

CHAPTER 5 PRIORITY PROJECTS

Chapter 5 Priority Projects

5.1 Introduction

The preceding part of the report dealt with formulation of Master Plan for the study area through examination of development potentials and constraints. The plan included 24 projects identified by respective sectors and one integrated project combining a number of them among 24 projects, aiming at synergetic effect of the project implementation.

This part outlines the following two projects/areas which were given priority and thus subjected to further study during the Phase II study.

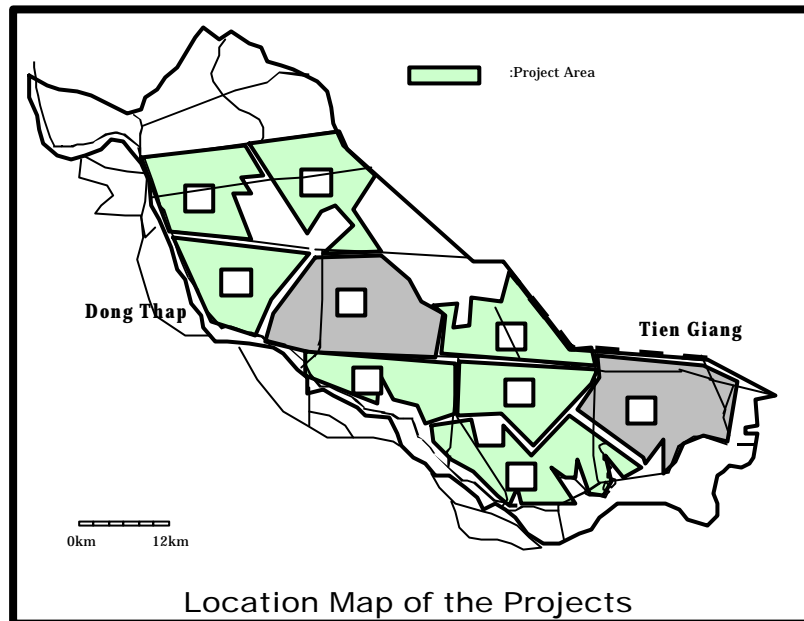
- Small Dike System Improvement Polan
- Rice Production/Marketing Improvement Project

5.1.1 Small Dike System Improvement Plan

Construction works of the project does not include the large scale and sophisticated ones. However, introduction of the rotational inundation control system, which requires community-based co-operation and participation, is rather new approach to the area and thus requires careful assessment of social impacts and full understanding of the project by the beneficiaries. On that account, intensive study on social aspect with particular focus on consensus building among beneficiaries was emphasized during the preparation of the study.

As for the study area, it needs to cover rather broad area to assess the verification of the rotational inundation control system. At the same time, there exists difference between medium and shallow inundation areas on their characteristics. Taking into account the various facts such as the acid sulfated soils, priority on implementation schedule, existing farmer's organization and current dyke system, Block of the medium inundation area and Block of shallow inundation area were selected as the Study Area with about 33,000ha in total.

However, it deemed rather difficult to manage intensive study on consensus building for such a broad area of 33,000ha in a limited time. Accordingly, it was proposed that the intensive social study be conducted covering a smaller area.



In this context, the study area was categorized into two parts. One is the Pre-F/S area covering 33,000ha of land in which all the necessary study was conducted at the F/S level except the study on consensus building. The other is F/S area covering 1,500 ha of land identified among 33,000ha in which intensive social study was conducted.

5.1.2 Rice Production/Marketing Improvement Project

The project covers the one identified in the Master Plan as an integrated project. The F/S study of the project included the following components.

- 1) High Quality Seed Production/Supply Project
- 2) Model Cooperative Project
- 3) Improvement Project of Training/Extension System

The marketing channels of rice are roughly divided into 3 stages of producers/ farmers, collectors/ millers and polishers (SOEs). The farm-gate price are strongly influenced by the market conditions both domestic and abroad. The quality improvement with appropriate price incentives to farmers will be attained by coordinated efforts of participants of 3 stages, from the seeds production to the export. Therefore, not only the production stage, but also marketing and processing need to be improved. The concerned activities include, therefore, not only those for production aspect but also those for marketing and processing. Further, these activities need to include support for strengthening organizations, in addition to technical and financial support.

Individual components of the project need to be well coordinated with each other to maximize the synergic effects of the project, which is hard to achieve if separately implemented.

In this context, F/S is carried out on the following components taking into concentrating consideration of their agency and applicability