



## Republic of Malawi

# The Project for Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire (COVAMS)

## Annual Report 2009



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## 1. Preface

It has been two years since Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire (COVAMS) activity was commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2007. This annual report 2009 was produced in the same manner as the 2008 annual report, to record the process of COVAMS activity and how much stride COVAMS made in order to share with officials and organizations concerned.

One of the most important achievements of the project in its activities in 2009 was inclusion of “Soil conservation” into the project design as one of the main activities. The inclusion was authorized through twice of JCC meetings — one was held in February 2009 and the other one was held in July 2009 together with Consultative study team from JICA Headquarters. This adjustment was derived based on the result of the activity 2008, especially the result in the reaction of the farmers towards soil conservation training — strong interest in soil conservation by the large number of farmers and its high practicing ratio.

This inclusion of soil conservation has made the project design visible in the aim to work alongside of the Malawi government’s wish — Mitigation of siltation in the middle Shire area of Shire River. Simultaneously, the inclusion together with the above observation allowed the project to convert its activity plan in the training themes to specified sphere from broader sphere of PRODEFI. Having this adjustment, the imperative to the project has been shifted to pursue the most efficient and effective method in dissemination of soil conservation and tree growing technologies and their practice by the farmers. In order to accommodate the situation, the project came up with a proto type approach called Specified Village Training Approach (SVTA) distinguished from PRODEFI Approach.

Another administrative challenge the project made was to strengthen PIUs’ and the project management staff’s ownership to the project activities in order to encourage their spontaneous action. As one of the ways, COVAMS review workshop was held with PIUs to increase their ownership through their involvement in evaluation of the implemented activities and finding out the problems they encountered in the previous year as well as making plan of operations for 2009.

Meanwhile, the project increased, in a single leap, the number of target villages to 51 villages of Lunzu – Ntenjela catchment area from previous seven villages. The increase was thought to be possible with the specified training themes by fostering eligible farmers as trainers in each village so that overloading of PIUs’ workload could be avoided. With this strategy, PIUs’ roles are shifted from being trainers to supervising and monitoring agents. The farmer to be a trainer is titled as Lead Farmer.

During review workshop, PIUs suggested conducting sensitization meeting for all the villages as a first step to improve previous situation of poor understanding by the villagers on COVAMS activity. After the sensitization meeting, the Lead Farmers were chosen through election by the villagers, followed by conducting Training of Trainers (TOT) for the elected Lead Farmers, using PIUs as trainers for TOT.

The Lead Farmers conducted village training in soil conservation technologies and they practiced them in their gardens as well. With this sequential approach, the project has achieved 3,493 people's participation in the soil conservation training and 1,654 people's practices out of 4,965 households in the entire target villages.

In tree growing activity on the other hand, PIUs conducted the training for the villagers in pot filling and out planting of tree seedlings. It was observed that villagers still remain inertia in their practice in many villages because the villagers are struggling to find its incentives in tree growing due to required long term activity. However, some bright sides were also observed in some villages that have been continuing Riverbank Afforestation. The project must study carefully about these positive villages and analyze their motivation in tree growing so as the project will be able to improve how to approach the villagers in tree growing.

Gully control and reclamation activity was included as one of the project activities under SVTA. Small and medium scale gully control and reclamation is the basic training subject though, the project initiated establishing demonstration area for large scale gully countermeasures in one of the target villages. The aim of this demonstration area is to contribute in linking the villages where large scale gully has been developed with resource providing organizations so that the villagers may be able to get funded for controlling gullies.

The success of the SVTA, (although there is a big room for improvement in tree growing), can be attributed to that the soil conservation activity contributes greatly to increase the farmers' harvest, especially in Maize production. In other words, there is an essence of PRODEFI Approach in SVTA. In this sense, the project must thoroughly review whether provision of variety of other productive activities is necessary to continue or not from the pace of above said dissemination point of view.

Lastly, it is our desire that the importance of the project is understood by grasping the whole picture of the process in conducting activities and the results through this annual report 2009.

## 2. Activity

Activity achievement was organized to each output which is including project management activity.

### PO0: Arrangement of project operation structure

Quarter	Activities
January – March 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communication among Officials related to the project: The second JCC meeting was held in Blantyre in February 2009. The participants visited some of the villages in the project site in the morning. Hence the meeting was held in the afternoon.</li> </ul> <p>A steering Committee Meeting was held each month in this term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The principle of the project operation: It was agreed in the JCC meeting that the project was going to focus on extension in soil conservation and tree growing activities in 2009. This agreement allowed the project to increase the number of target villages rapidly, and the JCC meeting participants confirmed that the target villages for 2009 was going to be whole villages, which estimated 54 villages, in Lunzu- Ntenjela watershed area.</li> </ul> <p>The project redesigned its operation system to promote the soil conservation and tree growing activity in the target villages because shortage of trainers was foreseen to provide training in a limited period for 54 villages. To cope with this situation, the project decided to incorporate lead farmer method of Department of Agriculture into the project operation system. The lead farmers are to be utilized as trainers in their respective villages.</p> <p>Another decision made was that the project was going to set up on-farm demonstration plot which would be managed by the project in order to confirm the effectiveness of recommending soil conservation technologies.</p> <p>PRODEFI approach was going to be continued in nine villages, adding two villages in 2009 to the previous seven villages of 2008.</p>
April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communication among Officials related to the project: A Steering Committee Meeting was held each month in this term.</li> <li>● Publicity of the project activity Fifth and Sixth COVAMS NOW were published in this term.</li> </ul>
July - September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communication among Officials related to the project: A Steering Committee Meeting was held each month in this term.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The principle of the project operation: JICA headquarters dispatched a Consultation Survey Team to the project from 6<sup>th</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> July. Mr. Noda, Senior Advisor to COVAMS, short expert was dispatched to the project from 4<sup>th</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> July.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal that the project was going to focus on extension activity in soil conservation and tree growing was accepted by the team, although it was necessary to confirm with the JICA headquarters. It was agreed in the JCC meeting held together with the Consultation Survey Team that the PDM would be modified accordingly.</p> <p>Mr. Noda proposed to change the name of PRODEFI approach into Integrated Village Training Approach (IVTA) and differentiate the approach focusing on soil conservation and tree growing as Specified Village Training Approach (SVTA) from IVTA.</p>
October - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communication among Officials related to the project: A Steering Committee Meeting was held each month in this term.</li> <li>● Publicity of the project activity The first COVAMS News letter was published in October.</li> </ul> <p>Designing of web site of the project had been started.</p> <p>COVAMS seminar was implemented in December, in which District Commissioner took initiative to give invitation to the chosen participants. The project Chief Advisor and the Project Manager presented project purpose and the progress of the activities.</p>

