

Terminal Evaluation

Asia

1. Outline of the Project

Country:

Vietnam

Project title:

Improvement of Environmental Education in Agricultural Sciences

Issue/Sector:

Agriculture/Education/Environment

Cooperation scheme:

Dispatch of Experts Team

Division in charge:

Indochina Division,
Regional Department I (Southeast Asia and Indochina)

Total cost:

196 Million Yen

Period of Cooperation 1 April 1999 - 31 March 2002

Partner Country's Implementing Organization:

Ministry of Planning and Investment,
Ministry of Education and Training
Can Tho University

Supporting Organization in Japan:

Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

Related Cooperation:

Grant Aid; "Project for the Improvement of the Facilities and Equipment of the Faculty of Agriculture, Can Tho University"

1-1 Background of the Project

The Mekong Delta in the southern part of Indochina occupies 50,000 square kilometers of Vietnam and Cambodia. About 39,000 square kilometers of the delta is located inside Vietnam and represents 12 percent of the nation's land mass. The vast delta is a key agricultural base and one of the largest rice-producing areas in the world. The delta represents 38% of Vietnam's agricultural land, 38 percent of its food production areas, and 50 percent of its rice production areas.

However, the Mekong Delta's productivity is threatened by pollution caused by the excessive use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides. Under these circumstances, the Government of Vietnam requested that the Government of Japan to dispatch an experts team to Can Tho University, the only university in Vietnam and located in the center of the Mekong Delta, to enhance education in the field of agricultural environmental science and research capacity.

1-2 Project Overview

The Project aims to enhance education in the field of environmental science and research capacity at Can Tho University, support research activities, and establish educational systems (e.g., revising curriculum, developing materials and training teachers), in the areas of (1) environmental evaluation of soil and water, (2) effects of agricultural development on ecological diversity and (3) development of an environment-friendly agricultural program.

(1) Overall Goal

Human resources in the Mekong Delta area are developed through enrichment of agricultural and environmental education in Can Tho University.

(2) Project Purpose

The research staff capability of environmental education and research is improved in College of Agriculture, Can Tho University.

(3) Outputs

- 1) Improvements on educational contents in environmental field are tried.
- 2) Researches on environment are carried out, and these are generated.
- 3) Technological training and transfer to the staff of Can Tho University is done through the Training in Japan.
- 4) Master's and /or doctor's degree are obtained through the assistance and advice of Japanese experts.
- 5) Activities of education/research/information exchange with other concerned organizations in the Mekong Delta area.

(4) Inputs

Japanese side:

Long-term Experts	4	Equipment	48 Million Yen
-------------------	---	-----------	----------------

Short-term Experts	35	Local Cost	
--------------------	----	------------	--

Trainees received	8		
-------------------	---	--	--

Vietnamese Side:

Counterparts	51		
--------------	----	--	--

Land and Facilities		Executive room	
---------------------	--	----------------	--

Local Cost

2. Evaluation Team

Members of Evaluation Team

Leader; Hikaru NIKI, Development Specialist, Institute for International Cooperation, JICA
Deputy Leader/Education Planning; Tetsuo SHIOYA, Professor, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology / Chairman of Supporting Committee
Research Planning; Kenji TAKADA, Indochina Division, Regional Department I, JICA
Evaluation Analysis; Kenzo MIYOSHI, Intem Consulting, Inc.

Period of Evaluation 11 March 2002 - 23 March 2002 **Type of Evaluation:**
Terminal Evaluation

3. Results of Evaluation

3-1 Summary of Evaluation Results

(1) Relevance

The Government of Vietnam has been focusing on environmental pollution control measures not only in the Mekong Delta area but also nationwide. The Ministry of Education and Training has considered setting up a new department to address environmental issues. In the Mekong Delta area, environmental pollution caused by the development of farmland and increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has been a main concern. However, the lack of scientific data on residual pesticides, water quality and soil property has made the actual extent of pollution unclear. Consequently, this has limited implementing specific countermeasures to ensure environmental conservation. Can Tho University as well as the local government have recognized that human resources development is essential to promote environmental policy.

