

# Social Dimension of Public Goods Management in Rural Africa

- Introduction of Research Projects  
in the Field of “Aid Strategy” -

JICA Research Institute  
Senior Research Fellow  
HANATANI Atsushi




# Management of Local Public Goods in Rural Africa

- Facilities and goods provided by aid are (man-made) “public goods” in nature which invariably involves “collective action” problems in the process of OM&M
- A well-studied subject, but one that remains an issue for aid practitioners
- An opportunity to reflect on conventional approaches to resource system management based on knowledge/skills provision, sensitization and participation
- Provides good examples of how capacity/institution develops at organizational and societal level (CD); one of the main agenda of New JICA

# Challenges in Africa

- In Africa, neither state nor market have succeeded in sustaining public goods
- Of late, many of the responsibilities of managing public goods have been devolved to local “communities”
- ... but communities have also “defected” in the absence of trust and shared norms among beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- “Lack of trust” - a challenge to economic and political development in Africa at large

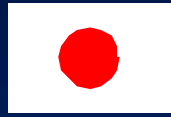
# Specific Themes to be Studied

- Management of water utilization facilities in Africa
  - Access to safe water is one of the main targets of MDGs
  - Provision of safe water and agricultural development given high priority in Japan's aid strategy to Africa, as highlighted at TICAD IV
  - Two projects being prepared, focusing on:
    - WUAs of Rural Groundwater Supply Systems: piped water supply system and hand pumps (consumptive use of water resources)
    - IAs of Irrigation Facilities: Large-Medium-Small scale (productive use of water resources)
- 



Common scenes in rural Africa, but at times people do cooperate using innovative approaches





**PEPTAC**



# THE PROJECT for THE PROVISION OF SAFE WATER FOR ALL AND SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Projet Eau Potable pour Tous et Appui aux Activités Communautaires

# PROJECT ACTIVITIES

## Activity 1

*Establishment of Participatory Management System (ASUFOR)*



## Activity 2

*Managerial Skills Development*



## Activity 3

*Sensitization on the Appropriate Use of Water and Hygiene*



**Stable Supply of Safe Water**



## Activity 4

*Community Development Activities*



## CHANGES OBSERVED

### ➤ Before ASUFOR

- *Absence of ownership and dependence on the Government for system maintenance*
- *Lump sum payment of water fee*
- *Absence of accountable and transparent management system*
- *Conflicts between users and leaders over mismanagement and inequitable water distribution*
- *Frequent interruptions of system operation due to lack of fuel*

### ➤ After ASUFOR

- *Responsibility of system maintenance devolved to water users*
- *Water “sold” by consumption*
- *WUA become more participatory*
- *Women’s participation increased*
- *Committee members trained on accounting and banking transactions*
- *Sufficient amount of money deposited to cater for operation, routine maintenance and minor repairs*
- *Excess money loaned for income generation activities*

Need to clarify the process of social and institutional change in the context of social and economic structure of the society and in relation to the characteristics of the resource utilized



# Insights and Recommendations that can be Drawn from the Projects

- Clarify endogenous process of trust (distrust) formation and norm acceptance (rejection), focusing on functional values, social/economic structure and networks, and power relations; and link them to the way collective actions are taken in the society – cases of capacity/institution development process
- Identify institutional setups and mechanisms that may be useful for restraining opportunistic behavior and uphold sustainable management of resource utilization system – cases of “local commons” governance system involving local society, market and the state; and practical recommendations for JICA operation in the field



# Broader Implications

- How does management experience of public goods influence broader **social relations, norms and networks** in the local society?
- What kind of **further collective actions** would be possible?
- How does it impact on the nature of **public domain** in rural society and its relationship with **the state** in Africa?