**PO1: The target villagers acquire knowledge and skills regarding productive activities including tree growing and Soil conservation**

Quarter	Activities
January – March 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Selection of target villages: The management team of COVAMS proposed PIUs to target whole villages in Lunzu – Ntenjela watershed area at the COVAMS review meeting held in March 2009, and PIUs agreed on the idea.</li> </ul> <p>After the review meeting, confirmation of villages existing in the area was done by PIUs. The project confirmed 50 villages and 8 households as a part of a village within PIUs’ duty area, and the whole villages were to be the target in 2009.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preparation of training: Procurement and distribution of Vetiver grass to the farmers who conserved their gardens was continued even in January 2009 and was completed.</li> </ul> <p>Besides, the project also purchased, in January, 11,000 none fruit tree seedlings for the farmers who agreed on establishing demonstration of riverbank Afforestation in their premises along some rivers or streams.</p> <p>The management held a meeting to explain PIUs on method and contents of forthcoming sensitization meeting for TAs and village headmen as well as ordinary villagers on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Explanation meetings of SVTA for TAs were implemented in the same month.</p> <p>The management decided to produce a DVD which would increase the farmers' comprehension in demerit and loss with soil erosion and merit and benefit with soil conservation. The DVD was to be utilized in sensitization meetings. The production was contracted with Television Malawi. The production was started in Feb. 2009 and it was supposed to be completed in March but it was delayed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of training: PIUs demonstrated how to transplant Vetiver grass along the contour markers after distribution of Vetiver grass to all the villages in January.</li> </ul> <p>The project transplanted the purchased tree seedlings under supervision of FMOs and PIUs in order to establish demonstration of riverbank Afforestation by hiring some farmers late January. 4,900 of fruit tree seedlings and 11,000 of none fruit tree seedlings were transplanted in seven villages along the riverbanks.</p> <p>Beekeeping training was conducted three times while gully control training and vegetable growing training were conducted twice in this term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitoring Monthly PIU meeting was held in February and March.</li> </ul>
April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baseline survey: The project management and PIUs identified Salimu and Kuchombo villages for the implementation of Integrated Village Training Approach. Upon identification, baseline survey was conducted in Salimu village by PIU in-charge in May.</li> </ul> <p>Compilation of baseline survey result of 2008 was progressed continuously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preparation of training: Sensitization meetings for village headmen of target villages 2009 were implemented in each TA in April. The village headmen were invited under the name</li> </ul>

	<p>of TAs to a place where TA suggested for the gathering. Sensitization meeting for ordinary villagers in SVTA was started in April up to June. The meetings were implemented in six villages, 39villages and six villages in April, May and June respectively. The total number of participants reached 1983 villagers.</p> <p>The management requested to the target villages to hold a village meeting in order to select lead farmers in their villages. The selection was done through election by the participants of the meeting in May and June after the sensitization meeting. 107 lead farmers were elected in total (73 in TA Kapeni and 34 in TA Kuntaja).</p> <p>The management implemented TOT for the lead farmers in soil conservation technologies. TOT was conducted by PIUs with four day program in June.</p> <p>The management requested to all the target villages to have a village meeting in order to introduce the trained lead farmers as trainers of COVAMS to the entire community of their village.</p> <p>The management also requested to the lead farmers in making a list of households of their respective villages. The lead farmers surveyed and the lists were submitted to the management.</p> <p>The management had a discussion with Likanga tea estate in June on possibility of procurement of Vetiver grass for 2009 in order to prepare Vetiver grass distribution to the farmers who conserve their gardens in the target villages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of training: IVTA: Training for Beekeeping seven times, Fish culturing one time, Vegetable growing one time and financial management one time were conducted in this term.</li> </ul> <p>Apart from the above, gully control training was conducted in April and one check dam with stones was constructed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitoring Monthly PIU meeting was held three times in this term.</li> </ul>
July – September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baseline survey: A baseline survey was conducted in July in Kuchombo village which IVTA would be applied.</li> <li>● Preparation of training: Field manual in soil conservation was produced in August for the lead farmers to make use of it as reference during the training for their fellow farmers. The field</li> </ul>



manual was distributed to each lead farmer.

The management had a discussion in August on the number of soil conservation demonstration plot which would be managed by the project and concluded to establish one demonstration plot in each TA, Chuma village and Chiwalo village. The management had started the construction of the demonstration plot in the two villages from late August to early September. The construction was completed on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Preparation of tree growing was started. As the preparation, manual for pot filling including how to prepare the soil for pot filling was made and distributed to the training participants.

- Implementation of training:  
Soil conservation training by the lead farmers had started in the respective villages in July. Most of the lead farmers implemented the training together with other lead farmer of the same village. The training was continued up to end of September.

PIUs implemented training on pot filling in September. The training was implemented in 40 villages with total participants of 1264.

The villagers of Kuchombo and Chiwalo showed their interest and willingness to construct more check dams at Mbawe gully which lies in the two villages by making large quantity of quarry after the training. However, they accessed to IRLAD program which supported by World Bank in the quarry making. The participants of the quarry making were to receive fertilizers from the program.

Additionally, medium scale gully reclamation and control training was done in Zwanya village and Kamuwendo village in August and September respectively.

Training for Beekeeping training and Utilization of Gliricidia tree was implemented in July and August respectively.

- Monitoring:  
PIUs assisted lead farmers in their training of soil conservation and gave technical support to the farmers. Besides, PIUs facilitated discussions and explanation meetings with village leaders and villagers who did not show their interest in soil conservation in order to cope with the situation.

It was agreed that the project was to have twice of PIU meeting in a month from this term on for close monitoring on the villagers' activity. Accordingly, six times of PIU meetings were held in this term.

	<p>Participants lists of the training in soil conservation were submitted to the management together with its report. The management started to check the names of the participants with households list. As a result, many names were not found in the house holds list. It was attributed to that farmers use several names.</p>
<p>October - December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Baseline survey:</b> Compilation of baseline survey result for seven villages conducted in 2008 was completed in November.</li> <li>● <b>Preparation of training:</b> The DVD of Chechewa version which contracted with Television Malawi for the sensitization meeting was completed in October and handed over to the project.  Sawing of Maize seeds was done in both the demonstration plot on November 25<sup>th</sup> after having enough rain.  Handout for out planting of tree seedlings was prepared and distributed to PIUs.</li> <li>● <b>Implementation of training:</b> The lead farmers implemented six times of training in soil conservation in four villages even in October.  Pot filling training in tree growing was also conducted eleven times in eleven villages in October with total participants of 280.  PIUs conducted training in tree seedling out planting in December. The training was conducted 41 times in 38 villages. The total number of participants was 782.</li> <li>● <b>Monitoring:</b> PIU meeting was held once in October and twice in other month a total of five times in this term.  Checking of participants list in soil conservation with households list was continued. Besides, the management collected lists of farmers who practiced soil conservation from the lead farmers through PIUs. Checking of the practiced farmers' list was also started.</li> </ul>

**PO2: Capacity of the target villagers is enhanced to access necessary resources for productive activities including tree growing**

Quarter	Activity
July - September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mbawe Gully countermeasure demonstration A survey on Mbawe gully was conducted to prepare demonstration of gully control measure with use of gabion. The result was compiled into a sectioned drawing in August. In September, a target place of the gabion demonstration was decided. The project made a contract with the headman of Chiwalo on labour contribution to setting of gabion including making and carrying quarry for the gabion. After the making contract, the people from the affected villages started the work.</li> <li>● Tree growing In August, The project had a meeting with Total Land Care (TLC) on coordination of tree growing activity. TLC implements some activities including promotion of tree planting activity. Since TLC is operating the tree planting even in the same area as the project do, the project wanted to coordinate the activity with TLC so that the villagers will benefit.  The project management requested to some PIUs, who are from Forestry Department for collecting information on existing mother tree in the project targeted area so that the project will be able to give farmers the information which type of tree seeds can be collected in their area.</li> </ul>
October – December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mbawe Gully countermeasures demonstration The contracted villagers started to make quarry and to transport them to the site where gabions are to be set in October. Setting of gabions was started on 15<sup>th</sup> November under supervision of the project management staff. The work of setting 20 gabions at the site was completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Following the setting of gabion, other necessary works such as filling gaps between the gabions and gabion and slope of the gully with quarry, prevention measures at the slope of the gully were continued.</li> </ul>

**PO 3: Capacity of the counterparts is enhanced in supporting productive activities including tree growing**

Quarter	Activity
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To enhance understanding of PRODEFI approach : The management had a meeting for three times to prepare for the study trip to</li> </ul>

<p>January - March</p>	<p>PRODEFI in Senegal with the member of the study trip, aiming at producing questionnaire and to enhance understanding on PRODEFI in Senegal.</p> <p>The study trip was made from January 25 to February 1 with two of Japanese experts and five of Malawian project staffs of management and PIUs.</p> <p>The participants produced reports of the study trip and presented the report to other member of the project who did not go as well as Steering Committee member.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● OJT for capacity building of PIU: COVAMS review meeting was held in March to share and learn lessons from the previous experience and plan activity for 2009. The participants were the management staff and PIUs.</li> </ul>
<p>April - June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● OJT for capacity building of PIUs: Brush up training in soil conservation technologies for PIU was conducted for three days. The project requested to send trainers for District Agriculture Development Office on the soil conservation. The office sends two officers for the training.</li> </ul>
<p>July - September</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Capacity building in large scale gully countermeasures: Capacity building for FMOs in gully control with use of gabion was planned. As a beginning, Mr. Sato exercised surveying the gully site together with FMOs in July.</li> </ul>
<p>October – December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Production of Guidelines: Drafting of guidelines for Specified Village Training Approach was started on 9<sup>th</sup> November and completed the draft in the middle of December.</li> <li>● Capacity building in large scale gully countermeasures: Mr. Sato supervised the work for setting of the gabion in the gully together with the FMOs.</li> <li>● OJT for capacity building of PIUs: TOT in pot filling for tree nursery was conducted for PIUs in October by PIU from Forestry Department.</li> </ul> <p>Study trip by Malawian project staff was made to Salima area together with two of the steering committee members from December 1 to December 3. During the trip, the participants visited some of the sites where soil conservation activity was implemented with the farmers' initiative.</p>

### 3. Soil Conservation

#### 3.1 Activity plan

It was approved in two JCC meetings held in February 2009 and July 2009 when consultation survey team from JICA visited the project that the project set soil conservation activity as one of main activities of the project. Accordingly, promotion of soil conservation activity was to add to the project PDM as one of the purposes.

Mr. Noda proposed to distinguish the approach which promotes only soil conservation and tree growing as Specified Village Training Approach (SVTA) from PRODEFI approach, and alternate the name of PRODEFI approach to Integrated Village Training Approach (IVTA) to make it easy to understand the approaches contents. The idea was accepted by the project staff. The aim of the SVTA is to promote rapid expansion of area in soil conservation and tree growing by focusing on the specified themes.

