

NJOMBE DISTRICT NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT  
PROJECT



BASELINE SURVEY OF 1996

FINAL REPORT

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Project Team Leader of "HIMA-Njombe/DANIDA" approached Dr Andrew E Temu of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, SUA, early 1996, to assist establishing a baseline data set for the project.

### **Objectives**

The general objective of the baseline survey was to establish baseline data for future project monitoring and evaluation. The survey was supposed to be a supplement to Holistic Studies accomplished early 1996. Holistic studies were carried out in 12 priority villages where the project is mainly implementing Phase 1 of the Project.

Specific Objectives of the baseline survey were:

1. To verify and quantify significant findings and indicators from the holistic studies and to provide appropriate yardstick for future measuring of project impact.
2. To supplement the information collected through the Holistic Studies in areas relevant to HIMA objectives which have not been sufficiently covered.
3. To enhance the capability of selected HIMA staff on survey methods and data analysis techniques.

The consultant was vested with the responsibility of familiarising oneself with the outcomes of the holistic studies, work closely with a team of HIMA-Staff and the advisor at all stages. The task involved established key indicators, drawing up a questionnaire, pre-testing it, training HIMA staff in survey methods and data processing and analysis. This is a report of all activities undertaken.

### **Outcomes**

The objectives of the baseline survey required the exercise to be double-barrelled. Establishing a baseline database and carrying out a training programme. In this task HIMA staff have been key actors. Learning by doing was spirit through-out the exercise.

The exercise involved two key workshops, group meetings, individuals consultation with the consultant and field work, ie site visits, pre-testing and the major survey.

Training included concepts of monitoring and evaluation and the need for baseline surveys, survey methodology and insights, data entry processing and analysis using the SPSS package. The approach was participatory at all stages.

## Major findings and conclusions

The objectives of the baseline survey were to verify and quantify findings and indicators from the holistic studies and to provide an appropriate yardstick for future measuring of the project's Impact. It was also supposed to supplement the information collected through Holistic studies in areas relevant to HIMA-Njombe and finally to enhance the capability of selected HIMA staff on survey methods and data analysis techniques.

The major findings from the study can be concluded as follows.

1. Rural development projects need to have target groups. Wealth ranking was adopted as a means of identifying target groups for HIMA-Njombe. The Wealth ranks established during Holistic studies have been verified and found appropriate for identifying the disadvantaged. The Low Rank Group definitely needs a special attention.
2. Closely resembling the Low Rank Group are the Female Headed Households. These are disadvantaged and manifest inferiority in many respects: low and inadequate labour force, poor resource endowment eg land, and low education levels.
3. The project has an interest in improving the farming system and agricultural productivity of the project area. Amongst important issues that need to be addressed is soil and water management. The specific agricultural land that require immediate intervention are the sloping lands. In these lands, soil erosion and nutrient depletion are more pronounced than in level lands and in the valley plots. Farmers also acknowledge that productivity in these lands is lowest. The irony is that sloping lands constitute the largest proportion of agricultural land in Njombe.
4. Major soil fertility problems in the project area are centred on nitrogen and phosphorus deficiencies. The first one seems to be easily within the capabilities of HIMA-Njombe to address. The focus towards encouragement and training in the use of organic manure is a right step. The phosphorus problem remains an area that HIMA-Njombe has to work on.
5. Livestock keeping is a profitable diversification option in Njombe. However land scarcity, terrain and the need for intensive cultivation call for strategic advocacy of livestock in the district. HIMA Njombe will have to advocate and go for intensive livestock keeping mainly under zero grazing. A special emphasis need to be put on the husbandry of small ruminants and pigs. The small animals livestock enterprises signalled to be most appropriate for Low Income Rank Group and Female headed households.
6. There is a big room for improvement in the area the cultivation and utilisation of pasture grass in Njombe. None of the common and known pasture types is grown extensively in Njombe. The project can work to identify various pasture grasses suitable for various specific areas in the district. It is suggested that the approach should be to adopt those types of pasture that may have multiple benefits, eg as a fodder crop and a barrier plant in "Makinga Maji".

7. Tree planting is relatively advanced in Njombe District. Tree nursery management techniques are however more advanced in Lupembe than in Imalinyi division. In both divisions, the number of owners of trees at homesteads and in forest woodlot is encouraging. However two issues need to be addressed. First, the current tree planting culture does not target for the supply of fuel wood. Tree planting at homesteads and in the woodlot is mainly done for the purpose of providing timber and food, particularly fruits. There is a need to train farmers in modern forest farming. This should entail aspects such as spacing, thinning and pruning. It is the contention of the author that through improved practices in forest, by-products such as wood can be obtained from forests primarily established for timber and other purposes.

8. Over 50 percent of the respondents feel and acknowledge that fuel wood is a problem in the project area. It has been observed that the existing forestry practices, neither homestead tree growing nor managed forest woodlot can resolve the fuel wood problem. As mentioned under 7 above, it new management systems that can lead to provision of wood as a by-product. Another option is for HIMA-Njombe to instigate the introduction of fuel wood tree species in the area. Tree planting on its own, particularly in the form it is being practised now, can not guarantee a solution to the fuel wood problem.

9. Financial support in particular credit service in the area are very poor. There is much that can be done to enhance investment in an otherwise very well resource endowed district of Njombe. There is both potential for investment in primary commodity production, agriculture and forestry products. There are also opportunities to advance other non-farm activities. The number of rural dwellers in Njombe receive credit is very small. The impression given is that Njombe rural financial market is still very rudimentary and efforts should be made to develop it. Amongst first things that need to be addressed are the socio-cultural factors governing informal finance. These should be pillars to the development of a sustainable rural financial market in the area. Nevertheless, the Women Mazingira Funds initiation is a commendable step forward.

10. Institutional services exist in the study area. Farmer acknowledge the existence of village governments, religious organisations/institutions, agricultural extension services, community development and forestry extension services. Amongst these, community development and forestry extension had the lowest rating in terms of proportions of farmers acknowledging their existence. Respondents mainly felt that services provided by village institutions are either Good or Average. These ratings should be taken cautiously. There is much that can be done to improve the quality of services provided by these institutions.