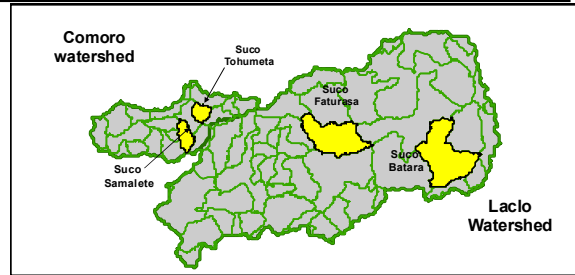




The Study on Community-Based Integrated Watershed Management in Laclo and Comoro River Basins in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste



Location Map of the Target Villages

This is the third issue of the official newsletter from the JICA Study on Community-Based Integrated Watershed Management in Laclo and Comoro River Basins. It has been seven months since we published the second issue of our newsletter. It sounds an old cliché, but time really flies!! Anyway, we are happy to share updates of the study. This issue is aimed at presenting the progress of the Study that we had made between August 2007 and January 2008, in which the Team had engaged mainly in the preparation of implementation plans for the pilot projects under the Study.

Objectives of the Pilot Project

The chief objective of the pilot project is to collect information necessary for finalizing the draft watershed management plan, of which the first draft was prepared in March 2007. To this end, the pilot project shall:

- put some of the priority sub-programs proposed in the draft watershed management plan to trial;
- develop a model of a mechanism for implementation of the management plan; and
- develop the capacities of the stakeholders to implement/manage sub-programs of the watershed management plan.

Scope of the Pilot Project

The pilot projects will be implemented at four sucos in the Study Area from January 2008 to August 2009. In general, two to three sub-programs will be implemented at each suco.

Target Villages for the Pilot Project

The Study Team and MAF selected the following four sucos as target villages for the pilot project.

Comoro watershed

- Suco Samalete (Railaco sub-district, Ermera)
- Suco Tohumeta (Laulara sub-district, Aileu)

Laclo watershed

- Suco Faturasa (Remexio sub-district, Aileu)
- Suco Batara (Laclubar sub-district, Manatuto)

Present Conditions of the Villages

In order to grasp the current socio-economic and natural conditions of the target villages, the Study Team carried out detailed surveys (Household Interview Survey and RRA Survey) at the target villages together with two NGOs, World Vision East Timor and USC Canada Timor Leste. All the results of the detailed surveys were compiled in Interim Report of the Study, which was submitted to the Government of Timor-Leste in January 2008. Some highlights of the surveys are summarized below.

Major Features of Suco Samalete

- There is no all-weather road to the village.
- Coffee is the main source of income.
- There are few natural resources except coffee in the village. Many forests were cleared in the Portuguese era.
- Security of domestic water during the dry season is one of the most critical issues.
- Tara Bandu was revived in 2005.
- The leadership in the village seems to be rather strong.



Suco Samalete

Major Features of Suco Tohumeta

- The village is located close to Dili. But villagers have to walk for two hours to Dili since there is no transportation service.

- b. Maize, cassava, and sweet potato are grown for consumption, while banana, vegetables and beans are produced as cash crops.
- c. Some villagers harvest timber and firewood for cash.
- d. Tara bandu has not been revived.
- e. The leadership in the village seems to be weak.



Suco Tohumeta

Major Features of Suco Faturasa

- a. Going to Dili or Aileu, villagers have to walk up to the neighboring village or sub-district capital to have public transportation.
- b. Coffee, honey, orange and livestock are the major sources of income.
- c. Maize, cassava and sweet potato are grown for consumption.
- d. Some farmers grow vegetable with the assistance of NGO.
- e. Tara Bandu has yet to be in effect, but the village wants to revive it.
- f. Women in the village seem to be active.



Suco Faturasa

Major Features of Suco Batara

- a. Although the village is located far from Dili, the accessibility to the market seems to be

good since it is located at the center of the sub-district.

- b. Tua Sabu (local distilled liquor), coffee, orange, maize and cassava are the major sources of income.
- c. The village seems to be relatively rich in forest resources.
- d. Tara Bandu has been effective since 2003.
- e. The leadership in the village seems to be rather strong.



Suco Batara

Determination of Pilot Projects

The pilot projects should be planned in a participatory manner. To do so, the target villages had a series of discussions following the steps listed below.

- a. Analyze issues on natural resource management and possible solutions;
- b. Separately discuss by male and female groups and select priority sub-programs among those short-listed by the Study Team; and
- c. Conclude their idea through discussions among community members.



Discussion among Male members at Batara

Pilot Projects at the Target Villages

Toward “ Sustainable Watershed Management”

As a result, the target villages selected the following sub-programs as a pilot project at the respective villages.

