
Vocational training school in Dhaka (Bangladesh)

Technical Cooperation Projects

Customized Cooperation Created with Community Participation

Technical Cooperation projects are one of the core projects implemented overseas by JICA. Customized cooperation projects are created with partner countries taking into account local conditions, utilizing the knowledge, experience, and technology of both Japan and developing countries toward the resolution of issues within a specified time frame.

The needs of developing countries are becoming increasingly diverse and multifaceted. In addition to agriculture and the development of social infrastructure, these needs have in recent years spread to support for measures against infectious diseases, transition to a market economy, and the development of legal systems, peacebuilding and reconstruction assistance in Afghanistan, Sudan, and elsewhere.

JICA considers that it is important to provide more accurate and rapid responses to these countries' needs as well as to plan and implement cooperation in the most effective manner depending on each situation and development issues in various countries.

Characteristics of Technical Cooperation Projects

Cooperation that Respects Ownership

JICA's Technical Cooperation is intended to develop human resource capacities and build institutional frameworks that enable developing countries to engage in economic activities while working toward a stable society through their own efforts. To secure sustainable economic and social development even after JICA's cooperation activities have ended, it is important to nurture a sense of ownership among developing countries toward these projects. For this reason, many Technical Cooperation projects adopt "participatory" methods, whereby local people in each project's target area participate in planning, operation management and evaluation activities.

Joint Projects

Technical Cooperation projects are joint projects with partner country governments. JICA does not simply bear all the expenses incurred by the projects, but shares the responsibilities and encourages partner countries' self-help efforts to improve sustainability after cooperation ends.

Technical Cooperation Appropriate for Local Conditions

JICA works to develop appropriate technology integrating local know-how and Japanese technology.

Institutional Reform and Organizational Strengthening

Not merely limited to technical advice and technology transfers to counterpart personnel, our assistance puts emphasis on capacity development for improving developing countries' abilities in addressing development issues by people, organizations and society as a whole.

Cooperation with the Private Sector

To actively utilize the cumulative experience and know-how of private enterprises, universities, NGOs, etc., JICA is expanding collaboration with those players, and pursuing a results-oriented approach over a wide range of sectors.

Operation and Management of Technical Cooperation Projects

PDM (Project Design Matrix) is known as a logical framework which organizes project flow: "inputting resources" → "implementing various activities" → "attaining a goal." JICA utilizes PDM as a management tool for Technical Cooperation projects to ensure consistency in planning, implementation, and evaluation.

In PDM, "goals" are divided into the following three levels:

1) **Outputs**
   Specific goods or services produced through the implementation of activities
2) **Project Purpose**
   As a result of the produced output, the purpose expected to be attained by the time a project is completed
3) **Overall Goal**
   Development goal expected to be achieved by sustaining the effects of each attained project purpose through project implementation. Attainable with a high degree of certainty over a certain period of time after project completion

Utilizing PDM logically assembles causes and effects to determine how the relationships between "inputs" and "activities" are linked to attain these three goals. Indicators are set to confirm the attainment of the "goals," and external conditions for proceeding to the next step are clarified at each stage, until PDM is completed. Projects proceed based on this PDM process.

Major Inputs

Technical Cooperation projects are aimed at obtaining better outcomes through the optimum and flexible combination of inputs—such as the "dispatch of experts," "acceptance of technical training participants," and "provision of equipment"—as well as through the management of projects in a planned and comprehensive manner, and maintaining consistency from the planning stage through implementation and evaluation.

1) **Dispatch of Experts**
   Japanese experts are dispatched to developing countries, where they work together with government officials and engineers to develop and disseminate technologies and institutions suited to the conditions in those countries. Where appropriate, JICA

dispatches experts from third countries (countries other than Japan or the partner country), rather than experts from Japan in order to deliver services more efficiently.

2) Acceptance of Training Participants

JICA invites competent personnel in developing countries, who have significant responsibility in social and economic development, to Japan as training participants. They participate in training programs in Japan and obtain knowledge and technologies necessary to their home countries. JICA also organizes training programs in partner countries or in third countries.

3) Provision of Equipment

Equipment needed by experts for implementing effective cooperation are provided to partner countries.

4) Partnership with NGOs

JICA promotes coordination with NGOs when there is a need to disseminate technologies, systems, and institutional frameworks, broadly or when activities are being conducted at a grassroots level.

5) Local Activity Expenses

To boost development effects, JICA supports expenses for training, seminars, educational campaigns, and public relations activities while enabling experts to carry out their onsite activities smoothly.

Example

Ethiopia
Project for Strengthening Technology Development, Verification, Transfer and Adoption through Farmer Research Groups (FRGs)

Development of FRG* Guidelines Proceed Smoothly with Increased Incomes Also Attained

Agriculture, which involves about 85% of the working population and accounts for 52.3% of the gross domestic product, is one of the most important industries in Ethiopia. Because of concerns over inadequate food supplies for many years, there is a pressing need to improve agricultural productivity in Ethiopia, and the government has attempted to introduce and promote a research method (the FRG approach). This approach features the cooperation of farmers, researchers, and development agents to work on development and improvement of agricultural technologies. In practice, however, many FRG activities to date have tended to be top-down with inadequate efforts made to understand the actual requirements of local farmers. As a result, there have been strident calls for the construction of effective systems that can implement appropriate development and modifications that meet farmers' needs and are within their capabilities.

In 2003, Ethiopia requested that the government of Japan provide Technical Cooperation to establish a technology development system based on farmer participation and enhance systems for the dissemination of appropriate technologies. In response to this request, JICA proposed the following Technical Cooperation project. The five-year project, involving a combination of dispatching experts, acceptance of technical training participants, provision of equipment, and support for expenses, etc., and joint implementation of cooperation with Ethiopia, commenced in July 2004.

Project Objective:
Establish a new "FRG approach" to serve as a core for research and dissemination methods.

Input:

Japan side

Long-term dispatch of experts
Total of four people
(Permanent stationing of three people)
Short-term dispatch of experts
Total of 16 people
(About 27 people/month)
Acceptance of technical training participants
65 people
(Including third-country training)
Provision of equipment
Project management expenses

Ethiopia side

Stationing of counterparts
Total of 14 people
Project management expenses
Provision of land and facilities, and offices for the Japanese experts

This project has to date successfully obtained the participation of stakeholders in promoting the steady development of FRG guidelines, resulting in activities linked to increases in farmer production volumes and productivity, particularly in farming households engaged in vegetable cultivation and seed production, and to increases in income. As the final year of cooperation approached, attention was turning to such residual issues as the development of educational materials to assist with technology dissemination and the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems. Progress is being made with efforts to form follow-on cooperation projects that expand and develop the cooperation results obtained from this project.

* FRG: Farmer Research Group


Farmers receive an explanation of FRG activities.


Improved plow