

Annual Project Review Report

Project Title: Promoting Innovative and Sustainable Science and Technology support to Poverty Reduction in Rural China

Atlas Award ID. 00043420

Project covered: 2006.04-2007.04

PROJECT PERFORMANCE-----Contribution to the CP Outcomes (poverty reduction, social and economic development etc.)

The implementation on the Project of Promoting Innovative and Sustainable Science and Technology support to Poverty Reduction in Rural China started on April 20th, 2006. Since then, 30 piloting counties from 15 provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions have participated in the project and remarkable achievements were made. In spite of the time constraint and hard tasks, activities like design of project document, formulation of implementation plan, organization of baseline study, mapping of piloting places, training and workshops etc. were smoothly carried out with the close cooperation of relevant organizations. We have strictly followed the work plan and completed the expected activities. A good beginning was achieved.

The following is a brief report on the working progress.

I. Working Progress

1. Piloting regions were strictly selected

Based on the requirements of the project document, selection criterion and the application materials, 15 provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions were selected as the pilot sites after two-round argument and reviews. These pilot sites were composed of Zhejiang, Xinjiang, Ningxia, Fujian, Guangxi, Inner Mongolian, Jiangxi, Heilongjiang, Hubei, Shandong, Tibet, Yunnan, Chongqing, and Hainan, among which Zhejiang, Xinjiang, Ningxia, Fujian, Guangxi and Inner Mongolian were the priority provinces in carrying out piloting activities. Among the 15 piloting sites, there are relatively developed provinces in the east costal area and also under-developed provinces in the middle and west of China. At the same time, some of these provinces are in the bordering areas and some are in the inner land. The pilot sites are of high representativeness and the regional distribution is reasonable.

2. A comprehensive research on the conditions of the piloting regions was conducted.

From August 30th, 2006 to September 20th, the national project office organized several expert groups to more than 100 villages and townships in the said 15 provinces to carry out a comprehensive baseline study, to directly master important information on the Technical Task Force, local farmers specialized cooperatives, rural community development, specialty industries, farmers' income and women's development etc. With the analysis on priority issues and

difficulties, and the discussion on specialties and advantages, directions and objectives were settled and relevant suggestions and measure were proposed.

3. The management structure was improved and the project was initiated

Based on the requirements on management institutions in the project document, a Project Leading Group was set up in the Ministry of Science and Technology and the National Project Management Office (NPMO) was established in China Rural Technology Development Centre. Project Management Offices (PMOs) were also set up in the 15 piloting provinces/autonomous region/municipalities respectively, with relevant officers-in-charge of Provincial Department of Science and Technology as the Director of these offices. At the same time, individual bank accounts were opened. The PMOs also set up relevant mechanisms on meetings, researches, information communication, financial management and etc.. Responsibilities and division of labor between the PMO in the provincial level and that of the county level were also clearly defined. Regular consultation and reporting mechanism was given special attention and the duration for daily work was also clearly explicit. The PMOs at the county level were all led by the head of each county or those vice-heads who were in charge of this work. 2 piloting counties were selected in each province based on the requirements and 2-3 piloting townships and villages in each country were also identified as the grass-root piloting sites. Implementation plans were also formulated. Projects in the piloting areas were carried out based on the annual work plan. The NPMO has started to distribute funds for the piloting areas.

