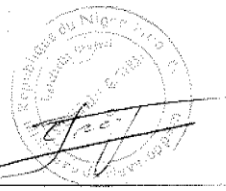
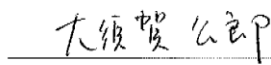
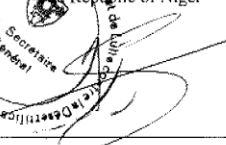


**MINUTES OF MEETING
ON
INTERIM REPORT(1)
FOR
THE STUDY
ON
SAHEL OASIS DEVELOPMENT
IN THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER**

Niamey, October 13, 2006


Mr. Abdou CHALBOU
Secretary General
Ministère du Développement
Agricole
République du Niger


M. Kimio OSUGA
Leader of the Study Team
Japan International Cooperation
Agency,
Japan


Mr. Abdou OUSMANE
Interim Secretary General
Ministère de L'Hydraulique,
De l'Environnement et de la
Lutte contre la Désertification
The Republic of Niger

In response to the Scope of Work (hereinafter referred to as "S/W") agreed upon between the Preliminary Study Team of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JICA"), the Ministry of Agricultural Development (Ministère du Développement Agricole – hereinafter referred as "MDA") and the Ministry of Hydraulic, Environment and Fight Against Desertification (Ministère de l'Hydraulique, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre la Désertification – hereinafter referred to as "MHE/LCD") on February 3rd 2005, JICA Study Team headed by Mr OSUGA Kimio submitted twenty (20) copies of the Interim Report(1) in French to the Direction for Study and Planning, MDA on October 4, 2006. These twenty (20) copies of Interim Report(1) were distributed to the different members of the Steering Committee. The Study Team explained the contents of the Interim Report(1) to the Nigerian side in the 2nd Steering Committee meeting held at the conference room in MDA in Niamey on October 13 2006.

Following the introductory address delivered by Mr. Danguioua, Director of Surveys and Programs, MDA, Mr. Kimio Osuga, leader of JICA study team, gave his presentation of the Interim Report(1). Mr. Osuga stressed the following points.

1. The number of sites surveyed under the project reached 66 in 2006, whereas 55 sites had been included in 2005.
2. Inventoried reservoirs were listed under 3 categories: (mini-dams whose water resources are suitable for farmland irrigation, 'spill-over headwork' (seuils d'épandage) whose water resources are suitable for farmland irrigation, reservoirs unsuitable for farmland irrigation);
3. Analyze of factors hindering development;
4. Draft action plan;
5. Sites selected for implementation of Pilot Projects.

In the ensuing discussion, the participants raised the following points :

1. Request that future presentations to the committee be delivered by a Nigerian member of the team;
2. Village development plans must mesh into communal governments development plans, in accordance with national policy of larger local governments autonomy;
3. Village development must foster communal governments capabilities;
4. Reservoirs ownership: to enable villagers with maintenance know-how as introduced during the project implementation period;
5. Villagers organizations must link up with communal government services, who will support villagers

activities;

6. Possibility for fixing up flaws on existing reservoirs;
7. Opportunity for a follow-up/monitoring of implemented actions by all involved actors (population, government agencies, monitoring and steering committees);
8. Solutions to women's chores burden;
9. Activities implemented under the action plan must mesh into programs taking place under "Strategy for Rural Development" (Strategie du Développement Rural or SDR);
10. Actions planned for category 3 reservoirs;
11. MHE/LCD has been omitted from the Steering Committee and its monitoring meetings (see I/R(1) p.6-24, chart 6-5 (2)). All government agencies involved -- Ministry of Finances included -- should be represented;
12. Request for extending pilot projects to other regions and for a shorter period of study.

