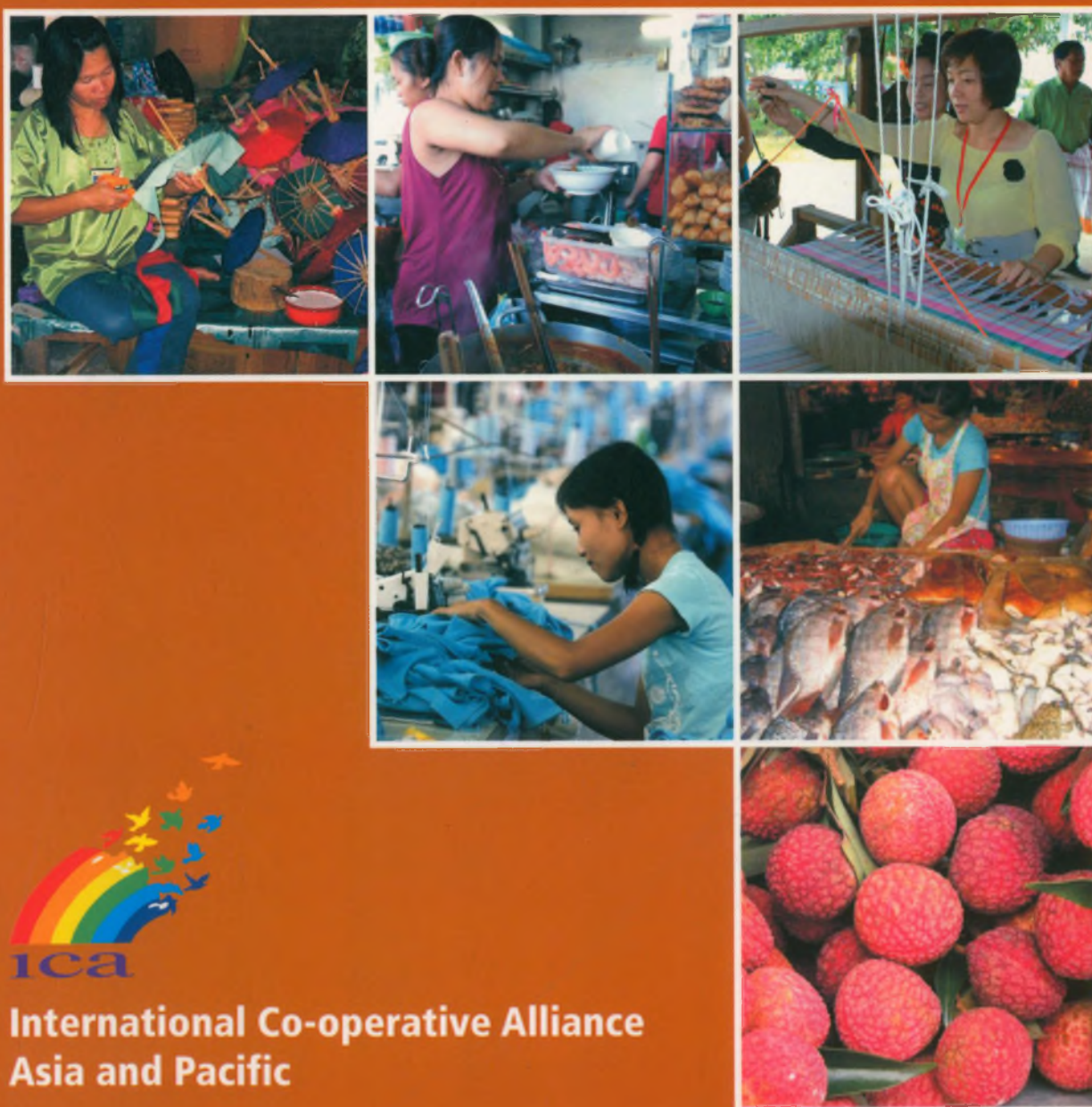


Report of the 1st Training Course on Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women



Thailand-Japan: 18th September to 20th October 2011



International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific

ICA Library
334:001.85
MAD-T
ICA 02489

ICA 02489

1st Training Course on
**REVITALIZATION OF LOCAL
COMMUNITY BY RURAL WOMEN**

Thailand-Japan: 18th September to 20th October 2011

COURSE REPORT

334:001.85



International Cooperative Alliance

Asia and Pacific

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



Report of the
**1st Training Course on
Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women
Thailand and Japan**
18th September to 20th October 2011

Report compiled by:

K. Sethu Madhavan
Manager-Planning/Membership &
Program Coordinator
International Cooperative Alliance – Asia and Pacific
9, Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector-13
New Delhi-110066. India.
Phone: (+91-11) 2688-8250
Fax: (+91-11) 2688-8067
E-mail: sethu@icaroap.coop
Website: www.icaroap.coop

ICA Global Office
International Cooperative Alliance
150 Route de Ferney
1211 Geneva-2, Switzerland
Phone: (+41-22) 929-8838
Fax: (+41-22) 798-4122
E-mail: ica@ica.coop
Website: www.ica.coop

January 2012 (100)

CONTENTS

SECTION-1					
Executive Summary	...	...	...	...	05
SECTION-II					
Inauguration of Part-I of the Training Course in Thailand			...	...	08
SECTION-III					
Field Study Visits in Thailand		...	...	...	09
SECTION-IV					
Inauguration of Part-II of the Training Course in Japan			...	...	15
SECTION-V					
Lectures at IDACA	...	...	...	...	16
SECTION-VI					
Field Study Visits in Japan	...	...	...	...	19
SECTION-VII					
Concluding Session of the Training Course in Japan & Award of Certificates of Participation			...	...	23
SECTION-VIII					
Evaluation Summary	...	...	...	...	25
SECTION-IX					
Program of the Training Course		...	...	...	27
SECTION-X					
List of Participants	...	...	...	...	29
SECTION-XI					
Action Plans Proposed by the Participants		...	...	...	33

.

**1st Training Course on
Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women
Thailand-Japan: 18th September to 20th October 2011**

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 Geneva (Switzerland). ICA is a member-based organization with national and international cooperative organizations in more than 92 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 269 Member-Organizations from 97 countries, representing over one billion cooperative members around the world.

The ICA-Asia and Pacific Office is operating from New Delhi since 1960, serves 78 national level organizations from 25 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 2011.

