

2nd Training Course on
**IMPROVING CAPACITY OF
RURAL WOMEN**

*Thailand-Japan
16th September to 14th October 2015*



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COURSE REPORT

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

Report of the
2nd Training Course on
Improving Capacity of Rural Women
Thailand and Japan
16th September to 14th October 2015

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COURSE REPORT

SECTION-I

Executive Summary

Background

Gender equality is a fundamental factor for the socio-economic well-being of all. It has particular importance in terms of global economic recovery and global development. Yet, despite the gains made so far and the efforts and political commitment of the international community, visible and invisible obstacles continue to persist that prevent rural women from fully exploiting their capabilities. These barriers equally deny them their right to be recognized as the driver and the main actor in rural development.

Rural women face a number of constraints. Rural women have limited or no access to natural, infrastructural, technical and financial resources due to both cultural and legal constraints; rural women are not heard since they have no voice; and rural women mainly work in the informal sector and in subsistence agriculture. As a consequence, their access to education and basic social services is compromised.

The role of rural women is vital. Rural women not only contribute to feeding the world in a safe and sustainable way, but also promoting a true development and contribute to building peaceful and socially cohesive communities.

Introduction

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is an independent non-governmental association which unites, represents and serves cooperatives worldwide. The ICA was founded in London on 18th August 1895 and is now headquartered in Brussels (Belgium). ICA is a member-based organization with national and international cooperative organizations in more than 95 countries active in all sectors of the economy including agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, tourism and worker cooperatives. ICA's four offices in Africa, America, Asia-Pacific and Europe, together, serve more than 275 Member-Organizations from 95 countries, representing over one billion cooperative members around the world.

The ICA-Asia and Pacific Office is operating from New Delhi since 1960, serves 89 national level organizations from 27 countries, representing over 500 million cooperative members.

Training Course

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan has chosen the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) to implement an umbrella Project on "**Strengthening of Capacity Building in Developing Countries in Asia**" for three years starting from 2014.

Under this Project, the **2nd** Training Course on “**Improving Capacity of Rural Women**” was held in **Thailand** and **Japan**. Part-I of the Training Course was held in Thailand in collaboration with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) from **16th** to **22nd** September 2015 and Part-II in Japan in collaboration with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) from **23rd** September to **14th** October. The Training Course was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan, and implemented by ICA.

Objective

The main objective of the Training Course was to assist capacity building of leaders of rural women for promotion of more organized business activities in the countries of South East Asia and South Asia regions.

Course Participants

Eight (8) women participants were selected by ICA-AP for the Training Course from the following seven countries – Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. A list of participants is placed at Section-XI.

Home Country Assignments (HCA)

The selected participants undertook their Home Country Assignments (HCA) for a period of **one** week (9-15 September) prior to the actual commencement of the Training Course. They prepared a **Country Report** on the format supplied by us.

They also prepared a brief note after discussion with their seniors in the organization. The purpose was to write down the ideas for the preparation of action plan in IDACA based on the experience and knowledge gained during the training course in Thailand and Japan. This helped them to explain and implement the action plan prepared in Japan after the training course for the development of their own organizations including social and economic activities so as to meet the objective of the Training Course.

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

Part-I: Study Visits in Thailand

A one-week study visit program with a focus on observation of the activities of cooperatives/women groups and social institutions was held in Thailand from 16th to 22nd September 2015 in collaboration with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) – a member organization of ICA.

Part-II: Training Course in Japan

Part-II of the Training Course, including field study visits, was held in Japan for 22 days (23rd September to 14th October 2015). The Training Course was conducted by and located at IDACA. Some of the key subjects covered at IDACA were:

- *Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan;*
- *Women’s Associations of Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives;*
- *Rural Women’s Entrepreneurship (marketing and local agro-processing);*
- *Women’s Participation in the Rural Development;*
- *Finalization and Presentation of Action Plans; and*
- *Reporting and Evaluation.*

Financial Support

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan contributed funds to the **2nd** Training Course on “Improving Capacity of 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 2nd 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; Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) 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, Advisor-Planning & Membership, ICA-AP, was responsible for the conduct of the 2nd 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-II of the training program held in Japan at IDACA was conducted under the direction and guidance of Mr. Masahiro Konno, Executive Director of IDACA. Ms. Eiko Oshita of Training Department was designated by the IDACA as the Course Coordinator for this part.

Summary of the Time Table

The following was the summary of the time table:

<i>Home Country Assignment (HCA)</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>9th to 15th September 2015</i>
<i>Arrival of Participants in Bangkok</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>16th September</i>
<i>Part-I: Field Study Visits in Thailand</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>17th to 22nd September</i>
<i>Arrival of Participants in Tokyo-Japan</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>23rd September</i>
<i>Part-II: Training Course in Japan-IDACA</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>24th September to 13th October</i>
<i>Departure of Participants from Japan</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>14th October 2015</i>

SECTION-II

Inauguration of Part-I of the Training Course in Thailand

The inauguration of Part-I of the 2nd Training Course on "Improving Capacity of Rural Women" was held in the forenoon of 17th September at the premises of Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT). The inaugural session was attended by Mr. Nakorn Tangavirapat, Executive Director of CLT; Mr. Sutash Chunngiab, Deputy Executive Director of CLT; Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, Head of International Affairs Department of CLT; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Advisor-Planning & Membership/Program Coordinator, ICA-AP and a number of CLT officers and staff.

Mr. Nakorn Tangavirapat welcomed the participants and the guests on behalf of CLT. He said that the CLT has the honour to organize this international training program in Thailand for the last five years. He said that the CLT is intensely involved in the promotion of capacity of rural women which is the theme of the training course.

He further said that "The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) is functioning as an apex body of the whole cooperative movement. Currently, there are around 8,000 cooperative societies with its membership around 10 million households or around 14% of total population of Thailand. The main duties are acting as a facilitator, coordinator and educational support for promotion of all cooperatives to promote and develop throughout the country without sharing any profit. The cooperative will pay subscription to CLT annually 5% of their net profit but not more 10,000 Baht.

I personally wish to congratulate all people concerned for successful implementation of the training course. I wish to convey my thanks to various different women groups that the participants will visit during their stay in Thailand. I sincerely wish that this part of the training course will continuously inspire all participants in different countries in Asia and Pacific to work towards poverty reduction and rural development".

Finally, he wished the eight participants from seven countries a comfortable stay and meaningful visits in Thailand. He also conveyed his appreciation to the women groups and the cooperatives that the participants will be visiting during their stay in Thailand.

Mr. Sethu Madhavan welcomed all the distinguished guests and the participants to the inaugural session. He 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 IDACA for its active collaboration in the implementation of the training program. He expressed the gratitude of ICA-AP to CLT for making all arrangements for the field visits in Thailand. He also mentioned about some basic discipline to be maintained throughout the training course.

After the inauguration, a presentation on the Cooperative Movement of Thailand was made by Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, Head of International Affairs Department, Cooperative League of Thailand, for the benefit of the participants.

Background

Cooperatives in Thailand, like in all developing countries, have been initiated by the government since 1915 with the prime aim of being a means of improving the livelihood of small farmers. This is due to the increasing debt problem resulting from farmers suffering from the shift from self-sufficient economy to trade economy. Natural disasters such as droughts and floods have further worsened the debt situation for the farmers. Consequently, they have lost their farmland and became laborers, leaving their debts unpaid.

Inauguration of the Training Course in Thailand



Study Visits in Thailand



The first cooperative in Thailand was named Wat Chan Cooperative Unlimited Liability and was established by the government on 26th February 1916, in Phitsanulok. It followed the Raiffeisen credit cooperative type with the single purpose of providing farm credit and being organized as a small village credit cooperative to help severely indebted farmers. The success of this type of cooperative in preventing many farmers' land from being foreclosed by the money-lenders led to the increasing number of small village credit cooperatives all over the country. Small credit cooperatives had prevailed in the country until 1983 when other types of cooperatives were then established in response to the people needs (i.e. production and consumer cooperatives).

The increasing number of cooperatives also led to the establishment of the "Cooperative Bank" in 1947 through government capital. Village credit cooperatives were urged to increasingly hold share capital in the Bank with the hope that they would, in future, be owners of the bank which was their own financing center. In 1952 and 1953, two provincial cooperative banks were established in the Chiang Mai and Uttaradit provinces respectively by the affiliation of village credit cooperatives in each of the two provinces. The two provincial cooperative banks served their affiliates so well, both in their credit needs and depositing surplus funds. Unfortunately, the enactment of a new 'Commercial Banks Law' in 1962 laid down that the acceptance of deposits on 'current accounts' could only be operated by commercial banks which must be organized in the form of a 'limited company'. The two existing provincial cooperative banks had, therefore, to be reorganized as credit cooperative federations and a program to set up new cooperative banks was dropped. In 1966, the government-cum-credit cooperative-owned Bank for Cooperatives was reorganized as the 'Bank for Agricultural and Agricultural Cooperatives', a state enterprise, functioning as a financial center of agricultural cooperatives including lending directly to individual farmers.

In 1968 with the objective to strengthen the cooperative movement, the Government enacted the Cooperative Act, B.E. 2511, which allowed the establishment of the Cooperative League of Thailand, functioning as the apex organization of the cooperative movement. The said cooperative Act also allowed for the amalgamation program which combined the neighboring small village credit cooperatives, paddy and marketing cooperatives, land improvement and land settlement cooperatives into a large scale cooperative at district level performing multipurpose functions and which was officially categorized as agricultural cooperatives.

