

The Master Plan Study on the Development of the Oasis Zone, Mauritania
(Period of the study: 36 months from June 2001 Our assignments: Soil Conservation, Afforestation)

Background of the Study

Mauritania is located at the western part of African continent and the majority of its territory belongs to the desert area with average annual precipitation less than 50mm. Such harsh natural condition makes the life in the oasis area very severe under the restriction of the water resources. Under such circumstances, the people live their life in their own traditional way. The recent and repeated drought is affecting to agriculture and livestock that are the major industries of oasis areas. Although there are various supports to the development of oasis area by IFAD and FADES, further support is needed. The government of Mauritania requested Japanese government the implementation of Master Plan Study for the development of oasis area through appropriate utilization of local resources aiming at securing the sustainability of subsistence and sustainable land use in order to enhance the development of two target oases in Adrar and Taoudant States

Outline of the Study

The Study consists of (i) the formulation of Master Plan based on the field survey, (ii) selection of verification site (Phase-1) and (iii) implementation of verification study (Phase-2). Inventory and socio-economic survey was carried out for all oases in order to understand the general situation. The most important point of this study is how to activate the oasis industries and also how to improve the living standard of local community under the effective utilization of limited water resources and available local resources. Under the verification study, therefore, various activities were carried out including (i) vegetable production (cropping season diversification and irrigation method improvement), (ii) water saving date palm cultivation (reduction of conveyance loss and irrigation amount) and (iii) poultry development (supply of fertilizer source and recycling).

Our Assignments

- Collection and analysis of information on natural environment, shifting sand, afforestation and extension,
- Preparation of extension manual on crop cultivation and compost making, and
- Formulation of conservation plan for shifting sand and selection of future priority project.

