

**Republic of Malawi**

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

***Annual Report 2010***



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## 1. Preface

The year 2010 was the third year for the Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire (COVAMS) project and had been entered last half of the project period since June 2010. This annual report was produced in the same manner as the previous two reports in 2008 and 2009 to share information with officials and organizations concerned. The report describes the progress of COVAMS activities and achievement toward the objectives of the project. It is the hope that the report will help all the readers to understand COVAMS activities and achievements together with some difficulties on the ground.

In the year 2010, COVAMS activities could be divided into three groups. First group was the activities continued from year 2009 with 50 villages and 8 households. Second group was the new activities started in 2010 with additional 119 villages. The other group was project management related, especially midterm evaluation.

First group of the activities consists of training courses in soil erosion control, tree growing and gully control in SVTA and continued up to March 2010. As the result 1,654 households out of 4,965 practiced to set contour marker ridges and realigned planting ridges. Total area under this practice was estimated 307.7ha after sample survey of the plots.

From the project demonstration plots in Chuma and Chiwalo COVAMS could obtain good evidence to prove effectiveness of contour ridge planting in both soil erosion control and yield of crop. Chiwalo plots measured volume of soil prevented from erosion as  $13.4\text{m}^3/\text{ha}$  and increased yield of 3.2 times of maize harvest.

Volume of soil prevented from erosion could be estimated as  $4,100\text{m}^3$  from 307.7ha of gardens by applying the figure of  $13.2\text{m}^3/\text{ha}$ .

107 farmers were trained in 2010 to carry out soil erosion control training in their villages. After the season 93 of them performed well and fulfilled conditions to become qualified lead farmers. They received certificate at the lead farmers' plenary meeting held in April 2010.

In tree growing activities, PIUs from forestry sector and FMOs carried out tree growing training in the villages. The villagers organized themselves either in groups or individuals started seedling production after the training. Total Land Care collaborated in the supply of materials such as seeds, watering cans, and tubes for seedling production. Those raised seedlings were planted in the river banks and individual gardens and household. Total number of seedlings raised and out planed trees were reported 190 thousand and 110 thousand respectively.

COVAMS demonstrated counter measures to prevent growing of large gully at Mbawe stream in Chiwalo village. By the end of February 2010, 20 gabions, one stone filled wooden frame check

dam and several bank slope protection measures were set in the position. It was observed that all measures were working as expected.

Under IVTA activities, main training subject was beekeeping in this year. Four villages reached to the stage of harvesting honey.

In April 2010, COVAMS organized lead farmers' plenary meeting and presented certificates to qualified lead farmers. Village heads of 50 villages and Officers from district offices were invited to the meeting. Total number of participants was reached around 150. Selected lead farmers shared their experiences and result of practice as good yield of maize and effectiveness of soil erosion control with participants.

Second group of activities was new activities to start with additional 119 villages. At the start of the activities COVAMS had 4-day workshop in February to review activities in 2009 and to plan activities for 2010.

New activities started from sensitization meeting in all villages by using the examples of good yield and erosion prevention. COVAMS utilized some of the qualified lead farmers as resource person together with their village head to carry out sensitization meetings in the villages under minimum supervision of PIUs. This trial to use lead farmers as resource person for new villages was aimed at increasing efficiency in expansion of number of villages with the limited number of extension staff in the area. Under this trail, 80 new villages were selected and lead farmers conducted TOT as well to newly selected farmers as lead farmers.

To improve low participation in tree growing activities which were observed in 2009, COVAMS set tree growing lead farmers. About 350 tree growing lead farmers were elected from 169 villages and trained by Forestry PIUs and FMOs. COVAMS set gully control lead farmers as well to enhance gully prevention activities. Adding those two new lead farmers to soil erosion control lead farmers, in total 800 new lead farmers were trained and started their training in their villages.

In soil erosion control activities, adoption rate is not big as expected in the second year compare to the first year's adoption rate. It was more than 25% in the first year and the addition in second year was less than 10%. Total number of practicing households by the end December 2010 was around 5,000 households out of 20,000. The rate of adoption is about 25%.

In tree growing, there has been collaboration with Total Land Care, the same as last year. There were some difficulties in delivering of materials and tools in this year as well. Nursery management by group had also some difficulties in labour force management within the group of villagers.

There was a new development in tree planting this year. One villages head came out with strong desire to plant trees in a large area in his village. It was late to produce seedlings for coming

planting season, so COVAMS proposed direct sowing. Village accepted to try direct sowing and sowed seeds in December 2010. With favourable rain, germination was very good in that trial.

In gully control, elected farmers were trained by the end of December 2010 and they will start training for villagers in 2011 within this rainy season.

In IVTA, TOT in beekeeping for PIUs is in progress.

JICA and Malawian government jointly carried out midterm evaluation from late May to June 2010. Evaluation was followed JICA's five evaluation criteria and scored each of them fairly good. Joint evaluation team left the project with eight recommendations for further improvement of the project management and activities. Among the eight recommendations, most important one was 'Strengthening of the Collaboration and Implementation Structure in GoM'. This recommendation aims to secure sustainability of the soil conservation and tree growing activities based on the operational mechanism introduced by the project. COVAMS discussed the this matter with District Commissioner and came to an agreement to form a task force under District Environmental Sub Committee to plan how best the District will be able to expand the area in the soil conservation activities by mobilizing existing government structure.

In general, training courses and activities in the villages were carried out without big problem, although there were minor difficulties always. Several points were noted in the course of implementation such as small adoption rate in second year, different expectation within collaborating organizations and lack of motivation in tree growing. COVAMS should look into causes of those points and look for the countermeasures to improve situations.

Detail activities, achievement and challenges are described in following part of the report. It is the hope that the report will help you to grasp whole picture of the project and importance of the soil conservation and tree growing activities which contribute lot to the development effort of the nation.

## **2. Activity Plan 2010**

It was ascertained that the veer of approach in composition of training from Integrated Village Training Approach (IVTA) to Specified Village Training Approach (SVTA) has brought the project a significant result in the practicing ratio of the training subjects last season. With that impeccable result, the project decided to strain to increase the number of target villages in the rest of project period.

On the other hand, it was also observed with a fact that 5 out of 7 villages with IVTA achieved higher practicing ratio. It means that there was a tout ensemble in providing variety of training which accord with famers' needs. Hence, the project decided to continue IVTA with 9 villages to observe further development in vertical expansion of the villages.

With the above decision of the project, the previous plan, which was agreed in third JCC meeting, that the target areas in 2010 would be the remaining Lunzu Ntenjela and the new areas of Lunzu Matindi as well as Nkokodzi catchment was modified with more additional villages. As the result of the modification, whole area of northern part of those three catchments was included, and the total number of villages became 169 as the target villages of the year 2010.

