

## PR OF CHINA: Feasibility Study Sino-German Afforestation Project Hebei II

As the German bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation are concentrating more on key sectors and intervention areas, the Sino-German Afforestation Projects which have been started in 1992 already perfectly combine two of the most important goals, i.e. poverty alleviation and sustainable management of natural resources. German Financial Cooperation / KfW has supported 16 Afforestation Projects in the PR of China, most of them with the assistance of advisory services and training rendered by GITEC.



**PR OF CHINA:** Participatory Afforestation Planning on Village Level

In mid-2000, the Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA) in Beijing has proposed two new afforestation projects for German co-financing, one being located in Gansu Province, the other one as the second project within Hebei Province. Both projects aim to alleviate the rural poverty in disadvantaged regions by establishing privately managed forests via afforestation or closure. Naturally this goal will be achieved only if there is a sustainable management of the resources established, which also reduces soil erosion and stops desertification in the semi-arid Northern China. After a public tender GITEC - as lead firm of an association - was entrusted to conduct a study screening the technical, institutional and socio-economic feasibility of the Hebei II project proposal.

The Chengde Prefecture hosting Hebei II is a drought prone area in the further vicinity of Beijing, where several other afforestation projects were already launched. As SFA builds on the high quality Sino-German Afforestation Projects have provided to bring about, it has planned to establish this type of model forest management projects in a high interest tourist area, combining the ecological effects of afforestation with educational and public relation effects to stress the importance of forest establishment and management.

The Project aims to afforest nearly 30,000 ha of protection and production forests, including a substantial part of "economic trees", mainly covering fruit trees and shrubs. The subsidies paid to private households in exchange for the creation of erosion protection and windbreak forests as well as for the limited access to regenerating forest areas shall compensate the initial phase of forest management, where no substantial income is expected. In the long run, however, the economic value and the positive effects for the farming systems of the forests guarantee the existence and sustainable management of the private forest compartments. It is indispensable for this ambitious goal that a new project philosophy focussing on the process more

than on the underlying plan is adopted. The beneficiaries will have to be enabled to make their own decisions and bear the consequences as well as earn the profits of these decisions without the interference of too many regulations from the authorities. A new concept of backyard fruit tree growing will add to this low regulation management in a trial phase.

The Study was carried out in early spring 2001 by a team of eight experts of the association, headed by GITEC team leader D. Crabtree, B.Sc. Forestry.

## MALAWI: Sector Programme Rural Health Facilities

In May 2001, GITEC has been awarded a contract for a Vaccine and Essential Drug Supply Programme for Malawi financed through KfW. The Programme will support the Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) in procuring basic drug kits and consumables and the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) in Lilongwe through UNICEF in the procurement of vaccines for the Expanded Programme of Immunisation.

In the framework of the Programme GITEC provides advisory and procurement services to CHAM and MOHP / UNICEF for the preparation, implementation and su-

pervision of the supply of vaccines including the establishment of final lists of vaccines and drug kits. Furthermore, CHAM will be supported in establishing a "revolving fund", so that in future CHAM can buy the kits on a sustainable basis. The vaccines will be purchased directly through UNIPAC in Copenhagen. The supervision of deliveries and the monitoring during the National Immunisation Days will be co-ordinated with UNICEF Lilongwe.

The Programme comprises the updating of delivery time schedules and delivery conditions, the verification of the demand, tender-

ing and contract award procedures and monitoring of the distribution patterns, as well as the control of transport and of storage capacities. The Programme also contains quality control measures and follow-up of success and impact indicators based on LQAS ("Lot Quality Assurance Sampling").

The project with a duration of 42 months is directed by Dr. med. H. Braun, supported by Mr. H. Gerke, Senior Pharmacist, for all procedures concerning quality control. Dr. med. Dipl. Chem. Th. Wolff, Director of GITEC's Health Department, will be responsible for backstopping and all logistical issues.

## GUATEMALA: Rural Water Supply and Basic Sanitation Programme IV

Guatemala suffers from a severe disproportion of living conditions between urban and rural areas. In the latter, basic needs such as housing, communication, education, health, water supply and sanitation are only insufficiently provided. The lack of adequate sanitary installations contributes to high rates of morbidity and mortality related to water-borne diseases like cholera, typhoid, amibes and other diarrhoeal diseases.

In February 1999, the Governments of Guatemala and Germany agreed on the financial cooperation for a Rural Water Supply and Basic Sanitation Programme IV with an investment sum of DM 17 million to be financed through Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). The project area comprises some 50 villages in the provinces of Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz in northern Guatemala. The purpose of the

Programme is to reduce the high rates of morbidity and mortality in the two provinces. The Programme will be implemented following an "open approach" which allows to vary the final number and ranking of individual projects.

The Programme consists of two components: (i) the investment measures including the improvement of drinking water supply by construction and rehabilitation and/or extension of water supply systems, the elimination of faeces by latrines, and the construction of soak pits for waste water disposal; (ii) accompanying measures such as establishment and training of water committees, hygiene education as well as the creation of, and support to, water associations, in order to secure the sustainability of the investment measures.

