

A JAPANESE APRICOT EXPERT WORKED TOGETHER IN ISSYK-KUL

In seven pilot sites, three pilot sites, Balykchy, Jang-Pakhta and Tong pilot sites, are tackling plantation of apricot as main plantation specie. Thus Apricot trees will be expected as one of important specie for JFM activities. Under such a situation, Dr. Kajiura, a Japanese expert for fruits cultivation, has visited for 2 weeks (from February 26th to March 9th) to Kyrgyzstan for the purpose of improvement of apricot cultivation technique



<Pic.1 Dr. Kajiura trains apricot cultivation technique Chok-tal village, Issyk-Kul oblast>

For two weeks, Dr. Kajiura powerfully visited apricot field surround Issyk-kul to survey local methods of apricot production and varieties planted in the region asking directory these issues to local farmers. As conclusion, Dr. Kajiura provided us his first recommendation about Mixed plantation of some varieties, Density control of plants in the orchard, Tree shape making, Fruits thinning, Irrigation method, etc, as follows:

- Mixed plantation of some varieties - When you want to plant apricot, you should plant some varieties in same area or orchard, because Apricot flowers cannot be pollinated with pollen of same species.
- Density control of plants in the orchard - best interval between each apricot tree is 4m by 2m in initial stage. And about ten years after from

plantation, thinning of 50% should be done density control.

- Tree shape making - It is necessary to do pruning in polite timing and way, in order to formulate best shape of tree for apricot cultivation.
- Fruits thinning - It is necessary to do fruits thinning to make fruits bigger and more sweet. And fruits thinning is also effective keep certain production volume in each year.
- Irrigation method - for the irrigation, farmer should arrange soil as basin shape surrounding of tree for micro catchment of irrigation water. Diameter of basin should be same with diameter of crown of tree.

Dr. Kajiura will return to Kyrgyzstan in this summer, to hold series of seminar in several towns. The JFM Project expects participation of many stakeholders in this seminar.

In addition, Dr. Kajiura will prepare an apricot cultivation manual in same time. The project will provide it to Leskhoz and other relative organization after translation.

THE HISTORY OF ONE PROJECT

Balykchy Forestry office (Leskhoz (LH)) manages the State Forest Fund (SFF) with total area of 4749 ha, including 709 ha, of forest-covered area. The territory is located within three administrative units: Issyk-Kul district - 2108 ha, Ton district - 2447 ha and Balykchy city-127 ha. LH has three forester offices (Lesnichestvos), and 33 staff members.

The size of the Balykchy LH territory is one of the miniature forest enterprises in the country. According to the National Action Plan, LH is defined by state order to plant forest on the territory of 15 ha, but without any financial support. Financial support for the forestry and silvicultural activities is provided by special funds earned by the LH itself. However, due to many economic factors, much forestry offices have no opportunities to earn money. Because in the Kyrgyz Republic under the Constitution forests are an exclusive property of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Government of the Kyrgyz

Republic determines the priority areas for the development of the forest industry.

In this regard, in order to preserve forest resources and develop forestry sector, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic approved the Concept of Forestry Development of the Kyrgyz Republic and adopted the National Forest Program for 2005-2015, where one of the main aspects of improvement of management of the forest resources, the involvement of local authorities, and local communities and stakeholders in Joint Forest Management (JFM).

Since 2006, Balykchy LH and Kok-Moinok Ayil Okmotu (AO) in Ton district have worked on joint management of the forest resources by providing SFF for lease at the site of Kara-Tala. However, due to the limited capacity of the tenants and lack of irrigation water during the tree planting activities, relevant results were not seen.

Surrounding settlements of Kara-Tala site are Balykchy city with the population of 45 thousand people and Kok-Moinok AO - 1, 767 people. The main problems of Balykchy city and Kok-Moinok AO are unemployment, lack of jobs, lack of land to generate revenue, not a favorable environment for the life of the local people, and limited water resources. It was proper to establish apricot orchards for the purpose of solving socio-economic problems of the local people and improving the environment by creating the profitable areas in the forest site of Balykchy city. Arid climatic conditions, lack of precipitation, frequent winds, and shortage of irrigation water created additional difficulties in the organization of plantation fruit trees.

