



Newsletter of JICA ECoRAD Project

The Project for Enhancing Community Resilience Against Drought In Northern Kenya
Special Edition Progress Report-2, September 2013: Natural Resource Management (1/3)



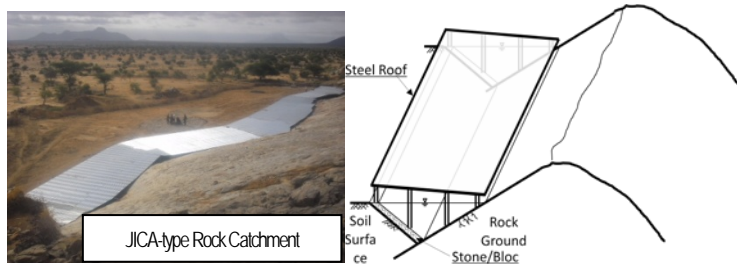
Since February 2013, the ECoRAD Project has implemented 4 programs: "Natural Resource Management", "Livestock Value Chain Improvement", "Livelihood Diversification", and "Peace Building" in Marsabit County.

Sustainable Natural Resource Management

The Project is constructing the following water facilities under natural resource management program in order to facilitate pastoralists resilience against drought.

Table with 3 columns: Facilities, Places, Communities, Progress. Rows include Rock Catchment, Pipeline System, Water Pan, and Solar Power Pumping System.

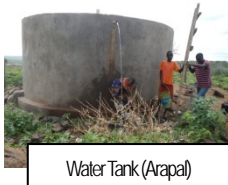
Rock Catchment: The Project invented an innovative design of rock catchment facility (so-called JICA Rock Catchment).



The JICA type rock catchment can lower construction cost approximately 30% below the normal design. Since this design has a long reservoir along a rock slope, it can collect rain water effectively.



Pipeline System: The Project improved an existing water pipeline system which has 8km length at Arapal. After project implementation, discharge of pipe water increased to 1.2 L/s, which is more than 2 times the rate before project.



Water Pans: There was severe intensive rainfall in March-April 2013, and some parts of water pans were damaged by flooding. However rectification works are ongoing presently, and are expected to be completed by the end of this dry season.



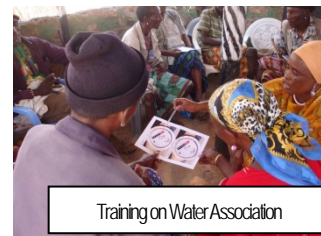
Solar Power Pumping System: Developing technology recently allows installation of solar power pumping system in deep wells, which have 100-200 m depth.

The Project installed large solar power modules at 3 existing boreholes, in order to supply electric power by the solar instead of the existing diesel generator. This made a huge decrease in fuel consumption. Such large solar power modules were installed in Marsabit County for the first time.



Table showing financial forecast for water fee collection, total expense, and monthly savings from July to September.

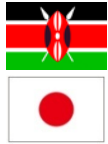
Part of such savings could be allocated as "Community Development Fund" for improving community people's lives. With new solar power pumping system, the community can have their own revenue generating system for community development.



ECoRAD Project Motto: CARP

- Consideration
After-care
Repeat
Perseverance





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The Project for Enhancing Community Resilience Against Drought In Northern Kenya
Special Edition Progress Report-2, September 2013: Livestock Value Chain and Peace Building (2/3)



Livestock Value Chain Improvement

Heifer Exchange Program :

Improvement of livestock market value chain and revitalization of livestock market are focal issues in Northern Kenya. However, since possession of livestock is prestigious in a pastoralist society, they do not sell their livestock unless they need cash immediately for specific reasons, such as buying food, education fee, etc. Pastoralists hope to keep livestock in their hands as long as they can. However, such attitude may lead the following disadvantages in terms of livestock market revitalization in Northern Kenya:

- Old castrated animals kept by pastoralists decrease in market value year by year
- The old animals do not have strong resilience against drought and are the first to be lost in drought
- While the castrated animals consume water and fodder in fields, they contribute nothing to animal reproduction. Thus, if the number of the old castrated animals is dominant in herds in Northern Kenya, the county's overall livestock productivity will be depressed; water and fodder will be consumed with no relation to the prosperity of offspring.

