

Landcare



What is Landcare?

Landcare is a community-based and multisectoral approach to a rapid and inexpensive adaptation of conservation farming and agroforestry practices among upland farmers.

The approach leads to the evolution of a Landcare movement of autonomous farmer-led organizations that aims to work together for the long-term health of the land.

This definition reflects the beginnings of Landcare in the Philippines.

The problem of resource degradation cannot be addressed single-handedly. The extent of damage and urgency of rehabilitation demand an orchestrated, unified and collaborative actions from different stakeholders.

Why

Landcare?

Landcare believes that the key to effective natural resource management is a partnership where local people, local government and concerned agencies work together to address common issues and concerns.

Government and non-government agencies with the farmers, can develop appropriate technologies, that improve production, rehabilitate and sustain the natural resource base. Likewise, local governments can make sound decisions on d resource management, enact supportive policies, and allocate financial support for natural resource conservation activities.



What are the objectives of **Landcare?**

While the objectives of farmers and community vary with site-specific conditions, Landcare generally aims to:

- Protect and conserve the resource base by controlling soil erosion and employing other conservation technologies;
- Increase farmers' income by establishing productive vegetative contour strips on sloping lands, consisting of natural vegetative strips (NVS) with fruits and timber trees, fodder grasses and other cash perennials;
- Strengthen and build capacities of farmer groups;
- Share technical knowledge about sustainable agriculture and natural resources management (NRM);
- Seek technical and financial assistance from both government and non-government agencies;
- Develop strategies in marketing agroforestry and agricultural products;
- Engage in field level action research on sustainable agriculture and NRM;
- Advocate for appropriate policy reform that ensure long-term development of Landcare initiatives;
- Engage in community level NRM activities; and
- Foster and safeguard the welfare of members.

Evolution of Landcare in the Philippines

In 1996, 25 farmers from Claveria, Misamis Oriental, Philippines, requested a training from ICRAF on soil and water conservation technology and formed a group to share the technology with other farmers. This group evolved into a dynamic voluntary movement with more than 5,000 farming families. There are now 350 Landcare groups that have successfully shared conservation farming technologies with more than 5,000 farmers and established 300 households and communal nurseries for fruit and timber trees.

In solidarity with the cause, local government units, government line-agencies and NGOs assisted Landcare by providing appropriate information, technical, financial and local policy support.

Today, Landcare continues to spread in neighboring provinces in Central and Northern Mindanao, and in the Visayas.

Who are Involved in Landcare?

Landcare works through participation and collective efforts of three key players:

1 **Landcare Groups** are farmer-led organizations, professionals, students, youth or other interested groups who are concerned with the rehabilitation and conservation of their immediate and surrounding natural resources.

Usually, Landcare groups federate at the municipal level, like the Claveria Landcare Association in Claveria, Misamis Oriental and Lantapan Landcare Association in Lantapan, Bukidnon.

Landcare groups

- Encourage communities to organize for Landcare;
- Participate in community diagnosis and plan local actions to address soil and resource degradation problems;
- Commit to learn, adapt and disseminate soil and water conservation farming technologies;
- Promote knowledge sharing as well as learn from other farmers;
- Participate in community action;
- Commit to promote marketing strategies of agroforestry products; and
- Broaden and sustain partnerships with other stakeholders.

Landcare in Leyte and Bohol, started with groups of farmers already organized by other non-government organizations (NGOs), such as PROCESS BANGON and Community-based Resource Management Project (CBRMP). Such organizations do not bear



the name "Landcare", but they adapt and mainstream the approach into their plans, programs and activities, in partnership with LGUs and other agencies.

2. Local Government Units provide

- Policy support to institutionalize adoption of conservation farming and agroforestry;
- Sound decisions on land use and NRM;
- Technical backstopping and facilitation of Landcare groups;
- Financial support to Landcare and Landcare related endeavors; and
- Recognition, incentives and rewards

3. Technical Service Providers

are Research and Development agencies that:

- Develop and disseminate appropriate technologies;
- Create awareness through the use of appropriate information, education and communication channels;
- Facilitate formation and strengthening of Landcare groups;
- Facilitate knowledge sharing among members;
- Facilitate partnership building and networking for Landcare groups;
- Encourage scaling-up of Landcare to other areas; and
- Support organizational capacity building



Landcare is . . .

- Providing options to farmers on appropriate technologies that enhance productivity and income while conserving natural resources;
- Stimulating farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing process leading to widespread adoption of resource conservation technologies; and,
- Enhancing LGU - Farmer partnerships for effective and efficient natural resources management.

