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PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Extension Phase FINAL REPORT (Summary)

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Final Report (Summary)

Project for Sustainable Rural Development Extension Phase

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Chapter 1 Overview of the extension phase

1.1 Background of the extension phase

JICA has implemented, since 2003, a three-year technical cooperation project called "Safe Water and Support for All and Support to Community Activities" (PEPTAC). In order to promote self-sustained management and maintenance of rural water supply facilities by user populations, PEPTAC1 established the Borehole Users Association (ASUFOR) and promoted "community based activities" in the three sites. As a result, we observed the possibility of autonomous and sustainable rural development thanks to ASUFOR's operation. In order to extend such « community based activities» in other villages of the Louga Region, the Governments of Japan and Senegal signed 'Record of Discussions' in January 2008, deciding to implement the 1rst Phase of PDRD, covered 4 years from 2008 to 2011.

The Terminal Evaluation of that 1^{rst} Phase took place in November 2010; at and the Joint Evaluation Committee came up with the recommendations below:

- i) It is necessary to further promote capacity-building of the government extension workers and to strengthen the extension system through some <u>pilot activities utilizing the «Community Development Guidebook»</u>.
- ii) Some efforts, such as strengthening the operational structure and extension system for the implementation of the PDRD model are essential to the projects' success.

It was then decided to extend the project period for one year from April 2011 to March 2012, reflecting the aforementioned recommendations, so as to achieve the project purpose and overall goal.

1.2 Purpose of the extension phase

The Project extension phase was implemented in line with the Project Design Matrix (PDM_1) approved during the mid-term Evaluation. However, the extension phase defined a higher level of Project objectives and outputs. For this, the Project defined the following objectives for the extension phase:

Objective relating to the Project purpose	Strengthen the benchmarks in order to attain community development in the Louga region, through experiences relating to water supply facilities' maintenance and collective activities.		
Objective relating to the outputs	 ❖Output-1: The human resources responsible for the dissemination of community-based development are <u>utilized</u>. ❖Output-2: «Guidebook» and «Technical Sheets» are improved for 		
	effectively achieving community-based development initiated by the community. Output-3: The PDRD extension system is strengthened and new opportunities of dissemination of PDRD model are proposed.		

1.3 Project Target Area

Target areas of the present Project are located in the Louga Region and at Taïba Ndiaye, in Thiès region. The target sites are as follows:

- 1) The six sites where the activities were conducted during the 1^{rst} Phase: Taïba Ndiaye, Moukh Moukh, Mbéyène Négué, Ndate Bélakhore, Bakhaya, Nguith
- 2) One site where the Community Development Committee of the region began experimenting with the Guidebook during the 4th year of the PDRD Phase 1: Garky Diaw
- 3) The new sites where experimentation with the «Guidebook» started during the extension Phase: Thiamène, Nguène Sarr
- 4) Three sites where the Regional Council of Louga intends to apply the «PDRD model» by using the «Guidebook »: Diakhaté, Nguer-Nguer, Guénéne;

1.4 Implementing Agencies in Senegal

The counterpart organizations (C/P) involved in the Project implementation are listed below:

- Responsible Agency (counterpart organization): Analysis, Forecast and Statistics Division (DAPS)
- ➤ Implementing Agency (counterpart organization): Rural Development Regional Division of Louga (DRDR) and Rural Development Departmental Services (SDDR)
- > Other collaborating organizations:
 - Hydraulics Regional Division (DRH) in Louga and Team for Wells and Boreholes (BPF)
 - Animal Production Division under Ministry of Animal Production
 - Local Development Support Regional Division (SRADL)
 - Education Academy Inspection (IA)
 - Local Governments and Regional Development Agency (ARD)

1.5 Principles and extension phase plan

During the extension phase, the Project team endeavored to meet the recommendations from the Terminal Evaluation of the first phase, and aimed to achieve the goals listed below while looking forward to getting more opportunities to enhance and implement the "PDRD model".

- 1) Build the capacity of the trained human resources and making use of the human resources;
- 2) Improving the «Guidebook» and the «Technical Sheets», and promoting the use of those tools in the field;
- 3) Strengthening the system for the development and diffusion of the «PDRD model» in the Louga region;
- 4) Promotion of the «PDRD model» in other regions.