In SVTA, soil conservation training theme shall include erosion control measure in maize gardens and gully reclamation and control. Besides, gully reclamation and control measures have two aspects. One is for small scale gully reclamation. Small scale gully reclamation measures are incorporated into the training course for the target villagers. The other one is medium and large scale gully reclamation and control measures. The countermeasures for these scales require some funds for purchasing materials such as poles and gabions as well as stones, or sometimes its labour, and skilled supervisor at their construction. Hence, the project is going to try to foster some supervisors through practicing the construction of the check dam and setting of gabion. Simultaneously, the constructed check dam and set gabions are to utilize as demonstration for possible resource providing organization in order to contribute that the villagers will be able to access to some resources on large and medium scale gully reclamation and control.

#### 3.2 Achievement of soil conservation activity

Achievements on soil conservation were showed in a table below.

Themes	Achievement
Soil conservation: Contour ridging	The project set Lunze – Ntenjela catchment as a target area for 2009. PIU and the project management conducted confirmation survey of existing villages in the target area. As the result, 54 villages are confirmed through the exercise. However, it was found that three villages out of the 54 are not under the existing PIUs' sections. Therefore, the project decided to set aside the three villages from the target villages for 2009 until the following fiscal year. Besides, one village is found that the main part of the village is under Nkokodzi catchment except eight

households. Hence, the project included the only eight households in the target villages for 2009. After all, the number of target villages in 2009 becomes 50 villages and eight households.

The seven target villages of 2008 are included into the 50 villages. The total number of households in the target villages after the survey was confirmed that 3,736 households in TA Kapeni while 1,257 households in TA Kuntaja.

Explanation meeting on the project activity for Traditional Authority (TA) was conducted on March 25<sup>th</sup>. After this explanation meeting, a sensitization meeting to enhance understanding on a benefit from soil conservation for the village headmen and village development committee members in the target area was conducted followed by sensitization meetings for ordinary villagers in the respective villages.

This sensitization meeting was held, aiming at reducing problems during the project activity, because PIU faced several problems caused by poor understanding of the villagers in the project principles in the previous year. The total number of participants in the sensitization meeting in 50 villages reached 1983 people.

The project management estimated inadequate time for conducting training of soil conservation for the farmers in 50 villages if only PIUs were going to be the trainers. Hence, the project management decided to foster trainers in soil conservation in the respective villages under SVTA.

The trainer is titled as Lead Farmer which is the same as the one Agriculture Department uses. The reason why the project uses the same title is that the farmers are familiar with the one so that they would not be confused with the system.

The lead farmers were basically to be selected one in both gender in a village, but made it flexible depending on the size of the village or other considerable situation. The only criterion the project put for the selection of the lead farmers is to implement election by the participants of a village meeting for selection of the lead farmers. 107 lead farmers (TA Kapeni : 73 TA Kuntaja 34) were elected in total from 50 villages.

TOT in soil conservation was conducted for the elected lead farmers in June by PIUs. It was found that some of the lead farmers were changed to someone else in a few villages, but 107 lead farmers participated in the TOT. All the 107 lead farmers completed and they were given a provisional certificate as COVAMS

trainer in soil conservation by the project. They will be given a proper certificate after they conducted training in soil conservation and develop a 500m<sup>2</sup> of demonstration plot of soil conservation technologies in their garden.

Training in soil conservation by the lead farmers for the fellow villagers was started in the respective villages from July and ended up early November. Prior to the commencement of the training by the lead farmers, PIUs demonstrated the lead farmers how to conduct training expecting lead farmers' skill of conducting training would be uplifted.

The number of conducted training reached 106 times by the lead farmers and 17 times by PIUs in TA Kapeni with total number of participants of 2,530, around 1,300 in terms of households. On the other hand in TA Kuntaja, it was 27 times by the lead farmers and eight times by PIUs with total number of participants of 960, around 500 in terms of households.

After the training conducted, many of the farmers requested the lead farmers to make follow-ups at their gardens when they practice the learned technologies, and the lead farmers granted their request.

PIUs also made follow ups to give technical back up to the lead farmers as well as the farmers directly. Because of the dedication by the lead farmers and PIUs, 1,253 people and 376 people practiced soil conservation in their gardens in TA Kapeni and TA Kuntaja respectively. The percentage to the total number of households of the target villages reached 34% and 31% in TA Kapeni and TA Kuntaja respectively.

In those numbers of farmers who practiced include lead farmers. 103 lead farmers out of 107 developed demonstration plot in their gardens with 500m<sup>2</sup> in size. PIU reported that the rest of four lead farmers did not conduct even the training.

Apart from the training in soil conservation, some of PIUs conducted training in utilization of Gliricidia and Tephrosia, and Vetiver grass management in three villages in July and August.

Rain falls in the rainy season of 2009 was observed being very erratic. Under such circumstances, PIU reported that many of the farmers who conserved their land were realizing and expressing the effectiveness of the contour ridging and swale by seeing their maize growth better than other plots which have no contour ridging.

Besides, it was reported by PIUs that some farmers are happy with the result that contour ridging have prevented soil erosion even at the time of heavy rains.

