

Project Update: December 2019

Out of the 31 farmers who were involved in the project, 16 cultivated their crops from the beginning of the project. Priority was given to the farmers who had small or no plots. We delayed involvement of the rest of the farmers to the next phase of the project since they had lands ready for cultivation. The land sizes apportioned to the 16 farmers constituted 50% to 100% of their entire farmlands and 37.5% of the farmers cultivated solely on the project's land. The project has therefore served as a source of land for the landless farmers and added to the holdings of the farmers who already had land. Assessment of the harvested outputs from both sets of farmers indicated that while 81% of the project's farmers harvested between \$500 and \$3000 worth of produce within the first six months of cultivation, none of the non-project farmers harvested up to \$500 worth of produce. Fertile land and good maintenance led to the bumper harvest.



Farmer harvesting yam in mixed crop farm amidst teak plants.

One indicator of a farmer's improved livelihood is being food secure. Selling excess produce for income contributes to improved livelihoods. Four-fifths (81.3%) of the farmers sold between 80% and 99% of their harvested produce. All the sales of 25% of these farmers were from the project's land while 18.8% had between 85% and 96% of their sold produce from the project's land. The project's farmers sold more than half of their harvested produce because they had enough to meet their domestic needs. These farmers utilised the project's land (additional natural capital) to get more financial assets while depending on their other lands for food security. Over half (56%) of the project's farmers derived 90% to 100% of their food consumption from the project's land. Overall, the implementation of the reforestation project has enhanced

the livelihoods of the farmers through access to fertile land, additional income through sales of produce, and in terms of food security.



Top: Maize farm with young teak trees. Bottom: Mixed farm on project land.



Mixed farm with teak trees.