

Feedback from students field work in the PhD course **Restoration of degraded semi-arid landscapes - Livelihoods, Livestock and Land use**

Impact of enclosure establishment on vegetation and its effects on livelihoods in Pserum

The Vi Agroforestry project was during 10 years, 1986-1996, with some additional support until 2001, methods in the Pserum area. The primary goal was to increase grass cover and reduce erosion by establishing enclosures. After the project period it was believed that further positive development would follow without supervision.

Method

12 households were chosen along transects based on maps that showed places where vegetation changes had taken place. In these farms interviews were conducted and farmers asked questions.

Findings and recommendations

- Over 70% of enclosures have been started after Vi due to people learning their benefits from one another.
- Enclosures increase vegetation cover, thereby reducing land degradation.
- Crop production within enclosures is increasing and becoming more diversified
- Sedentary households have less cattle, goats and sheep of improved quality and breeds especially because they don't interact with indigenous breeds.
- Pasture availability reduces the need for migration, hence reducing resource conflicts.
- Farmers earn money through selling grass for thatching and renting out pasture among other income generating activities.

Enclosure system is thereby strongly recommended to reduce bare land, improve grass cover, improve quality of livestock, and increase available time that farmer households can use to do other activities of development. Families that migrated before can settle and their children attend school. Families with enclosures have more income generating activities and therefore wealthier.



Household interview in Pserum

***We are grateful the farmers who volunteered information to this study.
Adelaide & Malin***