



Newsletter

CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE AGRICULTURAL REVIVAL

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Sharing bottleneck issues on rice sector

'Agricultural Inputs', 'Pure Rice Seed', Training (Extension), 'Seed Propagation and Marketing', and 'Agricultural Machinery and equipment' were proposed by Mr. Mohieldin Ali Mohammed (National Rice Coordinator, National Rice Project, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation) as the current prioritized bottleneck issue in rice production's value chain from seed production, cultivation, harvest and marketing in the 1st Rice Sector Development Forum at Al Salam Rotana Hotel on February 17, 2013. These proposed issues were categorized based on seven presentations by the resource persons and the discussion among 155 participants. Stakeholders from both private and government sectors including international and foreign community shared current situation in rice sector development. It was also proposed to have a follow-up meeting that would be chaired by Dr. Rodwan Mohammad Ahmed (Minister of Agriculture, Sennar State) one week after the Forum.

The forum opened by Mr. Hiroyuki Mori (Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Sudan Office), Mr. Ryoichi Horie (Japanese Ambassador in Sudan) and Dr. Gafer Ahmed Abdallah (State Minister, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation). After opening session, the seven resource persons made their presentation as follows; (1)'Purpose of the Forum and National Rice Development Strategy as the basic framework of the rice sector development' by Mr. Osamu Nakagaki (JICA-Chief Advisor for Capacity Building Project for the Implementation of The Executive Programme for the Agricultural Revival), (2)'Main issues in National Rice Development Strategy' by Dr. Salah Mohamad Elawad (Head of Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Khartoum), (3)'Current progress of rice development and bottleneck issues on rice cultivation and post harvest based on the experiences of National Rice Project in Sudan' by Mr. Mohieldin Ali Mohammed (National Rice Coordinator, National Rice Project, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation), (4)'Progress of rice development and bottleneck issues on rice cultivation and post harvest based on the experiences in the JICA's Project' by Mr. Akio Goto (JICA Rice Cultivation Expert for Capacity Building Project for the Implementation of The Executive Programme for the Agricultural Revival), (5)'Profitability of rice production in Gezira experience' by Mr. Ahmed Elamien Abass (Head of Rice Promotion Unit, Gezira State Ministry of Agriculture), (6)'Research activities on rice in Sudan' by Prof. Ahmed Tijani Mustafa (National Rice Research Coordinator, Agricultural Research Corporation), and (8)'Involvement of private sector in rice production' by Mr. Ali Gadoom El Ghali (Agricultural Technologies Transfer Manager, Central Trading Company)

Mr. Abdalla Mohamed Osman Mohieldin (Minister of Agriculture, Gezira State), Mr. Mohieldin Ali Mohammed and Mr. Osamu Nakagaki chaired the final discussion to specify and prioritize bottleneck issues to develop rice sector in Sudan and to form a working group to formulate a roadmap to tackle and solve the bottleneck issues on rice sector development.

Prof Zubair Bashir Taha, (Governor of Gezira State) closed the Forum with saying that he thanked the participants for their contribution to this forum, adding that he was keen to attend the closing session in order to be informed about its outcomes. He affirmed commitment of Gezira State to implement all recommendations of the forum. He also thanked the Federal Ministry of Agriculture for its contribution in the forum together with JICA and Gezira State. Responding to a question asking the reason to take care of rice sector, Prof. Zubair, said that they believe in the economic visibility of rice in Gezira, since rice will not be cropped at the cost of other crops.



Closing by Prof Zubair Bashir Taha (Governor of Gezira State)



Mr. Nakagaki, Mr. Abdalla and Mr. Mohieldin as the chairpersons for final discussion (from the left)



Agricultural Ministers from Sennar and Gedaref States, representative of Sudan Office of The Arab League



Opening remarks by Mr. Mori, Mr. Horie and Dr. Gafer



150 participants from private and government sectors attended at the Forum



Mr. Nakagaki, Dr. Salah, Mr. Mohieldin and Mr. Goto as the presenters (form the right)



Mr. Ahmed, Mr. Ando, Mr. Ali and Prof. Ahmed as the presenters (form the right, Mr. Ando is the computer operator)



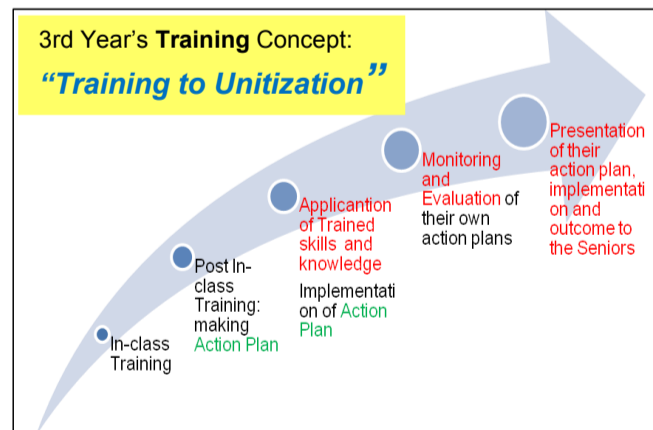
Outstanding discussion by very positive participants

