

Simplified Ex-Post Evaluation for Technical Cooperation Project

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| Evaluator, Affiliation | Masaaki Shiraishi Waseda Research Institute Corporation | Duration of Evaluation Study |
| Project Name | Community Forestry Training and Extension Project in Dry Zone in the Union of Myanmar | January 2010 – December 2010 |

I Project Outline

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| Country Name | The Union of Myanmar | | | |
| Project Period | December 2001-December 2006 | | | |
| Executing Agency | Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry Dry Zone Greening Department, Ministry of Forestry | | | |
| Cooperation Agency in Japan | Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries | | | |
| Total Cost | 420.32 million Japanese yen (at the time of June, 2006) | | | |
| Related Projects (if any) | The Central Forestry Development Training Center Project in Myanmar (1999-2001) Aftercare The Central Forestry Development Training Center Project in Myanmar (1990-1997) The Central Forestry Development Training Center Construction Project in Myanmar (1987-1990) | | | |
| Overall Goal | FD promotes participatory forest management based on the management in Dry Zone based on the CFI so that people with spontaneous participation are able to enjoy benefits from the Community Forests. | | | |
| Project Objective(s) | All FD's Township Offices in Dry Zone acquire practical capacity to promote participatory forest management based on the CFI. | | | |
| Output[s] | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An extension plan for promotion of participatory forest management in Dry Zone based on the CFI is prepared. 2. Extension staff understand the importance of participatory forest management and acquire necessary skill and knowledge for extension through training. 3. Extension of participatory forest management is practiced in villages in Dry Zone as a part of extension staff training. 4. Dissemination state of participatory forest management is monitored periodically. (Note) 5. Collaboration relationship with Dry Zone Greening Department is strengthened. (Note) (Note): Supplementary outputs added at the time of evaluation in June, 2006. | | | |
| | Inputs (Japanese Side) | | Inputs (Myanmar's Side) | |
| Experts | 9 for Long term, 2 for Short term | | Staff allocated | 42 Counterparts |
| Equipments | 50.347 million yen | | Equipments | n.a. |
| Local Cost | 80.954 million yen | | Local Cost | 44.088 million yen equivalent / local currency) |
| Trainees Received | 10 person | | Land etc provided | |
| Others | | | Others | Office space and facilities |

II Result of the Evaluation

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| Summary of the evaluation |
| <p>Relevance of the project is high enough. It is significant outcomes that developed effect and impact by the project have been spreaded beyond the target area, and transferred technologies induced by continuous training have been widely applied over the country. Due to financial constraints of the government, however, though it will not significantly impede sustainability of the project, it is seen a slow down trend in dissemination activities.</p> <p>In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be highly satisfactory.</p> <p><Constraints of this evaluation study> Quantitative data of developed effect required for evaluation of effectiveness and financial data for evaluation of sustainability of the project have not been responded.</p> |

1 Relevance

(1) Relevance with the Development Plan of the Union of Myanmar

The Community Forestry Instructions (CFI), 1995, which is the principal policy instrument of the Union of Myanmar at the time of commencement of this Project, as well as the Forest Sector Master Plan (2001-2031), will be in force until the Project is completed. After the completion of the Project, the Thirty-Year Development Plan for Border Areas (Forest Sector) and the Integrated Mangrove Management Plan (IMMP) (2007-2046) will be in force as the policy instruments related to community forestry. Therefore, this Technical Cooperation Project is relevant in that it is in line with the development policy of the Union of Myanmar over a long period.

(2) Relevance with the Development Needs of the Union of Myanmar

Even from the planning stage of the Project, the government of the Union of Myanmar was making efforts to promote tree plantations with participation of rural people for restoration of forests and climate stabilization so as to ensure energy sources and benefits for those living in the central dry zone of the country not only under adverse conditions of climate but also under poor economical conditions, in response to their needs for promotion of industry and ensuring energy sources. The government's efforts are still ongoing. This technical cooperation project that is intended to train rural people and dissemination of the concept and practice of community forestry is therefore highly relevant to the development needs of the Union of Myanmar.

