Terraces
WHAT IS A TERRACE?
Answer: A terrace is an constructed earth embankment or a combination ridge and channel constructed across a slope.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A TERRACE?
Answer:
- To reduce soil erosion
- To retain runoff and allow it to soak into the ground
Terraces or Hillside Ditches are a good rehabilitation technique for the following conditions:

- In the collection Zone
- Where soil erosion by water is a problem
- Where there is a need to conserve water
- Where soils and topography are such that terraces can be constructed with reasonable effort
- Where excess runoff is a problem
TERRACE or HILLSIDE DITCH DESIGN CRITERIA

• Terraces need to be located correctly
• The distance or spacing between the terraces should be correct
• Terraces need to be deep enough
• Terraces should include plugs

This introduction is going to cover the basics
You may want to get more detailed training
• Terraces should follow a contour.
• Channel slope should be **level or flat** (on a contour).
• A flat slope will reduce erosion in the terrace and will allow the water to soak into the ground for plants.
• If the terrace is not flat, the water will flow downhill and you will have to provide a stable outlet.
Terrace spacing depends on slope.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Slope In percent</th>
<th>V:H</th>
<th>Maximum Spacing (meters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 or less</td>
<td>1V:8H or less</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 25</td>
<td>1V:8H to 1V:4H</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 40</td>
<td>1V:4H to 1V:2.5H</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Diagram

- **Slope (S)**
- **V**
- **H**
- **Spacing**
Minimum depth of 30 cm.

Compact the ridge
Provide ditch plugs or blocks every 30 m. Height of plug is $\frac{1}{2}$ depth of terrace.
Vegetation between terraces will reduce soil erosion and water runoff
Vegetation may be installed between terraces