

No. 002

Study Report on Gender – Oriented Extension Activities for Improving Rural Life

FY1997 Report



March 1998

Japan International Cooperation Agency

JICA LIBRARY



J 1146957 [4]

AFP

JR

98-44

LIBRARY



1146957(4)

Study Report on Gender – Oriented Extension Activities for Improving Rural Life

FY1997 Report



March 1998

Japan International Cooperation Agency

PREFACE

In recent years, the importance of the role of women in development (WID) has been better understood internationally, and development that has incorporated women's positions and views has come to be sought. In its reports on "Gender and Human Development" and "Poverty and Human Development" the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) emphasizes the necessity to give gender equal opportunities to develop and utilize one's own abilities.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been implementing study projects on gender conscious agricultural and rural development since FY 1991, through entrustment to the Association for International Cooperation of Agriculture and Forestry (AICAF).

This year, the study project focused on agricultural extension activities which are functioning as an interface between the executing side of development assistance and the target group living in rural area from the gender viewpoint.

The contents of this study project so far have progressed from the grasping of the present state of rural women based on data analysis and information collection and the examination of survey methods on rural society with gender conscious, then practical techniques on the site of cooperation. This time the study has pointed out the importance of extension activities for local people as something to motivate them and promote voluntary action. The study has also led to proposals for new steps to promote agricultural and rural development with emphasis on the empowerment of local people including women. This has, so to speak, set forth the direction that this series of study projects has aimed at.

We hope that this report would be used widely by those who are actively engaged in the field of WID/gender and rural development.

Lastly, we heartily thank all the people who have supported and cooperated with us in implementing this project.

Kazuyuki Tsurumi
Managing Director
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Development Study Department
Japan International Cooperation Agency

Study Report on Gender-Oriented Extension Activities for Improving Rural Life

CONTENTS

Chapter 1	Examination of the New Steps to Promote Rural Development with Emphasis on Empowerment	1
1-1	Background and Development of the Study Project	1
1-2	Methodology of Study Project	2
Chapter 2	International Trends of Extension Activities	4
2-1	UN Agencies	4
2-2	International Cooperation by Various Countries	5
Chapter 3	Case Studies	7
3-1	Tanzania (JICA): Kilimanjaro Village Forestry Phase 2	8
3-2	Sri Lanka (World Bank, etc.): Mahaweli Ganga (River) Development Program	10
3-3	Mali (NGO)/ Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa	13
3-4	India (NGO / The Institute for Cultural Affairs): Malegaon Integrated Rural Development Project	15
3-5	Japan (Local Administration): Activities to Promote Local Products	19

Chapter 4	Findings from the Case Studies	26
4-1	Impacts on Local People	26
4-2	Extension Activities and Impacts on Local People	32
Chapter 5	Problems of Extension Activities and Improvement Methods	37
5-1	Problems of Extension Activities	37
5-2	Communication in Extension Activities	38
5-3	Increase of Options and Problem-Solving	40
5-4	Promoters' Abilities and Requirements	41
5-5	Long-term Strategy of and Legal Systems Related with Extension Activities for Empowering Rural Women	42
Chapter 6	Proposition of New Steps to Promote Agricultural and Rural Development with Emphasis Empowerment	45

Chapter 1 Examination of the New Steps to Promote Rural Development with Emphasis on Empowerment

1-1 Background and Development of the Study Project

The JICA Workshop for Sector-wise Assistance on Women in Development held in 1990 proposed 1) expansion of WID-related basic research and 2) strengthening of study and research on WID-related development strategies and aid techniques. On this basis, the JICA Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Development Study Department has been implementing a study project on WID since 1991 in order to take account of the local people including women when providing cooperation in the area of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

Along with the study project, efforts have been made to confirm the examination contents through field studies, as well as to study the state of various countries' gender policies, the endeavors made by international agencies, developed countries' aid agencies, and NGOs, and the realities of the gender orientation in various JICA projects. The gender-oriented rural survey technique established in Phase 2 of this study project has actually been used in conducting basic surveys in Indonesia and Nepal. The countries in which basic surveys have been conducted and survey items are as follows.

Year of dispatch of survey team	Country studied	Study item
1991	Honduras, Bolivia	WID orientation of aid agencies and real activities of extension agents
1992	Kenya, Ghana	Do
1993	The Philippines	Gender-oriented rural development
1994	Indonesia	Base-line survey
1995	Nepal	Monitoring and evaluation
* 1996	Bolivia	Supporting to Organization
1997	Tanzania	Extension Activities

In cooperation for rural development, what truly improves the living of local people is sustainable development rather than the outcome of the activities carried out during the cooperation period. To this end, it is necessary to implement people-participatory or people-initiated projects in which they themselves become the subjects. And in improving the area as a whole, full consideration must be given to the socioeconomically weak such as the poor, women, and other who tend to be left behind from development and diverse activities. This study project was implemented for the purpose of discovering the directions and policies necessary in implementing sustainable cooperation for rural development through participation of residents and preparing materials conducive to future cooperation, so that cooperation in the areas of agricultural and rural development may induce rural people including women to develop and fully display their abilities and live with confidence and a sense of fulfillment.

1-2 Methodology of Study Project

Along with this study project, “Basic Survey on WID-Oriented Extension Activities for Improving Rural Life” was implemented. This survey was designed to play the role of implementing a field survey for the study project. This year, based on the idea of human development, and using advanced concepts such as gender and PRA, a basic survey team was dispatched to Tanzania where many agricultural and rural development projects have been implemented. The relevant work and examination results will be reported separately. These are also used in this study project as part of the case studies.

In addition to the results of the extension activities looked at from the side of the extension system and organization, the basic survey also provides brief survey results on the extension activities looked at from the side of the local people.

This paper will discuss the international trends of extension activities (Chapter 2). It will also take up UN-related agencies, the state of international cooperation by countries, and NGO activities as case studies of extension activities (Chapter 3):

Tanzania (the JICA)

Sri Lanka (the World Bank and others)

Mali (NGO/ Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa)

India (NGO The Institute of Cultural Affairs / Malegaon Comprehensive Rural Development Project)

Japan (local administrative agencies)

On this basis, Chapter 4 and 5 will examine the following:

*Impacts on people - the relationship between impacts on empowerment and gender equality and justice and extension activities.

*Problems of extension activities and improvement methods - empowerment and roles of extension.

Finally, the results of examination are put together as "Proposals of the New Idea for Promoting Rural Development with Emphasis on Empowerment (Chapter 6)."