The said northern part was allocated as a trial area to develop an effective operation in order to cope with a situation of shortage of extension staff in the middle Shire. An operation strategy was designed for the area that sensitization to the villagers and fostering LFs in each village of the area should be done by well performed LFs of the previous year. Additionally, one PIU for each TA of the area was allocated to monitor the LFs' activities and progress of the practice by the farmers as well as giving support in any aspect for the LFs. Each PIU of this area became in-charge of 35 and 45 villages in TA Kapeni and TA Kuntaja respectively.

Moreover, the LF operation for conducting training in a village was expanded to other training subject such as tree growing and gully control apart from the soil erosion control in order to provide farmers adequate training opportunities in these aspects. However, TOTs for LFs were to be conducted by the PIUs and FMOs for these subjects without exceptional area, because no skilled village resource person was fostered last year in these subjects.

Meanwhile, two more activities were planned for vertical expansion in the villages. One was to project LFs' plenary meeting to prompt their further commitment towards soil conservation activities by sharing their achievement as well as challenges with the fellow LFs and being recognized their endeavour in the activities by government officials. The other one was to utilize developed demonstration plot by the LFs efficiently by organizing Field day for those who did not practice.

Primary school linked sensitization in tree growing was also planned in order to promote understanding the linkage between trees and our livelihood for children as a trial with a few schools. The expectation was not prompt action by the villagers but rather long term steady movement in rehabilitation of the environment of the area.

The most de-emphasized activity was the resource coordination in the past two years. The cause attributes to the sifting of the approach. It was deemed that SVTA did not require for the villagers so much support in terms of resources. However, it was observed that the villagers have significant will in growing trees with some support of inputs such as seeds and other materials. Therefore, the project planned to give more attention to this activity, especially in tree growing. Besides, large scale gully control demonstration also took place in order to attract attention to other supporting organization. The activity needs enhancement, too in this matter.

Additionally, human resource development was planned in large scale gully control since the project introduced a method which seemed to be new to the concerned officers. The plan was to capacitate the concerned officers in assessing gullies and designing check dams according to the size of gully.

Apart from those activities, it was agreed to reinforce sending Malawian project staff to training courses abroad by availing general information earlier in the project office.

Lastly up loading of COVAMS' web site was a longstanding pending issue. The project should resolutely complete this issue this year.

### 3. Activity

#### PO0: Arrangement of project operation structure

Quarter	Activities
January – March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communication among Officials related to the project: The forth JCC meeting was held in Blantyre on 2nd March 2010. The participants visited some of the villages in the project site in the morning, and the JCC meeting was held in the afternoon.</li> </ul> <p>A steering Committee Meeting was held each month in this term.</p>
April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Publicity of the project activity To open a project home page of web site, necessary materials were prepared and sent to JICA office.</li> <li>● Project evaluation: Mid-term evaluation of the project was conducted from 26<sup>th</sup> May to 7<sup>th</sup> June by a team composed of Japanese and Malawian officials, headed by Mr. Hiroaki Endo from JICA head quarters and Ms. Stella Gama.</li> <li>● Communication among Officials related to the project: The 5th JCC meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June to present the result of the midterm evaluation. The result was presented by Ms. Stella Goma from Forestry Department.</li> </ul> <p>A Steering Committee Meeting was held each month in this term.</p>
July - September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support for expansion in other TAs by DC office The COVAMS management had a meeting with District Planning Director (DPD) of District Council to explain COVAMS activities of its procedure in August. After the meeting, District Commissioner (DC) invited COVAMS management to a regular District Executive Committee Meeting (DEC meeting) in order to explain about COVAMS activities to the DEC meeting members to initiate a discussion how the COVAMS activities would be integrated into DC activities.</li> <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</li> </ul>



	<p>Project home page was finally opened in July although it was only Japanese version.</p> <p>COVAMS newsletters Vol.2 and 3 were prepared and distributed to all the concerned officers.</p> <p>Project brochure was modified and distributed.</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 except December. The meeting of December was held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011.</li> <li>● Publicity of the project activity COVAMS home page English version was finally opened in December.</li> </ul>

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

Quarter	Activities
January – March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Selection of target villages: Upon seeing an impeccable percentage (30% as whole) as the first year in the practice of contour ridging by the farmers in the target area, the project management determined to strain for increase of target villages. The management proposed to target 169 villages which include previous 50 villages in 2010 in both TAs, and it was agreed upon by PIUs and JCC members. The rest of the villages in the two TAs will be included in 2011.</li> <li>● Preparation of training: Procurement and distribution of Vetiver grass to the farmers who conserved their gardens was delayed because of shortage of rain falls in Dec. 2009. Most of the procurement was done in Jan. and Feb. 2010. In January 2010, 25 villages received the Vetiver grass, while the rest received in February.</li> </ul> <p>Explanation meetings to TAs as well as Group village heads and Village heads on COVAMS activities in 2010 were held in both TAs in March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of training: Tree growing training (Out planting) was held in 2 villages in TA Kapeni and 4 villages in TA Kuntaja in January.</li> </ul> <p>Gully control training was held in all the target villages in March. The total number of participants reached to 1,129.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitoring</li> </ul> <p>Sample survey of contour ridging field practiced was started by the FMOs and the management staff. PIUs reported that 1,629 farmers practiced contour ridging in this planting season. Out of the number, 160 farmers were randomly selected as samples. The exercise was completed in March.</p> <p>A yield check of the project demonstration plot was done by sampling method in March 2010.</p> <p>Periodical PIU meetings were held in each month.</p>
April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preparation of training:</li> </ul> <p>Considering inadequate number of extension officers in the middle Shire area, a trial of utilizing Lead farmers (LF) as TOT trainer was planned and conducted.</p> <p>A screening of good performed LFs was done, and subsequently training for conducting sensitization meeting of COVAMS activity was held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2010. To be paid attention and respect by the recipient villagers to the LFs who were going to conduct the sensitization meeting, VHs were also invited to join the exercise.</p> <p>The sensitization meetings by the selected LFs and VHs were conducted in 45 villages in TA Kuntaja and 35 villages in TA Kapeni in April and May. During the meeting, the villages elected LFs for Soil erosion control and Tree growing. PIUs conducted also sensitization meeting for the new villages in their allocated villages in April. More than 6,000 people attended the sensitization.</p> <p>16 Field day using LFs' demonstration plot were conducted by some of the PIU members in April.</p> <p>Following the sensitization meeting, PIUs conducted TOT in soil erosion control for the LFs of the new villages in their allocated villages in May. After the TOT, they conducted a brush up course in soil erosion control for the LFs whose performance was good during the sensitization meeting. Those who attended the brush up course were given specific name as Senior LF (SLF).</p> <p>The SLFs started their TOT in soil erosion control for the allocated villages (the same 80 villages) in June.</p> <p>Tree growing LFs' TOT had also started by forestry PIUs and FMOs in May inviting newly elected LFs in tree growing at some key villages. The content of the TOT was on nursery establishment. Seedling production and Out planting TOT would be conducted separately. Several repetitions of the TOT were done for the absent LFs and it was finally completed at the end of May.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of training: SVTA: Training in manure making as a part of soil erosion control was started in several villages by the LFs in May.</li> </ul> <p>Training in beekeeping was conducted in Kamwendo, Mtema and Tmabala villages by PIU; Ms. Kalagho in May, and Salimu, Chitawira, Ndemanje, and Tambala in June.</p> <p>IVTA: Training in financial management was conducted in Tambala.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitoring A Lead farmers' plenary meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010, inviting all the Lead farmers and Village heads. During the meeting, opinion exchange by the Lead farmers and a citation of certificate for them was conducted.</li> </ul> <p>Monitoring of sensitization meeting conducted by LFs and VHs were done in April by the project management staff and 2 of PIUs in-charge of the areas.</p> <p>TOT in soil erosion control for the new LFs by Senior LFs was monitored as well as in May.</p> <p>PIU meeting was held twice every month.</p>
July – September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preparation of training: 15 sessions of second TOT in tree growing was held with contents of seed collection and out planting for the tree growing LFs.</li> </ul> <p>An explanation meeting in COVAMS activities for agricultural extension officers in – charge of additional villages was held with an intention that they were to conduct training in maize growing TOT for LFs in the areas.</p> <p>Agriculture PIUs prepared the contents of TOT in maize growing, and it was shared with other agricultural extension officers who were to conduct the TOT in maize growing in the additional 80 villages in July.</p> <p>TOT in maize growing was conducted 34 sessions by PIUs and agriculture extension officers.</p> <p>TOT in tree growing was also conducted 4 sessions for those who missed the first round of the second TOT.</p> <p>A meeting was held with Total Land Care (TLC) in order to obtain information on how</p>

