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Background

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Timor-Leste and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly implemented a technical cooperation project on Community-Based Sustainable Natural Resource Management (CB-NRM) during 2010-2015, which was a follow up of the study conducted by JICA on Community-Based Integrated Watershed Management in Laclo and Comoro River Basins. During 2010-2015 efforts were made to establish CB-NRM mechanism in six villages in Laclo and Comoro River Basins. The project activities included development of operational manual on CB-NRM and technical manuals on Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) and Micro Programs (e.g. for tree planting and upland farming), formation of a local Watershed Management Council etc. Realizing the success and contribution of the project, the GOTL requested the Government of Japan for further technical assistance to scale up CBNRM mechanism in other areas.



CB-NRM, Phase II - Project Framework

Project Area:

Laclo and Comoro Watersheds with focus on Noru and Bemós Sub-Watersheds.

Partnerships and collaborations:

MAF/ NDFWM and NGO

Project Period:

August 2016 to August 2020

Goal:

Community-based sustainable natural resource management (CB-NRM) mechanism is expanded to some of the major watersheds in accordance with the roadmap

Project Purpose:

Capacities of key operational actors including NDFWM, NGOs and other stakeholders to expand the CB-NRM mechanism are enhanced.

Result areas:

The project will help MAF/NDFWM for preparation of a road map for expansion of the CBNRM; for creation of an enabling environment for different relevant institutions to work on expansion of CBNRM; for capacity building of key stakeholders through actual engagement in field implementation.





JICA conducted a detailed planning survey including a series of discussions with National Directorate for Forestry and Watershed Management (NDFWM) and relevant organizations, and the current project CBNRM, Phase-II is the outcome of this survey. The Record of Discussions (R/D) on the cooperation for the Project implementation was signed on February 18, 2016. The project in the next four years will primarily focus on capacity building of key stakeholders and lay the foundation for expansion of CB-NRM in Timor Leste.

Progress of Project Implementation

Meeting of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of MAF and JICA was held on October 6, 2016 to approve the work plan and project implementation and monitoring mechanisms. Mr. Mario Ribeiro Nunes, Director General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants (DGFCIP), MAF appreciated the CBNRM mechanism and MAF makes use of the manuals developed by the Project and informed that MAF did suggest other Development Partners (DPs) to promote CBNRM mechanism. Mr. Hikoyuki Ukai, Chief Representative of the JICA Timor-Leste Office, highlighted the tangible impacts and appreciation of MAF made a strong rationale for JICA to continue support for Phase-II. NDFWM allocated a budget of USD 10,000 to continue activities in 6 villages formerly supported by JICA CB-NRM Project, Phase-I. It was a welcome step by the NDFWM to mainstream activities initiated under the project as Government programs.



JCC, 6th Oct 2016 in MAF, Comoro

PLUP in Fahisoi (Liquidoe), Fahisoi (Remexio) and Fatisi (Laulara)

The Project has engaged two local NGOs (RAEBIA Timor Leste and HALARAE Foundation) for implementation of Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) in 6 Sucos. Necessary orientation and guidance are being provided to these NGOs by the Project Experts for PLUP and the process has started in 3 Sucos. On the Job Training (OJT) for PLUP was started in October 2016 and will continue till the end of February. The OJT provides opportunities for different stakeholders – field staff of MAF in Aileu, Staff of NDFWM, Staff from local NGO and Project Staff of Development Partners to learn PLUP and implement it in their respective project area. The second batch OJT will start in May 2017 for other 3 Sucos. Community workshops are being organised for preparation of present and future land use maps, review of village regulations, which address communities' efforts for management of forest and other natural resources in conformity with agreed future land use plan. Exposure visits were organised to Fadabloco and Tohumeta (Phase 1 villages) to sensitize the community from the new project areas on PLUP, Village Regulations and Micro Programs.

OJT paves the way for collaboration with other DPs

Organisations deputed staff to OJT- MAF, GCCA-Cameos, USAID-AVANSA Agrikultura Project, PERMATIL, ACHAE and FRATERNA

Selection of Micro Programs

Workshops were organised in 3 Sucos at the community level (Suco as well as Aldeia) for introduction of different micro programs, short-listing and finalization of micro programs. The following programs have been discussed by the communities.

1. Seedling Production and Tree Planting Promotion
2. Community-based Seed Extension
3. Home Garden (Vegetable Production)
4. Grazing Control with Protein Banks
5. Sustainable Upland Farming Promotion
6. Coffee Plantation Rehabilitation
7. Income Generating/ Cost Saving
8. Initial Gully Control Sub-program
9. Sustainable Use of Backyard/Permanent Farms

In Fatisi, after a series of deliberations, scoring and ranking exercises, the community has agreed to take up Sustainable use of backyard and permanent farms. In Fahisoi (Lequidoe) and Fahisoi (Remexio), the communities will implement sustainable upland farming promotion along with community based seed extension activities. The Project is in the process of selection of local NGOs to implement the micro programs.

Basic steps adopted by the Project in PLUP

- Introduction of PLUP
- Working group formation
- Exposure visits to Phase 1 villages
- Present and future land use mapping
- Drafting village regulations including the review of customary rules
- Micro program identification
- Tara bandu ceremony



Kick off meeting for preparation of roadmap on CB-NRM

Development of a roadmap for MAF for expansion of the CB-NRM mechanism is one of the key outputs of the Project. As agreed by the MAF and JICA Project, a taskforce/working group is being formed with the representation of the heads of the technical departments of the three national directorates (National Directorate of Forest and Watershed Management – NDFWM, National Directorate of Nature Conservation – NDCN and National Directorate of Coffee and Industrial Plantation - NDCIP) for steering the preparation of roadmap. The first kick off meeting was held on October 20, 2016 at MAF Caicoli Office in Dili to introduce the basic concepts, methods, schedules and roles of different stakeholders in preparation of the roadmap. It is envisaged that the roadmap will guide the staff of MAF to identify critical/ priority watersheds and initiate actions for sustainable management of the critical watersheds scouting resources from different programs and projects of the Government and external resource agencies. A follow up meeting was convened on Feb 07, 2017 to further deliberate on the methods and time frame for preparation of the roadmap.



Initiating dialogues for a common platform on CB-NRM and watershed management

During September-October 2016, the Project Team interacted with different Development Partners working on Forestry, NRM, and Watershed Management to share information on the project; understand their interventions; identify possible areas of collaboration; and explore the possibility of forming a common platform to share information and experience in community based natural resource management. Based on discussion with the Director of NDFWM a concept note was prepared on enhancing coordination among the Development Partners working on Forest and Watershed Management. The NDFWM then held the coordination meeting on Feb 02, 2017 stressing the importance on development of standardized guidelines for sustainable forest management and watershed management. In addition, the Project Team participated in MAF-Development Partners harmonization meeting held on Jan 30, 2017.

The Chief Advisor of JICA CB-NRM Project participated in the regional consultation on the draft forest law on October 04, 2016 at MAF Office in Ainaro attended by representatives from NDFWM, FAO, MAF Staff from Ainaro, Covalima, and Manufahi Municipalities, NGOs, Sucos etc. and provided his observations on the draft basic forest law. The taskforce consisting of MAF and FAO for formulation/ revision of forest policy and basic forest law visited CB-NRM Project village (Tohumeta) to understand the project efforts on PLUP and micro programs.

Upcoming Events

1. CB-NRM Stakeholders' Workshop in Dili in March 2017.
2. OJT on Sustainable Upland Farming Promotion from mid-March 2017.
3. OJT on Participatory Land Use Planning from May 2017.

For further details, please contact us:-

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