(2) Effectiveness

Though most of the counterparts lacked laboratory work experience before the Project, their capacity has been improved through the Project. They can now actively implement research work such as 31 newly introduced analytical techniques and research methods and 23 new research themes. Environmental education and research by the College of Agriculture, Can Tho University also has been improved. Achievement of the Project purpose is also indicated by Project outputs such as 48 curriculums were either established or improved, and 56 research papers were generated.

(3) Efficiency

As for the three fields of Project cooperation, the number of Short-term Experts was increased over the initial plan, and the number of counterparts on the Vietnamese side was increased accordingly. Except for the half-year absence of Long-term Experts, the inputs were accomplished smoothly in terms of the timing, volume and quality. The expected outputs were realized as is seen by indicators such as 22 textbooks were realized, five teaching materials and the awarding of degrees to graduates. However, as numerical indicators were not set at the beginning of the plan, Project efficiency cannot be evaluated.

(4) Impact

Achievement of the Overall Goal may take time. However, the acquired techniques in the Project are to be introduced and utilized in the extension activities conducted by the College of Agriculture on a small scale. The analytical data of samples collected through the field survey were distributed to the related institutions, and the institutional arrangements for environmental conservation in the Mekong Delta area are expected to be improved in the future.

(5) Sustainability

Though the faculty members are seldom changed, many counterparts are about to retire. Therefore, Can Tho University needs to take measures such as hiring them as visiting lecturers to utilize the transferred techniques effectively. The central laboratory of the University operates and maintains the analytical equipment provided. The financial stability is still vague, even though they have a plan to introduce a fee system in order to ensure analysis and maintenance costs. Furthermore, it may take more time and effort to enhance the organization and system to realize fulfillment of the functions of the laboratory work.

3-2 Factors that promoted realization of effects

(1) Factors concerning Planning

The Government of Vietnam selected Can Tho University, the major central research institute in the field of agriculture in the southern area, as the implementing organization, which made it possible to implement the Project in line with the social and governmental needs. In the Mekong Delta area, there are also many farmers who can be the target of dissemination of the Project outputs. Therefore implementing the Project in the area promoted the effect of successful dissemination of the project.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

N/A.

3-3 Factors that impeded realization of effects

(1) Factors concerning Planning

Problems were not thoroughly analyzed before the beginning of the Project. The framework of the activities was established three months after startup. As the Project leader presented a report describing gaps between the Project Purpose and actual activities, the plan was revised thoroughly in September 2001. However both the original plan and revised plan did not have a clear numerical target. Consequently, it was difficult for the evaluation team to judge whether the Project input and activities were appropriate, and whether the original goal could be accomplished.

(2) Factors concerning to the Implementation Process

The Long-term Expert (project manager) had been absent from October 2000 to March 2001, and the project coordinator from April 2001 to July 2001, which made carrying out the necessary procedures somewhat difficult. This also adversely the revision of the Project Design Matrix (PDM) and the installation of equipment. However, these did not seriously impact negatively on the Project as a whole.

3-4 Conclusion

As described in the above Summary of Evaluation Results (5 Evaluation criteria), the three years of Project activities have produced many outputs. The consistency with the original plan (it is uncertain whether the PDM is the one before implementation of the Project or the one after revision) is not taken into consideration; Substantial effects have been achieved through the Project. What is more, Can Tho University favorably evaluated the Project.

3-5 Recommendations

The Government of Vietnam should implement the rural development project to realize the result of improved education and research progress in the field of Environment activities at Can Tho University.

3-6 Lessons Learned

(1) It is necessary to establish a consistent cycle of Project planning (especially with regard to participant analysis and problem analysis), implementation and evaluation. Even though there many outputs generated by a Project, it is uncertain what percentage of the outputs reflect accomplishment of the original goal at the time of evaluation research.

(2) Considering cooperation in the field of agriculture, the principal purpose is development in the viewpoint of improving the standard of living of farmers, and increasing products and income (decreasing poverty). On the other hand, as for the upgrading and expanding of research and advanced education, it takes time to disseminate the effects and this does not directly impact on the farmers, who are concerned with immediate day-to-day problems. In planning the project, it is necessary to prepare the plan taking the difference between research and education, and actual agricultural development into consideration.

3-7 Follow-up Situation

N/A.