Chapter 2 International Trends of Extension Activities

Regarding activities carried out by UN agencies, various countries' international cooperation organizations and NGOs, this chapter examines the literature that can be used in examining the new idea, and reports on representative cases.

2-1 UN Agencies

As for UN agency materials, the examination was conducted mainly based on *Human Development Report* (UNDP) and *The State of Food and Agriculture 1996* (FAO). The 1997 edition of the UNDP report has been titled "Poverty and Human Development, which takes up six priority issues in eliminating poverty. Four of these are mentioned in Box 1 below.

Box 1: Priority Issues in Eliminating Poverty

- (1) No matter what region, the starting point is empowerment of both genders, and to have them participate in the decision-making processes that affects their life or enables them to acquire abilities or build assets.
- (2) In empowering women and eliminating poverty, gender equality is indispensable.
- (3) To mitigate poverty in a sustainable way, all countries must grow with due emphasis on the poor.
- (4) Globalization brings about enormous opportunities. This however requires global fairness and promotion of globalization with more care and consideration.

2-2 International Cooperation by Various Countries

From among the activity reports prepared by various countries' international cooperation organizations, the following three volumes were used.

“Developing Agricultural Extension for Woman Farmers” (K.A. Saito and D. Spurling, World Bank Discussion Papers 156, 1992)

Improving Extension Work with Rural Women (FAO, Rome, 1996)

Tools for the Field, Methodologies Handbook for Gender Analysis in Agriculture (H.S. Feldstein and Janice Jiggins, eds., Kumarian Press, 1994)

From these data, Box 2 below has summarized the international trends related with extension and gender.

Box 2: Problems of Extension Activities Seen from the Gender Viewpoint

The greatest problem is that women are alienated from “extension” because:

- Extension of agricultural technology only covers men.
- Women are transferred technology only indirectly through men.
- Technologies in meeting with women's needs are not developed.
- Agricultural extension agents are overwhelmingly males.

These are hampering the productivity and sustainability of agricultural development for the following reasons:

- Even though more women are participating in agriculture, they have limited access to extension services.
- Women's incentives for development have been lowered due to multiple work of housework, childcare and production.

Moreover, the following factors are hampering social development.

- Women can hardly escape from poverty and low social position.
- A great many households and society cannot escape from poverty.
- Gender inequalities have remained and even increased and equal social development has not been achieved.

Today, these problems are being analyzed. Solutions are being groped for on the issues namely how to have women benefit from extension, how to have them participate in extension activities, and how to have both genders participate in the decision-making process in relation to agricultural and rural development.

Chapter 3 Case Studies

This project sought to draw out proposals for future activities by examining cooperation activities that were actually carried out. It therefore collected case studies recommended by committee members. In recommending cases, the members were asked to write the project outline, the state of acceptance by people, and the reasons for recommendation centering on participation by women. They were also asked to clarify the area, executing agency, etc.

As a result, 19 cases were collected. The working group first selected the cases to be examined. Before selecting, the following matters were confirmed as assumptions of the examination to be carried out in this project.

- (1) To be always aware of extension to people;
- (2) To aim for the people to empower themselves and participate in development;
- (3) To include the socioeconomically weak like the poor, women and others as target groups; and
- (4) To take account of and accommodate these three points in any kind of project.

In addition to these cases, the discussions in Chapter 3 and the rest were to be carried out by actively utilizing each member's experience as well as cases that were not selected.

3-1 Tanzania (JICA): Kilimanjaro Village Forestry Phase 2

1. Background

This project's purpose was to contribute to village forestry in Tanzania through technology transfer and improvements related with forestry and extension necessary in carrying out social forestry activities in semiarid areas. By making Kilimanjaro Region the site, the project was started in expectation of such outcomes as (1) establishment of nursery and forestation technologies that the villagers can use, (2) development of a demonstration forest for demonstrating and extending technology and (3) development and improvement of extension technology.

2. Project Activities

In Phases 1 and 2 of this project, "establishment of nursery and forestation technologies" and "development of a demonstration forest" among the three expected outcomes have been implemented on a priority basis. In the follow-up phase starting in January 1998, development and improvement of the extension techniques will become the main activity.

As for the extension technique, initially, development and improvement were promoted through the program technique. This was a method of extension by preparing menus through the project. Technical support was provided such as through free distribution of nursery stocks, setting up small-scale nursery at elementary schools and in groups, practical training, and seminars. At present, the direction has been changed, and development and improvement are being promoted through participatory techniques. PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) are being implemented in villages and support is being provided so that farmers can make nursery stocks by themselves.

3. Social and Gender Orientation

(1) Social and gender surveys

As for the social and gender orientation, this project has implemented a socioeconomic survey in 1996 through short-term dispatch of experts.

(2) Gender training

In 1997, WID experts were dispatched for a short term to grasp the Tanzanian government's gender policy, study women's groups, guide counterparts in charge of gender, and train the project team in the area of gender.

(3) Gender orientation in extension

The gender orientation in this project is applied mainly to extension activities. It is being applied in the forms of holding of another people's meeting meant for women (in case women were not able to express their opinions fully in PRA workshops) and support in meeting with requests by women's groups.

At present, the support for women's groups from the side of the project is taking the approach of "upon request" instead of project-led.

4. Introduction of the People-Participatory Technique

This project introduced PRA. The reasons were as follows. The results of the socioeconomic survey and small-scale nursery survey showed that the conventional techniques of small-scale nursery and free distribution of nursery stock were not flexible. They did not meet diverse people's needs and the village's natural conditions. Also, they only benefited the well-to-do who had sufficient land and labor resources, and because of the low degree of people participation, they tended to make the people's involvement inactive. Therefore, a decision was made to introduce the people participatory system from the stage of extension planning and implementation.

3-2 Sri Lanka (World Bank, etc.): Mahaweli Ganga (River) Development Program

1. Characteristics of Agricultural and Rural Development in Sri Lanka - IRDP

Diverse rural development programs are being implemented in Sri Lanka. The IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Program) is known for many pioneering cases of examining people-participatory systems since the 1960s.

Participatory programs centered around female household heads have been formulated and these have been major indicators in assessing projects. This project implemented carefully thought out activities based on villages. The executing agencies were the Government Women's Bureau's local agencies, local governments, and the country's NGOs such as the Lanka Human Cordiality Foundation and Sarvodaya. These different kinds of executing agencies are implementing projects in same areas as though they were in competition. The country's carefully thought out rural development technique has been taking the system of integrating different kinds

of systems and executing agencies such as people-participatory systems, gender-based programs, GOs, and NGOs. It has many extension and other software type reference cases of rural development.