(3) Relevance with Japan's ODA Policy

At the stage of planning, Japan's ODA policy in Southeast Asia was focusing on measures against poverty, measures for improvement of socioeconomic infrastructure, environmental protection issues, and agricultural/rural area development fields, providing appropriate assistance according to actual situation and conditions of each country (FY2001 ODA White Paper of Japan). As this Project aims to reduce poverty in the central dry zone of Myanmar where most of the population is poor and provide disaster control and environmental protection measures, it is relevant in that it is in line with Japan's ODA policy at the time of planning.

This project has been highly relevant to the country's development plan, development needs, as well as Japan's ODA policy, therefore its relevance is high.

2 Effectiveness / Impact

(1) Achievement of Project Outputs and Project Objective(s)

With respect to Output 1: "*framing of community forestry (CF) dissemination plan*," the plan was framed in March 2004, and thus this output has been achieved.

With respect to Output 2: "*training of CF dissemination staff (actual outcome at the stage of 2009 against target year 2011)*," the actual number of participants was as follows:

PES training (Dissemination system in which forestry office heads participate): 35 participants against target number of 36 (Achievement level: 97.2%)

PEM training (Dissemination system in which dissemination personnel of the Forestry Department participate): 52 participants against target number of 54 (Achievement level: 96.3%)

Follow-up training for dissemination personnel: 18 participants against target number of 17 (Achievement level: 105.9%)

Training of residents (CF user group members): 13 participants against target number of 14 (Achievement level: 92.9%)

As above, therefore, Output 2 has nearly been achieved.

As to Output 3: "*actual dissemination rate of CF*," no actual numerical data were available, but the terminal evaluation report comments that "for two years from 2003 to 2005, 7 CF user groups were established with the total number of members of 469 and total established CF area was 1,142 acres. In view of this outcome and considering the implementation speed, it is likely that the target (indicator) is achieved by the end of the Project."

With respect to Output 4: "*monitoring is to be performed*," monitoring is being conducted constantly, according to the information received, and thus it is believed this output has been achieved.

With respect to Output 5: "*Closer cooperation with the Dry Zone Greening Department is required* (activities of Committee for Community Forestry Organization -CCF-)," no information was available. Actually, Output 5 was added quite late, so lack of information within the implementation period of the Project is of some concern.

As above, although information could not be obtained for Output 3 (actual dissemination rate) and Output 5 (Closer cooperation with the relevant department), it could be stated that the CF activities in the target area are going well. In addition, CF activities are now spreading throughout the country, and therefore, it can be judged that the outputs of the Project have nearly been achieved.

(2) Achievement of Overall Goal, Intended and Unintended Impacts

According to the reply received from the Implementing Agency, one of indirect and effects of the Project was the fact that Project could generate Community Forestry practitioners and/or extensionists in and outside of the Forest Department. As a result, the concept of CF development was spread to local governments and other interested parties, and even to areas outside the target area. In addition, the participants and trainees trained as above are taking active part in various CF-related projects nationwide, playing an important role of diffusing the concept of CF activities; consequently, this concept has now been introduced into small-scale CF and tree planting projects as CDM projects. On the other hand, CF activities involve felling or deforestation and forest deterioration, resulting in increased greenhouse gas emissions. Because of this situation, review is being made whether or not the activities are to be incorporated into the PES scope (payment for ecological service). CF activities are now moving into the spotlight as the leading activity area in the development programs in the border zones and remote regions. Furthermore, CF activities are now sources of profits for those living in the dry zone of the country (community forests provide firewood and also supply feed for their animals). This means that the indicator for the Overall Goal has been achieved. Another indirect effect is the solidarity spontaneously promoted among the participants of the target area through cooperative operations of organization, motivation, dissemination, etc. for the Project. It is reported that the trainees and local inhabitants who were trained under the Project are actively participating in CF activities of other areas that are sponsored by the United Nations in collaboration with NGOs.

