

JAPAN'S ODA AND JICA'S ACTIVITIES

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1. INTRODUCTION

The defining challenge for the generations that have entered the 21st Century lies in finding a solution to poverty in developing countries. Though widely understood as a crucial issue, the problem is awesome in its global scale. Since its establishment, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has supported socio-economic and human-resource development in order to facilitate the autonomous, sustainable development of developing countries, as one of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) implementing bodies. JICA is mainly responsible for implementing technical cooperation for developing countries.

2. JAPAN'S OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

What is ODA?

A variety of organizations and groups, including governments as well as international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private companies, conduct economic cooperation to support socio-economic development in developing countries (refer to Figure1). The funds and technology that governments provide to developing countries is called Official Development Assistance (ODA). ODA is classified

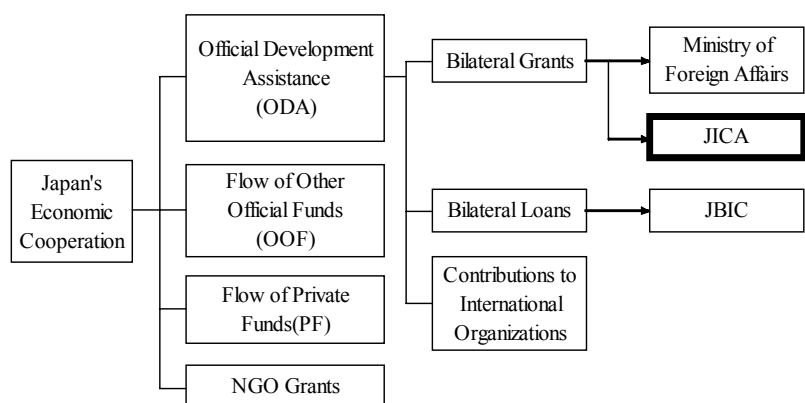


Figure1: Economic Cooperation and ODA

into two types: bilateral assistance, which is composed of grants and loans, and

contributions to international organizations. As one of Japan’s ODA implementing bodies, JICA is responsible for implementing technical cooperation for developing countries.

Bilateral Grants

Bilateral grants include technical cooperation that transfers technology to developing countries and grant aid that provides funds with no obligation for repayment.

Bilateral Loans

Bilateral loans are loans that provide the funds needed for development under long-term, low interest conditions. They can be classified into: (1)ODA loans under which funds needed for development are provided directly to the government or a government agency in a developing country, and (2)private-sector financing and investment under which funds are provided to Japanese companies or local companies operating in developing countries.

Contributions to International Organizations

Contributions for multilateral aid are an indirect method of extending aid by channeling funds through international organizations.

ODA budget

ODA performance of major Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries are shown in Figure2. The red line shows the total amount of ODA. As you see, the total amount began to increase rapidly from the 1970s. Japan began the technical cooperation to developing

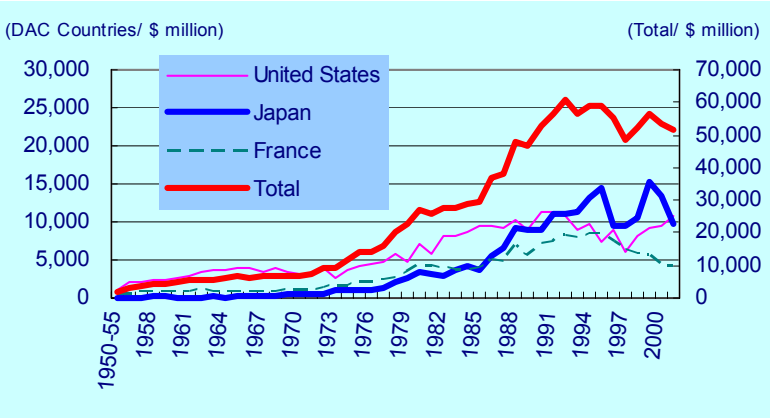


Figure 2: ODA budget of major donor countries

countries from 1954. Until 1977, Japan's ODA steadily increased, but from 1977, when Medium-Term ODA targets were set, Japan's ODA began to increase more rapidly. And in 1991, Japan’s ODA surpassed that of United States and became the world’s largest supporter. Japan held that position for over ten years, but in 2001 it was overtaken by United States and fell to the second position.

The number of developing countries to which Japan is the top donor country has risen from 34 countries in 1993 to 54 countries in 2000. These countries have growing expectations

about, and responses to, the trends and policies of Japan's ODA, and it is important for Japan to play a guiding role in helping to promote the development of these countries.