<p>Soil conservation:</p> <p>Gully control and reclamation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Small scale gully There was no any training in small scale gully reclamation in 2009. However, some farmers who practiced making small scale check dams in their premises were found here and there in some villages. They participated in training which was conducted in October to November 2008.</li> <li>● Medium scale gully control and reclamation The main countermeasure is construction of check dam in order for reclamation and control of the developed gully. The required materials for the construction of the check dam are basically poles and stones. The project introduced both method of framed check dam and stone check dam. Framed check dam also uses stones in the frame made from poles. As a result of monitoring, it was found that framed check dam requires its maintenance work because of robbery of the poles and wire used for assembling the frame. Without the maintenance, the framed check dam will not be able to hold its structure and will be destroyed at heavy rain.  On the other hand, stone check dam has no such anxiousness but it was observed that the laid stones were pushed away with the accumulated water passing the gully.  Hence the project will encourage framed check dam for medium size gully control and reclamation.  The conducted training in gully control and reclamation was shown in a table below:</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Village</th> <th>No. of Participants</th> <th>Type of check dam</th> <th>No. of check dam</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Feb.</td> <td>Chiwalo</td> <td>33</td> <td>Framed</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar.</td> <td>Mtema</td> <td>40</td> <td>Framed</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr.</td> <td>Chiwalo/Kuchombo</td> <td>32</td> <td>Framed</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul.</td> <td>Chiwalo/Kuchombo (Follow up)</td> <td>35</td> <td>stone</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug.</td> <td>Zwanya</td> <td>31</td> <td>stone</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sept.</td> <td>Kamuwendo</td> <td>27</td> <td>Framed</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Village	No. of Participants	Type of check dam	No. of check dam	Feb.	Chiwalo	33	Framed	1	Mar.	Mtema	40	Framed	3	Apr.	Chiwalo/Kuchombo	32	Framed	1	Jul.	Chiwalo/Kuchombo (Follow up)	35	stone	3	Aug.	Zwanya	31	stone	1	Sept.	Kamuwendo	27	Framed	2
Month	Village	No. of Participants	Type of check dam	No. of check dam																																
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Sept.	Kamuwendo	27	Framed	2																																



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Large scale gully control</li> </ul> <p>The project focuses on two points in the purpose for large scale gully control. One purpose is to bridge the villages which want to practice the gully control to resource providing organization by setting demonstration at Mbawe gully which lies between Chiwalo and Kuchombo village. The project is going to invite resource providing organizations to the site and explain the needs by the villagers, technology and its cost so that the organization may give support to the wishing villages. The other one is to foster skilled resource persons in the gully control technology. The fostering will be done through working on construction of the demonstration with some candidates for resource person.</p> <p>The project started its work on demonstration site construction in July 2009. The work started from survey on the Mbawe gully site and designing of the control method. The designed control measure is combination of setting of gabions and framed check dam. The project made a contract with the village headman of Chiwalo for the construction in labour contribution. Actual construction was started in October 2009 and setting of 20 gabions and slope protection measures were completed in November 2009. A framed check dam will be constructed lower place of the gabion. The work is to be completed in Feb. 2010.</p>																																													
Tree growing	<p>The project was committed to make demonstration areas in riverbank Afforestation in the seven villages of 2008 by hiring land owner and some of other villagers for planting seedlings.</p> <p>The number of seedlings and types planted under this activity are shown below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="415 1304 1265 1772"> <thead> <tr> <th>Village</th> <th>distance</th> <th>Fruit tree</th> <th>Other species</th> <th>Total no. of seedlings planted</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Zwanya</td> <td>801.4m</td> <td>852</td> <td>751</td> <td>1603</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mtema</td> <td>713m</td> <td>212</td> <td>1214</td> <td>1426</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chiwalo</td> <td>2400m</td> <td>1650</td> <td>3200</td> <td>4850</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kamwendo</td> <td>582.3</td> <td>494</td> <td>671</td> <td>1165</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chuma</td> <td>2341.5m</td> <td>991</td> <td>3692</td> <td>4683</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chitawira</td> <td>427</td> <td>460</td> <td>394</td> <td>854</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tambala</td> <td>666</td> <td>233</td> <td>1099</td> <td>1332</td> </tr> <tr> <td>合計</td> <td>7931.2m</td> <td>4892</td> <td>11021</td> <td>15913</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The project agreed to collaborate with an NGO, Total Land Care (TLC) in July.</p>	Village	distance	Fruit tree	Other species	Total no. of seedlings planted	Zwanya	801.4m	852	751	1603	Mtema	713m	212	1214	1426	Chiwalo	2400m	1650	3200	4850	Kamwendo	582.3	494	671	1165	Chuma	2341.5m	991	3692	4683	Chitawira	427	460	394	854	Tambala	666	233	1099	1332	合計	7931.2m	4892	11021	15913
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The TLC normally provides some of tree seeds with several species, tubes, watering can and shovels for villagers who committed to nursery establishment as group under a programme of Community Based Natural Resource Management. The project requested to the TLC for acceptance of individual work in nursery establishment and it was agreed with.

The project and a representative from TLC started jointly to have explanation meeting of tree growing activity in its conditions and the way forward for the project target villages in August.

After the explanation meeting, multitude of nursery groups was formed in 35 villages apart from some of individuals and they made nurseries with fence to qualify the conditions.

The TLC began distribution of inputs to the qualified groups in the target villages in September. Out of 35 villages, 23 villages were able to receive inputs from TLC although only one village received full package of the promised inputs while others did receive only tubes and limited species of tree seeds. Another six villages were supposed to receive inputs from TLC since they constructed nursery fence in time, but they did not get anything. The rest of the six villages were disqualified because they could not make the fence in time.

Because of this unequal distribution of inputs by TLC, most of the group members complained to the project. The project advised the PIU and the villagers to discuss with TLC since it was an issue the project could not control.

In the same month of September, 60 times of training were conducted in preparation of soil, pot filling and sowing seeds in all the 51 target villages with Gliricidia tree seeds with 1,625 in total number of participants. Gliricidia seeds were provided by the project for those who conserved their gardens to practice raising tree seedlings. The trainers were all PIUs who were given TOT in the above mentioned subject by the project.

In December, Out planting training was conducted in every target village. The training was not completed in the same month because of erratic rain falls this rainy season. The training was done 42 times in 39 villages in December with 815 in total number of participants. During the training, some of 1,488 tree seedlings were out planted by the participants.

