



Africa-EU Innovation Alliance for Water and Climate

INNOVATION BRIDGE EVENT (IBE): Climate proof IWRM

*Thursday 29 October
2 pm – 4 pm (South Africa Standard Time, SAST)
Zoom webinar (with French-English)*



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Title: Community Road Rain Water Harvesting, Water Management and Conservation Social Innovation

Description:

Community Road Water Harvesting is a social innovation which has been practiced and tested in Mityana district in Uganda since 2015.

Objective:

The social innovation connects road maintenance, climate change adaptation, water management, soil conservation, and food security as one process to improve people's livelihood.

This innovation is used to repair and maintain community roads through mobilizing and sensitizing local communities to harvest road rain water runoff, clean and repair community roads on a self-help / volunteerism basis.

Problem statement:

Community roads perceived as infrastructure to deliver transport services become bushy, slippery; develop potholes, and become damaged and impassable during rainy season.

Method:

Men, women and youth are mobilized through self-help to use their domestic tool such as hoes, hammer, spades, pangs, wheelbarrows and local materials to remove grasses/bushes from both sides of the road, dig trenches on both sides of the road, fill the potholes and flatten the ridges developed by run-off water.

Trenches are dug to direct water run-off into farms and bush and collection points or dug up ditches lined with polythene sheet for water storage.

Result

This social innovation technology improve social networking and security, keep community road clean and passable even during rainy season, improve food and water security, recharge water table, improve soil healthy, control soil erosion, flooding, water logging, drainage congestion, conserve water for irrigation and domestic use, reduce water bone diseases and government expenditure and create jobs and employment

Recommendation:

The social innovation technology is good for developing countries especially Africa where most of rural roads are not made of tarmac, it can easily be adopted, replicated and up scaled with minimal resources, does not need rocket science.

It is cost effective and fit within the local context especially were spring water and rivers are seasonal and places where there is prolonged dry spell, and where water table is very low.

Require minimal financial and human resources, it empowers communities to think outside the box to work as a team using their limited resources and their own knowledge and decision-making to take action to solve their own problems without waiting for government and development partners.

Way forward

- The social innovation itself require researchers, financial and technical support from government and development partners for data collection and disaggregation, policy formulation and regulatory frameworks for replication and up calling it locally and globally.







Community Road Water Harvesting and Management (COROWAM) system uses indigenous knowledge to harvest, clean and repair roads by the community itself through voluntarism (self-help,

During rainy season roads become slippery, impassable & damaged



Community road water harvesting as a tool for voluntarism & saving the road.



Road water harvesting controls soil erosion , flooding, water logging& drainage congestion



Community members, researchers, development partners, policy makers and local leaders in a meeting to up-scale and replicate the good practice



