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Implementation Plan and Implications of International Development Cooperation Projects for Agriculture in 2017

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1. Background and Objective
2. Overview of International Development
Cooperation Projects in 2017
3. Agriculture-Related Projects
4. Projects by Agriculture-Related
Departments
5. Implications and Future Tasks 15

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- O Agriculture-related ODA projects are carried out in various types such as a project, development consulting and invitational training by diverse institutions, including not only the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), the Rural Development Administration (RDA) and the Korea Forest Service (KFS), but also the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF), the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) and local governments.
- In 2017, ODA projects by Korea are continuously on the increase; however, the country still fails to meet the demands of the international community to enhance the percentage of multilateral aid and grant.
 - In the 2nd Basic Plan on International Development Cooperation, it is recommended to increase the ratio of multilateral aid to 25% or over and grant to 60% or over.
- According to the government standards, budget for agriculture, forestry and fisheries is set by less than 10% of the total ODA budget; however, considering the fact that most developing economies highly rely on agriculture and have many populations in rural areas, the size of budget for these sectors should be expanded.
- O According to the analysis of agriculture-related projects from the implementation plan for 2017, budget of KRW 208.4 billion is appropriated for 207 projects: loan and grant projects by MOSF (EDCF) and MOFA (KOICA) account for 61.6% of the entire budget. The percentage of central government departments regarding agriculture and forestry such as MAFRA, RDA and KFS is 28.7%. As shown in the entire ODA sectors of Korea, the agricultural sector is also led by two government agencies—MOSF and MOFA.
- O When it comes to the type of ODA, project types are mainly implemented; technical cooperation with small expenditure per case accounts for about 17% based on the size of budget. Further, much effort is concentrated on bilateral aid, which is over 95%. Considering the demands of the international community, it is required to prepare policies in the direction of broadening the scope of multilateral aid.
- O In terms of projects executed by central government departments related to agriculture and forestry such as MAFRA, RDA and KFS, MAFRA and KFS have a high percentage of project-based ODA, while RDA focuses on carrying out technical cooperation works by utilizing the characteristics as an agricultural R&D institute.
- O While all of three departments mainly conduct bilateral aid tasks, KFS has implemented many multi-bilateral projects in cooperation with international agencies. As multi-bilateral projects include assessed contributions for international agencies in many cases, it is necessary to inspect closely whether those projects are clearly distinguished from core multilateral projects in accordance with the guidelines by MOFA.

01 Background and Objective

- In accordance with Article 11 of the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation and Article 9 of the Enforcement Ordinance of the Act, the Committee for International Development Cooperation (chaired by the Prime Minister) determines and announces a "Comprehensive Implementation Plan on International Development Cooperation" each year by organizing loan and grant plans of government departments and local governments.
 - The implementation plans on international development cooperation (ODA) proposed by each department from March to May each year are formulated as a comprehensive implementation plan (based on the required amount) through the procedures of comprehensive review and adjustment for grant and loan aid with MOFA (in charge of grant aid), MOSF (in charge of loan aid) and the Council of Grant Aid-Related Agencies in the Office for Government Policy Coordination.¹)
 - After the Committee for International Development Cooperation decides the plan, the results are sent to MOSF to be reflected in budget planning for the following year. The final plan is fixed through the deliberation on the budget by the National Assembly (see Table 2 for the procedures of establishing an implementation plan).

Table 1. Relevant Provisions in the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation

Article 11

(1) Each implementing agency shall formulate a draft of an implementation plan for international development cooperation every year in accordance with basic plans and submit them to a relevant supervising agency.

(2) If an annual implementation plan for international development cooperation submitted by an implementing agency pursuant to paragraph (1) is inconsistent with basic plans, the supervising agency may adjust the implementation plan in consultation with the implementing agency.

(3) Supervising agencies shall integrate and review drafts of annual implementation plans for international development cooperation submitted pursuant to paragraph (1), formulate drafts of annual comprehensive plans for international development cooperation for each area under their jurisdiction, and submit them to the Committee.

International development cooperation refers to economic and social cooperation for the development of a partner country. Official development assistance (ODA) refers to concessional aid (grant, loan), which is provided for economic and social development of a partner country by using public funds such as those from the government for international development cooperation. The former includes the latter, but as this report covers grant and loan aid by the Korean government, both concepts are mixed in the report.

