

The Project for Community-Based Sustainable Natural Resource Management

We really regret that we were not able to update the information of the Project since we issued the last issue of the newsletter in August 2012. This issue introduces the progress and accomplishments made by the Project from July 2012 to March 2013.

Development of a Mechanism on CB-NRM on a Village Level (Output 1)

1.1 Participatory Land Use Planning in Suco Hautoho and Tohumeta

In Sucos Hautoho and Tohumeta, local communities engaged in the following activities with the assistance of the Project from July to December 2013.

- Tara Bandu ceremonies
- Selection of supporting programs

(1) Tara Bandu Ceremonies

Local communities in Suco Hautoho held a traditional ceremony named Tara Bandu ceremony on August 14, 2013 inviting more than 400 participants including Secretary of State for Forest and Nature Conservation, Chief Representative of JICA Timor-Leste Office, and Sub-district Administrator of Remexio. In the ceremony, the village leaders announced the enforcement of the village regulations briefing the major articles. The same was held in Suco Tohumeta on September 4, 2013 with about 70 participants including Sub-district Administrator of Laulara, District Director of MAF in Aileu, and representative of NDF.



Tara Bandu Ceremony @ Hautoho

(2) Selection of Supporting Programs

Local communities in both villages were further assisted by the NGOs in the selection of a/ priority program/s (so-called “micro program”)

among the potential ones listed by the JICA Project Team through the following workshops held in December 2012.

Workshop	Descriptions
Workshop 1	Presentation of long-listed potential micro programs and selection of preferable micro programs
Workshop 2	Evaluation of the selected preferable micro programs and selection of priority micro programs
Workshop 3	Discussion on draft scope/s of the priority micro program/s

Source: JICA Project Team (2013)

The communities agreed to implement the following programs from January 2013 to materialize the future land use plans of the respective villages.

Suco	Descriptions
Hautoho	Sustainable Upland Farming Promotion with Community-Based Seed Extension Micro Program (SUFP with CBSE-MP)
	Income Generating/Livelihood Development Micro Program (IG/LD-MP)
Tohumeta	Sustainable Utilization of Backyard Garden/Permanent Farm Micro Program (SUBG/PF-MP)

Source: JICA Project Team (2013)



Workshop @ Tohumeta

1.2 Enforcement of the Village Regulations in the Six Target Villages

The leaders of the six (6) target villages including Sucos Hautoho and Tohumeta have periodically held the village meetings to monitor the enforcement of the village regulations in the villages. In the meetings, the leaders discussed the issues and problems that they found in the villages and figured out the possible actions to be taken to solve the problems with the assistance from the NGOs. The leaders have enhanced their governance capacity as they have settled the problems through the meetings. Consequently, the incidence of illegal activities, such as forest fires, illegal logging, and illegal animal grazing, has drastically reduced as compared to the conditions before the Project.

1.3 Implementation of Micro Programs in Sucos Faturasa and Fadabloc

(1) Sustainable Upland Farming Promotion with Community-Based Seed Extension Micro Program (SUFP with CBSE-MP)

From August 2012 to March 2013, the following hands-on training courses (or Field Farmers' Schools: FFSs) were organized in the demonstration plots in each aldeia of Sucos Faturasa and Fadabloco for the members of the beneficiaries' groups for SUFP with CBSE-MP.

- Application of bench terrace techniques
- Application of contour composting techniques
- Land preparation with compost application
- Selection of seeds
- Seeding/planting
- Preparation of liquid fertilizer
- Maintenance of farms with application of liquid fertilizer
- Planting of green manure



Training on Bench Terrace @ Fadabloco

Improved varieties of upland crops (i.e., maize, sweet potato, peanut, and cassava) supported by Seed of Life were planted in the demonstration plots so that the beneficiaries' groups could produce improved seeds to distribute to the members in the next cropping season.

(2) Income Generating/Livelihood Development Micro Program (IG/LD-MP)

Simultaneously, four (4) women groups in Fadabloco received the following hands-on training sessions for the same period to diversify the income opportunities using local resources.

- Dried sweet potato production
- Herb tea production
- Salted vegetable production
- Banana and cassava chips production
- Sewing machine utilization
- Bag making using recycle rice sacks

Aside from the hands-on training, the members of the women's group received lectures and

training on marketing, accounting, and promotion of products.



Training on Sewing @ Fadabloco

1.4 Implementation of Micro Programs in Sucos Madabeno and Talitu

(1) Sustainable Upland Farming Promotion Micro Program (SUFP-MP)

Likewise, the beneficiaries' groups for SUFP-MP in Sucos Madabeno and Talitu had participated in the same hands-on training/FFS sessions as those in Suco Faturasa and Fadabloco. In Sucos Madabeno and Talitu, only local varieties of upland crops were planted in the demonstration plots.

(2) Seedling Production and Tree Planting Promotion Micro Program (SPTPP-MP)

The beneficiaries' groups for SPTPP-MP in both villages had engaged in the following activities in the nurseries established in each aldeia as On-the-Job Training (OJT). Prior to the OJT, the NGO arranged and organized hands-on training/FFS sessions on the same techniques at each nursery.

- Mixing of soils with sands and compost
- Filling of soils into poly bags
- Transplanting of sprouts into poly bags
- Planting of teak cuttings into poly bags



Nursery Operations @ Madabeno

In addition to training/OJT in production of seedlings, the following hands-on training/FFSs

courses were provided for the beneficiaries' groups for SPTPP-MP in the demonstration plots established at aldeia level.