	<p>they supply resources to the villagers; subsequently the information was distributed to the respective villages.</p> <p>Draft of handout for gully control was prepared by FMOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of training: Gully control training was done at Chinyama village and 7 check dams were constructed.</li> </ul> <p>Training in soil erosion control (contour ridging) was started in July by the LFs in many villages and continued throughout of this term.</p> <p>Training in tree growing was conducted by the LFs in two villages in August, and other villages followed in September.</p> <p>Training in beekeeping of bee suit making was conducted in Biyani village with the attendance of 31 villagers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitoring: PIUs monitored the progress of developing demonstration plot of the LFs.</li> </ul> <p>PIUs assisted lead farmers in their training of soil erosion control 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 erosion control in order to cope with the situation.</p> <p>FMOs monitored the training in soil erosion control in some villages conducted by LFs who were fostered by SLFs during this term.</p> <p>LFs' meetings were organized periodically by PIUs. Some group of the LFs have meeting twice in a month while others have once.</p> <p>Periodical PIU meetings were held twice every month in this term.</p> <p>Imputation of households list of all the target villages into computer was started.</p>
October - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preparation of training: Some of tree seeds for direct sowing were procured from Lilongwe.</li> </ul> <p>TOT for gully control LFs was conducted by the PIUs in December, although it was not all the area. The rest of the area will be conducted in January 2011.</p>

	<p>Preparation of project demonstration plot was initiated in early November and maize seeds were sown on 8<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of training: Training in soil erosion control and tree growing were continued by the LFs in their respective villages. The training in soil erosion control was ended up in November, while training of out planting in tree growing was started from December.</li> </ul> <p>Training of direct sowing in tree growing was also conducted in Kantumbiza village of TA Kuntaja.</p> <p>Training of fruit tree grafting was conducted in 14 villages by skilled PIUs in grafting in November.</p> <p>Training in beekeeping was conducted in 5 villages in November.</p> <p>Training in gully control was started in December by the LFs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitoring: Periodical PIU meeting was held twice a month in this term except December which held once.</li> </ul> <p>Imputing of household list was completed in November and checking of participants in all the training with the households list was started for preparation of payment of trainer's fee to the LFs.</p>
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**PO2: Capacity of the target villagers is enhanced to access necessary resources for productive activities including tree growing**

Quarter	Activity
April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Resource coordination: Blantyre Water Board and ESCOM were visited by FMO resource coordination to collect information regarding provision of support for the villagers.</li> </ul>
July - September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mbawe Gully countermeasure demonstration Damage assessment of built check dams was conducted.</li> <li>● Resource coordination Collection of detailed information as to the contents of application to the support was done from ESCOM and Carlsberg.</li> </ul>

October – December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mbawe Gully countermeasures demonstration</li> </ul> <p>Repairing of damaged check dams was implemented from October to November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Resource coordination</li> </ul> <p>DFO had a discussion with TLC as to provision of inputs in November.</p> <p>FMOs held a coordinating meeting with tree resource providers such as TLC and IGPWP to discuss the issue of early provision of inputs and commitment of their promise to the farmers in December.</p>
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**PO 3: Capacity of the counterparts is enhanced in supporting productive activities including tree growing**

Quarter	Activity
2010 January - March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Study trip: PIUs and FMOs including the project manager made a study trip to Salima district last Dec. 2009. The participants organized its presentation meeting in January.</li> <li>● OJT for capacity building of PIU: COVAMS review / planning meeting was held in February, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> to share and learn lessons from the previous experience and plan activity for 2010. The participants were the management staff and PIUs including 2 of newly appointed PIUs.</li> <li>● Capacity building in large scale gully countermeasures: Capacity building for FMOs in medium or large scale gully control was in progress at Mbawe gully in Chiwalo village.</li> <li>● Production of Guidelines A draft of guidelines for SVTA was completed and distributed to the project management staff for cross checking of the contents.</li> </ul>
April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● OJT for capacity building of PIUs: Brush up training in soil erosion control technologies for new PIUs was conducted for three days. The project requested to send trainers for District Agriculture Development Office for the same matter.</li> </ul> <p>One session of TOT in beekeeping was conducted for PIUs by Ms. Kalagho who was sent to Tanzania to learn more on beekeeping. However, the course has not been completed yet because of difficulty in coordination of date amongst the PIUs.</p>

July - September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● OJT for capacity building of PIUs:</li> </ul> <p>Fruit tree grafting training for the PIUs was conducted by FMOs. Some of the PIUs from agriculture could not attend so the repetition of the training was conducted in December.</p>
October – December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● OJT for capacity building of PIUs:</li> </ul> <p>COVAMS staff training in analysis on the reasons of none practicing farmers of 2009 villages and find ways forward, as well as brush up course in gully control for PIUs was conducted in November.</p>

#### 4. Achievement in SVTA

##### 4.1 Sensitization meeting

The project found 169 villages which include the 50 villages of the previous year after physical visitations by the PIU members in the targeted area, in short, 119 new villages in 2010. Out of 119 villages, 80 villages are named as additional villages of 2010, which are located in the northern part of TA Kapeni and Kuntaja, while the rest of 39 villages are named as 2010 villages in order to distinguish one another.