The autonomous parastatal institution

"Instituto de Fomento Municipal" with its "Unidad Ejecutora del Programa de Acueductos Rurales" (INFOM - UNEPAR) in Guatemala City is responsible, since 1997, for the development and implementation of concepts and strategies in the water supply and sanitation sector.

In April 2001, KfW representing the INFOM - UNEPAR entrusted GITEC (in association with two local companies) with consulting services for the implementation of the two programme components. The field activities commenced in May 2001 and are scheduled to run for 48 months. The project team is being headed by our staff member, Dipl.-Ing. G. Jack, and consists of local and international experts in the fields of sanitation engineering, civil engineering, environment, socio-economics, institution building, and health.

## INDIA: Minor Irrigation Programme Maharashtra

Within the Minor Irrigation Programme Maharashtra, the Government of India, through the State Government of Maharashtra is to develop 105 farmer-managed Minor Irrigation Schemes (MIS) in 16 districts of Maharashtra over the next 8 years. The Programme which is based on several studies conducted in 1995 will be co-financed by the German Government through KfW.

The overall purpose of the Programme is to improve the income situation of about 7,000 small farmer families in Maharashtra through the development of improved irrigated agricultural production on approximately 10,500 ha of land. The aim is to increase farmer family annual incomes by 140% (within 4 years of water being available), as a result of increasing cropping intensities from 70% to 120%. This will be achieved through the provision of water, and extension in improved agricultural practices, within the 105 MIS to be constructed in the Programme. All aspects of scheme identification, planning, design, construction, and operation and maintenance, plus irrigated farming systems development, will be reviewed in the process.

The creation of methodologies for effective implementation of farmer-managed

MIS and its institutionalisation within the Rural Development and Water Conservation Department (RD&WCD) are also objectives of the Programme.

The consultancy services required are for an initial pilot phase of three years with the main intention to test and amend approaches in 25 perimeters. If successful it is envisaged to extend the programme activities in a later five-year implementation phase. Main programme activities comprise the construction of small dams and weirs, water retention structures, irrigation canals, and facilities for lift irrigation with the active involvement of farmers in all planning and implementation stages.

The implementation of the pilot phase has been entrusted to GITEC (in association) in January 2001. The scope of services covers the provision of long-term and intermittent short-term advisory services as

well as training to strengthen the operating and management capacity of the implementing agency and other relevant actors in programme organisation and



INDIA: Existing Regulation Structure for Minor Irrigation

management. GITEC's staff member Mr. K. Smith being on site since February 2001, is heading the assigned technical assistance team consisting of four international and seven national specialists.

## LAO PDR: Feasibility Study Rural Roads in Bokeo Province

The mountainous province of Bokeo, which forms part of the frontier region to Myanmar and Thailand, is one of the less developed regions in the country. The living conditions of the rural population, which comprises 125,000 inhabitants of various ethnic origins, are precarious particularly in the remote parts of the province, which are either deprived of road access during the monsoon rains of 5 to 6 months per year or are completely inaccessible throughout the year. Lack of maintenance further aggravates the situation.



LAO PDR: Temporary River Crossing over the Nam Tha

Since 1995, GTZ is carrying out an integrated rural development project in this province, aimed at improving the situation of the rural poor. The efficiency of this project is greatly hampered by the lack of all-weather access. This became the starting point for a rural roads project envisaged to be funded through KfW and to be carried out in close coordination with the GTZ project, especially concerning the selection of candidate roads.

In January 2001, following a competitive

bidding, GITEC was entrusted by the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction in Vientiane, represented by KfW, with the consulting services for the execution of a feasibility study. The objectives were to develop a concept for the development of the rural roads network in the province, establish criteria for the selection and prioritization of roads, define appropriate technical parameters for road construction and improve-

ment, and estimate the costs of the road works required. This was supplemented by an analysis of the general role and efficiency of the road authorities at national and provincial level, including the maintenance activities these have undertaken so far in the province. The study should finally come up with an implementation, maintenance and finance plan suited to the difficult local conditions, including an analysis of the various risks which could jeopardize the sustainability of the project.

The study team comprised of Dipl.rer.oec. H. Merks (Team Leader and Transport Economist), Dipl.-Ing. (FH) E.

Chrissochou (Civil and Soils/Materials Engineer), and Dipl.-Wirtschaftsing. R. Kuhnle (Road Maintenance and Institutions Specialist). This team completed their services in April 2001. Based on the results of the study, a KfW appraisal mission, which visited the country soon after the feasibility report was submitted, recommended the project for implementation in 2002/03.

## JORDAN: Operations Management Support to the Water Authority of Jordan

In April 2001, the Operations Management Support (OMS) Project financed by GTZ and jointly carried out since 1994 by Dorsch Consult and GITEC for the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) as Executing Agency entered into Phase 4. This Phase, initially envisaged to last 24 months, focusses on the preparation of the water administrations of the Northern Governorates to conclude management contracts with private operators. GITEC, responsible for the services of the Financial Adviser, has assigned Mr. M. McDonald, MBA.