Under this Project, the 1st Training Course on “Revitalization of Local Community by 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 18th to 24th September 2011 and Part-II in Japan in collaboration with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) from 25th September to 20th 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 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 in the LDCs of Mekong River countries and the South Asian countries.

Course Participants

Seventeen (17) women participants were selected by ICA-AP for the Training Course from the following thirteen countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. A list of participants is placed at Section-XI.

Home Country Assignments (HCAs)

The selected participants undertook their Home Country Assignments (HCAs) for a period of one week (11th to 17th September) prior to the actual commencement of the Training Course. They prepared (i) a Country Report; and (ii) a draft Action Plan for the development of their own organizations including social and economic activities so as to meet the objective of the Training Course.

The draft Action Plan prepared by the participants in their home countries was finalized based on the experience and knowledge gained during the Training Course in Thailand and Japan.

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

Part-I: Study Visits in Thailand

A one-week study visits program with a focus on observation of the activities of cooperatives and social institutions was held in Thailand from 18th to 24th September 2011 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 26 days (25th September to 20th October 2011). 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 1st Training Course on “Revitalization of Local Community by 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 1st 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, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-AP, was responsible for the conduct of the 1st 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. Keiji Hiraoka, 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 timetable:

<i>Home Country Assignments (HCAs)</i>	:	<i>11th to 17th September 2011</i>
<i>Arrival of Participants in Bangkok</i>	:	<i>18th September</i>
<i>Part-I: Field Study Visits in Thailand</i>	:	<i>19th to 24th September</i>
<i>Arrival of Participants in Narita-Japan</i>	:	<i>25th September</i>
<i>Part-II: Training Course in Japan-IDACA</i>	:	<i>26th September to 19th October</i>
<i>Departure of Participants from Japan</i>	:	<i>20th October</i>

SECTION-II

Inauguration of Part-I of the Training Course in Thailand

The inauguration of Part-I of the 1st Training Course on “Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women” was held in the forenoon of 19th September at the premises of Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT). The inaugural session was attended by Ms. Ampai Luangpirom, Deputy Director, CLT; Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, Chief of International Affairs Department of CLT; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership/Program Coordinator, ICA-AP and a number of CLT officers and staff. Mr. Vitoon Neawpanit, Chairman of CLT could not attend the inaugural session since he was away to northern part of Thailand to assess the damage caused due to heavy flood in that area.

Ms. Ampai Luangpirom welcomed the participants and the guests on behalf of CLT. She said that CLT has the honour to organize such an international training program in Thailand. She said that CLT is very much involved in the promotion of revitalization of local community which is the theme of the training course. Finally, she wished the participants from thirteen countries a comfortable stay and meaningful visits 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 also 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.

A presentation on the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) was made by Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, Chief of International Affairs Department, after the inauguration.

SECTION-III

Field Study Visits in Thailand

The field study visits were arranged from 19th to 23rd September 2011 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, and
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	
		Cooperatives	Percentage
	Agricultural Cooperatives Sector	4,433	58.16
1	Agricultural Cooperatives	4,238	55.60
2	Fisheries Cooperatives	100	1.31
3	Land Settlement Cooperatives	95	1.25
	Non-Agricultural Cooperatives Sector		41.84
4	Saving and Credit Cooperatives	1,358	3.73
5	Consumer Cooperatives	284	13.66
6	Service Cooperatives	1,041	17.82
7	Credit Union Cooperatives	506	6.64
	Total	7,622	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 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.

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 accepted 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.

Nong Jok Agricultural Cooperative Limited

Twenty-five saving credit cooperatives were established in Nong Jok district area by Cooperative Promotion Department. This aimed to provide a financial source for their members so that they could get some loans to pay debt, redeem their lands and to invest in their agricultural activities. Afterwards, in 1968 the government enacted the cooperatives act 1968 and declared that all small savings credit cooperatives had to be merged to form a bigger enterprise in district level so that the cooperative could set proper businesses to comprehensively serve its members. As a result, on 1st August 1969 the new cooperative was established and named as "Nong Jok Agricultural Cooperative Limited".

Nong Jok Agricultural Cooperative Limited has been performed since 19th October 1969. It has been gradually growing in size. At the beginning, before having its own office, the cooperative just relied on the National Housing Authority as its temporary office. At the early time, it sold agricultural equipment and general supplies to its members and general people. The members increasingly used services of the cooperative so the area seemed too small at that time. Consequently, board of directors agreed to buy a new spacious office with the price of 488,673.50 baht which has been used until now.

It can be said that Nong Jok Agricultural Cooperative has consistently followed the ancestor's will. All 42 years Nong Jok Agricultural Cooperative gained sufficient experience to continuously develop itself to walk forward. Now it is the reliable financial institution which serves its members and general people.

Nong Jok Agricultural Cooperative Limited provides variety of businesses to its members and general people. These are savings, loans, a petrol station, agricultural products purchasing, and a central agricultural market. Moreover, it also creates other kinds of services such as a radio station, rental conference rooms and mass media service. It has dedicated itself to strengthen Thai cooperative network through community services.

Kam Lang Jai Group

After Bird Flu crisis in Thailand in 2004, Mrs Sudjai was one of those who were affected by the crisis. Her butcher's shop could not be continued with poor selling. Finally, she lost her job. Being jobless made her create new job at home that was making Thai dessert from coconut which was abundant in her area. The idea that any part of coconut should not be wasted inspired her to make use of coconut shell. At first, she began to make a tea pot cover. After she had trialed for a while, her attempt was successful. Until 2005, she could form people in the area who were free from their main jobs. They produced varieties of products from coconuts such as tea set, tea pot cover, saving box, etc. Now their products are very well-known and they are always invited to join a lot of local products exhibitions. The remarkable idea of 'zero waste' of their products brings pride to the group.

Members of the Group: There are 12 members who all live in the area. Most of them are farmers and they come to join the group when they are free from their main jobs. Women would be responsible for making coconut desert. At the same time, men will produce coconut products because it needs physical strength.

The most outstanding product of the Group is tea pot cover. Other products are watch, saving box, flower holder, tissue box, toothpick box, lighter cover, jar, vase, and desert.

