

Summary

1. Outline of the Project	
Country : Republic of Zambia	Project title : Food Crop Diversification Support Project for Enhancement of Food Security in the Republic of Zambia
Issue/Sector : Agriculture	Cooperation scheme : Technical Cooperation Project
Division in charge : Rural Development Department	Total cost : ZMK 16,900 million
Period of Cooperation	October 2006 –October 2011 (five years)
	(extension): none
	(F/U) :
(E/N)	Partner Country's Implementing Organization : Zambia Agricultural Research Institution, Department of Agriculture (MACO)
	Supporting Organization in Japan : The Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Other related cooperation :
1-1. Background of the Project	
<p>Food shortages in Zambia result from high dependency on rain-fed cultivation where drought usually entails a food crisis. This is particularly serious among small scale farmers, where prevalence of the monoculture of maize production (at the expense of crops tolerant to drought) exacerbates the impact of damages caused by adverse weather, in particular drought, on food situation. Maize cultivation has been promoted in all parts of the country (without due consideration to agronomic suitability) for a long time since independence era, 1960s. As a consequence, small scale farmers even in drought prone areas are growing maize. Since maize is susceptible to drought, compared to other crops, agricultural production can be dramatically low in case of short-term adverse weather conditions as well as longer term climate changes. Under these circumstances, the Government of Zambia requested the Government of Japan for a technical cooperation project to enhance multiplication and extension of crops resistant to drought as well as to increase of production and consumption of such crops by small scale farmers. In response to the request, the Government of Zambia and JICA started the Project in October 2006.</p>	
1-2. Project Overview	
<p>(1) Overall Goal: Food security and income at household level are improved in target areas.</p> <p>(2) Project Purpose: Food crop diversification is realized in selected communities.</p> <p>(3) Outputs:</p> <p>1) The multiplication and distribution system for improved varieties of cassava and sweet potato planting materials is established.</p> <p>2) Suitable food crops, other than cassava and sweet potatoes, are identified and local production of these crops is improved</p> <p>3) Extension activities for promotion of target food crops are enhanced.</p> <p>4) Technologies for processing, preservation and utilization of target food crops are disseminated.</p> <p>(4) Inputs (as of the Project's termination)</p> <p>Japanese side :</p>	

Long-term Expert	<u>2</u>	Equipment	<u>motorbikes, trucks, computers, etc.</u>
Short-term Expert	<u>2</u>	Local cost	<u>ZMK 2,911.8million</u>
Zambian side :			
Counterpart	<u>5</u>		
Land and Facilities:	<u>Project office</u>		
2. Evaluation Team			
Members of Evaluation Team	Team Leader: Mr. Shiro Nabeya, Resident Representative, JICA Zambia Office		
	Cooperation Planning (1) : Mr. Tatsuki Noda, Program Officer, Rural Development Department, JICA		
	Cooperation Planning (2) : Mr. Patrick Chibbamulilo: Senior Programme Officer, JICA Zambia Office		
	Evaluation Analysis: Mr. Atau KISHINAMI, International Development Assistant Ltd.		
Period of Evaluation	Day/ month/ Year - Day/ month/ Year		Type of Evaluation :
	21/02/2011 – 11/03/2011		Terminal Evaluation
3.PROJECT PERFORMANCE			
3-1. Performance of Outputs			
(1) Output 1			
Most of the Project activities were carried out according to PO and annual plans satisfactorily generated the Output.			
(2) Output 2			
Most of the Project activities were carried out according to PO and annual plans and satisfactorily generated the Output.			
(3) Output 3			
Most of the Project activities were carried out according to PO and annual plans and satisfactorily generated the Output.			
(4) Output 4			
Most of the Project activities were carried out according to PO and annual plans and satisfactorily p except some activities related to processing.			
3-2. Performance of Project Purpose			
The Project Purpose was almost achieved by the increase in i) cultivation areas of target food crops, ii) the number of households planting target food crops, and iii) quantity of target food crops consumed by farmers and/ or purchased by enterprises. It should be noted, however, that there are no clear target figures in the indicators at the Project Purpose level and it is difficult to objectively assess whether the outcomes are satisfactory or not.			
3-3. Summary of Evaluation Results			
(1) Relevance			
The relevance is high for the following reasons.			
- In terms of policies of Zambia, the Project is in harmony with the Zambian policies and relevant to the needs of the government. The Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP) 2011-2015 specifies the vision of the future agricultural sector. It emphasizes "the promotion of developing an efficient, competitive and sustainable agricultural sector, which assures food security and increased income". The SNDP implies that the diversification of agricultural production is one of the strategies for			

achieving the sector's vision. In addition, the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), 2004 - 2015, under review, elaborate the same vision.

