

Terminal Evaluation

Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Outline of the Project

Country:

Argentina

Project title:

The Aftercare Technical Cooperation for the Research Project at The Faculty of Veterinary Science, The National University of La Plata in Argentina

Issue/Sector:

Animal Industries

Cooperation scheme:

Project-type Technical Cooperation

Division in charge:

Livestock and Horticulture Division, Agricultural Development Cooperation Department

Total cost:

187 million yen (estimate)

Period of Cooperation

1 April 2001 - 31
March 2003

Partner Country's Implementing Organization:

The Faculty of Veterinary Science, The National University of La Plata in Argentina

Supporting Organization in Japan:

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the University of Tokyo

Related Cooperation:

Project-type Technical Cooperation; "The Research Project at The Faculty of Veterinary Science, the National University of La Plata"

Third-country Training Program; "Diagnosis and Research for Livestock Disease"

1-1 Background of the Project

For five years between 1989 and 1994, "The Research Project at The Faculty of Veterinary Science, the National University of La Plata" was implemented to strengthen the research activities of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, National University of La Plata (UNLP). The follow-up technical cooperation for the project was implemented for two years from 1994.

Throughout these periods, because of the enforcement of basic research activities such as pathology, physiology, immunology, morphology and so on, the level of the research activity mainly in the fields of infectious diseases of livestock was improved. Technically the number of research papers published was tripled, and the seminars were held actively. At the termination of the cooperation, as the income from diagnosis and so on increased, the UNCL side supported more than 80% of the local cost, though most of which the Japanese government had supported in the beginning of the projects. The huge effects could be observed in terms of its sustainability.

To disseminate its effects to neighboring countries, upon the request from the Argentine government, the Japanese government implemented a 5-year third-country training program; "Diagnosis and Research for Livestock Diseases" and many of the participants from neighboring countries joined the program and appreciated it. In addition, many researchers of the UNLP were dispatched to Latin American countries as experts.

However, in the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the UNLP, the enhancement of the clinical section was far delayed than that of other sections and, many of the participants required training related with the clinical medicine in the third-country training program. Under these circumstances, the government of Argentina requested the government of Japan for the after care technical cooperation with the aims of maintaining and upgrading diagnosis techniques accumulated till then as well as developing Argentina as a base of South-South Cooperation, and promoting the enhancement of the clinical medicine section and application to the actual fields of veterinary medicine.

1-2 Project Overview

In order to prevent livestock diseases in Argentina, the project implemented the cooperation such as training on techniques of clinical diagnosis and establishment of diagnosis methods of parasite and bacterial infection at sites to the researchers of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the UNLP.

(1) Overall Goal

To contribute to the development of livestock industry in Argentina.

(2) Project Purpose

To strengthen the research activities through the improvement of the clinical ability at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the National University of La Plata in Argentina.

(3) Outputs

- 1) Improvement of diagnostic techniques.
- 2) Application of diagnostic techniques for prevention and treatment of animal diseases to the field activities.

(4) Inputs

Japanese side:

Long-term Experts	2	Equipment	57 million yen
Short-term Experts	12	Local Cost	7 million yen
Trainees received	9		

Argentina side:

Counterparts	66		
Land and Facilities			
Local Cost		530 thousand dollars (70 million yen)	

2. Evaluation Team

Members of Evaluation Team

General: Kozo INADA, Deputy Managing Director, Agricultural Department Cooperation Department, JICA
Education for Research: Shin-ichiro SATO, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Research for Veterinary Science: Takeshi MIKAMI, Professor, Laboratory of Veterinary Public Health, College of Bioresource Science, Nihon University
Planning Evaluation: Hirohito TAKATA, Livestock and Horticulture Division, Agricultural Development Cooperation Department, JICA

Period of Evaluation 15 February 2003 - 28 February 2003
Type of Evaluation: Terminal Evaluation

3. Results of Evaluation

3-1 Summary of Evaluation Results

(1) Relevance

The livestock industry is one of the key industries in Argentina, the improvement of preventive measures against infectious diseases of livestock animals was regarded as one of the priority issues. In accordance with the above situation, the Argentine

government announced the National Strategic Plan for Production and has dealt with the prevention of livestock diseases. The project aimed to improve the research capacities of basic sections as well as of the clinical section, to improve general diagnosis techniques and to apply them to prevention and treatment. Therefore, the project purpose and the overall goal were consistent with the policies of the Argentine government, and thus the project was highly relevant.