Phothong Agricultural Cooperative Limited

Phothong Agricultural Cooperative Limited was established by merging of three cooperatives, namely, Land Settlement Cooperative Limited, Phothong Rice Supply Cooperative Limited, and Phothong Fund Mobilization Cooperative Limited. It was legally registered on 1st May 1985 with a group of 83 people and an inception fund of 33,900 baht. At present, the cooperative has 4,911 members and 343,775,452 baht as share capital.

The assets of the cooperative are as follows: A two floor building; a 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 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 capacity of 4 tons and two paddy barns; petrol station located in rice central market (branch 2); and a two floor building in rice central market (branch-2).

The Financial Report of the cooperative as of 30th June 2011 is as follows:

Share Capital	64,492,880.00	baht
Other Accumulated Share	1,727,195.00	baht
Deposits	301,658,792.69	baht
Total Working Capital	343,775,452.38	baht
Loans	.	
Total loan from previous year	222,433,297.00	baht
Paying Loan	55,944,483.12	baht
Paid Principal of Loan	51,589,984.01	baht
Paid Interest	16,414,171.30	baht
Non-performing loan	231,747,448.65	baht
Service business	3,309,920.00	baht

The cooperative has promoted Bang Jhao Cha Women Group whose members are from women in Phothong area and also the members of the cooperative. Phothong Agricultural Cooperative had encouraged the group to produce bamboo products such as basketry bags, baskets and cone-shaped covers. Until now the products of the group has become well-known and hold a good market.

Bang Jhao Cha Women Group

Bang Jhao Cha Women Group was established in 1996 and is located in Phothong district in which its local people are skillful in weaving especially bamboo basketry. Formerly, people produced goods just for their own utilization, until Mrs. Renoo Thong-ngam, a local woman who is proficient in bamboo basketry weaving had the idea to gather local skillful people. It was then that Bang Jhao Cha Women Group was formed. The main objectives of the group are to conserve the local skills and to create jobs for housewives in the district. The group continuously develops its products until now they become well-known and can be sold in both domestic and international market. The most outstanding product is Bamboo Basketry Bag. The raw materials used are bamboo, natural and chemical pigment.

In the beginning, there were 15 members only. Now there are 100 members who are mostly housewives. They come to join the group when they are free from their household work.

Thai Song Weaving Women Group

Loincloth weaving is the local skills of the Thai Song Dam, a distinctive ethnic group originally from Laos whose way of life was obviously influenced by custom and culture. They liked to invent their own tools for producing their daily products. Thai Song Dam Weaving Loincloth is the most outstanding product of the group. Its people work together with love, harmony, sacrifice, loyalty and generosity which allowed the whole group to develop itself until their product, loincloth, became well-known and bring pride to them. Moreover, the group also helps revitalize the community until it was selected to be one of the ten OTOP Tourism Villages by Department of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism and Sports in Thailand. The most outstanding product is traditional Thai Song Dam. The raw materials used are cotton, silk, chemical and natural pigment.

There are 50 members who all live in Hua Khao Cheen area. About 30 people come to weave at the group and the rest do at home. All members used to take weaving as a part time job but after the turnover was satisfying, they became fully workers at the group.

Sufficiency Economy Study Center

Sufficiency Economy is a philosophy addressed by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej that stresses appropriate conduct and way of life while incorporating moderation, due consideration in all modes of conduct, and the need for sufficient protection from internal and external dangers. It requires the application of accurate knowledge, care and giving, mutual assistance, and collaboration. The aim is to create bonds which closely link people from all sectors together and boost positive creative force in order to lead to unity, balanced and sustainable development as well as readiness to cope appropriately with critical challenges occurring as a result of globalization.

A well-known and practical example of the application of the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy is *"integrated farming practice according to the new theory"* which promotes step by-step development, starting from building a good basis for the people at the family level to enable them to become self-reliant to a certain extent without taking advantages of others. Then, the people can join hands in various activities in the form of group, community, or even community enterprise. The aim is to enhance creative force among them which in turn helps strengthen the community, reduce the risks of impact from external factors and build

connections with large-scale businesses, government agencies as well as organizations. The end result will then be the expansion of various forms of the cooperation at the national level.

The objectives of the project are to follow the New Theory farming as advocated by HM the King in his idea of Sufficiency Economy; to reduce risk related to agricultural production; to utilize the surrounding areas which is suitable for doing the mixed farming; to improve the well-being of people in the surrounding areas; to promote sustainable agriculture to the community; and to increase household income.

The land of 6.5 hectares is manageably divided for the following agricultural activities: (a) Young plants nursery; (b) Standing timber for preventing the wind; (c) Bamboo for protecting soil; (d) Animal husbandry; (e) Fisheries; and (f) Residence.

Study Visits in Thailand



Opening of the Training Course at IDACA, Japan



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 26th September 2011 in the Conference Hall of IDACA. Keiji Hiraoka, Executive Director of the Institute for Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-AP addressed the inaugural session. Mr. Hiroshi Terunuma, Manager (Training Department) and other senior officers of IDACA were also present.

Welcoming Mr. Hiraoka 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 coming to attend the Part-II of the training course in Japan. He conveyed the sincere gratitude of the ICA to MAFF, Government of Japan, for their valuable financial support for the development of women's activities in Asia. He mentioned about the longstanding collaboration between ICA, JA-ZENCHU and IDACA. He also spoke about ICA and the UN International Year of Cooperatives-2012.

Mr. Hiraoka 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 20 years with the financial support of MAFF and from this year onwards a new phase has started with emphasis on strong Action Plan by the participants.

He extended his deep appreciation to the cooperatives for the assistance provided for the 11th March earthquake and tsunami and said that the reconstruction work is going on well.

He said that IDACA was established in 1963 with funds contributed by all Japanese agricultural cooperatives. More than 48 years history of IDACA, around 5,600 participants, mainly from Asia, have been trained from 112 countries.

He hoped that the training course will be useful to the participants. 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.

SECTION-V

Lectures at IDACA

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

Society, Economy and Culture in Japan

by Ms. Eiko Oshita, Program Coordinator, IDACA

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

Organization and Business Activities of JA (Japan Agricultural Cooperatives)

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

Under this topic, the resource person explained about the agricultural cooperatives and distribution system in Japan. The resource person covered the following subjects - characteristics of cooperatives; what is agricultural cooperative; unique features of agricultural cooperatives in Japan (existence of associate member system and operating multiple businesses); structure of agricultural cooperatives; JA covers whole country (719 JA exist as on 2010); members of JA; trend of members of JA; trends of age formation of members of JA; various types of agricultural cooperatives; JA group organisations; farm guidance activities; better living guidance; diversified marketing methods; marketing business system of JA; and facilities of JA (A coop store, gasoline station, country elevator, collection and shipment centre, etc.).

