial to Communal Farming Area*

Themes: Land tenure and its effect on land use patterns, land use intensity, and implications for woodland management and Communal Area production systems.

Stop 3. *Guvi (vlei)*

Themes: Soil type, soil erosion and hydrology
History of land use
Importance for livestock

Stop 4. *Woodlot*

Themes: Woodlot establishment. Growth rates and vigour of indigenous and exotic species. Soil erosion. Intensity of management and use.

Stop 5. *Dwala*

Themes: Hydrology
Tree identification

Stop 6. *Groundnut drying*

Themes: Use of wood for drying
Winter ploughing, infiltration and early planting

Stop 7. *Termite mound*

Themes: Exploitation of soil properties of termite mounds in arable production

Stop 8. *Trees in fields*

Themes: Use and effects of indigenous species in farmers' fields