Introduction:
The first Millennium Development Goal is to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty in the Millennium Villages. Most of the Millennium Villages are located in highly degraded lands that cannot support crop production. Crop yields are low in these regions due to lack of access to affordable inputs and improved agricultural practices.

Environmental Problem
http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/index.htm

Management Solutions: Conservation Measures and Fertility Practices

Objectives:
- Increase the production of staple food crops to achieve agronomically, economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural systems through the use of soil conservation measures and fertility practices.

Preliminary Results:

Fertility Practices:
While integrated soil fertility practices have been promoted, the level of adoption is still low. These practices can be labor and land intensive and while they can have tremendous benefits these are often not realized in the short term. In contrast, the average percentage of farm where chemical fertilizer is used has increased.

Soil Conservation:
Mbola, Tanzania is relatively flat so soil conservation measures are not as critical as at other sites. The decrease in “ridges” may be an actual decrease in the use of the practice or it may be an artifact of changes in survey design or seasonality of survey enumeration.

Figure 1: The Millennium Villages are located in various agroecosystems across Africa.

Figure 2: Soil management solutions implemented to address some of the agricultural and environmental problems in Millennium Villages.

Figure 3: Improved fallow with nitrogen-fixing plants increase the fertility of the soil.

Figure 4: Natural fallow with increase the fertility of the soil in between cropping periods.

Figure 5: Fanya Juu are a type of terrace built to help control soil erosion that can also be used for harvesting rainwater.