At present, the cooperatives in Thailand are officially categorized into seven types, namely:

1. Agricultural Cooperatives
2. Land Settlement Cooperatives
3. Fisheries Cooperatives
4. Consumer Cooperatives
5. Thrift and Credit Cooperatives
6. Service Cooperatives
7. Credit Union Cooperatives

Organizational Structure of Cooperatives in Thailand

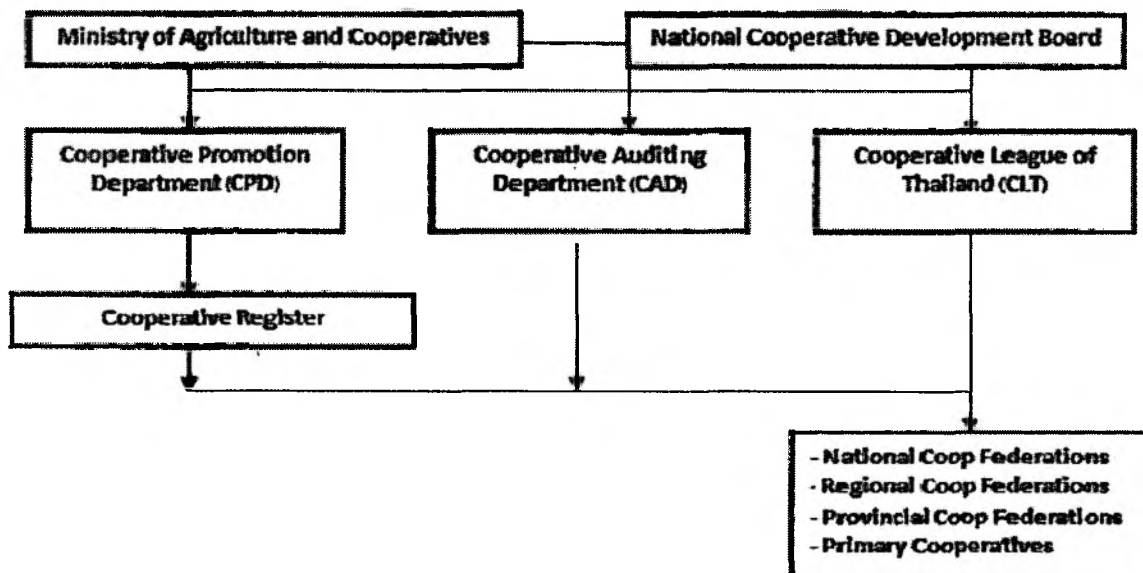
Cooperatives in Thailand are vertically organized in a three-tier system; primary cooperatives at district level and federations at provincial and national level. The primary cooperative consists of individual members while members of provincial and national federations are cooperatives. The members elect the board of directors through the general meeting with maximum number of 15 persons for cooperative development policies formulation. The board of directors, then, appoints a manager and staff to run the cooperative business.

Five or more cooperatives at primary or provincial level can form a provincial or national federation together to undertake joint activities on behalf of their affiliations such as processing and trading of agricultural products.

At national level, there is the Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Thailand of which all 76 provincial agricultural cooperative federations are affiliates. There are also the Sugarcane Growers Cooperative Federation of Thailand, Swine Raisers Cooperative Federation of Thailand, Dairy Cooperative Federation of Thailand and Onion Growers Cooperative Federation of Thailand. Thrift and Credit Cooperatives, and Consumer Cooperatives are affiliated in a national federation of their own.

All types of cooperatives at all levels, according to the Cooperative Act, A.D. 1999, have to implicitly be affiliates of the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT). The CLT is functioning as an apex body of the whole cooperative movement. It does not run as a business enterprise, but acts as a facilitator, coordinator and provides educational support in the promotion of all cooperative progress.

Relationship of Co-operative Organizations in Thailand







SECTION-III

Field Study Visits in Thailand

The field study visits were arranged from 17th to 22nd September 2015 in and around Bangkok by the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT).

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

Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT)

The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) was established according to the Cooperative Act (Cooperative Law) on 9th June 1968. It is a non-profit organization functioning as the national apex body of the cooperative movement in Thailand. All cooperatives registered under the Cooperative Act will be automatically affiliated to the CLT.

The main functions of CLT are: (a) Promote cooperative ideology and principles; (b) Provide technical assistance, training and education; (c) Promote business, trading, industry, and services of all cooperatives; (d) Strengthen cooperative networking and relationship locally and internationally; (e) Protect cooperative members' interests and benefits; and (f) Provide cooperation with the government concerned in promotion of cooperatives for genuine and real benefits to cooperatives in general.

Resources and Facilities

1. CLT Training Center with broad services of training, conferences, seminars, meetings, parties, food & beverage, accommodation up to 69 twin sharing rooms serviced to both members and non-members,
2. Publications/Magazines/Newsletters/TV Program and cooperative texts,
3. Training programs and consultations concerning cooperative laws and information,
4. Cooperative Museum and Library,
5. Arrangement for good relationship with cooperative organizations or international cooperative organizations.

Current Number of Cooperatives and Membership Classified by Types

No.	Types of Cooperatives	Number of Cooperatives (2013)	
		Cooperatives	Percentage
	Agricultural Cooperatives Sector		
1	Agricultural Cooperatives	4,361	54.95
2	Fisheries Cooperatives	101	1.25
3	Land Settlement Cooperatives	96	1.19
	Non-Agricultural Cooperatives Sector		
4	Thrift and Credit Cooperatives	1,452	18.28
5	Consumer Cooperatives	275	3.26
6	Service Cooperatives	1,111	14.86
7	Credit Union Cooperatives	441	6.21
	Total	7,837	100.00

Cooperative Promotion Department

In 1915, a year before the first cooperative was introduced to Thailand the Cooperative Section was established under the Ministry of Finance responsible for cooperative promotion. With an increasing role of cooperatives in the Thai economy, the Cooperative Section was transformed to be the Cooperative Department under the Ministry of Commerce in 1920, thus becoming the Ministry of Cooperatives in 1952. The reorganization of the government agencies in 1963 caused the abolishment of Ministry of Cooperatives and the establishment of Ministry of National Development in substitution. Under the new Ministry, there were three newly established departments responsible for all previous cooperative duties as follows - Land Cooperative Department, Cooperative Auditing Department and Trade and Finance Cooperative Department.

Again in 1972, the Ministry of National Development was abolished and replaced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. All cooperative works, except duties under the Cooperative Auditing Department, were merged together under the new department named Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) and attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

In 2002, the internal reorganization of Cooperative Promotion Department took place according to the Regulations of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. It resulted in the changes of roles, duties and responsibilities.

Vision: To be the key organization aiming at developing cooperative system to be the main force in developing the country towards a pleasant society.

Mission: (1) to create values and push forward the cooperative system to get involved in establishment of pleasant society based on sufficiency economy philosophy; (2) to strengthen cooperatives and farmer groups, equip them with good governance, being a learning organization, and providing services for members' satisfaction; (3) to encourage cooperatives and farmer groups to carry on businesses with high quality and fair play and to build up the networks among various stakeholders subject to a legal framework; (4) to promote the cooperative and farmer group participation with communities in social and environmental development activity; (5) to improve the personnel cooperation and participation in management and business operation on self-reliance and mutual help basis; (6) to improve the public administrative system and the Cooperative Promotion Department officer competencies through the good governance principles; and (7) to accelerate the land and promote occupation in cooperative settlement areas.

The CPD is responsible for promoting and disseminating the cooperative ideology, principles and methods to cooperative personnel, farmer groups and the public, promoting, supporting and strengthening the cooperative system, improving cooperatives' learning process to increase the capacity of business management as well as the efficiency of their operation, and encouraging cooperatives to upgrade the business linkages to international levels for better living quality of cooperatives members and socio-economic aspects.

The administration of CPD is divided into 2 parts - Central and Provincial ones. Central Administration, which is located in Bangkok, consists of 3 divisions, 1 center and 7 offices. Provincial Administration comprises 75 Provincial Cooperative Offices.

Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT)

History

- In 1965 first Credit Union was established under the name "Soon Klang Thewa Credit Union".

- In 1966 the Catholic Council for Social Development which sponsored credit union organizing and extension approved to establish the Committee of Credit Union in Thailand and responsible for all credit union promotion.
- In 1969 the Credit Union Center of Thailand was established. Its office was in the same building of Soon Klang Thewa Association and its function was to promote organization of credit union chapter in each region that could organize national organization.
- In 1970 the Credit Union Center of Thailand became the associate member of the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions.(ACCU).
- In 1971 the representatives from 60 credit unions all over Thailand attended the meeting at Xavier hall in Bangkok, to organize the Credit Union Nation Federation of Thailand or CUNAFT. The Executive Board was selected from the representatives attended.
- In 1973, the Credit Union Center of Thailand was recognized as regular member by ACCU.
- In 1974 the CUNAFT changed its name to the Credit Union League of Thailand Ltd. (CULT). Loan Protection and Life Saving Program from CUNA Mutual were launched in Thailand.
- In 1977 MISEREOR, one of donor agencies in Germany granted the fund for CULT Building. That was the nation league's first office and training center located at Ramkhamhaeng Road, Bangkok.
- In 1978 CULT office was moved from Soon Klang Thewa to new home.
- In 1979 the Credit Union movement in Thailand was legally accepted by the government and registered under the Cooperatives Law and supervised by the Cooperative Promotion Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

Vision: Financial institution for excellent one-stop service based on members' needs.

Mission: (a) To develop human resource as a professional; (b) To develop management system in an efficient way; and (c) To develop an excellent one-stop service based on members' needs.

Objectives: (a) Encourage Credit Union members to save; (b) Provide fund and credit services for livelihood and occupational development; (c) Procure raw materials, joint purchasing and selling, supply consuming or processing products and services of members; (d) Coordinate with cooperatives, national federations, Cooperative League of Thailand, community organization, private sector and government agencies to promote and develop cooperatives' businesses; and (e) Enhance knowledge and develop living standard of members and communities as well.

Funding Resources: Shares from affiliated members; Bonding Loan; Deposit from individual credit union and other cooperatives; Loan, Promissory Note and Bond; Reserve and other fund; and Donations.