What
are the
Benefits
of
Landcare?

Appropriate

Landcare

Approach:
experience
of pioneer
municipalities

Approach: Stepwise technology development and dissemination through research institutions (NARS, DAARAs, extensionists and farmer organizations)



Landcare Approach

Community Institutions

Approach: Small (*sitio* and neighborhood units) groups linked to an organizational base and broader network

Landcare groups

Enhance Human Capital	Develop Social Capital	Improve Natural Capital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge • Awareness • Skills • Appreciation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy • Norms • Rules & Sanctions • Connection and Networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved farming system • Sustainable utilization of natural resources

Outcomes:

- Enhanced Participation
- Leadership
- Ownership
- Sustainability



Inspired by the farmer Landcare movement, partner LGUs support these actions. Support includes local policies that encourage adoption of conservation technologies and funding for community and household nurseries, and directing assistance of the local agriculture office to the farmers.

Landcare

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experience
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Appropriate Technologies

Approach: Stepwise technology development and dissemination through research institutions (NARs, government agencies), extensionists, individuals and farmer organizations

- Examples of Technology:**
- Natural vegetative strips
 - Plant material production system
 - Agro-forestry systems
 - Soil fertility management options
 - Tree-crop management options

- Outcomes:**
- Simple technical innovations with widescale adoption and adaptation
 - Enhanced farmer to farmer knowledge sharing process



Landcare promotes simple technical innovations that control soil erosion and require less labor.



Community Institutions

Approach: Small (sitio and neighborhood units) groups linked to an organizational base and broader network

Partnership Building

Approach: Collaboration, cost-sharing, consensus-building, etc.

Growing trees on-farm together with crops brings additional income to farmers.



Landcare groups

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- Enhanced participation of:**
- Farmers, school children, women and the youth
 - Local government units
 - Technical facilitators
 - Line agencies (DAR, DENR, DA, etc.)
 - Research institutions (ICRAF, etc.)
 - Academe
 - Other service providers (NGO's, etc.)

- Outcomes:**
- Enhanced Participation
 - Leadership
 - Ownership
 - Sustainability

- Outcomes:**
- Mutual trust, understanding and reciprocity
 - Optimized limited LGU resources for targeted actions
 - Sustainability
 - Interdependency
 - Co-management



Inspired by the farmer Landcare movement, partner LGUs support these actions. Support includes local policies that encourage adoption of conservation technologies and funding for community and household nurseries, and directing assistance of the local agriculture office to the farmers.



Partnership in Landcare builds social capital which enables members to achieve more, than when they are alone.

How can I get involved with Landcare?

If you are interested to be a Landcarer or support Landcare related activities, please fill-out and contact or return this form to the address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No./E-mail Add: _____

wish to extend my support for Landcare initiatives by:

- Enlisting myself as a Landcare member.
- Supporting Landcare activities like soil and water conservation and biodiversity preservation and management among others.
- Sponsoring Landcare activities like tree planting, river rehabilitation and others.
- Sharing financial resources and other materials to Landcare groups.

For more information, please contact the following:

Claveria Landcare Association
9004 Claveria, Misamis Oriental

Lantapan Landcare Association
Sungco, Lantapan, Bukidnon

ICRAF - Claveria Research Site
MOSCAT Campus
9004 Claveria, Misamis Oriental
Tel: (63-8822) 720964
Fax: (63-88) 3581059
icrafcla@cdo.weblinq.com

ICRAF - Lantapan Research Site
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☎(63) 9177070878
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ICRAF - Visayas Research Site
2/F FARM I Bldg., LSU
Baybay, Leyte 6521
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**Supporting
Farmer-led
Initiatives
for
Conservation
Farming**

some key steps from the Landcare experience

The conditions in the upland areas vary greatly from one area to another. Upland farming needs cannot be met by a single technical solution, unlike in the lowland areas where commodity-oriented programs can be promoted easily over wide areas. Due to resource constraints, formal extension services cannot be solely relied to address the complex issues faced by upland farmers.

One way of helping farmers address their needs is to support local and self help actions. How can this be done? What actions are involved? The initial Landcare experience in Claveria and Lantapan may be worth considering. This material describes the essential steps in developing a Landcare-type initiative.

*Landcare is a dynamic approach
involving dynamic processes.*

*The steps presented here are not
necessarily in order. In reality, they may
overlap or occur in a different sequence.*

CHEER UP AND BE INNOVATIVE!

