Trinidad and Tobago

The Regional Fisheries Training Project

Project Sites Chaguramas

1. Background of Project

Trinidad and Tobago, a country of islands in the Caribbean Sea which has a fragile socio-economic foundation has been in the process of reviewing its economic policy of which fisheries development was an important part. Such development was being implemented in order to obtain foreign currency and raise the food self-support ratio by shifting its fisheries style from coastal fisheries to offshore fisheries. Fisheries development has been a common challenge for the Caribbean islands. With the cooperation of the UNDP and FAO, Trinidad and Tobago established the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI) in 1974 as a technical training organization for fisheries. Due to the lack of training equipment and trainers, however, activities of the CFTDI were being stagnated. Thus, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago requested a project-type technical cooperation from the Government of Japan, with the purpose of reestablishing the CFTDI and enhancing its function.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

1 April 1996 − 31 March 2001

(2) Type of Cooperation

Project-type Technical Cooperation

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI)
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

The technical skills of fishery personnel in Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean countries are improved.

2) Project Purpose

The technical skills and training courses of the CFTDI are improved, and the capacity of human resource in fishery-related areas is enhanced.

3) Outputs

a) Technical skills and expertise of CFTDI staff are improved.
b) Appropriate and extendable fishery techniques, including those for maintenance of marine engines, fish processing and quality control are acquired and accumulated at the CFTDI.
c) An appropriate curriculum and texts are prepared in fishery-related areas.
d) More sophisticated seminars can be held.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Long-term experts	8
Short-term experts	18
Trainees received	15
Equipment	164 million yen
Local cost	118 million yen

Trinidad and Tobago Side

Counterparts	11
Local cost	205 million yen

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Team Leader:
Hajime KAWAMURA, Chief, Fishery and Environment Division, Forestry and Natural Environment Department, JICA
Fishery Technology:
Tatsuro MATSUOKA, Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University
Marine Engine:
Masato HAMAGUCHI, National Fisheries University, Fisheries Agency
Fish processing:
Haruka IIDA, General Manager, Food Processing Division, National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, Fisheries Agency
Planning and Management:
Ikuo TAKEKAWA, Fishery and Environment Division, Forestry and Natural Environment Department, JICA

4. Period of Evaluation

4 November 2000 − 18 November 2000

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Relevance

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has put importance on technical improvement for fishery staff even after the reorganization of the CFTDI, and stressed the significance of human resource development in the fishery sector.

The CFTDI has been so far the only technical training organization in the fisheries sector in the region, and is regarded as the only international training center that targets Eastern Caribbean countries. Given these facts, the project is deemed relevant.

(2) Effectiveness

Technical guidance has been provided on eight items related to fishery technology including the vertical longline fishing method, and the total number of participants of training courses amounted 755. In the marine engine field, technical guidance on seven items has been provided including maintenance of outboard engines (44 training courses and 559 participants in total). Broad technical guidance has been provided from that on methods of fish processing to frozen storage methods. Counterparts of each field have held seminars with knowledge and practical skills obtained in the training courses in Japan, and they valued highly as well as requests for further seminars from participants and their employers. As for preparation of textbooks and teaching materials, they are either in the process of being prepared or almost completed. Overall evaluation is that the project purpose was successfully met.

(3) Efficiency

Although various training courses and types of technical guidance have been provided, efficiency of the project is evaluated as somewhat low. This is because Trinidad and Tobago set a high level of conditions on appointment of counterparts and it resulted in significant delay in staff allocation. It took two and a half years after the project initiation until the staffing was completed. During this period, counterparts who received training courses in Japan were transferred and training on the same issue on newly assigned counterparts were required. At the initial stage of the project, this kind of inefficiency was observed, but in the latter stage, the project was implemented smoothly and effectively with good teamwork among dispatched experts, and with diligence of counterparts.

(4) Impact

Project activities covered a total of 25 items in fisheries-related areas. New techniques such as the vertical longline fishing method and diesel outboard engines were accepted by fishermen, as well as fried fish balls cooked as a trial have come to served at local hotels. As seen in the above, the project had a significant impact.

Practical training of bottom trawling

(5) Sustainability

There were uncertain factors in terms of project sustainability. For fish processing, a procurement route of materials is not secured for maintenance of provided equipment, which causes negative impacts. Financial sustainability is relatively high, however, there are many uncertainties in organizational aspects since it may have difficulties in coordinating and developing fisheries strategies due to the reorganization of the CFTDI.[1)] Furthermore, Trinidad and Tobago has not yet made a commitment that the reorganized CFTDI would continuously hire counterparts of the project. There are some uncertainties in terms of system maintenance to make good use of project outputs.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Recommendations

The CFTDI needs to reorganize itself smoothly, taking necessary measures for maintenance of equipment provided by Japan, and to consider stable and continuous employment of counterparts. The CFTDI should also encourage cooperation with other fields within the institute, and seek the improvement of technical skills and training curriculum. The encouragement of technical extension for the private sector, including fishermen and fish processing companies, is also needed.

7. Follow-up Situation

Based on the above recommendations, the second phase of the "Promotion of Sustainable Marine Fisheries Resource Utilisation" was started in September 2001, and broader cooperation has been provided.

1) Reorganization of the CFTDI is scheduled in September 2001. It will be integrated with the Maritime Training Division under jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources.