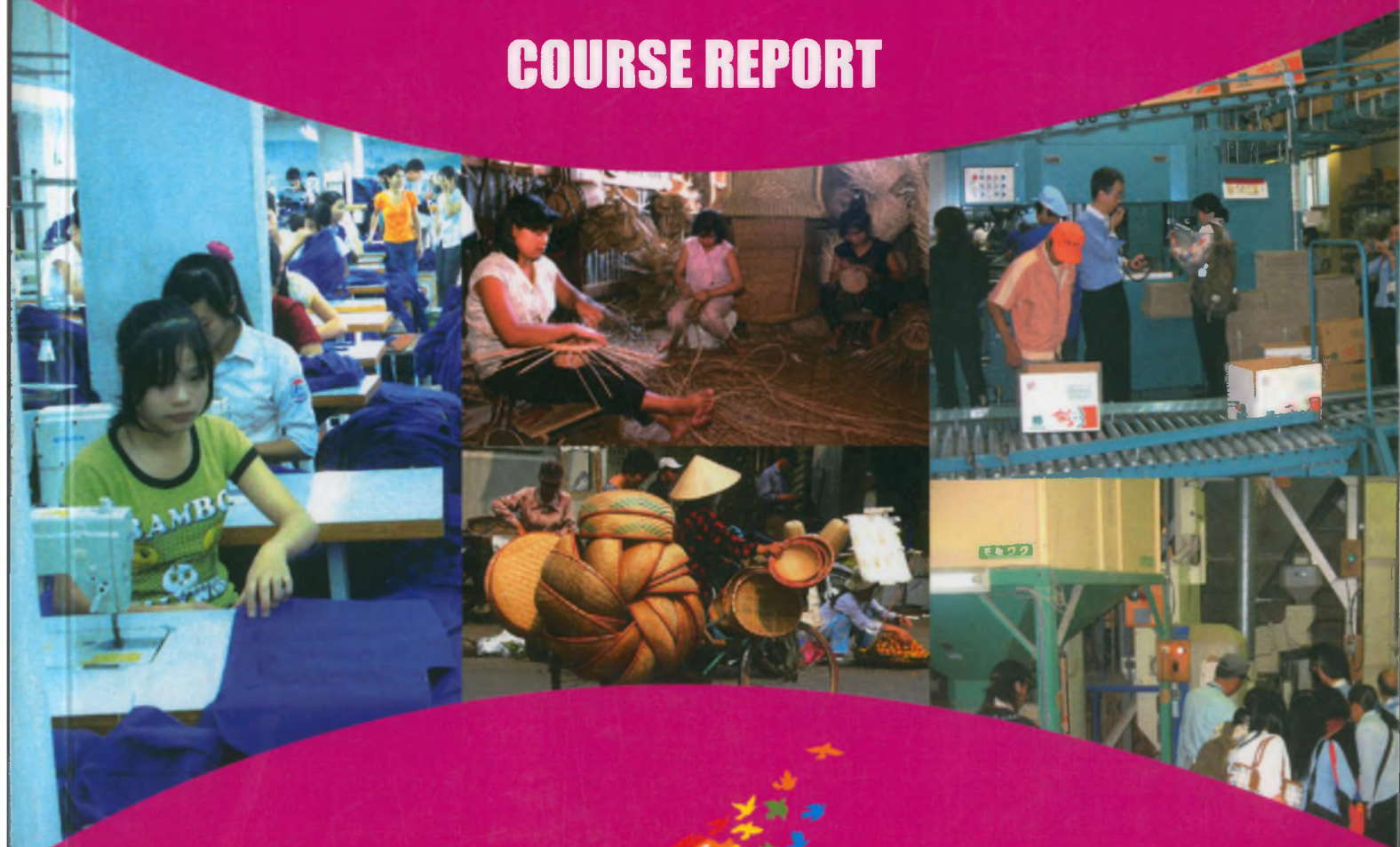


# 5<sup>th</sup> Training Course on Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women

Japan – Vietnam  
12<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010

## COURSE REPORT



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5<sup>th</sup> Training Course on  
**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE  
ENTERPRISES FOR RURAL WOMEN**

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**COURSE REPORT**

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**International Cooperative Alliance –  
Asia and Pacific**

9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector-13,  
New Delhi-110066, India.



Report of the  
**5<sup>th</sup> Training Course on**  
**Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women**  
Japan and Vietnam  
12<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010

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**5<sup>th</sup> Training Course on**  
**Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women**  
*Japan-Vietnam: 12<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010*

**COURSE REPORT**

SECTION - I

Executive Summary

**Introduction**

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is an independent non-governmental association which unites, represents and serves cooperatives worldwide. Founded in London on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1895, the ICA is headquartered in Geneva. ICA is a member-based organization with national and international cooperative organizations in more than 92 countries active in all sectors of the economy. ICA's four offices in Africa, America, Asia-Pacific and Europe, together, serve more than 250 member organizations, representing one billion cooperative members around the world.

The ICA-Asia and Pacific Office is operating from New Delhi since 1960, serves 72 national level organizations from 25 countries, representing about 500 million cooperative members.

**Background**

The ICA was earlier chosen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan to implement its Training Project on "Strengthening Women's Agricultural Cooperatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life" for the last 15 years. The overall objective of the training program under this Project was "to facilitate improvement of living standards of rural farm households through women's participation in agricultural cooperative activity". 100 women from 13 countries had successfully participated in these courses.

On the basis of these achievements, a new Training Project on "**Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women**" was developed and agreed upon for implementation through the ICA, with a view to generating employment and increasing income of rural women.

Under this Project, the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Course on "**Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women**" was held, with 12 participants, in **Japan** and **Vietnam**. Part-I of the Training Course was held in Japan from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> October in collaboration with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) and Part-II in Vietnam from 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The program is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), of the Government of Japan and implemented by ICA.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the Training Course under this Project were:

- To learn method of enterprise development by rural women through case studies;
- To study management method of micro-enterprises by rural women; and
- To learn method of encouraging women to be involved in rural communities development.

## Course Participants

Twelve (12) rural women leaders of agricultural cooperatives were selected by ICA-AP from its member organizations for the Training Course - two each from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. A list of participants is placed at Section-XI.

## Training Program

The training program placed a strong emphasis on enhancing the participation of women in agricultural cooperatives which results in generating additional income for rural women. The day-to-day program of the Training Course, as followed, is placed at Section-X.

## Home Country Assignments (HCAs)

The selected participants undertook their Home Country Assignments (HCAs) for a period of 5 days (7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September) prior to the actual commencement of the Training Course in Japan. They prepared: (i) **Country Reports**; and (ii) **Action Plans** for the development of their own organizations. The Action Plans prepared by the participants in their home countries were substantiated during study visits in Japan and Vietnam.

The Training Course was divided into two parts, as has been explained below:

### Part-I: Training Course in Japan

Part-I of the Training Course including field study visits was held in Japan for 26 days (12<sup>th</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010). The program was conducted by and located at IDACA. Some of the key subjects covered at IDACA were:

- Presentation of Country Reports;
- Women's Associations and Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives;
- Organization and Business Development of Agricultural Coops in Japan;
- Rural women Enterprises in Japan and Involvement in Rural Communities Development;
- Safety of Farm Products and Increase of their Quality; and,
- Reporting, Evaluation and Country Action Plans.

### Part-II: Study Visits in Vietnam

A one week study visits program was held in Vietnam from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in collaboration with Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) – a member organization of ICA. The main subjects covered during study visits were: Voluntary associations in support of empowerment of rural women; Self-Help Groups as a sub-system of agricultural cooperatives; Micro-credit; Methods and Techniques of Marketing of Products; Methods used for generation of income and employment, etc.



## **Financial Support**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan contributed funds to the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Course on “Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women” which was followed by a grant for its implementation. The ICA is highly appreciative of the contribution made and grateful to the Government of Japan for this gesture.

## **Acknowledgements**

In the implementation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Course, the ICA has received full support and cooperation from the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA-ZENCHU); Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan; Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia [IDACA] in Japan; Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) and other ICA Member-Organisations in the Region. The ICA is grateful to its member-organisations for their support.

## **Administrative Arrangements**

Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-AP, was responsible for the conduct of the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Course. The entire Training Course was coordinated and implemented by him for its full duration, under the direction of the ICA Regional Director for Asia and Pacific.

Part-I of the training program held in Japan at IDACA was conducted under the direction and guidance of Mr. Ikuo Ashikari, Managing Director of IDACA. Mr. Yukio Abe, Senior Coordinator was designated by the IDACA as the Course Coordinator for this part.

## **Summary of the Time Table**

The following was the summary of the timetable:

Home Country Assignments (HCAs)	:	7 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2010
Arrival of Participants in Japan	:	12 <sup>th</sup> September
Part-I: Training Course in Japan	:	13 <sup>th</sup> September to 7 <sup>th</sup> October
Arrival of Participants in Vietnam	:	8 <sup>th</sup> October
Part-II: Study Visits in Vietnam	:	9 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> October
Departure of Participants from Vietnam	:	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2010



## SECTION - II

### Inauguration of Part-I of the Training Course in Japan

The Part-I of the Training Course was formally inaugurated on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in the Conference Hall of IDACA by Mr. Yuichi Nakamura, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan. Mr. Ikuo Ashikari, Managing Director of the Institute for Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-AP also addressed the inaugural session. Mr. Yukio Abe, Senior Coordinator and other senior officers of IDACA were also present.

Welcoming Mr. Nakamura, Mr. Ashikari and other senior officers of IDACA, **Mr. Sethu Madhavan** congratulated the participants for coming to attend the Part-I of the training course in Japan. He conveyed the sincere gratitude of the ICA to MAFF, Government of Japan, for their valuable financial support for the development of women's activities in Asia. He mentioned about the longstanding collaboration between ICA, JA-ZENCHU and IDACA. He also spoke a few words about ICA.

In his brief inaugural speech, **Mr. Nakamura** welcomed the 12 participants of the training course from six countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Vietnam to Japan and extended a warm welcome on behalf of MAFF. He further said "During this course, all of you will be able to learn many things as a life long knowledge, e.g. application of micro credit system, method of rural women business promotion, knowledge and information regarding management methods of small-scale enterprises. I believe that all of you would be prepared to put new knowledge and information gained from this program to use practically in your fields".

He hoped that this training course would build long lasting and good relationship between participating countries and Japan.

He requested the participants to take care of their health during their stay in Japan because of much difference in climate and social conditions from their respective countries. He also expressed his appreciation to ICA-AP and IDACA for their strenuous efforts in the implementation of the training course.

**Mr. Ashikari** extended a hearty welcome to all the participants to Japan on behalf of IDACA. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Nakamura for attending the opening ceremony. He said that this project got materialised due to unified cooperation and support of MAFF and JA ZENCHU. He further said "Now in an effort to vitalize regional communities as well as to improve life and livelihood of farm families, particularly in Asia, what is needed is to increase income by generating employment of rural women. With this end in view, this training project is conducted from the perspective that the rural women enterprises are considered to be effective means".

He said that IDACA was established in 1963 with funds contributed by all Japanese agricultural cooperatives. More than 47 years history of IDACA, around 5,500 participants, mainly from Asia, have been trained from 109 countries.

He mentioned that from 2006 onwards the training course has been designed to focus on Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women. He said that during the stay of the participants at IDACA, there would be exchange of experience and knowledge. He hoped that the participants would enjoy the life and living at IDACA. He wished the participants a comfortable and fruitful stay at IDACA.

## SECTION - III

### Lectures at IDACA

The following lectures were given by the resource persons at IDACA in Tokyo during the training course.

#### **Society, Economy and Culture in Japan**

by Ms. Eiko Oshita, Program Coordinator, IDACA

Under this topic, brief basic information of Japan was given. She also explained about the following overall characteristics of Japan – land and climate; its four major islands (Kyushu, Shikoku, Honshu and Hokkaido); its four distinct seasons (spring, summer, autumn and winter); its population (127 million); its density; literacy rate and language; laws for women's rights; labour force; its economy after world war-II; policies; agriculture; housing; education system; religion; clothing; cuisine; household economy; living conditions and environment; and social security system.

#### **Historical Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan**

by Mr. Toru Nakashima, Dy. Manager, Training Department, IDACA

Under this topic, the resource person tried to explain about the development of agricultural cooperatives before and after world war-II. He covered the following subjects – cooperatives up until world war-II (the process of transforming Japan from a feudalistic society to a modern state; in 1900 the 1<sup>st</sup> cooperative law based on the Raiffeisen model was enacted; first revision of the law in 1906; the following revision of the law in 1909 and 1921; agricultural panic in the 1930s; agricultural association law enacted in 1943; agricultural cooperative law passed in 1947; stagnation of agricultural production during 1960s; the basic law on agriculture in 1961; problems in the agricultural sector at the time of the oil crisis in 1973. Meanwhile, the National Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives is held every three years to cope with the changing situations and also give directions to the JA group for three years.

