

Establishment of Demonstration Plots of Mechanized Tea Harvesting

The DOKAP-TARIM Project aims at dissemination of multiple farming, combining of conventional tea/hazelnut and new cash crops in Eastern Black Sea region. In the tea production area of Rize and adjacent provinces, heavy workload on tea harvesting during spring to autumn is a bottleneck for farmers to introduce new crop production. Therefore, the Project has carried out several demonstrations of tea harvest machines (pluckers) as a labor-saving technology since May 2009.



Present Typical Tea Gardens and Harvesting Method

Present shape of tea garden in the region is not suitable for mechanization. Efficient use of tea pluckers needs reshape of tea garden. The well-designed tea gardens are necessary to demonstrate mechanization of tea harvesting.

The Project Team procured 2 types of trimmers from Japan, namely 1-person type and 2-person type. Those machines are designed for the tea pluckers procured previously, and much better than chainsaws normally used in the region in terms of safety and sharpness. After the end of 2009 harvest season, the Project Team established 2 demonstration plots of mechanized tea harvesting in Trabzon and Rize provinces. The plots were located in parts of farmers' gardens in the model and extension areas. The detailed information of the demonstration plots are given below.

Demonstration Plot No.1

Place: Uğurlu, Of District, Trabzon Province (Model Area)

Date: October 9, 2009

Plot: 2 lines; Width 120 cm, Length 15 m, Interval 40 cm

1 line; Width 60 cm, Length 15 m, Interval 40 cm

Note: Project Team operated the trimmers.

Staffs of JICA Turkey Office observed the plot on October 16.



Demonstration Plot No.2

Place: Yücehisar, Pazar District, Rize Province (New Extension Area)

Date: October 27, 2009

Plot: 3 lines; Width 120 cm, Length 10 m, Interval 30 cm

Note: Provincial coordinator and district engineers participated.

The owner farmer used the trimmers.



The demonstration plots would be used for the demonstration of the tea pluckers continuously from 2010 spring season. The Turkish members of the Project Team are responsible to manage the plots and operate the demonstrations.

