



## Eietsu Imamatsu

Editorialist, Editorial Department, Mainichi Newspapers

Eietsu Imamatsu joined Mainichi Newspapers in 1974. After working as deputy general manager of the economics desk in the editing bureau of the Tokyo headquarters and as an editor in the same editing bureau, in 2000 he became an editorialist in the editorial department (covering macroeconomics, financial affairs, economic cooperation, and environmental economics, etc). In addition, he has served as a substitute member of the Financial System Council, substitute member of the Fiscal System Council, and member of Feedback Committee on JBIC's Ex-Post Evaluation of ODA Loan Projects.

### Projects Evaluated:

Field Survey: April 2005

#### Morocco

- The Abda-Doukkala Upper Scheme Irrigation Project

#### Tunisia

- Water Pipeline Construction and Irrigation Project in North Tunisia
- Goubellat Irrigation Perimeters Construction Project
- Barbara Irrigation Project

## North African Assistance Engenders Gratitude

**- Link ODA loan projects with grant aid and technological cooperation in order to further realize the effects of the projects-**

I visited field sites of ODA loan projects in Morocco and Tunisia and participated in a mid-term evaluation workshop. Since a mid-term evaluation, prior to the ex-post evaluation, conducted when the irrigation facilities were completed but water was not yet being delivered, was the first attempt to JBIC, I placed high hopes on it. I wanted to see first-hand how assistance to the agricultural sector, which is a basic industry in developing countries, is being conducted and what sort of process is entailed to realize the effects. I was able to achieve all of those intended objectives.

The first site I visited was the the Abda-Doukkala Upper Scheme Irrigation Project in Morocco. This project is the largest irrigation project in Morocco, and its objective is to raise the level of efficiency in the agricultural production in this region where rainfall is scarce. This ODA loan project was completed in September 2002, and the area that receives the benefit of irrigation is vast, at 18,900 ha. Irrigation had already begun, and not only was it possible to cultivate olives and tomatoes, but the amount of wheat harvests also grew dramatically. The project also greatly contributed to improving the self-sufficiency in sugar, for which the country relied heavily on imports, by supplying nearly half of the domestic demand. With trade deregulation progressing, however, boosting the competitiveness of the agricultural sector is still an urgent issue.



Beneficiaries of the Abda-Doukkala Upper Scheme Irrigation Project in Morocco.

Meanwhile in Tunisia, I observed the irrigation project in northern region where the thematic evaluation (mid-term evaluation) was taking place and participated in a workshop held in the outskirts of Tunis. The purpose of the thematic evaluation is to verify, based on OECD-DAC criteria, the status quo of the project compared to the plan at the time of appraisal and what, if any, obstacles exist to the

achievement of the anticipated effects of the project. High marks may be given to the fact that there are no problems with the relevance and the efficiency of the project, and that in terms of effectiveness, the beneficiary area is larger than planned at the time of appraisal. At the workshop, which had the participation of the Secretary General in charge of irrigation at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Governor of the governorate, farmers, and NGOs, there were discussions on action plans to make the project successful now that the irrigation facilities are complete. Because the President of the country strongly desires to promote irrigation, the national government and the governorates showed us visible enthusiasm for implementing all the action plans, including technical guidance for water users associations, facilitation of the necessary fund procurement by farmers, and clarification of land ownership.



Beneficiaries of irrigation in northern Tunisia

Morocco and Tunisia are annual recipient countries\* for ODA loans. The extension of assistance through ODA loans to the major industry, agricultural sector, in effect supports economic development from the ground up in both countries. ODA loans, which must be repaid, are an effective method to increase self-reliance for countries that have achieved a certain level of economic growth, and Japan can achieve even more striking effects by combining ODA loans with grant aid and technical cooperation.

Donors assist the economic independence and the social reform of recipient countries, and it is only natural that recipients feel gratitude to donors for the results achieved. In Tunisia, people are aware that irrigation is being carried out with ODA loans from Japan. As the farmers receive benefits from the projects, their feelings of gratitude will grow as a matter of course.

\*An annual recipient country is a country that is considered for ODA loans every year if there is a request for ODA loans from the given country.

(See p. 81 for Thematic Evaluations, Tunisia: Integrated Water Resources Management)