

Rural Development

Poverty Reduction/Agricultural, Rural Development/Fisheries



In order to promote agroforestry and improve the livelihood of farmers, cultivation and management methods for crops and trees that function well in environmental conservation are transferred to subsistent farmers in the Intensified Social Forestry Project in Semi-arid Areas (Kenya).

Overview of the Rural Development Field

The world's population rapidly increased in the latter half of the 20th century, and it exceeds six billion today. According to one forecast, it will reach nine billion by 2050. A major concern is that various problems, such as food shortages and environmental deterioration due to heavy consumption of resources on a global scale, will become more serious.

Since the population increase is especially notable in developing countries, appropriate development in these countries is essential in order to stabilize people's living situations worldwide.

Most people in developing countries live in rural areas, and their living situations are deteriorating due to problems such as overcultivation, overgrazing, deforestation, subsequent depletion of water resources, a drop in agricultural productivity caused by many reasons including such as soil erosion, and insufficient social services such as health and basic education. Additionally, the disparities in the living standards between the urban area and the rural area generate new problems such as a population influx into the urban area and slum formation.

To bring about better living situations, it is necessary to promote comprehensive agricultural and rural development focusing on the lives of residents in rural areas. This should be associated with proper attention to harmony with the environment and the relationship with the urban areas so that limited resources in rural

areas can be continuously utilized. It is also necessary to tackle certain issues regionwide, involving all neighboring countries concerned. These issues include avian influenza, which causes economic and health damage not only for farmers in the affected area, but also to other people within the country as well as in surrounding countries.

Actively addressing these issues is in line with coordinated actions to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (see p.70). The MDGs clearly specify strengthening support for the poverty groups from the perspectives of human security and more stable development of the international community.

Agricultural and rural development also gains attention as a priority field in post-conflict rural reconstruction. Specifically, there are activities such as stable food supply, and the promotion of settlement of refugees and ex-combatants. To respond to the recent focus on poverty reduction, peacebuilding, and human security, the roles expected of agricultural and rural development are getting larger.

To address these issues, JICA has identified three sectors (poverty reduction, agricultural and rural development, and fisheries), and is implementing relevant projects for each sector.

Poverty Reduction

Overview

There are 1.3 billion people in the world considered to be living in poverty. That is one-fifth of the world's population, and one-third of the total population of the developing countries.

Poverty reduction is a primary global common objective and advocated in the MDGs. The term "poverty reduction" means not simply increasing income levels but rather creating conditions in which all humans lead healthy and creative lives with sufficient food, shelter, and clothing. It also means that being free from unfair treatment by the government and the community, they can participate in society with freedom, dignity, and self-esteem.

Poverty has many dimensions. It can cause environmental degradation, and a poor environment in turn can aggravate poverty, thus giving rise to a vicious cycle. "DAC Guidelines on Poverty Reduction" published in 2001 defines poverty as an insufficiency in economic, human, political, socio-cultural, and protective capabilities. It is internationally agreed that poverty reduc-

tion requires a comprehensive approach that will develop capabilities in these five areas.

It is also important to note the fact that a lack of capabilities among the poor is not the primary cause of poverty; environments disadvantageous to the poor and social structures, in which vested interests, discrimination, etc., create socially vulnerable people, interactively cause and fix poverty. To reduce poverty, it is important to create opportunities for the poor to demonstrate their potential capabilities by changing the environments that surround them and by breaking the vicious cycle of poverty.

JICA's Efforts

Definition of Poverty and Goals in Support for Poverty Reduction

JICA defines poverty as a condition in which people are deprived of their opportunities to demonstrate potential capabilities required to lead a basic human life and are being left out of

society and the development processes. JICA has two overall goals in its support for poverty reduction: enhancement of the potential capabilities of the poor; and reform of the social structures and institutions involving the poor. JICA has also identified the following four strategic development goals aimed at reinforcing people's economic, human, political, socio-cultural, and protective capabilities (since the measures to reinforce political and socio-cultural capabilities have many aspects in common, they are addressed as a single strategy).

- 1) Reinforcing the planning, institutional, and implementation framework for poverty reduction (political and socio-cultural capabilities)
- 2) Maintaining and generating the incomes of the poor (economic capability)
- 3) Securing minimum living standards for the poor (human capability)
- 4) Reducing external threats to the poor and strengthening their capability to withstand shock (protective capability)

The structures and other factors leading to poverty and the actual conditions in which the poor live are varied and complex, differing from country to country and from region to region.