The project started from explanation meeting to the two Traditional Authorities on our activity plans in 2010. Having done the explanation, the TAs invited all the group village head (GVH) and village head (VH) of the villages in the target area to a sensitization meeting by the project management. After the above meeting, sensitization meetings for the villagers were conducted in the respective villages.

The sensitization meetings for the new villages were conducted by PIUs, while additional village were conducted by well performed LFs together with their VHs. Before the LFs and VHs conducted the sensitization meeting, the project held a two day supplemental training for them in explaining about COVAMS activity as well as its principles. The training was done without provision of day allowance except their transport and lunch in kind. The number of villages selected for this exercise was 11 villages from TA Kuntaja and 15 villages from TA Kapeni. One village allocated four villages in TA Kuntaja and two villages for TA Kapeni. The sensitization meetings by the village resources were completed by 18th of May 2010.

The PIUs who were assigned as in charge of the additional villages monitored their sensitization meeting adequately, and evaluated that most of the LFs and VHs performed impeccably and found that they were time conscious.

New LFs of the villages of 2010 in soil erosion control and tree growing were elected during the sensitization meeting. The details of the LFs are shown in the table below.

Category	TA	year	Gender	number	Total	G total
Tree growing	Kapeni	2010	Female	83	169	341
			Male	86		
	Kuntaja	2010	Female	85	172	
			Male	87		
Soil erosion control	Kapeni	2009	Female	31	179	
			Male	36		
		2010	Female	60		
			Male	52		
	Kuntaja	2009	Female	14	170	
			Male	15		
		2010	Female	70		
			Male	71		
Gully control	Kapeni	2010	Female	37	105	195
			Male	68		
	Kuntaja	2010	Female	23	90	
			Male	67		

The project asked the LFs to submit a households list of their own villages. The households list indicated the number of households of the target villages. The summary of the result is shown in the table below.

year	TA	No. of Villages	No. of H/H	Total	G. Total
2009	Kapeni	33	3,776	5,008	20,377
	Kuntaja	17 + 8 houses	1,232		
2010	Kapeni	52	7,268	15,369	
	Kuntaja	67	8,101		

#### 4.2 Soil erosion control

- Contour Ridging
- Continuation of 2009 activity
- ✧ Vetiver grass

Vetiver grass distribution was done in January and February for all the 50 villages of 2009. The total volume was 18 Lorries of 7tons, spending Mk1.02million for purchasing the grass, labour and transportation.

- ✧ Area survey



To assess the impact of the activity in soil erosion control, the project conducted area survey. The area survey was done by calculating the area of practiced field through simulation, taking about 10% of samples of practiced farmers in 2009. Since the total number of the farmers who practiced in their garden was reported as 1629, 160 farmers were selected as samples. The measurement of the field was done with pacing method by the management staff (6) of COVAMS. Out of 160 samples, 146 samples were completed its measuring. The incompleteness attributed to shortage of time due to other commitment. As a result, the total area which practiced the contour ridging in 2009 was estimated about 300ha.

#### ✧ Project Demonstration plot

In 2009, two demonstration plot was set up in Chiwalo village of TA Kapeni and Chuma village of TA Kuntaja. The main focus of these demonstrations is to assess the effectiveness of soil erosion control technology in prevention of erosion, secondary, to verify the difference in maize yields between conventional cultivation method and contour ridging method.

Data collection of eroded soil from the demonstration plot was done on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2010. The two results indicated that the effect of the contour ridging against erosion was outstanding since it prevented erosion almost perfectly, while conventional way was observed erosion with total volume of 0.67m<sup>3</sup> and 0.31m<sup>3</sup> in Chiwalo and Chuma respectively. In this respect, it can be said that the farmers who put erosion control technologies in place protected their soil with the volume of 4,100m<sup>3</sup> in 300ha.

Meanwhile, it was observed differences on maize yields in both demonstration plots. The difference was that contour ridging made 3 folds more than conventional way in Chiwalo, while 1.5 folds more with the same tendency in Chuma.

The detail was consolidated in a working paper No. 9 "The result of the project demonstration plot".

#### ✧ Recording of rain falls

There was very few data on rain falls of the target area. The data will show conditions of the area in tree growing as well as maize growing. With this sense, the project decided to measure it by asking villagers to record the rain falls with a rain gauge in several point of the area. The data collection was made through out the year and the result was compiled in the same working paper as above.

#### ✧ Field day

To accelerate increase of the number of practicing farmers in the 50 villages of 2009, PIUs suggested conducting Field day using the demonstration plot which was developed by LFs. The main contents of the field day was how much of impact will be expected in terms of maize yield

with contour ridging. Many of the LFs narrated that the yield increased 3 times more than the previous years.

However, it is difficult to say that it was effectively done because of the following two reasons;

- 1) The main target of this field day was those who did not practice last year though, not many non practiced farmers participated in.
- 2) Only 24 villages conducted the Field day.

The main reason that half of the villages did not conduct the Field day was attributed to inadequate communication by PIUs with the villages, while the reason of less non practiced famers' participation could be attributed to entanglement of several reasons, such as fear to realigning their ridges, shortage of fertilizer, little interest and so on.

- New activities for 2010

During the review and planning meeting of 2009 in February 2010, the PIUs recommended starting contour ridging activity in June while the soil is still somehow soft. Hence, it was agreed that the project should implement the necessary activities earlier than last year, aiming at June of the activity's commencement.

The sensitization meeting had completed middle of May, and the TOT had completed in June 2010. Hence the project was able to make all the preparation ready for conducting soil erosion control training by LFs by early July 2010 as planned.

- ✧ TOT for LFs

TOT in soil erosion control was conducted in two phases. The first phase was conducted in May by PIUs for the new villages of 2010, and the second phase was conducted by well performed LFs, which are named as Senior LFs (SLF), during the preceded sensitization meeting for the additional villages. The in charge PIUs of the area made an assessment of the sensitization meeting done by the village resources, and selected 12 village for Kapeni and 8 villages for Kuntaja to be a SLF. The rest were evaluated "inadequate performance". VHs were not included for this purpose because they were not trained in this subject.

Prior to the TOT by SLFs, the project provided the candidate SLFs brush up course in the relevant subject of 3days course. The brush up course was conducted by PIUs of Agriculture in Late May.

