

Self-Reliant Rural Development in Africa

Background Paper for Guidelines

March 2004

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

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FOREWORD

The UN General Meeting in 2000 confirmed “the reduction of the proportion of poor people in the world to half the 1990 level by 2015” as one of the “Millennium Development Goals”. In Africa, more than 70% of poor people are said to live in rural areas, illustrating the major importance of rural development in the fight to reduce poverty.

The Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) held in October, 2003 further stimulated interest in the importance of African development.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been conducting a project-type study entitled “Formulation of Rural Development Methods for Africa” since FY 1999 based on the belief that the study of the desirable manner of Japanese cooperation for rural development in Africa is important from the viewpoint of ensuring the effective implementation of assistance. As part of its achievements, the “Guidelines for Formulation of Rural Development Methods for Africa: Planning” were prepared in FY 2001 to assist the work at the study and planning stages, from the initial analysis of a target village to the design of a development project, for the purpose of further encouraging Japanese cooperation for rural development in Africa. Since FY 2002, studies focusing on the process (implementation) of rural development have been conducted to encourage the wide use of the said Guidelines in the coming years. This Report compiles the findings of these studies.

The project-type study in question has continually received the considerable assistance of many people who have been members of the domestic study workshop since the time of preparing the Planning Guidelines. Assistance has also been provided by other donors, international aid organizations and overseas JICA offices visited by the Study Team for the exchange of opinions on cooperation for rural development in Africa. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have kindly provided their useful assistance for the study. The domestic study workshop has provided a valuable opportunity for people in different positions who are involved in rural development in Africa to exchange opinions and the existence of such an opportunity has proved to be extremely useful for future Japanese cooperation for Africa.

The actual studies and compilation of the Report have been undertaken by the International Development Center of Japan. It is sincerely hoped that the Report will be useful for not only JICA staff but also for those involved in work to assist rural development in African countries.

March, 2004

Motonobu Hiramatsu
Managing Director
Forestry and Fisheries Development Study Department
Japan International Cooperation Agency

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