

Report of ERECON Extension Programs in 2018

Following extension programs were implemented in the program year of 2018 from 1st April 2018 to the end of March 2019.

1. Program on Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation in Asian Countries

1-1 Project of Green Promotion for Restoration of Satoyama in Mondulkiri, Cambodia (Phases 2 and 3)

In Mondulkiri Province of Cambodia, this project aims to promote the technique and knowledge of sustainable forest management for generating income through harvesting non-timber forest products among the local residents. The project includes various workshops and reforestation activities with local residents and school students. These activities were conducted in Senmonorom of Mondulkiri Province in 2018.



Photo. 1 Reforestation activity in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia (Project 1-1)

1-2 Project of Reforestation for Biodiversity Conservation in Kratie, Cambodia (Phases 2 and 3)

In Kratie Province, eastern part of Cambodia, biodiversity has been severely damaged due to sharp decrease and degradation of forest owing to land conversion and illegal deforestation. This project provides the local residents opportunities of reforestation activities aiming to recover biodiversity and workshops for deepening knowledge and technique on sustainable forest management and environmental conservation. The activities were conducted in Snuol District, Kratie in 2018.



Photo. 2 Reforestation activity in Kratie Province, Cambodia (Project 1-2)

1-3 Project on Reforestation for Forest Restoration in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (Phases 1 and 2)

Land conversion from natural forests to agricultural fields is continuously progressing in Thailand. At the same time, biodiversity has been damaged due to insufficient forest management among local residents. Deforestation is also observed in Nakhon Ratchasima Province through illegal land encroachment. Facing those issues, this project aimed to promote the reforestation activities among local residents, as well as to initiate forest restoration by setting up conservation systems. It is expected that this project contributes to “Sustainable Forest Management” in SDGs No.15.



Photo. 3 Reforestation activity in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (Project 1-3)

1-4 Project on Reforestation for Forest Restoration in Chai Nat Province, Thailand (Phases 1 and 2)

In Chai Nat Province of Thailand, the forest area has been seriously decreasing due to deforestation through illegal logging and lack of effective forest management. Accordingly, this project aimed to implement reforestation activities with local residents and private sectors. As a result of this project, it is expected that the community forests will become well managed by local residents, as mentioned in SDGs No.15 as “Sustainable Forest Management”.



Photo. 4 Reforestation activity in Chai Nat Province, Thailand (Project 1-4)

1-5 Strengthening National Biodiversity and Forest Carbon Stock Conservation Through Landscape-based Collaborative Management of Cambodia's Protected Area System as Demonstrated in the Eastern Plains Landscape (CAMPAS)

This project aimed to establish the system of community-based forest management and rehabilitation in community protected areas (CPA) located in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia. There are two

main activities to restore degraded forest areas through promoting reforestation and agro-forestry practices as well as to increase resource and livelihood security for communities in protected areas. In this project, there were various workshops on forest conservation and reforestation as well as trainings on non-timber forest resources utilization and management in 2018. Also, native tree seedlings for reforestation and agro-forestry farms are produced in the nurseries and maintained by project beneficiaries.



Photo. 5 Growing native tree seedlings in nursery located at Monduliri Province, Cambodia (Project 1-5)

2. Program on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Asian Countries

2-1 Sustainable Rural Development through Natural Resource Management and Organic Farming in Kratie Province in Cambodia (Phase 3)

In Kratie Province of Cambodia, this project has been implemented to promote sustainable rural development through natural resource management and organic farming. There are three main activities: the first is holding ESD school monthly for disseminating the concept of SDGs; the second is promoting community forest and natural resource management through production of non-timber forest products; and the third is promoting organic farming as well as proper usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In the program year of 2018, the project was implemented in 2 sub-villages of Snuol Commune, Krosang and Trapeang Leak Villages in Kratie Province, Cambodia.



Photo. 6 Setting up nursery in Snuol Commune, Cambodia (Project 2-1)

2-2 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Conditions for Poverty Reduction in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Phases 1 and 2)

This project is constituted with following three pillars. The first

pillar is to build a capacity on sustainable agriculture based on cyclic use of natural resources among the officers of Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (PDAFF) and District Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (DDAFF) for extension skills and knowledge from soft (knowledge, skills) to hard (facilities) measures, the second pillar is making PDAFF and DDAFF centers for promoting sustainable agriculture under the collaboration with local universities, and the third pillar is to promote sustainable farming practices based on cyclic use of natural resources, among local farmers. In 2018, various trainings and workshops on sustainable agriculture based on cyclic use of natural resources, particularly focusing on the pest and disease management and the improvement of soil fertility were conducted, not only to the PDAFF and DDAFF officers, but also to local farmers in Kampong Cham Province. Lastly in August 2018 before the end of the first year of the project, the project was evaluated on the basis of the OECD-DAC.



Photo. 7 Project evaluation held in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Project 2-2)

3. Program on Environmental Education in Asian Countries

3-1 International Green Volunteer Training in Thailand

From August 6 to 14, 2018, the International Green Volunteer Training was implemented in Thailand. The training tour was coordinated by ERECON under the Green Fund of the National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization. This training aimed to deepen Japanese trainees' perception and knowledge of the importance of reforestation, environmental conservation and international environmental cooperation. The eleven Japanese trainees in total have experienced meaningful 9 days in Thailand. They visited several reforestation project sites and conducted reforestation activity with local residents and private sectors. The achievements of this training were presented with Thai buddies at local university, RMUTT, as well as Global Festa Japan 2018 held in Tokyo and shared with many visitors.



Photo. 8 Green Volunteer Training at ERECON reforestation project site in Thailand (Project 3-1)

3-2 JICA Nikkei Training

In Latin America, the mono-culture has been widely adapted for producing cash crops. As it has degraded soil conditions, local residents increased awareness of importance of soil conservation for sustainable agriculture in Latin America. This course is arranged for Nikkei Trainees who are descendants of Japanese family under the support of JICA. In the fourth time of this project for ERECON, we accepted one Nikkei trainee from Bolivia and conducted the course from May to November 2018. In the course, the trainee learned the methods and technique on agro-biodiversity, soil conservation, sustainable agriculture, project cycle management, participatory rural appraisal, and Satoyama conservation, etc. The trainee is expected to apply the knowledge and technique from this training to his country for sustainable development in agriculture.



Photo. 9 Practical training on soil conservation through organic farming in Machida, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-2)

3-3 Project on Promoting Soil Carbon Storage with Household Toolkit to Achieve Low-Carbon & Recycling-Based Society

It is expected that carbon storage is advanced in farmlands including kitchen gardens. This project is implemented to disseminate the importance of carbon storage in farmlands including kitchen gardens through various exhibitions, such as Global Festival Japan 2018. Additionally, five trainings of soil carbon storage were held and totally 208 participants attended. During the trainings, the household toolkits for soil carbon storage and the guidebooks were distributed.



Photo. 10 Trainings for soil carbon storage with household toolkit in Setagaya, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-3)

3-4 Re-Inventing Japan Project Internship

This is the internship program that ERECON provides for the exchange students at Tokyo University of Agriculture from Latin America. For the 2018 program year, the internship was held 3 times for 14 students in total. The interns learned about the importance of sustainable use of natural resources in Japan, Asian countries and their own countries. The program contained introduction of ERECON's projects in Asian countries, several sustainable farming practices, Satoyama conservation, planning a project in their countries, etc. The trainees showed their interests during each training topic and high learning results in their presentations.



Photo. 11 Internship on Satoyama conservation in Machida, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-4)

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