- ODA project implementing institutions in the agriculture and rural development sector include MAFRA, RDA, KFS, MOFA (KOICA), MOSF (EDCF), MOIS and local governments. The types of projects are also diverse, including a project, development consulting, and invitational training.
- This report is prepared to introduce the project trend of ODA implementation plans by Korea in 2017, review the types and contents of projects in agriculture and rural development and suggest implications and future tasks.

Table 2. Procedures of Establishing a Comprehensive Implementation Plan

Guidelines on the Preparation of Implementation Plans for Grant Aid circulated (MOFA, January 23)
\downarrow
Implementation plans by each agency submitted (each department, by March 15)
\downarrow
Opinions from embassies and legations abroad inquired (official residences, March 20-29)
\downarrow
Supervising agency reviews and coordinates the plans (MOFA, by April 7)
\downarrow
Sub-committee Conference for the Council of Grant Aid-Related Agencies held (April 13-18)
\downarrow
Conference for the Council of Grant Aid-Related Agencies held (May 2)
\downarrow
Results of the Conference for the Council of Grant Aid-Related Agencies submitted to the Office for
Government Policy Coordination (OPC) (MOFA, May 10)
Grant and loan aid comprehensively coordinated and Comprehensive Implementation Plan in 2018
(draft version) formulated (OPC, in May)
Committee for International Development Cooperation and its Working Committee deliberate and
resolve the Plan (late May)
\downarrow
Comprehensive Implementation Plan in 2018 (draft version) resolved by International Development
Cooperation Committee notified to departments and budget authorities (OPC, early June)
\downarrow
Request for budget with coordination results reflected submitted to MOSF (each department, early
June)
Source: MOFA (2017). Guidelines on the Preparation of Implementation Plans for Grant Aid in 2018 (January 23, 2017).

Source: MOFA (2017). Guidelines on the Preparation of Implementation Plans for Grant Aid in 2018 (January 23, 2017).

02 Overview of International Development Cooperation Projects in 2017

- The number of ODA projects by Korea in 2017 is 1,243. In terms of budget, KRW 2 trillion and 636.7 billion is allotted, which increased by 8.1% compared to the previous year. The ratio of ODA/GNI, which serves as a yardstick for comparing the size of ODA in each country by the international community, can be calculated only after the size of GNI is estimated; but it is presumed that the ratio can be around 0.15%.
- The ratio of bilateral aid to multilateral aid is approximately 81:19. In bilateral aid, the ratio of grant to loan is about 55:45.
 - Compared to the target ratio of 75:25 (bilateral : multilateral) and 60:40 (grant : loan) in the 2nd Basic Plan on International Development Cooperation (2016-2020) by Korea, the percentage of multilateral aid and grant is still low. As calls by the international community also focus on multilateral aid and grant, continuous improvement is required.

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total ODA (KRW 1 billion)	1,466.7	1,798.6	1,921.4	1,955.2	2,161.9	2,439.4	2,636.7
Bilateral aid	1,095.8	1,332.1	1,433.4	1,469.8	1,649.8	1,947.9	2,130.0
Percentage (%)	(74.7)	(74.1)	(74.6)	(75.2)	(76.3)	(79.9)	(80.8)
Grant	636.7	804.9	885.5	930.5	1,016.0	1,054.2	1,175.5
Percentage (%)	(58.1)	(60.4)	(61.8)	(63.3)	(61.6)	(54.1)	(55.2)
Loan	459.1	527.3	547.9	539.3	633.8	893.7	954.5
Percentage (%)	(41.9)	(39.6)	(38.2)	(36.7)	(38.4)	(45.9)	(44.8)
Multilateral aid	370.9	466.4	487.9	485.4	512.2	491.5	506.7
Percentage (%)	(25.3)	(25.9)	(25.4)	(24.8)	(23.7)	(20.1)	(19.2)

Table 3	. ODA b	y Year
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Source: Comprehensive Implementation Plan on International Development Cooperation for 2017, Formulated jointly by relevant departments (2016).

• In terms of region, Asia and Africa account for 58% of the entire bilateral aid.

However, as projects in which a target country for ODA is not determined ("non-designated") and projects for multiple countries ("multiple regions") account for 28.9%, it is somewhat difficult to identify the accurate percentage of each region.

