

“SEED” - Concept of Balance Development

Example in Soil Conservation and Watershed Management

K. M. Sthapit¹

ABSTRACT

Livelihood improvement is the concern of all Nations’ development plans. Livelihood means many things and is multi dimensional and it has to be balance development. Balance development is defined as the improvement in the **S**ervice, **E**conomy, **E**nvironment and **D**emocratic and social norms and values. This may be briefly abbreviated as “**SEED**” Development without equal emphasis on these four aspects is a disable development.

This paper described how soil conservation and watershed management programme has been implemented in line with the “**SEED**” concept. While implementing SCWM programme, how the “**SEED**” concept has been used in different tiers namely community’s plan preparation, prioritizing activities, designing and implementing the activity. Social mobilization to imbue the concept among the rural population needs to be emphasized in implementation.

1. Background

All Nations’ development plans or efforts aims to improve livelihood of the country’s population. Nepal is no exception and in every five-year plan livelihood improvement has been major focus. Therefore, all developments aim to implement plans and programmes targeting to improve quality of life. Livelihood means many things and is multi dimensional and it has to be balance development.

Local Development Training Academy (LDTA, 1997) defined the improvement in the service, economy, environment and democratic and social norms and values as the four pillars of the balance development. That means balance development encompassed (i). **S**ervice sector such as education, transport, drinking water, health, communication, (ii). **E**conomy sector i.e. increase production therefore earning for individual, group and nation, (iii) **E**nvironment sector i.e. pollution free air to breathe, clean and green diversified environment to enjoy, and (iv). **D**emocratic and social norms and values for people to exercise good governance in decision making. Development without equal emphasis on these four aspects is a disable development. In summary balance development should have “**S**ervice **E**conomy **E**nvironment **D**emocratic Norm” dimensions (LDTA, 1997). This may be briefly abbreviated as “**SEED**”

SEED means:

S = Service,
E = Economy or Production,
E = Environment, and
D = Democratic and Social Norms and Values.

For rural population it has been defined in simplistic way in Nepali as “SeUBaRi” i.e. “**Apple Orchard**”. For service in Nepali as “**Sewa**”, for economy as “**Utpadan**”, for environment as

¹ This paper is prepared in June 2005, while working in Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Component, Natural Resource Management Sector Assistance Programme as Senior Programme Officer.

2. This article was published in “InFo-WM - Information on Watershed Management: A Collection of Technical Articles on Watershed Management” InFo-WM, Issue No. 1. February 2006. Soil and Water Conservation Society, Nepal, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu.

“Batabaran” and democratic and social norms and values as “**Ri**titithi”. That means “**SeUBaRi**” is the balance development.

Similarly, **SeUBaRi** means:

Se = Sewa (Service)

U = Utpadan (Economy)

Ba = Batabaran (Environment)

Ri = Ritithiti (Democratic and Social norms and Values)

Livelihood improvement may be defined as the improvement in the service, economic, environment and democratic and social sectors. This covers all aspects of the quality of the life. Therefore, in summary livelihood improvement is the improvement in “SEED” or “SeUBaRi”. This is a simple concept for every Nepalese to understand and imbue in their understanding about the livelihood and balance development.

2. SEED in Soil Conservation and Watershed Management

All development efforts aim to improve livelihood of the country’s population and SCWM is no exception. Soil Conservation and Watershed Management means conservation and utilization of natural resources and aims to ensure environmentally viable sustainable development of watershed resources primarily through production and regeneration for the local inhabitants. The basic philosophy is to carry out the conservational and developmental activities according to the rule of the nature. Environment and production are two main aspects. Further more, the whole purpose of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management is to serve people and therefore, working through the people or group of people has been main implementing strategy. While implementing SCWM programme, SEED concept has been used in different tiers namely community’s plan preparation, prioritizing activities, designing and implementing the activity.

SEED Concept in Planning

Clear development vision is important for streamlining the development in the community. SEED concept is used while facilitating the community in building development vision for the community so that activities fulfilling different aspects of development needs in the community can be identified, therefore livelihood improvement in the community can be achieved. For example, if community developed vision for community development as “Well protected, Wealthy and Happy Village”. Protected village consider environment, wealthy village consider economy and happy village consider service, democratic and social norms.

Based on community’s development vision, objectives of the community are defined and activities required to fulfill the objectives are identified. Implementation of such plan includes service, economy and environment. As the whole processes will be participatory following democratic and social norms and values.