An overview of the planned activities is shown below:

	Item	Main Activities	
[1]	Presentation and discussion on extension phase activities	Prepare the Inception Report; organize Joint Coordination Committee and Project Executing Committee; conduct a Seminar for promotion of the project	
[2]	Promotion of the Project	Make new brochures; design and execute Radio broadcasts for the promotion of project; Invite the Media to the seminars	
[3]	Capacity building and enhancement of the number of trained resource persons	Build the capacity of extension worker and village leaders, Explore the possibilities in increasing extension workers (Partnership with ANCAR)	
[4]	Improving the «Guidebook» and «Technical Sheets»	Prepare the appendix of the «Guidebook», Prepare additional «Technical Sheets»	
[5]	Utilization of the trained resource persons	Make use of the trained technical service staff and villagers, Consolidate relations between technical service staff and villagers	
[6]	Promotion of the «Guidebook» and «Technical Sheets»	Approach local governments for the promotion of development tools	
[7]	Supporting the diffusion of PDRD Model by the government	Collaborate with local governments, Strengthen discussion frameworks, Develop strategies to secure necessary budget for the implementation of PDRD Model	
[8]	Supporting the preparation of the community development plan by the population	Incorporate the community propos development plans	
[9]	Continuation and development of community based activities	Perpetuate ongoing activities and propose new activities in target sites	
[10]	Popularization and diffusion of the PDRD Model in other regions	Survey the particulars of candidate regions and verify of the applicability of PDRD model, Approve PDRD approach, and survey central level budgeting	
[11]	Monitoring the extension phase	Conduct a monitoring study	
[12]	Holding meetings of the Joint Evaluation Committee	Participate in the terminal evaluation study of the extension phase	
[13]	Conducting the final Seminar	Share the achievements of the extension phase with the stakeholders	
[14]	Preparation and submission of Progress Report #4	Content: Proceedings of the activities conducted from May to September 2011	
[15]	Preparation and submission of the final report on the extension phase	Content: Proceedings of the activities conducted during the whole extension phase	

Chapter 2 Overview of PDRD Model

2.1 Necessity and relevance of PDRD model

At present in Senegal, there are few systematic models that match up with local specificities. Under such circumstances, it is essential to establish a development methodology on the basis of the local particulars and problems, and a community development model. In addition, it is deemed relevant to identify measures for improving living conditions (development approach) and to establish a community development model, while considering the natural and socioeconomic environment of the Louga region.

2.2 Major Topic and orientations of PDRD model

The major topic of the PDRD model is "Sustainable development based upon the community's sustainable activities and appropriate use of water from the water supply system." The Project defined the basic principles for the development of the model in the frame below:

- i) The target of the PDRD model are the sites where the main source of water is the groundwater with submersible pump
- ii) The project's proposed technology relates to <water usage>. It includes the interventions in the event of water supply system trouble.
- iii) The development approaches must be aligned with national and regional development orientations in order to solve the problems faced in the rural areas, in Louga region;
- iv) The sustainability of proposed activities needs to be taken into account.
- v) The respective roles of technical services and rural communities should be clarified in due consideration of the current extension services in Senegal.
- vi) The ultimate aim is the improvement of the community people's living conditions and incomes through the promotion of sustainable community development.

2.3 Establishment of the PDRD model

The following were the steps followed for developing and establishing the PDRD model:

Preparation of development tools

The "Community Development Guidebook" was prepared as a reference for extension workers. The aims of the Guidebook are to explain the model; outline the various steps of the community development process; and to specify necessary actions as well as issues to be considered at each step of the project implementation. Parallel to that, "Community Development Technical Sheets" were compiled as the technical manuals that are used for conducting community based activities, including the manuals of the appropriate technologies and village organization.

Human resources training

The Project provided for the training of extension workers — and villages technical leaders--to acquire the necessary knowledge and to build their operational capacities. The Project targeted village leaders who are expected to promote the community activities, in assisting government extension workers. This may include technical training for the villagers or technological transfer to neighboring villages.

◆ Establishing rules and a support system for a better consolidation of tools and trained personnel

It is essential to establish some rules and support systems for rural communities for better utilization of the tools and the trained personnel. The establishment of rules and support system should be executed with consideration of the basic principles of the Project. It is particularly important to consider the sustainability, the roles of the government officers and the principles of the people-centered community development.

2.4 Profile of the PDRD model

The unique characteristics of the PDRD model are shown below:

i) Development undertaken with limited water resources

The PDRD model allows for undertaking viable productive activities in areas where water resources are seasonally scarce; where outside of the rainy season, there is no measurable precipitation.