- In terms of consistency with Japan's assistance policies, the Project is clearly harmonized with the Japanese Assistance Strategy to the Republic of Zambia (Japan's ODA Strategy Paper for Zambia) in line with "poverty alleviation with main focus on rural development", specified as one of its five fields of Strategy.
- In terms of selection of target group/area, it was appropriate since the Project aims to diversify the production of food crops for small-scale farmers who are directly affected by drought in drought-prone areas of Zambia.

(2) Effectiveness

The effectiveness is moderate for the following reasons.

The Project Purpose will almost be achieved by the Project completion as indicated by increases in: i) cultivation areas (ha) of target food crops, ii) the number of households planting target food crops, and iii) quantity of target food crops consumed by farmers and/ or purchased by enterprises. There are, however, no clear quantitative target figures in the indicators at the Project Purpose level and it is difficult to objectively assess whether the outcomes are satisfactory or not.

(3) Efficiency

The efficiency is relatively high for the following reasons.

Most indicators at the Outputs level have already shown progression towards their fulfilment. However, some activities related to Output 4; in particular processing, preservation and utilization of target food crops are slightly delayed. There is, therefore, a strong need for training in these aspects. One of the positive factors noted regarding Output 1 and 2, is that the Project distributed planting materials certified by SCCI. The close collaboration with SCCI in production of planting materials entailed that there was low prevalence of pests and diseases in the fields of target farmers, thereby leading to high efficiency. In general, inputs have sufficiently been utilized for conducting activities and producing Outputs.

(4) Impact

Regarding the indicator 1, "Number of households in the target areas which are food insecure reduced", and the indicator 2, "Number of people classified as malnourished reduced", there are good prospects that these indicators will steadily make progress. This is because there are an increasing numbers of farmers reported to have started cultivating and consuming target food crops, even though the quantity of production is limited. Concerning indicator 3 "Household income level is improved in target areas", there are some farmers who sell their extra crops in the market and obtain cash, though the number of such farmers and size of sale are limited. In addition, many pointed out that relationships among ZARI, district and extension officers and farmers are strengthened through the Project implementation. The Project enhanced the opportunities for interaction among different departments/sections as well as between different administrative levels.

(5) Sustainability

Sustainability is moderate for the following reasons.

- Regarding policy and institutional aspects, target food crops, namely cassava, are being recognized as one of the most important crops by both public and private sectors. For instance, "Zambia Cassava Sector Development Strategy" was developed in December 2010 by stakeholders of public and private sectors, such as MACO, MOFNP, donors, processors, farmers, etc. Main objective is to build capacity to improve value chain performance.

- Regarding technological aspects (knowledge and skills), At the ZARI level, counterpart personnel are confident in their knowledge and skills and are able to keep implementing the current activities. At the secondary nursery level, the Team observed that many extension officers need to take more practical training as well as further theoretical ones so that they can meet farmers' demands.
- Regarding organizational and financial aspects, through the Project implementation, the relationships among ZARI station, district and extension officers and farmers are strengthened. Finance is still a constraint and the budget allocation to ZARI and district offices is minimal. It is foreseen that one of the major difficulties after the Project completion is logistics/fuels in order to monitor farmers' activities.

4-2. Factors that have promoted project

(1) Planning

One of the factors that contributed to reduction of diseases in target areas is attributed to the Project's policy to distribute planting materials that are not infected by diseases.

(2) Implementation Process

Project activities were implemented as planned.

