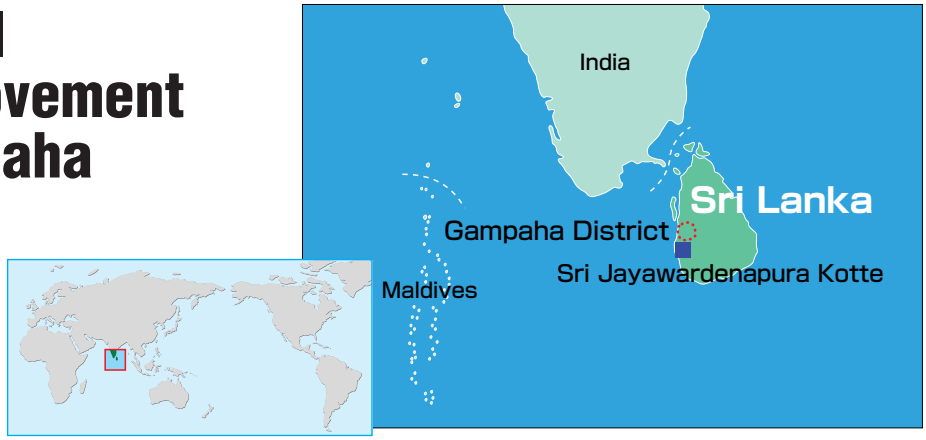
Sri Lanka

The Agricultural Extension Improvement Project in Gampaha



Project Site Gampaha District

1. Background of Project

The Gampaha District, adjacent to the north of Colombo, is the most commercialized district in Sri Lanka. However, 57 percent of the total land in the district remains as agricultural land. Although the area is dependent on the production of paddy and coconuts, which have traditionally been the major cash crops, the productivity of these crops is low, and few other agricultural products are produced in the district. Following this situation, the Japanese Government established the Ambepussa model farm and other facilities under the Grant Aid program of the Integrated Rural Development Plan (IRDP) in the Gampaha District during two program periods since 1989.

The Government of Sri Lanka further requested Project-type Technical Cooperation from the Japanese Government aiming to increase agricultural productivity and farmers' income through diversification of crops as part of the IRDP that the Sri Lankan Government promoted.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

1 July 1994-30 June 1999

(2) Type of Cooperation

Project-type Technical Cooperation

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

The Regional Development Division, Ministry of Plan Implementation and Paliamentary Affairs The Department of Agriculture, Western Provincial Council

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

Agricultural productivity and farming income are increased through agricultural diversification.

2) Project Purpose

Effective use of farmland and crop diversification are achieved in the coconut fields of the Gampaha District.

3) Outputs

a) Crop production technology of intercropping in coconut fields is improved.

b) Agricultural extension methods are improved by organizing production groups and setting up demonstration plots in the model areas.

c) Training materials on extension methods and crop production technology for extension staff are developed.

d) Technical level of extension staff is improved through training.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Long-term experts	12
Short-term experts	12
Trainees received	22
Equipment	approx. 73 million yen
Local cost	approx. 29.19 million rupee (approx. 41 million yen)

Sri Lankan Side

Counterparts	15
Land and facilities	
Local cost	275 billion rupee (approx. 39 million yen)

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Team Leader:

Masamichi SHINADA, Managing Director, Japan Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Promotion Association

Agriculture Extension and Training Management:

Hiroshi TOTTORI, International Exchange Programs, Extension and Education Division, Agricultural Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Cultivation (Water Management):

Atsuya TANAKA, Educational Advisor, National Farmers Academy, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry

and Fisheries

Evaluation Analysis:

Shigeru KOBAYASHI, System Science Consultants INC.

Cooperation Evaluation:

Yutaka ISHIBA, Senior Technical Officer, Technical Cooperation Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Planning Evaluation:

Naoko OKA, Agricultural Technical Cooperation Division, Agricultural Development Cooperation Department, JICA

4. Period of Evaluation

19 April 1999-29 April 1999

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

In general, Japanese inputs were carried out efficiently and on schedule. On the other hand, inputs from the Sri Lankan side had some problems. Some project activities were hindered because more than half of the assigned Counterparts, particularly at senior level, were part-time staff. Also, the initiation of project activities was delayed due to the lack of consensus by the Sri Lankan Counterparts regarding bottom-up extension methods.

(2) Effectiveness

Thirteen production groups of 126 farmers were organized through the project activities, and some inter-crops were introduced, such as banana and pineapple, which generated farm income. For example, the introduction of banana cultivation in trial farms raised income by approximately ten thousand rupee per quarter acre. Therefore, the project purpose was considered highly achieved.

(3) Impact

As a result of improved incomes through the project, an increasing number of farmers gained interest in introducing inter-crops and in organizing production groups. Farmers who normally prefer to work individually came to recognize the profitability of group activities, such as joint shipment of farm products, joint purchase of materials, and management of a group fund. In addition, women's production groups were organized thereby promoting their own income generation.

(4) Relevance

The Government of Sri Lanka prepared the Investment Program 1997-2001, which set the major development policies in the agricultural sector, such as the improvement of agricultural productivity, the increase of farm incomes and continuing the supply of food at affordable prices. The Government also started the Rural Economic Advancement Program aiming at raising employment opportunities, income and production in agriculture. The relevance of the project was high since its purpose matched these national policies.

