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Extensionists' Training in Hama Begins

Within the frame work of the Project on Development of Efficient Irrigation Techniques and Extension in the Syria (DEITEX). a training course has been conducted at Hama Agricultural Extension Directorate.



Extensionists' Training in Hama

This training targets to upgrade the level extensionists working at this directorate, in order to enable them to provide expert consultancy services to the farmers related to efficient use of water in irrigation.



Mr. Bassam Al-Husain; member of counterpart team, coordinating the workshop

Hama is one of three targeted areas by DEITEX project in addition to Rural Damascus, and Daraa. Hama has special importance, since it is located in Oronthes basin, where farmers are facing increased challenges to maintain the sustainable use of their natural water resources, and to keep their ancient well developed rural live style. Similar training is also scheduled for extensionists within the project sites in Daraa and Rural Damascus. This project is implemented by Administration of Natural

Resources Research (ANRR) in cooperation with many related entities, such as GCSAR, Directorate of Extension, since cooperation and collaboration are necessary elements to ensure efficiency, and sustainability of the project, and they have the full support from JICA.



Project implementation Structure

It is worth mentioning that DEITEX project is a 3 yrs. Technical Cooperation Project launched last April, aiming at improving water use efficiency and reduce losses in the farmers' fields of project sites.



Project Senior Advisor Explains to Resident Representative about the model farm furnishing in Kafer-Zita- Hama

Within this project, JICA will dispatch Experts, Provide in-country training, and training in Japan for involved counterpart staff, and provide equipment (including furnishing a model farm in each project site)



Water Tunnel Rehabilitation Works Kick-Off

These days a team of Japanese Experts from Consultant, and Contracting companies, supervised by DAWSSA staff, are working on Water Tunnels Rehabilitation, the implementation is funded by a Japanese ODA, some USD Million 3.64 Grant Aid dedicated for this purpose.

These works came subsequent to the Syrian Government request to the Government of Japan in July 2003, requesting the rehabilitation of the tunnels. The Government of Japan accepted the request, and JICA dispatched a Preliminary Study Team to Syria from June to July 2004.

The Preliminary Study confirmed the necessity for the rehabilitation. Then JICA dispatched a Basic Design Study Team to Syria from Nov. to Dec. 2004. The Study Team produced a basic design draft report after developing a basic design from January to February 2005. These studies; which outlined the scope of work, became the cornerstone of this project.

According to the construction schedule, all works will be completed within calendar year 2006, most of the resources are allocated for rehabilitation of the 16km length, old tunnel, which has been constructed in 1930 and rehabilitated by



Fig. 1, part of tunnel plan

French in 1960s. However, according to JICA's study, this tunnel doesn't have to be repaired along all its length, repair works are distributed among separate stations as indicated in Fig. 1.



Japanese Consultant, Contractor, and DAWSSA staff discuss repairing techniques

The rehabilitation method will vary from point to point,

since deterioration was caused by several factors.

Among the alternatives, Fiber Reinforced Plastic (FRP) plates were selected (see Fig. 2) to be installed on the tunnel inner surface with anchors.

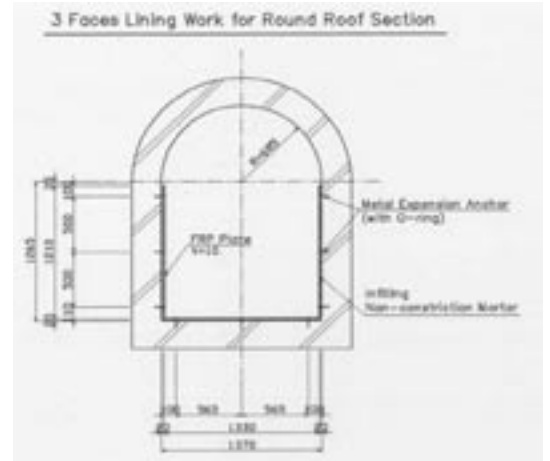


Fig. 2, FRP technique

Voids between the plate and the concrete will be filled with non-shrinkage mortar to stop leakage water and protect deteriorated and damaged sections (see Fig. 3).