The following clarifications were given in answer to the points raised above:

1. Nigerian members on the team will be tasked with delivering next interim report;
2. The study duly takes into account the trend toward decentralization, although this presentation does not mention it in details;
3. Communal government capabilities will be strengthened through their participating into training courses;
4. Regarding the maintaining of the reservoirs, training courses will take place (gabion baskets maintenance). The pilot sites selected are flawless. However, should any damage occur, timely solutions involving the village population will be considered;
5. Owing to the tighter homogeneity of village society -- a success factor of community betterment -- village level activities are given priority. However, village development plans will be integrated into communal development plans;
6. No plans for repair work on seriously damaged reservoirs;
7. Activities will take place, aiming at fostering the villagers skills in taking charge of the follow-up/monitoring process;
8. Regarding women's chores burden, mills will be provided if their introduction is deemed profitable enough to the village; improved clay oven will be made available for cooking, a turning credit pool (tontine) and income generating activities will be put in place;
9. Each projects included in the action plan follows SDR action plan (see Interim Report, p. 2-30, figure 2-5-(3));
10. In villages neighboring category 3 reservoirs, village development projects will be implemented;

11. Government agencies whose representation on the Steering Committee had previously been overlooked will be included from now on;
12. Proposals for widening the areas covered by the pilot projects and for shorter period of study will be forwarded to JICA by the leader of the study team.

Those presents today were strenuously reminded of handing in their written comments to the Direction of Studies and Programs, MDA no later than October 20.

Pending the comments made and those to be handed in no later than October 20, the Steering Committee has approved the Interim Report (1).

Three (3) originals of the Minutes of Meeting on Interim Report (1) are prepared both in English and French respectively. In case any doubt arises in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

ANNEXE 1. STEERING COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS LIST

1. Nigerian Side

Ministère du Développement Agricole

Mr. Abdou CHAIBOU, Secrétaire Général
Mr. Adamou DANGUIOUA, Directeur de la DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation)
Mr. Mounkaïla AMADOU, Directeur de la DAERA (Direction des Aménagement et Equipements Ruraux Agricoles)
Mr. Mouha MAHAMADOU, DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation)
Mr. Oumar ABDOUL AZIZ, DCV (Direction des Cultures Vivrières)
Ms. SSANE Aïssata Cisse, DCV (Direction des Cultures Vivrières)
Mr. Mallam Massou ABOUBACAR, chercheur à l'INRAN (Institut National de Recherche Agronomique du Niger)
Mr. Aboubacar MAMADOU KOURNA, Directeur des Cultures de Rente
Mr. Zakari Yaou SEYDOU, Directeur de l'Action Coopérative et de la Promotion des Organisations Rurales
Mr. Gado MAOUNA, DAC/POR (Direction de l'Action Coopérative et de la Promotion des Organisations Rurales)
Mr. Gamaké SEYDOU, DAERA (Direction des Aménagement et Equipements Ruraux Agricoles)
Mr. Moussa MOSSI, ONAHA (Office National des Aménagements l'Hydro-Agricoles)

Ministère de l'Hydraulique, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre la Désertification

Mr. Abdoulaye HAMIDOU, DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation)
Mr. Khamada BAYE, DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation)
Mr. Boureïma IDRISSE, DE (Direction de l'Environnement)
Mr. Hassane ADAMOU, DRE (Direction des Ressources en Eau)

Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et du Développement Communautaire

Mr. Hayo TORO, Directeur de la DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation)

Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Lutte Contre les Endémies

Mr. Adbou MAHAMAN, DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation)

Ministère de l'Education de Base 1 et de l'Alphabétisation

Ms. YAYE Salamatou, DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation); Excusée

Ministère des Ressources Animales

Dr. Lawal CHEGOU, DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation)

Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Protection de l'Enfant

Mr. Sani ALI, DEP (Direction des Etudes et de la Programmation)

Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances

Mr. Ali RANAOU, DGPS (Direction Générale des Programmes Sectoriels)

2 Japanese Side

JICA Niger Office

Mr. Toru IDE, Project Planification and Coordination
Mr. Abdou MOUSSA, Assistant

Study Team/JICA

Mr. Kimio OSUGA, Team Leader / Rural Development
Mr. Jotaro YASUHISA, Assistant Team Leader / Village Organization(1) / Natural Resources Management / Reforestation / Land Conservation
Mr. Jérôme BESSON, Interpreter