

# Project for Promoting Catchment Management Activities in Middle Shire

## Overview

In Malawi, the Shire river travels from the southern point of Lake Malawi to southern Malawi. In middle Shire, forest resources have been diminishing due to population increase. Because of that, it is spawning weakening water-holding capabilities of the region's land and decreases in agricultural productivity due to soil runoff / soil impoverishment.

Japan supported the execution of a rural community training approach (COVAMS\*1) for soil conservation and increase in agricultural yield in a preceding project. This project has expanded the target area and has supported the institutionalization of catchment management by farmers of the target districts.

Such efforts contribute to the promotion of catchment management in the target districts and the execution of appropriate catchment management in the target regions.

\*1 COVAMS : Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire.

## Purpose

Catchment management through farmer's activities (CMFA) is institutionalized in the target districts.

## Activities/Outputs

### Supporting Catchment Management by utilizing COVAMS approach.

#### About COVAMS approach.

COVAMS, one of the methods of extension service for technical transfer, can reach wide areas of the target population in a short period at relatively low cost, as well as taking less time for its effects to work. COVAMS approach can be applied not only in the sphere of watershed management but also in other technic extension.

#### Utilizing COVAMS approach for catchment management in middle Shire.

Three techniques, gully control, soil conservation and tree planting are trained through COVAMS approach in the project. The effect of COVAMS approach can be seen in the result that all techniques (apart from nursery) the project has taught have been adapted by more than 50% of the participants of the trainings. This is because 1) providing the trainings based on the needs of the local population, 2) targeting all villagers who desire to learn, and 3) assisting them in acquiring technical skills simple enough to practice.

#### Institutionalization of catchment management through farmers' activities (CMFA).

The project is making intensive efforts at enhancing capacity of officials, producing a Guideline of COVAMS, and securing a budget institutionalizing for institutionalizing COVAMS for catchment management through farmers' activities in middle Shire.



#### Project Site

Four districts located in Middle Shire (Blantyre District, Neno District, Balaka District, Mwanza District)

#### Implementing Organization

Forestry Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment

#### Duration

Apr. 2013—Mar. 2018