#### **Agricultural Cooperatives and Distribution System in Japan**

by Mr. Hiroshi Terunuma, Manager, Training & Development Department, IDACA

The broad objective of this topic was explained about the agricultural cooperatives and distribution system in Japan. The resource person covered the following subjects – characteristics of cooperatives; what is agricultural cooperative; unique features of agricultural cooperatives in Japan (existence of associate member system and operating multiple businesses); structure of agricultural cooperatives; JA covers whole country (730 JAs exist as on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010); members of JA; trend of members of JA; trends of age formation of members of JA; various types of agricultural cooperatives; JA group organisations; average business turnover of JA; farm guidance activities; better living guidance; JA hospitals and health care activities; diversified marketing methods; marketing business system of JA; and facilities of JA (A coop store, gasoline station, grading centre, etc.).

#### **Best Practices of Successful Cooperatives**

by Mr. Yūki Abe, Senior Coordinator, IDACA

Under this topic, the resource person explained about the different stages of development of agricultural cooperatives in Asian region in comparison with Japan. He also gave an account of salient features and some relevant reasons for the fast development of agricultural cooperatives in

Japan and the problems being faced by agricultural cooperatives at the moment. Moreover, he shed a light on how the cooperatives can be run and strengthened effectively and also on the main factors responsible for the development of cooperatives citing some examples of the Indian, the Philippines cooperatives and so on.

### **Women's Association of JA and its Activities**

by Ms. Tae Kumuda of JA ZENCHU

The resource person explained the objectives of the JA Women's Association which were: (a) Cooperate with each other to protect women's rights and improve social and economical status of rural women; (b) Promote participation of women in JA's activities so as to reflect the voices of women; and (c) Create comfortable local communities with affluence, keep close contact with each other and promote mutual help through cooperative activities involving women. She also covered the following subjects – history of JA women's association; significance of activities of JA women's association; present activities of JA women's associations; and problems and action of JA women's associations.

### **Assertive Training for Smooth Human Communication**

by Ms. Shiom Morita, President, Assertive Japan

The resource person explained about the usefulness of the assertiveness. She said assertiveness is a behaviour which helps us to communicate clearly and confidently our needs, wants and feelings to other people without abusing in any way their human rights. Assertiveness consists of three parts – what we communicate; how we communicate; and on which basis we communicate. She also said that there are five basic assertiveness skills – be specific; keep to the point; self-disclosure; understand the other person's feelings; and offer a compromise (try to find the best solution). Interesting and useful role plays were also performed by the participants at the end.

### **Cooperative Education with a special reference to the Status of Women in Nepal Cooperative Movement**

by Mr. Tadafumi Kigasawa, former JICA Expert in Nepal

As part of cooperative education, the resource person highlighted the status of women in Nepal Cooperative Movement through case studies. He explained the reasons for starting women's only cooperative societies. He further added that the cooperative law was enacted in Nepal in 1994. There are currently 578 women cooperatives and 6,486 mixed cooperatives. The main problems faced by the cooperatives are: slow pace of cooperative development; lack of policy and determination; and present cooperative acts are not sufficient.

### **PCM Method for the Action Plan**

by Ms. Yoshiko Takahashi, Consultant/Project Evaluator, Y's Consulting Office, Japan

The resource person elucidated that the Project Cycle Management (PCM) method would be an effective tool for managing the entire cycle of a development assistance project. It has got three stages – planning, implementation and evaluation. She explained about the planning in project cycle management, advantages of participatory approach, and steps of PCM method. She also clarified that the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) would be one of the tools for the project management. The project action plan format was explained and the participants were asked to do the practical exercise on this format.

## **Marketing of One Village One Product (OVOP)**

by Ms. Kaz Yamamoto, President, Japan Agricultural Marketing Institute

The resource person tried to explain about "What is Marketing and Marketing of One Village One Product (OVOP)". The definition of OVOP is development of value (preciousness) utilizing locally available resources by local people. She further explained about the selling concept and the marketing concept; achievements of OVOP in Oita prefecture where it got initiated first; outcome from OVOP in Japan; 3 principles of OVOP; how to make profit from OVOP; branding under OVOP; entrepreneurial activities by Kaizen groups as the core of OVOP; 6 keys for the success of OVOP; 4 steps towards the goal of the OVOP campaign; and some examples of OVOP products in Japan and overseas.

## **Life Improvement Approach and Rural Women Entrepreneurship**

by Ms. Hitomi Tomizawa, Gender and Community Development Expert, WELI.

The resource person explained about "What is Rural Women Empowerment and Life Improvement Association (WELI)"; why life improvement; key points of life improvement approach; life improvement approach; characteristics of life improvement practice groups; rules/regulations in group; gender consideration and its counter measures; rural women entrepreneurship group activity; and key points in processing activities. She also made reference to how to start rural entrepreneurship.

## SECTION - IV

### Field Study Visits in Japan

During Part-I of the Training Course in Japan, study visits were arranged in Kanagawa and Nara Prefectures. The participants visited Kanagawa Prefecture on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September and Nara Prefecture from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September to get them acquainted with the organizational structure and business activities of prefectural and primary level agricultural cooperatives, and also to observe the organization and functioning of women's associations. The participants visited the following institutions during their study visits.

#### **Kanagawa Prefecture**

##### **JA Hadano**

Five agricultural cooperatives merged in 1963 to establish the Hadano City Agricultural Cooperatives (JA Hadano). In 1966 it became the present JA Hadano with 3,943 members. At present it has got 11,088 members (3,104 regular and 7,984 associate). It has got 36 directors and 390 employees.

Hadano city used to be known as one of the famous tobacco producing areas in Japan. However, in late 1960s, due to rapid urbanization, the farm management switched its focus towards urban agriculture. As a result, tobacco farming was brought to an end in 1984. Major crops grown now in this area are flowers, fruits and vegetables.

The business activities of the JA for the year 2009 are as follows: savings-181 billion; loan-50 billion; mutual insurance-485 billion; marketing-2 billion; and purchasing-3.4 billion yen. The current surplus is 773 million yen. Its share capital is 1.89 billion yen.

JA Hadano has got the following facilities: 8 branches; 2 specialty products sale centers; 2 petroleum stations; 2 direct sales shops; 1 production inputs center; 1 farm machinery center; 1 travel center; 1 festival hall; 1 hall for the aged and various meetings; and 1 hall for the funeral services.

It has got the following three subsidiary companies: JA day service center Hadano (day care center business for the aged); the cooperative consulting Hadano (home construction, consulting business on legal affairs, taxes and inheritance); and real estate related businesses. JA invested 100 per cent in these subsidiary companies.

The participants also visited the following facilities of JA Hadano: noodle (soba) making unit run by a women group; wheat milling unit; one branch office of JA; direct sales shop; day care center for elderly people (55 volunteers are working at the day care center); and funeral service center. JA is making a good profit from the funeral service center.

JA attaches much importance to member-cooperative close-knit relationship more than anything. For that purpose, member education is actively conducted under the slogan of the three symbiosis campaign. JA adopted the general meeting instead of general representative meeting which is rare in Japan. Thus members' bond with JA is relatively very strong.

With the progress of urbanization, JA is being called for to involve non-farmer residents in the cooperative business activities. Thus JA is transforming itself to the community-based regional cooperative rather than continue as agricultural cooperative. In fact, the main sources of income of the JA now depend largely on two businesses, such as credit and insurance. On top of these phenomena, JA increasingly is now intensifying social-welfare activities like nursing care for the aged in response to the aging society.

### **JA Kanagawa Seisho**

The JA Kanagawa Seisho has got the largest operational area in Kanagawa Prefecture covering 2 cities and 8 towns. There are 14 JAs in this prefecture. This JA was established in 2007 by amalgamating several JAs including JA Odawara. At present, it has got 28,232 members (10,187 regular and 18,045 associate). It has got 41 directors and 608 employees (male 354 and female 254). Major crops grown in this area are paddy, orange, tea and plum.

The business activities of the JA for the year 2009 are as follows: savings-366 billion; loan-78 billion; mutual insurance-1,437 billion; marketing-2.4 billion; and purchasing-4.3 billion yen. The current surplus is 658 million yen. Its share capital is 2.6 billion yen.

The JA has got the following facilities: 34 branches; 6 office cum economic centers; 4 petroleum stations; 5 grading centers; 2 cold storages; 2 direct sales shops; and 2 day care centers.

Just like JA Hadano, it has got the following three subsidiary companies: JA Kanagawa Seisho Real Estate Company; JA Kanagawa Seisho Funeral Service Center (funeral ceremony service); and Kanagawa Prefecture Agriculture Cooperative Tea Center (production and sale of green tea).

### **JA Kanagawa Seisho Women's Association**

The JA Kanagawa Seisho Women's Association has got 1,046 members ranging from 35 to 90 years old in 28 chapters. Their main problem is aging of its members. Therefore, it is trying to establish fresh young group to attract new members below 40 years. It is also encouraging establishing specialized groups from this year to promote merchandise and branding of product development. It is doing many welfare and educational/cultural activities for its members. It also promotes the 'Chisan-Chisho Campaign' (let's consume locally what's produced locally) and eco-friendly movements.

### **Processing Unit of Umeno Kaori**

The participants visited the processing unit of Umeno Kaori (Fragrance of Plum) run by one of the chapters of the Women's Association. It has got 22 women members who are engaged in cultivating plum. This business was started in 1996 on a small scale. The plums fallen on the ground, broken and small ones are used at this unit. The area of the processing unit is owned by the JA. The sales turnover of last year was 1.5 million yen. The 1<sup>st</sup> quality plum is marketed to wholesale market by the farmers. Although the turnover is not high by the Japanese economic standard, the activities play a role for maintaining close ties between members and also women members and JA.

### **Asadorei Direct Sales Shop**

The Asadorei direct sales shop was started in 2008 by the JA. The main purpose of establishing this direct sales shop was to increase the income of farmers. It has got a total land

area of 4,367 square meters and a floor area of 369 square meters. The total construction cost was 230 million yen and the subsidy from the local government was only 10%. Around 555 member farmers are registered and their agricultural products in the direct sales shop are being sold. On average, 150 farmers bring their produce daily. Around 200 items are traded here. It has got 4 regular employees of JA and 28 part-time employees who work on a rotational basis. Around 1,600 customers visit this shop daily. On week-ends and holidays the number of customers visiting this shop is almost double. The average daily sale is 2.4 million yen. The sales turnover of last year was 660 million yen. The commission of JA is 15% on agricultural products and 20% on handicraft items. This kind of direct sales shop is now gaining its popularity in Japan from both consumers and producers as an emerging new sales outlet different from sales by conventional wholesale market system.

## **Farmers Market**

The Kanagawa City Farmers Market was started by 40 poor farmers in 1930 before establishment of JA. Its main purpose was to increase the income. They got the inspiration from a foreign missionary who told them to sell their produce directly and fix the prices by themselves. They rent land and constructed the building by themselves and it is still operating from the same building. The 40 farmers are divided into four groups (10 each) for the day to day operation on a rotational basis. No outsider is employed at this shop. Mainly vegetables are sold here. The main business transaction is undertaken in the morning. Some kind of vegetables sold here are not available in other super marketers or wholesale markets. This is the unique character of this direct sales shop, tapping so-called "niche market". So some customers like restaurant owners visit this shop from very far away places as far as Tokyo. All decisions are taken by the members. It can be said the success of the group is a strong unity. The annual sales turnover is 60 million yen.

## **Nara Prefecture**

The population is 1.426 million. It has got 7 districts and 39 municipalities. Nara Prefecture is 78.5 km from east to west and 103.6 km from north to south. The prefecture is covered by mountains and forests for most of its part (80%), leaving only an inhabitable area of 851 sq. km - smallest of the 47 prefectures of Japan. The climate of Nara Prefecture is generally warm, while there are important differences between the north-western basin area and the rest of the prefecture, that is, mountainous area.

Spring and fall are both temperate and beautiful. The mountainous region of Yoshino has been popular both historically and presently for its beautiful cherry blossoms in the spring. In the fall, the southern mountains are equally beautiful with changing of the oak trees.

Approximately 60% of the prefecture's area is covered by forest. Nara's main industries are textiles, timber and lumber, plastic molding, pharmaceuticals, fur and leather. Nara occupies an important position in history as it was the location of Japan's first state.

This long history means that Nara is also the home of several world heritage sites, such as Todaiji Temple and Horyuji Temple. The Prefecture also has numerous Buddhist works of art and architecture that have been classified as national treasures or important cultural assets. Nara Heijo-kyo is now a world heritage site and will soon celebrate the 1300th anniversary of its founding. Nara has been promoting local development with the key words of "history", "culture" and "friendship exchange", anticipating the next 100 years or even 1,000 years to come.



## **JA Nara Ken**

There is only one JA in Nara Prefecture. The JA Nara Ken was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999 by amalgamating 42 other JAs. The JA has got a unique character. It has introduced business management commission. The commission consists of 14 persons elected by the general representative meeting. Out of 14, two are women. The board of directors, numbering 16, is appointed by the commission. The total number of employees is 1,841 (male-1,289 and female-552). The total number of members is 94,800 (53,319 regular members and 41,481 associate members). The number of women members is 19,134.

