

JICA RWANDA News

APRIL - JUNE 2015 • NUMBER 23 • KIGALI

JICA Supports to Improve the Quality of Rwandan Coffee

JICA is supporting the coffee sector through volunteers, organizing coffee saloons in major cities in Japan and by dispatching coffee expert Mr. Yoshiaki 'Jose' Kawashima to support coffee producers



Coffee expert Mr. Kawashima prepares coffee for seminar participants to taste

On 29th May 2015, coffee seminar to exchange issues and opportunities along coffee value chain and explore ways of strengthening Rwanda and Japan coffee trade and cooperation was organized by JICA in collaboration with NAEB.

The one day seminar focused on sharing knowledge on coffee production and processing in Rwanda and the potential to export more coffee especially to the Japanese market. NAEB and other private coffee value chain stakeholders discussed means to improve the quantity and quality of coffee products.

“Sensitization of local consumption is very important especially for coffee farmers. They don’t care much of the quality because they don’t know the difference between bad and good tasting coffee. Japanese consume a lot of coffee, but we don’t just drink any coffee. We prefer the best quality. Japan being among the top five coffee consuming countries in the world, it is likely to import high quality coffee and Rwanda needs to improve the quality of its coffee to be in the top exporters to Japan”, Mr. Kawashima said in his remarks.

Participants agreed that it is important to improve

the quality as well as the branding and marketing strategies for more coffee selling. While Rwanda is landlocked and disadvantaged in transportation, selling its coffee at domestic market including tourists from abroad is a good strategy, as it attracts many international tourists particularly for mountain gorilla trekking.

Currently, JICA is supporting coffee sector in capacity building. Firstly, training programs in Japan were organized in 2013 and 2014 in strengthening competitiveness of coffee producers: Four NAEB staffs have participated in this training. Secondly, four Volunteers are working in the districts to support coffee farmers. These volunteers receive a special training by Mr. Jose Kawashima on how to improve the quality of coffee starting from how to take care of coffee trees up to the marketing. Thirdly, JICA has co-organized series of events known as “Coffee Saloon” in various major cities in Japan to promote Rwandan coffee to Japanese consumers. ●

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Ms. Yoshinaga with her students during dress making class

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Mr. Egide posing with students during his training in Japan

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RWASOM Horanamazi Project

Strengthening operations and maintenance of rural water systems



Water stand constructed in Kirehe District

JICA has started new project named “Project for strengthening operation and maintenance of rural water supply systems in Rwanda (RWASOM Horanamazi) with Water Sanitation Corporation (WASAC), in order to improve the situation of operation and maintenance of rural water supply facilities and to realize the sustainable access.

The Project is expected to establish a sustainable framework for operation and maintenance of rural water supply system through conducting pilot test in Eastern Province, supporting capacity development of WASAC Rural Water Services and districts, and developing national guidelines.

Reportedly, access to safe water coverage has attained 74.5% in 2014; however 40% of the constructed water facilities are not functioning due to the lack of proper operation and maintenance, technics regarding rural water supply for efficient and effective management of facilities on the ground.

“We’ve been focusing on building water infrastruc-

tures but didn’t have a proper way of operations and maintenance in the past which led to the 40% not functioning. But currently more focus will be how to solve this issue before the end of 2018, and this project will support a lot to achieve it. James Sano, CEO of WASAC said.

The Project enhances sustainable mechanism for rural water supply with three aspects such as political/institutional/ organizational, financial, and technical aspects in order to ensure sustainability. The project will focus on building capacity of WASAC staffs, District officers and Water Service Providers. Apart from training, maintenance tools and equipment will be provided by the project to enable the water supply systems operations.

Six JICA experts are dispatched to the project and will collaborate with districts on grassroots level, providing their expertise as well as gaining information on local expertise which will make the collaboration effective. The Government of Rwanda aims to achieve 100% access to safe water with all the facilities functioning by end of the project.

All the activities will cost approximately 4.2 million USD. ●

JOINT BORDER SURVEILLANCE AT RUSUMO BORDER

Fighting against border smuggling

JICA Project on Capacity Development for International Trade Facilitation in the Eastern African Region has supported Joint Border Surveillance (JBS) at targeted borders to cope with smuggling cases and enforcement of customs regulations.