Accordingly, after understanding poverty factors and situations on a country-by-country and region-by-region basis, JICA addresses the issue by taking full advantage of the unique features of each aid scheme and by combining various individual projects in ways that give rise to synergy.

Target Levels of Poverty Reduction Assistance and Multi-layer Cooperation Approach

JICA provides poverty reduction support at three levels: (1) policy and system support at a national level (macro level), (2) support through local communities (mezzo level), and (3) direct aid to the poor (micro level). Through these channels, JICA effectively carries out assistance for capability enhancement of the poor, as well as for improving social structures, policies and systems involving the poor. And at the same time, JICA intends to strengthen capability of the poor by embracing the three levels: macro, mezzo, and micro.

Figure 3-9 summarizes these three levels of assistance targets. As shown in Figure 3-10, a more effective approach (multi-layer cooperation approach) is being planned by linking multiple levels of assistance targets.

Figure 3-9 Three Target Levels of Poverty Reduction Assistance

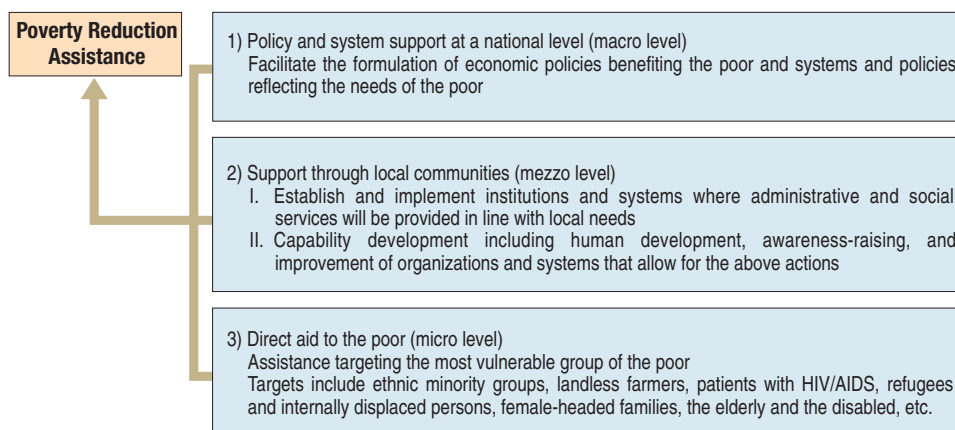
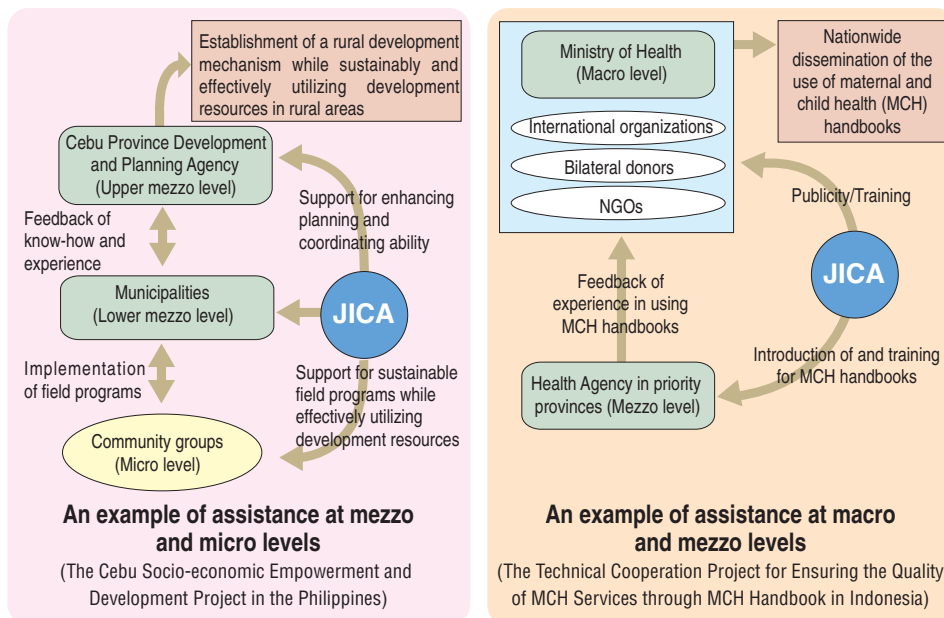


