

Report of ERECON Programs in 2012

Following programs were implemented in the program year of 2012 from 1st April 2012 to the end of March 2013.

1. Programs on environmental rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries

1-1 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Bohol, Philippines (Phase 3)

At Corella and Tagbilaran in Bohol province, local farmers have been conducting slash and burn shifting cultivation on deforested slopes. Thus a massive loss of surface soil occurs with heavy rainfall. Accordingly, land degradation becomes one of the serious problems.

This project aims to promote sustainable farming system for conserving soil and water environment with local farmers. In 2012, workshop about charcoal and wood vinegar making was conducted. In addition to target farmers of the project, non-member farmers were invited, and the project activities were introduced at model farms. For promoting sustainable agriculture in Bohol, the poster on charcoal and wood vinegar making was also made and set on the model farms.

1-2 Project on Promoting Greening through Reforestation in Takeo, Cambodia

In commemoration of the International Year of Forests, the reforestation was conducted through planting memorial trees in Takeo, Cambodia with the collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia and the Royal University of Agriculture in 2011. In 2012, this project was continued to promote greening through reforestation near the previous project site. Trees such as Acacia and Dipterocarp were planted in degraded lands at 6 ha of Takeo province. Additionally, tree nursery was set up to produce seedlings for reforestation in the area. Also, pamphlets on seed propagation were edited and distributed to local people for promoting sustainable forest conservation.



Photo. 1 Project (1-1) conducted in Bohol, Philippines

1-3 Project on Promoting Reforestation for Sustainable Development in Bohol, Philippines

In Bohol, soil erosion and the loss of biodiversity are accelerating due to the deforestation and the slash and burn shifting cultivation. Such events are very prominent in southwestern part of Bohol. Accordingly, this program aims to mitigate soil erosion on sloping lands through tree planting. Pamphlets about reforestation were edited and distributed to participants of workshops in September 2012, as well as reforestation activities for agro-forestry in the same month. Also, additional tree planting was conducted in February 2013.



Photo. 2 Project (1-2) conducted in Takeo, Cambodia

2. Programs on sustainable use of natural resources in Asian countries

2-1 Project on Natural Resources Utilization and Management through SATOYAMA Restoration in Rural Areas of Cambodia (Phases 2 and 3)

In Kampong Cham, Mondulkiri and Battambang provinces of Cambodia, natural resources were adversely affected by illegal logging and land conversion for agricultural purpose. Thus this program aims to promote reforestation for conserving soil and water quality as well as sustainable use of natural resources through SATOYAMA restoration. Institute of Environment Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON) has been implementing this project with the collaboration of organization members of International Partnership of SATOYAMA Initiative; United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and Ministry of Environment, Cambodia (MOE).

In 2012, seedlings for reforestation were produced at the nurseries in 3 different areas with the collaboration of local farmers. Reforestation activity was also conducted in July 2012 at 3 provinces. In addition, the seminars for restoring and conserving SATOYAMA A landscapes were held from January to March 2013.





Photo. 3 Reforestation in project (2-1) conducted in Mondulkiri, Cambodia

2-2 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture through Eri-culture in Greater Phnom Penh (Phase 2)

Eri silkworms are sensitive to chemical pesticide. Therefore, it was expected to reduce the amount of chemical pesticide applied in farmlands through promoting eri-culture. Also, farmers' income is anticipated to increase by selling pupas, as pupas of eri silkworms are rich in protein and vitamin. Thus eri-culture can incentivize local farmers to conduct sustainable agriculture.

In 2012, workshops about eri silkworms and bio-pesticide were conducted in 2 new villages. Seminars at elementary school and orphanage were also conducted for students in order to deepen the understanding of sustainable agriculture based on natural resource circulation. Rearing houses were set up at 2 new villages and the orphanage.



Photo. 4 Eri-culture in project (2-2) conducted in Kampong Cham, Cambodia

2-3 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia

Since 2000, the end of the civil war, mono-cropping depending on chemical fertilizer and pesticide has been spreading rapidly in Cambodia. Also, the rising costs for agricultural materials are causing economic difficulties for local farmers. Therefore this project aims to promote sustainable agriculture based on cyclic use of natural

resources at 11 villages in Samroung commune and 10 elementary schools in school cluster at Kampong Cham province, Cambodia.



Photo. 5 Pellet Compost Center in program (2-3) conducted in Kampong Cham, Cambodia

In 2012, the second year of this project, technical trainings on sustainable farming practices were conducted in Thailand in October. Six farmers and 2 teachers visited local Thai farms and learned organic farming techniques through observing ERECON project sites. In this project, 33 model farms were set at 11 villages. Pellet Compost Center was also established in Samroung commune in order to promote sustainable agriculture using pellet compost. For the food, agriculture and environment education, teachers learned techniques on environmental hydrology through technical training.

2-4 Project on Capacity Building for Agricultural and Rural Development for Increasing Productivity and Farmer's Income

This project was conducted at Rong Kor village of Kampong Cham province, Cambodia with the support of the Japan Association for International Collaboration of Agriculture and Forestry (JAICAF). The project aimed to increase agricultural productivity and farmer's income through promoting organic agriculture and sustainable farming systems. In 2012, direct sales shop for agricultural products from Rong Kor village was set up near Prey Toteung Market. And then, project monitoring and evaluation were conducted in December.



3. Programs on environmental education in Asian countries

3-1 Program on Internship of Asia Community Trust

This internship program aimed the human resource development for promoting sustainable agriculture based on natural resource circulation in Cambodia. An international student, currently attending Tokyo University of Agriculture, joined ERECON as an intern from August 2012 to March 2013.

Through this program, he acquired deep knowledge on sustainable farming practices as well as on importance of international cooperation. He also joined in the International Training Course for International Green Volunteers and coordinated training course in Cambodia.



Photo. 6 Internship in program (3-1) conducted at ERECON Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan

3-2 International Training Course in Cambodia for International Green Volunteers

This international training course was implemented for 8 days from January 14 to 21 in Cambodia for Japanese volunteers who were expected to take active roles in international greening activities. The participants observed the activities of sustainable agriculture and SATOYAMA restoration projects. Also, they joined reforestation activity in Takeo, Cambodia with local people. In the last stage of the training course, Japanese volunteers joined the 4th International Conference on Environmental and Rural Development and presented their statement on conserving forests as well as the outcomes from the international training course.