- When projects for non-designated regions and multiple regions are not considered, the percentage of Asia is on the decrease, while that of Africa is on the increase. Thus, the percentage of Asia has dropped from 43.8% (2016) to 38.1% (2017), whereas that of Africa rose from 18.7% (2016) to 20.1% (2017).
- By bilateral aid sector, the sectors of transportation, health and public administration have a similar percentage of 12%, respectively. The sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, water resource, education and energy account for about 7-10%, respectively.
 - In this category as well, the percentage of projects which are difficult to be classified ("others") reaches 22%. Similar results are seen in 2016; transportation accounts for 13.5%, and the sectors of education, health, energy, water resource, public administration, agriculture, forestry and fisheries have a percentage of about 8-10%, respectively (Comprehensive Implementation Plan on International Development Cooperation for 2016 (Draft Version), formulated jointly by relevant departments (2015)).
 - In case a project is conducted over several years, the amount of expenditure is different in each year. Thus, the percentage of budget for each sector can be different on the basis of period.
 - Accordingly, as shown in the current status of working expenses in each region, the current status of working expenses in each sector needs to be understood as basic information to identify a long-term trend.

Category	Asia	Africa	Central and South America	Middle East and CIS	Oceania	Others
Size (KRW 100 million)	8,118	4,290	1,064	1,588	74	6,166
Percentage (%)	38.1	20.1	5.0	7.5	0.5	28.9

Table 4. Working Expenses in Each Region

Source: Comprehensive Implementation Plan on International Development Cooperation for 2017, Formulated jointly by relevant departments (2016).

Category	Transportation	Health	Public administration	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	Water resource	Education	Energy	Humanitarian assistance	Environment	Others
Size (KRW 100 million)	2,638	2,598	2,578	2,119	2,111	1,859	1,506	900	255	4,737
Percentage (%)	12.4	12.2	12.1	9.9	9.9	8.7	7.1	4.2	1.2	22.2

Table 5. Working Expenses in Each Sector

Source: Comprehensive Implementation Plan on International Development Cooperation for 2017, Formulated jointly by relevant departments (2016).

When ODA projects are classified based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approximately 72% (KRW 1 trillion and 898.5 billion) of total working expenses meet the goals. Among them, a high percentage can be found in the sectors of industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9), no poverty (Goal 1), good health and well-being (Goal 3), quality education (Goal 4) and clean water and sanitation (Goal 6).

Goal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of																	
projects	176	128	119	123	14	61	22	49	140	13	33	1	35	5	12	113	52
(case)																	
Size																	
(KRW 100	2,718	1,503	2,372	2,296	93	2,277	941	374	4,449	30	747	4	170	53	122	688	141
million)																	
Percentage	14.2	7.9	12.5	12.1	0.5	12.0	5.0	2.0	23.4	0.2	3.9	0.0	0.9	0.3	0.6	20	0.7
(%)	14.3	1.9	12.5	12.1	0.5	12.0	5.0	2.0	23.4	0.2	5.9	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.0	3.6	0.7

Table 6. Number of Projects and Working Expenses for SDGs

* 17 SDGs: ① No Poverty ② Zero Hunger ③ Good Health and Well-Being ④ Quality Education ⑤ Gender Equality ⑥ Clean Water and Sanitation ⑦ Affordable and Clean Energy ⑧ Decent Work and Economic Growth ⑨ Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure ⑩ Reduced Inequalities ⑪ Sustainable Cities and Communities ⑫ Responsible Consumption and Production ⑬ Climate Change ⑭ Life below Water ⑮ Life on Land ⑯ Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions ⑰ Partnerships for the Goals

Source: Comprehensive Implementation Plan on International Development Cooperation for 2017, Formulated jointly by relevant departments (2016).

