

CDIS-Output 3 News

October 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. Research Management Cycle Training in Japan
2. Mir Bacha Kot Construction Plan
3. Workplan Approved
4. Soil Training in Japan
5. Soil Laboratory in Kabul

1. Training on Research Management Cycle has started on 27th September and finished on 10th October. During the training, six trainees has visited National Agriculture and Food Research Organization, Ibaraki Prefecture Agricultural Center, Yokohama City University, and Secretariat of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council. They also participated in the discussion on how to manage research in PDCA cycle and



Visiting Kihara Institute for Biological Research in order to discuss the collaboration with SATREPS



Commemorative picture at the Tsukuba International Centre for the Research Management Cycle Training

encourage researchers to implement research in better cycle. When they visited Yokohama City University, they visited Kihara Institute for Biological Research and met Professor. Tomohiro Ban. They learned what SATREPS project has achieved and promised to develop its outcome further in the collaboration with CDIS-Output3. At the end of the training, they all presented their action plans to implement after going back to Afghanistan.

2. MBK-FRC, Mir Bacha Kot Farmer Resource Centre, has its plan approved by MAIL. CDIS-Output3 has been discussing the details on MBK-FRC's construction with the technical team of construction directorate, MAIL. Our engineer Mr. Alim and Japanese expert Mr. Hotta had a discussion in Dubai on September and been constantly corresponding via emails to realize the requests from MAIL. We have change the plan in order to reinforce the roof and increased its water repellence. Also we added walls for the pond. After those changes, we gained approval from MAIL. We are now preparing for tender. JICA is now preparing to arrange tender and to distribute bidding documents so that we will be able to open the bid hopefully at the beginning of December.

3. Workplan of CDIS-Output3 was presented by Dr. Masaaki Suzuki in June when he visited Afghanistan and was discussed at JTCG held in July. After discussion between Afghanistan and Japan sides, we came to a better understanding and agreement. At the end of this month, H.E. Mr. Haidari, Deputy Minister has approved the workplan and signed it to complete our agreement on cooperation. We wish our cooperation will result in fruitful outcomes.



Workplan approved by H.E. Mr. Haidari, Deputy Minister

4. Soil Training has started on 6th September and finished on 17th October. Two trainees have spent most of their stay in Okinawa prefecture where they went to Okinawa Prefectural Agricultural Centre to learn soil analysis and diagnosis. They have learned basic soil analysis such as soil moisture, soil pH, CEC, phosphorus analysis and other elemental analysis which is important for soil diagnosis using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer. At the end of their study in Okinawa, they have presented their achievements. They have also completed their training report with detailed instruction on how to implement the soil analysis and diagnosis which will be very useful for other researchers who wish to learn soil analysis and diagnosis.

After studying in Okinawa, they came to Ibaraki prefecture to visit research institutions such as Soil Monolith of The National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences and Tsukuba Agriculture Research Hall of National Agriculture and Food Research Organization which showcases research in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and offers an excellent opportunity to learn how Japanese agriculture developed, and to explore the latest agricultural research in Japan. After going back to Afghanistan, the trainees are sharing what they learned to other researchers in MAIL.



Visiting Soil Monolith in Tsukuba, Ibaraki pref.



Presentation of their achievement in Okinawa

5. Soil laboratory in Kabul is equipped with a “Digital Flame Photometer”. A new apparatus for element analysis was introduced by JICA and it was set up in Soil laboratory. Soil elemental analysis is one of the most important technologies in soils and fertilizers research. This apparatus can be used for Ca, Na, K and Li analysis. Except for Li, these cations are important elements in relation to plant growth directly and indirectly. Therefore, the new apparatus is a useful tool for soil diagnosis, plant nutrients, fertilizers and water quality analysis. Besides, the gas used for this apparatus is propane and it is much cheaper compared with acetylene gas which is used for atomic absorption spectrometer, and it is easy to be handled. Four soil members have been trained at Okinawa Prefec. Agric. Res. Centr., Japan in 2014 and 2015 to handle and conduct elemental analysis using flame photometer and atomic absorption spectrometer as well as RQ flex which is widely used for water analysis. Their activities in the laboratory as core staff are expected.



Digital Flame Photometer operated Mr. Sadullah



Water analysis with RQ Flex meter operated
by Mr. Sediai and Mr. Mohsin