3. JICA’S ACTIVITIES

JICA plays a key role in technical cooperation implemented by the Japanese government. JICA is responsible for the implementation of bilateral technical cooperation and grant aid. JICA’s initial budget for fiscal 2002 was 177.2 billion yen, a 4.5% decrease from the previous year. Activities executed by JICA accounted for 123.2 billion yen (64.0%) of the grant aid budget of 232.0billion yen entrusted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. JICA budgets since 1974 are shown in Figure 3.

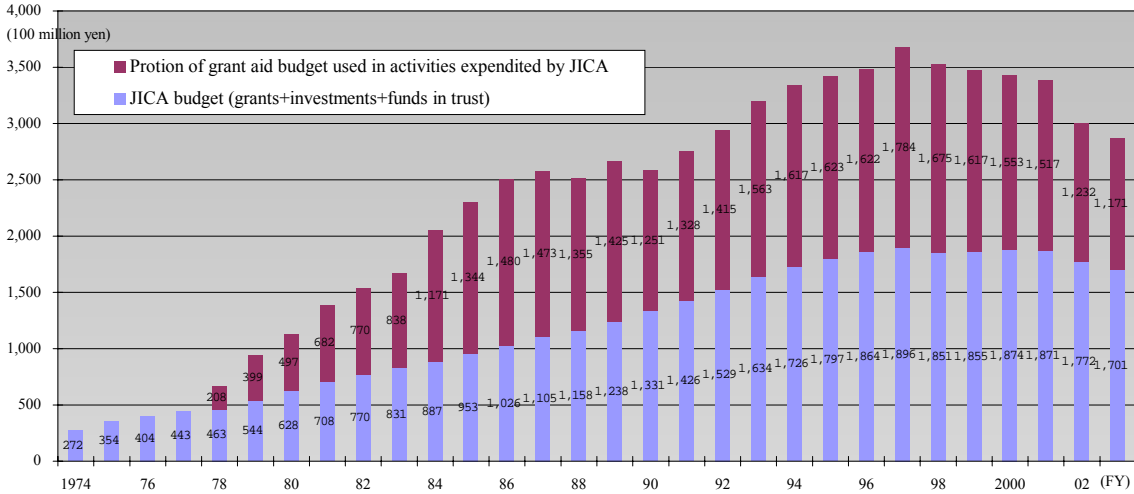


Figure3: Changes in JICA's Budget

Technical Cooperation

Technical cooperation transfers Japanese technology, skills, and knowledge to developing countries in order to train the human resources that will play a leading role in their socio-economic development. It also supports the development and improvement of technology appropriate to the circumstances of a particular country while raising its level of technology and establishing new organizations and institutions.

More specifically, technical cooperation includes: (1)the implementation of technical training that provides training opportunities for technicians and administrators from developing countries, (2)the dispatch of experts with specialized skills and knowledge, (3)the provision of equipment needed to transfer technology appropriately and effectively, (4)development study to assist with the formulation of a variety of urban, rural, and transport development plans and resource development (5)the dispatch of volunteers such as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and Senior Volunteers, and (6)relief

TBIC plays a role of Acceptance of technical training participants. TBIC's training is divided into two types: research-based training in advanced technology covers, and practical training in agriculture. As a center of agricultural cooperation projects by JICA, TBIC will continue its strenuous efforts to help improve farmers' life in developing countries by training middle-level agricultural engineers.

Group training course in agriculture

The group training courses are the training programs on predetermined subjects, which are greatly needed in developing countries in common and in general. About ten participants, who selected from among applicants from abroad, are admitted to the training. In 2003, TBIC offers 13 group-training courses in agriculture (refer to Table1). And 5 courses of them are given at TBIC's facilities and by TBIC's training staff. Training period ranges from 2 to 10 months. Mainly composed of experiments and practice, these trainings provide practical programs, which suited to the needs of developing countries. In addition, the trainings aim at introducing participants to scientific and intensive farming technology in Japan and at helping them gain the ability to apply what they have learned and to develop new technology.