Women's Association of JA and its Activities

by Ms. Ariko Hotta, Better Living Promotion Department of JA ZENCHU

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

JA's Food and Agriculture Education Program

by Mr. Kenichi Sasaki, Better Living Department of JA ZENCHU

Under this topic, the resource person explained about the essential points in formation of JA's food and agriculture education plan and its implementation. He covered the following subjects - movement of JA group and government; what is food and agriculture education program; and why does JA group engage in food and agriculture education program.

Employment Creation via Women's Entrepreneurial Activities and Livelihood Improvement

by Ms. Kazuko Kano, President, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association

The resource person explained about the definition of Rural Women's Entrepreneurial Activities - Rural women are main persons and are engaged in entrepreneurial activities in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry by using mainly local materials and responsible for its management. She explained about six patterns of entrepreneurial activities (agricultural production including school lunch; food processing; non-food processing; distribution; exchange between rural and urban areas; and services). She also covered about the brief history of livelihood improvement; establishment of Home Life Improvement Extension Service (HLIES); and development of HLIES through the period of high economic growth.

Case Studies on Women Entrepreneurship in Thailand and Starting up Farmer's Market by Women's Association of JA in 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 Entrepreneurship in Thailand (community leader development project for agricultural cooperatives; better living activities; marketing support for vocational group; and introduction of different groups).

What is Marketing and Marketing of One Village One Product (OVOP)

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

The resource person tried to explain about "What is Marketing and Marketing of One Village One Product (OVOP)". The definition of OVOP is development of value (preciousness) 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 got initiated first; outcome from OVOP in Japan; 3 principles of OVOP; how to make profit from OVOP; branding under OVOP; entrepreneurial activities by Kaizen groups as the core of OVOP; 6 keys for the success of OVOP; 4 steps towards the goal of the OVOP campaign; and some examples of OVOP products in Japan and overseas.

Status of Women in Nepal Cooperative Movement

by Mr. Tadafumi Kigasawa, former JICA Expert in Nepal

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

Various Women's Entrepreneurial Activities in Asian Countries

by Mr. Yukio Abe, Senior Coordinator, IDACA

Under this topic, the resource person explained about the different stages of development of agricultural cooperatives in Asian region in comparison with Japan. He also gave an account of salient features and some relevant reasons for the fast development of agricultural cooperatives in Japan and the problems being faced by agricultural cooperatives at the moment. Moreover, he shed a light on how the cooperatives can be run and strengthened effectively and also on the main factors responsible for the development of cooperatives citing

some examples of the Philippines and Bangladesh cooperatives. He also referred to the importance of participatory approaches in making various programmes including action plan in order to enhance ownership and sustainability.

SECTION-VI

Field Study Visits in Japan

During Part-II of the Training Course in Japan, study visits were arranged in Saga Prefecture. The participants visited Saga Prefecture from 11th to 13th October to get them acquainted with the organizational structure and business activities of prefectural and primary level agricultural cooperatives, and also to observe the organization and functioning of women's associations. The participants were briefed about the outline of Saga Prefecture and visited the following institutions during their study visits.

Saga Prefecture

Saga Prefecture is located in the northwest part of Kyushu Island. It touches both the Sea of Japan and the Ariake Sea. The western part of the prefecture is a region famous for producing ceramics and porcelain. The capital is the city of Saga. The total area of the Prefecture is 941.9 square miles (42nd rank). The total population as of 2008 was 858,603 and the density is 352 persons per square kilometer. It has got 6 districts and 20 municipalities.

Agriculture, forestry and coastal fisheries form a large portion of the prefectural economy. Regional agricultural specialities include Saga beef, onions and strawberries. This prefecture is the largest producer of mochigome (sticky rice) and green house mandarin oranges in Japan.

Agriculture in Saga Prefecture

The rate of cultivated land to total prefectural land accounts for 24% which is quite high in Japan. The utilization rate of cultivated land accounts for 133% (number one rank in Japan for more than 20 years consecutively since 1986) due to the double cropping. Hence agriculture is widely practiced in Saga Prefecture.

The major crop is rice and until 1970 it accounted for more than half of the total agricultural production in Saga Prefecture. But as the trend in agriculture changed to crop rotation and high-variety production, it has dropped to 25% nowadays. On the other hand, rate of vegetables, fruits and livestock products have increased and accounts for almost 60% of the total agricultural production. Although rice production is decreasing, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cultivated land in Saga is still rice farming. The recent concern is the frequent decrease of farmers' income due to high temperature and production volume of glutinous rice which is high and occupying the 1st place in Japan.

In Saga plain the major crops grown are rice, soybeans and barley. Due to mild weather in the winter, they have been able to engage in double cropping - rice in the summer and wheat and barley in the winter. The main vegetables grown are onion, lotus root and soybean. The major fruits grown are strawberry, orange and pear. The main livestock products are chicken, beef and pork. Tea production is also popular in many areas.

JA Saga Prefectural Union

JA Saga Prefectural Union is a supervisory organization at the prefectural level. It was established to promote development of JA in the prefecture based on the Agricultural Cooperative Law. Its members are all primary agricultural cooperatives in the prefecture and other prefectural level JA federations. The main activities are management guidance to the members; guidance for organizational management and business activities; auditing and

education. In addition, it also makes proposal to the government agencies as the occasion demands.

JA Saga Prefectural Union has a distinctive character as a comprehensive leader of JA and it is an extremely strong public non-profit organization. In order to give full play to its abilities, JA Saga Prefectural Union puts emphasis on the basic functions such as comprehensive planning/ research; decision making; function as a representative organization; guidance/auditing; and make efforts to develop intensive business activities.

As of April 2011, it has got 10 officials and 62 employees. Its regular members are - 4 JAs, 2 federations, 1 regional federation; 20 single purpose agricultural cooperatives and 1 corporation as associate member. It has got the following departments: general affairs; agriculture policy measures; education; and management and audit.

JA Group Saga: JA Group Saga consists of 4 JAs, 1 union and 3 federations. As on 31st March 2010, it has got a total of 116,090 members (59,508 regular and 56,582 associate). Its business activities are as follows: savings-821.9 billion yen; loans-228.1 billion yen; long-term mutual insurance-3,815.5 billion yen; marketing-138.5 billion yen; and purchasing-82.4 billion yen.