Early June, the SLFs started the TOT for new LFs in the additional area. The PIUs evaluated their performance as excellent after monitoring. With this result, the project was able to conclude that this SLF approach works effectively with remuneration for the work.

The total number of LFs trained in soil erosion control for the new villages of 2010 reached to 248 with 126 and 122 for female and male respectively, while 101 LFs (31 and 70 for Kuntaja and Kapeni respectively) were still working in the 50 villages of 2009. Since PIUs reported that all the

LFs had developed a demonstration plot with the erosion control technologies, it means that 248 demonstration plots for the new villages of 2010 were developed.

Addition to the contour ridging training, Maize growing training was planned to give to the farmers as supplement this year because it was observed last year that many of farmers who made manure after the training did not utilize the manure and some other practice for maize growing was not appropriately done.

For TOT of this maize growing purpose, the project attempted to ask collaboration from District Agriculture Department, especially for the northern part villages as the subject was purely agriculture. The department accepted the idea and introduced 13 extension officers (AEDO) who are assigned for the area to the project. Since they were not familiar with COVAMS activity, the project provided an explanation meeting for them on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Subsequently, explanation meeting in the maize growing training contents was held on 30<sup>th</sup> July with attendance of 10 AEDOs.

After all, 7 AEDOs implemented 9times of maize growing TOT (4 times by 2 AEDOs for TA Kuntaja and 5 times by 5 AEDOs for TA kapeni) in August. Since whole area was not completed by the AEDOs, PIUs in charge of the area conducted the training for the remaining villages.

✧ Training in soil erosion control and maize growing

The training in soil erosion control was started by the LFs in July and ended up in November (10<sup>th</sup> November was the last), while the training in maize growing started in October and ended up in December 2010. The total number of participants in soil erosion control was about 5,000 people both in TA kapeni and TA Kuntaja, hence 10,000 with almost the same number in gender (3,000 for Female , 2,000 for male) for both TAs, according to the report submitted by the LFs. On the other hand, the total number of participants in maize growing was 537 and 894 for TA Kapeni and TA Kuntaja respectively. However, the number might increase because the data of maize growing training was as of end of January 2011, which is according to the report submitted by the LFs.

The table below shows the result of training in erosion control and maize growing.

Topic	TA	Total participants	Female participants	Male participants	Grand total
Soil erosion	Kapeni	4,998	3,028	1,970	9,992
	Kuntaja	4,994	3,042	1,952	
Maize	Kapeni	537	232	119	1,431
	Kuntaja	894	604	290	

✧ Practice by the farmers

The number of famers who practice soil erosion control was very minimal in the previous 50 villages of 2009 against the project's expectation. The number of farmers of the 2009 villages, who

have practiced newly in 2010 was only around 300 households, hence the total number of households is now 1900, which gives 38% to the total number of households (5000) of 2009 villages. The number of villages which are close to 50% or above is now 24 villages. The project needs to remedy the contents of the training by figuring out possible obstacles for the farmers to practice.

On the other hand, the number of the new villages' practitioners was around 3,700 farmers, including LFs' gardens (253), which indicate around 24.6% of the entire number of households of the new villages. Although the ratio of practicing farmers was lower than the one of last year of 50 villages, it can be said that it was a good start for the new villages.

The project was expecting that the number of farmers who practice soil erosion control technologies would increase drastically in the previous 50 villages of 2009, because of pervaded information on increased yield of those who practice contour ridging as well as being seen actual fields whose excellent maize stand against erratic rain falls of the year by the farmers who have not practiced yet. However, the number of farmers who practice in those villages was very minimal, less than 10% increase to the entire households in the respective villages.

The result indicates that the fact that practicing contour ridging makes their maize growing prolific has not been permeated to the majority of the villagers yet. Moreover, it seems that the farmers who don't practice are not voracious in increasing their yield. Although the project faces such ticklish situation, it is necessary that the causes of farmers remained inertia should be delved and come up with a strategy in order to minimize stumbling block in practicing contour ridging in order to achieve the project aim.

- Gully Control

- Large scale gully

- ✧ Demonstration / OJT

The project put up a demonstration of check dams for large scale gully control at Mbawe gully in Chiwalo village. Through construction, two of FMOs were trained on the technology. Most of structures were put in place in 2009, and the completion was made in April 2010 by putting up of small checks for protection of gully bank slope. After the completion, damage survey was conducted in August and repair work like replacing poles which was damaged by termites was also done from November to December.

The purpose of the demonstration is not really to show it to the farmers but for resource coordination for the farmers. To serve the purpose, the project should invite planning level officers or donors so that it may help the farmers to be supported in construction of such structures.

Apart from OJT for the FMOs, the project planned to include an officer from the Land Resource of DADO office for training in large scale gully control. DADO office agreed with the idea but no officer has been assigned yet. Hence no training was conducted so far.

✧ Practice by village

Two villages, Chinyama and Siyandima villages, in TA Kuntaja requested assistance in construction of some check dams to medium scale gullies in their villages. The villagers of Chinyama village collected stones by themselves and the project assisted to construct check dams with some materials such as wire and poles as well as supervision to the work. Seven check dams were put in place.

This event should be appreciated because it was villagers' initiative. However, it seemed that the village had a fallacy as to the project concept. The villagers started to ask some payment for the work. They probably thought that this case would be the same as the one of Chiwalo village, although the FMOs and PIU in charge of this village explained that there would be no involvement of payment in the work. It became difficult for the project to analyse if it was their spontaneous will according to their needs or mercenary initiative.

Siyandima village has not done any stone collection since their request was made.

➤ Small scale gully control

✧ 2009 villages

Training in small gully control was supposed to be conducted by LFs of soil erosion control since they were trained on this issue. Nonetheless, the training for the villagers in gully control was done by PIUs. The plan was changed because of the following reasons;

① Necessity of brush up course for LFs

TOT in small scale gully control for LFs was conducted together with soil erosion control training in June 2009, and conducting training for the villagers by the LFs was scheduled from February to April 2010. In order for the LFs to conduct the training, brush up course was thought to be necessary. However, most of LFs were busy with their gardens especially weeding at the suitable time for the brush up course. So no brush up course was conducted.

② Limited time for conducting the training

The project reviewed on timing of implementation of the gully control training for the villagers in February 2010, and concluded it was better to do it while the participants would be able to see the effect, hence, March. Unfortunately, JICA account must be closed in middle of March, and JICA couldn't pay for the work which would be done beyond the account closing date. With this situation, the only period which allowed in conducting the training was for two weeks of the first half of March.

Since the time was limited, it was agreed that the training was to be conducted once only in every village only except on some large village. PIUs conducted the training from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of March and the total number of the training conducted was 53 times with total number of 1,129 participants. During the training, 381 small scale check dams were made by the participants. After the training, it was observed that some of the participants practiced the technology in their premises.