As above, CF activities under the Project brought about ripple effects far more than expected and have already come to stay as the standard techniques of CF activities in the Union of Myanmar. Thus, the impact of the Project can be assessed as high. On the other hand, no negative impacts on the environment, etc. have been reported.

This project has largely achieved its objectives, and therefore its effectiveness is high.

3 Efficiency

(1) Outputs

The intended outputs have been achieved as mentioned in (1) of 2, “Effectiveness and Impacts” section.

(2) Elements of Inputs

At the stage of planning, 5 Japanese experts were planned for periods of long stay (5 years each), totaling 300 man-months. In actual implementation of the Project, 9 experts were dispatched totaling 300 man-month plus 7 days (9,007 days). In the final analysis, the actual result was the same as had been planned. Regarding short-term experts who were planned to be dispatched “as necessary,” the actual result was 2.4 man-months. 10 to 15 trainees were expected by the plan, and 10 were trained in Japan, plus 5 in a third country, and thus, the inputs were almost as planned.

Equipment and materials were furnished as planned. As additional information, the reply from the Myanmar side to our questionnaire commented as follows: “apart from experts on community forests, those specialized in climate change and water resources should have participated in the Project, considering that the brittleness of the land in the target zone is attributable to dryness and climate change.” The suggested experts were not included from the beginning of planning and it is believed that there were no impact on the outputs. Regarding the training program of personnel of the Forestry Department, another comment on the outputs of the Project from the Myanmar side says that a more extensive capacity building program is required as it is necessary to train management personnel for CFDTTC (Central Forestry Development Training Center). There is an opinion that says Japan should receive more trainees from the Forestry Department so that more doctors and masters are produced.

Anyway, the achievement of the inputs and their effects were satisfactory in relation to the Project Objective.

(3) Project Cost, Period of Cooperation

Because the projected budget is unknown, no comparative analysis is possible. The elements of inputs, however, were appropriate, as mentioned in (2) above. The actual period of cooperation was 5 years as planned (achievement level: 100%).

As explained above, the elements of inputs have been appropriate in relation to the Outputs and Project Objective.

4 Sustainability

(1) Related Policy towards the Project

The forestry policy of the Union of Myanmar is solid and backed by related policies and plans such as the Community Forestry Instructions (CFI), the Forest Sector Master Plan (2001-2031), Thirty-Year Development Plan for Border Areas (Forest Sector) and the Integrated Mangrove Management Plan (IMMP) (2007-2046).

Policies and systems required for the sustainability of the cooperation effects have been firmly established.

(2) Institutional and Operational Aspects of the Executive Agency

The forestry policy of the Union of Myanmar is solid and backed by related policies and plans such as the Community Forestry Instructions (CFI), the Forest Sector Master Plan (2001-2031), Thirty-Year Development Plan for Border Areas (Forest Sector) and the Integrated Mangrove Management Plan (IMMP) (2007-2046).

(3) Technical Aspects of the Executive Agency

The majority of the Myanmar trainees under this project have already been given senior posts in the Forestry Department. The level of understanding of CF and forest management techniques that required participation was improved and implementation procedures are smoother than before. The Forestry Department takes part in various seminars, workshops, training courses, etc. both home and abroad in cooperation with the United Nations, NGOs, INGOs, etc. with the aim of training participants in CF activities of higher quality level. Techniques and personnel required for continuation of effects of the Project as well as required for operation and management of the technique dissemination system are ensured.

(4) Financial Aspects of the Executive Agency

No data to verify the financial sustainability were available. According to the reply received from the implementing agency, budgets are allotted by the Forestry Department to all CF groups nationwide though there are limitations in funds. Considering the nature of policy priority of the Project, it is expected that the financial resources required for operation and management of the Project will be ensured in the future.

(5) Continuity of Effectiveness and Impact

It is believed that the community forests under the Project are sustainable at present, while poverty and vulnerability of inhabitants that are easily affected by weather conditions, constitutes a risk factor.