CDIS-Output 3 News

July 2015

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

Meeting with the H.E. Mr. Haidari, Deputy Minister

1. The team leader Dr. Suzuki visited Afghanistan from 20th to 26th June. Work plan of CDIS-Output3 (2015/2016) was explained and important matters were discussed during his visit. Due to restricted schedule, JTCG was not implemented but explanation and discussion of the work plan will be carried out by our program officer to supplement JTCG. Dr. Suzuki expressed the constant devotion to this project and the rehabilitation of Afghanistan agriculture. Cooperation of CDIS-Output3 will continue for two more years and all CDIS-Output3 team members feel fortunate to be involved in this project. CDIS-Output3 will focus more on capacity development of researchers but continues to be committed to the collaboration with extension.

Meeting with Mr. Hamdad, the Director General of EGD

Meeting with Eng. Qasem Obaidi, Director of Applied Research Department

Meeting with Mr. Khawaja, the Head of Planning Department

2. Annual Review Meeting (ARM) will be one of the main activities of this year's project activities. CDIS Output3 focuses on research cycle in this year. A cycle means that evaluation and review/feedback process follow the research activity, and research planning/ implementation follow the review/feedback. ARM is an important event to share and evaluate the research implemented in the year. The evaluation of ARM must be utilized when making next year plan. Also, ARM is important event to share information with EGD and listen to extension officers' feedbacks. By presenting research achievement, ARGD can expect (1) improvement in compiling research findings, (2) improvement in presentation ability, (3) strengthening of research network within Afghanistan, and (4) exchange of information with international community. ARM implementation process includes submission of research achievement, document compilation, ARM, output compilation and approval of next year's plan. This project assumes that sustainable ARM implementation in Afghanistan is disturbed by the fact that (1) ARM is not highly valued as part of the research cycle, (2) there is no department responsible for administrative tasks for ARM implementation (3) there is no stable budget for ARM, and (4) there is no PDCA (Plan Do Check Act) cycle regarding ARM implementation. First, the project must confirm the role of ARM and its importance. Also, the project must reconfirm the importance of process and management for ARM. The project have just implemented questionnaire survey to find out how previous ARMs were evaluated, how ARM was understood and opinions on ARM within the ARGD. Results are compiled and will be analyzed. While doing so, the project must find out if there were any practical obstacles. This project considers Planning Department to be best suited for ARM implementation body and would like to discuss this with ARGD. After discussion, the project will collaborate to implement this year's ARM.

3. Demonstrations of legume cultivation started in BBES on May. The project is demonstrating two varieties of chickpeas and two varieties of soy beans at the vegetable plots of BBES. The demonstration is supervised by Ms. Sohaila Nisar, the head of Legumes and Industrial Crop Department. The project expects the demonstration to be beneficial to researchers who research appropriate cultivation technologies of legumes. As for wheat, the demonstration at BBES started on February and wheat are now harvested for yield survey. Four varieties; Kabul 013, Bakhtar, Moqawem and Milad were grown for comparison of drilling and broadcasting on yield and field management. Demonstration outcome will be reported to contribute to the research of cultivation characteristics of these four varieties of wheat.

Legumes demonstration at BBES vegetable plots

Wheat demonstration plots in April

Harvesting wheat in July

4. Soil Laboratory was reactivated with new equipment arrived from Japan. Researcher who is taking initiative in disseminating what he learned in Japan and also demonstrating the use of equipment. He is implementing trainings on (1) Soil sample preparation, (2) Moisture, pH and EC Analysis, (3) CEC,T-N,NO3Analysis, (4) Phosphorus Analysis, (5) Ca, Mg, K and Na Analysis by RQ Flex method, (6) minor elements such as Fe, Mn , Zn and Cu Analysis by RQ Flex method and (7) Soil sampling and soil pit preparation for soil survey. Besides elemented analysis by atomic absorption photometer is conducted, they are going to set up a flame photometer donated by JICA recently.

Testing the atomic absorption photometer

Flame photometer arrived from Japan

Sharing technology of RQ flex method

5. Due to the restriction for Japanese experts to go to Afghanistan, the project held a meeting in Dubai last year. According to the work plan of CDIS Output3 for 2015/16, Output3 will hold meetings in third country for detailed discussion on the important matters regarding the project activities with C/Ps and officers of Focal Point of the project. The first Dubai meeting for this year will be held at the end of August. Focus of the discussion will be project activities for capacity development of ARGD. Objectives of the meeting are (1) to share the information on the current situation of research activities of ARGD and identify the issues to be solved, (2) to discuss how to implement Annual Review Meeting (ARM), (3) to discuss the roles of Badam Bagh Agriculture Experimental Station (BBES) and how to utilize its demonstration farms more effectively. (4) to discuss the collaborative research activities in demonstration farms in BBES and regional research stations.

Last year's Dubai meeting