A model farm

(5) Sustainability

Counterparts acquired various techniques which were transferred through project activities. The budget of approximately 1.14 million rupees (approx. 1.61 million yen) for the half-year term beginning July 1999 was allocated by the Department of Agriculture of the Western Province, under which the program is managed, after the completion of the cooperation. It was assumed that the project activities would continue without any problems.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

Some factors hindered project implementation, such as relocation of counterparts and unfamiliarity of the farmers to the group production method. Conditions such as these should be identified and addressed during the initial research for project formation.

The formation of production groups, including the management of group funds, which were organized through the project, was extremely successful. The introduction of a similar group production system should be considered for other projects under the Project-type Technical Cooperation program in Sri Lanka.

(2) Recommendations

Although Follow-up cooperation and project extension were not considered necessary, regular monitoring activities by Japanese personnel were thought to be required. In particular, appropriate guidance, including financial support for the production groups, is necessary for the management of the group funds.

Sri Lanka

The Project for Improvement of the Faculty of Dental Sciences in University of Peradeniya

Project Site Kandy

1. Background of Project

Many people in Sri Lanka had serious dental problems, with 80 percent of the adult population (twice as many compared with developed countries) requiring medical treatment. However, the scarceness of proper treatment facilities was an obstacle to maintaining good health. As a result, the Government of Sri Lanka set the prevention of odontopathy and improvement of treatment as emergency issues. But having stated these concerns, it was difficult for the faculty of dental sciences of the University of Peradeniya, the only dental training institution in Sri Lanka, to practice appropriate dental education due to outdated educational facilities and a lack of instruments. Therefore, it was concluded that Sri Lanka could not respond adequately to the needs of dentists and patients within the country.

Under these circumstances, the Government of Sri Lanka formulated a plan and requested Grant Aid from Japan in order to construct new buildings for the faculty of dental sciences and purchase the necessary medical education equipment.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY1995-FY1997

(2) Type of Cooperation

Grant Aid

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Ministry of Education and Higher Education, University of Peradeniya

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

Dental personnel are developed sufficiently in terms of both quality and quantity in the faculty of dental sciences of the University of Peradeniya, and the services for the prevention and treatment of oral diseases are improved.

2) Project Purpose

A sound teaching environment for training and developing personnel of the faculty of medical sciences in the university is established.

3) Outputs

a) Main buildings of the faculty of dental sciences are established (including the buildings for education and clinical course, an outpatient clinic, and a cafeteria.)

b) Educational equipment (clinical dental chairs, desktop sterilizer, dental instruments, and microscope) is provided.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Grant	Total 2.36 billion yen (E/N amount)

Sri Lankan Side

Land	
Local cost	21 million rupee (approx. 13 million yen)

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Operation and Maintenance Study:

Hiroshi TAKANOHASHI, First Budget Division, Finance and Accounting Department, JICA

Procurement Study:

Toru TAKAGI, Japan International Cooperation System

4. Period of Evaluation

20 February 2000-26 February 2000

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

What is worthy of mentioning regarding this project is that the project was formulated based on the assumption of future technical cooperation from the planning stage. As a result, most facilities and equipment provided by this project were also used in the Project-type Technical Cooperation under the theme "Dental Education Project at University of Peradeniya," which was launched in February 1998. As such, the project was generally carried out efficiently.

(2) Effectiveness

A total of six kinds of education and research facilities related to dentistry were established, and more than 13 types of educational and training instruments for seven courses and 14 subjects including courses for basic medicine and dental radiology were also provided. However, although construction work was completed on schedule, inadequate fixing of the lighting equipment in the waiting room in the University Hospital caused the lighting equipment to fall after the completion of the construction. Partial damage was also found in some other facilities; therefore, strict enforcement of maintenance activities for the provided facilities and equipment was considered necessary.

(3) Impact

It became possible for the faculty of dental sciences to independently conduct basic medical education which had previously depended on the faculty of medicine, and this strengthened the training system for medical personnel. The number of dentists per 100 thousand persons increased from 3.6 in 1995 to 5.82 in 1999 in Sri Lanka. This project had contributed to the significant increase in medical personnel and also produced large impacts on the improvement of the services of dental health and oral hygiene as a whole.

(4) Relevance

The faculty of dental sciences of the University of Peradeniya had taken a socially significant role as the only institution for the development of dentists in Sri Lanka. As demand in the field of dentistry in Sri Lanka has steadily grown after implementation of the project, it was recognized that this project had relevance.

(5) Sustainability

The faculty of dental sciences of the University of Peradeniya was financially restricted since their activities had been funded under the budget of the Ministry of Health. However, it was expected that financial sustainability could be achieved due to the following reasons: 1) The dental section of the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital was scheduled to be separated and become the Dental Hospital of Peradeniya from January 2001; therefore, an independent budget would be allocated. 2) Operation expenses were going to be partially covered by patients through fees for services; formerly, these service had been free. 3) The Dental Hospital would be able to receive assistance from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Higher Education until its own budgetary system was established.

In addition, it was considered that this project had high sustainability in terms of the operational capability of university personnel since the project utilized the skills of the Sri Lankan side from the stage of project formulation and was planned and implemented based on the opinions of the Sri Lankan side in cooperation with the project team.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

The facilities should be designed from the perspective of the users if it is to be appropriately utilized and operated after the completion of construction. As in this project, the partner country should play a primary role from the planning stage, and meetings should be continuously held in order to reflect the opinions of the personnel at the working level who will actually use the facilities and equipment. As such, participatory designing that actively incorporates the voices of partner countries should be emphasized. At the same time, implementation of technical cooperation over several years should be considered following delivery if the capability to operate the facilities proves to be weak.

(2) Recommendations

This project was implemented on schedule and the sustainability of the university side was confirmed.