

Terminal Evaluation

Asia

1. Outline of the Project

- Country: Thailand
- Project title: Freshwater Aquaculture Training Course
- Issues/Sector: Freshwater Aquaculture
- Cooperation scheme: Third Country Training Program
- Division in charge:
- Total cost: 18,293,629 Baht
- Cost per participant: 281,440 Baht
- Share of Japan' contribution: 78.8%
- Period of Cooperation (R/D): 6 January, 2000
From: JFY 2000
To: JFY 2004
- Course Organizer: Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- Implementing Organization: Inland Aquaculture Research Institute (IARI) or formerly National Inland Fisheries Institute (NIFI)

1. Background of the Project

Training course in the field of the freshwater aquaculture has started in 2000, with a joint support of the Royal Thai Government and the Government of Japan through JICA. Participants from 16 countries in Asian and Pacific countries had joined this program. The Inland Aquaculture Research Institute (IARA) or previously National Inland Freshwater Institute (NIFI) was designated as the course organizer for the program by the Department of Fisheries of The Royal Thai Government since IARA had a lot of experiences and knowledge from their officers as well as invited lecturers including appropriate staffs and facilities suitable for actual practice in the freshwater aquaculture work in Thailand.

2. Project Overview

This training course provided and upgraded participants with basic knowledge and practical technology in the filed of freshwater aquaculture for the ones who deal and involve in the aquaculture job with extension or research works. The course was 60 days consecutive weeks in English. The total of participants was 65 for four years, from JFY 2000 to 2003.

(1) Outputs of the Training Program

- 1) Output 1: The participants obtain basic scientific knowledge of freshwater aquaculture.
- 2) Output 2: The participants obtain knowledge and skill in basic practical techniques of freshwater aquaculture.
- 3) Output 3: The participants obtain basic knowledge of freshwater aquaculture extension service system and structure.
- 4) Output 4: The participants are trained to be able to improvement system of fish farming.
- 5) Output 5: The participants conduct group discussion about aquaculture development in specific features of the participating countries.
- 6) Output 6: The participants are able to conduct the project related to Freshwater Aquaculture.

(2) Inputs

Japanese side:

14,408,352 Baht (78.76%)

Thai side:

3,885,277 Baht (22.24%)

II. Evaluation team

Members of Evaluation Team

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Ms. Junko OKAMOTO, Ms. Mihoko OGASAWARA

Period of Evaluation

21/01/2004 ~ 31/03/2004 (JFY2003)

Type of Evaluation:

Terminal

III. Results of Evaluation

1. Achievement of the Training Program

For measuring achievement of the training program carried out examination and questionnaire survey. The results of examination clearly show that participants obtained adequate knowledge from the course. On the other hand, the participants questionnaire survey indicates that most of participants satisfy the course in terms of quality and scope of the curriculum.

2. Evaluation Results

(1) Analysis on the Achievement in terms of Outputs

Overall evaluation on the achievement in term of Outputs can be summarized that the outputs for the course on Freshwater Aquaculture are mostly achieved. The ex-participants obtained, increased and improved their knowledge to be applied to their works. Some of them are promoted to involve in higher responsibility or as the trainers to other trainees with the acquired know-how and knowledge from the program. The knowledge received is not only occupied by the ex-participants but also shared with other staffs and the fish farmers. It can contribute to up-grade aquaculture technology in local level.

(2) Analysis on Relevance

The Third Country Training Program on Freshwater Aquaculture is very much correspondent to the needs and policies from the participating countries to further development of their freshwater aquaculture productions. It is great necessary to supply more protein to the people in developing countries by increasing fish supply. For this end, improving technologies/ systems of freshwater aquaculture are indispensable. In this regards, the program provides suitable knowledge for people in the aquaculture field or the overall scientific and practical aspects, extension service system, actual fish farm management system, general information in aquaculture development in other countries and freshwater aquaculture project implementation, which the participants can use in their home countries to increase and improve aquaculture productions.

3. Factors Promoting Effects of the Training Program

Six substantial factors leading to the success of this training program can be identified. These are:

- Well prepared in curriculum and course design.
- The lecturers have adequate knowledge in the freshwater aquaculture and related fields.
- Highly devoted from the organizer's staffs (IRAI).
- Well selected of the participants to fulfill the required qualification from DTEC and IRAI.
- Good cooperation from all stakeholders starting from JICA, DTEC, IRAI and participants.
- Willingness of participants during the course period.

4. Factors Inhibiting Effects of the Training Program

Factors the following are identified to have inhibiting effects to the training program:

- Language problem and some cultural problem.
- Limited equipment such as computer and laboratory instrument.

- Inconvenience in traveling between the hotel and laboratory during the practical period.
- Difficulty in certain theoretical topics.
- Different background knowledge from participants.
- Heavy workloads for the participants during the course study.

5. Conclusion

Even though there were some complaints on hard work from the ex-participants, all of the ex-participants, their supervisors as well as implementing agencies mentioned that the training program on Freshwater Aquaculture is very useful and beneficial to the participating countries in development of their aquaculture. All the success is from the good cooperation of the stakeholders involved which also resulting in further communication and contact within the ex-participants as well as the organizers. Therefore this training program is found to be successful and should be continued after the finishing of this year program with slightly modification of curriculum to have less workload to the participants.

6. Recommendations

Demand for this training course of the target countries is still high and the performance of IARA is much appreciated. In this sense this program should be continuously provided.

The following recommendations are for Thailand:

- Survey for common needs and current situation in participating countries
- Review of the program objectives and curriculum contents
- Review of selection criteria and process for the applicants
- Evaluation and monitoring of participants after training

The following recommendations are for JICA:

Supporting in organizer group pre-survey
 Supporting for more equipment and facilities need during the course
 Establish follow up and monitoring mechanism for the ex-participants
 Additional invited countries

7. Lessons Learned

The following items are found as key important elements for training course:

- Cooperation and capacity building to the organizer institution
- Technical and financial cooperation between the Thai Government Agency and JICA
- Social and cultural problems
- Project finding, formulation and implementation
- Registration and record on participant profile
- Organizer evaluation topics according to the program objectives and outputs
- Balancing time in various activities for the entire program