

CDIS-Output 3 News

November 2014

The Project for Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in Afghanistan (CDIS) -Collaboration between Research and Extension-

TOPICS

1. Outline of the First Year, FY2013
2. Trainings in Japan for Researchers
3. Field Day in Demonstration Farms
4. Trainings for Farmers -Visit and Train-



Wheat Demonstration Plot

1. Following the first year of the program “Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening (CDIS) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) Output-3”, the second year has started on 25th April, 2014.

During the first year, our program team has implemented an inventory survey on the current state of agricultural production, marketing, and extension service activities of three pilot sites in our target area, Kabul province. Due to security reasons, we had to carry out our activities mainly in Badam Bagh Agricultural Experimental Station (BBES) and Mir Bacha Kot (MBK). In MBK, we have formulated establishment plan for not only demonstration plots but also for training facilities for MBK to function as

ATC (Agricultural Technology Center). In demonstration plots in BBES and MBK, we have cultivated wheat for demonstration.

Also, we have formulated training plan by extracting needs for capacity development by conducting workshops for researchers and extension officers. Meanwhile, we have been formulating further demonstration farm establishment plan in BBES and MBK.

With prolonged absence of Japanese experts, we have established cooperation structures such as Joint Counterpart Meeting (JCPM) and Joint Demo Farm Meeting (JDFM). Some capacity development activities were carried out in Japan in the form of trainings. We have provided a training program for extension officers and two training programs for researchers to become Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) during the first year.

On February 2014, we have supported the implementation of Annual Review Meeting (ARM) and utilized the event to strengthen the collaboration between extension officers and researchers. In addition to those activities, Output3 has worked on several more activities such as extension manual making and material support



Joint Counterpart Meeting (JCPM)

for soil laboratory.

In the second year, we are going to develop and utilize the cooperative structure we have established during the first year when carrying out our activities. As we have been preparing during the first year, we are going to establish ATC in MBK. Also, we are going to actively use our demonstration farms for farmer trainings. In Japan, we provided a training course for Afghan researchers of fruits tree and a training course for researchers of soil, and we are planning to conduct a training course for management, a training course for extension officers, and several trainings for SMS candidates who are mostly students of SATREPS and PEACE Project of JICA.



Training in Japan Implemented on November 2013

2. Two trainees, one from ARD and another from EGD, have visited Japan to participate in Fruit Tree Cultivation Technology Training from 6th May to 15th Aug. They have learned quality improvement technologies for grapes and peaches in National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO) and Yamanashi Fruit Tree Experiment Station. Their achievements were compiled into technical reports which were highly praised by fruit tree experts.



Covering Grapes with Bags

Two researchers from ARD soil department came to Japan from 22nd July to 14th Oct to participate in Soil Analysis and Soil Survey Training. Trainees were confident after the training that their skills to use experimental devices and equipment of soil laboratory has improved and their capacity to correspond to needs of farmers and extension officers has developed.

These trainees implement technical trainings for extension officers in Kabul after going back to Afghanistan to disseminate what they have learned in Japan. (The training by trainees of fruit tree has been implemented as a workshop for extension officers on 26th Oct. Details will be shared on the next issue.)

Also, we are providing trainings to MAIL officers who are currently studying in graduate schools in Japanese universities in order to nurture SMS. In September, we have implemented training on statistical analysis for three days. The skills they have learned will be introduced to their colleagues in MAIL in the future.

3. Activities at demonstration farms are implemented actively. The CDIS- Output 3 cultivates 4 varieties of wheat at BBES and two varieties of wheat at demonstration farm in MBK. Field days on topics such as yield, resistance, variety characteristics, cultivation management, and water management were held. Researchers, extension officers and more than 30 farmers have participated in the field days.



Field Day in Mir Bacha Kot



Farmer Training on Tomato Cultivation in DSB

4. In MBK and DSB, district extension officers are visiting farmers and providing trainings as Visit& Train extension method. These farmer trainings are to provide technical support to farmers and to improve the capacity of extension officers by training farmers. Therefore, the extension officers are requested to make monthly extension activity plan and activity report to submit to project experts to be checked and given advice.

From July to September, 165 farmers were trained in DSB on the subject of cultivation of wheat, tomato, grape, and bean, soil, fertilizers, crop protection, and postharvest. 201 farmers were trained in MBK for those topics.

OUR STAFF



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