

Visit to JICA Tsukuba participants in Nepal

In December 2014, I visited Nepal to see JICA Tsukuba's ex-participants from the vegetable related training program. 12 participants attended our vegetable related training program in JICA Tsukuba during the period 2002 to 2014. All of them are working for the District Agriculture Development Office as extension workers. In the 10-day trip to Nepal, I visited 3 ex-participants' fields and interviewed 10 ex-participants.

I found that the ex-participants had come up with various ideas to carry out their duties utilizing the experiences acquired from our training program in Japan. I am assured that Japanese vegetable cultivation techniques can adapt to Nepali environmental conditions. Especially, techniques of tomato cultivation under the rain shelter house, and F1 seed production of tomato lead to an increase in demand in the fields.

Some comments were also heard from them in their interviews: "I could deal with farmers with confidence, because I got better with experience of various kinds of vegetable cultivation in the training in Japan." they all said with one voice. Indeed they raised their level of professional quality of extension work after attending the training program in Japan: practice-oriented training program proves its significance. In addition, I found a change in attitudes towards their duties from other comments during their interviews: "I could tackle my work with a positive commitment." "I learned how to learn."

I am sure that the training in Japan resulted in positive changes to their attitudes towards their duties. We work with every participant honestly throughout the 9-month training program, and ensure that keep the ethos of combined theory with practice in mind. I was able to see firsthand the training's results through my visit to Nepal.

The next step, their knowledge and techniques gained through our training program become a major focus for disseminating them to their colleagues and farmers. We held group discussions with ex-participants, and one idea came from this discussion: that they create a small-scale project team to hold workshops. All the Nepali ex-participants accepted onto our training program are high-caliber personnel. We, all AAI contribute to support their activities.



Field survey by Sudhir (participant of 2010)



Mother plant for tomato stock seed production and Arun (participant of 2010)



Market survey by Sandesh (participant of 2011)



Tomato cultivation guidance by Ajaya (participant of 2012)



Group discussion. 8 ex-participants participated



Sharing a lot of experiences of ex-participants and discussing future activities in the group discussion.