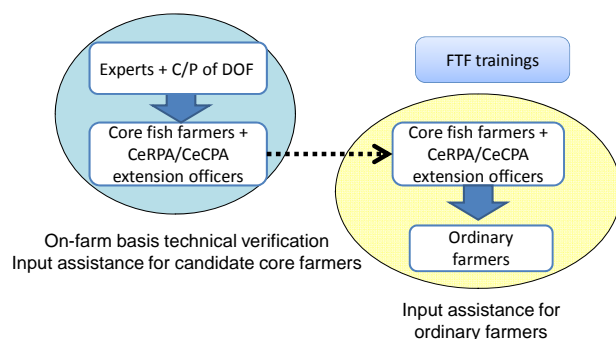


FARMER-TO-FARMER TRAINING

The Project pursues establishment of a sustainable and efficient aquaculture extension system. In this aspect verification of "farmer-to-farmer (FTF) training", which has been known effective in Asian countries, is proposed. In order to function FTF training, the Project fosters core fish farmers who are able to produce fish seeds and motivated to transfer the technology for other farmers following the economic incentives. It is planned to select about 15 candidate core farmers considering the results of baseline study.

TWO-STEP EXTENSION SYSTEM

A two-step extension system will be applied and examined in Benin, namely from experts to core farmers and from core farmers to ordinary farmers. In these steps, aquaculture extension officers will also participate in core farmer trainings and FTF trainings, so that their capacity would be improved and sustainability after the termination of the Project would be secured.



PREPARATION AND INTRODUCTION OF ADEQUATE EXTENSION MATERIALS

Few extension materials are now available concerning aquaculture technology in Benin. The Project is to prepare easy-to-follow technical manuals and calendar for small-scale farmers including illiteracy people based on similar project experiences of JICA.

ON-FARM TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENT

The Project is going to improve a series of aquaculture technologies of target species, which include: seed production techniques, combined feed development, fish farm management, fish harvest and marketing, etc. Relevant technical verification will be carried out at on-farm level in cooperation with core fish farmers, private entrepreneurs, NGO and aquaculture extension officers.

Outline of the Project

Implementing organizations

Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery (MAEP)
Japan International Cooperation Agency

Project Period

From May 2010 to May 2013 for 3 years

Target Areas

Southern Seven target provinces (Littoral, Atlantique, Plateau, Oueme, Mono, Couffo and Zou)

Target group

Individual persons or groups who are interesting in inland aquaculture

Overall Goals

Inland aquaculture is extended in the southern seven target provinces

Project Purpose

Number of fish farmers is increased in selected communes in the target provinces

Outputs

1. Manuals concerning inland aquaculture technologies and FTF training are prepared.
2. Core fish farmers and aquaculture extension officers of CeRPA/CeCPA are grown out to be able to conduct inland aquaculture training.
3. Ordinary fish farmers acquire basic aquaculture knowledge through FTF training.
4. Necessary activities to encourage independent and sustainable aquaculture management for ordinary farmers as well as core farmers are proposed to the Department of Fisheries by the Project.



Le Projet de Vulgarisation de l'Aquaculture Continentale en République du Bénin

Project for Extension of Inland Aquaculture in Benin



Department of Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock and Fishery

Japan International
Cooperation Agency

Project Office

Direction des Pêches
Akpakpa, Cotonou, BENIN
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BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

Benin produces about 40,000 tons of fishes annually. However, since the production cannot meet the domestic demand, 45,000 tons of fish have been imported every year. Considering that the current population of Benin, 8.93 million in 2008 is estimated to exceed 10 million in 2012 with a high annual increasing rate of more than 3%, there is a fundamental and crucial need for increasing fish production in the country.

Benin has a limited coast line of only about 120km but it endows elongate inland areas with 700km in distance from the south to the north. Because of such geographic situation, inland fish production consists 80% of the total. However, it tends to be levelled or declined slightly due to excessive fishing activities. Accordingly there is a strong expectation for increasing fish production through aquaculture bearing in mind effective utilization of available inland resources such as freshwater and brackish water environments.