4. Trainings and exchanges were carried out to improve the capacity for getting rich

In line with the requirements of the project and the actual demand of farmers, various kinds of trainings were held in the piloting areas. An activity named "Fruit Trees Management Month" was initiated in Shufu County of Xinjiang Autonomous Region. On-site technical trainings focusing on the management of fruit trees like winter walnuts, guavas, and grapes were held. Aiming at overcoming the difficulties of the live pig high-heat disease in middle China, the PMO in Hubei Province organized a Technical Task Force to go to Xishui Country to carry out relevant trainings. With lectures in the county TV station and more than 20 sessions of on-site technical guidance in the pilot townships and villages, more than 3000 people were trained. In Shali Autonomous County of Hainan Province, more than 20 project management officers were trained. Focusing on the advantageous specialty industry including latex, sugarcane, cassava, green tea, and fresh water cultivation, the Technical Task Force has spread technical knowledge to local farmers with training modalities including on-site introduction, demonstration and face-to-face instruction. At the same time, 8 training sessions were held and more than 640 trainees were trained. In Jiangxi Province, the Technical Task Force has established Association of Peanut Business, Association of Fruit Industry, Association of Chestnuts and Association of Live Pig to provide science and technology support for the development of relevant industries. In Ningxia, 3 training sessions on leaders of enterprise, accounting and statistics, nuisance-free technology were performed and more than 200 persons attended these sessions. At the same time, 10 training sessions on local technical task force and technical backbones were held and more than 500 participants were trained.

5. Platform construction and team building was strengthened

In consistence with the requirements of the project document, a Technical Task Force Website was established in many counties to create favorable conditions for experience sharing and information communication among TTF practitioners. The preparatory work for setting up a website in English and Chinese versions was started in Inner Mongolia. The Technical Task Force Website in Zhejiang Province was already opened. Corresponding TTF cooperation platforms were also established in Hainan, Fujian, Guangxi, Hubei, Jiangxi and Yunnan. The platform construction is conducive to strengthening cooperation with private enterprises.

5. Modality and flexile ways were explored

In terms of service models, TTF innovation system is composed of non-profit public service models and business-building profitable models. In the current stage, different development categories are derived from the two above-mentioned models. The non-profit public service model includes Technology Demonstration Park (fanning out from a point to an area), individual service (from a point to a point), team service, comprehensive services provided by TTF Working Stations and etc. The business-building profitable models includes dominant enterprises with shareholder's technology contribution, township and village technology parks, company and centers and economic interest community with cooperation of farmers and cooperatives. Various service models play an increasing important role in different fields. A series of products with great market potential are developed.

Through TTF pilots, more than 4,728,600 were arranged for work in 2006. The average income of farmers in areas with TTF practitioners increased 15% in average. Rural women also actively participated in the activities of the project and benefited from them.

II. Proposed Action

Since the inception workshop on the Project of Promoting Innovative and Sustainable Science and Technology support to Poverty Reduction in Rural China, sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Commerce and UNDP, was held in Urumqi, Xinjiang on September 13th, 2006, the project has formally entered into the stage of implementation. The year of 2007 is the first year after implementation was started and to lay a good foundation for implementation is the key factor for success. Therefore, in line with the annual work plan, we will focus on the implementation of the basic work stipulated in the project document step by step. At the same time, routine work shall be well managed. The concrete arrangements are as follows:

1. To hold a Project Progress Workshop in Tibet from June 6th to 10th. The content for the workshop includes: (1) progress report after the inception workshop given by the NPMO; (2) existing problems and challenges in project implementation faced by local PMOs; (3) discussions between UNDP representatives and experts; (4) remarks given by UNDP representative. On the basis of tripartite communications, the meeting is aimed to share information, track the progress, identify the problems, and finally adjust the work plan.

2. To set up the website. To carry out infrastructure construction with priority is the prerequisite for assuring smooth progress of the project. The setup of information management network platform is one of the important contents for the basic work of the Project and will play an important role in pushing forward the project as a whole in the later stage.

3. To carry out trainings for TTF Practitioners. Training for TTF practitioners are of great importance. It will not only bear relations to the realization of project objectives, but also to the sustainability of the project. Each project pilot shall attach great importance to this work.

4. Communication between pilot provinces. Communication between pilot provinces will include exchanges among priority provinces and between the priority provinces and non-priority provinces. It is necessary to carry out communication and exchanges among piloting provinces at the stage of project inception. Through communication and exchanges between non-priority provinces and priority provinces, demonstration effects could be created, which will inspire non-priority provinces to accelerate development and form the advantage of backwardness. Through the communication and exchanges among priority provinces, it will be conducive for priority provinces to compare their development advantages and system innovations, and thus to develop and advance jointly.

