

Terminal Evaluation

Asia

1. Outline of the Project

Country:

Vietnam

Project title:

The Education and Research Capability Building Project of Hanoi Agricultural University

Issue/Sector:

Agriculture/General

Cooperation scheme:

Project-type Technical Cooperation

Division in charge:

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Division, Agricultural Development Cooperation Department

Total cost:

778 million yen

Period of Cooperation

1 September 1998 - 31 August 2003

Partner Country's Implementing Organization:

Hanoi Agricultural University (HAU), Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)

Supporting Organization in Japan:

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Related Cooperation:**1-1 Background of the Project**

Agriculture is one of the essential industries in the Republic of Vietnam. As it covers about 28% of its GDP and approximately 73% of the working population, the trend in agricultural production is a key factor that affects the domestic economy of Vietnam. The government of Vietnam implemented the Doi Moi (innovation) policy, and in accordance to the policy, prime tasks in the field of agriculture has been identified; planning/management of agricultural policy in accordance with market economy, the research/development of necessary techniques for modern agriculture and fostering personnel instructing farmers. On the other hand, the Vietnamese government designated the improvement of the quality of university and college education as one of the major policies in the Socio-economy Development Plan (1996 - 2000). The Hanoi Agricultural University (HAU) has sent many of its graduates to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the National agricultural Research Institutions since its establishment in 1956 and has played a key role in advanced education in the field of agriculture in Vietnam. However, the function and capability of the university became impoverished as the support from the former communist countries was reduced to none. Under these circumstances, the government of Vietnam requested the government of Japan for the Project-type Technical Cooperation to enhance the education/research of HAU and to transfer modern knowledge/techniques for education, research and organizational management and also to fulfill the experimental equipment.

1-2 Project Overview

For the improvement of educational/research quality of HAU, the project implemented the cooperation activities such as technical instruction to teachers, advice for improving syllabus, and development of facilities to the Faculty of Agronomy, the Faculty of Land and Water Resources Management and the Faculty of Economics and Rural Development.

(1) Overall Goal

The quality of research and education of the entire HAU is improved.

(2) Project Purpose

The quality of research and education is improved at three faculties (Faculty of Agronomy, Faculty of Land and Water Resources Management and Faculty of Economics and Rural Development) of HAU.

(3) Outputs

- 1) Quality of research is improved.
- 2) Quality of education is improved.
- 3) Facilities and equipment are properly set up, operated, and maintained to improve the quality of research and education.

(4) Inputs

Japanese side:

Long-term Experts	9	Equipment	220 million yen
Short-term Experts	30	Local Cost	100 million yen
Trainees received	23		

Vietnamese Side:

Counterparts	67		
Land and Facilities			
Facilities maintenance cost	60 million yen		

2. Evaluation Team

Members of Evaluation Team

Team Leader: Harumi KITABAYASHI, Director, Agricultural Technical Cooperation Division, Agricultural Development Cooperation Department, JICA
Educational Administration: Masaki UEMURA, International Affairs Division, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Research and Education: Tetsuo MATSUMOTO, Professor, International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education, Nagoya University
Planning Evaluation: Hiroyuki TAKADA, Agricultural Technical Cooperation Division, Agricultural Development Cooperation Department, JICA
Evaluation Analysis: Jun TOTSUKAWA, IMG. Inc.

Period of Evaluation 3 March 2003 - 15 March 2003 **Type of Evaluation:**
Terminal Evaluation

3. Results of Evaluation

3-1 Confirmation of achievement

In terms of the improvement of research quality in the three target faculties, the number of research papers issued, the numbers of publication of research papers and survey reports and the number of persons who obtained doctoral or master's degrees were increased during the cooperation period of the project. The transferred equipment was effectively utilized, five kinds of experimental manuals were newly developed at the Faculty of Land and Water Resources Management, and the total of seventeen syllabuses (lesson outlines) were revised or advised on at the three cooperation target faculties.

3-2 Summary of Evaluation Results

(1) Relevance

The project directly supports the two among five main pillars of the national education policy (Education and Training Development Strategies: 2001 - 2010) of MOET; improvement of curriculum and teaching methods and improvement of teachers in quality and quantity. It was also consistent to the national agricultural policy such as the Five-Year Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development (2001 - 2005) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). Therefore, the project is highly relevant.

(2) Effectiveness

It is difficult to measure the quality of research, but there were some positive changes observed. The number of research papers issued has increased in the three target faculties, and the number of contract research from external organizations such as the research fund from the Ministry of Science and Technology has increased. Judging from these data, the expected outputs were almost achieved. Also, facilities and equipment are properly set up and the number of classes which conducted experiments increase. These facts contributed to the improvement in the quality of education. Judging from the facts above, the project purpose has been accomplished.