As on 30th June 2013 the CULT has got 1,321 credit unions and 1.283 million members. Share capital is one of the components of CULT to show the participation and ownership of credit union members. As on 30th June 2013 CULT has got a total of US\$ 791 million share capital; US\$ 1,067 million reserve fund; US\$ 1,838 million loan outstanding; and US\$ 2,085 million assets. The CULT utilizes the surplus to maximize the profit for members by investing in various stock and/or bonds based on the framework of the cooperative law and regulation of cooperative registrar.

Bangplee Agricultural Cooperative Limited

There are a total of 6 Amphur (districts) and Bangplee is one of the districts in Smutprakarn Province located around 30 km from Bangkok city. The main International Airport, Suvarnbhumi International Airport is also located in this province. The total land area is 1,004 sq. km; one side is opened to the Gulf of Thailand and other side is connected to Bangkok Capital City as well as industrial zones.

Bangplee Agricultural Cooperative Limited is an agricultural primary district level coop, covered two districts namely, Bangplee and Bang Sao Thong Districts. It was established under Cooperative Act of 15th November 1971 and on 3rd January 1978, the cooperative has amalgamated with Bang Chalong Rice Trading Cooperative Limited.

The cooperative has got 634 individual members; 23 group members; 12 board of directors (7 male and 5 female); 5 (3 male and 2 female) permanent staff. The business activities of the cooperative as on 30th October 2014 are as follows: share capital-US\$ 275,067; business turnover-US\$ 1,106,334; and loan provided to members-US\$ 833,334. The main business activities of the cooperative are rice trading and marketing of members' products.

Boonsri's Thai Sweets Occupation Women Group

Boonsri's Thai Sweet Occupation Women Group is one of the most outstanding woman groups of Bangplee Agricultural Cooperative Limited. The group was formed in 2006 by Mrs. Boonsri Bhummalee, the group leader of cooperative member. The location of the group is Bangplee Old Town Market. The group has been supported by both local government office and by the cooperative.

Location of the group

103 Moo 10, Bangplee Yai Old Town Market,
Amphur Bangplee, Samutprakarn Province
Important Features of Boonsri's Thai Sweet Occupation Group
Established: 2006
Number of Members: 13
Main Products: Thai Sweet Branded Boonsri's Thai Sweet

Contact address:

Bangplee Agricultural Co-operative Ltd.
87/1 Moo 8 Tambon Banglee Yai
Amphur Bangplee
Samutprakarm Province-10500, Thailand.

Doem Bang Nang Buat Agricultural Cooperative Limited

Doem Bang Nang Buat Agricultural Cooperative Limited was registered under Cooperative Act on 1st January 1975. The cooperative was merged with another 5 cooperatives in Doem Bang Nang Buat District in Suphanburi Province and changed into official name as "Doem Bang Nang Buat Agricultural Cooperative Limited". The current address is located at No. 83 Moo 3, Tambon Khaopra, Doembang Nangbuat District in Suphanburi Province.

Doem Bang Nang Buat Agricultural Cooperative Limited, at present, is the cooperative learning center in Suphanburi Province. They provide several learning programs for people interested to study about cooperatives.

Main business activities are (1) Credit Services; (2) Deposit Services; and (3) Supply and Market Business.

Important features of Doem Bang Nang Buat Agricultural Cooperative Limited as of 31st March 2015 are as follows.

Number of individual members	3,035
Group of total members	131 (Male-1,579 and Female-1,456)
Number of Board of Directors	15 (Male-12 and Female-3)
Number of Staff	18 (Male-6 and Female-12)

Main business activities:

Share Capital (42,988,524 Baht)	US\$ 1,343,391
Business turnover (319,337,662 Baht)	US\$ 9,979,301
Loan provided to members (207,634,475 Baht)	US\$ 6,488,577
Deposit (103,285,474 Baht)	US\$ 2,951,013

The cooperative pays a sum of Baht 1,200 per year to the old people whose age is above 65 and Baht 3,600 per year for disabled persons. It has got the award for the best cooperative in 1982.

The net profit of the cooperative for 2014 was 4.224 million Baht. The term of the board of directors is 2 years and only two terms could be elected consecutively. The repayment rate of the cooperative is 85 per cent.

Bang Jhao Cha Women Group

The Bang Jhao Cha Women Group is located in Anghong province. The villagers of Bang Jhao Cha Women Group use bamboo which they learned from their ancestors and apply into handbags with many different shapes. They also dye the cane with various color for more beauty, including padding fabric inside the handbag for increased value and more convenience in using, also being able to be sold in the market.

The group was promoted by the Pho Thong Agricultural Cooperative Limited in 1977 with 20 members. Currently the group has got 300 members out of which 80% are women. The local enterprise development office provided 25,000 baht for two years to the group. The group got a fillip in 2004 when OTOP started in Thailand.

Bamboo is not a tree but it is of grass family that is one of the fastest growing plants in the world. Bamboos are of notable economic and cultural significance in South Asia, South-east Asia and East Asia, being used for building materials, as a food source and as a versatile raw product.

Rattans are also superficially similar to bamboo; many of the properties of rattan that make it suitable for furniture also make it a popular choice for handicraft and art pieces. Uses include rattan baskets, plant containers and other decorative items.

The method to weave baskets from rattan and bamboo tread has transferred from generation to the next. In the past they used this method to make hold house items for everyday use. Later, products have developed by combining the old method and new technology whilst keeping Thai identity. Many varieties of baskets are produced by the group. The sale of the products is done through the community development center. The group also exports their products directly to Japan, Europe and other countries. The CLT also helps the group to promote their products.

To become a member of the group, one has to buy at least one share of 10 baht. The maximum share allowed per person is 100. The dividend is paid on the share based on the profit. 5% from the wholesales and 10% from the retailers is deducted from the total sales for the group. The big problem facing the group is marketing and also to get a final decision among the group members.

Pho Thong Agricultural Cooperative Limited

Pho Thong Agriculture Cooperative Limited was established by merging of three cooperatives, namely, Land Settlement Cooperative Limited, Rice Supply Cooperative Limited, and Pho Thong Fund Mobilization Cooperative Limited. It was legally registered on 1st May 1985 with a group of 83 persons with an inception fund of 33,900 Baht. Today the cooperative has got 4,990 persons with a share capital of 276.172 million Baht.

The cooperative has got the following assets: two floor building; rice central market (branch-1) which spreads out about 7.6 acres including 3.6 acres of rice drying area, a computerized weighing apparatus with a capacity of 40 tons, two paddy barns and three wheel loaders; rice central market (branch-2) which spreads out about 6 acres including 1.6 acres rice drying area; a computerized weighing apparatus with a capacity of 4 tons and two paddy barns; petrol station located in rice central market (branch-2); and a two floors building in rice central market (branch-2).

The financial details of the cooperative as on 30th June 2015 are as follows: Share capital-67.163 million baht; other accumulated share-1.712 million baht; deposits-219.658 million baht; and total working capital-276.172 million baht.

The loan details are as follows: Total loan from previous year-223.721 million baht; paying loan-46.662 million baht; paid principal of loan-74.054 million baht; paid interest-17 million baht; and behind hand-188.801 million baht.

The trade details of the cooperative are as follows.

Products	Purchase Price (Baht)	Market Price (Baht)
Fertilizer	4,809,900	5,137,370
Paddy	3,389,430	3,628,680
Cooking Gas	1,433,611	1,604,102
Agricultural Chemicals	12,000	40,085
Gasoline	43,736,829	45,759,281

The cooperative has promoted Bang Chao Cha Women Group whose members is from Pho Thong area and also be the members of the cooperative. The Pho Thong Agricultural Cooperative Limited had encouraged the Group to produce bamboo products such as basketry bags, baskets and cone-shaped covers. Until now the products of the Group become well-known and hold a good market.

Pakkret Agricultural Cooperative Limited

The Pak Kret Agricultural Cooperative was established in 1939 with 25 farmer-members and several groups of farmers. It now has got 1,538 households in its membership. The Chairman of the Cooperative has been holding the office for the last 40 years, as the members repose a high level of confidence in him. The Cooperative has got 13 full-time employees.

Some of the principal activities of the cooperative are: credit and savings, purchasing and supplies, and acting as a central agricultural marketing agency. 30% of the members are engaged in rice farming, and 15% in fruits and vegetables. The membership has not grown significantly due to high level of urbanization in the area since it is close to Bangkok. The membership has shown a downward trend – 2,200 in 2011, 2,100 in 2012 and 1,800 in 2013. The share capital has increased to Baht 60 million in 2013 from Baht 45 million in 2011. There is no share investment by the government in the cooperative. The cooperative does not borrow any money from any

financial institution. Since credit is its main business, no loans have been taken by the cooperative.

Members borrow money from the cooperative for farming, purchase of household goods, and vehicles. Rate of interest on borrowing by members is 9%, and on deposits it is 2%. Default rate is within 10-12 per cent, since majority of borrowing members are employed, the deduction is usually done through the employers.

The cooperative has the following facilities: a high-ended office space; warehouse and vehicles. All profits earned are tax-exempted like any other agricultural cooperative in the country.

The cooperative is run by a Board of Directors consisting 15 members (6-women) and term of the Board is two years. However, the government is considering extending the term to four years. The board meeting is held once in a month. The cost of one year share is 2,000 Baht. The profit for 2012 was US\$ 300,000. The present building of the cooperative is constructed in 2009 with its own funds.

Role of supporting Agencies: Government and other agencies which provide support to initiatives are: CPD – Advisory and guidance services including training of employees; CAD – Regular annual audits and frequent supervision visits; and CLT – Member education and information dissemination;

The problem areas of the cooperative are severe competition and occasional contradictory government regulations.

