

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON COMMUNITY – BASED INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Integrating agriculture, agroforestry, governance, and ecological conservation goals is a formidable challenge in overcoming environmental management and social development around the globe. Demand for food, fiber and fuel to meet human and animal needs – amid the use of inappropriate technologies – has resulted in excessive exploitation of natural resources. Such actions have led to problems of soil erosion and sedimentation, soil nutrient loss, diminishing stream flow, water scarcity, lower crop yields, and disparities in the distribution of benefits derived from the natural resource base. In the past, solutions to these problems have been sectoral and largely uncoordinated, ignoring the land and water linkages within a natural ecosystem and the human dimensions within the social environment. This has led to the failure of many development projects aimed at achieving environmental stability and rural development initiatives. Watershed management offers a new approach for integrating technologies, governance, and socio-economic strategies within the natural boundaries of a drainage area, called a “watershed”. Community-based, integrated watershed management (CBIWM) is a process of involving local communities in formulating and implementing a course of action involving the water and land resources or watershed, with emphasis on the linkages between the upstream and downstream parts of a watershed and their respective human and physical endowments.

Course Description

This course is recommended for planners, field staff, technicians and development workers in with government and non-government organizations who work in the areas of food security, sustainable agriculture, water and natural resources management. The training is designed to promote sharing of concepts and strategies for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating watershed development projects in partnership with local communities. Watershed management is an approach for integrating technologies and socio-economic strategies within watershed for the optimum use of land, water and plant resources to meet the basic needs of people and animals in a sustainable manner.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, participants will have:

1. identified and analyzed issues affecting rural development and natural resources management;
2. outlined, from a watershed management perspective, how problems/struggles in rural development and natural resource management degradation can be addressed;
3. gained practical skills to design/plan, implement, monitor and evaluate watershed management projects and programs in partnership with local communities, and watershed governance stakeholders;
4. prepared action plans for developing or applying a watershed approach in their work

Course Content

Situational Analysis: an introductory session that allows participants to review, describe and share with others their own experiences, lessons and challenges in addressing rural development and natural resources management problems within their own context.

Module 1: Concepts and Framework of Community-based Integrated Watershed management – describes the basic elements and concepts of community-based integrated watershed management, stressing the watershed approach as a relevant and practical response to a wide range of issues affecting rural development and natural resources management at community levels

Module 2: Planning and implementing community-based integrated watershed management – discusses how to assess, along with the stakeholders, the needs and opportunities for watershed management using various planning tools based on an appreciation of local social, cultural and environmental situation

Module 3: Multi-level applications of community-based integrated watershed management – provides first hand experience on community-based watershed management applications at national, provincial and local levels and attempts to link theory to practice by exposing participants to the realities and challenges of undertaking watershed management programs.

Module 4: Support Mechanisms to Community-based Integrated Watershed Management – discusses a number of additional considerations to support community-based integrated watershed management to ensure that community-based watershed management approaches lead to desired results and outcomes

Module 4: Action planning – provides participants opportunity to synthesize lessons learned from the previous modules and identify lessons and specific actions to apply them, given their own particular work situations.

Learning Methods

Lecture-discussions, case studies on watershed development programs, group exercises, field visits to watershed management projects, and guided field practicum are the major learning methods to be used. Participants are requested



to bring data and relevant materials about their organization and its program. Sharing will be the key approach to learning. Drawing from the lessons from previous modules, participants will then develop their respective action plans, which can be implemented and integrated in their work. The plan will be critiqued by course participants and facilitators. Participants are urged to explore with their supervisors, areas of focus for their action plans.

Who Should Attend

The course is targeted towards planners, field staff, technicians and development workers in government and non-government organizations who work in the areas of food security, sustainable agriculture, water and natural resources management. English proficiency is a requirement.

When and Where

The three-week course will be held on November 26 – December 14, 2007 at IIRR's Y.C. James Yen Center in Cavite, Philippines. Course participants are expected to arrive one day before the start of the course. Course participants will be met by an IIRR staff upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

IIRR is an ideal environment for learning and reflection. Courses are held in IIRR's 54-hectare campus in Silang, Cavite, about an hour's drive from Manila. Facilities include air-conditioned training rooms, open-air centers for outdoor sessions, a dining hall, and participants' hostel and dormitories. It also has recreational facilities and nature trails.

Course Fees

The course fee of US\$2,700 covers training costs, course-related local travel, materials, meals, accident insurance and shared double room accommodation (single room accommodation can be requested for an additional fee of US\$10 per day of stay). It does not include international airfare, laundry and incidental expenses. (A minimum pocket allowance of US\$100 per week is suggested for incidental and personal expenses).

Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies.

How to Apply?

For further inquiries please contact:

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International Institute of Rural Reconstruction

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) works with the rural poor in developing countries to improve their lives by building on their unique assets and strengths. IIRR achieves this through field research, training, publications and field programs with rural communities and through joint efforts and partnerships with other development organizations. Rural reconstruction is a development strategy first advanced by the Mass Education and Rural Reconstruction Movement founded by Dr. Y.C. James Yen in 1923. The strategy is sustainable, integrated and people-centered.

One of IIRR's thrusts is the sharing of its rural development experience and insights with development organizations and practitioners. IIRR is one of the few organizations offering development training that has its own field operations. The content of the institute's trainings are drawn from its own fieldwork, its partners, and from training participants' experience in the field. IIRR has 40 years of experience in offering international training courses where it draws from its 80 years of experience working with the rural poor. More than 12,000 rural development practitioners from over 100 countries representing around 2,500 government and non-government organizations have attended IIRR's education and training activities.

IIRR is a recipient of various awards in recognition of its contributions to development. Among these are the 1995 World Hunger Award in recognition of "IIRR's exceptional work to provide opportunities for small rural farmers throughout the developing world to prevent and reduce hunger and malnutrition in their communities." IIRR received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding twice for Dr. James Yen's work in rural reconstruction (1960), and for the institute's work in rural Asia (1986). IIRR was incorporated in the United States in 1960 as a research and training institute in rural reconstruction for development workers in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Its headquarters is in the Philippines. It operates two regional centers: the Regional Center for Africa (for East Africa) and Regional Center for Asia (for Southeast Asia and Southern China).