(2) Effectiveness

The project has developed and distributed useful diagnostic kits on parasite and protozoan diseases that can be operated in the field. The number of external services and diagnostic requests was increasing, and also the number of accepted research papers made public by academic journals. Therefore, the research capability of the Faculty of Veterinary Science was improved through the improvement of diagnosis capability and accuracy at the diagnosis sites including the field diagnosis and treatment, and that the project purpose would be achieved as planned.

(3) Efficiency

Necessary inputs were made by both the Japanese and Argentine sides. Most part of the expected outputs has been achieved through the efforts of the experts and the counterparts. Thus, the project was efficient in the sense that the inputs have been fully utilized at their utmost potentials.

(4) Impact

There are two main organizational impacts. The management system of medical charts using computer network was established at the clinical section. Therefore, the well-functioned collaboration among each area in the clinical field made it possible, or had to make it possible, to diagnose many animal diseases effectively. Specifically speaking, a disease had been treated only from the technical point of view of the department in charge of the case, but diseases were to be diagnosed and treated technically and comprehensively by veterinarians and researchers of many different sections based on same information of electrical medical charts. The second impact was that the activities of livestock farmers were activated by utilizing transferred techniques and knowledge in the training, and the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the UNLP has acquired the techniques and knowledge enough to conduct training courses in order to respond to other institutions' requests such as by National Agrifood Health and Quality Service (SENASA).

As for technical impacts, diagnostic manuals were in preparation, and technical seminars and case study group meetings for veterinarians and technical seminars intended for livestock farmers were regularly held in Argentina.

There was also some financial impact such that the management of farmers was improved due to the decrease of the diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis. Because of the decrease of zoonosis, the public health condition was improved, which was a positive environmental impact of the project.

Socio-cultural impacts were also observed. Through the research and diagnostic activities of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the UNLP, its effectiveness was recognized not only by the livestock farmers but also by the public. The technical cooperation with Paraguay has started under "the Partnership Program between Japan and Argentine Republic" (PPJA). The number of experts requested from other countries in the region was increased.

(5) Sustainability

The Project's organizational, financial and technical sustainability can be recognized as follows.

- 1) As for the institutional sustainability, postgraduate courses in the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the UNLP were newly founded in the clinical areas of the project. The hospital management system was established because the collaboration with other sections in the clinical field was realized under the management board of the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the UNLP.
- 2) Financially, the income of the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the UNLP was gradually increasing owing to the diversity of income resources such as clinical income and commissioned fee.
- 3) From a technical point of view, it is appreciated that the Argentine counterpart personnel trained in Japan continued to be employed as full-time faculty members in the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the UNLP. The techniques and knowledge of faculty members were going to be improved continuously though the training seminars expected to be held regularly.

3-2 Factors that promoted realization of effects

(1) Factors Concerning the Planning

- 1) At the planning stage of the original framework of the project, putting importance on basic fields of veterinary medicine was extremely effective.
- 2) Adoption of the scheme making counterparts to full-time staff at the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the UNLP, largely contributed to the sustainability of techniques and knowledge.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

- 1) It contributed to foster successors of the technical transfer in the country that the counterparts had been given the chance to study at graduate schools in other countries to acquire skills and knowledge. The in-country training for the successors helped formulate the foundation for the dissemination of the transferred techniques, and the foundation has been maintained and developed, which has contributed to achieving the project purpose.
- 2) The Japanese supporting committee played a key role through its active cooperation continuously, since the stage of designing of a series of technical cooperation, and attention paid to the proactive and responsible management as well, which kept the consistency of activities. Communication among related personnel played an important role in implementing the project.

3-3 Factors that impeded realization of effects

(1) Factors concerning the Planning

N/A.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

N/A.

3-4 Recommendations

To maintain and develop the effects of the Project, it is necessary to keep the following.

- (1) The Faculty of Veterinary Science, the UNLP, should establish its own equipment management system for the proper use and maintenance/management of delivered equipments.
- (2) The Faculty of Veterinary Science, the UNLP, should reinforce its scientific and technical knowledge to be a center of the horizontal cooperation and the regional cooperation.
- (3) The Faculty of Veterinary Science, the UNLP, should reinforce its techniques and knowledge through the joint cooperation with international organizations (e.g. U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization / Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and so on), related organizations (e.g. SENASA, National Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA) and so on) and other universities/colleges.
- (4) The Faculty of Veterinary Science, the UNLP should report and announce its activities extensively (national and regionally) to improve the prevention techniques on livestock animal diseases in South America.

3-5 Lessons Learned

The factors that made it possible to realize the effects are applicable to a project to improve the research capabilities of universities and colleges, hence, the record of the Project should be kept carefully for the future projects.

3-6 Follow-up Situation

N/A.