In 2009, Balykchy LH with Kok-Moinok AO together has developed a project proposal on "Joint Forest Management". The main idea of the proposal is to connect the rural and urban people, as well as the other stakeholders. To solve the social, economic and environmental problems at the local level through conducting of silvicultural activities and organizing the irrigation system in close cooperation of Balykchy LH, Balykchy city and Kok-Moinok AO.

The project proposal for "Joint Forest Management" from Balykchy LH was approved at the JFM Working Group Meeting, with representatives from SAEPF, NALSG and JICA.

After constructed irrigation system, the interest of the local people and their participation in forest activities increased, and carried out not only in the SFF but also in a territory of Kok-Moinok AO.



Construction of irrigation system in Kara-Tala

For this effect, 300 ha of SFF at the site of Kara-Tala were leased to 114 tenants through competition, according to the existing regulations. During the period of 2006-2009 the apricot orchards were planted at 50 ha on the site of Kara-Tala, on the other hand, with start of the JFM project in 2010-2011, there were planted apricot orchards in the area of 88.3 ha.



Plantation of apricot seedlings in Kara-Tala side

Public association (PA) "Oasis Sakura" was organized in order timely arrange activities for planting, protection of gardens and water use, as well as coordinate the activities of PA "Oasis Sakura". Operation and maintenance of irrigation system are responsibility of PA "Oasis Sakura". LH and the PA "Oasis Sakura" developed a 10-years activity plan and agreed the plan. A memorandum of Joint Forest Management was agreed among the stakeholders of JFM: Balykchy LH, Balykchy city, Kok-Moinok AO and PA "Oasis Sakura". The memorandum indicates the contributions and responsibilities with regard to the interests of the parties.

According to inventory, the survival rate of fruit plantations planted by tenants in September 2011 was 82 %.

The indicators are increase in productivity of forest lands, improvement of environment through the creation of fruit plantations in the arid lands, and also the involvement of the local people to create

forest and to use water resources.

Local people consider the forest resources as a source of improving the quality of life and satisfaction of the socio-economic needs. Job creation and getting income from the orchards will lead to a reduction of poverty around Balykchy city in future. JFM project shows new opportunities for the planning and management of forest and water resources. Participation of the stakeholders in JFM activities: LH, AO, the local people and the Balykchy city on the basis of mutual and beneficial conditions ensures the stability of the activities.

LH provides forest resources to the users (local people) and transfer forest management activities to the private sector. These activities are procurement, forest planting, growing plants, creating gardens and industrial plantations, etc.;

- Support to attract private investment in the development of the timber industry
- Planning and managing of the forest industry in the interests of the local people.

JFM project helps to create more jobs and getting income in the forest for the local government. The perspective of JFM project will lead to poverty reduction in the certain district.

For forest users (people, tenants) - they will receive a stable and long-term value of sustainable forest management and realization of forest products.

The JFM project across all over the country will bring to the following benefits to the State:

- Improvement of environment
- Satisfy the needs of citizens in forest resources
- Creation of new jobs
- Stable income of the local people
- Reforestation
- Climate change in a certain area
- Conservation and development of forest ecosystem



Plantations in the site Kara-Tala, Balykchy LH

For the development of pilot Project of Joint Forest Management in Balykchy LH, the JFM project provides advisory and methodological support. The

project invites experts from Japan to conduct trainings on the management of nurseries and fruit plantations.

In order to improve JFM activities in pilot site, project provided logistical support to LH and PO "Oasis Sakura".

Balykchy LH has developed new project proposals in order to share the experience on such kind of Pilot Project with similar areas of the Issyk-Kul Oblast.



Practical training in the nursery

JFM project in Balykchy LH proves that forestry needs a new model of development of forestry sector in Kyrgyzstan with consider of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the regions.

Director, chief forester of LH and head of Kok-Moinok AO were trained at training centers in Japan in the field of the JFM Project. For further improvement, Balykchy model of Joint Forest Management may be an example of the Kyrgyz-Japanese cooperation in the forestry sector. Taking into consideration local conditions Japanese experience of forest management was adapted and introduced on the experience of Erimo town, where forest planted on the desert coast of the Pacific Ocean (the island of Hokkaido). This forest has played a key role in the economic development of Erimo town. The experience in the construction of erosion control structures and the creation of anti erosion forest in National Forest Honbetsu were also very useful which created favorable conditions for the development of biological diversity. A series of simple, progressive, and deeply researched methods on forest management in Japan can be adapted to the climatic and socio-economic conditions of Kyrgyzstan.

