

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

Since the adoption of economic reform policy called 'Doi Moi' in 1986, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has actively promoted economic development, through the transition from the planned to the market economy. The policy contributed not only to the economic growth, but also to the expanded growth in agricultural sector. Achieving food self-sufficiency in later part of 1980's, Viet Nam is now the second largest rice exporter after Thailand. Despite these remarkable achievements, income disparity is still widening between urban and rural inhabitants who account for around 80 % of the total population.

Mekong Delta is located in the southern part of Viet Nam and is a main granary of the country, contributing around 60 % of total agricultural production in the country. The area is adjacent to Ho Chi Minh City, the largest domestic market achieving high economic growth in recent years. However, the rural area where more than 85 % of the population in Mekong Delta reside, has been left behind the development due to constraints in infrastructure, processing and marketing system of agricultural products and such problems as those associated to weak farmers' organizations.

Dong Thap Muoi area is located in the north-eastern part of the Mekong Delta. The area is flood prone and includes area of acid sulfate soils. Owing to the successive effort in constructing canals and dyke systems in the area, paddy production increased tremendously in the past 10 years. However, agricultural production is unstable due to inundation, and thus the farm income remains relatively low. Further, processing and marketing system lags behind, imposing constraints in increasing income and development.

In this context, the Government of Viet Nam requested the Government of Japan a technical cooperation on the formulation of Agricultural Development for Dong Thap Muoi area. In response to the request, the Government of Japan conducted a preliminary study by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to discuss and define the study with Vietnamese side from October to November 1998, and both sides agreed upon the implementation of the Master Plan Study of the area and Feasibility Study for priority project(s) to be selected from the Master Plan. The study on Integrated Agricultural Development Plan in the Dong Thap Muoi Area is being conducted in accordance with the Scope of Works (S/W) and Minutes of Meeting signed on November 4, 1998, attached as annex.

Based on this S/W and the Minutes, Field Study I of the Phase I Study was conducted from March to May 1999, followed by Home Office Work in Japan in June 1999. Field Study II was conducted from September to November 1999, covering the survey on the situation during inundation period and formulation of the Master Plan, which was finalized by succeeding Home Work in Japan in December 1999.

Based on the Master Plan, F/S was conducted in the period from February to May of the succeeding year. This Draft Final Report was compiled the results of the Master Plan and the F/S of the priority projects.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

As decided in S/W, the objectives of the study are ;

- 1) To formulate a Master Plan for Agricultural Development Plan in the Dong Thap Muoi area, which includes the followings,
 - (1) Inundation mitigation
 - (2) Improvement of storage, processing and marketing system of agricultural products, and
 - (3) Improvement of irrigation and drainage system
- 2) To conduct a feasibility study for the priority project(s)/area(s) selected from the Master Plan
- 3) To carry out technology transfer to the Vietnamese counterpart personnel through on-the-job training in the course of the study

1.3 Study Area

The Study Area is located in the northeastern part of the Mekong Delta along the Tien River, with 290,320 ha of land area of which 228,700 ha is in Dong Thap Province and 61,620 ha is in Tien Giang Province.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In order to achieve the objectives mentioned above, the study is being made in two phases, Phase I and Phase II. Each phase includes fieldwork in Viet Nam and Home Work in Japan respectively. Items of the study in detail are shown in next table.

**THE STUDY ON INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
IN THE DONG THAP MUOI AREA VIET NAM FINAL REPORT**

Scope of the Study

Phase	Stage		Description
Phase I: Master Plan Study	Field Study I	[6]	Explanation and Discussion of Inception Report
		[7]	Planning of sector-wise technology transfer
		[8]	Collection and Review of relevant information
		[9]	Study on Natural Environment and Rural Society
	Work in Japan I	[10]	Clarification of the status of the study area
		[11]	Examination of Existing Land Classification and Land Use Map
		[12]	Study for M/P formulation – Non-inundation period–
		[13]	Preliminary study for IEE
		[14]	Preparation, Submission and Discussion of the Progress Report I
Field Study II	[15]	Analysis of Current Situation in Non-inundation period	
	[16]	Preparation for the Field Study II (Preparation of Implementation Plan)	
	[17]	Study for M/P formulation – Inundation period–	
	[18]	Study of Development Constraints and Potentials	
	[19]	Identification of the orientation of the development for respective zones	
	[20]	Study of Basic Development Concept	
	[21]	Study and Discussion on Criteria for selection of priority projects/areas	
	[22]	Workshop on Basic Development Concept	
Work in Japan II	[23]	Implementation of IEE	
	[24]	Preparation, Submission and Discussion of the Progress Report II	
	[25]	Explanation and Discussion of the Field Study Results	
	[26]	Establishment of Basic Development Concept	
	[27]	Formulation of Master Plan	
	[28]	Selection of Priority Projects/Areas	
	[29]	Examination and Evaluation of IEE	
	[30]	Preparation for Phase II study	
	[31]	Preparation and Submission of the Interim Report	
Phase II Feasibility Study	Field Study III	[32]	Explanation and Discussion on the Interim Report
		[33]	Field Study for Priority Projects/Areas
		[34]	PCM Workshop for existing farmer's organizations
		[35]	Contract with subcontractor for necessary survey
		[36]	Supervision and guidance of subcontractor in implementation of the survey
		[37]	Preparation, Submission and Discussion of the Progress Report III
	Work in Japan III	[38]	Review of Study and Discussion on the Results of the Field Study III
		[39]	Submission of reports prepared by the subcontractor
		[40]	Formulation of Priority Projects/Areas
		[41]	Proposal for monitoring of Priority Projects/Areas
		[42]	Conclusion and Recommendations
		[43]	Preparation and Submission of the Draft Final Report
		[44]	Explanation and Discussion on the Draft Final Report
Field Study IV	[45]	Seminar	
	[46]	Preparation and Submission of the Final Report	

