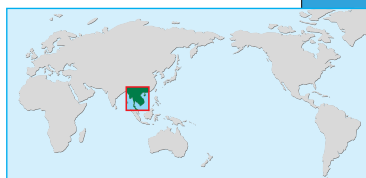


The Afforestation Technology Development Project on Acid Sulphate Soil in the Mekong Delta



Project Sites

Thanh Hoa District (Long An Province)

1. Background of Project

In the Mekong Delta area of South Viet Nam, half the area (2 million hectares) is covered by acid sulphate soil. Most of the grassland in this area is not used effectively and devastated. Thus, effective utilization of acid sulphate soil in the Mekong Delta is an important task for South Viet Nam. Accordingly, the Government of Viet Nam requested technical cooperation from the Government of Japan to better utilize the area, integrating agriculture and afforestation, including the introduction of *Melaleuca* which is used by farmers as a source of firewood and oil.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

20 March 1997-19 March 2000

(2) Type of Cooperation

Project-type Technical Cooperation

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Forest Science Institute of Viet Nam, International Cooperation Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

(4) Narrative Summary

- 1) Overall Goal
To promote effective and sustainable use of utilized land with acid sulphate soils in the Mekong Delta for forestry and agriculture.
- 2) Project Purpose
To develop practical afforestation technology for the land with acid sulphate soils in the Thanh Hoa area, Long An Province.
- 3) Outputs
 - a) Developed soil improvement technologies for acid sulphate soils in the Thanh Hoa area.
 - b) Selected tree species adaptable to acid sulphate

soils in the Thanh Hoa area.

- c) Developed techniques of nursery practices and care for tree species adaptable to acid sulphate soils in the Thanh Hoa area.
- d) Proposed methods to mitigate negative effects on the surrounding environment caused by leaching of harmful substances from acid sulphate soils.
- e) Produced appropriate guidelines of substances harmful to acid sulphate soils.
- f) Established demonstration forest on acid sulphate soils.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Long-term experts	4
Short-term experts	15
Trainees received	11
Equipment	approx. 88 million yen
Local cost	approx. 75 million yen

Vietnamese Side

Counterparts	14
Land, facilities and experimental forest	
Local cost	approx. 1.17 billion don (8.87 million yen)

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Team Leader:

Yoshiaki KANO, Managing Director, Forestry and Fisheries Development Cooperation Department, JICA

Silviculture and Nursery:

Hiromichi ONODERA, Section Director, Silviculture Section, Forestry Technology Division, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

Soil:

Kazuhito MORISADA, Chief of Site Evaluation Laboratory, Forest Site Environment Section, Forest

Environment Division, FFPRI, MAFF

Planning Evaluation:

Hitoshi HORI, Project Officer, Forestry Cooperation Division, Forestry and Fisheries Development Cooperation Department, JICA

Evaluation Analysis:

Hajime SONODA, IC Net Limited

4. Period of Evaluation

4 October 1999-16 October 1999

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

Inputs to the project were mostly appropriate and utilized effectively. The efficiency of the project was high in the sense that the project was implemented by a small number of experts in a short period, in spite of the fact that technical transfer and development covered broad areas. However, one shortcoming was that several activities were implemented simultaneously rather than consecutively. Consequently, the project leader and soil improvement experts were overburdened with work.

(2) Effectiveness

The project was implemented according to schedule and successfully, though the abnormal climate in 1998 and 1999 and the forest fire in 1998 caused problems for field experiments. Some of the new techniques regarding *Melaleuca* plantations were put into practical use before the end of the project. For example, *Melaleuca* that was introduced from Australia showed rapid growth and therefore yielded sooner than expected. However, many other experiments started by the project are still ongoing and can not be completed by the end of the project period. For one, planting trials must be monitored until the first yield. Therefore, it is too early to evaluate the practical applicability of newly proposed techniques taking economic aspects into consideration.

(3) Impact

With the Vietnamese policy of encouraging forest plantation and high marketability of *Melaleuca* poles for construction as a driving force, the improved techniques were put to practice immediately, and the intended impacts realized before the end of the project period. For example, farmers living near the project site would visit the project and introduce the new techniques, and this contributed to the expansion of *Melaleuca* plantations.

(4) Relevance

The effective utilization of acid sulphate soil is very important for development and poverty alleviation in the



Selection of seedlings of *Melaleuca*

region. The Vietnamese Government launched an extensive afforestation program under their agriculture development policy. Thus, the relevance of the project is judged as high, its purpose matching the needs and policy of the area.

However, the project term (three years) was too short to achieve the project purpose "to develop practical afforestation technology for the land with acid sulphate soils".

(5) Sustainability

The Forest Science Institute acquired organizational capacity and a sufficient number of staff to operate the institute independently. Nevertheless, financial sustainability could not be assured at the time of evaluation due to financial constraints of the Vietnamese Government.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

To realize more efficient technological development, it is necessary to examine the areas covered by the project, to ensure the appropriate number of experts and set up an appropriate project period.

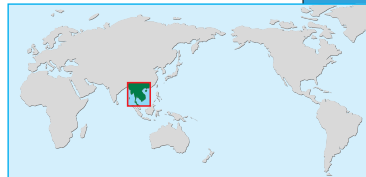
(2) Recommendations

Follow-up cooperation was recommended in fields such as the management techniques of a planted forest and further analysis of the data collected by the project, in order to improve the precision of research outcomes.

7. Follow-up Situation According to the above

According to the above recommendation, Follow-up cooperation is being implemented for two years from March 2000 to March 2002.

The Reproductive Health Project in Nghe An Province



Project Site Nghe An Province

1. Background of Project

Viet Nam has established an efficient health service system that covers its entire population with a relatively small budget. Viet Nam has a larger number of health-service personnel than its neighboring countries. However, many health-service personnel have not been trained properly, and the quality of perinatal care remains unsatisfactory. As a result, perinatal complications are the main cause of death among patients in public-health facilities, and the Maternal Mortality Rate has not declined since the 1980s. With this situation, the Vietnamese Government requested technical cooperation from Japan to strengthen the public-health administration and improve community health services. Nghe An Province was selected as the project's model area since its poverty situation was more severe and the number of midwives scarce.

- d) Necessary health facilities are improved.
- e) Capacity of mobile teams is improved.
- f) Sufficient necessary drugs and contraceptives are provided.
- g) Information, education and communication (IEC) on RH is improved.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Long-term experts	3
Short-term experts	28
Trainees received	8
Equipment	92 million yen
Local cost	80 million yen

Vietnamese Side

Counterparts	8
Land and facilities	9 million yen
Local cost	26 million yen

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

1 June 1997-31 May 2000

(2) Type of Cooperation

Project-type Technical Cooperation

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Nghe An Province

(4) Narrative Summary

- 1) Overall Goal
Reproductive Health (RH) of women is improved in Nghe An Province.
- 2) Project Purpose
Reproductive Health of women of reproductive age with special focus on communal women in the intensive area is improved in Nghe An Province.
- 3) Outputs
 - a) Project Units (PUs) are established at all levels (Maternal & Child Health / Family Planning Center at province level, and Health Centers at district and commune level)
 - b) Quality of health personnel with focus on communal level is improved.
 - c) Necessary medical equipment is improved.

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Team Leader:

Taro TAMADA, Professor Emeritus, Jichi Medical University

Cooperation Planning:

Akira HASHIZUME, Director, First Medical Cooperation Division, Medical Cooperation Department, JICA

Midwifery Education:

Yasuko AOKI, Professor of Nursing and Midwifery, Kiryu Junior College

Project Management:

Sumie YAMAGUCHI, Director, Development Planning Department, JOICEP

NGO Collaboration:

Ryoichi SUZUKI, Director, Information Division, JOICEP

Project Evaluation:

Tsuyoshi ITO, Researcher, IC Net Ltd.

Interpreter:

Yoshie NASU, Training Coordinator, Japan International Cooperation Center

4. Period of Evaluation

16 December 1999-28 December 1999

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

In this project, the collaboration among the three main groups (health facilities such as communal health centers (CHCs), the project's main activity base at the communal level; communal people's committee which is in charge of health service administration and budgeting; and women's unions which work directly with community women) was very effective. Further, it was evaluated that the fact that the project allocated 59 percent of its total budget to the communal level and focused more on the communal level contributed to achieving the project objectives more effectively.

(2) Effectiveness

Outputs such as improvement of perinatal services at CHCs and improvement of CHC staff were achieved. As a result, the average number of ante-natal visits per pregnant woman (average of eight target provinces) has increased from 1.9 in 1995 to 3.3 in June 1999, surpassing the target number of "3 visits per pregnant woman". Furthermore, all the objectively verifiable indicators established such as the percentage of pregnant women who received ante-natal care and the percentage of delivery at CHCs have improved, and it was recognized that the reproductive health status of women of reproductive age in Nghe An Province has improved, thereby contributing to achieving the project purpose. However, it was difficult for the project to fully improve the quality of care of CHCs within the project's short cooperation period of three years, and some of the indicators established for evaluation have not yet shown improvement. Therefore, it was judged that the expected level of performance of the project would not be attained before the end of the cooperation period.

(3) Impact

Although it was difficult to judge the level of achievement of the project's overall goal (measured by the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in eight provinces), the average MMR in the targeted areas decreased from 27.6 in 1995 to 24.3 in June 1999. On the other hand, the project's performance was recognized by others in this field, and some technologies introduced by the project were adopted in other districts. Thus, it is assumed that the potential of project activities might be diffused among the neighboring areas in the future.

(4) Relevance

Within the five-year plan (1996-2000) of the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam, maternal and child health and family planning were considered important issues. Specifically, the five-year plan emphasizes issues such as strengthening human resources and the infrastructure of CHCs, ante-natal counseling at communal level, promotion of delivery attended by health personnel, promotion of family planning, and strengthening mobile services by district hospitals. As all of these issues



Group interview at communal health center.

coincide with the contents of the project, it was judged that the relevance of the project was high.

(5) Sustainability

Nghe An Province depends on the Ministry of Health for 50 percent of the total budget required for Maternal and Child Health; therefore, the financial sustainability after the termination of project was questioned. Further, as to organizational sustainability, the province lacked sufficient human resources to manage the Maternal & Child Health and the Family Planning Center in Nghe An Province (operational institution at district level). Thus, it was suggested that the management capacity of the Center should be improved.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

It takes time for Vietnamese counterparts to understand and accept participatory, logical, and objective-oriented project management methodology through PDM, as they are used to "top-down orders" under the communist's one-party rule. In order for them to better practice project management through PDM, they need to experience the entire process of PDM: Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation.

(2) Recommendations

In case the project implements "Phase II cooperation," as requested by Vietnamese Government, the focus should be on the diffusion of the project's impact to the non-target areas, and, at the same time, completion of project activities which were not completed within the phase I period due mainly to time constraints. Further, it was recommended that the period of phase II should be five years in order for the project to establish the model as a final result.

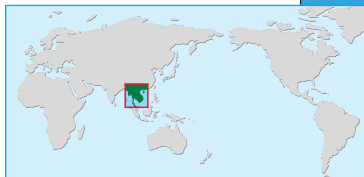
7. Follow-up Situation

In response to the above-mentioned recommendations, phase II, which is to run five years, started from 1 September 2000 and is expected to terminate on 31 August 2005.

The Project for the Improvement the Facilities of Primary Education (Phase IV) (Stage 1/2)

Project Sites

Quang Nam Province (Da Nang City),
Quang Ngai Province,
Binh Dinh Province



1. Background of Project

Emphasizing the development of human resources driven by the transition to a market economy, the Government of Viet Nam had highlighted "Education for All" as a national objective. However, the lack of primary education facilities and the superannuation of existing facilities had compelled Viet Nam to provide lessons on a shift basis (2 or 3 shifts/day), which had in turn created an impediment to improving enrollment and graduation rates. Therefore, the Government of Viet Nam formulated a plan for the rapid enhancement of 610 schools in 30 provinces.