03 Agriculture-Related Projects

3.1. Standard of an Agriculture-Related Project

- In the following part, the current status of agriculture-related projects is identified by using materials of ODA budget plans (drafts) by each agency on the comprehensive implementation plan for 2017. These materials include all loan, grant, bilateral and multilateral projects as well as budget for assistance to ODA-qualified international agencies such as UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP, etc.) and NGOs.
 - In case of assistance such as international agency contributions, the appropriation ratio of ODA is separately fixed within the extent of 100% based on the characteristics of each agency in accordance with the statistical standards of the OECD DAC. Thus, in some cases, only part of actual assistance funds is appropriated for ODA (for instance, 51% for FAO and 100% for IFAD and WFP).
- Agriculture-related projects are in the following category:
 - Projects with regard to agriculture, forestry, the livestock industry and rural development are included. Accordingly, any projects regarding fisheries and oceans are not included (e.g. the Mariculture Development Project in Zanzibar, Tanzania, is excluded).
 - Relevant sectors such as the food sector are limited to projects with the contents which are included in the range of tasks performed by external organizations such as MAFRA, RDA and KFS and affiliated institutions such as the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, the National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service, the Food & Agriculture Officials Training Institute, Korea National College of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Korea Seed & Variety Service.
 - As water resource development projects generally have the objective of securing agricultural water or performing multipurpose development including water for agriculture, any projects which are not distinctively outside the extent are included (e.g. the Project for the Master Plan of Integrated Water Resource Management in the Nam Ngum River basin, Laos, is included).
 - When it comes to regional development such as drinking water development, any projects which are not only for urban areas are included (e.g. the Project for Improvement of Water Supply and Sanitation in Gurage Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia, is included).

 In terms of project types, all types are targeted, including a program, project, development consulting, other technical cooperation, public-private cooperation, invitational training, scholarship, dispatch of volunteer corps, administrative cost and other types.

3.2. Current Status of Each Agency, Project Type and Bilateral & Multilateral Aid

 The number of projects with regard to agriculture in 2017 is 207 in total with the budget of KRW 208.4 billion. This accounts for 7.9% of the total ODA budget, including multilateral aid (KRW 2 trillion and 636.7 billion).

	Category			Ratio (%)
]	MOSF	536	25.7
	1	MOFA	805	38.6
	Ν	ÍAFRA	271	13.0
		RDA	188	9.0
Agency		KFS	140	6.7
		MOIS	32	1.5
	Local	governments	64	3.1
		Others	49	2.3
		Total	2,084	100.0
	Developn	nent consulting	218	10.5
		r technical pperation	11	0.5
	Public-priv	vate cooperation	4	0.2
Туре		al training and iolarship	124	5.9
туре		rogram	13	0.6
	1	Project	1,611	77.3
	Admin	istrative cost	7	0.3
		Others	95	4.6
		Total	2,084	100.0
	Мι	ıltilateral	95	4.6
		Multi-bilateral	101	4.8
Multilateral and bilateral aid	Bilateral	Bilateral grant	1,352	64.9
onateral and		Bilateral loan	536	25.7
		Total	2,084	100.0

Table 7. Current Status of Agricultural ODA for Each Agency, Project Type and Bilateral & Multilateral Aid

- In terms of agency, the budget of MOSF, which provides loan aid through EDCF, and MOFA, which offers grant through KOICA, accounts for 61.6% of the entire budget; MAFRA has the budget of KRW 27.1 billion, which is 13.0%.
 - MAFRA has the contributions of KRW 11 billion and 208 million for FAO, but based on the statistical standards of the OECD DAC, only 51%, which is KRW 5 billion and 716 million, is appropriated to ODA.
 - Central government departments with regard to agriculture and forestry, including RDA and KFS, account for 28.7% (KRW 59.9 billion) of the entire budget.
 - When it comes to the amount of funds, as seen in the entire ODA by Korea, KOICA in charge of grant and EDCF in charge of loan aid are taking the lead in sectoral assistance.
- When it comes to type, project types are the majority, while invitational training including scholarship accounts for 5.9%.
 - The global trend has emphasized program-type aid, which provides necessary funds for developing a general or specific sector in recipients without limitations in using funds; however, the percentage of such program-type aid in the agricultural sector is only 0.6%.
 - Budget which is classified as public-private cooperation is alloted to one project by the Ministry of Education (International Cooperation Leading University Project – Reinforcement of Education and Research Capability and Technology Dissemination for Preserving and Utilizing Plant Genetic Resources in Myanmar, KRW 400 million).
 - The number of technical cooperation in a wide range, including development consulting, other technical cooperation (feasibility study, follow-up management and evaluation), invitational training and scholarship, is 78 (37.7% of 207 cases in total); in terms of budget, however, technical cooperation accounts for 17% (KRW 35.3 billion), with small-sized project cost per case.