On 4th June 2015, the support to JBS activities was rolled out at Rusumo border and the 1st JBS Coordinating Committee Meeting was held. Participants from Rwanda Revenue Authority, Tanzania Revenue Authority, Immigration and police officers, JICA Project Team had gathered to start JBS at Rusumo Border between Rwanda and Tanzania.

The Project will help to build the capacity of customs officers to keep pace and perform duty to international and desired standards at the border. It is therefore necessary to introduce new knowledge; skills, techniques and culture which contribute to realize the objective of OSBP where control and facilitation are done jointly.

To achieve this goal the Project is to provide equipment such as vehicle, motorbike radio and night visions to facilitate joint surveillance operations which is expected to start soon. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

kLab is an innovators paradise - Pacificque Hallelua

The New Times

17th May 2015

Technical school gets deal to supply tea factory with energy equipment

The New Times

19th May 2015

Poor value chain, a threat to Rwandan coffee

The New Times

1st June 2015

CALENDAR

JUNE

JAAR General Assembly was held to discuss the association improvement

SBCT Project hold JCC to evaluate the impact of the project

JULY

Construction of Ngoma Irrigation Scheme will start

Baseline Survey for RWASOM Horanamazi project to strengthen operations and maintenance of water

Ten new volunteers will arrive making the total record of 43 volunteers

AUGUST

A delegation of Japanese school teachers will visit Rwanda for twelve-day study tour

JICA & MINAGRI will organize a working week to draft an improved rice seeds strategic plan

Geo-scientific analysis will be carried out in Kinigi prospect area by JICA Project Team and EDCL

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JICA Volunteers teaches dress making

“Fashion show motivates students”, Ms. Yoshinaga



Ms. Yoshinaga with her students during dress making class

About two hundred people, mainly students and teachers of VTC Rwabuye, attended the school party which was held on 5th June 2015. It was an opportunity to exhibit the innovations of the things that students learn from the school.

Ms. Yoshinaga Noriko has been volunteering for one year at this training center. She teaches tailoring class.

On the school event, Yoshinaga's

group organized a fashion show.

“Students were happy to put on clothes made with my touch and design especially the kimono because they say it looks unique so I was happy to see that I am contributing something unique to their lessons”, said Ms. Yoshinaga.

She says that she is happy when her students are able to make something that was difficult before, when they initiate new

ideas and are motivated to try new things.

“My purpose is to help them think by themselves on how to improve their talents and skills. They need to think out of the box and realize the potential that is around them to be creative. In August, there will be a fashion show in Huye and we are working hard to present something better”, Ms Yoshinaga said.

Ms. Regine who works with Ms. Yoshinaga on daily basis also appreciate the support provided by her and says that it's not only the students but also the teachers that learn from her different practical and easy-to-do techniques in dress making.

“It's just good to work with Ms. Yoshinaga because she is social and friendly. She makes many efforts to speak Kinyarwanda and communicate with everyone. She is a hard worker and makes the class motivated, students like her and that has even influenced their improvement”, Regine added. ●



Ms. Yoshinaga's students during school fashion show

Kobe City Mission Visited Kigali

A delegation of the officials from Kobe City Government from Japan visited Rwanda at the end of May with the aim to investigate the potential for stronger partnership.

In the past few years, the City of Kobe has observed a rapid growth of cooperation between Rwandan and Japanese public and private stakeholders. Kobe Institute of Computing (KIC) now has ten Rwandan students, the biggest number in any of universities in Japan, in their Master's degree program on ICT for Development, with the support the ABE (Africa

Business Education) Initiative by JICA. Last year, KIC signed on the Memorandum of Understanding for partnership with the ICT Chamber of the Rwandan Private Sector Federation.