JA Saga

The JA Saga was established on 1st April 2007 by amalgamating 8 JAs. The data of JA Saga's business area is as follows: land area - 1,595.34 square kilometer; cultivated land under management - 37,888 ha; average annual temperature - 16 degree centigrade; and annual precipitation - 1,973 mm.

As of March 2011, it has got 85,295 members (46,744 regular and 38,551 associate); 70,416 member households (38,037 regular and 32,379 associate); 85 officials (74 directors and 11 auditors); 3,378 employees (2,233 regular and 1,145 part-time); and 11 consolidated subsidiaries.

The business activities of the JA Saga for the year 2010 are as follows: savings-579.278 billion yen; loans-150.082 billion yen; long-term mutual insurance-2,742.817 billion yen; marketing-99.834 billion yen; and purchasing-61.075 billion yen.

Saga Prefectural Council of JA Women's Association

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

The Saga Prefectural Council of JA Women's Association was established in March 1958 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 comfortable local community with good rapport and mutual aid through cooperative activities. It is a prefectural level organization consisting of 11 JA women's associations in the prefecture with 20,594 members. Members of each women's association are 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.

Each women's association implements various group activities such as education on food and agriculture; agricultural products processing; direct sales shop; joint purchasing and cultural activities. It has got 8 officials (6 committee members and 2 auditors).

The main problem of the Association is aging factor of its members. Therefore, it has established a special group (fresh Ms. Group) to attract new members below 45 years.

The participants also visited the following facilities of JA Saga: A-Coop Store; Branch Office; Green Center; Grading Center; Country Elevator; Day Care Center; Soybean Processing Unit; Green Tea Training; and Direct Sales Shop.

A-Coop Store (Shiroishi)

A-Coop Store (Shiroishi) was established in 1989. There are 31 A-Coop Stores in JA Saga Prefecture. Since 2009 it is managed by a Coop Company. In fact since 2009 all A-Coop Stores in Japan are managed by coop companies. It has got a floor area of 700 square meters and the total construction cost was 300 million yen. 3,000 items are traded in the Store. However, no imported meat is sold here. It has got a total of 30 employees (including part-time and full-time). The business turnover during 2010 was 1 billion yen.

The A-Coop Store has got a direct sales shop also. 130 farmers are registered with the direct sales shop and on an average 40 farmers bring their produce to the shop daily. A 15% commission is charged by the Coop Company.

Branch Office of JA Saga

The Hokumei Branch Office of JA Saga was opened in 1997. JA Saga has 92 branch offices and 5% of the branch offices are only for credit. Its main businesses are credit; savings and loans; and mutual insurance. The maximum loan limit is 500 million yen. The highest interest rate charged is 5%. The recovery rate is almost 100 per cent. It has got a total of 20 employees. On an average 650 members use this facility daily. Non-members can also use this facility.

Green Center of JA Saga

The Green Center of JA Saga (Shiroishi) was established in 1996. It has a total area of 1,000 square meters and a floor area of 500 square meters. Most of the agricultural production materials are handled here and their main customers are member farmers. This shop is opened throughout the year without any holiday. It has a total of 14 employees. On an average 60 to 70 customers visit the shop daily. The sales turnover for the year 2010 was 600 million yen. There are a total 3 green centers in Saga Prefecture.

Grading Center of JA Saga

The Shiroishi Grading Centre run by JA Saga was established in 1995 for grading mainly onion. 50% of the construction cost was provided by the local government as subsidy and the other 50% was jointly borne by the JA and the members. 2,180 farmers (onion-2,000; asparagus-120; cucumber-60) bring their produce to the center for grading. Farmers bring their produce to the grading center on their own. A 5% commission is charged by the JA for using its facility, packaging and transportation to the market. The turnover of the grading center for the year 2010 was 4.2 billion yen.

Country Elevator of JA Saga

The country elevator for rice has got a total area of 4,100 square meters, out of which 2,700 square meters were constructed recently in 2011. The total construction cost was 1.4 billion yen. It has got a total of 6 employees. On an average 500 to 600 farmers bring their paddy. The brown rice is packed in cloys of one ton capacity to maintain moisture level. After that the brown rice is sent for milling. 60% of the expected price is paid by the JA immediately and the balance is paid after marketing. The government gives a subsidy of 15,000 yen for 0.1 hectare paddy cultivation.

Day Care Center (Suiren) of JA Saga

An old A-Coop Store of JA Saga was converted into a Day Care Center (Suiren) in 1999. It has got a total area of 300 square meters. It aims to help the elderly to live in independence and also to create the community that guarantees a secure life to all the people. 50

volunteers are working at the center on rotation basis (8-10 volunteers at a time). The volunteers are paid a nominal amount. This service is available for persons whose age is 65 and above. The day care center can accommodate a maximum of 30 persons. Their working house is from 09:00 to 16:00 hours. The beneficiaries pay only 10% (750 yen) of the cost involved and the balance is met by the government. Sick people are not admitted in the center. A medical check-up is done at the center for the members once in a week. The Center is also providing dinner delivery system for old couple residing in the area alone. The cost of one dinner is 900 yen out of which 500 yen is paid by the local government.

Soybean Processing Unit (Hijiri) and Omachi Local Products Center

The soybean processing unit in Omachi town is run by a group of six women. The present building is more than 70 years old and it belonged to JA Saga. The group started its business in 1986 from this building. Its main products are soybean (miso) paste, sweets and pickles. The group sends their products to Tokyo and Fukuoka. Now a days the margin of profit is not very high. Around 15 employees are working in the processing unit. They are paid 650 yen per hour. The leader of the group is a member of JA Saga and its Women's Association. Four years ago the group opened a restaurant and it is doing well now.

Green Tea Training Center (Kinsaran Kan)

Ureshino green tea training facility was started in 2008. The facility is belonged to Ureshino city government and the JA Saga is responsible for management of this facility from April 2011. It has got a total of three employees (in peak season five). 67 farmers bring their green tea to this facility for competition purpose only. The training is given in the center for promoting to take part in the competition conducted by the national government. Ureshino green tea is number one in Japan. In Ureshino city mass green tea cultivation started in 1651. Green tea contains vitamin C and E. The farmers process their green tea at their homes and send it to West Kyushu Tea Producers Federation for marketing. There are 140 green tea processing units in the area. Demonstration of green tea making was also demonstrated at the site for the benefit of the participants.

