

Malawi

Collaboration between WFP's Food for Assets and Japan's technical assistance

1. Project Overview

- 1) In Malawi the majority of farmers rely on rain-fed farming. In 2015 and 2016, Malawi faced the most serious food insecurity seen in the country in 10 years. The President of Malawi declared that 6.5 million people living mainly in south of Malawi, almost 40% of the total population, faced food insecurity.
- 2) From 2011 to 2015 JICA carried out a technical cooperation project titled the "Sustainable Land Management Promotion (SLMP) Project." Under this project a technique for producing compost manure suitable for Malawi was developed together with an accompanying manual. During its four years, the project was carried out mainly in the four districts of Mzuzu, Rumphi, Mzimba, and Nkhata Bay located in the northern part of the country.
- 3) Later in February 2016, the World Food Programme (WFP) and JICA held joint workshops in the two districts of Zomba and Kasungu. These workshops emphasized the importance of the compost manure developed in the above project through both lectures and practical training using the manual. In addition to stakeholders from the districts where JICA carried out the above project, this training was provided to Agriculture Extension Development Coordinators (AEDC) and Agricultural Extension and Development Officers (AEDO) from the four districts of Balaka, Phalombe, Karonga, Zomba where the WFP held its Food Assistance for Assets project.

2. Lessons Learnt

- 1) JICA usually provides technical assistance to government officials and lead farmers to promote medium-to-long-term development in targeted areas whereas the WFP, with its strong field presence, can provide quick scale up. As a result, technologies developed through JICA project reached the most vulnerable regions and people that are facing famine or poor nutritional conditions in order to enhance their resilience. In addition, the collaboration facilitated the knowledge exchange of farmers in different districts. This kind of collaboration helps to promote the essential idea behind the SDGs of leaving no one behind.
- 2) One challenge that needs to be addressed is coordination between a lot of stakeholders, including expenses incurred and efforts required for communication with central government ministries and agencies.



(Photo: JICA Malawi Office)