The PDRD model is implemented using development tools: the «Guidebook» that enables the long term use of borehole water by the community, and the «Technical Sheets» presenting production activities that can be conducted with no or little water.

ii) Presentation of operational approaches for sustainable development

The mission of the government structures is to provide support to the citizens. PDRD presents a concrete approach to this mission.

PDRD aims to develop human resources while involving various actors in the planning and implementation of development activities, and establishing or strengthening human relations. In so doing, each party concerned involved in the development is capable of undertaking his/her roles and the bases for sustainable community development are established.

Chapter 3 Activities conducted during the extension phase

3.1 Activities related to the Project management

Meetings and seminars

The basic principles and the concrete approaches of the PDRD extension phase were finalized and the draft inception report was prepared referring to the achievements from the first phase and the results from the discussion with JICA and the organizations concerned such as DAPS. The activity plan for the extension phase was presented and approved at the Joint Coordination Committee along with the inception report. The inception report was submitted to JICA and all relevant Senegalese organizations at the end of June 2011.

A Seminar entitled "Sharing JICA experiences in the field of rural development – The Approach of the Project for Sustainable Rural Development" was held on July 12th, 2011 in Dakar, in order to promote the PDRD approach.

The final seminars on the extension phase took place in Louga on January 26th, and another one in Dakar, on February 12th, 2012. The Senegalese organizations, and the donors, etc., were invited. The Project members presented the results of the extension phase, and the participants were given an opportunity for discussion.

Monitoring of the activities and final evaluation of the extension phase

The monitoring study was conducted between October and December 2011 in order to evaluate the level of project achievement and identify the problems and the lessons learned from the diffusion of the PDRD Model, along with project counterparts involved in the extension phase. Monitoring was conducted using the monitoring matrix through focus-group discussions at the target sites, questionnaire surveys to the extension workers and the village leaders, and at the evaluation seminar. Monitoring results were used for the joint evaluation of the extension phases' activities, conducted in early January 2012.

The final evaluation of the extension phase was organized from January 3 to 6, 2011. A Record of Meeting has been signed by the joint coordination Committee on the evaluation study, composed of the two sides represented by the Senegalese authority and the Japanese mission team, as of January 6^{th} . The main results of this evaluation are presented below.

3.2 Building the capacities and expansion of human resources

During the extension phase, the Project conducted field visits, along with the extension workers, as frequently as possible. Project workers endeavored to transfer technologies such as agricultural techniques, organization and program support through OJT.

The Project dispatched very competent leaders who were trained during the first phase as instructors in other areas, in order to capitalize on their experience and use them as competent human resources with broader coverage. Fostering exchanges among the sites--especially during the seminars—appears an effective means to further enhance the capacities of good quality

human resources. In addition, the village leaders from the two newly targeted sites for the extension phase were trained.

The Project organized a seminar in December 2011 in order to share the experiences and know-how among village leaders and to promote partnership among them.

To make up the shortage of the extension workers in the government organizations such as the departments of Ministry of Agriculture, DRDR and ANCAR signed a cooperative agreement (Protocol) on the popularization of the PDRD Model. The Project and DRDR organized a training session on the PDRD model for the ANCAR extension workers (CAR) and conducted joint activities in the PDRD sites.

3.3 Improvement of the "Guidebook" and the "Technical Sheets"

To improve the "Guidebook" and the "Technical Sheets", it is necessary to integrate the results obtained from the monitoring of the target sites and the knowledge and experiences of the resource persons from various fields. To that end, the Project entrusted the task of improving these tools to the "Community Development Review Committee". Concerning the "Guidebook", that had been officially validated during the first phase of the Project by the Counselors' Committee, (composed mainly of managers from the Ministries of Agriculture and Hydraulics); Committee members agreed to prepare some annex—documents reflecting the amended issues instead of fully revising the "Guidebook". As for the "Technical—Sheets", in due consideration of the various development fields to be covered by PDRD model, the Project tried to add new fields, in collaboration with the various organizations concerned—in collaboration with the Committee.

The annexed documents indicated below were made in order to improve the Guidebook, referring to the experiences and the lessons learned from the experimentation with the "Guidebook", in the field, starting from the first phase to the extension phase.