By implementing Japan's experience in the Joint Forest Management in the Kyrgyzstan, we contribute to the development of relations between the two brotherly nations of Japan and Kyrgyzstan.

Jantaev Kanatbek - Director of Balykchy LH

ABOUT JFM GUIDLINES

The JFM project has purpose to make the JFM Guidelines as nationwide rule based on trail project in pilot sites in Chuy and Issyk-kul oblast.

Based on authorized schedule of the JFM project, in October 2011, the JFM project launched JFM Guidelines Taskforce with participation of key staffs of SAEPF and NALSG (at the time) in order to fix frame of JFM Guidelines and basic ideas for JFM, until now, already hold 5 times of meeting.

In Taskforce meeting, we are discussing one by one from point of view as follows. The JFM Guidelines also was discussed in 15th Working Group Meeting in December 2011 and was reported as progress report in 5th Joint Coordinating Committee in same month.

- What is concept of JFM?
- What is difference between JFM and CFM?
- What kind land is adequate to use for JFM activities?
- What kind contract we need for JFM implementation?
- What dose necessary to utilize AO territory for JFM?
- Is there some necessity to amend existing regulation?

FORESTRY IN JAPAN Vol. 1

- FOREST IN JAPAN -

The JFM Project is first JICA project in forestry sector in Kyrgyzstan. So we suppose that almost all relevant persons don't have so much information about Japanese forest sector. We suppose that to explain forest in Japan and Japanese forestry system is very helpful for getting new idea for not only JFM but also the other strategies in forestry sector of Kyrgyzstan.

With this consideration, the Project will provide information of forest and forestry in Japan as a series on JFM Newsletter.

The Topic of this time is Forest in Japan. Japan is located eastern part of Eurasian Continent, and composed of more than one thousand islands including four big islands, Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.

Area of territory is almost twice of Kyrgyzstan, highest point is 3,776m above sea level (Mt. Fuji) and population is more than 20 times much than Kyrgyzstan.

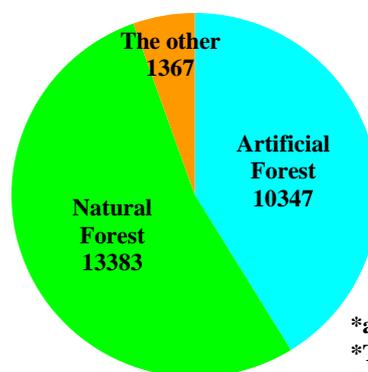
The climate is very humid because of ocean current. So average of yearly precipitation is about 1,700mm and some places have more than 4,000mm of average.

By this humid and warm condition, Forest covers about 70 % of territory of Japan. Area of forest is about 25 million hectares including 13 million hectares of natural forest and 10 million hectares of artificial forest.

Because of long islands, many types of natural forest are shown from the south to north in Japan. In the southern region, Subtropical forests are shown, which have *Bruguiera*, *Kandelia*, *Machilus*, *Castanopsis*. Next from the south, Evergreen broad-leaved forests are shown, which are composed of *Castanopsis*, *Quercus*. In more northern region, Deciduous broad-leaved forests are shown, which are composed of *Fagus*, *Quercus* and *Betula*. In most northern region, Hokkaido, Coniferous forests are shown, which are composed of *Picea* (Spruce) and *Abies* (Fir).

On the other hand, artificial forest in Japan has increased dramatically from 5.0 million hectares in 1951 as the result of promotion of State. At that time, the State promoted to fell trees of natural forests and establish artificial forests, because there was necessary to increase timber production to deal with increase of demand. Now, main species of artificial forest are *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, *Larix kaempferi*, *Abies sachalinensis*, *Pinus thunbergii*, *Pinus densiflor*.

Forest area in Japan (1,000 ha)



*as of March 31, 2007
*The other : Bamboo area, Clear cut area, etc.

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