

Self-empowerment for Livelihood Improvement in Local Community:

Efforts for the New Framework of Community-based Monitoring and Evaluation

Aya OKADA

Key words: Community-based monitoring and evaluation, Livelihood Improvement, Self-empowerment, local people's initiative, community sustainability

1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, many international cooperative projects are implemented all over the world. But it is difficult for local people to maintain the impact of a project by themselves and its impact gradually tends to diminishes as time passes. And, although importance of participatory evaluation is actively discussed in the field of development, some cases called participatory evaluation includes just a temporary participation of local people. In this study, mainly based on the fieldwork in Vietnam, it suggests the framework of community-based monitoring and evaluation (CBME) which aims to help local people to improve their situation continuously by themselves even after the completion of a project. CBME is the activity with initiative of local people.

2. CAPABILITY OF LOCAL PEOPLE TO KEEP PROJECT IMPACT

According to the survey in 2005 conducted in communities which had received a project, in such community, even if people want to organize training programs to enhance skills and knowledge got through a project, in current situation, it is actually hard to do due to the limitations of budget and human resource.

3. FIELD AND METHODOLOGY

Thua Thien Hue province in Central Vietnam is a disaster-prone area, and every year livelihood including agriculture and animal husbandry is severely affected by disasters. To consider CBME framework in a community which will receive a project, in Huong Van commune, interview, focus group discussion and questionnaire survey were conducted to identify existing local system and people's perception and expectation for the system.

4. RECOMMENDATION OF FRAMEWORK OF COMMUNITY-BASED M & E IN VIETNAM

At present although monitoring activity is implemented, local people do not correctly recognize the activity and receive feedback of results so much. There is a gap between current effort and people's perception. In addition to people's committee playing a role of local management, here, it is proposed the establishment of CBME committee which works for promoting local activities that people maintain livelihood and solve problems to gain sustainability. Activities of CBME committee must be recognized and supported by local people, therefore, it is expected that person receiving the people's confidence should be selected as a member of the committee. Also, it should be considered the place of the committee and relationship with other organizations, after discussing active use of existing system and associations (Figure 1).

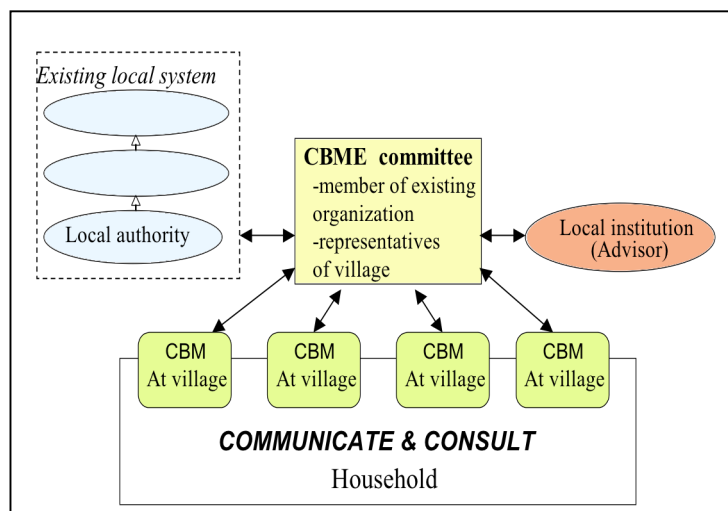


Figure 1. Relation among CBME committee and other organizations