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Big Expectation toward higher yield of upland rice in Sennar State

The beginning of July is the time to prepare lands and sow the upland rice seed on demonstration farms in 6 States namely, Gezira, Sennar, Gedaref, River Nile, Northern and White Nile State. (Rice cultivation work stage may shift to control weeds when this article will be on the next newsletter published by the Project.) This report is written based on what we observed and learnt in Sennar State on July 3, 2013.

It was 8 o'clock to visit to the office of Dr. Rodwan Mohammad Ahmed, Agricultural Minister of Sennar State, in Singa, Sennar State. Immediately after we met Dr. Rodwan, he took us to the Governor's office to introduce us to Eng. Ahmed Abass M. Seed, Governor of Sennar State.



Eng. Ahmed Abass M. Seed (Governor), Dr. Rodwan Mohammad Ahmed (Sennar Minister of Agriculture) and Mr. Osamu Nakagaki

Mr. Nakagaki explained to the Governor that; 'Sennar State has started upland rice cultivation on two demonstration farms at Mairuno and Kassab since the year of 2012 but added other 3 demonstration farms for the year of 2013 at Wad Hashim, EL Marfaa and Kassab. Extensionists who were/will be trained in Uganda and Egypt are working with farmers on the each farm mandated by Dr. Rodwan. Target yield of each farm for this second year is to harvest 3 ton per hector (ha), although the

target of Gezira State is 4 ton per ha.'

The Governor replied;

'Thanks for JICA to assist Sennar States for water supply, public health and rice as well. We are making an effort to produce rice in Sennar State, and expect JICA's support to improve rice production in Sennar State.'

We recognized that the Governor already understood well about rice production activities in Sennar State, although this is first time met and talked with the Governor. It is proof that Dr. Rodwan reports to the Governor about rice production activities in Sennar State from time to time and the Governor properly grasp reality on the rice fields.



Seed driller operated by supporters from Gezira State at EL Marfaa demonstration farm (2.5 feddans). Dr. Rodwan and Mr. Nakagaki observe its work.

After visiting to the Governor, Dr. Rodwan accompanied us to EL Marfaa demonstration farm (2.5 feddans) where mechanical sowing by seed driller was being operated. The operation was assisted by engineers and operators from Gezira State because staff in Sennar State has not been accustomed to operating the sowing machine. We observed the sowing operation for one hour on the farm until it was over. Land levelling and sowing was well-done comparing with

first experience last year, according to Mr. Goto, JICA Rice Expert. After the operation was over, Dr. Rodwan got the extensionists, farmers and staff of Sennar Agricultural Ministry closed up around him and encouraged them by saying that all of you were expected to endeavor altogether to reach the yield target of 3 ton/ha on 5 demonstration farms.



Mairuno demonstration farm (2.5 feddans)

We visited another demonstration farms at Mairuno (2.5 feddans) and Wad Hashim (2.5 feddans) accompanied by Mr. Ahmed Beda (Head of Irrigational Scheme department, Ministry of Agriculture in Sennar State),



Dr. Rodwan gave orders to staffs and farmers at EL Marfaa demonstration farm (2.5 feddans) after sowing operation.

after Dr. Rodwan excused us to work something for the Governor. Seed sowing has not been conducted because land preparation works were still on-going and irrigation did not work. At both farms, Mr. Goto confirmed further works that would be operated by the extensionist in charge of the farms. All extensionists were eagerly discussing with Mr. Goto to grasp the core points of upland rice cultivation. Seriousness toward rice production was improved totally comparing with last year but a matter of regret was that nobody was taking

a note what they confirmed, according to Mr. Goto. Taking a note and checking the handbook on upland rice cultivation is very basic style for field work as Mr. Goto always doing. We expect all extensionists can learn a lot of things even from what Mr. Goto's daily behaviors in the rice field and office. (continued on following page)



Mr. Goto and extensionists confirmed further works at Wad Hashim demonstration farm (2.5 feddans).