Based on such background, the mission from the Kobe City aimed to find a possibility to expand the partnership with the Kigali City, particularly in supporting entrepreneurship and innovation in ICT. The mission visited kLab and met ICT entrepreneurs in Kigali, and hopes to expand the collaboration between the two cities. ●

Strengthening of Local Education training

Mr. Egide Mukeshimana attended training in Japan in March 2015 to learn how to support schools and teachers in order to enhance the quality of education.

“I was very impressed by how well organized are the schools. Classrooms have enough modern equipment, timetable is not overloaded, and there are several labs not only for science but also for other subjects like sewing, cooking and mechanics.” The St Aloys Rwamgana

teacher attended this training together with 11 participants from 8 Sub-Saharan countries.

“In Japan, teachers and students share lunch, which allow teachers to understand students' life outside the school. Also, the parents regularly come to school to observe their children.”

Mr. Egide gained good experience from the one month training and plans to share with his colleagues to improve his school. ●

Updates

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Tomato processing training for better conservation

JICA Alumni Association in Rwanda (JAAR) composed of ex-participants to JICA Training Program organized training on food processing in the end of March this year.

The training empowered tomato farmers on how to process tomatoes into tomato jam and manage their harvest to avoid 40-60 % losses, due to the lack of post-harvest technologies.

Ten tomato farmers and members of Dukundane cooperative from Karemure marshland, in Gahanga sector, Kicukiro District participated in the 3-day training conducted by JAAR members (Agriculture subsector) in collaboration with Gahanga Sector agronomist and the person in charge of horticulture in NAEB.

On the first day of the training participants learned procedures to make jam, second day was about putting the theory into practice and the last day was dedicated to sharing the knowledge with other farmers. On the first day, trainees were explained the procedures to make the tomato jam but they couldn't imagine how it should be possible for them to make it successful.

"Some of us knew 'jam' was imported from abroad and is dedicated to rich people only who can afford shopping from the big supermarkets in Kigali", one member said.

On the second day, trainees produced delicious tomato jam, and tasted it on the bread. They were happy to find out how with the use of local materials they were able to produce something new and tasty from their own tomato harvest.

The last day was launching day, at Gahanga Sector of Kicukiro District. The management of Gahanga sector had invited farmers' cooperatives representatives of the sector to come and get inspired by what their colleagues of Dukundane cooperative had learnt.

The technologies being promoted would contribute to better nutrition in the country by increasing food availability throughout the year. Technology is viewed as critical aspect of innovation to succeed in the present competitive market situations. Food quality and safety are of increasing concern to consumers, and are critical for gaining access to many international and domestic

markets in developing countries, especially for higher value products. Training of the farmers and small-scale food industry processors is therefore important if improved quality and marketing of processed foods are to be attained.

In his speech, the Executive secretary of Gahanga Sector, appreciated the JAAR&JICA initiative. Tomatoes are thought to be a 3 days life production; the farmers will have the idea of reducing the loss. He encouraged the farmers to work hard, get more knowledge on the technology, learn on the needed safety standards and be able to sell their products on the local market. ●



Cooperative members prepare their tomatoes



Tomato jam

JICA Expert composes songs on Rwandan history in Kinyarwanda

"Come back to me in Rwanda" & "Nyabarongo river runs through a Thousand hills" are two songs composed by Mr. Takuji Tanaka, a Japanese irrigation expert but also musician currently working in Rwanda.

Mr. Tanaka arrived in Rwanda in September 2013 but the beauty and history of the country inspired him to compose those songs later translated into Kinyarwanda to let people especially those who don't live in Rwanda know about its richness in nature.

"Come back to me in Rwanda" is calling for those who left the country

and never came back to Rwanda to return because they are missing the joy of living in a beautiful and successful country. The "Nyabarongo" song talks about Nyabarongo River in relation with the story of a 1994 genocide survivor, his Kinyarwanda teacher, who is mourning her relatives killed and thrown into the river.

Mr. Tanaka is an irrigation engineer dispatched to support Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources as an advisor. He enjoys working in Rwanda and supporting farmers to eradicate poverty. ●

Contact Us

JICA RWANDA News is a quarterly newsletter which focuses on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details the work of JICA in Rwanda.

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JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency providing various forms of assistance in over 150 countries around the world.