However, there was no follow up in counting number of practicing people in each village. Hence there is no available information on the practicing.

✧ 2010 village

LFs were to be elected two for each village but it was reconsidered to be one later on because of the work load expected. The election was done in most of the villages in November 2010 though some villages elected together with other LFs in soil erosion control and tree growing, so some villages had elected two LFs, while majority elected one only.

The TOT in small gully control was planned 30 times to be implemented and done 18 times in both TAs for 123 LFs in December. The rest is to be conducted in January 2011.

### 4.3 Tree growing

➤ Continuation of 2009 activity

Most of the 50 villages were able to raise tree seedlings in 2009 as groups and they participated in the subsequent training of “out planting”. The training itself was conducted by PIUs in 45 villages, giving most villages a chance of training with the total number of 975 participants.

One training opportunity in one village was instructed to PIUs, assuming that expected training participants would be only those who participated in tree seedling raising activity, although others could also participate in the training. The training focused on “compaction” and “Gliricidia planting”. Compaction was the focus because farmers don’t compact the soil around the seedlings enough when they transplant them, and that causes seedlings’ poor survival rate. Gliricidia planting was focused on planting in a farm land in order to improve the soil in terms of structure and fertility.

The table below shows the number of farmers who practiced tree growing and the number of seedlings raised and out planted. (Mkwapatira, COVAMS project third quarterly report 2009/2010)

Number of Individuals	Number of people in Groups	Seedlings raised by individuals	Seedlings raised by groups	Seedlings out planted
246	1,547	27,975	169,640	114,426

If the figures of individuals and groups represent households, it would indicate 36% of the entire households of both TAs practiced tree growing. It was not traced if the number represents

households or not but it can be assumed that around 30% of the households practiced tree growing in the planting season of 2009 / 2010.

The whereabouts of seedlings planted was not properly traced but PIUs reported that 12 villages did riverbank Afforestation. No natural regeneration practice was reported.

➤ New activities in 2010

✧ TOT for LFs

The training contents was reviewed and agreed that information of market for tree products should be included so that it may attract farmers' interest in tree growing. The information of market was combined to introduction part.

The training contents was divided into three parts; Introduction, Seedling production and Out planting. The introduction was composed of purpose, market information, seed collection while seedling production was with seed pretreatment, preparing potting mix, pot filling and seed sowing. Out planting was composed of spacing, pitting and out-planting.

Implementation of the TOT was planned in a way that introduction part should be conducted first and followed by the remaining; it means that the TOT was consisted of two parts. After completing the first TOT in May, the LFs were supposed to conduct training for the villagers though, none of training was observed after the first one. The reason was explained by LFs that no instruction was given by the management about when they could commence the training. It meant that there was a communication break between the LFs and the management.

The management decided to complete all the contents of the TOT; reviewing the previous part and the remaining parts, at one time and reorganized the TOT in July. 15 session of TOT was conducted and 343 LFs were trained in tree growing by PIUs of Forestry.

✧ Training for villagers

Training by LFs had started in July 2010 with the contents of introduction and seedling production. Training in out-planting was commenced in December 2010. Most of the participants formed a group for seedling production.

The number of participants is shown in the table below;

TA	Training	Number of participants			Number of seedlings
		Female	Male	Total	
Kapeni	Seedling production	1,095	599	1,694	210,000
Kuntaja	Seedling production	2,242	1,448	3,690	seedlings

The management was able to obtain the above information but it should not be assumed that those who joined to the seedling production would be all practitioners of tree growing because some were just joined as labourer.

According to the PIUs' report the number of seedlings raised in 2010 was around 210,000. It means that about 1200 seedlings were raised in each village, assuming all the villages did it.

The information on out-planting was not completed as of end of January 2011, so the estimation of the practitioners cannot be provided in this report.

Apart from the seedling planting method, direct sowing method was introduced to two villages which had an intension of Afforestation in large scale. One training was conducted by a FMO in December and the other was by a PIU in January 2011 with participants of 7 and 64 respectively. The two villages continued to expand the area.

#### ✧ Beekeeping

The project decided that beekeeping training should be included in tree growing activity so that the villagers would be encouraged to grow more trees. However, it is easy to guess that tremendous number of villages would request the training and the project has no capacity to deal with all the requests in terms of trainers and funds. With this reasons, the project set conditions on the beekeeping training that villages which want to request this training should engage in tree growing activities and have prepared enough planks by themselves for making at least one beehive.

While setting above conditions, the project also has been implementing to increase eligible trainers among PIUs through provision of TOT. A PIU who was sent for Tanzania in beekeeping training is selected to be the trainer.

Against the expectations that so many villages would request the training, only 3 villages, Ndemanje, Biyani and John Kwaja villages, requested and they received the training.

### **4.4 Resource coordination**

#### ✧ Clarification of the purpose and its activity

A meeting on resource coordination for the management staff was organized by chief advisor with an aim at clarification of the purpose and activity. Inadequate activity in the previous year was attributed to that it was not clearly shared among the staff as to what should be done on this issue.

As a result, the following things activities and purpose were confirmed and shared among the management staff;

Activities

a) List up of possible resource organization



- b) Collect information of their interest by visiting them
- c) Distribute the information collected to the target villages

**Purpose**

Avail information of resource organization for the farmers in order for them to access the resources.

✧ Visited resources

The FMO in charge visited the following organizations; ESCOM, Blantyre Water Board and Carlsberg.

As a result of the visits, it was found that the process to obtain their support takes time; hence it is necessary to start early of the year so that the farmers would be able to access it. Besides, the farmers need to write a proposal to access the resources. It means that PIUs must involve themselves in the process in terms of writing proposals, if not the farmers will be stranded.

✧ Accessed resources

The project collaborated with Total Land Care (TLC), a NGO, in provision of inputs such as tree seeds and tubes again. TLC provided the inputs for the groups which constructed a fence for seedling production for TA Kapeni of 76 villages and TA Kuntaja of 48 villages. Besides, One of EU programme (Income Generating Public Works Programme) supported some of 20 villages (TA kapeni of 5 villages and TA Kuntaja of 15 villages) with inputs. Eventually 144 target villages were supported in tree growing activity.

**4.5 Achievement in IVTA**

Nine villages are under IVTA out of 169 villages in the target area. The training conducted for these villages were shown in the table below;

Training theme	Villages	subject
Beekeeping	Kamwendo	Honey harvesting
	Mtema	
	Tambala	Honey harvesting and business management
	Chitawira	
	Salimu	
Kuchombo	Introduction to beekeeping and making necessary equipment including beehives	
Fish farming	Chuma	Business management

#### 4.6 Achievement in other activity

##### Study trip

Study trip was planned at the planning stage but it was not carried out because of no fund allocation from Malawi government side.

