Audit on Current State of Development and Practice and the Role of TVNI

By

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THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VETIVER
May 5 - 7, 2015
Da Nang, Vietnam
“My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines...but it brought forth sour grapes...And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be eaten up....”

Isaiah 5:1-7

 circa 700 B.C.
“Modern” Vetiver

Mid 1980s – World Bank

- India soil & moisture conservation programs fail using structural approaches
- Richard Grimshaw & John Greenfield introduce Vetiver hedgerows
- Greenfield used Vetiver in 1950s for hillside sugar cane production in Fiji
30 Years Later

- Broad range proven applications
- Global leaders: Thailand, CSOs, NGOs, individuals, companies & foundations
- Applications on all continents (incl. Europe & USA)
- Lacks broad support from formal systems of government, international development, research & technical assistance agencies (e.g., CGIAR, FAO)
Changing Focus of VGT: ICV-1 to ICV-6
Research/Application Areas & Their Relative Importance

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## Meta-Analysis of Vetiver References

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Reference Sources 2004 to 2013

- Academic
- Int'l Research/Technical Assistance Agencies
- Multilateral Development Agencies

Int'l Research/TA Agencies

[CATEGORY NAME] [PERCENTAGE]
Where Are We?

- **Practitioners:**
  - Soil/water conservation & agricultural applications has declined greatly & community development has always lagged
  - Focus on broader bioengineering and environmental management

- **Academia:**
  - Very focused on agricultural productivity & land management...> 70%
  - Socially sound development & bioengineering/infrastructure about equal, latter growing more rapidly

- **Int’l agencies responsible for global efforts in rural poverty, sustainable dev., “climate smart” ag, community “climate proofing” & CC adaptation:**
  - Almost total failure regarding attention to the Vetiver System
Where Is Attention Needed?

• Applications that can be “privately profitable” (e.g., bioengineering, phytoremediation, etc.) are doing fine...

• Applications that are “public goods” (e.g., poverty alleviation, community development, etc.) are not doing fine...
Where Is Attention Needed?

**Unmet promise:**
- Initial interest motivated by promise & potential for improving lives & livelihoods of the poorest, most economically marginalized populations: communities & households reliant upon rainfed agriculture.

**Climate change:**
- On track to ensure worst case scenarios for climate change
- Imperative to build community capacity for CC adaptation & resilience
- Need “effective, cross sectoral responses” (World Bank, 2011)
- Communities studied (ibid.), issues: water quantity/quality; soil erosion & fertility maintenance; vulnerability to extreme weather events.
- Concerns (ibid.): water-related health issues, sedimentation of rivers, flooding, droughts, desiccation of wetlands, landslides, and damages to infrastructure.
TVNI Strategy

- VS internalized in int’l research/TA agencies, mainstreamed into multilateral development agencies
  - Collaborate with CGIAR & other partners for global, independent, scientific & technical audit of VGT
  - TVNI seeking partners & funding (~ USD 0.5 million)

- Support the development of a web-based, technical training program for VGT
  - Essential if application of VS to be scaled up globally
  - Vetiver Institute Under development by group of young, entrepreneurial Colombians...next presentation
TVNI Strategy

- Promote establishment of a global M&E/tracking system for VGT applications.
  - Critical to have M&E capacity to understand outcomes; set priorities; develop strategies; make informed/rational judgements for promotion & operations.
  - Great value-added for promotion, dissemination, networking, learning, fill knowledge gaps of scope/distribution of VGT around the world.
  - Undoubtedly give rise to new & innovative opportunities that can only begin to guess about at this time.
  - Concept for system courtesy of several individuals from the Thai Land Development Department....attend presentation of *Management And Monitoring Of Vetiver Grass Plantation In Thailand By Using Vetiver Grass Tracking System*

- TVNI will be seeking interested partners to develop global, smart phone-based system (upload coordinates, photos & simple information).
TVNI Strategy

**Scientific audit:** Open door to VGT ‘s up-scaling & add to global toolbox for cross-sectoral response to CC adaptation thru global institutions

**Vetiver Institute:** Provide technical foundation (training) for global up-scaling

**Global tracking system:** Provide monitoring of up-scaling; strengthen field-level networking; facilitate knowledge sharing, cross-fertilization & learning
Thank You!