● **Result of monitoring in tree growing**

	<p>It was observed that some of the villagers did not manage the nurseries properly. IT was because of difference in the approach on tree growing among the organizations.</p> <p>District assembly takes the approach that gives reward to the nursery group which managed well their nurseries and properly out planted at the end. TLC promises a kind of reward, such as installation of borehole or school class to the community when the villagers successfully out planted the tree seedlings, while on the other hand, COVAMS project gives them nothing.</p> <p>It seems that many of the groups started to work with an intention of being given the reward. The moment they realize that they would not receive anything; many of them withdraw themselves from the activity and consequently it ended up in poor management.</p> <p>It was recognized among the project staff that the project needs to study further on how to handle resource coordination, how to deliver appropriate information as well as how to encourage more villagers to make them engage in tree growing.</p>
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#### 4. Achievement of village training

Mr. Noda proposed an alteration of naming for PRODEFI Approach to Integrated Village Training Approach (IVTA). The reasons why renaming the PRODEFI Approach were that PRODEFI does not stand for explaining its contents at all, and to clarify the difference between SVTA and PRODEFI. The project staff agreed on the proposal.

It was agreed in the JCC meeting held in Feb. 2009 that the project was going to give focus on the activities in soil conservation and tree growing for 2009. Upon the agreement, the project management discussed with PIUs on the matter and came to a consensus that number of new villages which would be applied IVTA would be two. It makes the total number of villages nine including the seven villages of 2008.

Very few villages as well as the project management found time to implement IVTA when SVTA started its implementation. However, before implementation of SVTA, some of the nine villages were able to implement IVTA mainly in beekeeping. This phenomenon could be attributed to the result of Chiwalo village which earned about k20,000 out of beekeeping business. The result attracted the other villages in beekeeping.

The table below shows conducted training under IVTA in 2009.

Village (No. of H/H)	Theme of training (No. of training conducted)	Total (Training)/ Participants	Trainers
Zwanya (68)	Beekeeping (2)	(2) 31	Ms. Kalagho
Chiwalo (71)	Beekeeping (2) Financial management (1)	(3) 75	Ms. Kalagho Mrs. Chagoma
Mtema (210)	Beekeeping (3)	(3) 194	Ms. Kalagho
Kamwendo (95)	Beekeeping (3) Vegetable Growing (2)	(5) 146	Ms. Kalagho, Mrs. Banda
Chitawira (53)	Beekeeping (2)	(2) 24	Ms. Kalagho
Tambala (51)	Beekeeping (2)	(2) 28	Ms. Kalagho
Chuma (90)	Fish Farming (2) Vegetable Growing (1)	(3) 49	Mr. Manda, Miss. Machumu
Kuchombo (65)	none		
Salimu (129)	none		

## 5. Achievement of other activities

### Study trip

Title : Study trip to PRODEFI project in Senegal: Current situation after the project

Date: February 1 – 7, 2009

Place: Senegal PRODEFI project site

Participants: Mrs. Chauluka (Project Director), Mr. Mkwapatira (Project Manager), Mrs. Chagoma (PIU), Mrs. Banda (PIU), Mr. Andiwochi (PIU), Mr. H. Kanazawa(RDA), Ms. M. Kawamoto (PC)

Title : Study trip to Salima: Site visit in Soil conservation in Salima area

Date : December 1 – 3, 2009

Place : Salima

Participants : All the PIU members, Mr. Mkwapatira (Project Manager)、 Mr. Chigwiya (Field Management Officer-Monitoring)、 Mr. Masanjala (Field Management Officer-Training)

Title: XIII World Forestry Congress

Date: October 18 – 23, 2009

Place: Argentina

Participants: Dr. Kayambazinthu (Director of Forestry Department), Ms. M. Kawamoto (PC)

### C/P Training

The project was able to send some of the counterpart to several training in Japan and Tanzania.

Name	Period	Title	Recipient	Position
J. Chigwiya	2009. 8. 18 – 2009. 11. 8	Practical case studies on sustainable forest management	JICA Tokyo international centre	Assistant District Forestry Officer
G. Kalagho	2009. 9. 21 – 2009. 10. 3	Beekeeping	Tanzania Forestry Training Institute, Olmotonyi	Forestry Assistant

### **Seminar / Reporting meeting / Workshop**

1. COVAMS review meeting

Date: March 4 – 6, 2009

Target: PIU /COVAMS management staff

2. Senegal study trip report

Date: April 21, 2009

Target: Steering committee members / PIUs

3. Training report

① Title: Practical case study on sustainable forest management

Date: November 18, 2009

Target: COVAMS management staff

② Title: Beekeeping

Date: October 14, 2009

Target: PIU/ COVAMS management staff

4. COVAMS Seminar

Date: December 11, 2009

Place: District Assembly conference room

Participants: Member of District Executive Committee

### **Consultative Surveying team**

Date: July 6 – 16, 2009

Members: Mr. H. Endo, Mr. N. Sakonju, Mr. H. Sonoyama, Mr. D. Saito

Purpose: Study on project activity and discussion of PDM for adjustment

## 6. Project staff

### 6.1 Long term expert / Short term expert

Name	Position	Period
Akira Sato	Chief Advisor	2007.11.5 – 2010.11.4
Hiroyuki Kanazawa	Rural Development Advisor	2007.11.12 – 2010.11.11
Mika Kawamoto	Project Coordinator	2007.11.5 – 2010.11.4
Naoto Noda	Senior Advisor	2009. 7. 4 – 2009. 7. 16