- Delineation of contour lines (use of an A-frame)
- Staking
- Pitting
- Refilling and planting
- Maintenance of seedlings planted

After the above-mentioned hands-on training sessions except that for maintenance of seedlings, the beneficiaries' groups distributed the seedlings produced in the nurseries to the respective members so that the members could plant seedlings in their plots in accordance with the techniques that they learned through a series of training. A total of 21,139 seedlings were planted by 244 households in the individual plots in both villages.



Training in Planting Sandalwood @ Madabeno

1.5 Implementation of Micro Programs in Sucos Hautoho and Tohumeta

On the other hand, the preparatory works, namely, i) organization of the beneficiaries' groups for the selected micro programs, ii) exposure visits for core members of the beneficiaries' groups, and iii) preparation of work plans for the micro programs, were carried out in Sucos Hautoho and Tohumeta in January and February 2013. As a result, three (3) beneficiaries' groups were organized each for SUFP with CBSE-MP and IG/LD-MP in Suco Hautoho, while eight (8) groups were organized for SUBG/PF-MP in Suco Tohumeta.

Development of the Stakeholders' Capacity for CB-NRM (Output 2)

2.1 Technical Seminars on CB-NRM Techniques

From August 2012 to March 2013, the following technical seminars were held for the MAF

Project Team to enhance their understanding of CB-NRM and its associated techniques/skills.

Technical seminar	Date	No. of CPs
Facilitation skills	Oct. 8, 2012	14 persons
Major techniques and skills of the micro programs	Nov. 9, 2012	13 persons
PRA	Jan. 22, 2013	13 persons
Participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation	Feb. 11, 2013	14 persons

Source: JICA Project Team (2013)



Seminar on Facilitation Skills

2.2 OJT on PRA

The JICA Project Team organized the OJT of the members of the MAF Project Team in conducting PRA sessions in Suco Fahisoi on January 23 and 24, 2013 so that they could practice the key PRA sessions in the field. A total of 15 members were involved in the preparatin of field sessions, operations of PRA, and report making in the course of the sessions.



OJT on PRA

2.3 OJT in Monitoring and Implementation of the Project

The members of the MAF Project Team have been involved in the following activities as part of OJT to enhance their capacity to implement a CB-NRM project in future.

- a. Observation of and assistance in the conducts of hands-on training courses programmed in the micro programs
- b. Monitoring of the progress of the micro programs

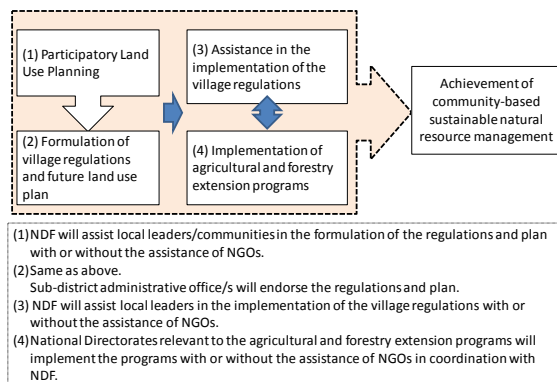
- c. Participation in monthly meetings to assist the leaders in the enforcement of the village regulations

Development of Policy Framework for Promotion of CB-NRM (Output 3)

3.1 Discussions of a Draft Framework of CB-NRM with the Working Team

The JICA and MAF Project Teams had the 4th meeting with the working group of NDF on January 15, 2013 to discuss the forest sector policy, forest management bill, and proposed mechanism on CB-NRM on a village level.

Through the meetings, the members confirmed that i) promotion of CB-NRM could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the forest sector policy and ii) PLUP that the JICA CB-NRM Project has demonstrated in the target villages would be the key activity for Community Forest Management Agreement (CFMA) defined in the forest management bill. In the end, the members of the working team developed a draft framework of a mechanism to promote CB-NRM on a village level as follows.



Mechanism on CB-NRM on a Village Level

OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT

4.1 Mid-term Review of the Project

A mid-term review of the Project was jointly conducted by MAF and JICA in February 2013. The mid-term review team made the following recommendations to the MAF and JICA Project Teams to make the Project more sustainable.

- Clarify the specific roles of the stakeholders
- Review the capacity development plan
- Develop an operational manual, technical manuals and policy recommendations
- Development of simplified methodology
- Information sharing among the project sites
- Awareness building for high officials

- Determination of the indicators of the PDM
- Monitoring of the indicators of the PDM

4.2 JCC Meetings

The JICA and MAF Project Teams assisted NDF in the organization of the 3rd and 4th JCC meetings in October 2012 and March 2013, respectively. In the former meeting, the members discussed the progress of the Project and approved the annual plan of operation (APO) of the Project for 2013, while the results of the mid-term review of the Project were the main topics discussed in the latter.



Third JCC Meeting © Dili

Next Steps

We believe that the Project is facing the turning point from the stage which focuses on demonstrating the effectiveness of CB-NRM activities in the field to the stage that aims to institutionalize mechanisms on introduction and promotion of CB-NRM not only at the village but also at the government level.

In 2013, we will, therefore, try to: i) help village leaders manage natural resources in a proper manner by using the village regulations; ii) help all the members apply the CB-NRM techniques introduced by the micro programs in their own farms/plots using the traditional collaborative working system; iii) develop the technical and institutional capacities of NDF to promote CB-NRM; and iii) draft policy recommendations with a new policy document for promotion of CB-NRM in the target river basins.

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