Figure 3-10 Examples of Cooperation Projects with Consideration Given to the Linkage of Levels



The Project on Rural Livelihood Improvement in Hambantota District (South CAP) in Sri Lanka

In this project, cooperation for livelihood improvement is implemented in the Hambantota district in the southern part of Sri Lanka, where annual precipitation is low and the living environment is extremely severe. Since residents in this area have limited sources of income other than agriculture and few job opportunities, they have to live on rain-fed agriculture dependent on low-rainfall. In this project, survival techniques utilizing scarce resources are introduced to the people and, at the same time, the acquisition and diffusion of such techniques are promoted.

Actual activities will be determined based on the Community Action Plan (CAP) created by the people themselves; however, the introduction of farming methods with effective use of limited water and a method to raise added value on agricultural products, improvement of living conditions by upgrading wells, prevention of surrounding natural environment deterioration through diffusion of

CASE STUDY

improved cooking stoves, and saving firewood are most likely to be included. As an implementation method, use of the community contract system in which communities receive a contract from the government to make small irrigation facilities, wells, and farm roads is emphasized. This system is expected to allow the residents to maintain these necessary facilities by themselves and to contribute to their income improvement by undertaking contract work.



District administrative officer becomes a facilitator whose duty starts with letting residents talk about the problems of the village.

Agricultural and Rural Development

Overview

In many developing countries, over half of the population is engaged in the agricultural sector, and a large share of the rural population lives in poverty. Because agriculture represents the core of the national economy in many of these countries, assistance for agricultural and rural development plays an important role in addressing such concerns as food security, poverty reduction, and economic development.

The stable provision of needed food (food security) is a fundamental condition of economic and political stability. In many developing countries, food shortages are impairing health and creating hunger. In some cases refugees in hunger flood into neighboring countries, disturbing the order of the international community and potentially leading to regional conflicts. In food-importing countries, the stable production and supply of food are

economic issues of extreme importance, because they can reduce the outflow of foreign currency. Furthermore, stable food supply in developing countries is important from the standpoint of Japan's own food security.

JICA's Efforts

JICA perceives its two main tasks in agricultural and rural development to be: support for stable food production and supply (food security), and alleviation of poverty (rural development). Since these two tasks are intimately related, in order to implement effective cooperation, it is essential to understand their relationship and coordinate them. Specifically, there are measures designed to achieve food security from the macro (national) to micro (rural) levels on the one hand; and measures addressing various rural development issues at micro levels on the other.

The Project for Establishment of Mechanism for Agricultural Technology Diffusion and Application to Improve Living Condition of Indigenous and Non-indigenous Small-scale Farmers of Occidental Altiplano in Guatemala

CASE STUDY

The per capita GDP of Guatemala, which is located in Central America, is US\$2,532 (2005). On the national scale, it is a lower medium income country; however the population that lives under the national poverty line is 56.2% and domestic disparity is a major problem. Since many in the poverty group are indigenous people, such as the Maya, Guatemala is working to reduce poverty, focusing particularly on areas where indigenous people live.

In October 2006, JICA launched a project for livelihood improvement for small-scale farmers living in the indigenous area across the Totonicapan, Solola, and Quetzaltenango departments in Guatemala.

The majority of the farmers in this area are small-scale, and they depend on traditional farming methods because information on new agricultural techniques or improved approaches has not come to their area, which is one of the reasons they cannot escape from poverty. Thus, JICA is aiming to establish an agricultural technique diffusion service system for poor small-scale farmers and spread appropriate agricultural techniques with the Ministry of Agriculture,

Livestock and Food, the Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, and the Center of Investigation of the Plateau Areas as counterparts.

In the project an action plan has been formulated with the participation of counterparts in a workshop where the project purpose and future activity plans were shared. It is expected that all the related people share the same purpose and work together to build a support system for poor farmers in Guatemala.



A Japanese expert and Guatemalan counterparts interviewing indigenous people for a survey. It is important to talk at eye-level.

Thus the objectives of assistance for agricultural and rural development are stable food supply for both the rural and urban populations, poverty reduction in rural areas, and national and regional economic development. In abstract terms, the ultimate goal is the eradication of hunger and poverty. Sustainable agricultural production is the basis for a stable food supply and poverty reduction in rural areas.

On the basis of these perspectives, JICA has identified the following three development strategies.