### 6.2 Malawian staff

Name	Position in Government	Title in COVAMS	Period
Mrs. C. Chauluka	Regional Forestry Officer (S)	Project Director	2008.4 – present
Mr. P. M.H. Mkwapatira	Assistant District Forestry Officer	Project Manager	2007.11 – present
Mr. J.J. Chigwiya	Senior Forestry Assistant	Field Management Officer	2008. 5 – present
Mr. C.C Masanjala	Forestry Assistant	Field Management Officer	2008. 8 – present
Ms. B. Kumbanyiwa	Forestry Assistant	Field Management Officer	2008. 5 – present
Mr. J. Andiwochi	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit	2008. 1 – present
Ms. G. Kalagho	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit	2008. 1 – present
Mr. S.B. Mbewe	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit	2008. 1 – present
Mr. F. A. B. Mpate	Forester	Project Implementation Unit	2008. 5 – present
Mr. C.G.C. Bauleni	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit	2008. 1 – present

Name	Position in Government	Title in COVAMS	Period
Mrs. L.A. Banda	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit	2008. 1 — present
Mr. W.W. Chinzukira	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kapeni)	2008. 6 — present
Ms. E. Mwachumu	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kuntaja)	2008. 3 — present
Mr. M.J.L. Thole	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kapeni)	2008. 1 — present
Mrs. T. Lipato	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kuntaja)	2009. 4 — present
Mrs. A. Chagoma	Senior Community Development Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Community Dev. TA Kuntaja)	2008. 1 — present
Mr. H.M. Nsiku	Community Development Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Community Dev. TA Kapeni)	2008. 1 — 2009.
Mrs. J. Mulekano	Senior Community Development Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Community Dev. TA Kapeni)	2009. 7 — 2009.10
Mrs.N. Chisesele	Senior Community Development Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Community Dev. TA Kapeni)	2009.11 — present
Ms. J. Mbandamanda	Driver	Project Driver	2008. 2 — present
Mr. H.L. Chiwaya	Driver	Project Driver	2007. 11 — Present
Mr. Phiri	Driver	Project Driver	2009. 4 — Present



## 7. Project Budget

### 7.1 JICA budget

The expenditure of MK22,897,580.23 on the Project Activities from January to December 2009 was made by Japanese side. The amount of donation of Equipment and Machinery were MK1,083,952.86 in 2009 fiscal year.

### 7.2 Malawi Government budget

Forestry department was allocated sum of 10million kwacha for COVAMS project. Actual disbursement had started from July 2009. The expenditure from July to December 2009 was MK4,933,333.00.

## 8. Visitors

Date	Visitor	Purpose	Attendants
2009. 1. 8	The Deputy Director of Forestry Department Mr. W. Simwela	Field visit	Mrs. C. Chauluka Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. J.J. Chigwiya MR. H. Kanazawa
2009. 8. 17	Mr. A. Koenuma The Deputy Director General, JICA	Information collection Field visit	Mrs. C. Chauluka Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. A. Sato Ms. M. Kawamoto
2009. 8. 17 — 18	Press tour (Malawi media)	Information collection Field visit	Mrs. C. Chauluka Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. A. Sato Ms. M. Kawamoto
2009. 11. 4	The Deputy House Representative Mr. A. Hoshino	Field visit	Mr. A. Sato
2009. 11. 26	Japan Television	Video shooting	Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. A. Sato

## 9. Project products

No.	Name	Month	Author
1	Modification of the coordination system on the training	March 2009	Mr. J. J. Chigwiya Mr. H. Kanazawa
2	COVAMS Review Meeting Report	March 2009	Mr. C.C. Masanjala Mr. H. Kanazawa
3	COVAMS Annual report (English / Japanese)	March 2009	COVAMS management staff
4	Senegal Study trip report (English / Japanese)	March 2009	Mrs. C. Chauluka Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. J. Andiwochi Mrs. A. Chagoma Mrs. I. Banda Mr. H. Kanazawa Ms. M. Kawamoto
5	Field Manual in Soil Conservation	September 2009	Mr. J.J. Chigwiya Mr. C. C. Masanjala Mr. H. Kanazawa
6	Field notes of Pot filling and out-planting in tree growing (English / Chchewa)	September 2009	Mr. C.C. Masanjala Ms. M. Kawamoto
7	Baseline Survey Analysis report (Survey conducted in April 2008)	November 2009	Mr. H. Kanazawa
8	Assessment on Effectiveness of Integrated Village Training Approach and Its Limitation	November 2009	Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. H. Kanazawa
9	DVD for Sensitization meeting on soil conservation English / Chechewa	December 2009	COVAMS management staff

## **10. Activity plan for 2010**

The following activities are planned for 2009.

- ① COVAMS review meeting (February )
- ② Project website establishment (March)
- ③ Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting (March)
- ④ Conferment of Certificate for the Lead farmers (April)
- ⑤ SVTA implementation in Matindi, Nkokodzi catchment area (May - December)
- ⑥ Trial of Lead farmer hub expansion system (May - December)
- ⑦ Trial of primary school linked sensitization in tree growing (May – December)
- ⑧ Mid-term project evaluation (June)
- ⑨ COVAMS Seminar (periodical)
- ⑩ Annual report

## **11. Challenges of the project**

COVAMS project has been making a tangible progress in laying its foundation by coping with the challenges which arose from the beginning of the project although it is not perfect yet.

The challenges raised in the annual report 2008 were as follows; adequate staffing for the project operation, allocating necessary budget to the project from Malawi government, amending PDM to include soil conservation and bolstering perception of the project staff in PRODEFI concept and its realization.

The amendment of the PDM was successfully handled as mentioned in the preface. Besides, allocation of necessary budget by Malawi government has been put in place with the amount of MK10 million, and the Forestry Department is promising its commitment to sustain the budget during the project period. The commitment of the Forestry Department to the project should be highly appreciated.

The project is going to increase the number of villages in another two catchment areas of Matindi of TA Kapeni and Nkokodzi of TA Kuntaja. Accordingly, increase of PIU members become a requisite in some areas that are outside section of current PIUs. The project requested District Agricultural Development Office to approve an incorporation of two extension officers to COVAMS activity, and it was warmly granted.

