

AFRICA Region : Zimbabwe

Background :

AAI staff joined in “The Master Plan Study on the Lower Munyati Basin Agricultural Development” which was implemented in 1994 and 1995. This was the starting point of the relation between AAI and Zimbabwe. We have then started our activity through information collection on various NGO activities in Zimbabwe. This was followed by the field survey to select suitable NGOs with which we would like to work together in the future. The criteria applied for the selection procedure are “Participatory Approach”, “Appropriate Technology”, “Small Scale”, “Sustainability”, “Ownership” and “Resource Management”. The following points were emphasized in particular.

- The nature of the NGO’s activity and the target area should be suitable to utilize AAI’s experiences,
- The NGO should focus on the grassroots activities in the fields of agriculture and rural development, and
- The NGO should have field-based activities with focuses on sustainable development, environmental conservation and community participation.

Based on the results of the field survey, we have selected a few NGOs suitable as our partner and started our collaborative activities. As a part of our activities, we have also collected various information on the supporting mechanism of local NGOs by various assistant agencies and other relevant information.

Activities :

1999 February~April

The following NGOs having activities in the fields of agriculture and rural development were selected as our partner. In order to understand their projects and intentions, we have conducted the detailed field survey by accompanying with the staff to observe their dairy activities.

- Zvishavane Water Project (ZWP): This is a small NGO aiming at the improvement of the living condition of the local communities in the south-central part of the country in semi-arid regions. ZWP is carrying out the activities by utilizing water harvesting and participatory approaches for soil and water conservation in the area. The actual activities include the construction of small- or middle-size dams, technical support for group gardens and small scale irrigation, collection and utilization of rain water, fish farming, livestock rearing and water and soil conservation.
- Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau (ZWB): This organization is fairly large and the activities are across the country. ZWB aims at the improvement of the social basis of the local communities and the achievement of the sustainable local development. Activities on the training, information dissemination and financial support for women and their families in both rural and urban areas are being carried out.

This detailed field survey was carried out as a part of subcontract by the Japanese Embassy in Zimbabwe for the purpose of project findings on “Grant Aids for Grassroots Projects”. Based on the results of this survey, each NGO submitted the proposal for grassroots project.

2000 December

Another field survey was carried out for the inspection of their activities and the project findings. Financial support was then decided for the construction of new office and also for the urgent rehabilitation of small dams that were destroyed by flood.

2001 August

ZWP was having an idea to establish “mobile workshop” to repair facilities and to disseminate technologies by visiting each community. One of the JICA scheme, “Community Empowerment Program” for local NGOs, was recommended for them and we have supported the preparation of application.

2000 April

Another field survey was carried out to inspect the progress of small dam rehabilitation program. Under this survey, we have observed the vegetable cultivation techniques in the group garden. Necessity and feasibility of technical assistance was then examined. As a result, we have agreed to start activities for improvement of seedling production technique connected with input credit by using the balance budget from dam rehabilitation.



Water harvesting by utilizing natural rock



Participatory dam construction



Vegetable cultivation by group garden