Direct Sales Shop (Manzoku-kan) and Farmer's Restaurant

As the aging farmers increase in the area and have difficulty in fully engaged in joint marketing business requiring a large volume of products, JA started operation of the direct sales shop intended for the elderly farmers to facilitate sale of even small volume of the products. They bring the products and determine the price by themselves, which is totally different from wholesale market-oriented business.

The Manzoku-kan Direct Sales Shop was started in 2003 by a Group of 100 farmers. The main purpose of establishing this direct sales shop was to increase the income of farmers. It has got a total land area of 1,000 square meters and a floor area of 150 square meters. The total land and construction cost was 90 million yen and the subsidy from the local government was only 10 million. The balance amount of 80 million yen was borrowed from JA Saga. The Group has already paid back 40 million yen so far. Fruits, vegetables and processed foods are brought by the farmers from this area. The direct sales shop is also running a restaurant in the building. It has got a total of 23 employees. On an average 100 farmers bring their produce daily. Around 500 customers visit the shop daily. The sales turnover for the year 2010 was 200 million yen.

This kind of direct sales shop is now gaining its popularity in Japan from both consumers and producers as an emerging new sales outlet different from sales by conventional wholesale market system.

Study visits in Japan





Conclusion of the Course in 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 on 19th October 2011. The session was attended by Mr. Kenichi Tanimoto, Section Chief, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan; Keiji Hiraoka, Executive Director of IDACA; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-Asia and Pacific; and other senior officers of IDACA.

In his address, Mr. Sethu Madhavan congratulated the participants for their cooperation; and IDACA for the successful completion of the Training Course. He also expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the ICA to the Japanese Government, especially MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) for the financial support extended in the conduct of this Training Course. He hoped that the MAFF will continue to support this training course in the future also since this course was very relevant for the women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia. 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. Tanimoto expressed hearty congratulations to the participants on successful completion of the training course. He further expressed his gratitude on behalf of MAFF to ICA-AP and IDACA for conducting the course successfully. He was happy to find the participants hale and hearty in spite of different climate. He hoped that the experiences gained by the participants while in Thailand Japan would be useful upon their return to their home countries.

He further said "As you might have learned in Japan the number of women's group starting business has been increasing recently by more than 50% in 2010. Rural women are expected to be an important part on multi-industrialization of agriculture including business promotion as well as on producing of agricultural products. In addition, Japanese Government emphasized to secure food security in sight of global level. Stability of food security of each country in Asia may contribute on development and peace in other parts of the world. So MAFF has advanced to set ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) agreement which was adopted and signed on ASEAN+3 Agricultural Ministers' meeting in Jakarta two weeks back. Capacity building for farm and agricultural cooperative leaders in Asia is expected to contribute on the food security not only in Asia but also in other areas through south-south cooperation.

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

He requested the participants to make use of their experiences gained in Thailand and Japan to develop some institutional support for women and improve their rural life in their own countries.

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. Ma Elena C. Limocon (Philippines) spoke on behalf of all the participants. She expressed the participants' gratitude to the ICA and IDACA for organizing the training course from 18th September to 20th October 2011 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 "This is the first time most of the participants spending a month away from home, but we all feel it is just a short time for us to learn a lot of knowledge and experiences. Through the lectures at IDACA, the study visits in Saga Prefecture and other cooperative organizations, women associations, we have gained not only the valuable knowledge on cooperative operations but also experienced of many lessons on Japanese traditions and culture. It is indeed a rare opportunity for us to be one of those chosen few among women from our respective countries, to be sent here to attend the training course, which we valued so much. How the Japanese Government support JA and JA support its members especially the farmers and the women. All of these learning insights we acquired during the training course equipped us to draft the final action plan that will help empower our women in rural areas and how we are going to implement this in our respective countries in consideration of different culture and limited resources."

The participants left Japan for their home countries on 20th October 2011, after completion of the Training Course.

SECTION-VIII

Evaluation Summary

Seventeen 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?	10	6	1	-	-
02	Relevance of this Program in your job.	6	10	1	-	-
03	Usefulness of this training in your future work.	11	6	-	-	-
04	Your overall impression about this program.	8	9	-	-	-
05	Your grading of the faculty of this program.	7	5	5	-	-
06	Your rating of the study visits in Thailand	13	4	-	-	-
07	Your rating of the study visits in Japan.	6	10	1	-	-
08	Your rating of the administrative arrangements (boarding, lodging, etc.).	11	5	1	-	-
09	Are you satisfied with the leadership provided and the technical inputs made by the IDACA faculty members? (Explain briefly). <i>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.</i>					
10	Please suggest changes/improvements, if any, desired in future programs. (Please give your free and frank suggestions). <i>Most of the participants said that NO changes/improvements required. Few participants suggested that (a) more time for field visits; (b) group discussion should be emphasized; (c) English speaking lecturers should be invited, if possible; and (d) a lecture on preparation of Action Plan should be included at the beginning.</i>					
11	Please suggest which topics should be added to this Program in future. <i>Assertive training for smooth communication Product packaging techniques Visit to a farmer's house during field visits</i>					
12	Please suggest which topics should be deleted from future Program. <i>All participants said that all topics covered are interesting and nothing should be deleted.</i>					
13	Please list below your major gains from this Program. <i>Japanese agricultural cooperative (JA) system Women's Associations activities in Japan Concept of direct sales shops and roadside stations</i>					

Knowledge of cooperatives in other countries
How to start business with our own resources
Welfare activities run by JA
Integrity, discipline, honesty, loyalty and punctuality of Japanese people
Sharing experiences with the participants from other countries
Preparation of action plan
Rural women enterprises and marketing of their products
Value addition through processing
Working spirit of Japanese people – not only young people but also aging people

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
The duration of field visits should be increased to visit more places, if possible
The duration of lectures could be increased
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