Outlines of Sub-programs

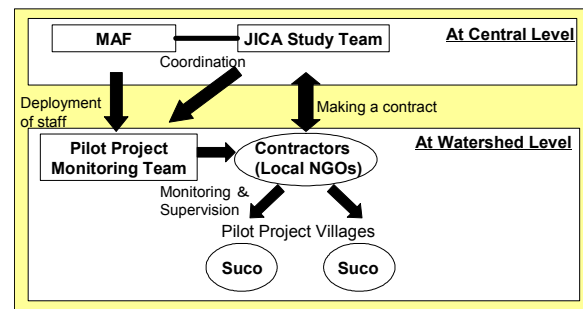
Subprograms	Beneficiaries	Major Activities
Samalete		
Tree Planting Promotion Sub-program	All households who are willing to participate	-Develop a communal nursery at each aldeia -Develop a demo plot for tree planting at a group level and conduct hands-on training courses
Coffee Plantation Rehabilitation Sub-program	ditto	-Develop a demo plot for rehabilitation of aged coffee plantation at a group level -Conduct farmers field schools (FFSs) on coffee rehabilitation -Provide members with materials and tools necessary
Tohumeta		
Tree Planting Promotion Sub-program	All households who are willing to participate	-Conduct training courses on seedling production -Provide members with materials necessary for seedling production -Develop a demo plot for tree planting at each aldeia -Conduct hands-on training courses
Home Garden Sub-program	All households who can access to water & land for vegetable farming	-Develop a demo plot for home gardening at each aldeia -Conduct FFSs on vegetable farming -Provide members with materials needed for home gardening
Faturasa		
Participatory Land Use Planning Sub-program	Whole village	-Prepare a present land use map -Discuss future land & resource uses -Prepare a future land use map & regulations on resource uses -Revive Tara Bandu
Grazing Control with Protein Bank Sub-program	Core farmers who are willing to participate	-Develop demo plots for i) control of Chromoleana & ii) protein banks at each aldeia -Conduct hands-on training courses -Conduct awareness raising activities to prevent wild fires

Subprograms	Beneficiaries	Major Activities
Community-based Seed Extension Sub-program	All households in 2 aldeias	-Develop a demo plot for improved and local varieties of food crops at each aldeia -Conduct FFSs on farming practices -Provide members with seeds and farm tools
Bafara		
Sustainable Upland Farming Promotion Sub-program	Selected households who are willing to participate	-Develop a demo plot for soil conservation measures at each aldeia -Conduct FFSs on sustainable upland farming -Provide members with seeds and farm tools for soil conservation measures
Income Generating / Cost Saving Sub-program	Selected women who are willing to participate	-Conduct a market research -Conduct several types of hands-on training -Provide materials and technical assistance for women's groups

Institutional Framework for Pilot Project Implementation

(1) Organizational Structure for Implementation

The pilot projects will be implemented by local communities of the target villages with the assistance of NGOs as illustrated below.



Overall Institutional Framework for Implementation of the Pilot Project

(2) Functions of Major Stakeholders

Each stakeholder involved in the overall framework has the respective functions.

MAF/NDF

- a. to allocate necessary resources to operationalize the Pilot Project Monitoring Team (PPMT)¹ of MAF;

¹ The Pilot Project Monitoring Team is a taskforce organized by MAF exclusively for the pilot projects under the JICA Study.

- b. to manage and supervise the activities of the PPMT; and
- c. to prepare/create an enabling environment where the PPMT can function as originally planned.

Pilot Project Monitoring Team (PPMT)

- a. to monitor the implementation of the pilot projects periodically;
- b. to identify any issues/difficulties that the NGOs/local communities are facing;
- c. to coordinate with relevant agencies as well as the JICA Study Team in the implementation of the pilot projects; and
- d. to prepare and submit weekly and monthly monitoring reports to NDF and the JICA Study Team.

NGOs/Contractors

- a. to implement the pilot project in partnership with local communities of the target villages;
- b. to provide necessary technical assistance to local communities of the target villages;
- c. to organize community members into beneficiaries’ groups;
- d. to provide training/capacity development activities needed for enabling local communities to implement the pilot projects; and
- e. to prepare and submit quarterly and annual accomplishment reports to the JICA Study Team.

Local Communities

- a. to actively and voluntarily participate in meetings, training / capacity development activities, and workshops to be organized by the NGOs;
- b. to implement and maintain the activities of the pilot projects with the assistance of the NGOs; and
- c. to make effort to expand awareness on the importance of watershed management.

JICA Study Team

- a. to monitor, supervise, and manage the implementation of the pilot projects;
- b. to provide technical and managerial assistance to the NGOs and PPMT;
- c. to analyze and evaluate the process of implementing the pilot project; and
- d. to extract lessons learned through the implementation of the pilot project and revise the draft watershed management plan if necessary.

(3) Implementation Schedule

The overall implementation schedule of the pilot project is as follows.

Overall Work Schedule of the Pilot Project

Activities	Timeframe
Selection and organization of beneficiaries	Jan-Feb 2008
Exposure visits	Feb 2008
Participatory work planning	Feb/Mar 2008
Implementation of major sub-program activities (e.g., development of demo plots, training and provision of materials)	Apr 2008 – Aug 2009
Annual monitoring and work planning	Feb/Mar 2009
Evaluation	Aug/Sep 2009

Monitoring Plan

The following monitoring activities will be carried out by the PPMT together with the JICA Study Team in the course of the pilot projects.

- a. Weekly Progress Monitoring
- b. Monthly Progress Monitoring
- c. Quarterly Monitoring Meeting with NGO
- d. Annual Evaluation and Action Planning for the next year

To date...

In January 2008, the Study Team selected and contracted out two NGOs, namely Halarae Foundation for Comoro and USC Canada Timor Leste for Lacro, for the implementation of the pilot projects. The NGOs have commenced the work in the same month and worked at the target villages on the selection of beneficiaries, organization of beneficiaries, participatory planning of work plans.

On the other hand, MAF organized the Pilot Project Monitoring Team in October 2007 as a taskforce exclusively for monitoring the pilot project under the Study. The Study Team has organized several meetings and orientation sessions with the members of the PPMT since November 2007 so that they could function as expected.

More details of the works that the Study Team has carried out since January 2008 will be reported in the coming newsletter.

For more information or any valuable comments, please contact us at:

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