Only 8% of the land is available for cultivation. The main commodities handled by the JA are persimmon, pears, strawberries, tomato, rice, egg plants, potato, barley, chestnuts, soybeans, lady fingers, green tea, flowers, dairy farming, etc.

The business turnover of the JA for the year 2009 is as follows: paid up share capital-9.3 billion yen; credit business-1.3 trillion yen; mutual insurance-358 billion yen; purchasing business-17.9 billion; marketing business-17.8 billion yen; and business profit-4.3 billion yen. It pays rather high dividend of 3% to the farmers on their share capital compared to other JAs in rural prefectures.

The JA has got two subsidiaries – Nara JA services and Yamato green tea sale – and one affiliated company – A Coop Kinki (cooperative store management). The share of JA in the affiliated company is 40%.

The JA has got the following facilities: branches-100; sub-branches-4; sales centre for provision of loans; farm guidance and distribution center-19; stores; funeral ceremony service center; nursery centers; country elevators; rice center; wheat drying center; collection and shipment center; processing center; gas supply center; distribution center; livestock complex; and training center.

## **JA Nara Ken Women's Association**

The establishment of women's associations started since 1947 in Japan. Its main objective during 1960-1970 was to improve the living standard of rural women. The JA and Women's Association are complementary to each other.

The objectives of the JA Women's Association are: (a) Cooperate with each other to protect women's rights and improve social and economical status of rural women; (b) Promote participation of women in JA's activities so as to reflect the voices of women; and (c) Create comfortable local communities with affluence, keep close contact with each other and promote mutual help through cooperative activities involving women.

Its priority activities to be implemented are: activities for changing agriculture and living; activities for protecting food and regional communities; activities for activating organizations; and various activities of the women's associations.

The JA Nara Ken Women's Association has got 9,041 members in six zones. Its main source of income is as follows: membership fee; participation fee; on the spot sale; and small subsidy from local government. The JA also contributes some funds to the Women's Association annually from its profit. The budget for the year 2010 is 162.832 million yen. The leader of JA Nara Ken Women's Association represents one of the board members at the national level JA Women's Association Council.

It also actively promotes the 'Chisan-Chisho Campaign' (let's consume locally what's produced locally); mutual aid program; and tackling of global warming issue.

### **Nishi Yoshino Persimmon Grading Center**

The Nishi Yoshino Persimmon Grading Centre run by JA Nara Ken was established in 1998. It has got a total area of 1.7 ha, located in a remote hilly area. The total construction cost was 2 billion yen, 50% of which was subsidized by the governments. Presently it has got 60 part-time employees. The number of part time employees will go up to 120 in peak season. The persimmon is packed in 7 kg boxes. 150 full time farmers and 150 part time farmers bring their fruits to the grading centre. The total shipment in a year is 12,000 tons. 97% of the products are marketed to whole sale market and the balance 3% to direct sale shops. The persimmons are graded according to size, first manually and then by automatic machine according to its size and sweetness. The JA charges 2.5% of the total sales amount from the farmers for using its facilities. Cooling storage is required to retain freshness of the product and realized a "cold chain system" for fresh product shipment, with air conditioned trucks. The annual turnover of the grading centre was 2.8 billion yen.

### **Visit to Farmer's House**

Mr. Kashiuzuka is the only regular member in this area. He has got only 1 ha of paddy field from which he gets 12.5 tons of rice. He has also got rice milling centre and a poultry farm (about 8,000 chickens). His rice milling centre is located in the paddy producing area. Farmers in the area bring their paddy to his centre for husking. He is covering 70 ha of paddy field entrusted from other farmers in the area. The total construction cost of the rice milling centre was 40 million yen. He owns poultry farm which is 50 years old. Chicken feeding is done automatically by machine. His annual gross income is 30 million yen. He has got one son and two daughters. His wife assists him in his business.

### **Makino Direct Sales Shop**

The JA Nara Ken Makino direct sales shop was started in 1998 and later expanded in 2007. It has got a floor area of 280 square meters. 340 member farmers are registered and selling their agricultural products in the direct sales shop. On average, 100 farmers bring their produce to the shop. It has got one fulltime employee and seven part-time employees. 120 items are traded in this shop. Mostly local products are sold here. The main item sold here is flowers for different occasions. Around 600 customers visit this shop daily. On week-ends and holidays the number of customers visiting this shop is around 1,200. The average daily sale is 800,000 yen. The members have to pay a commission of 15% to the JA for using its facilities.

30,000 yen was collected from each member at the time of registration for up-keeping the facilities at the shop. This amount is not refundable. The members bring their products on their own and sell them in the shop. The prices are decided by the members. The members are responsible for the quality of the products. The details of all the members are registered. The sale proceeds are instantly credited to farmers account.

### **Oyodo Roadside Station**

Roadside Stations (michi-no-eki) are facilities that provide a comfortable rest area for travelers and a variety of quality services by putting creative ideas from the local community into action. The first roadside station was registered in April 1993. At present there are 743 roadside stations registered in Japan.

Oyodo Roadside Station is owned by the local government. It is a medium sized roadside station. Among others, it has got a direct sales shop and a farmers' market.

Roadside stations fundamentally perform three basic functions. Firstly, they provide rest areas for people who are travelling by car, which include sanitary rest room facilities and parking at any time. Secondly, they serve as a source of local information for both travelers and the residents. Thirdly, they help local communities to cooperative with one another and also with outside communities, as a result, to deepen their development.

The main characteristics of roadside stations are: (a) attracting people; (b) creating employment and increasing income; (c) discovery of local resources and creation of added value; (d) human resource development; and (e) empowerment of female farmers.

### **Katujou Direct Sales Shop**

The JA Nara Ken Katujou direct sales shop was started in 1993. The purpose of establishing this direct sales shop was (a) to promote mutual friendship between producers and consumers; (b) to promote marketing of fresh and suitable agricultural products; and (c) to increase mutual benefits of producers and consumers. It has got a total area of 117.325 square meters. The sales floor area is 70 square meters. Around 400 member farmers are registered and selling their agricultural products in the direct sales shop. On average, 60 farmers bring their produce. It has got six part-time employees on a rotational basis. The main item sold here are vegetables, fruits, grains, eggs, flowers, tea, and agricultural processed products. Around 300 customers visit this shop daily. On week-ends and holidays the number of customers visiting this shop is around 500. The average daily sale is 300,000 to 400,000 yen.

The members bring their products on their own and sell them in the shop. The prices are decided by the members. The members are responsible for the quality of the products. The details of all the members are registered. The sale proceeds are instantly credited to farmers account.

### **Milk Processing Unit**

Ms. Kuniko Takamatu started her milk processing business in 1996 on a small scale with her own money. She started with yogurt and later expanded to ice cream, cheese and butter making. At present she raises 40 cows together with her husband and gets 800 liters of milk per day. 35 varieties of ice creams are made by her unit. She sells her products to 20 outlets including direct sales shop, department stores and road side stations. She has got 8 part-time employees. She is also running a restaurant where she sells light meals like pizza using her dairy products. She is a member of JA Nara Ken Women's Association and visited some foreign countries. On average, 200 to 300 customers visit her place daily. However, not many customers come in winter season. Her annual turnover is 30 million yen. She demonstrated the primitive way of butter making to the participants. She has got one son and one daughter. Her husband assists her very much in the business activities.

She explained that in establishing this Unit, she got some useful advice from concerned institutions and above all the local extension center and also humbly boasted that the success of her business was mainly attributed to a strong sense of motivation and determination to carry through her dairy processing project at the initiation stage.

## **JA Zen-Noh Agricultural R&D Center**

The participants visited the JA Zen-Noh Agricultural Research and Development Centre at Kanagawa Prefecture on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The Centre was established in 1962. It moved to the present building in July 2010. The total land area of the present premises is 27,440 square meter. It has got the following five departments: agricultural planning and research and development; fertiliser and pesticide; agricultural materials, machinery and facilities; fuel; and consumer goods.

The Zen-Noh is responsible for the marketing and supply business of the JA Group and builds structures that make efficient use of various information, technologies and goods related to marketing and supply. It is responsible for supplying safe and reliable food products to consumers all over Japan, thereby meeting their demands.

The Agricultural Planning and Research and Development Centre conduct testing and research in all areas of agriculture and contribute to the establishment of improved agri-business technology. The research activities are conducted from the perspectives of both producers and consumers and are closely linked with the stable supply of safe and reliable agricultural products at reasonable costs.

Over 130,000 JA staff members have participated in the trainings conducted by the Centre since its inception. The Centre is seen more and more as a focal point for transmitting technological information to both JA group and consumers. There are also a lot of visitors coming from both in and out of the country.

## SECTION - V

### A Summary of Country Reports

#### **Cambodia**

*Some of the basic indicators of Cambodia are as follows: Population-14.6 million; Total land area-181,035 sq.km; Total cultivable land area-3 million hectares; Total irrigated land area-250,000 hectares; Per capita income-US\$ 270; Total number of cooperatives-188; Membership-19,825. The main agricultural products are: rice, maize, cassava, mung bean, and soybean.*

Cambodia is one of the small countries in South East Asia, located in the Southwestern part of the Indochina peninsula. To the west the country is bordered by Thailand, Laos to the north, to the east by Vietnam, and with the water of the Gulf of Siam off the southern beaches. Cambodia has a population of 14.6 million (52% female and 48% male), 24 provinces, 183 districts, 1,609 communes, and 13,306 villages. Phnom Penh is the main capital city of Cambodia.

Cambodia is an agrarian country where rural people's livelihood depends heavily on agriculture. 85 percent of the total population lives in rural areas. Among 85 percent of rural people, there are about 76 percent of people engaging in farming. Agriculture plays an important role in contributing to the national economy and employment. Although agriculture sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined from 40% to 28.5% in 2007 compared to the previous years, it is still the back bone of national economy and rural people's livelihood. Notably, other sectors such as industry and services increased their contribution to GDP significantly after the country changed its economic management system from centrally planned economy to free market economy.

Agriculture consists of certain major sectors including forestry, fisheries, crops, and livestock. Geographically, Cambodia still has huge potential to improve agricultural production since Cambodia has productive natural bases such as tropical climate, vast cultivatable land, natural reservoirs, rivers, streams, and so on. A range of agro-ecological zones is suited to a wide variety of crops and livestock production, and those areas are rich in biological resources. In addition, Agricultural lands in the western part of country are rich in nutrients for rice crops. Those production areas used to produce rice which could support Cambodian population throughout the country and also exported rice to international market in 1960s.

In relation to marketing system in Cambodia, there are certain marketing channels varying from place to place depending on their real situation. In the marketing process, there are numerous key actors involved in the marketing process, such as input suppliers, producers, collectors/middlemen, wholesale markets, retailers and consumers. In the rural areas, some consigned assembles closely connected with a relatively large scale millers near production areas, small scale village assembles, commercial millers, custom millers, local assembles at the center/towns of major producing provinces, wholesaler, retailers ranging from modern types of supper and hypermarket to small-scale crate grandma on the road side as well as peddlers. Notably, in general, the main problems for marketing issues in Cambodia consist of too many kinds of marketing middlemen who cannot efficiently perform their specialized activities due to a pettiness of business, limited financial resources, and low skills of specialization. Farmers/producers have little rights to negotiate with middleman due to narrow market competition opportunities. In many cases, farmers are considered as price takers.

*Status of Women:* Women in Cambodia play a very important role in both increasing of family and national economy. The Cambodian Constitution states that men and women are equal. The royal government of Cambodia is fully aware that women constitute the sustainable development of the country. The first Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan specifically recognizes the role women play and the contributions they make to the economic, social and political development in the country. The single most important long-term objective of the Government is poverty eradication. In this respect, investing in women is recognized as the most productive strategy in Cambodia.

Few households of women have access to modern agricultural implements, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, animal health vaccine, transport, or a farmer-centered extension system. The NGOs provide some skills training and market information. Women participate in almost all phases of agricultural production. There is no specific type of women cooperatives in Cambodia.

The activities performed by rural women are: rice cultivation, crops cultivation, vegetable home gardening, silk production, animal husbandry, fish pound raising, and agro-marketing. Women work an average of 25 to 45 per cent more time than men do each day. Cambodian women effectively join into the formation of agricultural cooperatives through becoming board of directors and auditors. The ratio of women holding senior position in cooperatives is not less than 30%. However, at the national level only 10 out of 122 national assembly members are women.

In Cambodia, custom, illiteracy, limited mobility, division of labour and heavy domestic responsibilities restricts women's involvement in extension activities. While NGOs and international organizations have made strides incorporating women into training activities, national extension services still tend to have few female staff and low level of understanding about the role of women in agricultural development. Such new approaches to women's participation in regional reconstruction are being developed and tried. These include designing projects with specific emphasis on the involvement of women with flexible time table that can be adjusted as the requirements and constraints of women become more clearly understood. These approaches concentrate on practices which not only focus on gender, but also lead to some immediate and obvious benefit to women, perhaps reducing the risk of poverty or education of girls.

The Department of Agricultural Extension's organizational structure consists of Director, deputy director, office chiefs, vice office chief and ordinary officers. There are 6 offices including Administration, Planning and inter cooperation, Farming system, Human Resource Development, Education & Media and Farmer Organization which belong to the Department of Agricultural Extension. Adding the mandates provided by the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Department of Agricultural Extension has also been assigned one more essential mandate to promote agricultural cooperatives in Cambodia. Up to now, there are 188 agricultural cooperatives established, and strengthened by the Department of Agricultural Extension which is now under General Department of Agriculture.

Although the Cambodian Royal government is undertaking one village one product approach which adopt four principles: (1) Encouraging modes of production suited to village contexts and market needs, (2) Facilitation and encouraging in appropriate market identification, Financing, Technology Transfer and input supply, (3) Provision of human resource development and training in management and (4) Facilitating the creation of Agriculture cooperatives to enable stable and remunerative product prices to assist individual farmers, farmer groups, farmer associations and agricultural cooperative, they could not compete with specialized market agents deriving from their weak points.

## Laos

*Some of the basic indicators of Laos are as follows: Population-6.128 million; Land Area-236,800 sq. km out of which 20% is cultivable and 80% is mountainous; Per capita income-US\$ 900. Almost 80% of the poor live in rural areas and their main productive activity is subsistence farming. The industry sector, which contributes less than 22% to GDP, are largely composed of state-owned enterprise which are subsidised by the government. The main agricultural products are: rice, maize, sweet corn, soybeans, mung bean, potatoes, cassava, taro, tea, coffee, yam bean, job tear and sugarcane.*

The Laos is a least developed country (LDC) and as such is considered by the international community to be one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty is particularly widespread in rural areas, especially in Northern provinces and among ethnic groups inhabiting remote areas, the uneducated and female household members.

The government of Laos – one of the few remaining official communist states – began decentralizing control and encouraging private enterprise in 1986. Reform efforts subsequently slowed. The GDP growth rate was 7.2% per year.

Agriculture is the principal economic sector in Laos, with about 80% of the population engaged in rice cultivation as the primary activity, as well as in livestock, fishery and forestry activities. Other crops grown for consumption or export include maize, soybeans, sweet potatoes, cassava, taro, coffee, peanuts, tobacco, cotton, job tear and sugarcane. The export commodities are wood products, garments, electricity, coffee and tin. The import commodities are machinery and equipment, vehicles and fuel. Like in all developing countries, the cooperative in Lao had been initiated by the government with the objective to use cooperatives as tools to improve the livelihood and socio-economic condition of small farmers. The cooperatives which existed in Laos in 1970 prior to the Communist Pathetic Laos took control of the government in 1975. After 1975, all cooperatives, including agricultural cooperatives, farmers' groups and people's organization had been dissolved as well as cooperative law, decree and acts. Government has put more emphasis on development of only youth, Laos Federation of Trade Union and Laos Front National Construction and gives low priority to rehabilitate agricultural and other cooperatives.

The Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Service Office is a government organization at municipal level and technical supervision of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) had equal status with the Agriculture and Forestry Service Office. Agriculture and Forestry Extension Centre is one of the technical promotion section that belongs to Agriculture and Forestry Service of Vientiane capital including administration office, agriculture section, irrigation section, livestock section and forestry section.

Agriculture and Forestry Service Office of Luang Prabang (PAFO) is a provincial technical body of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry based in Luang Prabang province. Its policy is focused on rice production. The PAFO consists of 6 sections, 2 working units and 1 administration office. Apart from the above, there are 12 district agriculture and forestry offices.

During the period 1975-85, the agriculture and forestry sector received high priority in the nation's socio-economic development. State farmers and cooperatives were pushed to emerge with expectation to modernize and increase agricultural production rapidly and also to abolish the patterns of dispersed small farm holding. Price and distribution of commodities were substantially controlled by the State.

Now in Laos there is no cooperative, but there are diversified scale farmers production groups of agriculture, livestock and animal group and women credit saving group. These groups



operate independently. In order to consolidate these small groups into a cooperative, there is a need to educate government officials who are capable of providing guidance for the organization process and for operation of agricultural cooperative, there is a need to train adequate number of agricultural extension workers.

*Status of women:* Women play an important role in economic sector especially in agriculture production-54%, industry and handicrafts-57%, and trade and service-41%. Women in rural areas join Lao Women Union (LWU) which is a mass organization at district and village level. They are also seen as district governor, head of village and the village committee member or head of production groups.

Besides doing the household work, women are also involved both in agriculture and livestock production for income generation and consumption of their families.

Women in the rural areas mostly join the farmer group together with men. Their educational background is very limited. According to the work load, they have no time to join the training course, especially the technical training to improve the productivity of their own production. Most of their products are sold as raw materials. Therefore, there are very rare that we can see the enterprise run by rural women. Some of them have been trained in processing, entrepreneurship, micro finance through LWU, extension system and development project, but they cannot apply it due to lack of funds.

The National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) were established in 1999 in order to consolidate agriculture and forestry research activities within the country and develop a coordinated national agriculture and forestry research system. It aims to contribute to the goals of the government by focusing on adaptive research to overcome specific problems related to agriculture and forestry production and causing degradation of natural resources. It is comprised of 3 divisions and 11 research centers located in and around Laos.

NAFRI plays a crucial role in the establishment of cooperative by providing feedback on the implementation of the law and understanding the issues arising in the establishment of cooperatives at the local level. Gender has been identified as a key issue as women are often the main farmers in a family and often control decisions about agricultural production. However, having women play a more active role in cooperative management and leadership has been a challenge. It would like to better promote women farmers and leaders within cooperatives.

The National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service (NAFES) were established in 2001 to manage public extension and technical service by establishing production groups contributing to the development and growth of agriculture and forestry sector.

At present there are eight types of farmer groups in Laos. They are: agricultural production group; water user group; community forest group; saving/revolving group; livestock group; organic vegetable group; organic rice group; and coffee group. Agricultural producer groups are in an initial stage of development to form cooperatives.

The MAF is currently placing greater emphasis on the development and promotion of a cooperative system in Laos in order to stimulate farmers to produce for the market and work directly with the private sector. A new farmer cooperative law is currently being implemented and cooperatives are starting to be established across the country.

## Mongolia

*Some of the basic indicators of Mongolia are as follows: Population-2.9 million; Land area-1.564 million sq. km.; Cultivated area-130,173 ha; Share of agriculture in GDP-20.6%; Average land holding-1.5 to 2 ha; Total number of cooperatives of all type-1,722; Membership-240,500; per capita income-US\$ 2,100. The main agricultural products are: corn, wheat, barley, potato, vegetables, tomato, watermelon, sea-buckthorn and fodder crops.*

Number of livestock is 43.3 million – 18.4 million sheep, 19.9 million goats, 2.5 million cows, 2.1 million horses and 265.4 thousand camels. About 40% of total labour force of the country is engaged in the animal husbandry and animal originated products form around one-fourth of the total export income.

The area equipped for irrigation is about 57,000 ha, of which 43,000 ha is under highly mechanised sprinkler system and about 13,900 ha is covered by surface irrigation systems. However, only 16,674 ha of the sprinkler irrigation area were operational in 1994.

Fertiliser use which had averaged about 80,000 tons per annum during the 1980s dropped to almost zero for wheat at the present time, and the corresponding average yields dropped to 650 kg/ha grain. More than half of all crop production is produced in rural areas as organic products, simply because pesticides and mineral fertilisers are rarely used.

90% of farm machinery are imported ones and 80% of the agricultural tasks are fully and semi-mechanised at present. However, about 65% of the tractors and crop harvests have been operating for more than 15 years.

Warehousing is very problematic issue for cooperatives and farmers sell their products in production season with lower price because of lack of warehouses.

There are six main national level cooperative organisations and 1,716 primary cooperatives and it has 240,500 members. 90% of the cooperatives are single purpose cooperatives. Cooperatives sale income was – from livestock 42%, trading 28%, crop production 16% and others 14%.

*Status of women:* 51.1% of the population is women. 50.7% of the employed work force is also women. 37.4% of the population lives in the rural area conducting nomadic way of lifestyle. The transmission period which started from the 1990s is influenced to increase the unemployment in women due to the massive closure of the state owned factories where women were the majority of the work force.

Women's employment rate in the state service organisation is 71.7% and in the political positions are 22%. It has always been the lower rate in the seats of the Parliament. However, 16.2% of the Chairman of Province Citizens Representatives' meetings and 30.2% of their representatives are women.

Mongolia has joined the main international gender equality and women rights conventions. The Government is implementing the national program for gender equality since 2002 and also has successfully completed implementation of the program for empowerment of women during 1996-2002 in order to fulfil the resolutions of the 4<sup>th</sup> world forum for women. Since the end of 20<sup>th</sup> century, women employment rate in the sectors such as service, education, social welfare and finance is predominant. Women's involvement in the employment support services is also high as participating in the vocational trainings and recruitments.

The labour of the rural women is hard and their pay rate is low and unstable. It has got 349,000 herders of which 161,000 are women and in the recent frequent natural disasters, herders are losing their source of living as nomadic livestock breeding is dependent on the climate.

Women's development in the region depends on improving the situation of rural communities. At present there are many women organisations promoting social welfare and community services. The government has adopted many policies and progressive guidelines for women such as improve and train professionals, increase education, implement well legislations.

The challenges faced by the women are (a) limited access to the market as mainly they live in the remote areas, far from the villages and towns; (b) natural disasters and hard climate influence to the household production; (c) agricultural products prices are low and unlimited working hours; and (d) not enough involvement in social insurance and other social services.

The National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC) and the Mongolian Cooperatives' Training and Information Centre (MCTIC) conduct all kinds of training for its members and it has 17 branch training centres in provinces.

The National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC) is a non-governmental organisation which was formerly known as The Supreme Council of Agricultural Cooperatives (founded in 1967) until re-organised in 1992. NAMAC develops agricultural cooperatives; protects the interests of coops and member entities; assists and promotes efficient member production and service; represents agricultural coops with government and NGOs; and expands foreign collaboration. They help ensure that rural people have secure sources of food and consumer commodities.

As of 2009, NAMAC has got 19 branch associations in 19 provinces, 7 secondary cooperatives and 360 primary cooperatives engaged in multipurpose operations in 270 villages throughout the country.

The Bulgan Province Association of Agricultural Cooperatives re-organised in March 1993 is a member-oriented non-governmental organisation, united on the voluntary basis with the purpose to protect the common interests of its members, to define their development prospects, to support their business and assist and provide methodical advises.

Gobi-Altai Province Association of Agricultural Cooperatives was founded in 1993 and at present represents its 21 member primary cooperatives in the province and nationwide. The supreme governing body is all members general meeting and its session is held once year.

## **Myanmar**

*Some of the basic indicators of Myanmar are as follows: Total population-57.5 million; Total land area-67.659 million ha; Share of agriculture to GDP: 36.6%; Total cultivable land-11.6 million ha; Average size of holding-5.8 acres; Total number of primary cooperatives-12,712; Total cooperative membership-2.2 million; Per Capita Income-US\$ 507. The main agricultural products are: paddy, sugarcane, long-staple cotton, maize, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, black gram, green gram and pigeon peas.*

Agriculture plays a major role in the economy of Myanmar. In fact, it is the backbone of the Myanmar economy. The agriculture sector contributes 36.6 per cent of GDP; 13.3% of total export earnings; and employs 62 per cent of the labour force. The State has laid down (12) political, economic and social objectives and one of the major economic objectives is to base the all round development of the economy on agriculture.

*Status of Women:* Myanmar women enjoy equal rights with men in political, economic, administrative, judicial and social spheres. There is no discrimination between men and women. Husband and wife have equal property rights as they share the responsibility of their family, and son and daughter have equal status in the family. Women retain their maiden name after marriage. Widows and divorced women have the right to remarry.

Most of the rural women are engaged in farming and off-farm activities, such as, cotton ginning, weaving and bamboo weaving for baskets, trays, cheroot rolling, clay and glazed pots making and setting up grocery shops; and the processing of agricultural, horticultural and aqua-cultural products, such as, apple drying, wine making, citrus, juices, jams, fish chips, etc. There are also beautiful and unique traditional handicrafts activities by women.

The percentage of women members of Executive Committee is 15% for 12,712 societies. There are 200 women-headed, women chairperson societies. Board of members and employees of the all-women cooperative societies are all women. Women cooperative organizations are engaged in functions such as production of agricultural products, handicraft and other income generating activities, micro-financing and HIV/AIDS prevention and counseling activities.

The ratio of women holding senior positions in Departments under the Ministry of Cooperatives is nearly 50 per cent. The women are holding positions up to Director level and are also in all levels of the organization.