1) Sustainable agricultural production

It is extremely important to realize sustainable agricultural production for eradicating hunger and enhancing the means of economic activities in rural areas as well as economic development in developing countries. It is also a precondition for providing a stable food supply to all regions including urban areas, and for building rural communities with vitality.

As an approach for sustainable agricultural development, it is important to precisely understand the situation of the agricultural sector of the country at the macro level, and formulate and implement agricultural policies appropriate for the situation. It is also important to expand agricultural production and increase productivity. In seeking acquisition of foreign currency and economic development by means of export promotion, it is necessary to strengthen activities related to export promotion such as improvement of the export system and enhancement of competitiveness. Consideration for the environment is essential for long-term agricultural production. Additionally, in order to secure sustainable development of the overall agricultural sector for the future, human development is necessary through expanding education in agriculture and agricultural science at the high school, university, and graduate school levels.

2) Stable food supply

To supply a sufficient amount of food to all citizens stably is one of the important objectives of agricultural and rural development. A large part of the population in rural areas is engaged in agriculture and is a supplier of domestic food especially for the urban areas with the greater concentration of population. At the same time, they are consumers of domestically distributed agricultural products.

Stable food supply is possible only when a sufficient supply

is secured at the macro level and fair distribution is in place at the micro level. In attempting to secure the food supply at the macro level, it is necessary for a government to evaluate the situation of the people and agricultural production potentials first, and then to formulate a strategy on how to secure food for its citizens. In the case that the required food cannot be secured within the country, it is necessary to develop a system to supplement the shortage with imports from other countries. On the other hand, to achieve fair distribution at the micro level, development of an efficient domestic distribution system is essential, which involves distribution over different regions.

3) Building rural communities with vitality

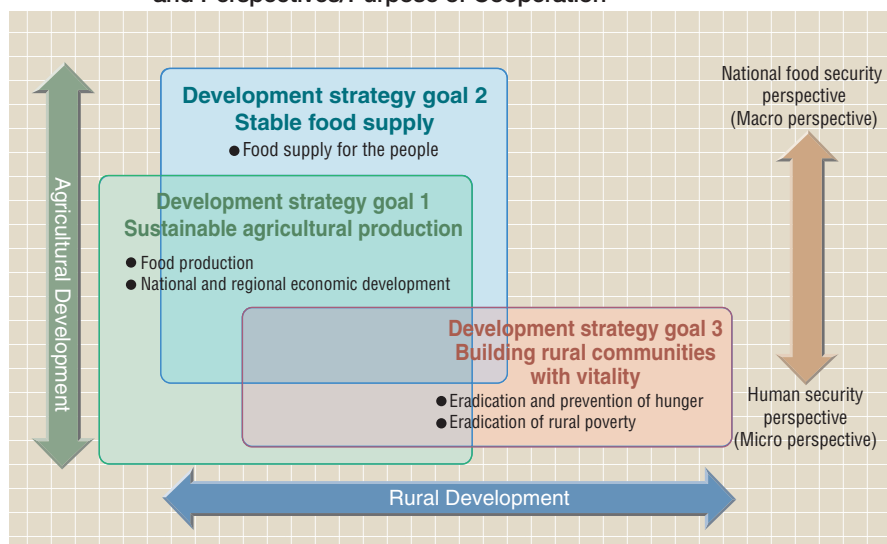
Since the adoption of the MDGs, activities for poverty reduction in developing countries have gathered more attention than ever. Rural areas as targets of development and the significance of its roles are in the public limelight again. This comes from the recognition that the lives of the people in rural areas are destabilized by many factors including weak prices for agricultural products caused by political factors, deterioration of living and production environments due to progressing desertification, and increased dependence on urban areas as seen in labor migration.

To eradicate rural hunger and poverty and build rural communities with vitality, various measures are necessary, such as improving agricultural productivity, promoting the use and sale of agricultural products, promoting diversified economic activities including handicraft production and small business, and developing rural infrastructure represented by community roads and secured drinking water. It is also important to empower rural residents through organizing groups and improving health and education.

The relation of the above three development strategies is summarized as shown in Figure 3-11. In other words, agricultural development is aimed mainly at development strategy goal 2 with the basis of development strategy goal 1, and rural development is aimed at development strategy goal 3 while including development strategy goal 1.

Furthermore, agricultural and rural development, which requires consideration of various factors such as history, culture, natural environment, and ethnicity in the area, must be addressed in line with the situation of the target area.