Country focused training course in agriculture

Table2: List of country focused training course

Course	No. of Participants		Duration (months)	2003												Main training Institution / Institution for Training Contract with JICA				
	Accepted	Individual training course (counterpart training)		Quarter 4			Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3				Quarter 4			
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		Jan	Feb	Mar	
1) Vegetable and Upland Crops Cultivation Techniques for Southern African Countries	7	8	5	4.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Appropriate Agriculture International Co., LTD.
Vegetable Seed Production for Sri Lanka	10	10	1	5.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre
Techniques of Rice Cultivation in Small Scale Farming for Republic of CUBA	7	7	1	8.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre
† Seminar for Directors-General of Agricultural Policy Bureaus of ASEAN Countries	10	8	3	0.5																Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
2 Participatory Irrigation Management for EGYPT	5	5	5	2.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre
3 Improvement of Institutional Systems and Operation & Maintenance Technology for Irrigators' Associations in PHILIPPINES	9	9	4	1.5																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre
4 Vegetable Cultivation for the Republic of TAJIKISTAN	10	10	5	3.5																Tsukuba International Centre / Appropriate Agriculture International Co., LTD.
5 Vegetable Cultivation for Republic of SOUTH AFRICA	8	8	13	4.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre
6 Support for Small and Medium Scale Industries in Agribusiness for INDONESIA	15	15	10	2.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre
7 Training of Bivoltine Sericulture Technology for INDIA	4	3	2	1.5																Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
8 Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities by Capacity Building of Local Authorities for THAILAND	8	8	3	1.5																Tsukuba International Centre / Association for International Cooperation of Agriculture and Forestry
9 Regional training course for APEC countries on WTO Agreements on Agriculture / Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	11		2	0.5																Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
10 Rural Development in the Field of Agriculture for SOUTH AFRICA	10		10	2.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre
† Seminar on Attaining Sustainability of Irrigation & Drainage Project	10		2	0.5																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan Green Resources Corporation
12 Vegetable Seed Production for Sri Lanka	5		2	5.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre
13 Vegetable and Upland Crops Cultivation Techniques for Southern African Countries	7		6	4.0																Tsukuba International Centre /
14 Techniques of Rice Cultivation in Small Scale Farming for Republic of CUBA	10		2	8.0																Tsukuba International Centre / Japan International Cooperation Centre

1) ‡ Continued from previous year, † ‡ Executive course
3) No. of Times : Number of the course so far conducted

2) No. of Participants / A: Accepted, I: Individual training course (counterpart training)

As of Dec.01

Country focused training courses are the training programs to provide assistance according to the situation of particular countries or that of particular region facing common problems. JICA will make this type the key part of training projects in the future. In 2003, TBIC offers 14 training courses (refer to Table2). And 8 courses of them are given at TBIC's facilities and by TBIC's training staff. Training period ranges from 2 weeks to 10 months. These courses are practices for needs of developing countries, and subjects include rural development by the participation of inhabitants, organization of farmer groups, vegetable cultivation, seed production technology and so on.

Other training course in agriculture

In the individual training courses, programs are drafted in answer to the request of the countries concerned. And the curriculums are unique to each course. These courses are mainly counterpart training with the aim of developing local counterparts for JICA projects and for experts from Japan. In 2002 TBIC accepted 190 participants in agriculture. Training period ranges from 2 weeks to 6 months, but in most cases, ranges from 1 to 2 months.

JICA has been accepting long-term participants since 1999. Training period is 2 years. These programs aim at assisting the education of young government officers and researchers, and accepting them into universities in Japan for taking academic degrees, thereby helping developing countries create networks of human resources and develop future leaders. In TBIC, 10 participants are now enrolled at University of Tsukuba and Ibaraki University. Five of them specialize in agriculture.

“Agricultural Mechanization for Sustainable Farming System (AMS)” course

Practical training in agriculture is divided into four sections: rice cultivation, vegetables, irrigation and drainage, and farm machinery. The farm machinery section aims at training engineers and government officials with the ability to draw up and implement an appropriate farm mechanization plan in the developing country. This section is offering the group-training course “Agricultural Mechanization for Sustainable Farming System (AMS)” course, which is given at TBIC's facilities and by TBIC's training staff, from 2002. This section had been holding the farm mechanization course, which was formed adding subjects related to mechanization of upland farming to the rice cultivation farm machinery utilization course started in 1964. The AMS course was created by combining the farm mechanization course with the farm machinery designing course, which had been offered for 38 years.