The overall goal of the OMS Project is the countrywide improvement of water supply (in terms of quantity and quality) under due consideration of ecological, economic and water resources manage-

ment constraints. In pursuance of this goal, OMS embraces comprehensive technical and financial management consulting services to help reorganise, restructure and transform (in a phased approach) the regional water administrations of Jordan into commercial business entities attractive for private operators to be run under performance-based management contracts.

Duly strengthened in previous OMS Phases, with the assistance of the Dorsch/GITEC Technical Assistance Team (TAT), the Amman Governorate Water Administration (AGWA, responsible for 1.5 million inhabitants) was the first regional water administration in Jordan put to tender for private operation. The performance-based management

contract, prepared by the World Bank with the assistance of WAJ and TAT, was signed at the beginning of OMS Phase 3. Preparations for further private sector participation were undertaken by WAJ and TAT for the City of Aqaba and are underway for the Northern Governorate Water Administration (NGWA) which embraces the townships of Irbid, Jerash, Mafraq and Ajloun.

It is among the tasks of TAT in OMS Phase 4 to assist the Programme Management Unit of the WAJ in transforming its responsibilities and activities into those of a regulatory authority, which (among others) would have to supervise private operators in the water sector of Jordan.

## CAMEROON: Promotion of Road Maintenance through the Private Sector

Cameroon's Roads Authority is being supported for more than 20 years by international donors in the road maintenance sector particularly for the about 4,200 km long bituminous road network. A pilot privatisation project has been initiated in the road maintenance sector to achieve and secure, through the involvement of small and medium size contractors, satisfactory quantity and quality of road maintenance works in the near future.

Since 1997, the German Technical Cooperation (TC) implements the project Promotion of Road Maintenance through the Private Sector with the target to substantially increase the competitiveness and capability of private Cameroonian contractors. The key points of the project are (a) the institutional and organisational support of companies who are active in road maintenance works (including applied structures of association) and (b) education and training in specific fields of road maintenance. At the beginning of this year, GITEC (as lead firm in association with a German and a Cameroonian firm) was entrusted by GTZ with the implementation of the second phase of this project, which is initially planned for a period of three years.

It is assumed according to the present situation that it is necessary, at first, to create an adequate manpower basis for advisory capacities in business administration, on which a special qualification programme may be founded. Cameroonian experts will only after a certain time be able to provide useful diagnoses, action plans and advisory services to the companies seeking support. Through a "contact programme" the companies will be informed about the project and an information basis will be established on the nature of their problems, actually existing obstacles and requirements as well as their subsequent demand for services.

For the education and training in road maintenance it will be considered that substantial efforts were made in the past to educate the operative personnel in the Roads Authority, which included the establishment of a training centre for experts

and executives in bitumen road maintenance. The priority will thus be the qualification of the private contractors' personnel in technical and financial management and in self-government of the branch. Key issues will be the construction activities and organisation of maintenance works including cost calculation and bidding. The elaboration of a detailed training plan with suitable programmes and modules for training (in Germany and Cameroon) will be based on a thorough investigation of the requirements of the private firms, their associations and the authorities.

The project team started their activities in Cameroon in February 2001 and consists of long-term experts for advice to associations, organisational development, and management advisory services, C. Proulx, B.A. Admin. (team leader), and for training in construction and maintenance of roads and engineering structures, Dipl.-Ing. D. Oldorff. Several short-term experts will be assigned for further major subjects like finances and economics, legal advice, training concepts, bridge data banks, and communications.

## ALBANIA: Modernization of Communal Services in Selected Towns

In the frame of the bilateral Technical Cooperation, the German Government supports the comprehensive communal reform measures in Albania through strengthening of selected municipalities to cope with their new responsibilities which were transferred to them in the wake of the decentralization reform within the public sector. The selected participating towns in Albania's south are Korca, Pogradec, Elbasan, Lushnja, Berat and Kocova.

Since March 2001, GITEC (as part of an association) assigns three short-term experts to a project providing advisory services to these towns in the following fields: (i) improvement of the efficiency and quality of their services; (ii) application of modern methods and instruments of town planning oriented to realization; (iii) improvement of the financial, technical and administrative management of communal investments, and (iv) introduction of procedures for the administration and economic utilization of municipal

assets. The project which in a first phase will last 2.5 years is being funded by GTZ.

The consulting services are rendered in Albania by a long-term adviser supported by a pool of short-term experts for project planning, management, and administration of commercial services. The staff assigned by GITEC will be active in the fields of town planning and town development planning, solid waste management, and water supply and sanitation/environmental aspects. Major project activities refer to the design and conduct of training courses, on-the-job training, as well as seminars/workshops for communal staff on various levels, especially for elected communal politicians and the personnel of public administration. Furthermore, activities will be carried out to intensify the cooperation between the selected towns, to support the participation of citizens and local self-help organizations, and to initiate a professional partnership with German and European cities.

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