Figure 3-11 Development Strategy Goals in Agricultural and Rural Development and Perspectives/Purpose of Cooperation



Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Centre Project Phase 2

Spread Rice Farming Experience in Kilimanjaro Nationwide

Since the 1970s Japan has worked to develop irrigation facilities and construct an agricultural development center in Kilimanjaro Province, Tanzania, with loan assistance and grant aid, and has contributed to improvement of rice yields by organically combining technical cooperation.

To spread the outcomes in Kilimanjaro Province throughout Tanzania, JICA implemented the Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Centre Project for seven years starting in 1994 and trained rice farming extension workers throughout the country. In phase 2 of the project, implemented from 2001 to 2006, six irrigation model sites were set up in the country to provide training for farmers.

Three characteristics of phase 2

There are three characteristics of phase 2. First, the training given was limited to simple but important rice farming technology without using expensive fertilizer or machines.

Second, the “farmer to farmer extension” methodology was adopted, in which technology was transferred to key farmers selected by farmers, and from the key farmers to intermediate farmers, and from intermediate farmers to other farmers. Third, with an emphasis on the perspective of gender, half of the training participants were mandated to be women, and efforts were made for improvement of understanding of the roles of men and women. As a result of such efforts, the average yield of the participating farmers successfully increased by a factor of 1.4.

Spread the model nationwide

In response to a request from the government of Tanzania, who praised the outcomes of phase 2, JICA is starting new cooperation in 2007. In this cooperation, the technology that was demonstrated at the model sites is to be spread over 40 irrigation sites throughout the country, and the supporting system of extending agricultur-

al technology that responds to decentralization of authority is to be enhanced as a contribution to the governmental agricultural development plan, Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP). The ASDP is operated by means of joint contributions from donors, including Japan and the government of Tanzania, and part of the fund will be utilized for extension of rice farming technology. JICA will provide support so that outcomes of the ASDP will appear at the field level.

(JICA Tanzania Office)



Training in weeding machine operation

Fisheries

Overview

Fishery resources are an important source of animal protein for human beings. According to statistics published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), on average developing countries depend on fishery products for nearly 20% of the intake of necessary animal protein of their populations. However, although the world population keeps increasing, marine resources have been exploited up to or beyond the limit of sustainable use in the real picture.

In the meantime, coastal fishery, which can be launched relatively easily from a technical point of view at low cost, is an important means for people who do not own land or have stable income resources to survive and live stable lives. Nevertheless, in many countries an increase in newcomers to coastal areas leads to excessive competition in fishing and decreased resources, thus rapidly aggravating the conditions of coastal resources. In addition, due to decreased coastal resources, fishing activities tend to move farther away; however, fishing boats owned by coastal fishermen are small and do not carry sufficient equipment, and the fishermen’s sailing skills are underdeveloped, which leads to many accidents at sea.

From the perspective of earning foreign currency, this industry is important for developing countries. According to an official announcement made by the FAO, export from developing countries in world marine products trade accounts for 48% in terms of value and 57% in terms of volume among total exports for 2004.

In summary, the industry is important for developing countries in terms of food supply, creation of employment opportunities, and cash income; however, it embraces problems such as inadequate resource management, and decrease or depletion of resources owing to environmental deterioration. Especially in coastal areas, the chronic poverty of fishing villages is at the root. Consequently, instead of the conventional fishery development approach, expanding the target of assistance from fishermen to the whole population living in a fishing village and incorporating the perspective of fishing village development aimed at livelihood improvement of the people living in the fishing village are required. Conserving and managing resources and promoting new fishing village development based on sustainable use of resources are urgent matters.

JICA's Efforts

Under such situations, JICA conducts cooperation activities in accordance with the following three development strategy goals while keeping in mind the following four key points.

Three Development Strategy Goals

1) Fishing village development

To solve poverty problems of fishing villages, stable household income and livelihood improvement of residents are required. In this regard, JICA provides steady assistance for prop-

er understanding of sustainable fishery and proper technology selection, as well as comprehensive assistance incorporating other industries, such as agriculture, and social development, such as education and health. In order to revitalize a fishing village, not only fishermen targeted in the conventional type of support for fishery development, but also the whole population of the fishing village is in the scope of cooperation. Furthermore, sustainable fishery is predicated on restraint of fish catches. To that end, household income that can maintain a living with limited fish catches must be secured, and consideration is given to the broader picture, including residents other than fishermen.