1 Identifying common problems and aspirations



Interested farmers, key local leaders, LGU and other stakeholders meet to discuss issues concerning production, natural resource management, and other broader community issues. They analyze possible causes and effects.

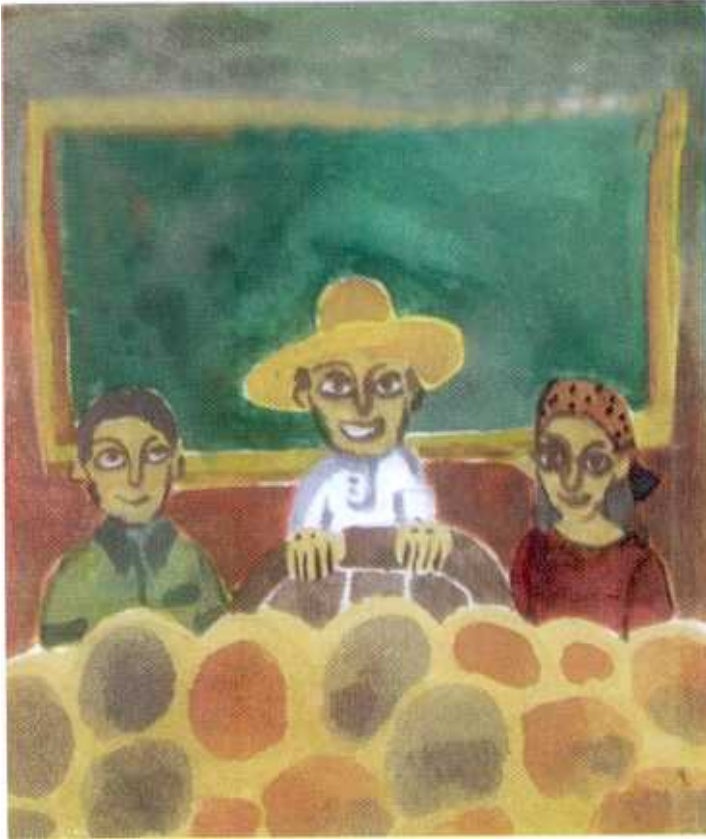
2 Exposing key farmers to successful technical and institutional innovations



- Organize cross visits to farmers' fields with resource-conserving practices.
- Provide training for farmers to learn about conservation technologies.
- Encourage farmers to conduct hands-on experimentation on their own land. Usually, farmers who are involved in the beginning become the core leaders in 'conservation teams' for the diffusion of the technology in their locality

3 Facilitating

Farmers to organize themselves



A key element of Landcare is "being farmer-led." Farmers, are inclined to organize themselves in order to better address common problems and aspirations.

Farmers may build on existing informal organizations such as indigenous land preparation labor exchange groups, or they may opt to develop new and more

formal organizations with formal rules. There is no hard and fast rule on group formation.

Among the key elements of a good farmer organization is that they share common goals and are guided by an agreed set of immediately doable actions.

Farmer groups may grow into strong institutions (e.g. cooperatives) or they may also easily dissolve once the key objectives are accomplished. The role of facilitators is to help the organization achieve its full potential, yet, grow at a pace where members are comfortable with. This is achieved by, helping in goal setting, in the selection and development of leaders, and in regular self assessment of activities, among others.

4 Tapping support

Landcare groups must build partnership with LGU's at all level to ensure sustainability. It is also important to build networks and partnership with different resource providers.

- LGU provides:
 - Financial and technical support on natural resource management, and other conservation farming activities
 - Local Landcare groups may access funds through the Local Development Councils.
- External donors and supporters for development projects
 - External donor agencies can be tapped to support the Landcare program by allocating resources for leadership and human resource development, communication equipment and transportation.



5 Conservation

Specific activities of interest to the members of Landcare vary according to their self-interests, physical, and economic environments. Landcare groups in Northern Mindanao are engaged in the following activities:

and community-based initiatives

- establishing natural vegetative strips (NVS) on the contour to minimize soil erosion;
- producing high quality tree planting materials in the household and community nursery;
- diversifying products and improving nutrition through trees and other farm products;
- adopting minimum tillage to mitigate soil erosion and improve total farm productivity;
- adopting sound riparian buffer zone management practices to improve water quality and quantity; and,
- sharing skills to other farmers in the community and to other parts of the country.



6 Participatory **Monitoring and Evaluation**



Participatory monitoring and evaluation enables Landcare groups to assess or evaluate their performance against their objectives, develop corrective actions, and make the program dynamic and relevant to the needs of the community.