At present there are many women organizations in Myanmar promoting social welfare and community services. The prominent organizations are Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Women Sports Federation, Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, and Myanmar National committee for Women's Affairs. These organizations are women NGOs functioning from the very top of the Government hierarchy down to the grass-roots levels with the consent and blessing of the State. In addition, there are 16 all women cooperative societies registered in Myanmar. They are engaged in activities such as child day care centre, micro-finance, women training, sales of clothes and apparels, preserved food, health care, HIV/AIDS prevention, care and counseling and the plantation of oil palm.

The Cooperative Movement in Myanmar was introduced in 1904 in accordance with the Indian Cooperative Societies' Act. The first agricultural credit cooperative was registered in January 1905. After independence in 1948, two cooperative laws were enacted in 1956 and 1970 respectively. The 1970 cooperative law was amended in December 1992 in line with the new market-oriented economic policies of the country. The new law promulgates a four-tier system, with the primaries at the grass root level, the syndicate at the secondary level; union at the tertiary level and the Central Cooperative Society [CCS] at the apex.

*The CCS is the national spokesman organisation of the Cooperative Movement and has been a member of the ICA since 1993. The CCS has a total membership of 358 (20 unions and 338 federations). The CCS is engaged in business and cooperative promotional activities. It also carries out cooperative education and training activities in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Development. The primaries are multipurpose in character and provide credit, input supply and marketing of member's produce in addition to allied services. Owning and operating processing facilities like rice mills, oil expellers, condensed milk manufacturing, salt plants, textile mills and other workshops, do value adding. Rice and rice products, beans and pulses, maize etc are exported and fertiliser, machineries and other consumer food etc. are imported.*

It directly helps the cooperative farmer-members' societies by supplying inputs such as certified seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides and fungicides, loans, machineries and equipment and

consumers' goods (palm oil). It issues dividend on share and rebate to the farmer-members annually. In the agriculture sector, production of agricultural cooperatives is being given special priority as the economy of Myanmar largely depends on the agricultural production which makes favourable impact on the development of national economy.

The Golden Plain Agricultural Products Cooperative Limited was established on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2004 with the objective of providing agriculture and livestock consultancy services and to produce various agriculture and livestock related value added products. Its first business launch was the production of water hyacinth furniture and home decoration items. Since inception it has provided a range of services to both local and international non-governmental organizations. Since December 2007, it has been a consultant to Food Security Working Group – network formed by 25 NGOs. Its reputation in community development activities is majoring on capacity building programs of agriculture, livestock and livelihood improvement sectors. Since 2005 it has conducted a total of 119 training programs which can be categorized into seven types.

## **Sri Lanka**

*Some of the basic indicators of Sri Lanka are as follows: Total population-20.45 million; Total land area-65,610 sq. km; Total cultivable land-1.943 million ha; Farm population-32.6%; Average land holding is 1.35 ha; Total number of cooperatives 14,558; Total co-operative membership 7 million; Per capita income- US\$ 1025; The main agricultural products are: paddy, tea, coconut, rubber, spices, maize, fruits and vegetables.*

Agriculture is the most important sector of Sri Lankan economy. It gives employment to at least 32.6% of the economical active population with high degree of subsistence farming. Paddy, coconut, tea, rubber, spices, roots, maize, fruits and vegetables are the principal agricultural products. Tea, rubber and coconuts are large-scale plantations and are export crops. Despite various efforts, Sri Lanka's agriculture continues to suffer from natural shocks, technology gaps, low investment, and inadequate availability of quality inputs, inadequate funding, transportation problems, marketing problems and the lack of a consistent set of trade and tariff policies.

Since the beginning of the Movement in 1906, agricultural cooperatives have played a major role. The first credit cooperative society was established in 1911. In 1972, existing 955 multipurpose cooperatives were amalgamated into 372 stronger and more viable multipurpose societies and today 385 multipurpose co-operatives are functioning. These societies provide production credit through their rural banks, and supply inputs such as fertilisers and in some cases loans for land preparation etc. Majority of these societies is incurring losses in their business operations. Coconut and rubber producer's cooperative societies are mainly involved in processing and marketing their products and have formed their own apex organisations for exporting their products. These societies also provide credit facilities, fertilisers, management advisory services etc.

*Status of Women:* The situation of women in Sri Lanka has been influenced by patriarchal values embedded in traditional, colonial and post independence societies, by relatively liberal traditional laws and gender inequality related in the legal system, and by norms introduced during the British colonial administration. In the years following colonial rules, Sri Lanka policy-makers introduced a social policy package of free health and education services and subsidised food, which dramatically improved women's quality of life. Compared to the rest of South Asia, Sri Lankan women were very well off, enjoying high life expectancy (75 years), nearly universal literacy, and access to economic opportunities, which are nearly unmatched in the rest of the sub-continent. According to 1994 census, 50.7% of the population were women and the female literacy level in 2005 was 90.6%.

Majority of rural population (72%) are women who have engaged in agricultural industry, government factory, self-employment and domestic activities. Women are actively involved in agricultural production. Women's contribution to subsistence production (income-generating activities) is counted as unpaid family work. In fact 56% of the women work as unpaid family workers. Rural women's participation in post harvest operations is very high. They constitute more than 50% of the total work force involved in post harvest operations. They perform various tasks, such as, harvesting, cleaning, drying, grain storage, etc. Parboiling of paddy is exclusively women's work. Women play an important role in agriculture and equitable access to productive resources.

The cooperative women representation in decision-making level is approximately 2%, district and regional level it is 15%, and, at society level it is 50%. The most significant achievement has been the formulation of a women's charter by representatives of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) and other key ministries, as well as women's organisations who have been lobbying over the year on critical issues pertaining to women.

The National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka [NCC], the apex cooperative organisation, is an umbrella organisation of the entire Movement. As a member of the ICA, the NCC acts as the spokesman of the Movement both within and outside the country. The NCC carries out education and training activities through its district councils, education centres and regional training centres. The National Institute of Cooperative Development, Polgolla, a government institution, has been incorporated as International Co-operative Training Institute and Centre for Human Resources Development to serve as an institute for education and training. The NCC offers mainly two training programmes – Co-operative General Certificate Course and Co-operative National Higher Course.

The Ratnapura District Council was established in 1989. Since then the Council has undertaken many projects to develop the rural areas. The Council is a subsidiary of the cooperative movement which comprises the following: 13 cooperative societies; 36 sanasa societies; 1 fisheries society; 1 rural bank union; 1 agricultural society; 1 sanasa union and 4 other societies. The objective of the Union is to function as a training centre targeting the development of the cooperative leaders and employees.

The Hewagam Koralaye (West) Multipurpose Cooperative Society was established in 1972. Its main objective is to serve the rural community to be independent. It has got 33,000 members and 583 employees. It has got the following units: consumer unit; financial unit; agriculture unit; and production unit. The society offers several benefits to its members.

## **Vietnam**

*Some of the basic indicators of Vietnam are as follows: Total population-86.025 million; Total land area-331,000 sq. km; Share of agriculture in GDP-13.85%; Total cooperatives-18,200; Total membership-6.9 million; Per capita income-US\$ 648. The main agricultural products are: rice, sweet potatoes, pepper, coffee, tea, rubber and many kinds of fruits and marine products.*

Vietnam is an agricultural country as the population living in the rural area accounts for about 70%, among this farmers account for 70%. The agricultural sector plays an important role in contributing to economic growth in Vietnam. Total land available for agriculture is 249,970 sq. km and accounted for 32% of the total national land fund, land holding-64% with a farm population of 70%.

In the year 2009, the average productivity of rice was 63.6 quintal per hectare – rice production reached 38.9 million tons. Rice is the main product of Vietnamese agricultural sector followed by plants and cattle can be considered of high economic value. Other main crops include maize, sweet potatoes, cassava, potatoes, soybean, peanuts, rubber and fruits and vegetables, tea.

*Status of Women:* Vietnam population is still unbalanced with 51.8% female and 49.2% male. The long period of war and economic migration has produced a big ratio of death in adult men, especially in the age group of 35 to 64 in which there are 117 women per 100 men.

70% of the household's income comes from women, mainly on farm production and livestock. 53% of the farming population is female and 73% of these women are employed in the agricultural sector. In addition, women are involved in cooperative business, handicrafts production and trade.

Women are involved in various kinds of agricultural production. In rice cultivation, women are increasingly involved in all stages due to lack of men labour. 65% of the forestry workers are women. Women are involved in daily feeding such as gathering grass and manure and feeding fish by rice barn. Mainly women are involved in small scale processing, fish sauce production and trading of fish. Women actively participate in raising cows, buffaloes, pig, poultry and goats. Livestock is a lucrative source of additional income for women.

In renovation trend, Vietnamese women have adapted to renewal of labour and jobs allocation, actively accessed to new jobs, improved labour skills, knowledge on production, management abilities, applied sciences and technologies and advance know-how to production.

In recent years, Vietnam has adopted many policies and progressive guidelines for women, such as reforms on thoughts or campaign for women, implement well legislations, equal on gender policies, improve and train professionals, increase education.

However, for renovation requirement of the country, to implement modernisation, industrialisation, women in rural areas who participate in agriculture have met a lot of obstructions. The health care for them has not been paid adequate attention. Women seldom have conditions to join technical training, and situation like 'female works – male studies' still exist. Moreover, women in rural areas usually do not understand their legislation right due to their low level of education and lack of information.

The Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) is a social, economic organisation and an apex organisation of Vietnam Cooperative Movement. It is organised at the central and provincial levels. The co-operative enterprises at the primary level are affiliated to the district unions, which, in turn, federate into provincial unions. The cooperative alliance has been established in all 63 provinces and cities through Vietnam.

Up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, there were 18,294 cooperatives and 50 unions of cooperatives of various types and forms of associations in the whole country, including 8,680 agricultural cooperatives, 901 trade and services cooperatives, 3,176 small industrial and handicraft cooperatives, 484 fishery cooperatives, 1,099 transportation cooperatives, 1,026 people's credit fund (credit cooperatives) and other types of cooperatives.

The National Representative Congress, the highest decision-making body of the VCA, meets every five years. The Congress elects the Central Executive Committee, responsible for managing the VCA, meets twice every year. The Central Executive Committee of the third congress currently has 115 members, including representatives from ministries, agencies, social-economic organisations, department directors, organisations, affiliates of VCA and representatives from cooperatives of all sectors.

The Haiphong Cooperative Alliance (HCA) is a socio-economic organisation operating under the cooperative law of Vietnam, regulation of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) and direct management of the People's Committee of Hai Phong city. The HAC is a representative and protector for the legal rights of member units in Hai Phong city. At present HCA has got 354 member cooperatives out of which 178 are agricultural cooperatives.



*Inauguration of the Training Course at IDACA, Tokyo*





*Study visits in Japan*









*Conclusion of the course in Japan*





*Study visits and closing in Vietnam*



## SECTION - VI

### Concluding Session of the Training Course in Japan & Award of Certificates of Participation

The concluding session of the Training Course was held at IDACA on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The session was attended by Mr. Ikuo Ashikari, Managing Director of IDACA; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA – Asia and Pacific; and other senior officers of IDACA.

In his address, **Mr. Sethu Madhavan** congratulated the participants for their cooperation; and IDACA for the successful completion of the Training Course. He also expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the ICA to the Japanese Government, especially MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) for the financial support extended in the conduct of this Training Course. He hoped that the MAFF will continue to support this training course in the future also since this course was very relevant for the women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia.

**Mr. Ashikari** extended congratulations to the participants on successful completion of the training course. He said that in IDACA part of the course, efforts were made to introduce the activities of JA group; the agricultural cooperative movement of Japan and the women's associations. He further said "I sincerely hope that you will make a big leap forward aiming at development of agriculture and revitalisation of rural communities in your respective countries by applying what you accomplished in this training course".

He requested the participants to make use of their experiences gained in Japan and Vietnam to develop some institutional support for women and improve their rural life in their own countries. He wished the participants safe journey to Hanoi where part-II of the training course will take place.

The '**Certificate of Participation**' was awarded to the participants at the end of the concluding session by the institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA).

**Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hao** (Vietnam spoke on behalf of all the participants. She expressed the participants' gratitude to the **ICA** and **IDACA** for organizing the training course from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in Japan and Vietnam. She specially thanked Mr. K. Sethu Madhvan of ICA-AP and Mr. Yukio Abe of IDACA for excellently handling the course. The participants felt that the training course was very relevant for the women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia and hence it should be continued. She also expressed the greatest appreciation of the participants to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan for providing financial support for this Training Course. She hoped that the MAFF would continue to support this training program in the future also for the development of rural women in the developing countries.

She further said "This is the first time most of the participants spending a month away from home, but we all feel it is just a short time for us to learn a lot of knowledge and experiences. Through the lectures at IDACA, the study visits in Kanagawa Prefecture, Nara Prefecture and other cooperative organizations, women associations, we have gained not only the valuable knowledge on cooperative operations but also experienced of many lessons on Japanese traditions and culture".

The participants left Japan for Hanoi on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010, after completion of the part-I of the Training Course.

## SECTION-VII

### Field Study Visits in Vietnam

The field study visits were arranged from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in and around Hanoi by the Vietnam of Cooperative Alliance (VCA).

The participants visited the following cooperatives in Vietnam to get an opportunity to meet some of the progressive women members and observe their participation in the business operations of their agricultural cooperatives.

#### **Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)**

The Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) is a social, economic organisation and an apex organisation of Vietnam Cooperative Movement. It is organised at the central and provincial levels. The co-operative enterprises at the primary level are affiliated to the district unions, which, in turn, federate into provincial unions. The cooperative alliance has been established in all 63 provinces and cities through Vietnam.

Up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, there were 18,294 cooperatives and 50 unions of cooperatives of various types and forms of associations in the whole country, including 8,680 agricultural cooperatives, 901 trade and services cooperatives, 3,176 small industrial and handicraft cooperatives, 484 fishery cooperatives, 1,099 transportation cooperatives, 1,026 people's credit fund (credit cooperatives) and other types of cooperatives.

The National Representative Congress, the highest decision-making body of the VCA, meets every five years. The Congress elects the Central Executive Committee, responsible for managing the VCA, meets twice every year. The Central Executive Committee of the third congress currently has 115 members, including representatives from ministries, agencies, social-economic organisations, department directors, organisations, affiliates of VCA and representatives from cooperatives of all sectors.

Training of co-operative office-bearers and staff is partly carried out through training centres or programmes of provincial cooperative alliances and partly through the Vietnam Institute for Small Enterprise Cooperatives and the College of Management and Technology of the VCA. The Centre of Science, Technology and Environment (COSTE) belongs to VCA, is an organisation developing activities, programmes and development support project, which benefits cooperatives, small and medium-sized enterprises and household business in the fields of enterprises establishment, environment, energy efficiency, science and technology, information, agriculture and forestry, gender, trade etc.

#### **Song Lam Fisheries Production and Services Cooperative**

Song Lam Fisheries Production and Services Cooperative was established on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1971 and is located in Hai Trieu Group, Nghe An Province. In the process of its construction and development, the cooperative was awarded the merit of Hero of Labour by the Government. After the new law was passed, the cooperative adapted itself to market mechanism and also diversified its activities. Based on its good performance in the renovation process, the cooperative was awarded the Order of Labour of the third grade by the President of Vietnam in 2003.



The cooperative has a total membership of 41 persons (23 men and 18 women) and 95 labourers (46 men and 49 women). It has also set up one affiliated company (Song Lam Production and Trading Company Ltd.) and one Vocational Training Center. At present, the total capital of the cooperative is 25.7 billion VND in which 15.9 billion VND is fixed capital and 9.8 billion VND is working capital.

The main production activities of the cooperative include: building new vessels and repairing facilities; civil and industrial construction works; seafood processing; ice production and manufacturing.

The business activities of the cooperative are: supply of petrol, diesel, gas and electricity; joint venture to supply labourers; providing vocational trainings at the primary level; operating two restaurants; and providing general services and trading.

The turnover of the cooperative for the year 2008 was 17,500 million VND which has increased to 25,000 VND in 2009.

To meet the challenges of market economy, the cooperative has expanded and invested in other business sectors such as supplying petrol, diesel, seafood processing, sending crewmen abroad, construction, electricity supplies, and restaurants while maintaining the traditional occupations at the same time.

Nghi Hai District is a density populated coastal area. The cooperative is located in a potential area and has prospects for new activities. However, the cooperative still faces many difficulties such as incomplete facilities, low skills in marketing and severe competition in seafood business. However, the strength of the cooperative lies in its ability to reform with time and a rich experience in cooperative production.

### **Hai Van Brocade Weaving Cooperative**

Hai Van Cooperative was established in 2008. Earlier it was a group of families headed by Mrs. Ha Thi Phuong Van from Mai Chau, Hoa Binh Province, where cradle was the traditional brocade embroidery. She provided inputs to people, who was producing brocade products, then sells them mainly in big cities, especially in Ho Chi Minh. After her marriage she continued to maintain the brocade embroidery for ethnic people in Nghe An province. After 1 year of its operation, under the guidance and support of Nghe An Cooperative Alliance, Hai Van Cooperative was established according to the Law of Cooperative (which was issued in 2003) with 7 women members and with a working capital of 100 million VND. Since the cooperative was established, the brocade embroidery of Thai people was continuously restored and expanded in the mountainous area of Nghe An province. Thanks to the assistance of branches and local authorities, the cooperative developed rapidly and every year the cooperative has conducted 10–15 trainings on brocade embroidery for ethnic people, equivalent to 300–450 labourers with the state budget of 20 million VND per training. The annual turnover increased by 15–20% (at present it is about 400– 500 million VND), contributing to job creation and income increase for laborers as well as social stabilization, especially in the ethnic area.

The cooperative is located in the center of mountainous districts so it is very comfortable for transportation. The office of the cooperative is a place, where at the same time they produce 15 modern embroidery machines and 5 sewing machines as well as sell their products.

The office of the cooperative is comfortable for transaction, providing inputs and collecting products; the laborers in the area is plentiful; the trainers are skillful and capable; the board of the cooperative is

very active; there are favorable mechanism and policy, especially the supports and concerns of branches and authorities to encourage the traditional brocade embroidery.

Although the traditional job is gradually restored, but the habit of the ethnic people is still unchanged, their products are still limited, so it is very difficult to market them and the market for their products is small and unstable, the production units in the area are small without competitiveness and the capacity of trade promotion is limited. Moreover, the open market also gives more challenges, so the brocade embroidery is not strong enough to compete with textile products due to limited quality and poor designs of products.

To further maintain and develop the brocade embroidery of the mountainous districts in the west of Nghe An province, beside the active participation of people, individuals and organizations, which are confidential with this carrier, it is necessary to establish economic organizations such as cooperatives with the role of "midwife" as well as to propagandize the role and position of restoring, maintaining and developing the traditional brocade embroidery, considering it as the responsibility and obligation of the future generations.

In the future, Hal Van Cooperative intends to invest more capital in expanding and marketing, building trademark and popularizing their products, as well as encourage people to produce according to the commodity trends.

### **Quyét Thang Small industry and Handicraft Cooperative**

The Quyét Thang Small Industry and Handicraft Cooperative was established on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1996. The current membership of the cooperative is 15 and all of them are women. The share capital of the cooperative is 500 million VND. The main activities of the cooperative are: producing products made from gypsum (such as toys, portraits and statues), gypsum powder for medical services and producing traditional wine. The average income of one person is more than 1 million VND per month.

### **Quyét Thanh Industry and Trading Cooperative**

The Quyét Thanh Cooperative is a collective economic unit. It was established in June 1966 and passed many changes of management mechanisms. After transferring into market economy, the cooperative found itself a strategic product in production and minerals processing (white stone, pebble stone, pebble stone colors, stones for decoration, stone powder white, ultra smooth stone powder). In August 1997, the cooperative set up a joint stock company that belonged to the cooperative.

The main production and business services are: mineral processing (white stones, super smooth stone powder); business in building materials, constructing of civil buildings; business in supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, office for lease services; and trucking, irrigation and electricity services.

It has got 100 persons (members-15, full-time labourers-60, seasonal labourers-25). It has got 5 units and many related sections to implement production and business of the cooperative. The turnover of the cooperative for the year 2009 was 32,000 million VND.

In order to stand firmly on competitive market mechanism, the cooperative found a way is combine production with business in transportation and trading services. In 5 years plan (2005-2010), the cooperative moved stone powder factory to Nghi Phu Industry zone and set up an assembly line of manufacturing limestone CaCO<sub>3</sub> powder with a capacity of 30,000 tons per year and 7 million VND worth and the factory officially operated in early 2007.

Up to now, the cooperative invested a corrugated iron sheeted and a steeled purling rolling mill which costs 2 million VND. The cooperative's products have been over in internal market for 10 years especially in southern and western provinces, in joint venture companies, and expanded to Laos and Cambodia in recently.

The cooperative's production is in parallel with business in trading services. From November 2009 the cooperative started construction of a complex trading centre at 174 Nguyen Du str., Ben Thuy ward, Vinh city (with 7 floors, total area is 6,500m<sup>2</sup>, total cost estimated to 38 billion VND). The building will be ready in the third quarter of 2011.

The cooperative has created stable jobs for 100 laborers with high income. Besides, 100 minority laborers who supply input materials are created jobs. It contributes to social security and reduces poor households in Vinh city and next local areas. The cooperative has won many awards of central, city and provincial levels.

### **Ngoc Hien Small Industry and Handicraft Cooperative**

The Ngoc Hien Small Industry and Handicraft Cooperative was established on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006. It has got a total of 13 household members. The main activities of the cooperative are: production of handicraft products made from banana tree or water hyacinth, and garment production. The working capital of the cooperative is 1.2 billion VND.

### **Van Phuc Silk Production Cooperative**

Over the centuries, Van Phuc silk, made using traditional hand-weaving and hand-dyeing techniques, has captured the loyalties of customers across the country. Van Phuc Silk Cooperative was established in 1962 with more than 400 members and one workshop including 100 textile machines and more than 250 hand-loom in the village. At that time, the main activities of the cooperative were outwork for the State owned companies.

From 1990 to 1993, USSR and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe were collapsed, Van Phuc silk village lost the main export markets leading to production activities of Van Phuc silk cooperative also was reduced, and the life of members met a lot of difficulties. Facing this situation, the cooperative had decided to hand-over textile machines to its members who will produce silk at home. The cooperative only provides the following services to the member as: making design, receiving the orders, marketing the products of members, etc.

In 2004, the cooperative had a total of 850 members and produced more than 3 million meter silk cloth per year. The cooperative always improves the products and seek the customers by participating in the domestic and international trade fairs/exhibitions. Simultaneously, the cooperative also set up its own website to promote its products.

The cooperative sell 70 per cent of its products in domestic market and 30% is exported to other countries. The turnover of the cooperative for 2008 was 1 billion VND and the profit before tax was 300 million VND. Average income per member is 1 million VND per month. The board of management consists of 5 persons, all are women.

## SECTION - VIII

### Closing Ceremony of Part-II of the Training Course in Vietnam

The closing ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Course on “Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women” was held in the afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at the premises of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). The closing session was attended by Mr. Nguyen Van Bien, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of VCA; Mr. Nguyen Anh Dzung, General Director, International Relations Department of VCA; Mr. Teruyoshi Tanaka; Manager, General Affairs Department of IDACA; Mr. Yukio Abe, Senior Coordinator of IDACA; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning/ Membership & Program Coordinator of ICA-AP and a number of VCA officers and staff.

Mr. **Nguyen Van Bien** said that VCA had the honour to organise such an international training program in Vietnam. He said VCA is very much involved in the promotion of sustainable enterprises for rural women which is the theme of the training course. He further said that the cooperatives should be able to develop members to be the entrepreneurs which would reduce unemployment. Finally he wished the participants from six countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Vietnam for meaningful visits in Vietnam and safe return to their home countries.

Mr. **Sethu Madhavan** welcomed all the distinguished guests and the participants to the closing session. He expressed the gratitude of ICA-AP to VCA for making all arrangements for the field visits in Vietnam. He also expressed the gratitude of the ICA to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan, for their continued financial support to the program and JA-ZENCHU/IDACA for their active collaboration in the implementation of the training program. He wished the participants a safe journey back home and a happy re-union with their families.

Mr. **Tanaka**, Manager, General Affairs Department of IDACA, welcomed all the distinguished guests and the participants to the closing session. He said “Now that your travel has come to an end, I believe that your families are eagerly waiting for you to return to your respective countries as soon as possible. It is not just for them but for rural women in your countries who desire to improve their life even a little. Most of these women could hardly have the chance to see the actual conditions of other foreign countries such as Japan and Vietnam. Thus great expectations are being entertained of you to help ameliorate the milieu of them.

Well, you have learned many things through exchange with members of JA women’s and women entrepreneurs by visiting the JA Nara in Japan. Of what you studied, I understand that there may be things that can be replicated. So it is you who decide to choose them arbitrarily. After return to your countries, it can be suggested that you will put whatever you have learned into practice.

As you may be well aware, we conduct the follow-up activities by visiting former participants at their on-sight workplace every year for exchange of opinions in order for us to keep track of the progress of their action plans. This year we implement an exchange meeting with former participants in Vietnam and Cambodia by combining it with this closing ceremony.”

## SECTION - IX

### Evaluation Summary

12 participants attending the training course had participated in the evaluation exercise and returned the Evaluation Forms, duly filled in. The Program Coordinator of ICA-AP compiled the results of the End of the Course Evaluation. Given below is a brief summary of the Evaluation.

#### Rating Pattern

**5=Excellent, 4=Very Good, 3=Good, 2=Satisfactory, 1=Poor.**

01	To what extent the Course meets the Objectives?	9	2	1	-	-
02	Relevance of this Program in your job.	10	2	-	-	-
03	Usefulness of this training in your future work.	8	4	-	-	-
04	Your overall impression about this program.	5	7	-	-	-
05	Your grading of the faculty of this program.	4	7	1	-	-
06	Your rating of the study visits in Vietnam	11	1	-	-	-
07	Your rating of the study visits in Japan.	2	7	1	2	-
08	Your rating of the administrative arrangements (boarding, lodging, etc.).	6	4	2	-	-

09 Are you satisfied with the leadership provided and the technical inputs made by the IDACA faculty members? (Explain briefly).

*All participants said "YES" – they are fully satisfied with the leadership provided and the technical inputs made by the IDACA faculty members and everything was perfect.*

10 Please suggest changes/improvements, if any, desired in future programs. (Please give your free and frank suggestions).

*Many participants said that NO changes/improvements required. Few participants said that study visit in Vietnam was very useful but travelling time should be reduced, If possible. Two participants suggested that marketing and management program should be arranged.*

11 Please suggest which topics should be added to this Program in future.

*Assertive training*

*Rural women enterprises and marketing for value addition to agricultural products.*

*Project formulation and management*

*Leadership program*

*Financial management*

12 Please suggest which topics should be deleted from future Program.

*All participants said that all topics covered are interesting and nothing should be deleted.*

13 Please list below your major gains from this Program.

*Agriculture and agricultural cooperatives (JA) in Japan*

*Value addition through marketing of agricultural products*

*Women's Associations activities in Japan*

*Working spirit of Japanese people – not only young people but also aging people*

*Project cycle management*

*Assertive training for smooth communication*

*How to start business with our own resources*

*Attitude of Japanese people*

*Rural women enterprises and marketing of their products*

*Obtained more confidence after the training course*

14 Your general suggestions, opinions (on any aspect) and recommendations.

*Got lot of valuable information from this program and thanked ICA and IDACA*

*More time should be allocated for lectures on marketing and PCM.*

*Benefited for agricultural cooperative development in the participating countries*

*All IDACA faculty are very kind hearted, especially Mr. Abe*

*Networking among participants*

*This is a very good program for women and hence it should be continued in future.*

## SECTION-X

### Program of the Training Course

12 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Arrival of participants at IDACA
13 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	FN	Orientation and Opening Ceremony
	AN	Japanese Society, Economy and Culture by Ms. Eiko Oshita, Program Coordinator, IDACA.
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	FN	Historical Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan by Mr. Toru Nakashima, Dy. Manager, (Training Department), IDACA.
	AN	Agricultural Cooperative and Distribution System in Japan by Mr. Hiroshi Terunuma, Manager, (Training Department), IDACA.
15 <sup>h</sup> Sep.	FN	Best Practices of Successful Cooperatives by Mr. Yukio Abe, Senior Advisor, IDADA.
	AN	Women's Association of JA and its Activities by Ms. Tae Kumada of JA-ZENCHU.
16 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Visit to JA Hadano and its Facilities - day care centre for elderly people, direct sales shop, wheat milling unit, one branch office of JA, funeral ceremony centre and noodle (soba) making unit.
17 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Assertive Training for Smooth Human Communication by Ms. Shiom Morita, President, Assertive Japan.
18 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Saturday: Sight-seeing in Tokyo
19 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Sunday: Free
20 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Cooperative Education with a special reference to the Status of Women in Nepal Cooperative Movement by Mr. Tadafumi Kigasawa, former JICA Expert in Nepal.
21 <sup>st</sup> Sep.		Move to Nara Prefecture
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep.	FN	Visit to JA Nara Ken and briefing on its activities.
	AN	Introduction of activities of JA Nara Ken Women's Association Visit to 1300 <sup>th</sup> anniversary festival of Nara Heijo-Kyo Capital.
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep.	FN	Visit to Nishi Yoshino Persimmon Grading Center Visit to Farmer's House
	AN	Visit to Naraken Makino Direct Sales Shop Visit to Oyodo Roadside station

24 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	FN	Visit to Katujou Direct Sales Shop Visit to Milk Processing Unit
	AN	Exchange meeting with Women's Association Leaders of JA Nara Ken
25 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	FN	Visit to Universal Studios of Japan (USJ)
	AN	Move to Tokyo
26 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Sunday: Free
27 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Presentation of Country Reports by participants
28 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		PCM Method for the Action Plan by Ms. Yoshiko Takahashi, Consultant/ Project Evaluator, Y's Consulting Office Company Limited.
29 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Marketing of One Village One Product (OVOP) by Ms. Kaz Yamamoto, President, Japan Agricultural Marketing Institute.
30 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	FN	Visit to JA Kanagawa Seisho and its facilities.
	AN	Exchange meeting with Women's Association of JA Kanagawa Seisho Visit to plum processing unit and direct sales shop
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.	FN	Visit to Farmers' Market
	AN	Return to Tokyo
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.		Saturday: Free
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct.		Sunday: Free
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct.		Life Improvement Approach and Rural Women Entrepreneurship by Ms. Hitomi Tomizawa, Gender and Community Development Expert, Rural Women Empowerment and Life Improvement Association (WELI).
5 <sup>th</sup> Oct.		Preparation of report
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct.		Visit to JA ZEN-NOH Agricultural Research and Development Centre.
7 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	FN	Presentation of group report Evaluation/Closing Ceremony
	AN	Preparation for departure
8 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Departure of Participants from Japan Arrival of participants in Hanoi
9 <sup>th</sup> Sep.		Orientation/Briefing of the Program in Zerphy Hotel & Sight-seeing
10 <sup>th</sup> Sep.	FN	Move to Nghe An Province
	AN	Visit to Song Lam Fishery Cooperative



- 11<sup>th</sup> Sep.      FN      Visit to Hai Van Brocade Weaving Cooperative  
                     AN      Visit to Quyet Thang Small Industry and Handicraft Cooperative.  
    Visit to Cooperative Alliance of Nghe Anh Province
- 12<sup>th</sup> Sep.      FN      Visit to Quyet Thanh Industry Cooperative (in cua Lo Beach)  
                     AN      Move to Ninh Province
- 13<sup>th</sup> Sep.      FN      Visit to Ngoc Hien Garment Cooperative  
    Visit to Cooperative Alliance of Ninh Binh Province  
    Move to Hanoi
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sep.      FN      Presentation on Cooperative Movement of Vietnam  
                     AN      Visit to Van Phuc Silk Production Cooperative
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sep.      FN      Revision of Action Plans by the participants  
                     AN      Presentation of Action Plans by the Participants and  
    Closing Ceremony at VCA.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.                      Departure of participants

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FN Session    :      09:30~12:00  
 AN Session    :      13:30~16:00

## SECTION-XI

### List of Participants

- CAMBODIA
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SECTION - XII

Action Plans Proposed by the Participants

In view of the experience gained by the participants through class room lectures, field study visits in Japan and Vietnam, interaction among themselves, and based upon their own work environment, the participants were able to develop brief outlines of their Action Plans which they would recommend to their organisations after their return to their home countries. These plans were developed through holding group discussions and on the basis of their discussions with their seniors before joining the Training Course.

[1] CAMBODIA

The two participants were nominated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). They proposed the following Action Plan.

**Ms. Siea Kim Nay**  
**Ms. Roath Mullika**

**Action Plan Title:** To promote the economics of women farmer production through raising their skill on how to calculate their agricultural input cost.  
**Project Purpose:** Females farmer can calculate and negotiate with other customer for their production price.  
**Duration:** One year (2011)

Activities	Objectives	Responsible person/organization	Target groups	Source of funds	Time schedule
1. To develop a meeting program with farmers by team agricultural extension workers of provincial and district level at DOAE.	The meeting program is developed.	Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA).	Farmers who produce for market, especially women.	Department of Agricultural Extension.	January to June 2011

1.1 Team Agr. Ext officers at provincial make appointment with team Agr. Ext. Officer at district level for a meeting (agenda of next meeting).	The date and location of meeting is agreed by EWs.	PDA and District Office of Agriculture (DOA).	Agricultural extension workers and provincial and district level.	Department of Agricultural Extension.	January 2011
1.2 Team DOAE and PDA to identify the methodology on how to lead farmer meeting to discuss about.	The outline of meeting agenda is developed.	District Office of Agriculture (DOA)	Agricultural extension workers at district level.	Department of Agricultural Extension.	February 2011
1.3 AEW at district makes appointment with local authorities for organizing farmer meeting.	The specific date and location of farmer meeting are listed.	District Office of Agriculture (DOA) and Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA).	Agricultural extension workers and local authorities.	Department of Agricultural Extension.	April 2011
2. Farmer are aware on how calculate the input cost and cost for their production by specify products.	Farmer knows about their resources. Can calculate their input cost per activities. Can prefer the price to middleman.	Department of Agricultural Extension. Provincial Department of Agriculture. District Office of Agriculture.	Farmers, especially female farmers.	Department of Agricultural Extension.	April to September 2011
2.1 District of AEWs lead farmers meeting on how to calculate their input production cost 1 (rice), 2 (vegetables), 3 (spices), 4 (industry crops-corn, cassava, fruits).	4 meetings 4 reports from farmers discussions.	The District Office of Agriculture. Provincial Department of Agriculture.	Farmers	Department of Agricultural Extension.	June and August 2011
3. Farmers other areas are getting the knowledge how to calculate the input production cost and income production.	Workshop conducted Result collected Disseminate through public media (if necessary).	Department of Agricultural Extension. The provincial Department of Agriculture.	Farmers and others stakeholders.	Department of Agricultural Extension.	September to December 2011

[2] LAOS

The two participants were nominated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). They proposed the following Action Plan.

**Ms. Bountom Khounsy**  
**Ms. Pome Phanthavong**

Action Plan Title: Increase agricultural production  
 Project Purpose: Enhancing income from agricultural products of Laos women in rural areas to reduce poverty and improving livelihood.  
 Duration: 2011-2013

No	Activities	Objectives	Responsible person/organization	Target groups	Source of funds	Time schedule
1.	1. Training course on improvement of skill and knowledge of extension workers for District staffs. 2. Set up extension staff to improvement livelihood and empowerment of rural women	To provide skill and method of extension work for Districts staffs.  Build Capacity on stakeholder analysis to identify key actors at the village cluster level and how to improve coordination. To combine extension work for development livelihood for women farmers and Women empowerment.	NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos.  NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos.	DAFO staff from 18 Districts of 6 Province of Northern Laos  DAFO staff from 12 Districts of 6 Provinces of Northern Laos	Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, ACIAR.  Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, ACIAR.	January to March 2011  January to March 2011
2.	1. Organized productive group of women in the villages, and system self-help group and saving fund. 2. Survey of division of role in families and the role of women in communities.	To stimulate idea self-help group to state keeping money together, set up column of the meeting and regulation of the group of saving fund in the village  To improving knowledge for women and understanding gender equity though the meeting & survey of division role in family.	Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Village Organization and Villager.  Development Livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos. ACIAR, DAFO	54 Villages of 18 Districts, 6 Provinces.  54 Villages of 18 Districts, 6 Provinces.	- Development Livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, ACIAR, NGO.	April to June 2011  April to June 2011

3.	<p>1. Organize training course on marketing and introduction book-keeping.</p> <p>2. Technical Training for the women farmers in the rural area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animal health care</li> <li>- Livestock technique</li> <li>- Agriculture technique</li> <li>- Processing technique of the agriculture products and long keeping for farmers.</li> </ul> <p>3. Survey the specific of products for each village to priority agriculture products and main activity for the farmer and women in the rural area.</p> <p>4. Self studies marketing products in the market and set up marketing network.</p>	<p>Enhancing marketing skill and planning management economic income for family and record book keeping,</p> <p>To improve their income and technical skills for women on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Producing agriculture products.</li> <li>- Processing agriculture products.</li> </ul> <p>Organize One village One Products (OVOP) and increase the value of agriculture products.</p> <p>Stimulate the self-help group women and start business by themselves and also providing for sustainability income for family.</p>	<p>Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Village Organization and Villager.</p> <p>Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Village Organization and Villager.</p> <p>Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Village Organization and Villager.</p>	<p>54 Villages of 18 Districts 6 Provinces</p> <p>54 Villages of 18 Districts 6 Provinces</p> <p>54 Villages of 18 Districts 6 Provinces</p> <p>54 villages of 18 districts 6 provinces</p>	<p>- Development livelihood of Farmers project in Northern Laos, ACIAR, and NGO.</p> <p>Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, ACIAR, NGO.</p> <p>Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos, ACIAR, NGO.</p>	<p>July to September 2011</p> <p>Oct. 2011</p> <p>November to December 2011</p> <p>November to December 2011</p>
4	<p>1. Procure essential material, equipment and seeding, animal breeding for the farmer; provide the self-help of women group access to the credit funding.</p>	<p>Introduce to the group activities of women farmers, to self finding and preparing essential material, equipment and funding for improve their activities of productive group.</p>	<p>NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Village Organization and Villager.</p>	<p>DAFO, Farmers in 54 villages.</p>	<p>Lao Development Bank, Agriculture Development Bank. JA. Saving fund of self help group.</p>	<p>December 2011 to February 2012</p>



	2. Start group of women enterprise and group self learning.	Exchange experience and to improve marketing system and increase income.	NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Village Organization and Villager.	DAFO, Farmers in 54 villages.	Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Laos. Saving fund of self help group.	December to February 2013
5	1. Monitoring	Build capacity to better manage, monitor. To support and provide their skill and knowledge of stakeholder and implement income activities of the rural women.	NAFRI, PAFO, Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Part of Lao.	Activities of the rural women in 54 villages, District staff (DAFO).	Development livelihood of farmers in Northern of Laos. ACIAR, NGO.	April 2011 to May 2012 and Aug 2012 to April 2013.
/	2. Evaluation	Identify modern farmer of self help group women and extend the activities to another Villages. To improve activity of the projects purpose to reduce poverty of the farmer in rural area of the Northern Laos and specially improved livelihood standard of the women in rural area.	Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern Part of Lao. NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO, Village Organisation and Villager.	Village Organization and Villager. Development livelihood of Farmers Project in Northern part of Laos. NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO.	Development of livelihood of farmers in northern part of Lao, ACIAR, NGO.	27, 28, 29 June 2012 and 28, 29, 30 November 2013.

Remark: Development livelihood of Farmers Project (DLO), Department Agriculture & Forestry Office of the Province (PAFO), Agriculture & Forestry office of The District (DAFO), National Agriculture & Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Australia Centre Institute of Agriculture Research (ACIAR), Non-Government Organization (NGO).

### [3] MONGOLIA

The two participants were nominated by the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC). They proposed the following Action Plan.

**Ms. Davaatseren Dartsagtseden**  
**Ms. Enkhmandakh Dashdeleg**

Action Plan Title: Women and Education  
 Project Purpose: To encourage and increase agricultural women cooperators number in Gobi-Altai & Bulgan Provinces.  
 Duration: 2011-2012

No	Activities	Objectives	Responsible person/organization	Target groups	Source of funds	Time schedule
1	Course report (Learned from the training course in Vietnam and Japan)	Dissemination the knowledge gained on the activities done by the women Vietnam and Japan during our course of the training for the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperative board of Directors and the Staff thus enabling them to get the proper feedback.	Ms. Enkhmandakh Ms. Davaatseren	Members of agricultural cooperatives.	National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperative (NAMAC)	End of October 2010
2	-Training for women members on agricultural cooperatives in western region (Uws, Khowd, Gobi-Altai, Zawkhan, Bayn-Olgii)  Women marketing training for Orkhon Village on agricultural education.	Support the latest information and to inform and share the agricultural development activities to the women members. -Participate 5 women members each west region provinces -Participate 25 women members from Orkhon-Esgii cooperative	Gobi-Altai Province Association of Agricultural Cooperatives.  Bulgan Province Association of Agricultural Coops.	Western region women members of agricultural cooperatives.  Orkhon Village,	-Local Government -NAMAC. -Local Agricultural Cooperatives -Bulgan Province Association of Agricultural Coops	February 2011  March 2011

					Orkhon-Esgii Cooperative members	-Local Government (Orkhon Village) Orkhon Cooperative Association.	
3.	- Preparation of training program - Developing training modules	To provide knowledge about agricultural cooperative To support the marketing and business skills	Mercy Corps, Mongolia		All participants	-Local Government -National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives.	May 2011
4.	Conduct the training program	To make the women confidence in applying the agriculture development activities.	Local training school		Women members of cooperatives in western region provinces.	-National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives. -Local Government	June 2011
5.	To develop manuals and handouts for cooperative training.	In order to encourage women cooperators to start income generating activities.	Gobi-Altai Province Association of Agricultural Cooperatives.		All members of cooperatives in western region.	Local Government	End of December 2012

**[4] MYANMAR**

The two participants were nominated by the Central Cooperative Society Limited (CCS). They proposed the following Action Plan.

**Ms. Htwe Htwe Aung**  
**Ms. Hnin Hnin Thwe**

**Action Plan Title:** To assist the entrepreneurs of farming and orchard by supporting the agriculture loans and capacity building.

**Project purpose:** To reduce the informal lending system and run their own micro – business and get self confidence and social status also raised from training.

**Duration:** January to December 2011

No	Activities	Objectives	Responsible person/organization	Target groups	Source of funds	Time schedule
1	Course Report (By submitting the points learned from the training course after coming back to home country.)	To share experiences gained during the study visits in Japan and Vietnam.	Ms. Htwe Htwe Aung and Ms. Hnin Hnin Thwe	Board of Directors, Credit Union members and colleagues of Central Co-operative Society Ltd., Golden Plain Coop Society.	Central Cooperative Society (CCS) and Golden Plain Cooperative Society.	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of October 2010.
2	Assertive training program (By giving the field training quarterly).	To play increasing role in decisions within their households as well as within their community	Central Cooperative Society Ltd., Education & Training Section.	Members of Micro-Finance Institution & Low income poor people especially rural women.	Central Cooperative Society Limited.	January to Dec. 2011 – quarterly.
3	To assist the financial support (By providing agricultural loan depending on hectares).	To grow their business and increase income.	Central Cooperative Society Limited.	Entrepreneurs of paddy farming & orchard in rural area.	Central Cooperative Society Limited.	2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2011

4	Preparation of Information Education Communication Materials.	By using effective Information Education Community Materials, community will easily understand on subjects taught, which can provide good results.	Golden Plain Technical Group.	Project Area	*JICA, UNDP, CAD, HAI, STC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of October 2010 to October 2011.
5	Conduct training on micro-enterprise management for rural women.	By understanding basic concepts, important consideration and good practices for sustainable enterprise, rural women will have more important role in building better community.	Golden Plain Technical Group.	Project Area	*JICA, UNDP, CAD, HAI, STC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of October 2010 to October 2011.
6	Conduct trainings such as, food processing, natural fertilizers and natural pesticides production for income generation. *JICA= Japan International Cooperation Agency *UNDP=United Nations Development Program *CAD=Chin Association Development *HAI=Help Aids International *STC= Save The Children.	To promote household income through proper knowledge of rural women community in better and effective utilization of local products.	Golden Plain Technical Group.	Project Area	*JICA, UNDP, CAD, HAI, STC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of October 2010 to October 2011.

**[5] SRI LANKA**

The two participants were nominated by the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC). They proposed the following Action Plan.

**Ms. A.L. Padmini**

**Action Plan Title:** Enhancing skills of rural women in Kaduwela

**Project Purpose:** To promote sustainable enterprises for rural women by enhancing their skills in different livelihood activities.

**Duration:** January to December 2011

No	Activities	Objectives	Responsible person/organization	Target groups	Source of funds	Time schedule
1	Meeting and experience sharing on Japan and Vietnam with other cooperative members.	Awareness among women members about Japanese women's activities.	Hewagam Koralaye Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.-Kaduwela	Cooperative members	Cooperative Department	January to April 2011
2	Formation of women's group and introduction to different activities.	To form the groups	Hewagam Koralaye Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.-Kaduwela	Women in Kaduwela	Cooperative Department	May to August 2011
3	Training and initiation of production activities.	Knowledge about different activities.	Hired Trainers from Sri Lanka	Women groups	Cooperative Department	Sept. to December 2011 .

**Ms. A.D. Dammika Ranjani**

Action Plan Title: Use of organic fertilizer  
 Project Purpose: To encourage use of organic fertilizer  
 Duration: 2011-2012

No	Activities	Objective	Responsible person/organization	Target groups	Source of funds	Time schedule
1	Meeting discussion on lessons learnt in the training course in Vietnam and Japan (hold Board of Directors meeting).	Dissemination of knowledge gained on the activities done by the women in Vietnam and Japan during our course of the training for the RDCC board of directors and the staff thus enabling them to get the proper feedback.	Secretary - Ratnapura District Cooperative Council.	Members of cooperative council board of directors.	Peoples' Bank Fund	January 2011
2	Meeting the grass root committee of flower growers' cooperative union.	Create awareness among the women members about the agricultural development activities.	-Ratnapura District Coop Council -Secretary	Women of flower growers coop union	Peoples' Bank Fund	February 2011
3.	- Preparation of training program - Developing training modules.	To provide knowledge about organic fertilizer.	Agriculture Training School.	Women members of flower growers' coop union.	Peoples' Bank Fund	April 2012
4.	Conduct the training program -By means of practical, meeting, sessions.	To make the women confidence in applying the agriculture development activities in their work environment.	Agriculture Training School	Women members of cooperatives in Ratnapura.	Ratnapura District Coop Council	May 2012
5	- Studying the special products of each village in the district. -Guiding them access to the markets to sell their product effectively.	To encourage women for selling their products.	Coop Societies, Ratnapura	Women members of cooperatives in Ratnapura District.	Peoples Bank Fund	December 2012

**[6] VIETNAM**

The two participants were nominated by the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). They proposed the following Action Plan.

**Ms. Hoang Thi Anh**  
**Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hao**

**Action Plan Title:** Enhancing capacity for women in agricultural cooperatives in Haiphong city  
**Project purpose:** Enhancing awareness, knowledge and skills for women in order to improve living standard for women and their families; improving position of women in cooperatives and communities  
**Duration:** 2011-2012

No	Activities	Objectives	Responsible person/organization	Target groups	Source of funds	Time schedule
1	Training course on cooperatives and related laws and regulations	To provide more understanding of women about cooperative, law & regulations on cooperatives of Vietnam and gender equality issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Central Economic and Technical Training College;</li> <li>- College of Management and Technology,</li> <li>- Coordinate with the Member Department of Hai Phong Cooperative Alliance.</li> </ul>	Members of cooperatives, especially women members, in Haiphong city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VCA</li> <li>- Hai Phong PCA</li> <li>- Support from local government</li> </ul>	January to June 2011
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce about the advantage of family book keeping or starting a small business in their village.</li> <li>- On-site training: family book keeping, selling agricultural products &amp; consumer goods: guide them to open a small shop at local.</li> </ul>	To improving knowledge for women through the family book keeping, starting small business, cooking and taking care of family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consult Department of Hai Phong Cooperative Alliance (Hai Phong PCA)</li> </ul>	Women of cooperative members in Hai Phong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hai Phong PCA</li> <li>- Support from local government</li> </ul>	June to October 2011



3.	<p>- Studying the special products of each district in Haiphong</p> <p>- Instructing the processing and package technologies</p> <p>+ guiding them access to the markets to sell their products effectively</p>	<p>Enhancing skills for women on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- processing and packaging</li> <li>- marketing</li> </ul> <p>To develop their potential and generate jobs for members, especially women members in order to improve their income and living standard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Central Economic and Technical Training College;</li> <li>- College of Management and Technology,</li> <li>- Coordinate with the Consult Department of Hai Phong Cooperative Alliance and Agricultural Extension Dept. of HP city</li> </ul>	<p>Women members of 5 cooperatives in Hai Phong.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VCA</li> <li>- Hai Phong PCA</li> <li>- Support from Agricultural Extension Dept. of HP city.</li> </ul>	<p>November 2011 to December 2012</p>
4.	<p>To propose gender equity participation of women in credit systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting to formulate self-help groups</li> <li>- Promoting saving habit among self-help groups to support each other to start business.</li> </ul>	<p>To help women making loan easier</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Center for Social-economic programs - VCA,</li> <li>- Coordinate with the Member Department of Hai Phong Cooperative Alliance</li> </ul>	<p>Women members of 05 cooperatives in Hai Phong</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VCA</li> <li>- Hai Phong PCA</li> <li>- Support from local government</li> </ul>	<p>January to December 2012</p>
5.	<p>To protect the rights of women and to achieve full involvement to create good living condition in the society.</p>	<p>To contribute their abilities to the workplaces and society</p>	<p>Thanh Dat Law Consulting Centre, VCA Center for Social-economic programs – VCA. - Coordinate with the Member Department of Hai Phong Cooperative Alliance.</p>	<p>Women members of cooperatives in Hai Phong</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VCA</li> <li>- Hai Phong PCA</li> <li>- Support from local government</li> </ul>	<p>January to December 2012</p>

# ICA Co-operative Identity Statement

## DEFINITION

A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

## VALUES

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, Co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

## PRINCIPLES

The Principles of Co-operation are guidelines by which Co-operatives put their values into practice.

**First Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership:** Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

**Second Principle: Democratic Member Control:** Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women, serving as elected representatives, are accountable to the membership. In primary Co-operatives, members have equal voting rights [one member one vote], and Co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

**Third Principle: Member Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their Co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the Co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their Co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the Co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

**Fourth Principle: Autonomy and Independence:** Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their Co-operative autonomy.

**Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information:** Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their Co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Co-operation.

**Sixth Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives:** Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**Seventh Principle: Concern for the Community:** Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

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