



Villagers and an agricultural extension worker working together to formulate an improvement plan (the Project for Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas in Zambia)

Outline of Technical Cooperation Projects

Issues that developing countries have to address for self-sustainable development include developing human resources, establishing a legal system for economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental conservation, and post-conflict reconstruction. These issues have become more diverse and multi-phased. In addition to accurate and quick responses to these development issues, JICA's technical cooperation requires planning and implementing the most highly effective cooperation based on the situations and development issues in each country. Accordingly, JICA extends technical cooperation to developing countries using two schemes. Technical cooperation projects are implemented to help developing countries achieve their development objectives. Development studies are conducted to make plans for development.

Technical cooperation projects are implemented for a fixed period of time to achieve specific objectives for addressing issues in developing countries in combination with cooperation approaches (cooperation tools) such as dispatching experts, inviting people from developing countries to Japan for training, and providing necessary equipment. In order to meet a broad range of

needs in developing countries effectively and efficiently, cooperation plans are tailor-made for each issue jointly with the partner country and implemented.

Development studies support the formulation of blueprint plans for mid- and long-term public development projects that are beneficial to social and economic development in developing countries. They also support the formulation of prioritized development program plans. During the course of the studies, planning methods and survey and analytical skills are transferred to counterparts in the partner countries.

The reports made in studies provide partner governments with data for assessing their social and economic development policies. They also offer international organizations and donor countries resources for considering financial aid and technical cooperation. In many cases, plans proposed in these reports have been realized with financial assistance such as Japanese yen loans and grant aid cooperation. Skills transferred through the studies are also utilized when partner countries implement projects with their own funds and carry out other studies.

Implementing Effective Projects

JICA responds to diversifying aid needs by grasping those needs specific to a region or country in implementing cooperation. Specifically, JICA's technical cooperation includes support for policy formulation, support for good governance, such as the establishment of legal systems, global environmental protection, infrastructure development, and community development. In addition, technical cooperation is actively implemented in combination with financial assistance, such as grant aid and yen loans, to create a synergistic effect.

Technical cooperation is implemented jointly by the partner country and Japan. Ownership of the project lies strictly with the partner country. Therefore, the partner country (the government, local governments, NGOs, citizens, etc.) needs to exercise ownership in the project.

In project management, it is important to make plans that maximize the effect of the project. JICA works to enhance preliminary studies for making better technical cooperation plans.

Once the cooperation period is over, the partner country is expected to continue the project alone. A project's scale and implementation plans are formulated after considering the financial capacity of the organization responsible for implementing the project in the partner country as well as the chances for adopting technology and institutions locally. Special attention is paid to the viewpoint of capacity development (CD) in developing countries. In order for a project to continue after JICA terminates assistance, the capacities of individual counterparts and agencies, even of the whole society if necessary, in developing countries that are key-players in the project need to be improved and enhanced.

In addition, project management in the form of corporate contracts is practiced to promote the active use of private sector human resources, aiming at the implementation of high quality, result-based projects that make use of experience and know-how of the private sector in wider areas.