2. Outline of Mahaweli Ganga Development Program

This development program had the major development characteristics of having been (1) a large-scale development program, (2) one designed to develop wilderness, and (3) a settlement development program based on large-scale irrigation development. Because of these characteristics, it (1) had an element of forming communities, (2) was designed to develop the social infrastructure of irrigation, adopting an integrated approach in the form of IRDP, (3) addressed the issue of how to develop communities in settlements (the roles of Community Development Officers, CDOs), (4) extension agents and CDOs cooperated in promoting settlement and extending agricultural technologies, and (5) women were organized when and where necessary.

3. Project Outline

The project name was Mahaweli Ganga Development Program (MGDP) System C. It was jointly funded by the World Bank (IDA), the Kuwait Fund (KF) and the Japanese OECF (Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund). It was called "System C" as it covered a part of the A through G project districts. Its main objectives were (1) creation of massive employment opportunities, (2) food self-supply and saving of foreign currency and (3) elimination of the problem of electricity shortage. System C covered an area of 66,700 ha. It was a core project in the MGDP to develop irrigation facilities, establish settlements, and extend agricultural technologies including those

for developing cashew farms. The project period was from December 1980 to May 1995 and has more or less been completed.

4. Summary

The MGDGP was a hardware-type development program based on construction of a large-scale dam and irrigation network. It converted the Mahaweli area that was close to wilderness into a major farming production area. The project is said to have helped achieve a food self-sufficiency rate of around 90% for the nation as of 1990. This huge project took an integrated approach. Particularly important were completion of hardware construction and the accompanying implementation of software development projects, particularly development services based on the settlers' living and the existence of CDOs. In inferring on what basis such an idea was formed, the existence of the integrated people-participatory village development programs called IRDPs as mentioned having diverse elements and implemented throughout Sri Lanka cannot be ignored.

In carrying out these activities, CDOs and extension advisers emphasized project implementation by taking account of the Sri Lankan society's traditional ideas regarding joint work such as Shramadana. What we notice when we look at the project sites of many donors in Sri Lanka whether they be those of NGOs, bilateral aid, or international agencies, is that they adopt those traditional ideas. It can be pointed out that from of old, Sri Lankan agriculture had been highly productive for using reservoirs and irrigation canals. In such an attitude of incorporating into development elements that are peculiar to the locale, we can see the flexibility of not only extending agricultural technology but of covering the living and community elements and organization of women. Such an integrated approach is indispensable to the extension process.

3-3 Mali (NGO)/ Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa

1. Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa

The Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa was initially established in 1992 as Association for Supporting Health and Medical Services in the Republic of Mali, which was renamed, in 1993. This renaming meant expanding the scope of activities from Mali to other West African countries and carry out activities in a wide range of areas not limited to medical services.

2. Project Outline

The Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa started its activities to improve the living of those subsisting under extremely low standards in poor villages particularly women with low social status.

Its activities consisted of literacy education, development of erosion control, windbreak, and coppice woods, development and extension of improved ovens, digging of deep wells, improvement of the health and hygienic environment, establishment of vegetable gardens, and guidance on living technologies.

3. Outcomes

The activities of the Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa were hence diverse. They however were not carried out haphazardly but were closely interrelated and greatly contributed to advancement of villagers' life.

The digging of deep wells provided an indispensable foundation for securing of drinking water, watering vegetable plots and planted forests, supply of water to

livestock, and health care, among other things. This enabled cultivation of vegetables as cash crops. Planted forests were useful not only for windbreaking and controlling erosion but enabled collection of firewood from nearby places. Firewood was gradually becoming a precious resource for living. The installation of improved ovens increased the thermal efficiency, which in turn saved the consumption of firewood. Along with deep wells, the extension of literacy education likewise gave a basis for improving the living. It contributed to acquisition of health and hygienic knowledge by villagers, and also greatly helped them to acquire living technologies such as embroidery and sewing as well as to cultivate of vegetables. The Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa's support activities hence played major roles in improving the economy and living in Babougou and surrounding villages. What was particularly significant was that the support focused on women who had been left behind in their families and villages.

For a long period in the past, women were placed in a subordinate position. They did not have access to production resources such as farmland. And in farming activities, they were not given opportunities to make decisions on choice of crops grown, work procedure, and use of farmland. However, under the Association of Cooperation for Self-Support in Rural West Africa's support and guidance, they came to cultivate vegetables and engage in off-farm activities and were given opportunities to acquire additional income. Also, the securing of water resources and extension of improved ovens drastically reduced their burden associated with kitchen work, and extension of health and hygienic knowledge reduced the incidence of diseases among women and children. The fact that women were able to win confidence and hopes through those activities can be said as the project's by far the most important outcome.

3-4 India (NGO / The Institute for Cultural Affairs): Malegaon Integrated Rural Development Project

1. ICA

The ICA India established its office in Pune, Maharashtra State, and started integrated development of Malegaon Village from 1989 through a staff of four. This case study is based on an inquiry from the ICA Japan staff and the ICA India via the ICA Japan.

Most of the villagers were engaged in agriculture. However, the productivity was so low that the villagers had difficulty in getting their subsistence. The main crops were rice and sorghum. In the dry season from April to May, water penetrated down into the earth and did not remain on the surface so that people were drinking muddy water.

The village was made up of a single tribe called Mahade Koli. The caste system regarding marriage and religious feasts was strictly taken over. Women usually got married for the first time at the age of around 14. Many women suffered from husband's violence in daily life. As a whole, the sanitary and nutritive conditions were poor. The nutritive state of women and children in particular was poor and there was educational and nutritive discrimination against girls.

2. Project Outline

1) Start of project

(1) All-house interview by the ICA India

The ICA emphasizes how to draw out regional characteristics in implementing integral regional development. Partly for this reason, it conducts all-house interviews by visiting every household. In doing so, its objective is to explore problems faced by the society, family, and individuals and their causes and countermeasures. However, starting with “problems” outright cannot identify clues for effective solution.

(2) Holding of villagers' meetings

Next, the ICA announces the results of the all-house interview. For this purpose, it calls upon to hold village meetings participated by all villagers including women.

2) Project outline - Method of deploying activities

In this project's case, the activities were organized according to villagers' wishes. As a result, they were carried out in the order of water, nutrition, education, and environment. Moreover, to point out the characteristics of the activities in periods 1 and 2, in period 1, the activities centered around living-related aspects. In period 2, the project contents shifted to mainly production-related aspects.

3. The Project's Characteristics in Terms of Gender

This project can be said to have had the following four characteristics.

1) Shift of project contents from living- to production-related aspects

Tackling from living-related issues facilitates women's participation in extension activities. If either production-related issues or both issues were first tackled, perhaps the active participation by women could hardly have been obtained.

2) Stratified character of the organization for extension activities

The project organized diverse people along the temporal axis, e.g., with project, when starting, when carrying out activities and when maintaining and developing them.

The way the project organized women and youth could be evaluated high. In the existing local government organization, the elders had the right to make decisions, while the youth and women were alienated and did not have the right to say. The project played the role of drawing in these people as actors of development. Organizing the youth activated the village with a flood of their energy. Women's excellent ability to "help others" resulted in the community's balanced development.

Also, as ICA's organization to accommodate people, it carried out activities based on a pair of a man and woman of different ages. ICA Pune's leaders were a husband and a wife. When persuading the village's elder couple, they took the basic procedure of obtaining consent with the husband talking to the elder and

the wife talking to the elder's wife. They also visited farm households at least once a week to keep track of problems of the village as a whole and those of individuals.

It can be evaluated that the organization of stratified groups varying in terms of age and gender instead of specific individuals, such as pairing up men and women of different ages as units of daily ICA activities and deliberately creating "families," diversified the viewpoints. This fostered resident leaders and the extension activities carried out through them produced outcomes. Also, instead of the Government one-sidedly sending in extension agents, Gram Sevaks to play the role of extension agents were selected from among villagers. This is believed to have played an important role in grasping villagers' needs and implementing extension activities. In the future, cooperation with resident leaders is likely to become an important issue.

3) Thorough application of the bottom-up approach

The second characteristic was thorough application of the bottom-up approach. When holding villagers' meetings, the elderly couple were first contacted to prevent frictions. However, there was a consistent policy of preparing and executing projects by digging up the general opinion of people including women through the bottom-up approach instead of the top-down one. Hence, all the people were interviewed, meetings were held based on the principle of everyone participating, and projects were promoted based on villagers' meetings.

4) Fostering of leaders

In relation to the above bottom-up approach, the project emphasized fostering of leaders. Leaders were not restricted to specific individuals, age groups, gender, or occupations. Several leaders of both genders were fostered. As can be seen in the case of youth leader training, the project's characteristic was that it took into view cooperation with the next generation. The present leaders are diverse such as those engaged in farming, wage labor, and small businesses. The leaders manage the villagers' meetings but are not paid for this. They are constantly closely contacting ICA. In the past, the leaders were mainly made up of seniors. They are being replaced by the youth.

To foster male and female leaders, ICA is actively implementing training projects. This training for fostering leaders was constructed with ICA and people exchanging opinions fully. This training for free participation improved the communication and planning abilities and leaders' ability to gather and discuss. Women in particular were first empowered in the area of living.

3-5 Japan (Local Administration): Activities to Promote Local Products

1. Project Activities and Developments

This project was carried out in a rural village located on a prefectural border in northeastern Saga Prefecture. With the development of urban industries, the village's men started to go to the city for work. To maintain agriculture and secure income, since 1975, women's activities became active.

First, they started to cultivate vegetables for home consumption. As they came to mass produce such vegetables, they started direct sales, which led to their interchange with the city.

The support activities by the agricultural extension office promoted the organization of these women. The progress of urbanization and improved access to the city through opening of a tunnel enhanced the interchange with the city. In addition to the direct sales of vegetables, the group members the majority of whom were over 60 years old utilized their experience and made traditional local food. With establishment of a processing plant, they produced and sold various local foodstuffs by setting up smaller groups. These activities were mainly implemented by group members.

2. Support Activities by the Agricultural Extension Office

The extension office provided support when the group started as well as appropriate support at key points of the activities. Examples are support with purchase of the equipment and facilities for the processing plant, technical guidance on sales items and vegetable cultivation, procedure for acquiring the business license, setting of quantities and prices, grasping of consumer trends, encouragement to participate in various events, interchange with urban dwellers, provision of know-how for selling products, and collection of necessary information.

3. Record of Activities by Women

1) Product development through utilization of local products and making use of wisdom in life.

At present, 70% of the farm households in this village are part-time. It can be safely said that they are managed mainly by women. 90% of the activities conducted by the local product promotion group are carried out by women and the remaining 10% through cooperation among old men.

2) Extension activities designed to support women

In the traditional community, improving the position of women first required for them to have firm and positive ideas as well as economic power. To this end, important was for them to acquire the ability to think as a group and the habit of solving problems by themselves. Therefore, they were urged to create groups.

(1) The office supported rural women to form their own groups so as to maximally display their wisdom and technology. The villagers were constantly informed of what the group did.

The women who cooperated in developing a tourists chestnut garden learned the importance of cooperating with others. They also experienced the system of farming partnership. Through these activities, they experienced how to take rest and meals commensurate with workload through support by the extension office and created their own groups. As a ripple effect, three such gardens were developed in other hamlets.

(2) The Activities for improving the living of all family members which the women carried out activities for their families. (During 1970-1987)

- Food: Forming eating habits that are well balanced nutritively, how to eat rice deliciously: and the “18-18 Campaign” (eat 1 egg and 8 kinds of vegetables, drink 1 bottle of milk and work for 8 hours)
- Clothing: Sewing of working clothes that are easy to work in as well as bedquilts: and waterproofing of auxiliary working clothes
- Housing: Extension of solar water heaters: and a system for loaning living improvement funds (small amounts)
- Living: Guidance on keeping of household accounts, housekeeping diagnosis: and living standard diagnosis
- Organization: Starting of groups, activation of group activities: and promotion of group activities through diverse projects
- Planned living through bookkeeping, household economy diagnosis, and life design
- Sharing of housekeeping roles and planning of living hours (keeping and diagnosis of work diary)
- Harmony between farm work and processing work and health care (work improvement to reduce fatigue)
- For the benefit of women and the youth, holding of discussion meetings for making of family rules in spinach-cultivating households.

This is to follow the family farm management agreement. The extension office is supporting optimization of households' working conditions in the presence of the area's third party. In order that both genders can examine farm household management equally, both genders are surveyed on such things as work, eating habits, and living hours, and extension is provided based on such data.

3) Changes in the role of women and husband-wife relationship

Men came to recognize women's capacities through their activities to promote local products and no longer spared to cooperate.

In the past, husbands did not fully convey the farming technology to their wives. They thought that the wife would understand by working together. However, as men started to work away from farm, they just told the wife what to do with the farm work, and the wife had to do the work without understanding what it was about. As a result, the working hours were increased to over ten hours a day. Stress mounted resulting in family discord. Then women could fully understand the guidance on the vegetable cultivation technology provided by extension advisers. They developed interest in farm work, leading to more women coming to training and utilizing what they learned in the daily farm work. The husband and wife developed confidence that they could continue farming by mutual cooperation.

4) Women do not often participate in production organizations and village decision making for the following reasons.

- Many men want to participate and the entire families are waiting for their men's turn.
- Whether one can become an officer of the agricultural cooperative is related to farmland ownership, and it is based on a one-person/household system. Because most farmland owners and householders are men, it is generally men that become members of the agricultural cooperative and officers.
- Around a half the local people belong to farm households. Partly for this reason, when sending out candidates for the village assembly for example, non-farmer residents have not discarded the custom of sending out husbands. Also, although farm women are fully capable, people do not want to have women own land. This is related with agricultural, tax, and other institutions.

5) Degree of participation of young women in activities

- Because young women can commute to cities and jobs are also available in the village, they find employment in nonagriculture as much as possible. This tendency rises because agricultural mechanization and upsizing are difficult for topographical reasons. Also, women who are raising children are taken up with childcare, housework, and cultivation of vegetables for home consumption. These are the kind of women who are participating.

- The reasons for the shortage of brides for farm successors are bleak prospects of agriculture reflection of a national tendency and difficulty of saving labor in farm work for topographical reasons. Also, the families are still retaining the traditional customs.

Chapter 4 Findings from the Case Studies

4-1 Impacts on Local People

This section analyzes how the external intervention seen in the case studies affected the local people, especially women. In particular, it will analyze how women placed on the fringes of society achieved empowerment and how the gender relations changed as a result.

4-1-1 Tanzanian Case

The Project's impact on women's empowerment cannot be determined. However, future increase in supply of firewood and fruits and medicinal plants through afforestation has tended toward long-term satisfaction of actual needs such as reduction of women's labor and securing of stable food supply.

Unlike the other cases, the activity menu covering women only consisted of supply of seedlings and guidance on afforestation technology. The project did not deal with economic and social needs (such as participation in decision-making).

If women did not fully participate in the villagers' meetings through the PRA technique, the project added women-only meetings to give them the opportunity to foster their voice. However, the present impact on women is not clear. For the local people as a whole, clarification of development issues through PRA and formation of the environmental conservation committee are tending to increase self-decision-making capacity in development. At present however, this committee only consists of men and there is no participation of women in the decision-making process.

This project has conducted gender analysis, clarifying that women's weak economic and social position has been hampering participation in afforestation

activities. However, it is not clear how much project activities that do not include activities seeking to empower women have contributed to equalizing gender relations. Results yet remain to be seen as women are not participating in decision making organizations.

4-1-2 Sri Lankan Case

In this project, the impact on empowerment of people particularly women is unclear.

The assignment of Field Assistants, Community Development Offices and Unit Managers promoted the organization of local people and supporting and strengthening of activities so that there was a system to satisfy their general needs. If various organizations had functioned sustainably, the residents could have been empowered.

Women have organized their groups and are vigorously carrying out activities in income-creating and public welfare projects. The project satisfied women's actual needs and provided them with opportunities to empower themselves in the areas of economy and health. The organization also gave them opportunities for social empowerment. If leaders of women's groups and active volunteers had played important roles in the society and participated in the community's decision-making process, then it could have been said that the women were empowered to a considerable extent. This point however is unclear. There is no information as to how the gender relations changed.

4-1-3 Malian Case

In this case, while women are essentially given great responsibilities for the survival of the family, their access to and control of resources are limited, and have no power to make decisions in the household or in the region. In the area of agricultural production, while women did the farm work, they had no rights over selection of crops, work procedure and how to use farmland.

The project taught women how to read and write and improved their nutritive state. It also reduced the firewood-collection and water-carrying labor. The living improvement activities also strengthened their economic capacity. Such were useful in enhancing women's self-decision-making capacity, increased their say and gave them confidence and hopes.

In the area of agricultural production also, the implementation of vegetable gardens managed by women gave them the right to decide what to cultivate. Through organization, they came to display power as groups, generating female leaders who had a greater say.

As a result of these changes, the gender relations in the household trended toward equalization. At first, men opposed women's outings and participation in training. Gradually, they accepted women's changes and came to leave preparation of documents and cultivation of idle land up to women.

However, while these changes can be interpreted as increase in women's right to decide, if there is no change to men's labor, they could have resulted in women's overwork.

In terms of the gender relations in the area, the fact that women could now participate in village decision-making could be seen as advancement toward equalization. However, while women's status improved as a whole, given the

polygamous system, compared to the improvement of the status of the first and second wives, that of the third and rest of the wives is still low.

4-1-4 Indian Case

The case of India involved inequalities not just between genders but between castes. Also, the elders had the right to decide and the young were placed on the fringes of society. Women were handicapped with early marriage, under nutrition and unliklihood of receiving education. Married women often suffered from the husband's violence.

As a result of the project, women were liberated from water-carrying and other heavy labor. They were able to receive literary and school education, recovered health and acquired extra time. As for the husband's violence also, some developed the attitude of taking active solutions.

Moreover, because women organized themselves and implemented living improvement activities, their economic power developed. By participating in the community and development activities, they became socially visible existences. Through training, they fostered the ability to express themselves and leadership and acquired confidence. Women came to become actively involved in the formulation of village development plans, and the gender relationship in the area can be said to have moved toward greater equalization. This process generated a sense of precaution among males regarding women's organization. However, as they came to recognize the social contribution that women's organization was making, their evaluation changed to a positive one. An affirmative image was created that participation of both genders in development by sharing responsibilities can ensure balanced social development.

However, there are still those who criticize women's opposition to husband's violence. So their's is only a limited gender equality of accepting women's social participation as long as they remain "harmless" and "devoted" existences.

4-1-5 Japanese Case

In Mitsuse Village, Saga Prefecture, due to more part-timers and depopulation during the high rate of growth period, in addition to housework, women came to bear much of farmwork. This impoverished not just women but the entire family. Also, while women carried out farmwork, the men who found non-farm employment did not convey agricultural technology to the wives, and farm management became slovenly.

Given such a situation, the support by the agricultural extension center promoted solving of the problems in such aspects as health and farm management. Through guidance on cultivation of vegetables, women also acquired the cultivation technology, leading to the successful cultivation of vegetables. Also, because this comprised a subsistence effort, the cultivated varieties increased, improving the nutrition of the entire family. At the same time, the women were taught the technology and knowledge for living improvement and farm management. In both these areas, the situation was improved and women came to have confidence in farm management. Moreover, through the activities of local products promotion groups and food processing groups, they were able to have their own incomes and bank accounts.

Through these activities, women came to acquire the attitude of making positive efforts with cheerfulness and incentives and the thinking capacity of the group problem-solving type. Also, as women contributed to village activation through local product activities, they came to shoulder the village's industries and became important existences locally.

However, the women that became the driving force of village activation were those over their 50s. Young women's participation rate was low for such reasons as childcare, farming and non-farm employment.

The technical rationalization reduced women's labor. However, housework is still their work so that the gender-based role sharing has been maintained.

The extension contents included early morning processing work through both the husband and wife participating, sharing of housework, and family farm management agreement. However, the sharing of roles and creation of rules within the household were considered to "require further efforts." Here, the change was for women to carry out more production labor and was not a bilateral one in which men participated partly in housework. However, men acknowledged women's capacities and cooperated in their activities to develop local products which fostered a relationship of cooperation between genders. This was a good development effect.

The gender relationship in the area changed from the old pattern in that women came to contribute to regional development and became more visible socially and economically. This can be taken as the first step toward full-scale gender equalization.

The women thus became important enough to shoulder village activation. They however are not participating in the village's main decision-making structure. The gender power relationship is still unbalanced. In this sense, there have been very small changes in the social structure.

From the beginning, the development intended to use the method of "advancing women's status with less friction in the place of permanent residence." Hence, empowerment of women centered around the scope of women as "good wives" and "good production partners." The project was carried out within the scope of not challenging men's authority.

Women's political participation is limited for such reasons as tradition and land and tax systems. Changing such tradition and generating a movement for innovating the land and tax systems will be to aim at true empowerment.

This project was implemented under the leadership of the agricultural extension center and was totally supported by the village office, related administrative agencies and agricultural cooperatives. The project fostered the villagers' problem-solving capacity. It however seems that the contents of development were determined mainly through leadership of the agricultural extension center. Women also have not gone as far as to subjectively innovate the society.

This is a very exogenous approach to development that can only be used with Japanese rural villages that can expect much from the administration. For many developing countries can expect little from administrative services and external aid organizations will leave when time comes.

4-2 Extension Activities and Impacts on Local People

-What kind of extension activities brought about the foregoing impacts?

1) Make measures to meet women's actual needs the contents of extension-1: Extension in the living area

Women play main roles in the area of living (reproduction). Therefore, input of new knowledge and technology in the area of living and contents based on women's living technology would be familiar themes for women that would facilitate their participation.

In the area of production also, unlike cash crops mainly managed by men, household vegetable gardens managed by women were not covered by the conventional extension services. The fact that the project provided technical guidance on household vegetable gardens can be said to have coincided with women's interests and enhanced their will to participate.

2) Make women's actual needs the contents of extension-2: Income creation

For poor households, increasing the household's cash income even by little has become women's responsibility. Such is also their hope. Therefore, organizing women's groups and organizationally supporting their income creating activities can satisfy women's needs.

3) Implementation of women-only sub-projects

In the local community, women are excluded from decision-making occasions and coverage of external inputs. Directly working upon such women and other socially alienated groups will clarify their existence socially. It is also an effective method through which the groups can acquire negotiation power. Organizing the groups can make it easier for them to be covered by extension services. On the side of the women also, hitherto isolated individuals can now encourage each other.

4) Formulation of women-only development plans

In addition to the activities in 3), India's case makes available opportunities for women's groups to wrestle with formulating of development plans. It provides opportunities to promote self decision-making by women.

5) Care when implementing women-only sub-projects

When implementing women-only sub-projects, the projects are appealing that the women's activities are significant ones for homes and society by clearly setting forth the outcomes and carrying out service activities. This is a means to promote changes in the social structure without causing frictions with the existing power groups. It does so by creating a system such that social changes would be accepted affirmatively.

6) Working upon existing power groups

Persuading and carrying out PR activities by covering the village's elders and influential persons and carrying out activities covering women against the background of their authority can better enhance women's social recognition. As in 5) above, this is a measure to make social changes smoothly and affirmatively.

7) Fostering of women's leadership and problem-solving capacity

For women's groups, the extension activities help not only improve their living technology and creating incomes but develop their problem-solving ability, social say, bargaining power and planning and management capacities. In organizing women and promoting their participation in the decision-making

processes in the society, it is also useful to intentionally provide opportunities to foster their abilities that were not fostered before.

Providing opportunities for literacy education helps partly advance women's capabilities.

-Extension activities observed in the case studies, however, involve the following limitations.

8) Lack of approaches to men

The activities have urged women to actively carry out activities economically and socially beyond their past activity framework. The activities however were not designed to urge men to reconsider the conventional gender role sharing and their relationship with women. Such social changes will take time. However, even if women are empowered, there have been no changes to the men's awareness and behavior which have been limiting the effects.

9) Are measures to meet women's strategic needs being programmed?

Organizing women could fix them as branches rather than as the community's main stream.

In the Japanese case, women's activities are contributing to promotion of the local economy. However, compared to their economic sense of existence, their political and social sense of existence is flimsy. They are rarely participating in the community's decision-making process, which is still centered around men. Their empowerment can be taken as having taken place only

within the scope of their roles as wives and mothers. This was because the extension agents for supporting women's problem-solving methods carried out activities in such a way as to find solutions within the scope of gender role sharing instead of seeking them in men's changes. However, the more the women are empowered, the more it becomes necessary for women to participate equally in the decision-making process. Also, to promote the participation of younger women in the future, empowerment beyond the scope of the traditional gender roles would certainly be desired.

In this sense, in the long run, it will be necessary for the extension activities to take account of measures to meet women's strategic gender needs.

Chapter 5 Problems of Extension Activities and Improvement Methods

5-1 Problems of Extension Activities

In solving problems related with agricultural and rural development plans, local people must take four steps. The extension activities will be supporting the people based on these steps. They are shown in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Problem-solving Steps and Extension Activities

Step	People-level problem-solving	Extension activities
Step 1	Acquire primary information (leading to problem-solving)	Provision of primary information
Step 2	Recognize problems	Motivation
Step 3	Collect and sort out secondary information for problem-solving	Provision of secondary information
Step 4	Select and execute solutions	Advice

Such support empowers local people, who carry out the first two steps on their own. In steps 3 and 4, they make specific requests to extension agents.

When examined in this way, the extension activity should not be a unilateral top (technicians)-down (people) transfer of modern technology but one based on diverse, horizontal and bilateral communication where people can truly participate in development. With the conventional activities, such as for extension of production technologies, only covering specific strata and gender comprising the society's main stream, the region cannot be expected to be developed in a sustained manner.

Today, in many rural villages of developing countries, the feminization of agriculture has been progressing as men go away for work. In spite of this, the access to extension services has not been opened to women, nor are they suited to women's needs. Also, women are burdened greatly with multiple work and their participation in development is limited. These have been factors in keeping women's social status low, making it difficult for them to escape from poverty.

To eliminate these problems, the section that follows takes up four points.

5-2 Communication in Extension Activities

On the actual site of extension, there is not enough leeway to use appropriate communication techniques. The extension often lacks consideration for the people's autonomy. For the extension activities to ensure access by women and the poor and promote smooth and diverse communication, below are specific notes.

- Voluntary solutions should be drawn out from discussion among people. The promoter should play the role of a facilitator.
- The people's true feelings should be drawn out through existence of female extension agents and promoters, and question contents and methods that do not limit the directions or answers.
- The "householder" should not be limited to males. Female householders should also be contacted for certain. It should be noted that there is no guarantee that the technology and information transferred to the male household head would be shared in the household. On this basis, consideration should be given to effective dissemination of technology and information.

- In the case of women who do not have (or have little) experience of participating in meetings or stating opinions, consideration is required such as patient attitude, action on elders, leaders and men, and setting up of time zones that facilitate participation.
- The group meetings attended by researchers, extension agents and people should draw out people's ideas and problems they face, so as to discover and develop their own knowledge, technology and contrivances. Having opportunities to talk with other areas' groups would be necessary in objectively clarifying their problems and solutions.
- If there is social status difference between men and women, it becomes difficult for women to state opinions in meetings. In such a case, in addition to the meetings attended by diverse strata, it becomes necessary to hold meetings only of women or the poor to pump up their opinions. In ordinary meetings also, it is desirable to set up occasions that everyone can state opinions.

It is also possible to identify issues from frank chats such as housewives' gossip in which women talk frankly.

- It is also effective to use radio broadcasts and leaflets, illustrations and photographs, or music and drama. When using such media, materials that fix the gender structure should be avoided.
- The workshops based on conventional technology provide easy-to-access technical information on what people have contrived, used and improved. These can increase the possibility of access by low-income strata and women. "Appropriate technology is that which women can use readily" (a motto of Bolivian women).

5-3 Increase of Options and Problem-Solving

Be it in development aid or extension services, it has been pointed out that there is a tendency for women to be ruled out. The various skill training has also mainly been received by men. Such a situation is limiting women's options.

In addition to social structure, long working hours, social customs, poor health, low educational level, low wages and so forth have limited introduction of technology and information on the part of rural women, depriving them of the right to select. Because of the fixed gender role sharing, the underdevelopment of the daily-use infrastructure has mainly been redeemed by women. This has been largely responsible for women's multiple work and overwork and lack of access to education and medical services. In such a society, the barriers limiting the options and right to select must be removed. Or else, it would be difficult to improve rural life.

Through cooperation by the elders and other community leaders, it is desirable to encourage women to participate in development and develop their social abilities. By working upon the elders and males, having them realize the existence of gender inequalities and appealing for how much women are contributing to the community, the women's options should be expanded.

In the case of Mali, the aid focused on women for the first time. While women were subordinately positioned for a long time and were not given chances to make decisions, they acquired the technology of cultivating vegetables and came to make decisions in farming activities. They were hence given the opportunity to earn additional income and developed confidence and hopes. The case of Mali illustrates such a process.

5-4 Promoters' Abilities and Requirements

The extension promoters are expected to play roles such as to 1) foster rural resident promoters, 2) identify people's real opinions, 3) remove impediments, 4) form consensus and 5) give consideration to having rural women and the weak participate. In addition to extending new technology, they are expected to serve as facilitators to create opportunities to develop the area, by improving the technology currently used by the local people, transferring regional information to them, and promoting interchange among them.

The extension promoters must satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) Knowledge for theoretical support for changing environmental conditions as well as the appropriate technology to adapt;
- (2) Knowledge of pioneering cases and the ability to make contrivances or take measures so that the targeted people can come in touch with such cases; and
- (3) Ability to generate ideas for solution, even if there are no pioneering cases or generally recognized appropriate technology.

To ensure participation by women, it is also important to foster female promoters having these abilities.

5-5 Long-term Strategy of and Legal Systems Related with Extension Activities for Empowering Rural Women

In recent years, women mainly of developing countries have started to advocate the “empowerment approach” as an approach to development. Through people-participatory development, it aims to make individual women acquire socioeconomic power and organize themselves and thereby to reform the social structure and ensure sustainable development.

The securing of access to technology and information and problem-solving using the same so far discussed comprise important processes that lead to empowerment. However, it is necessary to examine how extension activities can support long-term strategy for truly empowering rural women.

The first step toward people participation is for people having diverse interests to have common problem-consciousness. For this, in addition to problems close to the living and local issues, the problems of living that are closely associated with production activities will have to be dealt with. This requires participation not only of men but of rural women. It is necessary for both of them to understand its importance and wrestle with concrete action. If participation of rural women in deciding on policies is not promoted, there is a danger of overlooking the opportunities for socially positioning the activities of rural women and appropriately using them and thus losing an important means of activating the local community.

In truly enabling participation by rural women, it is desirable for the “extension activities” for “rural life improvement” to carry out activities aimed at satisfying strategic gender needs that take into view even reform of the social structure. This is by systematically preparing programs for empowering rural women and satisfying their actual needs. The activities must aim at establishing women’s right to decide in the household and participating in the decision-making processes in the community. If

“extension activities” for “living improvement” are to be carried out appropriately and such activities are to be instrumental in eliminating gender inequalities, it is presupposed that social interest in improving the “quality of life” should grow and be understood and that the current to accept diverse social activities for achieving of true affluence should be fostered. Moreover, if the activities are to continue and seek steady changes it is important to fully understand the vital need of empowering rural women.

In preparing the program for empowering rural women, it is of course necessary to work upon both genders to eliminate gender inequalities, say, through implementation of gender training for men.

Based on the cases so far examined, in establishing the foundation for “extension activities” that lead to “improvement of rural life” from a long-term viewpoint in developing countries, it will be necessary to note the following while fully taking account of the conditions in each country.

- (1) When developing laws related with extension activities or preparing the Record of Discussion (R/D) of extension activity-related projects, account should be taken of the balance between agricultural production technology and rural life improvement and spell it out.
- (2) When developing such laws and preparing such R/D, their contents should take account of the socially and economically weak, and such contents should be spelled out.
- (3) So as to foster leaders from among rural people, opportunities for training and workshops that take account of the gender balance should be made available fully.

- (4) The producers' organizations and their officials should be made up of diverse local people.
- (5) Not just the public extension systems of the government or local public entities but private organizations such as agricultural cooperatives and other farmers' organizations should be strengthened. In doing so, efforts should be made to foster women's organizations wherever necessary.
- (6) The project framework and period should be made flexible.
- (7) There should not be prior restriction to specific sectors or directions.

Chapter 6 Proposition of New Steps to Promote Agricultural and Rural Development with Emphasis on Empowerment

“Development” is a local and social phenomenon in which people subjectively move the local society and economy in the desirable direction by developing their own capacities and borrowing the help of external material input. “People participation” means for local people to have their selection reflected in the project plan formulation and implementation processes, and actively participate in development activities. Here, “extension activities” play the role of promoting the action from outside and the reaction or active response from inside.

In promoting agricultural and rural development projects, it is necessary to grasp the actual condition of the covered area and people, create contact points with them and develop their awareness. Important are not just to grasp information but to transfer it as well as to organize the people, which is indispensable to the participatory approach. The project’s process will be as follows.

Step 1: Grasp of the actual condition on the site, and specifically regarding the covered area, accurate grasp of the state of villages, the actual condition of living of male and female villagers, and the state of human relations and related organizations therein.

Step 2: Creation of contact points with the local people to grasp their needs. Have the people themselves discover and recognize problems associated with their rural life, develop their awareness for problem-solving and select the problems according to their wishes.

Step 3: Set goals together with the people, prepare long- and short-term action plans for implementing countermeasures and determine the priority of these measures to be implemented, funding plan and the persons to be in charge.

Step 4: While implementing the action plan prepared in Step 3, foster the target function groups.

Step 5: Evaluate the implemented activities in accordance with their progress.

Step 6: Based on the results of evaluating the activities, revise the course of the activity plan and repeat the activities according to the revised action plan.

The Steps 4, 5 and 6 are repeated in cycles. Based on periodical evaluation, the action plan is regeneratively revised, improving the rural life step by step.

This process starts from grasping of the covered area's local conditions such as vital statistics, history, culture, religion, social systems and organizations, customs and human relations, as well as availability and use of resources, state of infrastructure development, actual condition of production and living, movement of people, goods and money, etc. Next, the people's problems, wishes and needs are examined with the people, and they are advised to select the method for solving the problems, and are expected to change their awareness through this process.

In past projects, the targets were first determined based on macro demands, then the location was decided, and the project's scale and contents were determined based on economic and technical feasibility. When promoting projects in this way, there were cases in which introduction of new economic opportunities became a factor behind frictions among the area's strata and groups or inputs emphasizing specific sectors did not produce results desired by people. Therefore, so that the people can participate and

contribute to development in the direction that they place high priority, expectations are mounting for the GORDEP (Gender-Oriented Rural Development Program)-like comprehensive rural development projects to become a direct approach to eliminating the problem of poverty in rural societies. Project implementation together with the people in line with their wishes and with them requires information to appraise not just the state of use of resources but economic and social conditions as well. The comprehensive survey of rural life can be mentioned as a WID/gender-oriented survey technique based on GORDEP.

The basics of the comprehensive survey of rural life are to grasp the flow of goods, money and people in the “farming and living = farm household system” and clarify the gender roles therein. It is designed to acquire information for appraising the differences in the male and female needs by adding a resource catalog survey to know difference in the access to and control over production, living resources and various benefits due to differences in male and female awareness and values. This survey is also useful as a benchmark in examining changes brought about by project inputs. With passage of time, surveys are repeated to confirm changes, and such surveys can be used in revising the project course.

Grasping of people's needs, problem discovery and recognition by them, and selection of solutions by them require means of problem discovery through contact with people. As mentioned, drawing out their opinions requires innovations in the contact method such as how to hold meetings. In drawing out opinions, it is also important to provide new information. These comprise the roles of the contact points with people in the form of “extension.”

Used as a method for surveying the needs and analyzing problems is PRA. Participation Analysis and Problem Analysis in PCM (Project Cycle Management) also serve the same function. The structure of the rural society cannot be mentioned as equal

as there are gender and social strata differences and those in the educational level. It is no easy thing to equally hear people's opinions and obtain consensus. The persons in charge of extension are expected to respond with the judgment capacity hitherto fostered through experience based on sufficient subject understanding.

These methods are based on collection and analysis of information on the site. They can cope flexibly with people's wishes obtained through group discussions. They only become possible when the people subjectively participate in the survey. Therefore, it is important that many people participate in the discussions and fully examine each others' opinions. Necessary is a system that would fully reflect the opinions of the socioeconomically weak including women. Also required would be measures suitable for the situation, such as gender-equal participation and gender-based workshops. It is also necessary to provide not just specific information but diverse information so that biases do not occur when selecting countermeasures. The persons in charge of extension may not remain mere technical advisers but improve their abilities to understand people's wishes, provide related information and work as good facilitators to promote subjective decision-making by the people.

The PRA and other techniques were basically designed to cover the entire community and grasp its problems, and have the people as a whole determine the problem's importance and the priority order of the solutions. Today however, they are used in relation to implementation of projects in specific areas. Separately from the priority of the entire people, they are used in selecting the project implementation method based on the technical information the project can provide and are producing fair effects. In view of this fact, it is desirable that they are examined further so that they can be used as realistic techniques.

The problem of poverty in developing countries is often discussed in relation to women's problems. Women are important actors in production and living activities but

this point is not fairly evaluated. Also, they are not only blocked from opportunities to actively participate in the development process but are often negatively affected by development. These problems occur because the analysis and forecast of the outcomes of development activities examine the behavior of economic entities such as companies and households. As a result, they overlook significant differences in the behavior patterns among household members who really exist. In particular, one should not overlook the real effects brought about by the roles of women who are abiding by a subordinate position in the family.

Women are likely to express desires related with living such as water and medical services necessary in more efficiently and effectively serving their roles in the household of production and reproduction. This, however, is also related with the realities that women cannot control the distribution of their own labor by themselves. To give consideration to women's independence and development of their self-help ability may also be taken as a function of extension at the contact point with people. It is desirable that the gender-orientation gives due consideration to empowerment of women through organization, etc.