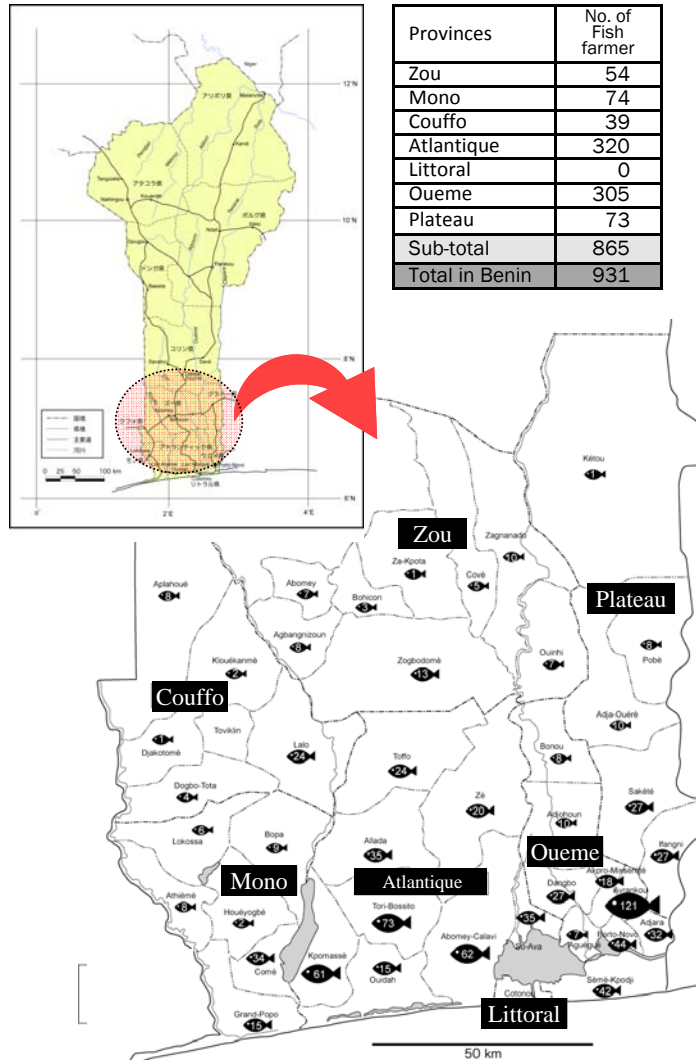
Fish harvest at the pilot project site in Lalo commune during the Master Planning Study of JICA in 2008.

According to the recent nationwide aquaculture survey in 2008, there were 931 fish farmers producing 159 tons of fish. This means the inland aquaculture has been carried out merely at very limited scale in Benin. More than 90% of fish farmers are operated in the provinces located in the south of Zou province. Their distribution is concentrated in Atlantique and Oueme provinces which are neighbouring the two big consumption areas, Cotonou and Porto-Novo.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is going to start this technical cooperation project (PROVAC) from the year 2010, following its previous master planning study on the Promotion of Inland Aquaculture for Rural Development (2007-2009).

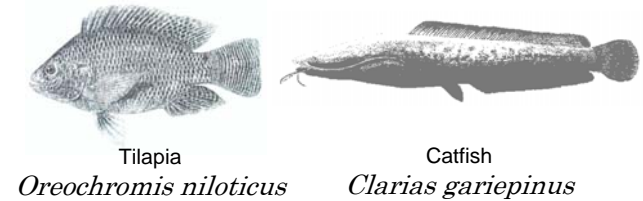
PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The Project is aiming at increase of number of fish farmers in the target 7 provinces namely Littoral, Atlantique, Plateau, Oueme, Mono, Couffo and Zou, through implementation of such extension activities as: 1) establishment of inland aquaculture technologies, 2) fostering extension officers and core fish farmers, 3) fostering fish farmers through farmer-to-farmer training and 4) encouragement of good farm management as a individual entrepreneur.



Number of fish farmers in the target provinces in 2008

Target aquaculture species



FISH FARMER IN BENIN

At present pond culture is most popularly employed by individual farmers as an alternative livelihood in Benin. The culture species are generally Nile tilapia and African catfish which are the target species of the Project. There are two types of earthen pond, *i.e.*, an ordinary pond to which water is supplied from various sources like stream, spring and swamp, and a non-water-dischargeable pond excavated in the low land having shallow underground water. These days wooden tank, inside of which is covered with vinyl sheet is also going to apply for catfish culture near urban areas.



Non-water-dischargeable pond located in "bas-fonds" (low land)



Tank culture operated near urban areas

In addition, a commercial aquaculture farm has started operation using modern circulation tanks.



Water circulation tank of a commercial aquaculture farm (Royal Fish Benin SA)



Seed production of tilapia using hapa nets