2) Stable food supply (effective utilization of fisheries)

It is necessary to create a fisheries infrastructure and improve fishing gear and methods so as to avoid catching fry (which would become a resource only later) with the aim of effectively utilizing fishery resources on a sustainable scale.

It should also be noted that only two-thirds of actual fish catches are utilized as food due to post-catch reduction from disposal, losing freshness, and putridity. Accordingly, processing and quality-assurance technology must be improved to enhance the safety of fishery products as food and at the same time the effective use of underutilized resources by raising the utilization ratio after catching or creating new values must be promoted. In this way, production expansion and improvement of utilizing method are promoted to increase food production.

3) Fisheries resource management

Fish are a renewable resource that can be autonomously recovered if they are caught within a certain limit, unlike minerals. Making the best use of such a characteristic, efforts are made to keep the resource utilization at the appropriate level, maintain the resource amount, and stabilize living through fishery. As developed countries have spent long hours and proportionate budgets and manpower to address management of fishery resources, developing countries need long-term approaches appropriate for the community, starting with awareness improvement of the administration and fishermen. In order to conserve fishery resources, a regionwide long-term approach is provided that considers the ecosystem of the land area and the water area, such as management of the upstream forests and rivers, etc. Furthermore, a regionwide approach crossing borders is undertaken for migratory fish and rare species.

Four Key Points

1) Capacity development

In order to achieve the three goals mentioned above, strengthening administration, such as upgrading laws and regulations, improvement of activities at the community level, and awareness of individuals are important, not to mention strengthening technical aspects such as fishery development, fish processing, aquaculture, resources, and environmental survey. JICA will develop human resources and improve problem-solving capacity so that society, organization, and individuals can play their own roles independently or jointly.

2) Approach for aid coordination

Aid coordination is common when responding to comprehensive issues in many developing countries including sub-Saharan Africa. In the fishery sector, the necessity of regionwide coordination is rising in relation to resource management. In the course of aid coordination, JICA proactively fulfills the adjusting function and transmits information while confirming the position of Japan's cooperation in the recipient countries. JICA will exchange opinions with other donors and related organizations from the formulation stage of a new project.

3) Promotion of program approach

In order to raise and expand the cooperation outcomes of individual projects, JICA will promote program approach by utilizing various aid tools that Japan has while collaborating with other donors. In particular, JICA will promote collaboration centered on fishing village development projects with grant aid cooperation and volunteer projects more than ever, and strive to expand development areas and secure sustainability of cooperation.

4) Gender consideration

In the fishery industry, operation of a fishing boat is heavy and dangerous labor, and is primarily the job of men of working age. Therefore, women and elderly people tend to be considered socially vulnerable. However, they are actually important actors in the fishery industry in fishing villages. They collect shellfish on the coastline and repair nets, as well as process and sell marine products.

In fishery development and fishing village development, social environment is improved and gender consideration is promoted. Additionally, through individual projects, more opportunities are provided to poor women and women in disadvantaged position for empowerment.

The Study on the Promotion of Inland Aquaculture for Rural Development in Benin — CASE STUDY

The Study on the Promotion of Inland Aquaculture for Rural Development in Benin, which is being implemented in 2007 for two years, aims to make inland aquaculture in rural areas a stepping stone for development of the village.

The land area of Benin is about one third that of Japan, and the shape of the land is long and thin, stretching 670km north to south and 80km east to west. The southern portion faces the sea, but the coastline is as short as 125km (200km for Tokyo 23 wards). The inland area makes up most of the country.

The people love fish and the country boasts a fishery industry. However, fish catches from the sea are small and fish catches from the (inland) rivers and lakes constitutes the majority of domestic production. Since consumption cannot be satisfied only with domestic

production, they depend on imports at present. The fish catches from the sea amounts to about 10,000 tons compared to 35,000 tons from the inland, whereas imports reached 46,000 tons in 2006.

Naturally, to increase domestic production is an important issue in Benin, and promotion of aquaculture in rural areas is expected to have a positive effect. As an approach to this issue, this development study aims to extend the technology of inland aquaculture to promote production, and develop aquaculture that leads to improvements in household income and livelihood. In Benin, in most cases aquaculture is operated with side jobs in agriculture or livestock farming. JICA strives to make a plan for the comprehensive development of the rural community by addressing fields other than aquaculture.