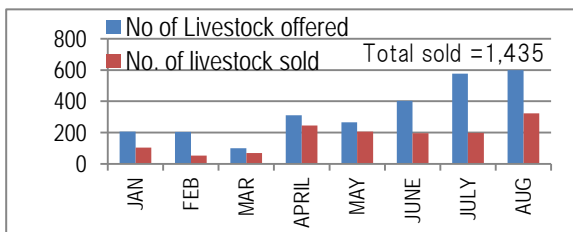
Thus the Project tried to find a way to facilitate pastoralists to sell their castrated animals at peak value in market. Finally, the Project innovatively formulated the "heifer exchange program" by which the Project provides heifers to pastoralists at the regular market price of livestock of Marsabit to motivate pastoralists to sell their castrated animals for obtaining funds for heifers.

Since January 2013, the Project has been providing heifers, as shown below, in Dirib Gombo Livestock Market. (Unit: head)

	(1) Number of heifers provided by Project and bought by pastoralists	(2) Required number of castrated shoats to be exchanged for a heifer	Estimated number of castrated shoats to be sold in market in exchange for heifers = (1) x (2)
Camel	22	10.57	233
Cattle	85	5.28	448
Shoats	266	0.97	258
			Total 939

The above number of 939 heads was estimated based on the condition that all the persons prepared cash by means of selling their castrated shoats. However it was actually found that there were several persons who obtained cash from other income sources; a rate of such persons was 29% according to interview survey made by the Project. Taking such persons into consideration, it was estimated 667 heads (=939 x 71%) of castrated shoats had been sold in the market. In other words, through the program, the Project has extracted no less than 667 castrated shoats from the dry-land, and replaced with the above numbers of high productive animals without forcing it to pastoralists.

The next figure shows number of shoats in the Dirib market for the last 8 months.



As shown in the figure, trading numbers increased continuously to 600 head/month, and total sales reached 1,435 head.

Out of the 1,435 head, 667 shoats (46%) were sold under the influence of the heifer program. The market saw a large increase, almost twice the trading volume; hence, the heifer program has greatly revitalized the Dirib market.

Peace Building

Ethnic conflict is one of the big concerns for pastoralist communities in Northern Kenya. The Project supports peace building activities: (1) through adult society, and (2) through school children. Attendees have been as follows:

(1) Peace Building Activities with adult societies

Activities	Number of attendees
1) Joint Public Baraza	265
2) Training of Kenya Police Reservists (KPR), Training of Peace committee, natural leaders, chiefs and women opinion leaders	21
3) Intercommunity meeting	195
4) Intra community dialogue	115
5) Peace Marathon (runners, NGOs, Government people, Media, general community members, school children)	300

(2) Peace Building Activities with School Children

Activities	Number of attendees
1) Intercommunity peace camps Twinning children for peace	a) 330 b) 230
2) Inter community holiday exchange program	a) 115 b) 120 c) 11 teachers
3) Formation of peace clubs	11 schools
4) Child and family twinning	a) 148 b) 320
5) Peace educators	11 teachers from 11 schools and 2 community volunteers

Activities with school children :

At first, "Children Peace Camp and Twinning" were conducted twice at different places for 5 days each. In the camps, 2 children from different ethnic groups were set as close friends. Then, parents of those children who attended the peace camps were invited to "Family twinning". In this event, children and parent stayed at his/her close friend house (home-stay), and cultivated their friendships through discussions, exchanging gifts, games, and so on.

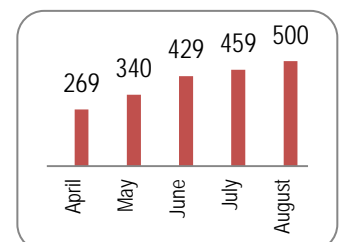


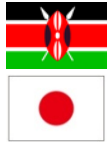
Peace Camp



Exchange gifts: a goat was given

After the peace camps and family twinning, the children started to write and exchange letters and gifts. To facilitate and maintain their friendship, the Project established "Peace Clubs" in 11 schools. The figure (right) shows the number of letters and gifts exchanged in the past 5 months; it indicates the children are developing and deepening their relationship after the peace camp.





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Special Edition Progress Report-2, September 2013: Livelihood Diversification (3/3)



The various activities under the livelihood diversification program reported previously are now in full swing in Marsabit County. Almost six months have passed since the program commenced. In this newsletter, current progress and issues to be addressed are reported.