Туре	Contents
Development consulting	Implementing basic study for a public development project contributing to economic and social development of a recipient, establishing master plan, conducting feasibility study and providing technical service such as policy advice
Other technical cooperation	Technical cooperation other than development consulting, scholarship and dispatch of volunteer corps (holding a workshop for education at home and abroad, etc.); only other core technical cooperation recognized with the total size of less than USD 200,000
Public-private cooperation	Assistance for domestic and overseas NGOs and support for CSR business
Invitational training and scholarship	(Invitational training) Inviting people of recipients to Korea or passing down knowledge and technology by dispatching domestic experts to local areas (Scholarship) Scholarship for international students from recipients in the course and support for affiliated education institutions
Program	Directly providing funds required for accomplishing a general development plan or development plan for a specific sector in recipients; programs are divided into general program assistance such as assistance for general budget, financial support for the balance of international payments, import assistance and support for capital goods and supplies and sectoral program assistance for supporting a specific industry and sector such as agriculture, education and transportation.
Project	Recommended to implement a project in which the size of each case is at least USD 200,000, including establishing specific facilities and infrastructure required for economic and social development in developing countries, supporting equipment and passing down any related technology
Administrative cost	Other expenses regarding development assistance for any transaction in a donor

Table 8. Project Types and Contents

Source: MOFA (2017). Guidelines on the Preparation of Implementation Plans for Grant Aid in 2018 (January 23, 2017); EDCF (2016). ODA in Numbers.

- When it comes to the division of bilateral aid and multilateral aid, only 4.6% of the entire ODA budget for agriculture is allotted for multilateral aid projects, which indicates too much concentration on bilateral aid. The percentage of multi-bilateral projects, which are classified as bilateral aid projects, is 4.8%.
 - In case of bilateral aid projects except for multi-bilateral aid, grant has the size twice as large as loan.
 - In terms of the entire country's ODA, the percentage of multilateral aid is 19.2%, while loan aid is 44.8%. Under these circumstances, ODA for the agricultural sector has a significantly low percentage of multilateral aid, whereas the percentage of grant is much higher.
 - Considering calls from the international community, it is recommended that projects based on grant in the agricultural sector should maintain the current percentage, but expand the size of multilateral aid.

Table 9. Multilateral Aid and Multi-Bilateral Aid

- \circ Multilateral aid in which a donor supports a recipient through an international agency (NGO and PPP included) is divided into \triangle multi-bilateral aid in which a donor designates a specific use (region, country, sector, etc.) and make contributions (earmarked, non-core contribution) and \triangle multilateral ODA (core multilateral or multilateral aid) in which a donor does not designate a specific use, but an international agency can make contributions (non-earmarked, core contribution) by designating the use freely.
- According to the statistical standards of the OECD DAC, any multi-bilateral projects in which a donor designates a specific use and makes contributions even as assistance for an international agency is classified as bilateral ODA, not multilateral ODA (MOFA, 2017, Guidelines on the Preparation of Implementation Plans for Grant Aid in 2018, p.11).

04 Projects by Agriculture-Related Departments

- This part covers analysis results for projects by central government agencies regarding agriculture and rural development such as MAFRA (affiliated agencies included), RDA, KFS, etc.
- The budget includes KRW 27.1 billion for 39 projects by MAFRA, KRW 18.8 billion for 30 projects by RDA and KRW 14 billion for 14 projects by KFS.
 - The budget for each project is KRW 690 million, 630 million and 1 billion, respectively. The size of each project implemented by KFS is relatively larger than that of MAFRA and RDA.
- In terms of type, MAFRA and KFS focus on project-type aid, while RDA concentrates on development consulting, which shows clear difference.
 - Three aid tasks classified as a project type by RDA have expenses for operating region-based (Asia, Africa, Central and South America) agricultural food technical cooperation consultative groups (AFACI, KAFACI and COLFACI). As these projects are actually close to technical cooperation, it can be said that RDA implements technical cooperation (in a broad sense) in nearly all cases.
 - KFS focuses on projects with relatively high project costs such as a project for afforestation to prevent desertification.

	Туре	No. of projects (case)	Budget (KRW 100 million)
	Project	24	152
	Development consulting	3	12
	Other technical cooperation	3	7
MAFRA	Invitational training	5	4
	Administrative cost	1	7
	Others (Contributions)	3	89
	Total	39	271
	Project	3	72
	Development consulting	20	109
RDA	Other technical cooperation	6	4
	Others	1	3
	Total	30	188
	Project	12	131
KEO	Development consulting	1	6
KFS	Others (Contributions)	1	3
	Total	14	140

Table 10. Current Status of Project Types by Agriculture-Related Departments

- In the current status of bilateral or multilateral aid, bilateral grant projects are the majority in MAFRA and RDA, while the percentage of multi-bilateral projects is higher in KFS.
 - Multi-bilateral projects by KFS include many cooperation projects with international agencies and initiatives such as the Changwon Initiative, FAO cooperation, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI), the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCo), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).
 - There is no bilateral loan aid by three departments.