18 th Sept. 2011		Arrival of participants in Bangkok
19 th Sept.	FN	Orientation/Opening Ceremony/Presentation on CLT
	AN	Visit to Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD)
20 th Sept.	FN	Visit to Cooperative Union League of Thailand (CULT)
	AN	Visit to Nongjok Agricultural Cooperative Limited
		Observe the products produced by Kam Lang Jai Women Group from coconut.
21 st Sep.	FN	Visit to Phothong Agricultural Cooperative Limited
	AN	Observe the basketry bags produced by the Bang Jhao Cha Women Group.
22 nd Sept.	FN	Visit to Damneon Saduak Floating Market
23 rd Sept.	FN	Visit to Thai Song Dam Weaving Women Group, Ratchaburi
	AN	Visit to Sufficiency Economy Study Center
24 th Sept.	FN	Sight-seeing in Bangkok
	AN	Preparation for departure
25 th Sept.		Departure for Tokyo
		Arrival of participants at IDACA
26 th Sept.	FN	Orientation/Guidance for preparation of Action Plan and Opening Ceremony.
	AN	Japanese Society, Economy and Culture by Ms. Eiko Oshita, Program Coordinator, IDACA.
27 th Sept.		Organization and Business Activities of JA (Agricultural Cooperatives) by Mr. Toru Nakashima, Dy. Manager, (Training Department), IDACA
28 th Sept.		Presentation of draft Action Plan prepared by the participants and discussion.
29 th Sept.	FN	Women's Association of JA and its Activities by Ms. Ariko Hotta, Better Living Promotion Department of JA-ZENCHU
	AN	JA's Food and Agriculture Education Program by Mr. Kenichi Sasaki, Better Living Promotion Department of JA-ZENCHU
30 th Sept.		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.
1 st October		Saturday: Sight-seeing in Tokyo
2 nd October		Sunday - Free
3 rd October		Case Studies on Women Entrepreneurship in Thailand and Starting up Farmer's Market by Women's Association of JA in Japan by Ms. Tetsu Takahashi, Director, JA Iwate Hanamaki.

4 th October		Visit to Road Side Station in Hachioji and Observation of Rural Women's Entrepreneurial Group Activities.
5 th October		What is Marketing and Marketing of One Village One Product (OVOP) by Ms. Kaz Yamamoto, President, Japan Agricultural Marketing Institute.
6 th October		Status of Women in Nepal Cooperative Movement by Mr. Tadafumi Kigasawa, former JICA Expert in Nepal
7 th October		Various Women's Entrepreneurial Activities in Asian Countries by Mr. Yukio Abe, Senior Coordinator, IDACA
8 th October		Saturday - Free
9 th October		Sunday - Free
10 th October		Move to Saga Prefecture
11 th October	FN	Visit to JA Saga Prefectural Union and Briefing on its Activities
	AN	Observation of Facilities of JA Saga (A-Coop Store, Branch Office Green Centre, Grading Centre and Country Elevator).
12 th October	FN	Exchange Meeting with Women's Association Leaders of JA Saga
	AN	Visit to Day Care Centre run by JA Saga Visit to Soybean Processing Unit
13 th October	FN	Visit to green tea training Visit to Direct Sales Shop
	AN	Move to Tokyo
14 th October	FN	Group Discussion on Study Visits to Saga Prefecture
	AN	Individual consultation with participants regarding their Action Plan
15 th October		Saturday - Free
16 th October		Sunday - Free
17 th October		Finalisation of Action Plan by the Participants
18 th October		Presentation of Action Plan by Participants
19 th October	FN	Presentation of Action Plan (continued)
	AN	Evaluation and Closing Ceremony
20 th October		Departure of Participants from Japan

FN Session : 09:30~12:00

AN Session : 13:30~16:00

SECTION-X

List of Participants

- Bangladesh 01 Ms. Maliha Tasnim**
Assistant Programmer & Market Analyst
Amrao Pari (Youth Women Coop Organization)
GP ZA-129, Middle Badda, Gulshan
Dhaka -1212, Bangladesh.
Phone: (+880-2) 9897629 & (+880) 17110827
E-mail: maliharubaj@gmail.com
Nickname: Maliha
- Bhutan 02 Ms. Phub Dem**
Senior Marketing Officer
Department of Agricultural Marketing & Coops (DAMC)
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Lower Motithang, Thimphu, Bhutan.
Phone: (+975) 322909 Fax: (+975) 324898
E-mail: dem.phub6@gmail.com
Nickname: Phub
- Cambodia 03 Ms. Sar Rene**
Deputy Director
Provincial Department of Agriculture
General Directorate of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
Siem Reap Administration City Bongkorng Village
Apel Sankat, Siem Reap City
Siem Reap Province, Cambodia.
Phone/Fax: (+855) 63965162
E-mail: renesar559376@gmail.com
Nickname: Rene
- 04 Ms. Yos Rasmey**
Staff of Planning & International Cooperation Affairs
Department of Agricultural Extension
General Directorate of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
#200, Preah Norodom Blvd, Tonle Basac, Chamkamorn
Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Phone/Fax: (+855) 23210948
E-mail: rasmey.yos2011@gmail.com
Nickname: Rasmey

- India** 05 **Ms. Janet Rosario**
 Extension Officer
 South Canara Milk Union Ltd.
 "Shalom", Door No. 5-57/2
 Sirlapadpu 1st Cross, Kulashekar
 Mangalore-575005, India.
 Phone: (+91-824) 2230042 Fax: (+91-824) 2230029
 E-mail: sonu.janet@yahoo.com
 Nickname: Janet
- Indonesia** 06 **Ms. Indana Saramita Rachman**
 Manager, Agribusiness Unit
 Women Cooperative Indonesia (KOPWANI)
 Jl. HR. Rasuna Said Gedung Nyi Ageng Serang, Lantai-V
 Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia.
 Phone/Fax: (+62-21) 5263240
 E-mail: indana_saramita@ymail.com
 Nickname: Indana
- Laos** 07 **Ms. Dongdavanh Sibounthong**
 Head of Fisheries Resource Management Section &
 National Coordination of Network for Promoting Gender in
 Fisheries Development, Department of Livestock and Fisheries
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
 PO Box 811, Lanexang Avenue
 Vientiane, Laos.
 Phone/Fax: (+856-21) 215141
 E-mail: apone53@yahoo.com
 Nickname: Dong
- 08 **Ms. Kommaly Onxayvieng**
 Head of Planning and Budget Section
 Planning Division
 Department of Livestock and Fisheries
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
 PO Box 811, Lanexang Avenue
 Vientiane, Laos.
 Phone: (+856-21) 215242 Fax: (+856-21) 215241
 E-mail: kommalyteth@yahoo.com
 Nickname: Lyly
- Malaysia** 09 **Ms. S. Krismawati Hj Abd Mawah**
 Education Officer
 ANGKASA, Sabah Branch
 Lot 13, Lorong Grace Square 1, Jalan Pantai Sembulan
 88100-Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.
 Phone: (+60) 88258190 Fax: (+60) 88250266
 E-mail: azwatilee@yahoo.com
 Nickname: Kris