Fig. 3, Crack Filling

However, structural cracks will be handled differently. Japanese companies has been selected to lead the work, since such technology is sophisticated, and only few companies worldwide have enough experience to execute such a project.

The Project is expected to reduce water loss (3.21 million m³/year) in the old tunnel, corresponding to a 1.6 % saving in the total water supply by DAWSSA. The water saved equals the development of a new water resource for 71,000 persons, assuming a current water consumption of 124 lit/cap/day. And thus contributing to the Sustainable Development of Damascus metropolitan



UNRWA Music Teachers' Training

The six JOCV Expert-Volunteers who are assigned at UNRWA Schools in the field of music education, completed in Feb 17.2006 the first phase of teachers training which took place in Damascus and five other cities. many teachers participated to the program from different Basic education schools, according to the schedule managed in cooperation between the expert volunteers and the department of art schools supervisor of

UNRWA Schools.

It is worth mentioning, that Teachers contributed their time during weekends to follow this program at their schools, two days each month were dedicated for this purpose since September 2005.



JICA-UNRWA CUP 2006

The success of JICA CUP 2005 and its great impact upon the participating parties has encouraged JICA, UNRWA, Football Federation, General Sports Federation, and SEEZA Est. (Addidas), to cooperate once again to organize JICA-UNRWA CUP 2006 which will be held on March 3rd and 4th 2006 at Al Faiha stadium – Damascus.

Eight 8 teams coming from the 6 cities; Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Dara , Lattakia and Damascus will compete for 2006 cup.

This event aims to strengthen JICA- UNRWA's cooperation, to improve the communication among the students and teachers of different cities, and will offer new experience to the local UNRWA teachers in organizing sport & social events.

(in the photo, UNRWA and JICA teams after friendly match in 2005)



Seminar on Investment Project Preparation and Appraisal

Six Syrian official representing several government entities has left for Japan to participate to the seminar on Investment Project Preparation and Appraisal from Feb 19th till March 16th 2006.

The purpose of the training is to strengthen the participants' abilities to prepare and analyze investment projects in the situation where you face limited time and lack of information.

After the participants return, they will prepare a local workshop to disseminate their knowledge to their colleagues.

Afterwards returning to Syria, all the participants have to individually prepare a project appraisal report for the project to be evaluated by your ministry/agency or a pre-investment study report for a new investment project. The report will be used as a base material for elaborating the contents of the future seminar program next Fiscal Year.



Another Experiment is Growing

Mr. Yoshiaki KANZAWA; the JOCV volunteer at General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR) is working with his counterpart Mr. Ayman Hijazi on a field research related to efficient irrigation techniques.

Last summer he has experimented the use different types of Agricultural Films on egg-plant production at GCSAR Nashabieh Research Centre in Rural Damascus. The objective of the experiment is to find the proper arrangement for this plant. The results of that experiment has been evaluated as "very-good", therefore, this winter, another experiment has been scheduled to test the same for lettuce cultivation.



Lettuce planted under different types of Agricultural Films (black- transparent- weeds)

Mr. Kanzawa will leave Syria this spring, but his counterpart at GCSAR, is determined to peruse this experiment, till targeted results achieved.



Mr. Kanzawa and Mr. Ayman record parameters (moisture, air and soil temperature... etc.)

Towards A Charming Future For Children

Music is one of the common world languages, a language that everyone understands and loves, and especially children, to whom music brings pleasure and joy when they sing and play music with their friends among other groups of students and teachers from different schools and cities.

JICA, in cooperation with UNRWA, is preparing for First "Cinderella" Concur that will be held on March 10th, 2006 in "Al- Kindi" Hall in Homs. UNRWA students and teachers will sing along with the JOCV volunteers in the field of music education. it is worth saying that this event is a result of a long cooperation between JICA & UNRWA.