4-3. Factors that have inhibited project

(1) Planning

There were no clear target figures in the indicators at the Project Purpose level and it was difficult to objectively assess whether the outcomes were satisfactory or not.

(2) Implementation Process

It is expected that target farmers are expected to preserve and distribute part of distributed planting materials and to continuously multiply them. There was a tendency, however, among farmers to sell or consume their tubers, without preserving the cuttings or vines for multiplication.

4-4. Conclusions

Overall, the Project has been almost successfully implemented according to the PO. It is obvious that the increase in the followings has been generated by the Project.

- i) cultivation areas of target food crops,
- ii) the number of households planting target food crops, and
- iii) quantity of target food crops consumed by farmers and/ or purchased by enterprises

It is expected, therefore, that the Project Purpose would be achieved at a certain satisfactory level by the end of the cooperation period and the Project will be completed in October, 2011 as planned. It should be noted that there are no clear target figures in the indicators at the Project Purpose level and it is difficult to objectively assess whether the outcomes are satisfactory or not.

4-5. Recommendations

(1) Items to be addressed until the end of the Project

1) Enhancement of Sustainability

Multiplication and distribution of planting materials as well as trainings have been conducted by the initiative and expenses of the Project. In order to enhance sustainability, the following aspects should be considered.

i) Institutional Aspect

During the Project period, multiplication and distribution activities were carried out by both ZARI and DOA through the coordination of the Project. The functions and roles of ZARI and DOA concerning these activities should be clarified before the completion of the Project. It is recommended that ZARI and DOA (together with the Project) discuss the issue at the earliest possible stage and report the result to the Steering Committee.

ii) Financial Aspect

The cost of producing planting materials at all levels and conducting training/monitoring has been covered by the budget of the Project. As mentioned in Chapter 5 “Sustainability”, after the Project, it is recommended that ZARI and DOA provide for budget lines for multiplication, distribution, trainings and monitoring. This could be incorporated into CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme) Investment Plan from 2012.

iii) Effective and Feasible Extension Activities

Constraints in carrying out extension activities including logistics are recognised. Given the current limitations, it is recommended that the Project holds a meeting with relevant stakeholders to identify effective and feasible extension measures. The outcome should be reported to the Steering Committee.

2) Enhancement of Coordination to Promote Processing and Marketing Activities

Although the Project conducted the trainings on processing/utilisation/preservation, the demand for these activities is far beyond the Project’s capacity; hence, those activities could be implemented in close collaboration with other stakeholders. In the remaining period of the Project, it is essential for MACO and ZARI to have opportunities to discuss and clarify the roles and functions to be shared among relevant stakeholders who consist of value chain players (e.g. buyers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, rural finance institutions, etc.) as well as other development agencies. Coordination with Cassava Sector Development Strategy should also be considered.

3) Passing-on of Planting Materials to Farmers

It was found that in some cases, farmers are not willing/able to pass on their planting materials to other farmers in the neighbouring areas. This is because i) they deem the quantities of the materials as too limited to be shared, ii) they sometimes consume or sell production the materials instead of passing them on. It is recommended that the Project takes necessary measures to monitor and promote the distribution activities. The Project should take an initiative to analyze the current situations and prepare measures to promote the “pass-on” arrangement. The outcome is to be reported to the Steering Committee.

(2) Items to be addressed in the medium- and long-term

1) Raising Awareness on NERICA

Although NERICA is identified as one of the target food crops, it is a new crop in the target area. It is necessary, therefore, to ensure that researchers and extension officers who received training on NERICA in Uganda, Japan and within Zambia should disseminate information on the crop.

2) Promoting Food Crop Diversification Policy

In order to enhance production of crops other than maize, such as cassava and sweet potatoes, it is recommended that stakeholders should promote the food crops diversification policy.

8. Lessons Learnt

(1) Importance of Setting-up Target Figures in Indicators

It is essential to set up specific target figures in indicators at an early stage of the Project for an effective monitoring of implementation. When it is difficult to set up target figures, it may be useful to; i) refer to other similar projects ii) compare with neighboring areas, and iii) obtain sample figures at an early stage of projects in case of lack of official statistics.