

Project for Enhancement of Community-Based Forest Management Program (E-CBFMP), the Philippines

(Period of study: 2.5 months from May, 2008 Our assignments: Farmers Organizations/Extension)

Background of the study

The Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) is the primary strategy of the Government ensuring sustainable management of the country's forestland resources. Implementing CBFM is a collaborative effort of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Local Government Units (LGUs), People's Organizations (PO), civil society groups and the business community. In order to enhance the implementation of the CBFM Program, a technical cooperation project between the DENR and JICA was conducted, focusing on building the capacity of People's Organizations as well as support groups. The Project was concentrated on activities in Region 3, in which training and extension activities were conducted, based on findings with regard to sustainable use of natural resources in the established model sites. In order to promote sustainable CBFM activities by POs, it was necessary to develop effective extension tools and to conduct small scale model extension activities. To aid this in the short-term an expert in the relevant field was requested.

Outline of the study

The short-term expert was expected to introduce the FFS (Farmers Field School) approach which was developed by FAO as a participatory type of technology dissemination. Under this extension approach, extension workers work as facilitators in order to support farmers' activities to conduct sustainable management of forestland resources. In order to enhance farmers understanding and participation in the project activities, it would be effective to introduce agro-forestry techniques in a practical manner, so that farmers can enjoy both utilizing and protecting natural resources in a sustainable way.

Our assignments

- Reviewing relevant project information/reports and gathering information/materials regarding FFS manuals, FFS monitoring system, training curriculum and teaching materials for FFS facilitator, developed under other JICA forestry projects.
- Observing existing FFS activities in the country to evaluate the current status.
- Conducting interview surveys to counterparts and extension workers on FFS activities in order to identify problems and difficulties.
- Organizing workshops for the preparation of FFS activities in order to prepare training curriculum and FFS implementation plan.
- Preparing agro-forestry enterprise catalogue, FFS manual, training curriculum and teaching materials for FFS facilitators, which correspond with the CBFM system.
- Implementing FFS activity at 1 or 2 pilot sites and giving advice to conduct necessary follow-up activities.
- Preparing training curriculum using information gathered during the above-mentioned field work.



Preparation of learning site for FFS



FFS session under the tree



Presentation of discussion results



Community nursery near the FFS site