SECTION-IV

Inauguration of Part-II of the Training Course in Japan

The inaugural session of Part-II of the Training Course was held on 24th September 2015 in the Conference Hall of IDACA. Mr. Masahiro Konno, Executive Director of the Institute for Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Advisor-Planning & Membership, ICA-AP addressed the inaugural session. Mr. Hideya Suzuki, General Manager (General Affairs Department); Mr. Toru Nakashima, Manager (Training and Development Department) and other officers of IDACA were also present.

Welcoming Mr. Konno and other senior officers of IDACA, **Mr. Sethu Madhavan** congratulated the participants for successfully completing the Part-I of the training course in Thailand and for attending the Part-II of the training course in Japan. He conveyed the sincere gratitude of the ICA to Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (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 and IDACA. He also spoke about the ICA Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade, an important outcome of IYC (International Year of Cooperatives).

Mr. Konno extended a warm welcome to all the participants to Japan on behalf of IDACA. He extended his sincere appreciation to Mr. Sethu Madhavan of ICA-AP for successfully handling the training course. He said that this project got materialised due to unified cooperation and support of MAFF and JA ZENCHU. He further said that the women's training course was started in 1991 and going on for the last 24 years with the financial support of MAFF and from 2014 onwards a new phase has started with emphasis on "Improving Capacity of Rural Women".

He further said "As you know, the objective of this training course is to build capacity of rural women leaders for the promotion of more organized business activities in South-Asian countries. After Part-I training course in Thailand, Part-II of the training course starts here from today for three weeks. We are preparing the program with the focus on the objective of the training course. I hope that the training course here will be good opportunity to discuss and exchange views of common topics among participants.

During the course, you are going to visit Mie Prefecture for field visits. The President of IDACA, Mr. Okuno, was born in Mie Prefecture and he was newly elected in last August as President of JA ZENCHU which is the apex organization of agricultural cooperative movement in Japan.

During the course, through lectures at IDACA and field visits to Mie Prefecture, you will learn various aspects of rural women's activities in Japan. I believe that those information and findings you are going to gain during the training course will contribute in preparation of your final action plan."

He said that IDACA was established in 1963 with funds contributed by all Japanese agricultural cooperatives. More than **50** years history of IDACA, around 6,000 participants, mainly from Asia, have been trained from 120 countries. He further said that IDACA had organized a function in August 2013 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its establishment and also brought out a commemorative DVD and booklet.

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 a comfortable and fruitful stay at IDACA in the autumn season.

Inauguration of the Training Course in Japan



Study Visits in Japan



SECTION-V

Lectures at IDACA

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

Brief History of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan

by Mr. Hiroshi Terunuma, Cooperative Development Consultant, IDACA

Under this topic, the resource person explained about the different stages of development of agricultural cooperatives in Japan. He covered the following subjects – characteristics of cooperatives; what is agricultural cooperative; unique features of agricultural cooperatives in Japan; structure of agricultural cooperatives; trends of age composition of members of JA; various types of agricultural cooperatives; JA group organisations; farm guidance activities; better living guidance; diversified and unique marketing methods; marketing business system of JA; and facilities of JA (A coop store, gasoline station, country elevator, collection and shipment centre, funeral ceremony halls, etc.). He also gave an account of salient features and some relevant reasons for the fast development of agricultural cooperatives and agriculture 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.

Organization and Activities of JA Women's Association

by Ms. Ariko Hotta, National Council of JA Women's Associations, 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 voice 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 – significance of activities of JA women's association; present activities of JA women's associations; problems and action of JA women's associations; eco-life declaration by JA Women's Associations; promotion of local production for local consumption movement; and activities for supporting disaster stricken area.

Historical Background of Establishment of JA Women's Association

by Mr. Yoshiaki Ogane, Founder Editor, Ie-No-Hikari Association and Writer

Under this topic, the resource person explained the background of establishment of JA Women's Association. The important aspects covered by him were: (a) Unconditional surrender of Japan – defeat in the imperialism war (war of aggression) against the western power turning Asia into the battlefield; (b) Women's liberation by post-war democratization policy of the occupation forces; (c) Democratization of agriculture and rural area; and (d) Improvement of rural life and women's social status by Government (life improvement section set up by the MAFF, technical guidance for kitchen, fostering life improvement groups); Agricultural cooperatives (promotion of purchasing business of daily necessities, establishment and fostering of women's associations of agricultural cooperatives; joint delivery of daily necessities; rationalization of daily life and promotion of savings; and women's associations (enhancement of organization, and activities for culture and welfare).

How to Start Women's Business – Case Studies in Thailand and Japan

by Ms. Tetsu Takahashi, Director, JA Iwate Hanamaki.

Under this topic, the resource person covered the following: (a) The Way to Establish Direct Sales Shop by JA Women's Association (present situation of JA Iwate Hanamaki; activities of JA Hanamaki women's association; details of establishment of direct sales shop; introduction of main direct sales shops; and achievements brought to farmers by direct sales business); and (b) Case Study of Women's Entrepreneurial Activities by Rural Women in Thailand (Community leader development project for agricultural cooperatives; better living activities; marketing support for vocational group; and introduction of different groups - food processing, textile dyeing, handicrafts and herbal products). She also made a brief presentation about the great earthquake and tsunami that hit Iwate Prefecture on 11th March 2011 and the relief activities undertaken by JAs and the Women Associations in Japan.

Assertive Training for Smooth Human Communication

by Ms. Shiom Morita, Executive Director, Specified Non-profit Organization

Under this topic, 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 said that there are five basic assertiveness techniques – be specific (avoid generalisation); keep to the point (broken record); self-disclosure (say how you feel); understand the other person's feelings; and offer a compromise (try to find the best solution). She also said that one should be aware of your body language (verbal, vocal, visual). She also said that there are 12 rights mentioned in the book "A Woman in Your Own Right" written by Anne Dickson in 1980. Interesting and useful role plays were also performed by the participants at the end.

Ways to Motivate Rural Women to Start Business and the Key to Success

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

The resource person tried to explain about "How to Promote Agribusiness and Marketing of One Village One Product (OVOP). The definition of OVOP is development of value (preciousness) based on local available resources by local people. She further explained about the selling concept and the marketing concept; achievements of OVOP in Oita prefecture where it was first initiated; outcome from OVOP in Japan; 3 principles of OVOP (local yet global; self-reliance and creativity; and human resource development); how to make profit from OVOP; branding under OVOP; entrepreneurial activities by Kaizen groups as the core of OVOP (People's awareness, exploring the unrealized potential of each village, continuous trials and enduring efforts, seeking higher added-value in products, developing markets and distribution channels, and nurturing people's talents); how to establish collaboration between LDC and Japan; 4 steps towards the goal of the OVOP campaign (People's awareness in LDC, introducing relevant policies and nurturing talented people of LDC, finding, selecting and improving products to create 'indigenous treasures', and marketing nationwide/to the world); and some examples of OVOP products in Japan and overseas.

SECTION-VI

Field Study Visits in Japan

During Part-II of the Training Course in Japan, study visits were arranged in Mie Prefecture. The participants visited Mie Prefecture from 30th September to 3rd October to get themselves 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 were briefed about the outline of Mie Prefecture and they visited the following institutions during their study visits.

Mie Prefecture

Mie prefecture is located on the main Honshu island of Japan. The capital of the Prefecture is Tsu. The total area of the Prefecture is 5,774.39 square kilometers (25th rank). The total population as of May 2015 was 1,812,496 (23rd rank) and the density is 321 persons per square kilometer. The prefecture has got 7 districts and 29 municipalities (14 cities and 15 towns).

Mie prefecture has traditionally been a link between east and west Japan, thanks largely to the Tokaido and Ise pilgrimage roads. Traditional handicrafts such as Iga braid, Yokkaichi banko pottery, Suzuka Ink, Iga pottery and Ise katagami flourished. With 65% of the prefecture consists of forests and with over 1,000 km of coastline, Mie has long been associated with forestry and seafood industries. Mie also produces tea, beef, cultural pearls and fruits, mainly mandarin oranges. The Food production companies include Azuma foods.

Northern Mie is home to a number of manufacturing industries, mainly transport machinery manufacturing (vehicles and ships) and heavy chemical industries such as oil refineries. Mie prefecture is also expanding into more advanced industries including the manufacture of semiconductors and liquid crystal displays. In Suzuka, the Honda Motor Company maintains a factory established in 1960 that built the Honda Civic as well as other vehicles.

Agriculture in Mie Prefecture

With the blessings of its mild climate and location neighboring huge consumption areas such as Chukyo and Hanshin, Mie prefecture has developed various agricultural and livestock production areas based on each area characteristics. This makes agricultural production of the prefecture in the middle rank in Japan. Therefore, agriculture is placed as an important industry for local economy, while most of the production depended on part-time farmers.

Main agricultural products by area show that vegetables, greenhouse strawberry and tomato production centering rice in Ise area to mountainous area, tea production in Suzuka mountainous area and Nansei area, flowers and ornamental plants in Suzuka and Ise areas, citrus fruits in Nansei and Higashi-kii areas and beef cattle production in Matsuzaka and Iga areas.

The total volume of production in Mie prefecture for the year 2009 was: agriculture-57.7 billion yen; forestry-11.2 billion yen; and fishery-24.2 billion yen. Agricultural production is on a decreasing trend for the last few years due to increase of more part-time farmers and decrease of regular farmers. Prices of agricultural products are also decreasing year by year due to import.

Total number of farm households in Mie prefecture is 52,359; total number of commercial farm household-134,284; total area of cultivated land-61,300 ha; total income of one farm household-458,800 yen; agricultural output-105.8 billion yen.

JA Mie Prefectural Union

There are 12 JAs in Mie prefecture. JA Mie Prefectural Union is a representative of member agricultural cooperatives and also a guidance organization. It has been engaged in various activities based on the principles, aiming to realize a sustainable development of agriculture and affluent communities with peace of mind by developing JA groups in Mie prefecture properly and by practicing JA movement on the spirit of 'mutual help'.

