

Efficient Water Use in Agriculture, Syria

(Period of the Project: 24 months from September 2002, Assignments: Training/Extension)

Background of the Project

Recent exhaustion of water resources in Syria has reached a critical situation for meeting the increasing demand, especially agricultural needs that consume almost 90 % of used water. GoS requested JICA to conduct a study related to efficient water use in agriculture, in order to formulate future plans of technical cooperation, including dispatching an expert, conducting a development study, and implementing a technical cooperation project. Based on the study, DIWU (Directorate of Irrigation and Water Use) of MAAR requested JICA to send a long-term expert on efficient water use in agriculture.

Outline of the Project

Duties of the expert were as follows;

- Detailed investigation of constraints and farmers' needs on actual condition of efficient water use in agriculture,
- Technology transfer on improvement of research, extension and activities to support farmers.

Accordingly, the Project activities covered the following subjects;

- 1) Conducting literature and field surveys on efficient and actual water use in agriculture,
- 2) Establishment of demonstration farms based on the results of DIWU irrigation researches,
- 3) Implementing training courses for researchers, engineers and farmers on efficient water use in agriculture.

Activities

- 1) Conducting literature and field survey on efficient and actual water use in agriculture
 - a) Gathering and analyzing existing information,
 - b) Conducting surveys of farmers,
 - c) Establishing GIS database for selection of priority areas for saving water.
- 2) Establishment of demonstration farms based on the results of DIWU irrigation researches
 - a) Studying the results of existing irrigation research by DIWU,
 - b) Studying the contents of demonstration farms based on the research results,
 - c) Designing and establishment of demonstration farms,
 - d) Collecting data at the demonstration farms.
- 3) Implementing training courses for researchers, engineers and farmers on efficient water use in agriculture
 - a) Gathering and analyzing existing information on training activities by DIWU
 - b) Planning training courses/seminars on efficient water use in agriculture,
 - c) Implementing training courses/seminars on efficient water use in agriculture.



Training course on GIS database



Meteorological station at irrigation research center



Flow meters equipped at the demonstration farm



Discharge measurement at a farmer's field