

"Project for Maximisation of Soybean Production in Madhya Pradesh"

26 Nov. 2011

Message

My name is Sohei Kobayashi, chief advisor of the Project for Maximisation of Soybean Production in Madhya Pradesh. Thank you for your interest in this project and our website.

This project has just been launched in June 2011 towards the establishment of soybean cultivation system for small and marginal farmers. Soybean has been central to Japanese cuisine and Japan has a long history of soybean cultivation as well as researches on soybean production. In Madhya Pradesh state, there are more than 5.7 million hectares of soybean-growing uplands, and this project has been attracting a lot of attention from local farmers and scientists. Both Japanese experts and Indian counterparts are very enthusiastic and working hard for this project: I believe this project will make a certain achievement. Please keep your eyes on our updates, and feel free to contact us if you have suggestions or queries.

Background

India is world's fifth largest producer of soybean. Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in soybean production, contributing to more than 50% of production of the entire country. Despite being the largest producer of soybean, however, per hectare yield is lower than the average of India. (**Table 1**).

Table 1. MP soybean crop in comparison with Japan (2011)

	Planted area (ha)	Yield per 1ha (kg)	total yield (t)
Japan	137,700	1620	222,800
India	22,280,000	1155	11,939,500
Madhya Pradesh	5,730,000	1077	6,170,700

(MAFF website, "soy-related data collection", builds on the SOPA website)

In Madhya Pradesh majority of soybean farmers are small and poor. In order to increase the yield per ha, it is important to establish a low-cost cultivation technology system that can be applied even by small poor farmers.

The main objective of this project, is therefore, to build the low-cost system for soybean cultivation, and publish a handbook for extension workers on improved soybean technologies.

Project head office is located in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), and the target area is the state of Madhya Pradesh.

The project began June 2011



(prepared by Project staff based on Texas university library map)

【Project activities】

June 12, 2011: Dr. Sohei Kobayashi (Chief Advisor/soybean cultivation expert) and Dr. Koji Tsuji (soybean pest and disease control expert) has been assigned to the project for the duration of two years.



Mr. Ashok Krishna, Principal, College of Agriculture, Indore (right) courtesy visit with JICA staff

June 2011 to early July 2011: Setting up of temporary office at Indore



Temporary Office during renovation



Temporary Office After renovation

June 2011 to mid-July 2011: Recruitment of Project Staff, unsung heroes of our project!

July 26, 2011: 1st Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting held

1st Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting was held at Bhopal the capital city of Madhya Pradesh with all the actors of the project. The meeting was headed by Mr. M.M.Upadhyaya, Principal Secretary, Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh and there was a lively discussion about the direction of the project.



JCC Meeting at Bhopal, Mantlayay

August 14, 2011: First team of short-term experts from Japan visit Madhya Pradesh, (Specialist in Soybean Cultivation, Soil fertilizer, Agricultural Machinery)

The Short-term experts visited Madhya Pradesh, from 14th to 25th August 2011, in order to identify the constraints of soybean production in MP. They visited different cities of Madhya Pradesh to investigate the condition of soybean fields and exchange views with Indian researchers and farmers at grass root level.

JICA India Office Website For more information, please refer to the topics and news.

<http://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/topics/110912.html>

September 1 and 2, 2011: Soybean Survey Study meeting at Bhopal

This meeting was held to plan for baseline surveys of soybean cultivation in the state. Representatives from both Universities were present and discussed research methods at Indian Institute of Soil Science in Bhopal.



Welcomed each other by giving bouquet, start of meeting



Discussion takes place in the meeting

September 4, 2011: Second team of short-term experts from Japan visit Madhya Pradesh, (Specialist in Plant Disease and Pest Management)

The Second batch of Short-term experts visited Madhya Pradesh, from 04th to 16th September 2011, in order to identify the constraints in the area of pest and disease management. They visited different parts of Madhya Pradesh to investigate the current situation in plant disease and pest management in soybean fields and exchanged views with Indian researchers and farmers at grass roots level.

Introduction of Project Members



Sohei Kobayashi
(Chief Advisor /soybean cultivation expert)



Koji Tsuji
(soybean pest and disease management expert)



Izumi Nakanishi
(Project Coordinator)



Danish Khan (Secretary)



Abdul Kadar Khan (Secretary)



Neha Wadhwa (Secretary)



Mukesh Bhomraj (Driver)



Zahid Ali (Driver)

[Schedule]

The soybean surveillance study will be conducted for the entire State of Madhya Pradesh from December 2011. The survey will continue up to sowing season of soybean next year. The project will establish research centers in several locations in the Madhya Pradesh. Based on the results of this survey as well as recommendations of short-term experts who visited MP earlier, detailed plan of operation will be finalized next year.

JICA is planning a training program in Japan from 27 November 2011 to 03 December 2011. Researchers and administrative officers from the state as well as from Government of India will participate in training in Japan.

[Editor's Note]

According to a preliminary report of Soybean Processing Industry Association of India (SOPA), soybean crop of 11.9 million tons (an increase of about 28 million tons compared to the previous year) is expected this year. While there has been much concern about the impact of excess rainfall during the rainy season, no major impact is anticipated for production so far.

We welcome any questions, comments or requests you may have.

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