On the other hand, staffing for the project management has not been sufficed. Indeed one Field Management Officer (FMO) was added to the previous situation that of two FMOs. Nevertheless, the officer could hardly find a time for COVAMS activity because of her commitment to other duties. However, the worry about short of staff will be soon dissipated because we hear that one management staff will be assigned in exchange of the busy officer.

Meanwhile, the project has a concern in realization of PRODEFI concept in terms of delivery of information inside a village. Utilization of information board was tried in some villages under COVAMS, but it was very poorly utilized by the villagers; probably they are not accustomed to it. To make sure the dissemination of information in a village, the project must try other means such as, use of variant groups in the village as information channels.

A new challenge has emerged with the mentioned imperative to the project. The 51 villages of 2009 the project dealt with, is still a dot (less than 1% compared to the area of the Middle Shire). It means that a hundred years will be required with the same pace to complete the whole area. PIU cored Lead Farmer system will probably allow the project to achieve its purpose written in the PDM. However, the gap between the PDM and the supreme goal of Malawi government is still huge. Hence more efficient operation system should be tried as far as there is a room for

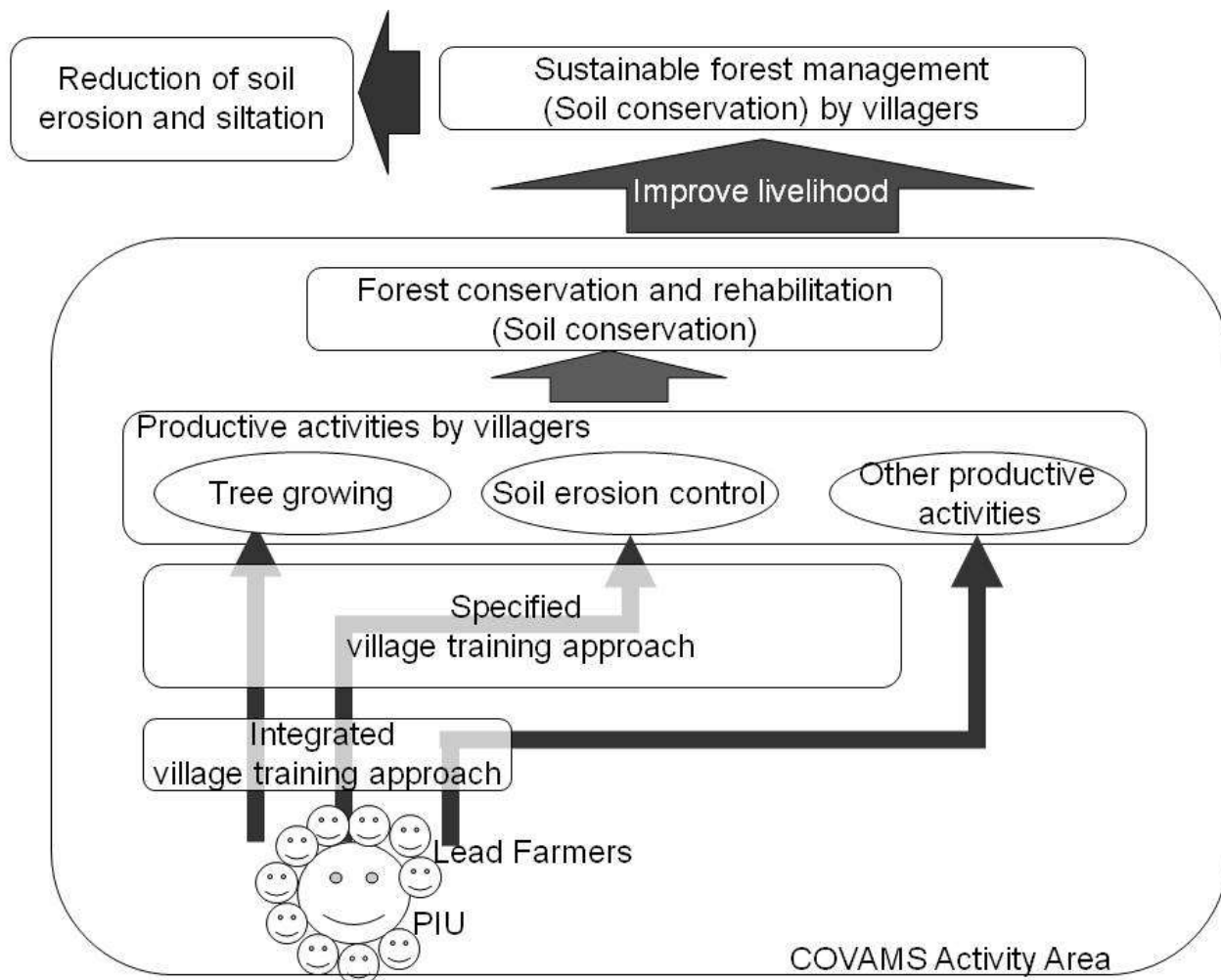
improvement, optimizing the limited resources, and an atmosphere to enable such trial should be created by both Japanese and Malawian sides.

Correlating with the expansion of the target area, manipulation of Lead Farmers will become a very critical factor. To achieve success manipulation, monitoring of the village activities by the project management as well as PIUs will be the key ingredient. Conducting appropriate monitoring should be kept in mind.

Mid-term Evaluation is scheduled this year. The workload of the project staff will be multiplied, so appropriate planning and its implementation must be well managed. At the same time, our wish is that the Mid-term evaluation can bring us further leap towards achievement of the Malawi's supreme goal.

Lastly, the project would like to express a great appreciation to PIUs' commitment to the project activities and support from project main body; Forestry Department and supporting organizations; Department of agriculture Extension, Department of Community Development, Blantyre District Assembly and JICA Malawi office and other officers concerned. Simultaneously, the project would like to request all the concerned officers for your continuous support and precious advice.

**Appendix 1 : COVAMS Concept**



## Appendix 2 : SVTA implementation Structure