##### C/P Training

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

Name	Period	Title	Recipient	Position
Mr. F. A. B. Mpate	Aug 22-Nov 13, 2010	Forest and watershed conservation with participatory approach	JICA Tokyo	Field Management Officer (Resource Coordination)/ PIU
Mr. F. A. W. Khozi	Oct 18- Nov 19, 2010	Mitigating climate change in Africa through social forestry	Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya	Assistant Regional Forestry Officer
Mr. S.B. Mbewe Mr. M. J. L. Thole Miss E. Mwachumu	Nov 3- Nov 27, 2010	Supporting regional development by utilizing local natural resources	JICA Chubu	PIU
Mr. Mkwapatira	Nov 14-Dec 4, 2010	Promotion of <i>Satoyama</i> initiative; Biodiversity conservation and rural development through the sustainable management of natural resources	JICA Hokuriku	Project Manager

**Seminar / Reporting meeting / Workshop/**

1. PIU Annual Review Workshop

Date: February 8-12, 2010

Target: PIU / COVAMS management staff

Purpose: To review project activities and make a work plan

2. The 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

Date: March 2, 2010

Target: JCC Members and COVAMS management staff

Purpose: To report project progress and a plan

3. Lead Farmers Plenary Meeting

Date: April 7, 2010

Target: Lead Farmers, Steering Committee Members and PIU/COVAMS management staff

Purpose: To certify Lead Farmers and share their experience of activities

4. The 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

Date: June 7, 2010

Target: Mid-term review team, JCC Members and COVAMS management staff

Purpose: To share the report of Mid-term review team

5. COVAMS Staff Training

Date: November 25, 2010

Target: PIU / COVAMS management staff

Purpose: To analyze causes on low practicing ratio by farmers and discuss on possible solution

6. Training report meeting

Date: December 10, 2010

Target: Steering Committee Members, PIU/ COVAMS management staff

Presenter: Mr. Mpate, Mr. Khozi, Mr. Thole, Miss Mwachumu, Mr. Mbewe and Mr. Mkwapatira

**Mid-term evaluation team**

Date: May 24 – June 9, 2010

Members: (Malawian side) Mrs. S. Gama, Mr. S. Mkwinda, Mr. R. Njewa

(Japanese side) Mr. H. Endo, Mr. Y. Arai, Mr. D. Saito, Mr. T. Gomi

Purpose: To evaluate project activities and make recommendation

## **Public Relations**

### ① COP 10 Africa Preparation meeting

Date: September 16-17, 2010

Place: Gabon

Purpose: Introduction of COVAMS Project in the side event which organized by JICA

Participants: Mrs. C. M. Chauluka, Mrs. S. Gama and Ms. M. Kawamoto

### ② Fair on Experiences and Best Practices in Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

Date: October 22, 2010

Place: Nagoya Congress Centre, Japan

Purpose: Presentation on experiences of COVAMS Project in the side event of COP10 which organized by JICA

Participants: Mrs. S. Gama (Assistant Director of Forestry)

### ③ Boosting the World's Forest Cover, Highlighting Japan November 2010, p16

## **5. Project Budget**

### **5.1 JICA budget**

The expenditure of MK21,645,406.41 on the Project activities from January to December 2010 was made by Japanese side. The amount of donation of Equipment and Machinery were MK1,267,324.40 in 2010 fiscal year.

### **5.2 Malawi Government budget**

The expenditure of MK 7,662,155.43 on the Project activities from January to September 2010 was made by Forestry Department.

## 6. Visitors

Date	Visitor	Purpose	Attendants
2010.6.23	Ms. A. Sakimura JICA Malawi	Field Visit	Mr. Sato
2010.7.9	Mr. N. Koga Appropriate Agriculture International Co.LTD	Field Visit	Mr. Sato
2010.8.18	Millennium Challenge Account	Briefing of COVAMS activities and discussion	Mr. P.M.H. Mkwapatira
2010. 8. 23	The group of 16 people from Machinga District comprising of the District Forestry Officer Machinga , 5 officers, 3 Group village heads and 7 villagers.	Field visit	Mrs. C. Chauluka Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. J.J. Chigwiya Ms. M. Kawamoto
2010. 10.6	Mission of Sustainable Land Management Promotion Project, JICA Headquarters and JICA Malawi	Information collection Field visit	Mrs. C. Chauluka Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. A. Sato Mr. H. Kanazawa Ms. M. Kawamoto
2010.12.14	Mr. K. Saito The Resident Representative, JICA Malawi	Information collection Field visit	Mrs. C. Chauluka Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. A. Sato

## 7. Project staff

### 7.1 Long term expert / Short term expert

Name	Position	Period
Akira Sato	Chief Advisor	2007.11.5 – 2012.11.4
Hiroyuki Kanazawa	Rural Development Advisor	2007.11.12 – 2012.11.4
Mika Kawamoto	Project Coordinator	2007.11.5 – 2012.11.4

## 7.2 Malawian staff

Name	Position in Government	Title in COVAMS	Period
Mrs. C. Chauluka	Regional Forestry Officer (S)	Project Director	2008.4 – present
Mr. P. Mkwapatira	Deputy 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. Kumbaniwa	Forestry Assistant	Field Management Officer	2008. 5 – 2010.3
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	FMO (resource coordination) / Project Implementation Unit	2008. 5 – present
Mr. C.G.C. Bauleni	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, Kuntaja)	2008. 1 – 2010.9
Mrs. L.A. Banda	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, Kapeni)	2008. 1 – present
Mr. W.W. Chinzkira	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

Name	Position in Government	Title in COVAMS	Period
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
Mrs. E. Chasowa	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, Kuntaja)	2010.2 — present
Mr. P. Mphande	Forester	Project Implementation Unit	2010. 4 — present
Ms. E. Mintanje	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit	2010.7 — present
Mr. M. Lipenga	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, Kuntaja)	2010.10 — present
Ms. J. Mbandambanda	Driver	Project Driver	2008. 2 — present
Mr. H.L. Chiwaya	Driver	Project Driver	2007. 11 — Present
Mr. P.S. Phiri	Driver	Project Driver	2009. 4 — Present

## 8. Project products

No.	Name	Month	Author
1	Specified Village Training Approach and its procedures	April 2010	J.J. Chigwiya H. Kanazawa
2	The result of trial on Specified Village Training Approach	June 2010	J.J. Chigwiya H. Kanazawa
3	The result of the project demonstration plot	June 2010	C.C. Masanjala A. Sato H. Kanazawa
4	COVAMS Guidelines for SVTA	June 2010	P. Mkwapatira H. Kanazawa
5	COVAMS Annual Report 2009	February 2010	Project management staff
6	Project brochure (revised version)	October 2010	H. Kanazawa

