The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development: Official Side Event

Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) Approach Workshop
-Promoting smallholder farmer towards “Farming as a Business” –

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a side event on 25 August at the Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya on the theme of the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) Approach. High-level government officials from seventeen African countries including the principal secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of Kingdom of Lesotho, principal secretary of Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water of Republic of Malawi and permanent secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development of Republic of Zimbabwe were welcomed, and more than 150 related parties participated. In the wake of TICAD V that was held in 2013, JICA is promoting SHEP Approach to in order to promote smallholder farmers towards “Farming as a business”. From the year 2014 until now, JICA has been organizing training sessions in Japan and Kenya on SHEP Approach and their follow-up cooperation. Twenty-three African countries have participated this training and are showing a good progress in implementing SHEP Approach in each country.

This side event was held with the aim to broadly share and discuss the progress, achievements and challenges of SHEP Approach application in various African countries by 2016 and beyond. Also the workshop is to introduce further analysis of SHEP Approach’s basic concept on motivation and a new “Cool Japan” brand promoting tool of SHEP Game.

There was an opening address from Mr. Willy Bett, Cabinet Secretary of Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. He has mentioned about the recent situation of SHEP Approach implementation by the government of Kenya and also the future prospect of its expansion. Following that, There was Mr. Jiro Aikawa, Senior Advisor of JICA and a SHEP Advisor in South Africa from March 2016 gave a presentation on “Introduction, Purpose of the Workshop & Overall Progress of wide implementation of SHEP Approach in African countries”. He explained the overall concept of SHEP Approach and its progress beyond Kenya with full praise to the officials of Kenya government for their contribution in expanding SHEP Approach to African countries.
Following Mr. Aikawa, there was a presentation on “Psychological Implications of the SHEP Approach: Motivation as a Key to Success” from Ms. Kumiko Shuto, consultant of IMG.Inc., Japan, who has been monitoring SHEP’s wide implementation in Africa and has also conducted a survey spotlighting on psychological aspect, which is one of the SHEP’s important pillars, in several technical cooperation projects implemented by JICA. She introduced a motivation theory of “Self Determination Theory” which lies under SHEP Approach and typical activities of SHEP Approach in Kenya which are built in consideration of this theory. She also introduced the booklet “Introduction to Psychology of International Cooperation” as a compilation of the survey results.

As for the progress of the SHEP Approach implementation, three countries have shared their experiences, namely, Kenya, Malawi and Senegal. These countries made their presentation on the outcomes and the impacts in farmer level by implementing the SHEP Approach. Not only the government officials but also farmer representatives gave their speech what kinds of changes were brought about on the ground.

In response to the above several presentation, active discussion was held focusing on challenges and tips in promoting SHEP Approach in various situations and conditions. On behalf of the African governments, principal secretary of Ministry of Agriculture of Lesotho, Malawi and Zimbabwe expressed their understanding and sympathy on the effectiveness of SHEP Approach and emphasized to further promote it to their own countries in order to raise the smallholder farmers’ income.

Then, Mr. Jiro Aikawa presented JICA’s future directions for the further expansion of SHEP Approach, such as 1. Capacity development of officials as resource person through training sessions in Japan and Kenya, 2. SHEP Approach studies from the
academic point of view, and 3. Provide extension tools for a broader extension. In addition, as a new extension material, he introduced the SHEP game, "Fun Fun Farming!". This game can be played either by computers or smart phones, which are already very familiar tools everywhere including Africa. It is highly expected that this new game is utilized by the officers who are unable to participate SHEP training sessions.

Finally, Mr. Hiroshi Kato, Vice-President of JICA, gave closing remarks. He expressed high appreciation to the African countries for implementing SHEP Approach with strong ownership and adjusting its activities to each country’s context by harmonizing with the existing agricultural extension strategies and programs, resulting into better livelihood of small-scale farmers. He further showed high expectation of SHEP Approach to make agriculture as attractive and cool business for young generation. JICA will continue to further promote SHEP Approach in order to support small-scale farmers for their sustainable livelihood improvement.

【Speakers】
- Jiro Aikawa, Senior Advisor, JICA
- Kumiko Shuto, Consultant of IMG Inc., Japan
- Francisca Malenge, National Project Coordinator, Kenya SHEP PLUS, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Republic of Kenya
- Pearson Issac Jasi Soko, Assistant Chief Agribusiness Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development ,Republic of Malawi
- Momodou Kebe, Chief officer ,Department of Horticulture, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment, Republic of Senegal

【Host】
Johnson Irungu Waithaka, Director of Agriculture, Crop Resources, Agribusiness and Market Development Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya

【Opening Address】
Richard Lesiyampe, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya

【Closing Remarks】
Hiroshi Kato, Vice President, JICA