

Reports from JICA Tsukuba ex-participants <Part 2>

In this issue, I would like to introduce the exciting activities of Claudio from Bolivia who completed the Group Training Course on Vegetable Cultivation Technology II in 2006, as well as Nenee from Madagascar who completed the Area-focused Training Course on Upland Rice Variety Selection Techniques for Africa in 2009. The contents of the articles are as of February 2013 when Japanese version was issued.

Mr. Claudio Penarrieta (Bolivia)

Claudio is in charge of planning, monitoring and evaluation of the Creation of Rural Initiative for Food Supply (CRIAR) which is one of the projects under the Aid Program for Food Security (PASA) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Bolivia. With support from the Inter-American Development Bank, this project will continue until May 2015. The project is implemented in the provinces of La Paz (west), Potosi (south west), Chuquisaca (central south) and Cochabamba (central). Currently, the project targets 16,000 families and 80 organizations in 43 cities in these areas. The project provides small scale irrigation facilities (irrigation kits), light-weight agricultural machinery, electric fencing and electric pumps, to the regions and communities.



Driving through Chuquisaca Province, central south part of Bolivia (left) and 3,700 m high Potosi Province in the south west of the country (right): Working in various provinces of Bolivia requires long-distance travel. 1,000 km drives are not unusual. As the roads are generally bad, 4-wheel drive vehicles are very useful.



Irrigation kit campaign in Tarvita City, Chuquisaca Province in central south region of Bolivia

Of the target farming households, 13,600 households cultivate maize, barley, wheat, fruits and vegetables on an average of 1 ha farms. The project provides technical advice on securing water sources, irrigation methods for different crops, and also heavily

subsidizes farmers for the irrigation kit that can irrigate up to 700 m² fields for which farmers only having to pay 10 % of the cost. Around 3,000 farmers have benefited from this kit. The project plans to provide the kit to 3,000 additional farmers.

In the latter half of the project, he started preparing for evaluation methods of the project. In addition, in order to spread PASA-CRIAR's activities, he established the project website in February 2013.

Ms. Lalankenarisoa Nenee (Madagascar)

The Training and Application Center of Agricultural Machinery is the only public institution of its kind in Madagascar and is located in the Antsirabe City, Vakinankaratra Region in the central part of the country. Nenee is a staff member of this center and is the counterpart of the JICA Project for Rice Productivity Improvement in the Central Highlands of Madagascar.

The center organizes various training courses as well as development of agricultural machinery and crop production. She conducts a total of 140 sessions per year including lectures and practices on vegetable crops and cultivation, as well as maintaining a 122 ha farming plot for upland rice, soy bean and maize and 5 ha of paddy. Since 2004, she has also been in charge of upland rice seed production.



Preparing planting ditches and manual planting in upland rice fields



Germination test: the experiment used 7 cultivars of upland rice variety to conduct, analysis of yield components of each cultivar and germination.

She regularly makes use of the upland rice seed production technologies which she learned at JICA Tsukuba, and has taken in many ideas to improve her daily work. She has been busy working as the JICA project counterpart, while conducting her core duties at the center. (By Ono)