	Division of bilateral and	No. of projects (case)	Budget
	multilateral aid		(KRW 100 million)
MAFRA	Multilateral aid	3	89
	Multi-bilateral aid	4	22
	Bilateral grant	32	160
	Bilateral loan	0	0
	Total	39	271
RDA	Multilateral aid	1	3
	Multi-bilateral aid	5	2
	Bilateral grant	24	183
	Bilateral loan	0	0
	Total	30	188
KFS	Multilateral aid	1	3
	Multi-bilateral aid	7	78
	Bilateral grant	6	59
	Bilateral loan	0	0
	Total	14	140

Table 11. Current Status of Bilateral and Multilateral Aid by Agriculture-Related Departments

- Meanwhile, in case of contributions to international agencies, it is required to clearly identify whether multilateral aid and multi-bilateral aid are precisely divided in accordance with the guidelines by MOFA (Development Cooperation Division of MOFA, 2017, Guidelines on the Preparation of Implementation Plans for Grant Aid in 2018).
 - In the projects by MAFRA, contributions to agencies such as FAO, IFAD and WFP are classified as multilateral aid, while projects jointly implemented with FAO and IFAD are classified as multi-bilateral aid.
 - As for RDA, contributions to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) are classified as multilateral aid, while contributions to the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region (FFTC), the Asia Vegetable Research Development Center (AVRDC), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), projects by the OECD Working Group on Pesticides and the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) are categorized as multi-bilateral aid.
 - In the projects by KFS, assessed contributions to ITTO are classified as multilateral aid, whereas assessed contributions to CIFOR are categorized as multi-bilateral aid.
- Among agriculture-related projects implemented by government agencies (the Ministry of Education, MOSF, MOFA, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), local governments, MOIS, the Ministry of Environment) other than the three agencies, there are no multilateral and multi-bilateral aid projects.

- Multilateral projects led by regular government agencies with international agencies are mostly based on funding for assessed contributions.
- Thus, multilateral and multi-bilateral projects for ODA regarding agriculture are the targets of interest only for domestic agriculture-related departments, which intend to carry out a project with international agencies concerning agriculture.

05 Implications and Future Tasks

- Agriculture-related ODA projects are conducted in various types by diverse institutions such as central government departments and local governments. In 2017, ODA projects are continuously on the increase with increasing expenditure; meanwhile, there is still nearly no improvement in aid architecture, which is required by the international community. In other words, calls for improvement by the international community are still not met due to the low percentage of multilateral aid and a higher percentage of loan than grant.
- The sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries have less than 10% of the total ODA budget, which is not an adequate level. Overall, developing countries have a low level of agricultural productivity; even when the percentage of agriculture is not high in the industrial structure, the ratio of the population engaged in agriculture is very high. In addition, there are many populations living in rural areas in the process of urbanization or with urbanization not under way. Considering these points, it is required to significantly expand assistance for the development of agriculture and rural areas, which would lead to higher efficiency.
- As seen in previous years, projects led by loan and grant-based agencies such as MOSF (EDCF) and MOFA (KOICA) account for over 60% of all ODA projects in 2017 as well. In terms of expertise in agriculture and rural development, it is necessary to properly enhance the percentage of aid projects by central government departments concerning agriculture and forestry such as MAFRA, RDA and KFS or share roles with other leading institutions. For this goal, measures should be prepared in cooperation between departments or connection of projects.
- Korea's ODA projects in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors are heavily concentrated on bilateral aid, which accounts for over 95%, while the percentage of grant is extremely high. Given calls from the international community, such a high percentage of grant can be seen desirable, but it is required to consider policies in the direction of increasing the percentage of multilateral aid.

- As for ODA projects by each department in the agricultural sector, MAFRA and KFS have a high ratio of project types, while RDA focuses on technical cooperation as an agricultural R&D institute. It is imperative to prepare tasks and implementation methods in order to ensure differentiation between such project-type tasks and grant projects by KOICA.
- All of these agriculture-related departments focus on bilateral aid, while KFS also carries out some multi-bilateral projects through international agencies. Some projects which are included in multi-bilateral aid are indicated as assessed contributions to international agencies in many cases and should be distinguished clearly from core multilateral cooperation projects.