Proderqui programme of forest incentives (PINFOP), El Quiché, Guatemala

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Sources of information of the practice	Work experience, interview with Tereso Reynoso (beneficiary of the El Quiché development and reconstruction programme), documentation produced by the Latin American Center for Rural Development, RIMISP
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Useful links	El Quiché Development and Reconstruction Programme www.proderqui.org
LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE	
Region	Central America and the Caribbean
Country	Guatemala
Province, Districts, Villages	Aldea Joya Larga, , Municipality of Uspantán, Department of Santa Cruz del Quiché, Guatemala C.A
Climatic zone	Humid
Other descriptive information	• Area covering 865 km2 • The municipal town lies at an altitude of 1825 m above sea level • Highlands with Karsticas mountains • Forest covers 51.70% of the area • Forest coverage: conifers (10.91%), mixed woodlands (2.91%) and broadleaved forests (37.88%). • Distance to the municipal town of Uspantán: 15km
INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE	
Practice category	Managing natural resources sustainably
Practice type	Institutional practice for natural resource management
Sector	Forest management and conservation
Type of product or service	Reforestation, natural regeneration, agro-forestry and fruit-trees
Institutions fostering the practice	NGO: New Dawn Development Association (ASDENA –*Asociación de Desarollo Nuevo Amanecer*)
Users and beneficiaries of the practice	Farmers or landowners with under 2ha of land. To participate in the programme, farmers must show an interest in tree cultivation and have a vocation for forestry, agro-forestry or fruit tree crops. The programme does not require them to have their land registered in the Property Register. The majority of the inhabitants involved in the programme are between the lines of poverty and extreme poverty.
Natural resource used or accessed (if applicable)	Land, Forest species
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE	
Background/problem statement	The Plan of Forestry Incentives (PINFOR) exists at national level in Guatemala and is promoted by the National Forests Institute (INAB). In order to participate in the plan, the farmers must fulfil two pre-requisites: own more than 2 ha of land and have the title deeds to attest ownership. These prerequisites exclude a certain group of producers and discourages them form undertaking forestry activities. Furthermore, the plan does not

	encourage agro-forestry, nor does it provide technical assistance or capacity building. The beneficiary population does not have an established culture in forestry management and conservation. The farmers usually cut down the forests in order to use the land for cultivating maize, beans and other crops. This practice contributes to the deterioration of the forests' ecosystems. Furthermore, scarce economic resources do not allow the population to purchase inputs, particularly plants for the forest. For these reasons, little can be done in the way of reforestation, agro forestry and production of fruit trees and consequently there are low levels of conservation, management of natural resources and natural regeneration. The el Quiché Development and Reconstruction Programme (PRODERQUI) took these problems into consideration and designed its own Forestry Incentives Plan (PINFOP). This plan was implemented in a pilot phase in 8 communities in the Uspantán municipality in an attempt to remedy the current situation of forest degeneration. To access the plan it is not necessary to have title deeds and producers with less than 2ha of land can also participate. The plan promotes agro-forestry systems and encourages the producers to dedicate part of their land and labour to the sowing and cultivation of trees and forest species. Furthermore, the plan also provides capacity building and technical assistance to facilitate community organisation with an environmental vision. In this way, the plan manages to conserve natural resources and complement the efforts PINFOR.
Approach followed	PINFOP encourages four different activities: 1. During the first three years, establishment and management of the pure forestry species plantations with initial densities of between 625 and 1,200 plants per hectare. 2. Tree cultivation (forestry species) in and around agricultural plots, encouraging the formation of wind shields, trees in rows or in bends and other distributions conducive to the establishment of agro-forestry systems. 3. Establishment of small forest areas, making the most of natural regeneration. Within the three years, the management of these areas leads to the establishment of a parent stand with a density of not less than 625 trees per hectare. 4. Establishment of small orchards, with densities of between100 and 280 trees per hectare, of arboreal species which can be adapted and marketed. The programme makes use of different incentives of which the following may be mentioned: i) direct cash payments that cover up to 90% of the plantation and maintenance costs; ii) technical assistance and capacity building programme to ensure the quality of the plantations and to transfer an appropriate culture of cultivation and care for the trees, plantations and forests; iii)social recognition through awards based on merit and other mechanisms that raise self – esteem and social recognition for other tree cultivators.
Innovative elements	• Sowing of grafted fruit trees and competitive varietirs that bear produce in a short space of time. • Use of forestry incentives for the small producers of the surrounding region, which encourages a culture of sustainable forestry and use of natural resources.
Impacts on natural resource base	Actual: Adoption of practices for the improvement and management of natural resources such as tree planting which leads to soil conservation. Recuperation and use of waste land that had been found to be in poor conditions, but whose state has improved through the sowing of forest and fruit trees. Increase in forest coverage (57.92 ha reforested, 5.78 ha naturally regenerated, 8.84 ha being used for agro-forestry and 15.31 ha with fruit tress). Reforestation of watershed areas.

Impacts on livelihood of the practice users	Actual: Good use of forestry by-products (firewood), acceptance by the beneficiaries of the practice, application of the technological knowledge in the land plots, excellent results reached in the growth of trees and pine sanctuaries. Creation of new sources of jobs and income for the beneficiary producers.
Other impacts	Actual: Fostering of community organization with an emphasis on environmental aspects to reach common objectives in the management and conservation of natural resources. Awareness-raising on environmental issues within a community development perspective.
General success factors	• Job creation • Application of acquired knowledge thanks to constant supervision by the technical staff of PRODERQUI and the ASDENA company. • 90% of the planted forestry species were in good health and of good genetic quality • Encouragement of communal management and conservation of natural resources through forest incentives which close the gap between social and private return
Technology success factors	Generate incomes with acceptable limit of risk
Institutional success factors	Incentives, credit and markets
Problems remaining to be resolved	Pest control, especially in pines and alders Forest fires
Keywords	Forestation, forest conservation, forest management, forest plantations, forestry production, forest resources, forests, land use, natural resources conservation, soil conservation.