Achievement of 'Training to Utilization' in work places

The participants from Quality Control Unit, FMoAI, formulated their own action plan during the 'Quality Control' Training (the individual advanced training course). The objective of the plan was to improve agricultural information system of the Unit. After that, they implemented the planned activities (On the Job Training). Their activities fulfilled improvement of the Unit's library and electric library system. Since Mr. Mohammed Hassan Jubara (Undersecretary, FMoAI) recognized that the planned activities were very necessary to activate the role of the Unit, he allocated some budget to support their activities. In 2012, the 21 action plans were implemented within 23 action plans in total which were formulated through implementation of the three advanced training, namely Quality Control, Strategic Management and Agricultural Policy Formulation conducted by the Project. This year's main Training concept of 'Training to Utilization' has been materialized through all action plan implementation.



Innovated library in Quality Control Unit



Better coordination in Horticulture Sector Administration (HSA), FMoAI through the Task Team activities

The staff working in Horticulture Sector Administration (HSA), FMoAI, recognized that better communication and more interactions among staffs created better coordination in their works. Through the implementation of the planned activities, they are overcoming generation gaps among staffs which was realized as a main issue one year before. This change was created by the staffs working with 'The Task Team' in the HSA. The HSA Task Team in a team of three teams which were formulated as the activity for 'Organizational Capability Building' through 'On The Job Training (OJT)' of the Project in 2012 (the 3rd year of the Project). The HAS Task Team planned three activities, namely Weekly monitoring meeting, social activities and software training, in order to improve staff performance in coordination and monitoring and evaluation in 2012.

In the beginning of 2012, the Project facilitated formulating a task team in Planning and Agricultural Economics Directorate (PAE), Technology Transfer and Extension Administration (TTEA) as well as HSA of FMoAI respectively. At that time, the Project suggested to set a clear objective and activities in the action plan which should be based on "Zero cost management" concept. The concept indicates to utilize available resource as much as possible instead of waiting for any outside resources.

After the monitoring of the activities implemented by HAS, PAE and TTEA, the Project team recognized that 'Organizational Capability Building' can be realized if some people in the organization work as the change agent.



Joint Hands toward Future

State Ministers of Agriculture learnt rice industry in Japan

Starting from October 27, 2012 to November 5, 2012, the Sudanese top management level of officers conducted study trip to learn rice industry in Japan under JICA's specialized programme. The five Ministers of Agriculture of Gezira State, Sennar State, Gedaref State, White Nile State and Northern State and Director General of International Cooperation and Investment and National Rice Coordinator of Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Director General of River Nile State Ministry of Agriculture, accompanied by Mr. Osamu Nakagaki (chief advisor for the Project) learnt technology to sustain the rice industry and work attitude toward tackling any issues in Japan. They were expected to become core to push forward rice sector development in Sudan.

The Sudanese team visited Ministry of Agriculture, Hyogo Prefecture Government, Hyogo Agriculture College, Hyogo Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery Technology Center, Bansyu Agriculture Machinery Company, Japan Agriculture Cooperative (Rokko) and its Rice Milling Center, Kobe Central Market, Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd., as well as JICA Headquarter in Tokyo.



Bansyu Agriculture Machinery Company



Health & Crop Sciences Research Laboratory, Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd



Japan Agricultural Cooperatives in Hyogo Prefecture

Federal Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation surprised at farmers growing rice

Dr. Abdul Halim Ismail Al-Mutafi, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, visited and observed at one of the demo sites, Block 99 in Rahad Scheme in Gezira State on November 12 2013. He realized farmers' ability to cultivate upland rice by direct observation and talking with the rice farmer. Mr. Osamu Nakagaki showed and explained milled rice to him as well.



Mr. Nakagaki showed and explained the milled rice



Minister, FoAI talked to a rice farmer.

Soon, rice milling will start in Gezira

Two rice milling machines in Hasahisa Extension Center and another two machines in Fadasi Extension Center in Gezira State are being set up. In the end of February, the machines were carried in the both offices buildings after constructing rough paddy cleaning area, cleaned paddy storage area, machine installation and working area, milled rice storage and distribution area and husk yard area in each site. The construction work has been done according to the manual on Rice Post Harvest Technology which was prepared by Mr. Ahmed Elameen Abass, Mr. Ashraf Abdalkhalig and Mr. Omer Badi (Staff of Rice Promotion Unit of Gezira State Ministry of Agricultural) with technical advice of Mr. Tokumoto (JICA Expert) in November 2012.