- i) Entrance Analysis to PDRD Approach (Introduction of the PDRD approach)
- ii) The frequently occurring problems and trouble-shooting
- iii) Standardization and sponsorship of the Organizational leaders' and Technical leaders' attendance at training sessions.
- iv) Cooperation agreement between ANCAR and DRDR
- v) Cooperation agreement between MVP and DRDR

The next table shows the topics in the new Technical Sheets and the organizations in charge of the preparation:

Topics		Responsible	Collaborator
1	Hand washing	Regional Hygiene	-
		Department	
2	Construction of multi-purpose	Regional Water and	INP
	wind-break	Forestry Department	
3	Improved stove, "Fourneau ban	Regional Water and	-
	ak suuf"	Forestry Department	
4	Soil improvement using the	INP	-
	phosphate		
5	Control of the Newcastle disease	ANCAR	IRSV
6	Artisanal processing of	ANCAR	IRSV
	groundnuts (oil refining)		

3.4 Strengthening the popularization system

Capitalization of the trained resource persons

During the extension phase, a large number of resource persons, as mentioned above, conducted the activities as the Project counterparts. During the extension phase, 33 government officers participated in the PDRD activities.

PDRD also capitalized the village leaders trained during the first phase as instructors at other sites. The monitoring study revealed that the trained leaders effectively transferred the techniques to the villagers at the sites, in response to their demand.

Promoting the use of development tools

The Guidebook was used as a tool for training in an agricultural program funded by another project/program (MVP, NESA) and implemented by Louga DRDR office. For other donors to have a deeper understanding, the Project prepared and distributed an English version of the Guide. In order to promote the utilization of the Technical Sheets in the field, the Project prepared and distributed the «Technical Sheets» in local languages (Wolof, Peulh) to the government officers, etc. The PDRD web pages are added to the web site of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry in charge of Primary Education and PEPAM, for the users to access and to download the Technical Sheets and the other Project tools.

◆ Supporting the popularization of PDRD Model by administrative bodies

In order to perpetuate sustainable rural development based on the PDRD approach, PDRD supported and made sustained efforts for getting necessary funds for the diffusion of the Model from the State and the local governments.

Subsequent to the cooperation agreement between the Louga Regional Council and PDRD, the Senegalese side conducted field surveys in order to inventory the three selected sites. In 2011, the funds expected from the Regional Council were not allocated. However the Secretary General of the Regional Council announced that funding will be included in the budget for 2012 for the diffusion of the PDRD Model.

The Project also made three types of approaches to the Rural Authority in order to raise the necessary funds for the activities to be conducted under PDRD.

- a) Allocation of the Rural Authority budged for community activities in 2011
- b) Ensuring that Rural Communities include expenses for PDRD activities in their 2012 budgets
- c) Putting PDRD activities in the PLD (Local Development Plan 2012 2017)

The Project focuses on sustained efforts aimed at raising funds for the popularization of PDRD by the government organization, namely DRDR. Consequently DRDR reserved one share of the allowances from its operating budget for the aforementioned field survey and undertook putting the necessary fees for the monitoring in the PDRD sites, in the budget for the 2012; it submitted this budget to the central authority.

"The Community Development Review Committee" started in March 2011 and had held 11 meetings by the end of the Project. It organized sector committees and these committees drafted their own action plans.

As regards the collaboration with the other projects/programs during the extension phase, DRDR and PVM signed a protocol, and the Project organized training sessions at the PVM target sites. In response to DRDR request, the NESA executing agents defined the roles of the two parties: installation of equipment and material is to be provided by NESA, whereas DRDR and PDRD will undertake the technical initiation and organization and ensure field collaboration.

Supporting the preparation of the plan for «Community Development»

PDRD maintained the focus on the "community development approach by villagers' initiative", in the strongest sense of the term. The Khalmbane development plan reflecting the villages' needs was formulate by one extension worker of the Kebermer Department of Rural Development, using the PDRD approach.

Continuation of community-based activities

Organization

Two methods were used for community organization during the first phase: The first method is placing the ASUFOR at the center of the community development under the initiative of the villagers; another method is establishing a new Community Development Committee (CDC). The Project practiced another method at the two new sites (Thiamène and Nguène Sarr) during the extension phase. The decisions were jointly made by the partnership among ASUFOR, the villagers s and the CR.

According to the monitoring results, it is noted that the CDC's role is limited at all the sites; the role of the ASUFOR as the community development coordinator varies according to the situation of the sites; the CR is considered as important actor as the coordinator of the overall activities, as well as the provider of sustainable financial resources.

Community-based activities

In the field of agriculture, PDRD implemented a variety of activities; agriculture production while analyzing the volume of water used and the sizes of the fields for, backyard vegetable gardening by using the domestic waste water, establishment of the demonstration farm and the collective farm for market gardening activities.