The main business of the Union are: Guidance (reinforcement of JA's management system, re-organization of JA group, development of management and economic information system, promotion of regional agriculture, welfare business for the elderly); Public Relation Business (strengthening of JA's PR activities); Agricultural Policy Legislative Activities (making proposal and request in the agricultural policy, budget and taxation system to government); Auditing (auditing of JA's account statement and financial statement); and Education and Training (implementation of training for officials and employees).

The board of directors consists of 15 persons. It has got the following four departments: (a) Regional Affairs Department; (b) Organizational Management Department; (c) General Affairs and Planning Department; and (d) Common Administration Affairs Department.

JA group has municipality-based business offices in various activities and businesses, such as guidance, credit business, welfare activities, economic business and mutual insurance business. It also has the organizations established with the functions at prefectural and national levels respectively.

There are 42 direct sales shops and 13 A-coops in Mie prefecture.

JAs offer various types of farm guidance on technical matters and farm management to farm households engaged in rice and other vegetable production or livestock breeding. JAs are playing a central role in development of local agriculture in terms of drawing up regional agriculture plan, fostering local farming groups, supporting development of producers' groups, etc. JAs also offer better living guidance including dietary habit improvement, health care activities, better life and cultural activities aiming to improve livelihood of members and maintain their secured and affluent lives.

JAs market farm products produced by member farmers. The fundamental concept of JA's marketing business is "joint marketing system". Through this system, certain amount of farm products can be procured easily and their quality can be uniformed at certain level, which leads to advantageous sales on the market. Recently various marketing channels have been established by JAs including direct marketing to supermarkets, mass-retailers, food industries and selling at direct sales shops (farmers markets) and other outlets established by JA.

JAs supply production materials such as fertilizers, agro-chemicals, feeds and agricultural equipment and also daily necessities such as food stuffs, miscellaneous goods and durable consumer goods and supply them to members. JAs purchasing business is basically conducted on receiving advance orders placed by members. By employing economy of scale gained through this scheme, JA can supply quality goods as cheap as possible in stable manner.

JAs receive deposits from members and use them as capital for loans extended to members and for other purposes. Financial services offered by JAs encompass various types of loans such as housing loans, automobile loans, etc. which correspond to the needs of members. In addition, JAs offer consultation on matters such as asset management. Banking group consists of JAs, JA prefectural credit federations and the Norinchukin Bank called "JA Bank" which has the largest branch network in Japan.

Mutual insurance business is conducted by JAs and JA Kyousairen (National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives). Unlike private insurance companies which provide insurance for unspecified large number of people, JA's mutual insurance is

targeted to JA members and has both functions to protect human life and property damage based on mutual aid spirit. Each JA gives mutual insurance service over their counters to contractors including farm members and specialized staffs called Life Advisors who have broad knowledge of mutual insurance and are capable of catering various needs of contractors stationed at each JA.

JAs are also engaged in other businesses such as utilization business (establish joint-use facilities for JA members such as drying plant, processing facilities, etc. aiming to increase efficacy of production); processing business harnessing local specialty production; and welfare service for the elderly in order to meet the different needs of local communities.

Mie Prefectural Council of JA Women's Associations

The establishment of women's associations started since 1948 in Japan. Its main objective during 1960-1970 was to improve the living standard of rural women. It can be said that the relationship between the JA and the Women's Association is complementary to each other.

The Mie Prefectural Council of JA Women's Association was established in 1974 with roughly 85,000 members (290 member organizations) based on connection and cooperation of each woman's association with the purpose of protecting women's rights, improving their social and economic status, and creating a comfortable local community with good rapport and mutual aid through cooperative activities. It is a prefectural level organization consisting of 12 JA women's associations in the prefecture with 8,828 members as on 31st March 2015.

Members of each woman's association consist of housewives of JA member households and residents in the community. The main roles of the organization are enlightenment and consultation for solidarity and interchange among JA women's associations. On top of this, it plays a very important role in reinvigorating the business and operation of JAs.

Each woman's association implements various group activities such as education on food and agriculture; agricultural products processing; direct sales shop; joint purchasing and cultural activities.

The activities conducted by the association include activities for food and agriculture and local production for local consumption; better living and mutual help activities; tackling on revitalization of the organizations; and participation and engagement of women in JA's management.

The participation of women as regular members in Mie prefecture is only 17% as on 31st March 2015. The total budget of the association for the year 2014 was 3.030 million yen. The board of directors of the Council consists of 12 persons.

One of the greatest concerns for the Association is the progress of aging of its members. Therefore, it has established a special group (young ladies group) to attract new members below 45 years.

JA Takigun

The JA Takigun was established on 2nd October 1989. It has got 197 full time employees (male-130 and female-67) and 59 part time employees (male-16 and female-43). The share capital of the JA is 1,277 million yen as on 31st March 2015. The JA has got the following four departments: (a) Credit Mutual Insurance Department; (b) Planning General Affairs Department; (c) Farm Guidance Department; and (d) Economic Business Department. At the end of 2014, the JA has got a total of 8,328 members (regular-5,820 and associate-2,508).

JA Takigun Silver Center Smile

The JA Takigun Silver Center Smile was opened on 1st April 2015. The total construction cost was 245.700 million yen. Out of this, 62 million was received as subsidy and grants and the balance was paid by JA Takigun. There are seven day care centers in Mie prefecture.

Objective: The number of senior citizens has been increasing in Meiwa-cho (town) and most of them have deep affection to the town life and wished to stay at home when they need nursing care. In response to this, the Center made utmost efforts to provide flexible services by taking consideration of wishes of these senior people and support them to stay at home as long as possible. The center strives to enhance the capacity of care staff and provide the services respecting the dignity of individuals with the highest priority.

Four types of services are provided by the Center: (a) home care support; (b) home visit care; (c) day care (designated by prefectural government); and (d) small-scale multifunctional care (designated by town).

As rehabilitation specialized day care service, the Center provides services two shifts a day - 09:00 to 12:00 in the morning and 13:30 to 16:30 in the afternoon (3 hours). The Center strives to support the users to maintain and improve their physical function owned by them now as much as possible. In addition to rehabilitation apparatus, the spacious room makes users feel comfortable and relaxing. The day care service has got the following services: consulting room; exercise bike; resting room; physical exercise mat; body spider (training machine); and footbath.

Centering on home visit care, the center provides nursing care services for 24 hours, 365 days a year for the users. In this system, basically the staff will visit the user's house or the users can stay at the center in response to request from users or their family (registration-25 persons, day care-15 persons, and lodging-8 persons). It has got the following: Japanese systole room; western style room; open kitchen; multipurpose toilet; and bathroom. There are different types of bathrooms suitable for each user's physical condition, such as taking a back with sitting on the chair, etc.

The other services provided by the center are: exchange between users and residents in the area; acceptance system of volunteers; specific measures to the regional contribution; and networking for cooperation with medical institutions.

Depending on the situation, the staff of the center will visit the user's house from time to time, and provide the life support services, such as shopping, cooking and taking care of the medicine.

The service is provided for those whose age is above 65 years. 90% of the costs are covered through the insurance and the balance 10% is paid by the individual. A total of 32 employees are working in the center.

JA Iga-Hokubu

Iga city was established by amalgamation of 6 municipalities in November 2004. The population in the area of operation of JA was 96,000. Mie prefecture where Iga city is located belongs to cultural and economic zone centered in Aichi prefecture. However, Iga city had a long history of exchanges with Kyoto and Osaka. Iga is also popular as origin of Iga-ryu Ninjutsu or Ninja.

Iga city is located in the basin surrounded by mountains in 4 dimensions, having typical climate of basin, hot and highly humid in the summer and very cold in the winter season. The area is blessed with clean water springs out from the mountain and it makes one of origins of rivers to form the Yodo River which is flowing through Osaka area. The gap of temperature between morning and evening and clean water are good conditions for the growth of agricultural products and the area was popular for tasty rice production since the Edo era (17th century). Many varieties of agricultural products such as Iga rice, Iga

beef, Japanese pear, grape, asparagus, fig, black mushroom, rape blossoms, soy bean and wheat are produced in the area.

The total number of members of JA Iga-Hokubu was 13,279 (regular members-8,510 and associate members-4,769) at the end of 2014. The number of employees was 533 (regular-290, temporary-96 and short-term contract and part time-147). The JA has got 33 (3 full time and 30 part time) board of directors (out of which 3 are women). The board meeting is held once in a month. The term of office of the board is three years.

Its marketing turnover as of 31st March 2014 was 5.146 billion yen. The break-up of the turnover was as follows: agricultural crops (rice and wheat/soy bean) 3.434 billion yen; horticultural products (vegetables, fruits, mushroom, direct sales shop) 332.592 million yen; and livestock products (beef cattle and other livestock) 1.379 billion yen.

The JA Iga-Hokubu has got the following facilities: head office (1); farm management/better living center (8); computer center (1); fureai shop (29); branch office (7); farm machinery center (1); farm machinery workshop (4); A coop store (1); JA mart (2); JA shop ayama (1); fuel center (1); gasoline station (4); rice mill center (1); yasuragi center (1); asset management center (1); tourism center (1); distribution center (1); car service center (1); compost manure center (2); country elevator (2); rice center (5); seedling center (5); seeds center (1); asparagus grading center (1); community room (1); government designated warehouse (1); and coin rice milling machine (1).

The cooperative subsidiary companies of JA Iga-Hokubu are: Iga-hokubu Business Service Company Limited (established on 1st May 2000 with 10 million yen equity); and Iga-hokubu Agri Company Limited (established on 1st May 2004 with 10.1 million yen equity).

JA Iga-Hokubu Women's Association

The JA Iga-Hokubu Women's Association was established in 1973. It is a primary level JA Women's Association with 284 members as on 31st March 2014.

