

Feasibility Study on Water Resources Development in Rural Area, Morocco

(Period of the study: 20 months from March, 2000 Our assignments: Farming System and Soil)

Background of the Study

The total amount of water resource of Morocco reaches 140 billion cubic meters by the construction of 94 dams and reservoirs. However, the area where is not benefited by the projects suffers from constant drought even in the rainy season. On the other hand, people living along the river are suffering from floods and getting damages on their houses and lands. In order to improve the farmers' economy in such rural areas and to establish sustainable use of water resources and also to stabilize the irrigated agriculture, the government of Morocco promotes the regional development plan through water resource development by middle-scale dam construction. 53 dam sites were already surveyed and the government requested loan project to Japanese government. However, no master plans have been carried out and it was pointed out that the present survey result by the government of Morocco was insufficient from the viewpoint of financial and environmental impact assessment. Therefore, the government of Morocco requested Japanese government the development study in 1998 for the middle-scale dam construction plan considering development priority in whole country including regional development plan, social and economical impact, environment impact assessment.

Outline of the Study

Water resource development plan was formulated for the middle-scale dam construction plan proposed by the Ministry of Construction, Morocco and feasibility study was carried out for the priority plans selected from the above-mentioned development plan by the end of July, 2000.

Our Assignments

- Collection and analysis of information about soil and land use, farming system and farmers' economy at the target area,
- Soil survey and the preparation of soil and land use maps,
- Investigation on the possibility of newly introducing crops, agricultural processing and new market,
- Investigation on agricultural production potential and restricting factors of crop production, and
- Formulation of agricultural development plan at the priority area.