SEED Concept in Prioritization

“SEED” concept is used in prioritising the activities for the implementation. Vision based planning identifies a long list of activities for the community development. The listed activities are analysed based on what are the aspects of the “SEED” individual activity considered. A comparative chart is made to compare the aspects covered by the activity.

Activity providing service and economy (production), considering environment aspect and selected through following democratic norms and values will be prioritized over the activity not considering all aspects of “SEED”.

"SEED" in Designing

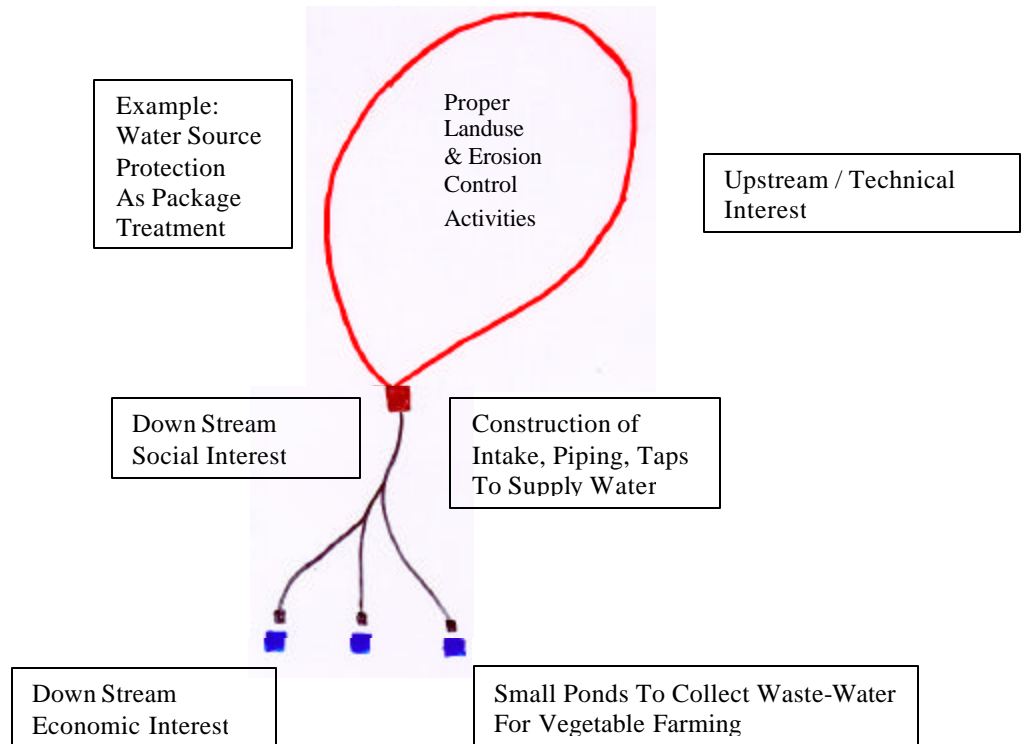
"SEED" concept is also used in designing activities. Activity should be designed as a package so that it provides service, tied with the economy, and consider environmental aspects and implemented by following democratic norms and values. The concept of complete package treatment following "SEED"- concept is explained in the following example.

Example: Water Source Protection(Sthapit, 2003)

Water source protection aims to improve its hydrological regime through proper treatment of the catchment area of a water source. Usually the community, for whom the water source protection is intended to, takes interest in supplying water to their houses for the sake of drinking. Wastewater from the tap can then be collected in a small pond and utilised for generating economy through vegetable farming.

While designing and implementing such water source protection activities attention should be given to proper land-

use and erosion control works in the water source catchment (**Environment**), proper construction of intake, piping, and taps to supply water to individual houses (**Service**) and construction of small ponds to collect waste water for vegetable production (**Economy**) and selection and implementation of the activity through active participation (**Democratic** norms and values). This makes the activity a complete package compatible to **ServiceEconomyEnvironmentDemocratic Norms** - concept.



Conclusion

Integration of "SEED" or "SeUBari (Apple Farm)" in the community development plays a vital role in streamlining the balance development aiming the livelihood improvement. For rural population it is easy to understand and accept its importance in their livelihood development. Social mobilization service in the community is essential to imbue the balance development concept among the rural population. It has been a great challenge for the social mobilization and technicians in order to enable themselves to facilitate and design the programme and activities materializing the "SEED" concept.

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