## 9. Activity plan for 2011

The following activities are planned for 2011

- ① COVAMS review meeting (February )
- ② Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting (February)
- ③ Monthly lecture for the project staff including trainees' feedback
- ④ Lead farmers' Plenary meeting (April)
- ⑤ SVTA implementation in TA Kapeni of 115 villages and TA Kuntaja of 135 villages (January – December)
- ⑥ COVAMS Seminar (periodical)
- ⑦ Annual report



## **10. Challenges of the project**

Plenary meeting of lead farmers in April was explained in preface of the report. At the meeting all 107 trained lead farmers and 51 village heads, together with government officers concerned and guests were invited. Total number of participants was about 170. Presence of number of people has the power of persuasion on the issue which COVAMS is tackling on. Next plenary meeting is scheduled in April 2011 and it will be huge meeting with more than 1,000 people with 800 lead farmers, 169 village heads and officers and guest from various sectors. It will be a very good chance to publicize the project and activities in the villages. COVAMS has to prepare well for the meeting.

Project implementation structure has been improved in terms of human resources as vacant position of FMO has been filled. In total three FMOs are working in training, monitoring and resource coordination. Extension officers have been increasing year by year and it became 16 extension officers by the end of 2010.

Funding from Malawian side was realized part of it and expenditure process was changed from previous year. There was some confusions in the process and delayed some time. It is a hope that all concerned departments and ministries in the process of funding will recognize COVAMS as important project for the nation and try to take burden for the implementation of the activities.

Monitoring of the activities was done twice in a month through PIU meetings. It was observed that PIUs need to improve their monitoring point of view and skills since most of PIUs tend to report numbers and quantified achievements without mentioning of process of implementation, cause of delay and difficulties to improve situations. One example is small increase of adoption rate in second year and it needs to dig out true reasons to improve adoption rate in order to achieve the project objectives.

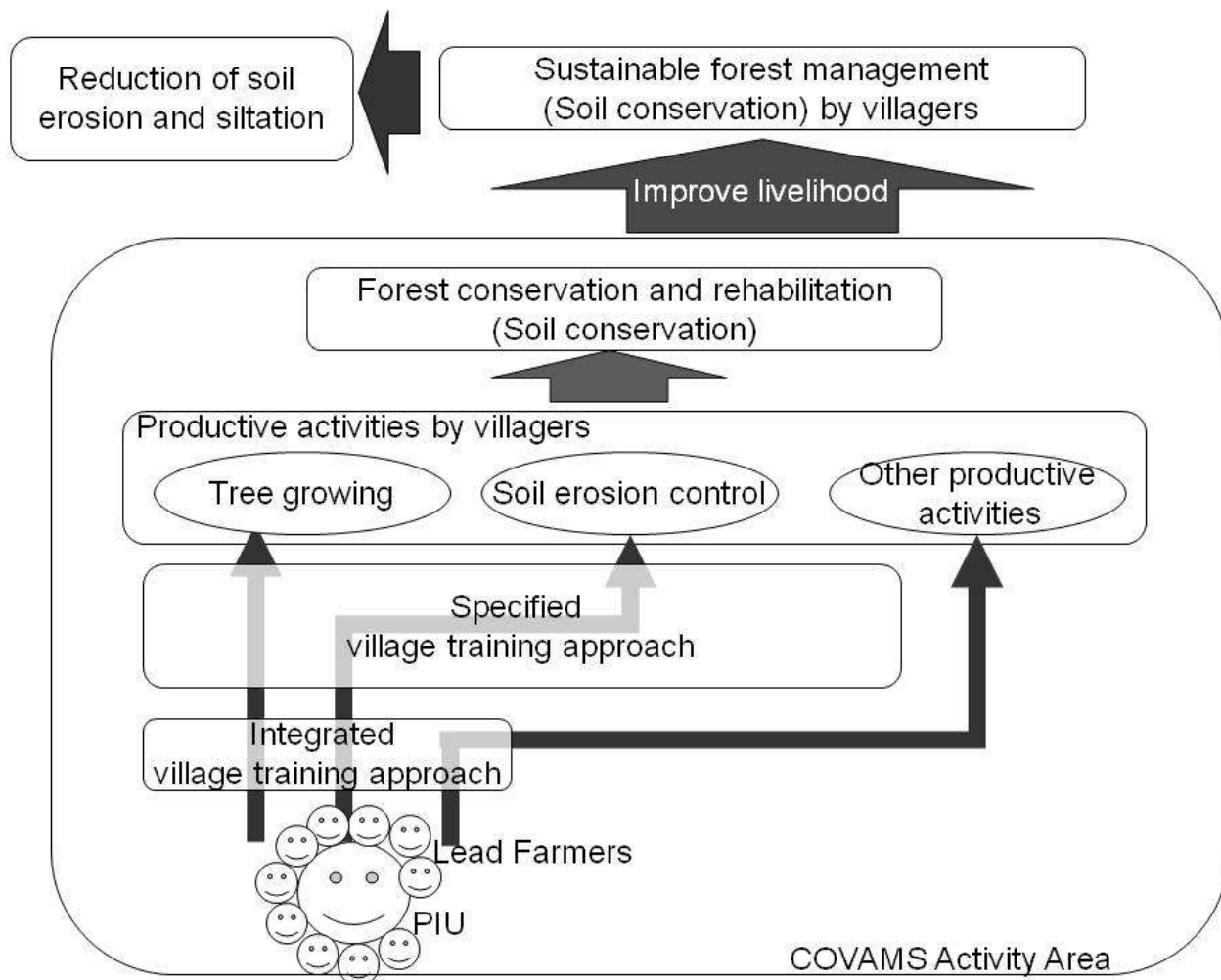
Review workshop was held from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011. AEDCs from Lunzu EPA and Kuntembwe EPA attended throughout the programme and contributed a lot. They are the immediate supervisors of the AEDOs. This was first time for AEDCs to attend the workshop and will enhance working relationship between the project team and the AEDCs. It was a big step for institutionalizing COVAMS activity into government structure from the view point of sustainability.

Implementation set up and surrounding circumstance of the COVAMS is gradually improving, therefore, COVAMS needs to make more effort how to improve achievement rate and to secure sustainability of the soil conservation and tree growing activities after project period.

Lastly, COVAMS would like to express a great appreciation to PIUs for their commitment and efforts to achieve such great progress, and expect their continuous effort to accelerate progress toward end of the project period. Many appreciations go to implementing and collaborating

government departments, District Council, public corporations, NGOs, and other organizations of Malawian side and JICA Malawi office and Japanese embassy for their tireless support and precious advice.

**Appendix 1 : COVAMS Concept**



## Appendix 2 : SVTA implementation Structure

