

CDIS-Output 3 News

December 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. ATC Construction in Mir Bacha Kot
2. Fruit Tree Workshop
3. Crop Water Requirement Workshop
4. SMS Training – Statistical Processing and Analysis -



Project site in MBK

1. Agriculture Technology Centre (ATC) in Mir Bacha Kot (MBK) is under construction as part of the CDIS-Output 3 activities. The JICA Afghanistan Office has hired a consultant for construction along with the request of CDIS-Output3. Construction was approved officially from Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock to Kabul DAIL and the consultant has visited Kabul DAIL for a meeting. We are reported that the construction is on progress. Eighty percent of the survey is finished and 50% of design drawings have been completed so far.

The ATC will have a training room, a storage room, a pump house with a generator, and experimental fields with irrigation facilities. A farm road will run through the ATC.

After establishing ATC, it will function as experimental farms and farmer training sites as well as the place where researchers, extension officers, and farmers can exchange information. It will be a place where any farmer can come to obtain technical advice from extension officers. By interacting with farmers, extension officers and researchers are able to gather information on farmers' needs. Listening to farmers' needs will be beneficial for both researchers and extension officers. It gives a direction for researchers to construct research plans and extension officers to plan how to carry out extension activities. Research and extension activities are there to support farmers. Thus the interaction with farmers is very important for both researchers and extension officers. When ATC functions well, we can expect that the service delivery to the farmers will be improved in the MBK to a great extent. Though, more chances must be provided for researchers to visit MBK.



Basic plan of MBK-ATC

2. Fruit Tree Workshop for extension officers was held in Kabul on 26th Oct. The trainees who received training in Japan conducted the workshop for extension officers and researchers in order to share what they have learned in Japan during the three months of their stay. Forty five persons participated in total (17 from district DAIL, 9 from Kabul DAIL, 2 from EGD, 9 researchers from ARD, and 6 other). The aim of this workshop is to extend the knowledge on new technologies obtained in Japan to the extension officers by the trainees so that the extension officers in districts can extend the knowledge to farmers. The workshop was very successful and we have received many positive feedbacks from the participants.



Fruit Tree Workshop



Crop Water Requirement Workshop

3. Crop Water Requirement Workshop was held on 24th Aug at Badam Bagh Agricultural Experimental Station (BBES) in Kabul. The lecturer Mr. Hayat Khan Shams is a Ph.D. candidate who is studying at Tokyo University of Agriculture under Promotion and Enhancement of the Afghan Capacity for Effective Development program (PEACE). CDIS-Output 3 is providing technical training for Afghanistan students studying in Japan like Mr. Shams. These research students are capable of disseminating technologies they learned in Japan. He planned and conducted this workshop while his summer holiday. Farmers, extension officers, researchers, and MAIL officers gathered from 14 districts around Kabul and attended his workshop on crop water management. Mr. Shams requested the participants to share common

problems before starting the workshop and provided technical knowledge to solve these problems during his workshop. The workshop consisted of lecture on theory and participatory group works. The workshop was full of useful and practical contents and participants learned a lot to solve problems in water deprived areas.

4. As last year, we held a training course for research students studying in Japan on statistical processing and analysis at Tsukuba International Centre of JICA for three days from 24th to 26th Sept. The training aimed to nurture Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs) who had expertise in their own field and also actively communicate for extension. We invited 9 students from PEACE program and Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program.



The commemorative photo in the SMS training course

was to help researchers to process the data in simple steps so that they can concentrate on their research without spending too much time handling data. The training course was popular and received many applicants. Unfortunately, we could only accept limited number of students in order to give high quality training. We are planning to coordinate this training course again for those who could not join this time.

The lecturer Dr. Mitate Yamada is a specialist in crop science. As a crop scientist, he knows how important data processing and analysis after experiments are for researchers, and he developed his own data processing program using Microsoft Excel. His intension for developing the program

OUR STAFF



Expert:
Mr. Masahiro YONEYAMA

is an expert on human resource development who has been working for Afghanistan since 2002.



Counterpart:
Mr. Abdul Saboor Rahim

is the head of BBES and a chairperson of Joint Counterpart Meeting who contributes to Output3 with his great leadership.