

Glossary

Acacia	Acacia is a family of trees native to tropical and subtropical regions of the world, particularly Australia and Africa.
Appropriate development	Development that has a lasting impact, is affordable and value for money, involves local people in the decision making, uses appropriate technology and doesn't damage the environment.
Appropriate technology	Appropriate technology in 'the South' (developing countries) uses existing skills and techniques of local people to the full; uses tools that take advantage of local knowledge and resources; develops crafts and industries by using local natural resources and, where possible, recycling materials; are affordable and manageable by local people; are in harmony with the environment; may be labour intensive (not seeking to replace labour power but rather to create employment where it is in short supply)
Bottoms-up development	Development projects that are decided upon and implemented by the people they will effect.
Climate Change	Climate change is a change in the "average weather" that a given region experiences. When we speak of climate change on a global scale, we are referring to changes in the climate of the Earth as a whole, including temperature increases (global warming) or decreases, and shifts in wind patterns and precipitation.
Community-led Development	The communities that the development will affect decide what they want to see happen and how. A development agency may support them to implement the projects.
Dependency	People become dependent when they can't maintain changes and improvements without outside help, money and expertise. It is the opposite of self-sufficient.
Development	Bringing about changes to improve peoples' standard of living and quality of life.
Geographical climate zones	Also known as agro-ecological zones. The zones indicate the available growing period for rain-fed crops, where zone 3 is high potential land suitable for growing bananas and coffee and zone 5 is dryer and warmer land suitable for sorghum and millet.
Global warming	Global warming refers to an average increase in the Earth's temperature, which in turn causes changes in climate. A warmer Earth may lead to changes in rainfall patterns, a rise in sea level, and a wide range of impacts on plants, wildlife, and humans.
Gourd	A large, fleshy fruit with a hard skin, traditionally scooped out and used as a container to carry water or store seeds.
Inter-cropping	Planting two or more varieties of crops with complimentary root and foliage coverage in the same field, sometimes called mixed cropping or complementary planting.
Kamba	Tribe that live in the semi-arid Eastern province of Kenya. The tribal language is Kikamba.
Micro-climate	The climate of a small, specific place within an area as contrasted with the climate of the wider area. Weather and climate are sometimes influenced by microclimatic conditions
Ownership	When communities are involved in deciding what they want and helping to make a project happen they 'own' the development. As a result people have an interest in maintaining it long term and fixing any problems.
Rain water harvesting	Collection of rain water so that it can be utilised immediately or for use in the dry season. Techniques include terracing, sand dams and water tanks.
Sand dam	Concrete wall built across a seasonal river bed that traps sand and water behind it.
Seed bank	A store for seeds that farmers can utilise for planting and holds sufficient seed to cover crop failures. Ideally a seed bank should hold 3-5 seasons' worth of seeds and can be held at an individual farmer or community level.
Semi-arid climate	Regions with a semi-arid climate have low annual rainfall with predominantly shrub or short grass vegetation.
Shamba	Swahili and Kamba word for <i>farm</i> or <i>smallholding</i> .
Soil erosion	Caused by water or wind carrying away the topsoil to the extent that the soil removed or eroded is greater than the soil formed.
Subsistence farming	Form of farming in which nearly all of the crops or livestock raised are used to maintain the farmer and his family, leaving little, if any, surplus for sale or trade.
Sustainable development	Development that enables people to support themselves, their families and communities and raise their standard of living without spoiling the chances of future generations to do the same. This means using resources and the environment carefully and doing it in an appropriate way. <i>See appropriate development.</i>
Terracing	Trenches dug along the contour of sloped land to create flat fields which maintain soil and water in the farms.
Toggenburg goat	The Toggenburg is a Swiss dairy goat from Toggenburg Valley of Switzerland noted for their high milk production. The goats used in Kenya are 75% Toggenburg to enable them to survive in local conditions.
Top-down development	Development projects decided on and implemented by governments and development agencies and imposed on the people they will affect. As a consequence the people affected don't have ownership of the projects.
Zero-grazing	Feeding and grazing animals in their pen. This enables all the manure to be saved for use on the farm. This reduces erosion caused by animals moving across land and protects vegetation from grazing.