(3) Efficiency

Inputs were mostly delivered as planned and were efficient. At the commencement of the project, there was delay of dispatching a long-term expert for agronomy. There was no long-term expert dispatched to the Faculty of Land and Water Resource Management from the fourth year. However, instead of a long-term expert, several short-term experts were assigned, and the delay did not cause any noteworthy interference to the accomplishment of the outputs.

(4) Impact

As for the accomplishment of the overall goal, "the quality of research and education of the entire HAU is improved", one of the indications found was the more active communication among departments or faculties of HAU such as use of the Central Laboratory or the Computer Room by other faculties. There were other positive impacts. The HAU has gained a growing reputation in and outside the university and was designated as model faculties of curriculum improvement (Faculty of Agronomy, Faculty of Land and Water Resources Management and Faculty of Veterinary) by MOET. The number of applicants for HAU's entrance examination has been increasing.

(5) Sustainability

The overall goal of the project is consistent with the national policy of education strategies and agricultural strategies, and there will be no problem on the project's sustainability from a policy point of view.

Counterparts have already absorbed most of the transferred techniques to the sufficient level, and also nearly all the counterpart personnel who received training in Japan still remain at HAU and continue their research and education. Judging from these facts, techniques transferred by the project have high sustainability and will be continuously developed and extended.

As regard to the organizational aspect of sustainability, it is indispensable to improve the working environment of the counterparts. If this action is not in place, the counterparts will not be able to take time for research due to the increasing number of the students which will result in the increase of classes for the counterparts.

In terms of the financial condition of HAU, the annual revenue of HAU will tend to increase as it has accepted more contract researches and more tuition fees from the students. In addition, the Rector of HAU has announced the intention of securing the budget for the sustainability of the project. However, it will require a considerably high cost of maintenance and management to make it possible for HAU to continuously use the equipment provided through the project. Hence it cannot be optimized.

3-3 Factors that Promoted Realization of Effects

(1) Factors Concerning the Planning

The project purpose was accomplished partly because nearly all of the counterparts who took training in Japan still remained at HAU.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

Several short-term experts covered the areas that a long-term expert could not, which largely contributed to the realization of the effects of the project. As the same short-term experts had been dispatched to the Project several times, the communication with the counterparts became easier and more effective, and the technical transfer had successfully been accomplished.

3-4 Factors that Impeded Realization of Effects

(1) Factors Concerning the Planning

Among the three outputs originally planned, the "improvement of curriculum for upgrading quality of education" was found to be a decision under the jurisdiction of MOET after the commencement of the project. This was found to be difficult to be included as an output for the project. Therefore the project had to modify the target level of its activities to the improvement of syllabus for each subject.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

As many of the counterparts were extremely busy in and outside HAU, there were some inefficient elements of the project such as the instruction becoming fragmented when Japanese experts transferred techniques to them.

3-5 Conclusion

The project purpose, "the quality of research and education is improved at three faculties", has been mostly accomplished through the efficient inputs of the personnel, equipment and facilities, and planned activities. The political, technical and financial sustainability is high.

3-6 Recommendations

(1) As a result of research activities in the Faculty of Agronomy, high yield and the bacterial leaf blight disease (BLB) resistant lines of rice were identified, and they are at the stage of broad scale evaluation for registration as the new varieties. To obtain the registration of the new varieties and to extend them to the farmers, it is necessary to complete the research which shows high applicability. Therefore a follow-up dispatch of expert is required.

(2) Waste management in the laboratories is not appropriate and there was concern over environmental pollution due to the discharge of untreated wastes. It is strongly recommended that HAU take measures for preventing negative impact on the environment in terms of treatment facilities and procedures.

(3) The weather station that was provided for the project is producing valuable data. The equipment will reach its full lifespan in a few years, but the data can be obtained from simplified and less expensive equipment. Therefore, HAU should replace equipment of the weather station while the current equipment is under operation.

3-7 Lessons Learned

The unique characteristic of this project is its support from the Consortium consisted of universities in Japan including the University of Kyushu, the University of Yamaguchi, the University of Saga, the University of Miyazaki, the University of Kagoshima, and the University of Ryukyus. To enhance the sustainability of the project effects, the support by universities in Japan should be promoted.

3-8 Follow-up Situation

As described in the above section, 3-6 Recommendation (1), a follow-up cooperation will be implemented to the Faculty of Agronomy by extending the term of long-term experts by one year (September 2003 - August 2004).