Joint Hands toward Future

Finally, we visited two demonstration farms at Kassab (2.5 feddans X 2 farms) with Mr. Ahmed Beda. Surprisingly, very well-prepared and plotted rice farms were observed. In addition, we observed manual sowing with 'Karak' (a forked-rake for rice drill-planting) being done by Mr. Elzein Mohammed Hamid Mohammed who is the leader of the extensionist assigns to the farms. He said that 'I do not know how to use sowing machine but I can sow seeds by hand. Proper sowing time is very important.' He was sowing seeds on 2.5 feddans well-levelled farm. Three 'Karak's were made by local blacksmith after he was advised by Mr. Goto to use karak. Last year, Mr. Elzein Mohammed Hamid Mohammed failed to get high yield of rice because of poor land leveling, missing proper sowing and irrigation timing. He learned to keep proper timing to do any work by utilization of his surrounding materials in each step in rice cultivation from the last year's bitter experience.

Site visit to Sennar State is only one day on July 3, 2013. However, expectation to achieve the yield target for the year 2013 become close to reality for the time being. Strong channels from the Governor, Minister of Agriculture, members of Agricultural Ministry Office, extensionists and farmers on the fields will contribute to achieving the yield target for the year 2013. By extensionists's extraordinary efforts such as making and using a karak to keep proper sowing time and continuous efforts, fruitful results will be achieved in Sennar State. Process to get yield is just starting and still remains long stages such as weed control (weeding), irrigation and etc. Any work stages need to keep in proper time by observing and learning from rice conditions. Sennar State keeps up!



Mr. Nakagaki checked well-levelled field at Kassab 2 demonstration farms (2.5 feddans X 2 farms).

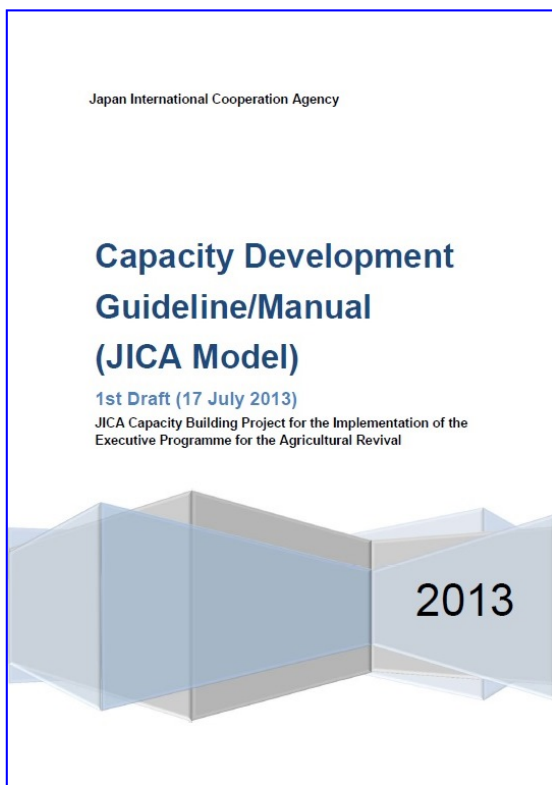


Mr. Elzein Mohammed Hamid Mohammed with a Karak (a forked-rake for rice drill-planting) at Kassab 2 demonstration farms (2.5 feddans X 2 farms).



Mr. Goto, Mr. Elzein Mohammed Hamid Mohammed, other extensionists and farmers confirmed further works at Kassab 1 and 2 demonstration farms (2.5 feddans X 2 farms).

