

# CDIS-Output 3 News

August 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

1. JTCCG finally held in Kabul
2. SMS Training conducted in Japan
3. A meeting held in Dubai
4. Soil Training starts on September



Deputy Minister for Agricultural Affairs, MAIL  
(Chair person of JTCCG)

**1. Joint** Technical Coordination Group (JTCCG) meeting has finally held in Kabul on 22nd July to discuss the Work Plan of CDIS-Output3 for the year 2015/16. It was initially planned to be held in June while our team leader Dr. Masaaki Suzuki was in Kabul, but it was delayed due to unexpected changes of circumstances. Deputy Minister Haidari was the chairperson of this year's JTCCG CDIS-Output3 program officer Mr. Masihullah Alekozai explained the Work Plan on behalf of the team leader Dr. Suzuki. Participants including Deputy Minister Haidari made some comments and

suggestions.

For example, CDIS-Output3 needs to put more effort in information sharing with related directorates and departments. Some comments suggested that CDIS-Output3 was not well understood by the stakeholders due to lack of reporting and information sharing. CDIS-Output3 team decided to make monthly reports in order to inform our progress. Also, the project was requested to speed up the process and start the construction of Farmers Recourse Centre (FRC) in Mir Bacha Kot (MBC). The team is now reviewing our implementation schedule to ensure the timely implementation of project activities. CDIS-Output3 employed another staff to supervise the construction of FRC in MBC. Overall, many participants commented to ensure the timely implementation of each activities. CDIS-Output3 team has discussed all the comments received in order to finalize the Work Plan.



CDIS-Output3 Program Officer Mr. Masihullah Alekozai  
presenting the Work Plan

**2. Training** for Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) on Statistical Analysis and Processing were held in Tsukuba, Japan from 11th to 13th Aug. We invited PEACE and SATREPS students studying in Japan to this intensive training course for statistical analysis and processing using MS Excel so that they can apply statistical skills to their research. Skills for statistical analysis are useful for all agricultural researchers regardless of their specialized fields. The training course was only two and a half day long. Thus participants received some preparation materials prior to attending this course so that they understood the lecture better and spend more time on practices. It is our sincere hope that all the participants who received this training will utilize the skills in their research activities.



SMS Training held in Tsukuba, Japan

**3. The** first meeting in third country of the year 2015/16 was held in Dubai on 24th and 25th Aug. CDIS-Output3 holds meetings in a third country for detailed discussions on important matters regarding the project activities with C/Ps and officers of the related fields. The objectives for this meeting were as below.

- (1) Share the information on the current situation of research activities of Agricultural Research General Directorate (ARGD) and identify the issues to be solved.
- (2) Discuss how to implement Annual Review Meeting (ARM)
- (3) Discuss the roles of Badam Bagh Agriculture Experimental Station (BBES) and how to utilize its demonstration farms more effectively.
- (4) Discuss the collaborative research activities in demonstration farms in BBES and regional research stations.



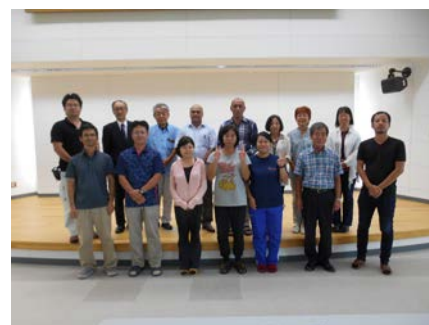
Meeting in Dubai

Participants from Afghanistan prepared presentation on their research activities to discuss the problems they are facing. Some important issues were addressed during the meeting which CDIS-Output3 must consider the solutions when drafting the institutional strengthening plan.

Implementation process of ARM for the FY 2015 were discussed and initial plan was drafted. We are going to present this plan to the related authority to improve the plan and to get approval. Also, we discussed how to ensure the sustainability of ARM. Research activities must follow the process of planning, implementing, and reviewing. ARM is the important part of the reviewing process and must be held every year even after CDIS Project ends. Thus we discussed how to

implement ARM on FY 2016 and onwards and drew a blue picture of ARM implementation in the future. This plan will be shared to the related authorities together with the plan for FY 2015. Activities in BBES were shared so that we could identified how to collaborate effectively to strengthen the collaboration between BBES and regional research stations. Another meeting in a third country will be held again in a few month for the better implementation of CDIS-Output3.

**4 Two** soil experts from ARGD are coming to Japan to receive a trainings on soil analysis and diagnosis in September. As last year, the training consists of several site visits and intensive practical training in a research center. They are going to visit several research institutes in Ibaraki prefecture and visit a laboratory of Tokyo University of Agriculture. For practical training, they are going to be welcomed in Okinawa Prefectural Agricultural Research Center. Soil of Okinawa prefecture is alkaline as of Afghanistan. That is why Okinawa is the most suitable place for Afghan researchers to receive training on soil analysis and diagnosis. Okinawa Prefectural Agricultural Research Center trained two researchers from ARGD (Mr. Bismillah Sofizadh and Mr. Sadullah Hazraty) last year and was very impressed by the achievements of the participants. They are looking forward to meeting the two Afghanistan researchers coming to Japan this year.



Commemorative picture from last year

#### OUR STAFF



Training Manager:  
**Ms. Akiyo Nishiyama**

is our training manager who is in charge of running the training programs. She also undertakes project managerial tasks with the instruction from Dr. Suzuki, team leader of CDIS Output 3.

#### OUR STAFF



Supervisor for Construction:  
**Mr. Mohammad Alim (Alimi)**

is our new project member. He joined our project this August as the Supervisor for construction of Farmer Resource Center (FRC) in Mir Bacha Kot.