

The 2nd RPC Meeting

ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION TRAINING CENTRE IN
ZANJAN

(Tehran, 27-28 January, 1992)

Annex-IX

1- INTRODUCTION

Size of Major Watersheds in Iran needing permanent care and protection exceeds 100 million hectares of five-eighths of the total area of Iran. Soil erosion is one of the most serious environmental problems in the country, resulting in billions of tons of the fertile top soil washed away every year, in situation and reduction of life expectancy of the most valuable dam reservoirs, lowered agricultural productivity, urban migrations, and many other problems. The number of technicians available to tackle the problem is currently only about 400, i.e. one person for an average area of 250,000 hectares. According to some world standards, one technician should be available for an area of not more than a few thousands hectares only. The present education of technicians cover only general topics in natural resources, agriculture, and range-land management, but only a few of them deal with soil and water conservation. Therefore, a new approach to the training, recruitment and employment policy is needed, that should help to overcome the existing drawbacks. One step towards this target will be to establish a college-type centre that offers training exclusively in topics related to soil and conservation methods and practices. This will be the main objective of the project outlined below.

2- PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The development objective of this project will be to provide qualified manpower needed for implementation of soil and water conservation programmes, through establishing a college-level training centre in Zanjan.

The following is a tentative list of immediate objectives and some of the activities and expected outputs.

a) Introduction of basic courses needed and developing adequate curricula outputs and activities

- ☐ preparing a syllabus
- ☐ developing the curricula needed
- ☐ provision of necessary audio-visual equipment
- ☐ in-country training of the academic staff
- ☐ holding first series of courses

b) Introduction of courses for soil and water conservation and developing adequate curricula

- ☐ syllabuses of courses to be offered
- ☐ developing curricula and the basic approach
- ☐ provision of necessary audio-visual equipment
- ☐ training of academic staff through attendance of short courses abroad
- ☐ handling first series of courses.

- c) Establishment and equipping of laboratories and other in-house training facilities outputs and activities
 - ☐ design and establishing of laboratories
 - ☐ procurement and installation of laboratory equipment
 - ☐ training of laboratory staff

- d) Preparing programmes and facilities for in-field training outputs and activities
 - ☐ selection of pilot, training and demonstration areas
 - ☐ procurement and installation of equipment
 - ☐ staff training.

3- PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the proposed project will start about six months later (October 1992). The training centre will have at its disposal numerous facilities among them a number of pilot areas that have been equipped. Trainers for the future centre should logically be recruited primarily from among the personnel of watershed, management vice presidency. The government implementing agency of the project will be the watershed management vice presidency of the Ministry of Jihad-e-Sazandegi. It is suggested that ECO be executing agency.

4- TIME AND INPUTS REQUIRED

The project should be implemented within four years. The inputs needed are listed below which should be provided by the Government and the ECO.

☐ 4-1 ECO and Cost-sharing Contribution

- 4-1-1 Personnel

Project implementation will rely primarily on national experts, however, foreign expertise will be needed to a limited extent in all stages of its implementation to help preparing adequate curricula, give first courses in some of the key topics.

- 4-1-2 Training

Training of academic staff to take place in the form short courses at selected foreign centres is suggested, and the funds needed for this purpose are estimated US\$150,000.

- 4-1-3 Equipment

The equipment needed for the centres' laboratories and field training sites is estimated at US\$250,000.

- 4-1-4 Miscellaneous

The non-specified costs (Missions, administrative support, etc. should not exceed an amount of US\$50,000.

☐ 4-2 Government Contribution

The Government will provide all academic and administration, personnel, the building and other support facilities, pay DSA and internal transport to foreign

consultants, air tickets for fellow, and cover other expenses. The contribution is estimated at 300 million Rials.

 4-3 Total Inputs Required

ECO/CONST-SHARING INPUTS (US DOLLARS)	
Personnel	US\$ 150,000
Training	US\$ 150,000
Equipment	US\$ 250,000
Miscellaneous	US\$ 50,000
Total	US\$ 600,000
Governmental Contribution (Rials)	IRI
Personnel, Training Centre, Support Facilities DS And Internal Transport, Air-tickets for fellows	300,000,000