

(Supplement-3) Subsidy Program for Small-Scale Hydropower Projects in Rural, Mountainous and Fishing Areas

[Japan]

➤ **National farmland development project in Nasunogahara**

(Source) http://www.japanriver.or.jp/taisyo/oubo_jyusyou/jyusyou_katudou/no7/no7_pdf/nasunogahara.pdf

The Nasunogahara national farmland development project developed and improved the land in the locality for about 30 years starting in 1967, and widely contributed to the beneficiary farmers, as well as underground cultivation and local drainage discharge function of the alluvial fan of Nasunogahara.

➤ **New agricultural irrigation system conservation project**

(Source) <http://www.maff.go.jp/chushi/kome/joho/jigyoku/pdf/4.pdf>

The project addresses the acceleration and diversification of paddy field management driven by the agricultural structural reform under the rice production policy and the expanded role of agricultural irrigation system (a group of irrigation facilities and organizations managing them). This requires a restructuring to form a participant-centered labor-saving system in response to the new agricultural structure by removing the issues of concentration and increase of management load upon the participants and use of agricultural land, which contributes to the cultivation of the participating farmers.

➤ **Test model project for rural / mountainous area environment conservation function improvement**

(Source) <http://www.maff.go.jp/j/council/hyoka/nousin/02/pdf/2jigyoku.pdf>

(1) Project background

For the land and environmental conservation of entire Japan, it is highly important to maintain and improve the multi-faceted environmental conservation function including water source cultivation, landscape conservation, oxygen supply, greenhouse gas absorption and so on. However, it is worried that the insufficient environment management due to lack of labor and environmental impact caused by industrial and other human activities in the rural and mountainous area may deteriorate the precious environmental conservation function.

Against the above background, the model project is implemented to improve the said environmental conservation function in the area by realizing the optimal environmental management and reduction of environmental impact.

(2) Project outline

- 1) Consideration is given to the current situation of regional resources / energy balance, management of forests, and possible improvement measures so as to form a regional environmental conservation function, and also:
- 2) Facility improvement mentioned below is implemented:

① Recycling support type

The scheme implements a model facility which recycles and efficiently utilizes the resources and energy in order to reduce the environmental impact of human activity in the rural and mountainous region.

Cases of improvement: advanced utilization facilities of unused regional resources

(conversion of livestock or forest waste to resources or energy)

Facilities for utilizing natural energy (wind power generation, etc)

② Symbiosis support type

The scheme implements a model facility which supports the environmental management of the rural / mountainous area through participation or collaboration of the local residents.

Cases of improvement: lodging facility used by forestry improvement workers, training facility for educating environmental conservation function, etc

(3) Project implementation entity

- 1) Project implementation entity: local municipality (rural development)
- 2) Support ratio: 50% or less
- 3) Project period: from 1999 to 2006

➤ **Group-managed local irrigation environment improvement project (Rural improvement project subsidy program)**

(Source) http://www.maff.go.jp/j/nousin/seibi/sogo/s_seibi/pdf/080401_noushin_koufu.pdf

(1) Overview of Rural Improvement Project Subsidy Program

The scheme subsidizes municipalities for general advancement of rural areas by covering part of the cost projects implemented in connection with Countryside Improvement Project Guidelines (notified by the administrative vice-minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as Heisei 10 Structural Reform D691 dated 10 December 1998), Rural Development General Project Guidelines (notified by the administrative vice-minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as Heisei 12 Agricultural Development 1963 dated 30 March 2001) or Local Irrigation Environment Improvement Project Guidelines (notified by the administrative vice-minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as

Heisei 12 D268 dated 24 March 2000).

(2) Target cost and project, support ratio

Project: local irrigation environment improvement project

Cost: local irrigation environment improvement project by local municipality

Support ratio: 50% of the above project