III. Objectives and Tasks for the Next Step

The working objective and tasks are proposed based on the integrated plan and overall requirements of the project.

1. Objectives

The first objective is to establish sound project organization, management system and working mechanism to lay foundation for later-stage work on the basis of actual operational demand of the project.

The second objective is to gain capital support from various channels, carry out trainings and communications to enlarge the influence of project.

The third objective is to strengthen project management. Each piloting site shall assure that the project gains staged progress on a scheduled basis.

2. Tasks

We plan to accomplish the following priority tasks based on the requirements of the project document.

A. To strengthen objectives and accountability, and establish coordination mechanism to encourage innovation on project management mechanism.

(1) To establish and improve liaison working mechanism between the NPMO and PMOs at the provincial, municipal and county level;

(2) To establish and improve project monitoring and performance assessment system, and summarize the problems identified in review process in a timely manner;

(3) To organize inspection and review to some piloting sites in the middle of the year to identify problems existed in the process of implementation. Then each piloting province/municipality will be organized to discuss the problems so that corresponding counter-measures could be proposed;

(4) To establish and strengthen objective management system, to strengthen auditing management on finance, to balance and distribute project resources on the basis of the inputs and outputs stipulated in the project document, and thus increase the effectiveness of the project and **TTF inception funds**.

B. To put capacity building in the key position, and improve the capacity on project management through trainings.

(1) To hold trainings for PMO staffs at each level of each place, and formulate training plans on fund management for PMO staffs;

(2) To organize internal study tours for TTF practitioners to provide opportunities to learn from each other;

(3) To compile case studies and teaching materials for training of TTF practitioners;

(4) To organize experts to conduct special researches on theoretic and practical obstacles in the development of TTF project, with special attention to the difficulties and problems identified in the process of project implementation.

C. To set up information and communication platform to enlarge social influence and publicity, and organize an international forum.

(1) To set up the project management information website, update and manage the TTF website hosted by the NPMO, making it an information and communication platform for TTF practitioners;

(2) Through project activities and in cooperation with Science and Technology Daily and other media, to disseminate experiences and lessons learnt from demonstrations to enlarge social influence and publicity of the project.

(3) To make use of the advantage UNDP has as an international platform and in line with the project requirements, an international workshop focusing on capacity building will be organized to attract external resources (e.g to cooperate with Japan on trainings), and to extend and deepen cooperation fields to make up for the insufficiency of project resources.

(4) The PMO in Guangxi will establish an information center in cooperation with Guangxi Stora Enso Company.

D. To strengthen cooperation with the Ministry of Personnel and other departments, to push forward and improve awarding system for TTF practitioners and hold annual commending conference and promote experience exchanges on project implementation.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE-IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES (Management and Operation)

There may be problems that are generic and not related to any specific output, or that apply to all of them. If so, the Project Manager fills out the “top three” such challenges. More can be added if considered indispensable, although when the top problems are solved other issues will normally improve, too. If the issues have been covered through the table above, this section may be left empty.

List the three main challenges (at most, if any) experienced during implementation and propose a way forward. Note any steps already taken to solve the problems.

1. Imbalance of Project Progress

Reflection: Implementation of specific activities in some piloting areas are progressing slowly;

Recommendation: PMOs in each level shall work actively and assure twice presence in the local piloting areas to push forward the implementation and provide corresponding guidance.

2. To Increase the Effectiveness of Pilots

Reflection: Although good effects were gained in many piloting activities, the potential of the pilots in playing

a leading role and the radiation function was not fully tapped.

Recommendation: To strengthen the provision of guidance and widely carry out the trainings for the Technical Task Force and improve their capacity. At the same time, the role of leading enterprises shall also be brought into force so that more farmers could become rich.

