

Increasing capacity in integrated agriculture

The objective of this project is to establish an improved integrated mechanism for increasing agricultural productivity through capacity building of field level officers engaged in irrigation and agriculture together with Farmer Organizations. This is another project to be implemented based on the methodology of Community Action Plan (CAP) in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala districts.

This project was formulated based on a request received from the Irrigation Management Division through the Government of Sri Lanka, with the wider participation of stakeholders in national, provincial and village level. To formulate the project, comprehensive studies have been carried out by JICA over the last two years.

The project will be implemented by confirming and verifying the results and effects of specific activities, in selected model sites in Rajangana major irrigation scheme, Kimbulwanaoya major irrigation scheme, and Kadurugasdamana medium irrigation scheme. Those three model sites were selected because of the prevailing problems and issues of irrigated agriculture. Among them, uneconomical land units of farmers due to land fragmentation and complicated land tenure systems, lack of crop diversification (specially in Yala season), lack of rehabilitation of repairs of irrigation channels (especially of distribution and field channels), wastage of irrigation water, dependency of farmers on government's support for operation and maintenance of distribution and

field canals, poor participation of farmers for Farmer Organizations, low productivity of crops and low income of farming, poverty among farmer families etc. have been identified in JICA studies conducted in the past.

To address those issues, the project is expected to implement lots of activities such as improved management methods for farmer organizations, irrigation facility management and

project is that the above mentioned activities will be implemented with the direct guidance and monitoring by Japanese experts who have long time experience in respective fields in Japan as well as some other developing countries by implementing similar projects. Three Japanese experts, including the chief adviser T. Sato of the project, have already arrived in Sri Lanka and they are stationed in an office

for integrated farming and will be applied and practiced in other areas in the region during and after the project.

Out of the inputs required to implement project activities, JICA will provide the required expertise to transfer technology and know how, equipment and facilities, overseas training for key counterparts etc. to achieve the project objectives. The expertise will be dispatched both in long term



One of the project sites in Kimbulwana Oya being inspected by JICA experts

water management system as decided by Community Action Plans (CAP) of farmer organizations, farming techniques to increase agricultural productivity and crop diversifications, programs for marketing and processing of agricultural products, and capacity building of relevant training institutions such as Irrigation Training Institute in Galgamuwa for dissemination of improved training skills on water management and irrigation facility management.

The uniqueness of this

located at Irrigation Training Institute in Galgamuwa. This office was declared open by Minister of Irrigation and Water Management, Chamal Rajapaksa, Yasuhiro, Watanabe, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan and Takumi Ueshima, Resident Representative in JICA Sri Lanka Office recently.

Duration of this project will be for four (4) years. It is expected that the mechanism developed by interventions in the pilot areas will be expanded to other areas in the long run with improved capacity

and short term basis from time to time on the requirement of technology to be addressed. Total value of inputs from JICA will be approximately Rs. 100 Million, excluding the cost for dispatch of Japanese experts. This is an outright grant from the government of Japan and there is no obligation of repayment by Sri Lanka government. There will be a contribution from Sri Lanka side such as allocation of necessary counterparts, recurrent expenses and basic logistics

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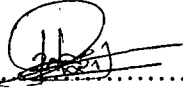
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