

Report of ERECON programs in 2011

Following programs were implemented in the program year of 2011 from April 2011 to March 2012.

1. Programs on environmental rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries

1-1 *Encouragement Program on Rehabilitation of Soil Environment in Salt Affected Area of Northeast Thailand*

Salt accumulation is big environmental concern in Northeast Thailand. Deforestation spreading in Northeast Thailand degraded soil quality in the area. This program aims to rehabilitate soil environment and to promote sustainable agriculture in salt affected area at Khon Kaen, Northeast Thailand.

In 2011, soil survey was conducted to promote agro-forestry. In addition, the workshop on reforestation was conducted in January, 2012.



Photo. 1 Program (1-1) conducted in Khon Kaen, Thailand

1-2 *Program on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Bohol of Philippines*

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

This program aims to promote sustainable farming system for conserving soil and water environment with local farmers. In addition to 5 model farms established in 2010, 5 model farms were established in 2011; 3 were in Corella, one in Tagbilaran and one in Valencia. Also in 2011, the workshops on making buffer strips with coconut husks and on making compost were held for farmers' groups as well as the distribution of pamphlets and posters.



Photo. 2 Program (1-2) conducted in Bohol, Philippines

1-3 *Program on Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation through Reforestation of Mangrove with Local Group in Tsunami Affected Area in Southern Thailand*

Thung Lak village in Pang Nga province, Southern Thailand was affected by Tsunami in 2004. This program aims to rehabilitate mangrove forest affected by Tsunami through planting trees with Thung Lak Reforestation Group and establishing Green Growth Society under the collaboration of local people.

Following activities were conducted in 2011; planting *Nypa fruticans* with Thung Lak Reforestation Group, editing and distributing guidebooks to local people to foster better understanding on the importance of mangrove reforestation.



Photo. 3 Reforestation program (1-3) conducted in Pang Nga province, Thailand

1-4 *Program of Planting Trees in Commemoration of the International Year of Forests in Cambodia*

In commemoration of the International Year of Forests, reforestation was conducted through planting memorial trees in Takeo of Cambodia under the collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia and the Royal University of Agriculture. Acacia and Dipterocarp trees were planted in 2.5 hectares of degraded land in Takeo. Also, tree nursery was set up to grow seedlings for reforestation. Pamphlets were edited and distributed to local people to promote the importance of reforestation. In December 2011, the survival rate of Acacia and Dipterocarp were

92% and 88%, respectively. It was confirmed that they were growing well in Takeo of Cambodia.



Photo. 4 Program (1-4) conducted in Takeo, Cambodia

1-5 Program on Renovation of Mangrove Learning Center and Reforestations in Surrounding Area

Mangrove Learning Center has been functioned as a base for local mangrove conservation activities. However, it was badly damaged by the torrential monsoon in 2009. In this program, the center was renovated for lasting local activities on mangrove conservation and reforestation.



Photo. 5 Damaged Mangrove Learning Center in program (1-5) in Pang Nga province, Thailand

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

2-1 Guidance of Sustainable Organic Agriculture and Reforestation for Local Farmers (Phase 5)

The sloping area in Nan province of Thailand has been damaged by heavy rainfalls. The damage tends to be accelerated by deforestation and burning practices. For improving the serious situation, this program dealt with the conservation of natural resources through reforestation and the sustainable agriculture based on organic farming systems.

In 2011, the last year of this program, several trainings were conducted to those who have been engaging in reforestation and sustainable agriculture in Nan for several years since initial stage of this program in 2007. Following activities such as the workshops on food, agriculture and environment education, the eco contest and the seminars on reforestation and sustainable agriculture were conducted for elementary school students and local farmers in Nan of Thailand.



Photo. 6 Eco contest in program (2-1) conducted in Nan, Thailand

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

In Kampong Cham, Mondulkiri and Battambang provinces of Cambodia, natural resources were badly damaged by illegal deforestation and land conversion for agricultural purpose. So, this program aims to promote reforestation for conserving soil and water environment as well as sustainable use of natural resources through SATOYAMA restoration. Institute of Environment Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON) has been implementing this program under 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 2011, seedlings for reforestation have been grown at the nurseries in 3 areas under the collaboration of local farmers. In November, leader training was held in Phnom Penh for local farmers and school teachers from 3 areas. This training aimed to develop SATOYAMA conservation strategy at each area through increasing knowledge of forest ecosystem and to introduce them technical methods of seeds propagation.



Photo. 7 Satoyama leader training in program (2-2) conducted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2-3 Program on promoting Sustainable Agriculture through Eri-culture in Greater Phnom Penh

Eri silkworms are susceptible to chemical pesticide. Therefore, it was expected the amounts of chemical pesticide applied in farmlands may be reduced through promoting eri-culture.

It is also expected that farmers' income may increase by selling pupas, as pupas of eri silkworms are valuable source of protein and vitamin. Thus eri-culture is expected to be an incentive for implementing sustainable agriculture.

In 2011, several workshops including demonstration of eri-culture were conducted at two villages of Kampong Cham. In addition, the activities of leader training, distribution of pamphlets and seminar at elementary school were advanced.



Photo. 8 Eri-culture in program (2-3) conducted in Kampong Cham, Cambodia

2-4 Program on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture at Kampong Cham Province in Cambodia

Since 2000, the end of the civil war, mono cropping depending on chemical fertilizer and pesticide has been spreading rapidly. Rising costs of agricultural materials are intensifying economic difficulties for farmers. So, this program aims to increase sustainable agriculture based on natural resource circulation at 11 villages in Samroung commune and 10 elementary schools in school cluster at Kampong Cham province, Cambodia.

In 2011, the first year of this program, after conducting base-line survey, facilities such as compost boxes, tanks for making bio-pesticide or liquid fertilizer and anti-insect nets were distributed to target local farmers. And then, technical trainings on sustainable farming practices were conducted at each village in Samroung commune. In addition, market survey of agricultural products was done to promote sales of low chemical input products cultivated in Samroung commune. Also, the preparation on the food, agriculture and environment education has been advanced at elementary schools.



Photo. 9 Sustainable agriculture in program (2-4) conducted in Kampong Cham, Cambodia

2-5 Program on Capacity Building for Agricultural and Rural Development for Increasing Productivity and Farmers' Income

This program was conducted at Rong Kor village of Kampong Cham province, Cambodia for supporting the Japan Association for International Collaboration of Agriculture and Forestry (JAICAF). The program aimed to increase agricultural productivity and farmers' income through promoting organic agriculture and sustainable farming systems.

In 2011, following activities were conducted; making and applying compost and bio-pesticide, guiding safety usage of chemical pesticide, introducing new rice species, strengthening farmers' organization and developing the marketing channels of agricultural products.

3. Programs on environmental education in Asian countries

3-1 International Training Course at Cambodia for International Green Volunteers

This international training course was implemented for 8 days from August 15 to 22 in Cambodia to deepen knowledge of volunteers who are expected to play active roles in international greening activities.



Photo. 10 International green volunteers in program (3-1) conducted in Cambodia

The participants observed the activities on reforestation and sustainable agriculture practiced by local farmers in Cambodia including SATOYAMA restoration program. In addition, they joined reforestation activity in commemoration of the International Year of Forests "Forest development for good relationship" and conducted workshops for local elementary school students.