In the field of livestock production, PDRD tried to popularize and to improve the techniques for local poultry farming. This activity was one of the livestock activities mostly appreciated by the villagers during the first phase. The Project introduced the improved henhouses at the lowest possible cost with better durability. The project initiated early separation of the chicks in order to improve the efficiency of the ovulation process. However, the villagers reported frequent death of the chicks resulting from this separation. To avoid such failure, PDRD recommended using a thermal isolation technique aimed at maintaining heat with small cardboard boxes; this led to a more or less positive result.

As regards the livelihood improvement, the Project mainly monitored the food processing activities. The site where the villagers did not receive any training during the first phase (Garky Diaw) and the two new sites (Thiamène and Nguène Sarr) receive training on a economical use of water. The Project installed threshers and grind mills in order to reduce the women's workload and to enhance their participation in the community based activities

Promotion of the Project

The Project promoted the PDRD model by making and distributing a new version of the pamphlets presenting the PDRD Approach, by showing the PDRD tools on the Web Site of the Ministry of Agriculture, by promoting local radio broadcasts, and by inviting journalists to the Project seminars.

3.5 Approaches to the popularization and extension of PDRD Model in the other regions

Specificity of PDRD Model and its applicability in the candidate regions

The application of the PDRD model could be particularly useful in the areas with some specific characteristics. The PDRD model is expected to be used exclusively in "regions where water resources are limited," and where the activities with the use of 'exceeding water'. In that respect, the more the villagers relies on the ground water, the more efficiently the PDRD model operates.

The PDRD model includes flexible elements which may contribute to the effectiveness of community development in general, regardless of the characteristics of the target areas, that includes "development and capitalization of the human resources," "strengthening and use of the extension system," and "introduction of appropriate technologies." It is expected that the extension workers flexibly utilize a combination of the methodologies and techniques introduced on the Guidebook and Technical Sheets to facilitate community development. It is necessary to select relevant actors with consideration for regional specificity and the availability of the resource persons. This should not, however, create a limitation on the areas where the Model will be implemented.

At the PDRD target sites, the people in all villages placed the highest priority to agriculture production when to plan the activities. Though small-livestock production and food processing were also included in the community development plan, water consumption of those activities was much less than farming and was counted as domestic consumption. Therefore, the water consumption of these activities was not monitored collectively by the ASUFOR. To this light, PDRD suggests that the use of the unused water is particularly effective for agriculture /irrigated farming.

Applicability of the model throughout Senegal:

Reflecting the above specificities, the Project studied the adaptability of the Model in each region of Senegal.

There are relatively a large amount of rainfall and many dug-wells in the Southern zone. The water supply system may be given a low level of importance. As the economical use of water is the chief area of intervention in PDRD model, the importance of the model is less than other zones.

The characteristics of the central and northern regions were then analyzed in terms of water resources and the important factors for agriculture production (quality of the water and the soil, etc.). The results of the research indicated that the model could be successfully implemented in the Saint Louis, and Thiès regions, and in a part of Diourbel Region. However, it is predicted that the implementation of the model will be difficult in Fatick and Kaolack regions, as they are faced with water quality issues.

Approval of PDRD Approach at the central level

For the extension of the PDRD approach into other regions, the Ministry of Agriculture issued a memorandum on December 19th, 2011 calling the attention of organizations under its authority while stating that "the PDRD approach is effective" and that the "use of the tools developed by PDRD in the field of community development shall be promoted".

3.6 Results and lessons learned from the extension phase

The general results from the terminal evaluation of the extension phase by the joint committee are shown below:

Items		Evaluation
Level of	Output 1	Achieved
achievement against	Output 2	Almost achieved by the end of the Project
the project purpose	Output 3	Achieved
and the expected	Project purpose	The Project purpose is very likely to be achieved by
output		the end of the Project.
Evaluation on the	Relevance	Strong
basis of the 5 evaluation criteria	Effectiveness	High
evaluation criteria	Efficiency	Relatively high
	Impacts	Significant
	Sustainability	Relatively strong

The major recommendations formulated by the Committee are as follows:

- It is necessary to complete the "entrance analysis tool" and "frequently occurring problems and trouble-shooting" reflecting the lessons learned in the experimental sites.
- In order to highlight the results of the PDRD approach, it is preferable to compile the results of the monitoring of exceeding water before the end of the Project.
- The monitoring of the community-based activities in each site is indispensable, even after the completion of the Project. It is preferable that the Ministry of Agriculture defines such monitoring as a duty of DRDR, and allocates the necessary budget for it.
- ➤ It is desirable that the Community Development Review Committee be officially recognized in an order issued by the regional Governor, and that it continues to organize meetings.
- In consideration of the flexibility of the PDRD model, it has been decided to call PDRD "approach.", instead of "model".
- The Senegalese Government has officially recognized the effectiveness of the PDRD approach, and committed itself in ensuring the sustainability of current activities. Taking into account the applicability of the PDRD approach there is a great potential benefit for applying the approach in the rural areas of central and northern Senegal, where access to water is limited. It seems that the phase 2 of the PDRD Project--as requested by the government of Senegal--is highly relevant.

The positive impacts of the PDRD are shown below:

- Positive reaction of the donors and international organizations that participated in the JICA exchange seminar on the experience/PDRD Approach
- Recommendation of the Secretary General of Ministry of Agriculture to the donors for the application of the PDRD approach
- Popularization of the PDRD approach by SDDR extension worker (human resource development)

The lessons learned during the extension phase are shown below:

- Stagnant activities and difficulty in continuation of support
 In Moukh Moukh, the new religious leader changed the member of the ASUFOR
 Board and took the provided equipment and material for himself. Consequently, the
 Project chose not to provide additional inputs.
- Implementing the water analysis
 In a site where water quality problems are observed, it is recommended to undertake a
 water analysis before planning the activity, to ensure that water quality is acceptable
 for agriculture production ,

Chapter 4 Prospects and recommendations for PDRD model promotion

4.1 Prospects for PDRD model promotion

The foundation of the PDRD Model promotion within the Region of Louga was established and strengthened. In order to diffuse it in other regions, the actions required in each region may depend on the local situation. The necessary initiatives should be focused on the following basic strategies: capitalization of the trained resource persons in Louga and in other regions; flexible use of the development tools; involvement of various organizations based on the experiences in Louga region.

For promotion of PDRD approach, a Memorandum was issued by the Minister of Agriculture advocating "Promotion of community development using the PDRD approach. For the mobilization of budgetary resources for PDRD model diffusion, regional services and local governments took actions. Using the PDRD model, it is possible to conduct community development activities according to the financial capacity of the villagers even if it is not possible to access an external budget. Consequently, the probability for the diffusion of the model is considered high.

The candidate target regions for the diffusion of the PDRD model are the regions of Saint Louis, Thiès and Diourbel, listed in the request for the second phase. In these regions, agriculture production using unused water could be highly effective.

4.2 Recommendations

◆ From PDRD model to PDRD approach

It is appropriate to define the development methodology developed by PDRD using the term 'approach' rather than 'model' because the PDRD methodology is flexible and the term 'approach' is more acceptable by the stakeholders.

Increase the number of extension workers and promotion of partnership with ANCAR

Though the ANCAR extension workers (CAR) actively participated in field activities of PDRD, this collaboration is not yet established as an official extension system. Hence, it is necessary to generate the discussions and the partnership agreement between DRDR and ANCAR could be made. The issues such as the mobilization of the budgetary resources and the travel allowances for the CARs could be well clarified among the stakeholders.

- Strengthening the extension system
- Support community development based upon partnership with the local governments

The Project achieved some concrete results through strengthening of the partnership with the Rural Community (CR); the participation of Vice-presidents of the Thiamène Rural Council in the PDRD-sponsored training session and budget allocation of the CR to the community-based

activities. Considering that this partnership is established for a short term (eight months), such a collaborative approach offers great possibilities for the rural communities to sustain their development activities while implementing the PDRD model.

Sustaining and strengthening the consultation framework in other regions

The "Community Development Review Committee", composed of the members of the executing organizations in charge of promoting community development at the regional level, was established not only for diffusing the PDRD model, but also to provide a consultative framework for the effective promotion of the rural development in the region. This consultative framework was formed at the end of the first phase in the Louga region. It is recommendable to set up such a committee when to implement PDRD in other regions.

Protocol of partnership with other organizations/programs

A cooperation agreement (protocol) would be necessary when a governmental organization collaborates with other projects or development organizations. —It was learnt that the agreement would be done effectively at the regional level, rather than the higher levels for several reasons. The local level agreements would allow more flexibility than that of national level, and the stakeholders' sense of ownership could be assured due to higher proximity to the beneficiaries of development interventions.