According to Mr. Ando (JICA Rice Expert), the rice milling machines will be operated after installation of 3 phases electricity by Gezira State Ministry of Agriculture.



Two rice milling machines were carried in Hasahisa Agriculture Office

Gezira and Japan celebrate rice harvest at Rice Field Day



Gezira State Ministers of Agriculture (left), Mr. Prof Zubair Bashir Taha (Center), Mr. Ryoichi Horie (Right)

Prof Zubair Bashir Taha, Governor of Gezira State and Mr. Ryoichi Horie, Ambassador of Japan, celebrated rice harvest on November 13, 2012 at one of the demo sites, Block 99 in Rahad Scheme in Gezira State. They enjoyed harvesting rice by combine and observed milling rice. State Governor remarked that he has the intension to expand upland rice cultivation area up to 300,000 feddans with the cooperation of JICA.



Prof Zubair Bashir Taha, operated the combine and Mr. Ryoichi Horie sat beside Prof. Zubair.



Ceremony of the Field Day

Yield of rice in 2012 season in Gezira State

Demo Site	Area (Fed)	Yield (Whole Area) (Kg/ha)	Yield (Whole Area) (Kg/Fed)	Yield (Sampling) (Kg/ha)	Yield (Sampling) (Kg/Fed)
Amara Taha (1)	4	2552	1070	2728	1146
Abu Juwali	4	3112	1310	3957	1662
Al garia 44 Block 9 Rahad Scheme	5	3125	1316	3192	1341
Wad Al Naim, Gezira Scheme	4	3371	1412	4571	1820
GozAlhead	4	2659	1200	3102	1303

Cost & Benefit of rice production in 2012 Gezira experience

Crop	COST (SDG)/Fed.	Total benefit SDG/Fed.	Net benefit SDG/Fed.
Sorghum	1120 (830)	2500 (1740)*	1380 (910)
Grand nuts	1050 (840)	3300 (2249)*	2250 (1400)
Rice	1455 (948)	3650 (3600)	2195 (2652)

(Data estimated by Gezira SMOA. Data in blanket shows estimation in 2011.) *: including crop residues

8.2 ton/ha = 3.5ton/feddan (Yield measured by sampling in field trial shows NERICA-4's genetic capability)

Capacity of the officers in Federal Ministry of Agriculture was up.

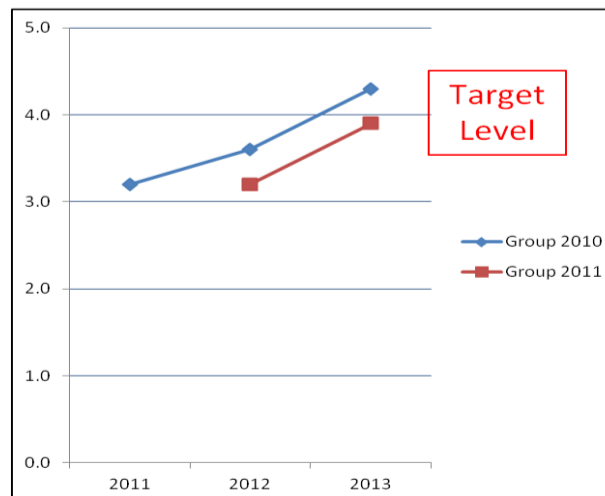
The aggregated result of Capacity Assessment (CA) to the alumni of the individual trainings shows that the Group 2010 (4.3) cleared the Target level, and Group 2011 (3.9) almost reaches to it.

The results was obtained by CA Workshop which was conducted in each Directorate along the schedule as follows;

(1) 16 attendances from PAE on 28 January, 2013, (2) 28 attendances from HSA on 29 January, 2013, (3) 29 Attendances from TTEA 30 January, 2013, and (4) 19 attendances from ICI, TU and other officers in FMOAI.

The CA in this time aimed to assess to what extent the participants recognized their achievement in 2012. In order to collect data as much as possible, the Project asked CB working group member to collect the CA sheet from the absentees to the workshop.

- PAE :Planning and Agricultural Economics Directorate
- HSA :Horticulture Sector Administration
- TTEA :Technology Transfer and Extension Administration
- ICI :International Cooperation and Investment Directorate
- TU: Training Unit



Indicators of Capacity Assessment

Level 5: To utilize the capacity for project work and make countable positive Impact

Level 4: To utilize the capacity for daily work

Level 3: To have skill and knowledge

Level 2: To have interest

Level 1: Do not have any interest



Capacity Assessment (HSA)

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