- Myanmar** 10 **Ms. Ei Ei Khine**
 Manager
 Kaung Myanmar Aung Business Development Enterprise
 No.B, 5th Floor, Saya San Plaza
 Junction of Saya San & New University Avenue Road
 Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
 Phone: (+95-1) 401480
 E-mail: eiikhine43@gmail.com
 Nickname: Ei Ei
- 11 **Ms. Nwe Mi Mi Than**
 Supervisor
 Central Cooperative Society Limited
 Saya San Plaza
 Junction of Saya San & New University Avenue Road
 Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
 Phone: (+95-1) 401396 Fax: (+95-1) 553894
 E-mail: nwelay11484@gmail.com
 Nickname: Nwe Mi
- Nepal** 12 **Ms. Prabha Koirala**
 Member of Board of Director
 National Cooperative Federation of Nepal Ltd.
 Bijuli Bazar, Kathmandu-10, Nepal.
 Phone: (+977-1) 4781510 Fax: (+977-1) 4781326
 E-mail: ncf@wlink.com.np
 Nickname: Prabha
- Philippines** 13 **Ms. Ma Elena C. Limocon**
 General Manager
 Lamac Multipurpose Cooperative
 Lamac, Pinamungajan
 Cebu, Philippines.
 Phone: (+63-32) 4679339 Fax: (+63-32) 4678171
 E-mail: lamacmpc@yahoo.com
 Nickname: Ellen
- Sri Lanka** 14 **Ms. Inoka Hiranthi Kathiarachchi**
 Assistant Secretary, International Affairs
 National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka
 "Cooperative House", 455 Galle Road
 Colombo-3, Sri Lanka.
 Phone: (+94-11) 2585496 Fax: (+94-11) 2587062
 E-mail: hiranthiinoka@yahoo.com
 Nickname: Hiranthi
- Thailand** 15 **Ms. Potjaporn Joonlaoun**
 International Affairs Officer
 Cooperative League of Thailand
 4, Pichai Road, Dusit, Bangkok-10300, Thailand.
 Phone: (+66-2) 669-3254 Fax: (+66-2) 241-1228
 E-mail: k_happy18@hotmail.com
 Nickname: Gan

- Vietnam** 16 **Ms. Duong Thi Kim Phuong**
Vice General Director
Center for Socio-Economic Programs
Lane 149, Giang Vo Street
Dongda District, Hanoi, Vietnam.
Phone: (+84-4) 37366279 Fax: (+84-4) 37365203
E-mail: kimphuong1973@yahoo.com
Nickname: **Phuong**
- 17 **Ms. Nguyen Thuy Linh**
Officer of The Emulation & Reward Council
Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)
77, Nguyen Thai Hoc
Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam.
Phone: (+84-4) 38431689 Fax: (+84-4) 38431883
E-mail: thuylinhvca@gmail.com
Nickname: **Linh**
- ICA-AP** 18 **Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan**
Manager-Planning & Membership
ICA -Asia and Pacific
9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector-13
New Delhi-110066, India.
Phone: (+91-11) 26888250 Fax: (+91-11) 26888067
E-mail: sethu@icaroap.coop
Nickname: **Sethu**
-

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	:	Bangladesh .
Name of the Participant	:	Ms. Maliha Tasnim
Position	:	Assistant Programmer & Market Analyst
Name of Organization	:	Amrao Pari (A Women Voluntary Group)
Title of the Proposal	:	Establishing a boutique and tailoring shop leading by Konika with the help of 12 women & provide better living guidance to the poor women in local community with the help of women volunteers group in Amrao Pari.
Target Group	:	12 poor women of Amrao Pari Group who will join Konika in her entrepreneur business and also 40 poor women living in Badda community to whom we will provide better living guidance.
Implementing Agency	:	Amrao Pari (A Women Voluntary Group)
Duration of the Plan	:	2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)
Name of Country	:	Bhutan
Name of the Participant	:	Ms. Phub Dem
Position	:	Senior Marketing Officer
Name of Organization	:	Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.
Title of the Proposal	:	Strengthening the capacity of mushroom and vegetable producers group of Trongsa district for effective marketing of their products.
Target Group	:	Mushroom and vegetable producers women group of Trongsa district comprising of 12 women members.
Implementing Agency	:	Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives.
Duration of the Plan	:	2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)
Name of Country	:	Cambodia
Name of the Participant	:	Ms. Sar Rene and Ms. Yos Rasmey
Position	:	Dy. Director, Provincial Department of Agriculture & Planning Officer, Department of Agriculture Extension
Name of Organization	:	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

Title of the Proposal : Establishment and strengthening of agricultural coops in Siem Reap province.
 Target Group : Sotnikum vegetable women groups (100 members).
 Implementing Agency : Provincial Department of Agriculture
 Duration of the Plan : 2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)

Name of Country : **India**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Janet Rosario
 Position : Extension Officer
 Name of Organization : Dakshina Kannada Cooperative Milk Producers' Societies Union Limited, Mangalore.

Title of the Proposal : Activation of rural women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in dairy cooperatives of Dakshina Kannada district.
 Target Group : 25 SHGs (500 women farmers)
 Implementing Agency : Dakshina Kannada Cooperative Milk Producers' Societies Union Limited.
 Duration of the Plan : 2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)

Name of Country : **Indonesia**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Indana Saramita Rachman
 Position : Manager, Unit Agri-business
 Name of Organization : KOPWANI (Women Cooperative of Indonesia)
 Title of the Proposal : Women empowerment through organizing women Cooperative in Bogor.
 Target Group : 30 women of Gunung Geulis and Bangun Jaya villages (Bogor, West Jawa).
 Implementing Agency : KOPWANI (Women Cooperative of Indonesia)
 Duration of the Plan : 1 year (January to December 2012)

Name of Country : **Laos**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Dongdavanh Sibounthong and Ms. Kommaly Onxayvieng
 Position : Head of Fisheries Resource Management Section & