

Karey-Gorou Green Promotion Cooperation Project



Project Sites Karey-Gorou

1. Background of project

In the 1980s, Japan proposed the concept of a "Green Peace Troop" in response to the growing domestic awareness on the food crisis in Africa caused by the aggravating desertification. In order to put the proposed concept into practice, JICA sent a study team to Niger, where afforestation and the improvement of living conditions in rural communities are key policies.

This study officially recognized the necessity to recover vegetation and to prevent desertification of Niger. In August 1990, both the Nigerian Ministry of Water and Environment and JICA agreed to dispatch a JOCV team to the Karey-Gorou district in order to promote and implement agro-forestry with community participation.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

1 January 1993 – 30 June 2001

(2) Type of Cooperation

JOCV Team dispatch program

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Ministry of Environment and Desertification Prevention

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

The afforestation activities of residents in the targeted areas are promoted

2) Project Purpose

The living conditions of the local community are improved, and the importance of afforestation is understood by the community in order to promote regional afforestation

3) Outputs

a) The natural environment and ways to improve it

are understood.

- b) Necessary technical skills on afforestation are obtained.
- c) Agro-forestry are widely implemented.
- d) Vegetable farming skills and sales are improved.
- e) Improved fruit culture are mastered and the income is increased.
- f) Residents are taught how to produce and use improved furnaces.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

JOCV members	33
Trainees received	9
Equipment	7 million yen
Local costs	1 million yen

Niger Side

Counterparts	2
Land and facilities	

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Team leader:

Yoshio HORIUCHI, Deputy director, Komagane Training Centre, JICA

Evaluation plan, aid to group leader:

Yoshifumi TSUKII, International cooperation expert, general agriculture

Organization and planning:

Chie MIYAHARA, Second Overseas Assignment Division, Secretariat of JOCV, JICA

Project output analysis:

Mie MARUYAMA, International Development Associates

4. Period of Evaluation

10 December 2000 – 20 December 2000

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Relevance

The selection of the project site was appropriate, however, the project was mostly conducted by the Japanese side with little assistance by the Niger government. Despite above, the overall relevance was high for this project, which aims for afforestation and the improvement of local living conditions, which are the key policies of Niger since the 1970's.

(2) Effectiveness

Although each village differs in degree, the living conditions of the community were improved by vegetable and fruit seedling cultivation introduced through this project. Moreover, the use of improved furnaces saved 100kg of annual firewood consumption per person, and the time needed to boil one liter of water was reduced to 24%.

As the number of participants in tree planting activities increased annually, the supply of seedlings increased to reach 337,000 by the project's completion. Considering these facts, this project achieved its goals.

(3) Efficiency

At the initial stages of the project, the dispatch of a JOCV for fruit-growing was delayed and the number of counterparts was insufficient. However, this did not hinder the project operations because they were alternated by a JOCV from a different field and local representatives, respectively.

Since the local needs were not fully understood when the project was planned, some of the nursed seedling varieties had limited demand. However the project efficiency was achieved by the appropriate advice of the local support committee to control the number of those varieties in the last half of the project.

(4) Impact

After the project, afforestation activities were extended not only in Karey-Gorou but to the surrounding areas. Number of planted trees other than the distributed by the project have also increased by the efforts of the local residents. It has been reported that 800 trees were planted in 2000.

(5) Sustainability

Although the Nigerian government continues to put emphasis on afforestation for improving the local living conditions, it will be difficult to maintain the scale of the



Efforts for greening the district

management and budget of this project.

Though the local people understood the benefits of the skills introduced, only a few were able to master them due to its difficulty. Since the central nursery does not distribute seedlings for free after the project, sustainability cannot be expected without technology transfer and the establishment of a production system for seedlings. For these reasons, sustainability of this project is low.

6. Lesson Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

The positive attributes of dispatching teams of young and not necessarily experienced JOCV are that they are able to achieve certain results by setting clear goals for a specific period under the supervision of experts. The secretariat and overseas offices should support JOCV teams in order to enhance their future performance.

To avoid any decrease in project efficiency, it is necessary to conduct a survey of local needs prior to the project and to continuously monitor the change of local awareness.

(2) Recommendations

It is necessary to re-examine the local needs to determine the necessary input for continuing the project. Furthermore, the outcomes of this project should be fully understood by regularly implementing ex-post studies and comparing similar projects implemented in other countries.