Capacity Development Guideline/Manual (JICA Model) for Sustainable Management System

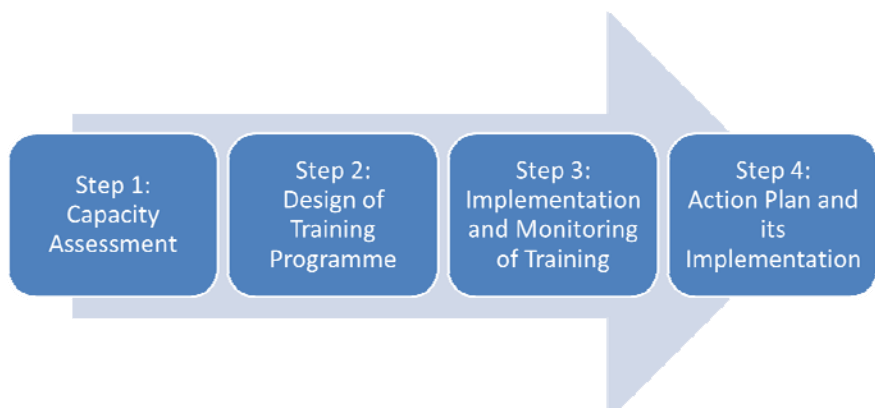


The 1st draft of "Capacity Development Guideline / Manual (JICA Model)" was released on July 17, 2013. In guideline part, purpose and concept of capacity development are explained. The concept of Project Cycle Management (PCM) is also illustrated because the Project applies PCM methodology as the basic concept of its capacity development. In manual part, every single step from planning to evaluation of training is explained with some examples and exercises.

One of the main goals of the Project is to establish model system of Human Resources Development and Organizational Capacity Development.

The Project has been working on this topic with ICI, TTE, HSA, PAE and TU in FMOAI since 2010.

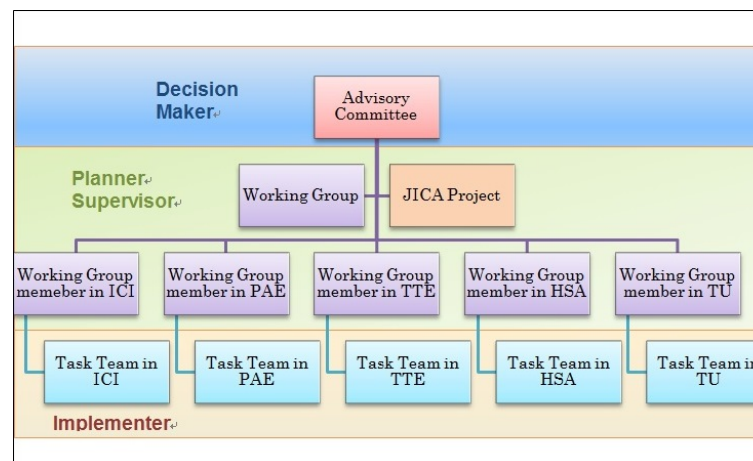
Japanese experts and Dr. Hassan Ali Elobied (Consultant for Training) decided 4 steps to implement training, such as "Step 1: Capacity Assessment, Step 2: Design of Training Programme, Step 3: Implementation and Monitoring of Training, Step 4: Action Plan and its Implementation". The Project and CB working group followed these 4 steps and



conducted various trainings every year (including 22 action plans implemented), that is to say the Project accumulated a lot of experience and lesson learned. It is time to collect the experience and lesson learned of the Project and hand them over to FMOAI to internalize them as a system.

Ms. Nobuko Miyake who is Japanese expert for Training Planning/Organization Strengthening, prepared the draft. She and Dr. Hassan have been discussing how to build a sustainable management system in FMOAI with DGs and CB working group members. The figure below is an example of the system for capacity development activities in FMOAI.

The Project has already shared the draft with Undersecretary (Mr. Jubara), DGs, members of CB (Capacity Building) working group and people concerned. Now, the Project is waiting feedback from people who received the draft. Ms. Miyake will modify the draft on the basis of the feedback. The final version of the guideline/manual will be released before the Project finishes.



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

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