In response to the plan, Japan provided grant aid to enhance primary education facilities in three provinces in the Red River Delta region (Phase I) and three provinces in the north central coastal region (Phases II and III).

Following the previous cooperation, the Vietnamese Government formulated a fourth plan and requested Grant Aid from Japan to establish 40 primary schools in three provinces in the Central Coastal region (including Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Binh Dinh) in the first stage, and 40 primary schools in three provinces in the South Central Coastal region (Huu Lien, Khanh Hoa, Binh Thuan) and Quang Ninh Province in the Red River Delta region in the second stage. This evaluation study was carried out to examine the first stage of Phase IV of the project.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY1997

(2) Type of Cooperation

Grant Aid

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organizations

Department of International Relations, Ministry of Education and Training

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

- a) Human resources necessary for Viet Nam's transition to a market economy are developed.
- b) Education standard in local areas is improved and this contributes to regional development and the alleviation of regional gaps.

2) Project Purpose

The elementary educational environment in Da Nang City and three provinces in the central coastal region (Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Binh Dinh) is improved.

3) Outputs

- a) Renovation and construction of 500 classrooms in 40 primary schools is conducted.
- b) Educational facilities (desks, chairs, blackboards, textbooks, etc.) are provided.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Grant	Total 2.24 billion yen (E/N amount)
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Vietnamese Side

Land

3. Members of Evaluation Team

JICA Viet Nam Office
(Commissioned to Nhat Viet Co., Ltd.)

4. Period of Evaluation

1 October 1999-15 January 2000

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

All the material resources and equipment used in this project were procured locally even though there were some reservations regarding quality of local materials. However, the materials used were appropriate as a whole considering the regional characteristics of this project, the construction of primary schools, and budget limitations. During the construction period, Japanese consultants and contractors formulated the execution guidelines with illustrations for each type and stage of construction and conducted training in execution methods for the head of the Vietnamese contractor in an effort to guarantee the quality of construction work. In addition, standardization of the design of the school building and facilities enabled construction of a large volume of facilities in broad areas in a short period of time.

As a result of these efforts, all the primary school facilities were constructed as planned and these facilities and educational equipment were delivered to the Vietnamese side.

(2) Effectiveness

All the school buildings and educational equipment were used soon after the delivery to the Vietnamese side. Therefore, it was considered that the project purpose to improve the environment of primary education in the project sites was achieved.

(3) Impact

As a result of the remarkable improvement of educational environment, motivation was enhanced among those students and teachers who were provided with new buildings. Students were naturally conscientious about keeping school buildings clean and using equipment carefully. Also, support for schools by the communities and guardians began to grow spontaneously.

Impacts on technical aspects were that this project contributed to the establishment of various standards and designs for the construction of primary schools in Viet Nam, where the standards of construction and school furniture were not fully established.

(4) Relevance

Since there was a serious shortage and superannuation of primary school facilities in Viet Nam, this project corresponded appropriately to the needs of the three provinces. It was also evaluated that the policy of the project to construct many high-quality educational facilities at minimum cost in a short time frame was



Elementary school constructed by the Project

appropriate and in good consideration of the situation of Viet Nam.

(5) Sustainability

In the areas where primary schools were provided, there was an increasing consciousness to support schools by guardians and communities, and various self-help activities were carried out aiming at making schools clean and beautiful. However, how to allocate the necessary funds for maintaining and further enhancing the facilities in the future remained an issue.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

In projects aiming at the construction of many facilities in broad areas as was the case with this project, it would be effective to formulate materials and manuals, which are visual and simple, and to give guidance to several contractors at once through training. Although this would take time at the beginning, it would enable smooth progress of the management of operation and quality management and also would make project procedures efficient as a whole.

(2) Recommendations

Phase IV (the second stage) of the Grant Aid program of the project for the improvement of primary school facilities in Viet Nam was almost completed. In response to this situation, it was recommended to organize and analyze the progress of the project throughout the first phase to the fourth, points of improvement and the lessons applicable to other projects.