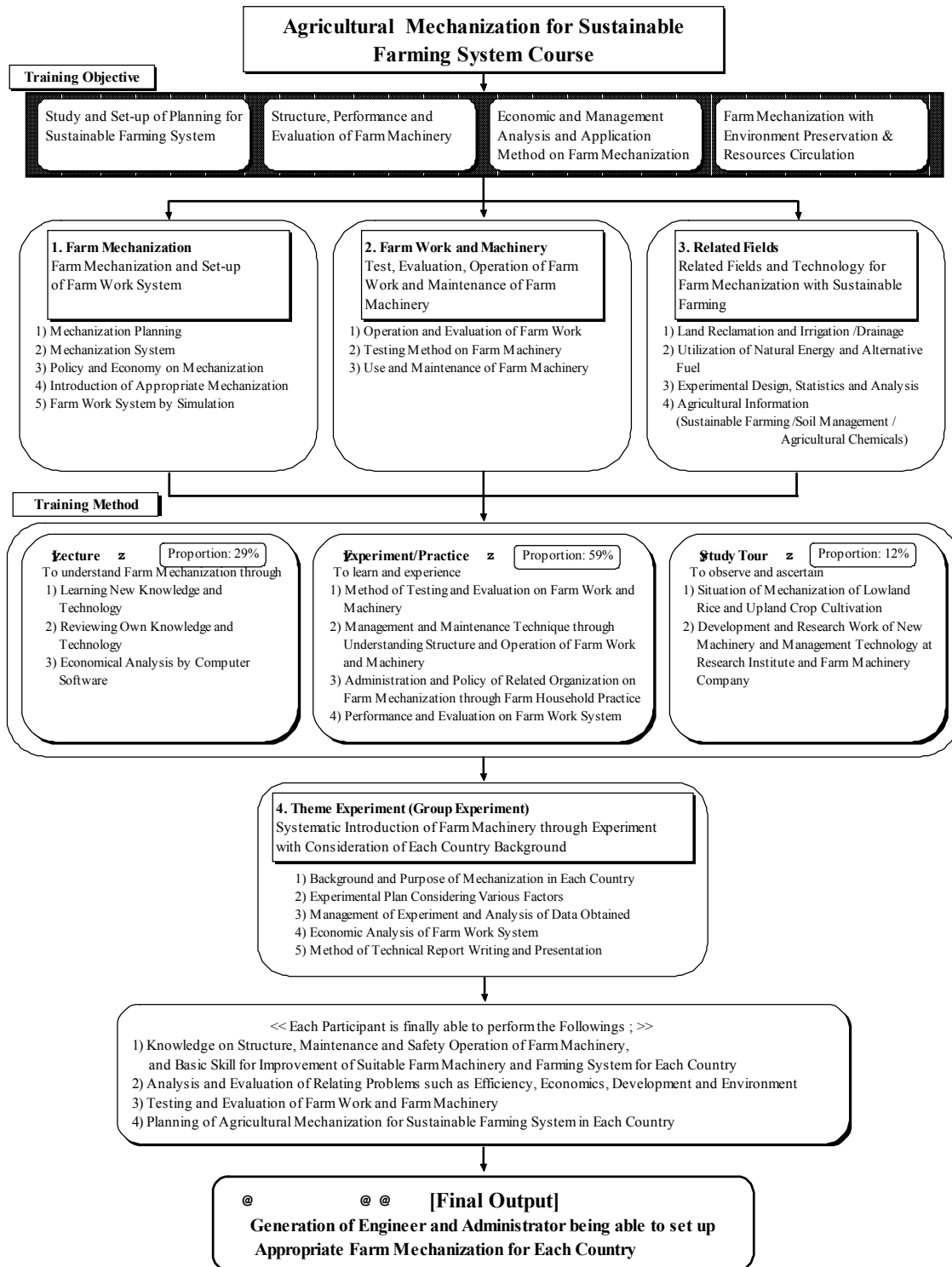


Figure 5: Concept of AMS course

The AMS course is composed of reviews of technology and knowledge concerning small and medium sized machines for rice cultivation and upland farming, analysis of economic and social issues, and formulation and analysis of rice cultivation and upland farming mechanization plan for the participant's country. In addition, this course aims at planning

and implementing farm management plan that incorporates elements of environmental preservation and resources recycling. Training period is 9 months from February to October. Number of participants is 12. Target group is government officers, administrative officers, agricultural engineers, and agronomists, in charge of farm mechanization.

The contents of training includes: (1)Study and Set-up of Planning for Sustainable Farming System, (2)Structure, Performance and Evaluation of Farm Machinery, (3)Economic and Management Analysis and Application Method of Farm Mechanization, and (4)Farm Mechanization with Environment Preservation & Resources Circulation. Training method is based on: (1)Lecture, 29%, (2)Experiment and Practice, 59%, and (3)Study tour and observation, 12%(refer to Figure5).

After training, each participant can acquire as follows:

1. Knowledge on Structure, Maintenance and Safety Operation of Farm Machinery, and Basic Skill for Improvement of Suitable Farm Machinery and Farming System for Each Country
2. Analysis and Evaluation of Relating Problems such as Efficiency, Economics, Development and Environment
3. Testing and Evaluation of Farm Work and Farm Machinery
4. Planning of Agricultural Mechanization for Sustainable Farming System in Each Country

Reference: JICA Annual Report



Experiment on puddling by tractor



Experiment on transplanter



Experiment on combine harvester



Experiment on binder and thresher