

SADC-JICA Forestry Project organized the Capacity building training in conjunction with the 6th Expert Working Group on Participatory Forest Management in Gaborone.

5 December 2019

Republic of Botswana, JICA Botswana Office, SADC Secretariat offered warm welcome to the participants of the capacity building training and the 6th Expert Working Group (EWG) on Participatory Forest Management (PFM) which was held from 26th November to 3rd December in Gaborone with attended by 24 participants from 12 Member States; Angola, Botswana, Comoros, DRC, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe. The training was organized by the “Project for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Southern Africa” known as “SADC-JICA Forestry Project”, which is being implemented jointly by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since June 2015.

The purpose of this training was to raise participants’ skill for Participatory Forest Management (PFM) and the training program included 1) Marketing Analysis Training, 2) Organizational skill management training, 3) Operation training of SADC PFM database. The training session 1) and 2) were facilitated by the instructors from the Forest Training Institute of Tanzania and session 3) was facilitated by the JICA short term expert respectively. After the training, all participants expressed their deep satisfaction with the contents of the training and following comments were given to the project as one of their feedbacks.

<Lesson learnt by the training>

- Understanding of Market Analysis is one of the crucial components to help business with all the required information and making wise business decisions in forest related products, It helps us in understanding our customer, Analyze our competitors and finally to know more about how we can help to boost our business profits.
- Value chain analysis it will help us to analyze internal firm activities related to the forest products and recognize, which activities are the most valuable to the firm and which ones could be improved to provide competitive advantage.
- Understanding of the forest benefits and livelihood outcomes in relation to the PFM and their PFM objectives it becomes possible to assess the effectiveness in addressing

community livelihood, forest condition as well as forest governance and where necessary, makes necessary modifications that will fit to my country.

The purpose of the 6th EWG-PFM was 1) to share PFM good practice activity through field visit in host country, 2) to share the progress of the Project Idea Note (PIN) per each Member State in the name of Action Plan Development, 3) to summarize entire EWG-PFM since the 6th EWG-PFM was the last meeting in the PFM group.

A Field visit was made to Kgetsi ya Tsie (KYT) women Resources Enterprise community Trust in Lerala. The women's community group was formed in 1997 for the management and sustainable utilization of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in the Tswapong area. The group is involved in marula and other forest products harvesting, processing and package for sale as the main activities. After the field visit, following comment was given to the project.

<Lesson learnt through the field visit>

I wish to take the knowledge of value addition of forest products for our people to do the same. I was greatly impressed by the way how people in Lerala have consolidated themselves and come up with such an initiative which promotes the livelihoods of the communities synchronously having positive enhancing effects on the ecological system.

The result of the training and the 6th EWG-PFM meeting will be reported in the next JCC meeting which will be held in April 2020 in either Seychelles, or in Tanzania.



Operation training of SADC PFM database



Field visit in Lerara (KyT community trust)



Capacity building training in conjunction with the 6th EWG-PFM meeting
from 26th November to 3rd December in Gaborone, BOTSWANA