Summary of Livelihood Diversification Program in Marsabit

In the livelihood diversification program, there are two categories under "JICA's ECoRAD Approach": namely the livestock utilization type (goat and chicken), and the local resource utilization type (salt, and resin and honey). As shown in the table below, four kinds of sub projects have been implemented with 27 target groups in six locations since its start in February 2013.

Table with 4 columns: Sub Project Sites, Contents of Sub Project, No. of Groups, Main input from the Project. Rows include North: Kalacha (Salt Business), North: Kalacha (Goat Merry-Go-Round), Central: Dakabaricha/Jirime (Chicken Merry-Go-Round), Central: Gar Qarsa (Goat Merry-Go-Round), South: Arapal (Goat Merry-Go-Round), South: Ngumit (Resin Honey Business).

*: Individuals, who participated initially, formed one group later.

It should be noted that most group members are women and thus roles of women in this field could be large.

Main Progress of Sub Project

Goat Merry-Go-Round Sub Project: In this sub project, goats, familiar to communities, are provided to representative members; multiplied in number; distributed to other members if female goats are delivered. When male goats are born, they are sold, and the money obtained is saved into the group account. Although some of goats provided died due to disease, now the situation is stable; 13 kids were born (female: 6, male: 7); and some groups have started enjoying milk as a benefit. In the first week of September, the first female kid was delivered to the first subsequent member who was on the top in a waiting list!

First recipient (left) and subsequent members who newly received female kids (Arapal)



Chicken Merry-Go-Round Sub Project: Similarly, this sub project provides chickens to representative members of groups. Groups breed chickens, and distribute chickens to members. The representative members also contribute part of income from sale of eggs and others to the group savings. This is implemented near Marsabit town where chicken demand is high. The introduced breed is mostly Sasso, which has more benefits (eggs and more meat) compared with local ones. Sasso hens do not sit on eggs, and hatching requires local hens, and in this sense, difference in progress has been observed among groups. As of now, 24 chicks were hatched, and there are some groups that



A Group member holding Sasso chicken (Dakabaricha)

sell eggs. Although these chicks are small and have not yet been distributed, this is expected to be done in due course.

Salt Business Sub Project: Salt business had previously been managed by a very large group of more than 100 members who did occasional collection of salt and sold it mainly in Kalacha. The activities of this group ended when the chairperson, who had strong leadership, died. In the participatory planning, there was a big debate on salt business among the participants, and one group showed strong commitment to conduct salt business, and eventually they were selected. This group has received entrepreneurship training and business advice from the Project team, and has collected salt, identified potential markets (there is potential demand from livestock in the northern areas from Kalacha), and sold 175 bags of 50 kg so far. Remarkably, the group itself arranged a lorry to transport salt bags. Change of their consciousness and behaviour has been observed.



Group members with salt bags collected by themselves (Kalacha)

Resin and Honey Business Sub Project: In Ngumit where forest is abundant, the sub project provides entrepreneurship training and business mentoring to the groups which have continued their preliminary business using forest products. The biggest change has been seen in the scope of honey marketing. Those who never marketed honey outside the local area can now do so thanks to the training. The marketing of resin is also picking up.

Group Saving as Drought Fund: Especially for chicken and goat merry-go-round sub projects, group savings is encouraged in order to use the money in the future as Drought Funds. Some groups of chicken sub project have started saving money as Drought Funds. There are a few groups that save money from member contributions in addition to the sales from livestock products.



Wooden Box for the group account and black box for Drought Fund

Main Issues Observed

Current stage of livestock utilization is that the initial provided livestock have grown and started delivering the next generation. Among groups of chicken sub project, there are differences in progress in terms of hatching. Also, the goat sub project experiences some delay in delivering goats perhaps due to environmental factors. As such, further technical guidance on them is required.

With regard to VICOBA (Village Community Banking), where we provided training to groups, this can be utilized fully if capable leaders are available. However, most members are illiterate and they seem unable to understand complicated interest rate calculation unless leaders are capable. Therefore, a simpler saving system will be emphasized for those who are less capable.

Further Schedule

To address the above issues, PFS (Pastoralist Field School) approach will be taken to provide opportunities to learn from each other among related target groups. Also, linkages will be created between the groups and government technical officers concerned to have continuous support by themselves. The Project team recognizes its role as a "Catalyst" and the importance of fostering communities' "Self Reliance" keeping an exit strategy in mind. Positive progress is being observed, although issues exist. In order to achieve the Project goal, namely to enhance community resilience against drought, our team continues our activities in this program.