

The Project for Water Management and Capacity Building in the Republic of Rwanda (WAMCAB)

Rwanda is located in the East African region. Agriculture accounts for 33% of GDP and about 70% of the working population.

Since 2010, Rwanda has maintained a high real economic growth rate of around 7% on average. Overall, stable macroeconomic management is being implemented.

Based on the development of ICT and tourism sectors, the economy has been growing up as called "African Miracle". In addition, by utilizing its gradual slopes named "the Land of a Thousand Hills", coffee and tea are the major cash crops for export.



The background

Rwandan agriculture depends on rainfall. The development of irrigation facilities is positioned as one of the priority development priorities.

The operation of the irrigation scheme is supposed to be transferred from the government to the Irrigation Water Users Organization (IWUO). However, it is not well managed due to insufficient capacities.

Therefore, based on the request of the Rwandan government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has launched the irrigation water management capacity improvement project with the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB). The Project purpose is "the capacity of irrigation scheme management improves in the model sites", which will be achieved by realizing the following 5 outputs:

1. Irrigation Management Transfer procedure and related aspects are identified;
2. IWUO management is enhanced in the model sites;
3. Operation and maintenance are properly implemented in the model sites;
4. Water management is properly implemented in the model sites; and
5. Farm management is properly implemented in the model sites.



Aiming to promote farming activities through irrigation
water management
by associations and administrative organizations



Main activities so far

Meeting and baseline survey

Activities of each month

- Apr. : Team formation, basic survey
- May : 1st JCC meeting
- Jun. : Baseline survey (quick survey in Gisagara district, farming survey), 1st Task Force meeting
- Jul. : Baseline survey (irrigation scheme)
- Aug. : Baseline survey (capacity assessment, service provider survey), 2nd Task Force meeting
- Sep. : Summary of baseline survey and analysis

Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC)

On May 8th, one month after the arrival of the JICA team in Rwanda, the 1st meeting of the JCC was held in Kigali, for discussing the basics of project management. At the meeting, the framework of the five-year project up to 2024 was approved. It was decided to aim at improving the capacity of administrative organizations related to IWUO and irrigation water management targeting in Rwamagana, Ngoma and Gisagara District.

The basic survey and baseline survey

To understand the situation and issues of IWUO and to prepare future improvement plans and training plans, the team has conducted basic and baseline surveys; interviews with donors and visits farming associations, rice mills, markets and agricultural exhibitions. In July, interviews were conducted with the irrigation water user's association and agricultural cooperatives in the 33 irrigation schemes. The team also surveyed capacity assessments and private service providers.

Project implementing system