Basic policy: JA Iga-Hokubu Women's Association (JAWA) shall review the subjects and activities conducted so far and tackle with implementation of 'visible organization/visible activities' with main emphasis in improving supporting life of elderly persons, food, education and environmental conservation activities through promoting exchanges with other organizations, we will create active local community deeply linked with local residents to be continued in the next fiscal year. Also, we will push forward making bases for JAWA for continuous activities. For that purpose, we will facilitate development and vitalization of JAWA and promote increase of members as well as promotion of participation in the management of JA.

The Women's Association conducts many activities on the following subjects: (a) measures for food and agriculture/local consumption of locally produced products (promotion of food education, facilitation of food and agriculture study targeting parents and children, enlightenment of local dishes suitable for culture and soil of the local area, measures to prevent TPP agreement); (b) measures for better living and mutual help (promotion of mutual help activities, environmental conservation campaign, measures for campaign – healthy age expectancy 100 years old); and (c) measures for revitalization of organizations (participation of more women in management of JA, promotion of increasing regular members of JA among members of women's association, promotion of dialogue with officials and employees of JA, increasing members of women's association and fostering of objective groups, promotion of reading circle of Ie-no-hikari monthly magazine at home, conducting survey on the situation of organization and questionnaire, promotion of exchange with other organizations).

The total budget of the Women's Association for the year 2015 is 4.197 million yen. The membership fee is Yen 1,000 per member per year. However, the main income of the Women's Association is the yearly contribution (subsidy) from JA Iga-Hokubu. The main

problem of the Women's Association is how to increase the number of younger generation in the Association.

Rural Women's Business Activity – Sushi Workshop 'NABANA'

Rural women are main persons who are engaged in entrepreneurial activities in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry using mainly local materials and responsible for management. The six patterns of entrepreneurial activities are: (a) agricultural production; (b) food processing; (c) non-food processing; (d) sales and distribution; (e) exchange between rural and urban areas (green tourism); and (f) services.

Mie Nabana (rape blossoms) is a specialty of Nagashima town, Kuwana city. The cultivated area is about 33 ha and number of producers is 120. The total production is about 300 tons which is 40% of the production in the prefecture. In 1950s they shipped to wholesale market as 'Tumina'. In the late 1960s JA started the first Japanese joint marketing of 'Tumina' since the number of producers increased substantially and changed the product's name to 'Nabana' which sounds favorable.

In 1989 Mie Brand Nabana Promotion Council was established. PR activity started with the sales copy of 'Mie Nabana with splash taste in the kingdom of water'. Marketing channels were developed following the great success of Nabana tasting PR strategy targeted at the middlemen in Kanto region. Nabana was designated as "traditional vegetable in Mie Prefecture" to protect in the communities.

To increase the production, the following activities were undertaken: (a) appealing to producers to cultivate Nabana as much as possible; (b) simplifying shipment work at the peak period in February and March; and (c) tied-up with food service industry to develop marketing channel.

The wishes of Sushi Workshop Nabana are: to preserve the local cuisine; to succeed our tradition to next generation; and to extend rice consumption. The Chairperson of JAWA encouraged the Group to start the business and provided all possible assistance. Sushi Workshop Nabana was established in 2005 with 7 members and now it has got 12 active members. They are making the following three dishes: Tsunashi (fish) Sushi; Boxed Sushi; and Moroko (fish) Sushi and selling them at A-coop Nagashima store, Nabana-no-Sato (flower garden) and Flower wholesale market. The Group was awarded in 2007 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan.

The objectives of the Group are: to engage in the activities as long as possible; to disseminate widely on "Nabana production" and "Sushi Workshop Nabana"; and consumption of rice through the business (160 bales – 1 bale = 60 kg). With the motto of agriculture to the next generation', the Group is providing food and agriculture education for children and succession of Sushi Workshop Nabana.

The average age of the group members is 67. The group works in shifts of 5 hours. The first shift starts at 4 am. The average sales turnover is 30 million yen per year.

JA Mie-Kita

The JA Mie-Kita was established on 1st April 2015 through amalgamation. The JA has got 51,981 members as on 31st March 2015. Besides the Head Office, the JA has got 54 branch offices, 1 retailing store and 9 farm management centers. It has got 54 directors (6 full time) and 7 auditors (1 full time). The total number of regular employees is 705.

The business activities of the JA as on 31st March 2015 are as follows: share capital-6.214 billion yen; total assets-664.444 billion yen; outstanding savings-622.948 billion yen; outstanding loans-106.251 billion yen; long-term mutual insurance policy holdings-1,541.931 billion yen; pension insurance policy holdings-10.583 billion yen; supply turnover (from purchased goods)-6.846 billion yen; and marketing turnover-5.491 billion yen.

Farmers' Market (Direct Sales Shop)

With the age of farmers increasing in the area, they have difficulty in engaging fully in joint marketing business requiring bulk products demanded in the wholesale market, JA embarked on operation of the direct sales shop (farmers' market) intended for the elderly farmers and farming women to facilitate sale of even small volume of the products and meet a wide variety. They bring the products and can determine the prices by themselves, which is totally different from wholesale market-oriented business which adopts an auction system.

The main purpose of establishing the farmers' market 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.

The Farmer's Market (direct sales shop) under JA Mie-Kita was established on 10th June 2006. The sales floor area is 330 square meters and the site area is 2,000 square meters. Parking facility is available for 90 vehicles. The market operates from 09:00 hours to 18:00 hours. The market is closed on every Tuesday, bon festival and New Year day. 236,856 customers visited the market in 2014. The highest monthly sale is recorded in December with 50 million yen. The number of customers decreased in the afternoon (2 to 4 pm).

Although 300 farmers are registered with the farmers' market, only 80 to 100 farmers bring their produce on average daily. 65% of the products are through consignment (from farmers) and 35% through purchase (from wholesale market).

The farmer members bring their products in the early morning on their own and put stickers with bar code on them. With the help of bar code the JA can easily find out who produced the commodity. The annual sales turnover was 462.947 million yen. The JA charges 15% of the sales for fruits and vegetables and 20% for processed foods as commission for using the facilities of the farmers' market. The JA makes the payment to the farmers two times in a month.

When some products remain unsold, the farmers have to take them back. As mentioned above, the prices are to be decided by the member farmers. They are responsible for ensuring the quality and safety of the products. The details regarding the relevant information of all members are registered with JA. The sales proceeds are instantly credited to farmers' account which they keep with their JA.

This kind of farmers market 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. There were 20,000 farmers' markets in Japan as of 2014 and all are linked directly with the prevalent concept of "local consumption from local production", a concept being promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). The main problem faced by the farmers' market is that all members are not using its facility.

In addition to the above, the participants also visited the following institutions in Hachioji and Yamanashi prefectures on 7th and 9th October respectively.

Hachioji Osada Sericulture

Hachioji Osada Sericulture is located in the northern part of Hachioji city, Kasumi area. Near this, there was a famous Takiyama castle. In olden days, a market was regularly opened in the Takiyama castle town and it is said that silk fabric was one of the products sold there. It is proved that people in this area have engaged in sericulture since early times.

Hachioji Osada Sericulture owned by Osada family started silkworm culture around 1903. His great grandfather saved money by thread business and increased his land. At that

time, it was natural for farmers in this area to engage in sericulture. Therefore, his great grandfather started sericulture without any hesitation. Production of cocoon at the peak time (around 1975) was about 685 kg a year with 5 times of production.

He was born as an eldest son of the 12th generation of the Osada family. When he was 19 years old, his father died, so his grandfather, mother and he succeeded sericulture from his father. He got married in 1999, and in the next year his grandfather died. Now he dedicates himself to sericulture with the help of his wife and mother.

Before 1999, he produced 280 kg cocoons (7 boxes) with breeding of three times per year, but now he produces about 100 kg cocoons (2.5 boxes) with breeding of two times a year. The main reason for reducing the breeding time was that it became difficult to breed in summer because of rising the temperature in summer and reduction of mulberry leaves.

Sericulture industry is a part of the process of silk production. The perfect division of labour system is adopted in the sericulture industry because of mass production. He purchases larvae about 10 days from hatching (young silkworm breeding) and contract to work until it become the cocoon. There were about 600 sericulture houses in Hachioji city at the peak time, but now, only three sericulture farmers exist. Around 1995, there were more than 30 sericulture houses, so sericulture in this area was rather active.

He has got the following facilities for the sericulture: a breeding room (mulberry hut), upper room (a large shelf, a main building garret), a mulberry place (store room), young silkworm breeding room, mulberry fields. The cocoons shipped by him are sent mainly to people who make handicrafts as special brand name "Tokyo Silk".

Hachioji Takiyama Roadside Station

Roadside stations (michi-no-eki) are facilities that provide a comfortable rest area for travellers 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 1,050 roadside stations registered in Japan.

Roadside stations fundamentally perform three basic functions. Firstly, they provide rest areas to 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 travellers 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 station are: (a) attracting people; (b) creating employment and increase income; (c) discovery of local resources and creation of added value; (d) human resource development; and (d) activation of local community.

Hachioji Takiyama Roadside Station was registered as the first roadside station in Tokyo on 10th August 2005. It is located in the intersection with new Takiyama Avenue and Hiyodori tunnel which runs directly from the central part of Hachioji city. Among others, it has got a direct sales shop, a restaurant, a bakery shop, and an ice cream parlour. It has also got a post-disaster facility to function as a temporary evacuation shelter for local people (fire prevention water tank of 40 tons, hand-powered simple well and propane gas at the kitchen). The total site area of the roadside station is 10,404 square meter including two parking lots. A total of 107 vehicles can be parked in these two parking lots which is available for 24 hours. It has also got a total of 19 toilets. The facilities at the roadside station are available from 9 am to 9 pm.

The roadside station is owned by the local government. However, all the facilities at the roadside station are managed by "Weiza" Nippon Road Promotion Company Limited. There are 1,000 farmers in Hachioji area. Out of that, 171 farmers are registered with

the shipment cooperative and bring their produce to the direct sales shop daily. Though the direct sales shop is run by a shipment cooperative, the JA Hachioji has provided two staff members to work at the direct sales shop. Around 540,000 customers visited the roadside station in 2014. The sales turnover for 2014 was US\$ 10 million and more than 50% of this came from agricultural products (fruits and vegetables).

Mr. Saito's Orchard

Around 2005 Mr. Saito's wife started helping her in-law's orchard. In 2012 Mr. Saito's parents passed away. Mr. Saito got involved in the management of this orchard since 2011, after his retirement from ZEN-NOH. Mr. Saito has got a total cultivated land area of 9,143 square meters in Minami Alps city in Yamanashi prefecture.

The soil contains many rocks which are unsuitable for paddy fields; hence fruits production (peaches, grapes, Japanese plums, cherries, persimmons, etc.) is popular in this area. Blessed with advantageous location nearby Tokyo, there are many tourist farms. Since the farm lands got dried very easily, many farmers have introduced irrigation system using sprinklers since 50 years ago.

Mr. Saito markets his produce to JA Komano (65%), Roadside Station (20%) and delivery to direct customers (15%). The total sales turnover for 2014 was 2.6 million yen. The normal life of trees of cherry, plum and persimmons is 15 to 20 years.

Basic information for fruits cultivation: Fruits in large size with high sugar content are considered to have high commercial value in Japan, hence thinning is necessary. For irrigation sprinklers are used. To accelerate the coloration of fruits, lighting sheets are placed under the trees. As for peaches, only the ones harvested on the day of shipment are allowed to be sold. As for Japanese plums and cherries, packing is done at Mr. Saito's house and he himself brings them to JA's grading centre next day morning. Over ripeness extremely deducts commercial value of fruits. To prevent rain from making cracks on the skin of cherries, tents are required for cherry production. The cherry trees are covered with nets, to protect the fruits to be eaten by birds. There is also a possibility of cherry trees to get weary and become withered due to too many fruits on their branches.

Farm Guidance System of JA Komano: Among 380 employees of the JA, 20 farm advisors are stationed for this system. Pest control guidance started in February every year. Every year commodity-wise farming skill guidance on pruning and quality improvement are provided. Guidance to check quality of standards of each variety is conducted during their shipping. Whenever fertilizers or agro-chemicals are used in fields, JA will give announcements and send e-mails to arouse attention. Consultation and guidance service on telephone called "Farm Management Dial 100 Service".

Hotarumi-kan Hall

Hatarumi-kan hall is located on a hill of Minami Alps city in western park of Yamanashi prefecture (2 hours' drive from Tokyo) and well known as "fruits kingdom". The literal meaning of Hatarumi-kan is "place to see fire fly". A glorious scene of Mt. Fuji can be seen ahead of pastoral rural area. The city was born through merger of 4 towns and 2 villages in April 2003. The population of the city is 72,763 and number of households is 24,084 as on 1st February 2007.

Hotarumi-kan Hall, the facility for revitalization of "Iris village" is designed for revitalization and development of rural area by exchange among people inside and outside the area. The facility is provided by the local government. The Minami Alps city Speciality Products Enterprise Cooperative conducts researches and development of processed foods such as jams, miso paste and pickles as its speciality products. It has a processing room, storage room and a cold storage room for development of products and also a practice room for experiencing processing.

At the southern side of the facility, there is a Hotarumi-bashi park which has become an integrated part of Hotarumi-kan hall. Since 2006 the Minami-Alps city Speciality Products Enterprise Cooperative has been commissioned as Minami-Alps city Designated Administrator for operation of Hotarumi-kan hall and Machi-no-Eki or town station.

History: In 1992 - Sakuranbo jam or cherry jam made of fresh and safe ingredients placed as a speciality product of former Kushigata-machi under the theme of "local production for local consumption. From 1995-97 - For establishment of processing facility, the women simulated assembly makes petition to the town office. In January 1999 - Iris Village Speciality Products Processing Cooperative or "Kushigata" town is established. In December 1999 - Hotarumi-kan, the facility for revitalization of "Iris Village" is completed for the activities of the cooperative. In April 2003 - Minami-Alps city is born by the amalgamation of towns and villages. At the same time, the name of the cooperative is changed into "Minami Alps city's Iris Village Speciality Products Processing Cooperative". In 2004 - Hotarumi-kan, the Minami Alps city Speciality Products Enterprise Cooperative is established with 137 members and given permission in September by Yamanashi prefecture to officially start its business as an enterprise cooperative. Currently, they manage it as a Minami Alps city Designated Administrator.

The facility has got the following three departments: production department (fruits and vegetables); processing department (jams, pickles, miso paste and ice cream) and marketing department. It has got a 15 member board of directors (1-director, 4-vice directors and 10-members). The board of directors meet every month.

Morning market is opened at Hatarumi-kan hall from 7:30 to 9 am every Saturday. Handicrafts and processed products manufactured by the cooperative, centring fresh harvested vegetables are on sale at the morning market. All the ingredients used at the processing unit are produced by the members only. The average age of the 10 women working at the processing unit is 68 to 70. The normal working hours of the group is from 5 to 8 am. If there is more order, they start working at 3 am. The women working at processing unit are paid 750 yen per hour. The retirement age at the facility is 75 years old.





Closing of the Training Course at IDACA, Japan



SECTION-VII

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

The concluding session of the Training Course was held at IDACA in the afternoon of 13th November. The session was attended by Mr. Toshiyuki Shinada, Assistant Director, Regional Affairs Division, Overseas Investment and Cooperation Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan; Mr. Masahiro Konno, Executive Director of IDACA; Mr. Chikara Sato, Chief of International Cooperation Division of JA ZENCHU; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Advisor-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. He requested the participants to make use of the experiences gained in Thailand and Japan and implement their action plans. He wished the participants a safe journey back home and a happy re-union with their families.

Addressing the session, **Mr. Shinada** expressed hearty congratulations to the participants on successful completion of the training course. He expressed his gratitude on behalf of MAFF to ICA-AP and IDACA for conducting the course successfully. He hoped that the experiences gained by the participants while in Thailand and Japan would be useful upon their return to their home countries.

He further said "The objective of this training course is to assist fostering women coordinators who play important roles to activate women in agricultural sector and rural community which will contribute in income-generation and poverty reduction. I hope you will help rural women who live under difficult conditions to build peaceful and socially cohesive communities by the knowledge and experience you got from this training course.

Tomorrow you are going to leave for your respective countries. I hope you will never forget your stay in Japan and the goodwill you received from Japanese people. Please remember Japan sometimes with your family".

Addressing the session, **Mr. Sato** expressed hearty congratulations to the participants on completion of the training course. He also thanked ICA-AP and IDACA for the successful implementation of the training course. He said agricultural cooperatives in Japan have got close relation with rural areas and the gap between rural and urban areas is increasing. He further said Women's Association is one of the strongest associations in Japan and it helps elderly people in different ways. He requested the participants to make use of the various aspects of Japanese agricultural cooperatives and women's associations they studied in Japan in their respective countries.

Mr. Konno congratulated the participants on successful completion of the training course. He further said "During the training course, you spent one week in Thailand and three weeks in Japan and you could observe various activities of women's groups in both the countries. In Japan, I believe you learned a lot of things through lectures and study visits to Mie Prefecture.

I think the situation of each country is different and things you gained during the training course might not be relevant for your work. However, you can realize the difference and get some hints or future vision from your observation.

You made your action plans yesterday, but making action plan is not the final goal of this training course. The most important thing is to take action based on your action plan after your return to your home country. I know that you got the sacred power by touching big holy trees in Ise Jingu Shinto Shrine. Therefore, I strongly believe that you will be able to implement your action plan and improve capacity of rural women in your country.

In closing, I would like to tell you that even if the training is over, but both your fellow participants and IDACA will ever remain good friend in the future. So please feel free to stop by to say hello, whenever you have a chance to visit our country”.

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. Evelia Bardos Tizon (Philippines) spoke on behalf of all the participants. She expressed the participants' gratitude to the **ICA** and **IDACA** for organizing the training course from 16th September to 14th October 2015 in Thailand and Japan. She specially thanked Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan of ICA-AP and Ms. Eiko Oshita 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 "Having away from our family, work and country for one whole month, we are very happy and excited because tomorrow, we will be on our way home. But sadness also finds a place in our hearts because we are leaving another home - IDACA. Everything ends. And we would like to end our participation in this training course by recognizing and thanking the five institutions which collaborated effectively to make this happen: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries-MAFF; International Cooperative Alliance-Asia and Pacific-ICA-AP; Cooperative League of Thailand-CLT; Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia-IDACA; and Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan (JA-ZENCHU).

We sincerely offer our apologies for whatever mistakes or wrongdoings we have committed while in this institution and in this country. Please consider that as part of our learning curb. Like the seven participating countries in this training, Japan had its early challenging years but you advanced so significantly. We would like to imitate your brand of discipline, the attitude of the people, the government system and support and other good practices which led you to where you are now. The voices of these eight women may be insignificant in our respective countries. Alone, we cannot promote change, but we can, at least, cast a stone to the waters to create many ripples.

We will miss you all, including the chirping of the birds and night crickets, the buzzing of the bees and the "ding-dong" sounds before each meal. We all look forward to coming back to Japan."

The participants left Japan for their home countries on 14th October 2015, after completion of the Training Course.

SECTION-VIII

Evaluation Summary

Eight 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?	5	3	-	-	-
02	Relevance of this Program in your job.	6	1	1	-	-
03	Usefulness of this training in your future work.	4	4	-	-	-
04	Your overall impression about this program.	6	2	-	-	-
05	Your grading of the faculty of this program.	3	5	-	-	-
06	Your rating of the study visits in Thailand	6	1	1	-	-
07	Your rating of the study visits in Japan.	5	2	1	-	-
08	Your rating of the administrative arrangements (boarding, lodging, etc.).	5	2	1	-	-
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).

Most of the participants said that NO changes/improvements required. A few participants suggested the following: (a) increase number of participants; (b); Diversifying meals (not the same food every day); and (c) English speaking lecturers should be invited, if possible.

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

*Improving capacity of leadership
Farm guidance and agricultural processing system
Details about the establishment of farmer's market
2 participants said present topics are okay.*

- 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.

*Japanese agricultural cooperative (JA) system
Women's Associations activities in Japan*

Concept of direct sales shops and roadside stations
Knowledge of cooperatives in other countries
How to motivate rural women to start business
Rural women enterprises and marketing of their products
Interaction with the Japanese farmer
Improving capacity building
Assertive training for smooth communication
This is a good program for women empowerment
Value addition through processing
Welfare activities run by JA for the aged people
Organizing women groups, its importance and impact on rural development
Sharing experiences with the participants from other countries

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

Got lot of valuable information from this program and thanked ICA and IDACA
Provide accommodation in urban areas of Japan
Networking among participants
This is a very good program for women and hence it should be continued in future.

SECTION-IX
Program of the Training Course

16 th Sep.		Arrival of participants in Bangkok
17 th Sep.	FN	Orientation/Opening Ceremony/Presentation on the Cooperative Movement of Thailand and CLT.
	AN	Visit to Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD)
18 th Sep.	FN	Visit to Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT)
	AN	Visit to Bangplee Agricultural Cooperative Limited and Observation of Boonsri's Thai Sweets Occupation Women Group
19 th Sep.	FN	Visit to Grand Palace
	AN	Visit to Vimarnmek Teakwood Palace
20 th Sep.	FN	Sunday: Free
21 st Sep.	FN	Visit to Doem Bang Nang Buat Agricultural Cooperative Limited & Bang Jhao Cha Women Group
	AN	Visit to Pho Thong Agricultural Cooperative Limited
22 nd Sep.	FN	Visit to Pakkret Agricultural Cooperative Limited
	AN	Free (Preparation for departure)
23 rd Sep.		Departure for Tokyo Arrival of participants at IDACA
24 th Sep.	FN	Orientation and Opening Ceremony
	AN	Outline of Japanese Agriculture and Society by Ms. Hiroshi Terunuma, Cooperative Development Consultant, IDACA.
25 th Sep.	FN	Organization and Business Activities of JA by Mr. Hiroshi, Terunuma, Cooperative Development Consultant, IDACA.
	AN	Presentation of country reports by participants followed by Explanation on preparation of action plan
26 th Sep.		Saturday: Sight-seeing in Tokyo
27 th Sep.		Sunday – Free (Exchange meeting with female high school students).
28 th Sep.	FN	Organization and Activities of JA Women's Association by Ms. Ariko Hotta, Better Living Promotion Department of JA-ZENCHU
	AN	Historical Background of Establishment of JA Women's Association by Mr. Yoshiaki Ogane, Former Editor, Ie-No-Hikari Association.

29 th Sep.		How to Start Women's Business – Case Studies in Thailand and Japan by Ms. Tetsu Takahashi, Director, JA Iwate Hanamaki.
30 th Sep.	FN	Move to Mie Prefecture
	AN	Visit to JA-Takigun 'Silver Center Smile' (welfare facility for the aged)
1 st Oc.	FN	Visit to JA Mie Prefectural Union and Briefing on Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives in Mie Prefecture.
		Briefing on Activities of JA Mie Prefectural Council of JA Women's Association (JAWA)
	AN	Visit to JA Iga-Hokuba – Exchange Meeting with Members of JAWA
2 nd Dec.	FN	Observation of Rural Women's Entrepreneur Activity Sushi Workshop "NABANA"
	AN	Observation of Farmer's Market (Direct Sales Shop) "INABEKKO" bun by JA Mie-Kita
3 rd Oct.	FN	Observation of "Nabana no Sato" (flower garden)
	AN	Move to Tokyo
4 th Oct.		Sunday – Free
5 th Oct.	FN	Group Discussion on Study Visits to Mie Prefecture
	AN	Presentation of Group Reports
6 th Oct.		Assertive Training for Smooth Human Communication by Ms. Shiom Morita, Executive Director, Specified Non-profit Organization.
7 th Oct.	FN	Visit to Hachioji Osada Sericulture
	AN	Visit to Hachioji Takiyama Roadside Station
8 th Oct.		Employment Creation via Women's Entrepreneurial Activities and Livelihood Improvement by Ms. Kazuko Kano, President of Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association.
9 th Oct.	FN	Visit to Mr. Saito's Orchard in Yamanashi Prefecture
	AN	Visit to Hotarumi-kan Hall in Minami-Alps City.
10 th Oct.		Saturday – Preparation of Action Plan
11 th Oct.		Sunday – Free
12 th Oct.	FN	Individual consultation with the participants regarding their Action Plans
	AN	Presentation of Action Plan by the Participants
13 th Oct.	AN	Presentation of Action Plan by the Participants
	AN	Evaluation and Closing Ceremony
14 th Oct.		Departure of Participants from Japan

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

SECTION-X

List of Participants

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SECTION - XI

Action Plans Proposed by the Participants

In view of the experience gained by the participants through class room lectures, field study visits in Thailand and Japan, interaction among themselves and based upon their own work environment, the participants were able to develop detailed Action Plans which they would recommend to their organisations after their return to their home countries. The brief description of the Action Plans prepared by the participants is given below.

Name of Country	:	Indonesia
Name of the Participant	:	Ms. Padlia Parakasi
Position	:	Chairperson or Institutional Building Department
Name of Organization	:	National Federation of Women Entrepreneur Cooperative (INKOWAPI)
Title of the Proposal	:	Empowerment of Rural Women on Coconut Fiber Processing in Tinambung Village (mandar village) in North Sulawesi.
Target Group	:	50 rural women in Tinambung village
Implementing Agency	:	DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Cooperative Council)
Duration of the Plan	:	1 year (1 st March 2016 to 31 st March 2017)
Name of Country	:	Laos
Name of the Participant	:	Ms. Saysamone VongKhamsouk
Position	:	Deputy Chief for Bilateral Cooperation Sector Department of Planning and Cooperation
Name of Organization	:	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
Title of the Proposal	:	Development on Production Techniques to grow Organic Vegetables and on Marketing Activities for Women Coop Members in Vientiane.
Target Group	:	8 groups and 55 women members having 100-150 Horticulture for organic vegetables.
Implementing Agency	:	Department of Agriculture and Department of Extension and Cooperative
Duration of the Plan	:	1 year (1 st January to 31 st December 2016)

Name of Country : **Myanmar**

Name of the Participant : Ms. Kyu Kyu Mar

Position : Supervisor

Name of Organization : Central Cooperative Society Limited

Title of the Proposal : Developing Opportunities for Economic and Social Participation of Rural Women

Target Group : 30 rural women members in 4 cooperatives.

Implementing Agency : Central Cooperative Society Limited and We Effect (Swedish Cooperative Centre)

Duration of the Plan : 1 year (1st June 2016 to 31st May 2017)

Name of Country : **Nepal**

Name of the Participant : Ms. Tika Budhathoki

Position : Board of Director

Name of Organization : National Cooperative Federation of Nepal

Title of the Proposal : Marketing of Vegetables for Economic Benefits of Farmers in Salyan

Target Group : 90 women farmers in Sawaviman Women Agriculture Cooperative in Salyan

Implementing Agency : Sawaviman Women Agriculture Cooperative and National Cooperative Federation of Nepal

Duration of the Plan : 1 year (1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016)

Name of Country : **Philippines**

Name of the Participant : Ms. Evelia Bardos Tizon

Position : MICOOP Group Head

Name of Organization : National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)

Title of the Proposal : Empowering Rural Women in 10 Cooperatives in Luzon

Target Group : 10 cooperatives in Luzon

Implementing Agency : National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)

Duration of the Plan : 1 year (1st November 2015 to 31st December 2016)

Name of Country : **Thailand**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Sumalee Thongteera
 Position : Manager
 Name of Organization : Lamphraphloeng Agricultural Cooperative Limited
 Title of the Proposal : Improvement of Women Leaders Capacity and Business Management in Cooperative
 Target Group : 40 women leaders in Primary Lamphraphloeng Agricultural Cooperative Limited
 Implementing Agency : Lamphraphloeng Agricultural Cooperative Limited
 Duration of the Plan : 1 year (1st January to 31st December 2016)

Name of Country : **Vietnam**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Nguyen Thi Mai
 Position : Head of the Technology Science and International Cooperation Department
 Name of Organization : National Economic Technical College of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (NETC-VCA)
 Title of the Proposal : Motivation on 20 Local Women to set a Roadside Station under Hoa Phone Multipurpose Agriculture Cooperative in Dong Trieu District
 Target Group : 20 local women under Hoa Phone Multipurpose Agriculture Cooperative
 Implementing Agency : Hoa Phone Multipurpose Agriculture Cooperative & Quang Ninh Provincial Cooperative Alliance
 Duration of the Plan : 1 year (1st December 2015 to 31st December 2016)

Name of Country : **Vietnam**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Lai Ngoc Hoa
 Position : Expert
 Name of Organization : Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)
 Title of the Proposal : Establishment of Cooperative for Rural Women in Na Hau Commune, Van Yen District
 Target Group : 100 women in Na Hau Commune (Ethnic minority)
 Implementing Agency : Yen Bai Provincial Cooperative Alliance
 Duration of the Plan : 1 year (1st January to 31st December 2016)

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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