3. Insufficient Fund

Reflection: Some local funds could not be in the place in the right time or fund was provided insufficiently, which has exerted effects on the implementation of projects.

Recommendation: To actively strive for the support from governments in each level, and formulate relevant favorable policies to integrate project resources to explore and attract support from various **public and private** resources.

4. Project management to be strengthened

Reflection: There are 15 pilot provinces under the project and the project will start the implementation of inception funds to support TTF initiatives which will increase the complexity and workload under the project.

Recommendation: In order to cope with the above mentioned issues the project management office suggest that a project assistant be recruited to strengthen the project management and ensure the quality of the project implementation.

Rating on Progress Towards Results

If the CO has decided to use "rating of progress" as a tool, the Project Manager indicates his/her rating of progress for outputs. Subsequently the Programme Manager indicates agreement (or rates differently) and rates progress towards the outcome. These ratings may be used by the country office and/or Headquarters for the ROAR analysis, as well as for input to evaluations and other purposes for results validation.

For outcomes:

- ✓ Positive Change** (determined by evidence of movement from the baseline towards the end-outcome target measured by an outcome indicator)
- Negative Change** (reversal to a level below the baseline measured by an outcome indicator)
- Unchanged**

For outputs: Applied to each output target [This is for the strategic outputs only. If the parties want rating of all outputs, the ones not in the SRF would be based on the project document, work plans or any other agreement on expected results.]

- No** (not achieved)
- Partial** (only if two-thirds or more of a quantitative target is achieved)
- ✓ Yes** (achieved)

SOFT ASSISTANCE NOT PROVIDED THROUGH PROJECTS OR PROGRAMMES:

Soft assistance strategy for 2007:

1. To strengthen objectives and accountability, and establish coordination mechanism to encourage innovation on project management mechanism.
2. To put capacity building in the key position, and improve the capacity on project management through trainings.
3. To set up information and communication platform to enlarge social influence and publicity, and organize an international forum.
4. To strengthen cooperation with the Ministry of Personnel and other departments, to push forward and improve awarding system for TTF practitioners and hold annual commending conference and promote experience exchanges on project implementation.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. To strengthen the Organizaitons of Farmers

The Farmers Professional Cooperative Law will come into effect on July 1st, 2007. We shall earnestly study the law, make full use of the favorable policies, and seize the opportunity to actively develop farmers professional cooperatives and establish different professional technology associations and interest communities in the piloting areas with basic conditions. Various innovated service modes and sustainable mechanism shall be explored. To carry out non-profit service or profitable service on the basis of assuring the interests of farmers will help mobilize the participation of TTF practitioners and farmers, and decrease risks for farmers.

2. To exploit multi financing channels

Aiming at solving the problem of insufficient fund, the Ministry of Science and Technology decides to integrate the TTF work with Fund for Xinghuo Plan (Spark Plan), Fund for Agricultural Technical Results Transfer, Fund for Poverty Reduction through Science and Technology, Fund for International Science and Technology activities, and increase financial support to the TTF initiative. It is also intended to bring the financial corporations and civil funds into force and establish multi financing mechanism. At the same time,

publicity and advocacy shall be strengthened and favroable policies shall be formulated and domestic and international resouces shall be widely attracted.

3. To further capacity building

Training should be actively carried out. Different trainings should be carried out for TTF practitioners, farmers and project management staffs to push forward new-farmer construction and the development of modern agriculture. Trainings for TTF pracititoners should be strengthened to improve their comprehensive qualtiy and improve team structure, and thus increase their capapcity. Trainings for farmers should be widely developed to improve their cultural and technological quality, increase their awarness on orgainzation and market economy, and thus strengthen the capapcity for getting rich. Trainings for project management staff should be strengthened and innovative working measures should be explored to reform working mechanisms, and thus push forward the smooth implementation on projects.

Prepared by: _____ (Project management, name and title)

[Note: Since reporting should as much as possible be electronic for efficiency, signature is not required. The Project Director can transmit it in an Email, through a website or through a computer programme.]