

## Agricultural Extension Program in the Plant Production, Syria

(Period of the study: 36 months from March, 1994 Our assignments: Agricultural Extension)

### Background of the Study

Syrian government promotes to increase the agricultural production as one of the most important national development policies. However, food self-sufficiency cannot be attained due to low productivity and increase of population and consumption. The sustainable agriculture needs to be developed against various problems such as exhaustion of water resource and salt accumulation. Under such condition, it is important to activate agricultural extension to farmers but there are insufficient staffs that have satisfactory level of technique and knowledge. It is therefore strongly required to improve the agricultural extension and the training of extension agents. Consequently, Japanese expert was dispatched to Syria aiming at the improvement of agricultural extension, training of extension agents and the formulation of general extension plan.

### Outline of the Study

Preparation of basic information, improvement of extension plan and survey of individual technique were carried out aiming at organizing the extension structure and farmers, stabilizing production and promoting environmental conservation. Improvement plan for the agricultural extension structure was proposed based on the problems observed during the preparation of basic information. Useful information for extension activities was compiled through the analysis of GIS data. Proper extension system was investigated through the establishment of countermeasures for local farmers' problem. Moreover, field survey on individual technique effective to promote the environmental conservation was carried out in order to include such techniques in the extension plan. Various activities related to the improvement of living standard and village revitalization were also carried out with WID expert aiming at the promotion of participatory approach. Especially in arid area called Badia, agricultural production and tree planting were complicatedly related with nomadic life. Other activities were also carried out for the sustainable resource management under the cooperation with JOCV member dispatched to ICARDA.

### Our Assignments

- Preparation of information system on natural and social environment that might be useful for extension activity and effective use of such information by using GIS,
- Improvement of farmers survey method, analysis method of the results, application method of research result and extension method,
- Understanding the present condition and prepare information about water-harvesting agriculture, agro-forestry, rotation and salt concentration aiming at the promotion of environmental conservation, and
- Activities on village-revitalization at model areas and sustainable resource management in Badia.

