



Senegal: Brightly dressed women from farming families [Photo by Shinichi Kuno]

Director General's Message

Rural Development

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Focused on Sustainable Agricultural Production, Stable Food Supply and Promoting Dynamic Rural Communities

Among other goals, JICA's cooperation for agriculture and rural development seeks to reduce poverty in rural areas, promote economic development and ensure proper nutrition for people in developing countries. JICA's efforts are focused on the objectives of sustainable agricultural production, stable food supply and promoting dynamic rural communities. In fiscal 2012, the Rural Development Department drew up a position paper on agriculture and rural development that will guide the operations of this section from fiscal 2013 onward.

Food prices, which have been consistently high since 2008, peaked again in 2012 in the wake of a drought in the United States and other factors. This issue was recognized in such global forums as the G8 summit held in the United States in 2012, which included aid for developing countries seriously impacted by surging food prices on its agenda.

To begin with, we are taking steps in Africa to increase productivity, build value chains, and achieve agricultural and rural development that is resistant to droughts and other shocks. To that end, we conducted numerous aid activities in fiscal 2012. We continued the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) initiative that aims to double rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa over a 10-year period. In Mozambique, we worked on agricultural development inclusively in the Nacala Development Corridor inviting the private sector in collaboration with Brazil. In Kenya and other countries in Africa, we implemented projects to increase the capacity of small-scale horticulture farmers to operate farming as a business. We also provided aid to make effective use of the scarce water in the Horn of Africa region, which suffered from drought in 2011.

Among our international community activities, in accordance with the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition agreed on

at the U.S. G8 summit, we participated in the formation of a cooperation framework document for Mozambique that involved the country's government, donors and the private sector.

We also provided wide-ranging aid to post-conflict countries, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan, where the agriculture sector plays an important role.

In 2012, the Rural Development Department drew up a position paper on agriculture and rural development that will guide the operation of this section going forward.

In fiscal 2013, in addition to our programs mentioned above, we are providing aid to promote the participation of private sector companies in the agriculture and rural development sector, produce high quality and safe food in countries where income levels are relatively high, contribute to climate change measures through agriculture and assist Myanmar. In May 2013, the Japanese government included agriculture as a new frontier in its infrastructure export strategy. As a result, we plan to redouble our efforts to provide aid that contributes to development in developing countries while at the same time contributing to the overseas business development of Japanese companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).