The Guidelines

For

Rural Development Methods for Africa

March 2002

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

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FOREWORD

The majority of people living in rural areas of Africa face a tough life amidst changing economic, social and natural conditions. While many donors including Japan and international aid organisations have been providing wide-ranging assistance, there are still areas where aid efforts have not yet achieved sufficient results because of natural, social and other factors that impede development.

Under these circumstances, examination of the basic principles for future Japanese cooperation for diverse rural development in Africa is believed to be important from the viewpoint of ensuring efficient aid implementation. In order to do this, JICA carried out a project-type study entitled "Preparation of Rural Development Methods for Africa" from FY 1999 to FY 2001, which looked at the livelihoods, problems, and efforts to respond to these problems of people living in rural areas with diverse natural conditions. This report, the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Rural Development Methods for Africa", compiles the findings of this study in an attempt to establish procedures that should prove useful in the planning of rural development in Africa.

This report could not have been completed without the cooperation of many organisations and individuals, and I hereby extend my deepest appreciation to all of them. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to the participants of the study meetings in Japan, representing the JBIC, the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Centre, NGOs, consultancy firms and related JICA departments, and to the consultants in various countries who contributed greatly to the field studies. I would also like to thank the Embassies of Japan, JICA's overseas offices, and other donors and international aid organisations for their valuable cooperation.

Finally, I would like to say how pleased we are that the study meetings held in Japan provided valuable opportunities for people involved in various aspects of rural development in Africa to exchange opinions. These meetings proved to be a highly successful means for examining Japan's future approach to rural development in Africa.

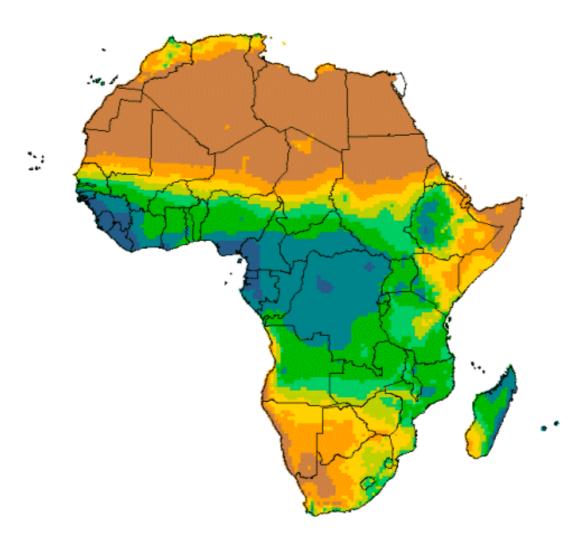
The International Development Centre of Japan (IDCJ) was responsible for the implementation of the study and the compilation of the study's findings into this report.

It is my sincere hope that these Guidelines for the Preparation of Rural Development Methods for Africa will prove useful for all people and organisations engaged in cooperation for rural development in Africa.

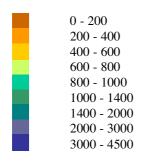
October 2001

Ryuzo Nishimaki Managing Director Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Development Study Department Japan International Cooperation Agency

Average Annual Precipitation of Africa



Legend (mm)



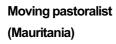
Source · · Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Land and Water Development Division (AGL). http://www.fao.org/ag/aglw/aquastat/gis/aflay4.htm

Note: This map is shown for reference. Not only annual precipitation, but timing and duration of the rainy season, as well as fluctuations in rainfall are also needed for judgement on the types of livelihoods.

Diversified Rural Communities in Africa



Sorghum planting in arid area (Mauritania)



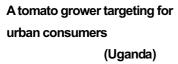




Agriculture and freshwater fishery (Mozambique)



Agriculture with animal raising (Mali)







Pasturage (Uganda)

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Objectives of The Guidelines

The Guidelines offer one set of ideas covering issues ranging from the analysis of a target village to the planning of a development project and act as a guide post for people engaged in the practical work of development cooperation when the provision of cooperation for a village in Africa is intended.¹

The Guidelines provide a general approach to rural development and do not explain the various "study techniques" used for a rural study, including baseline survey, project cycle management (PCM), project design matrix (PDM), participatory rural appraisal (PRA), rapid rural appraisal (RRA) and interim as well as post-project evaluation techniques. Please refer to the relevant reference materials for these techniques.

¹ Sub-Saharan Africa is described as "Africa" in this Guideline.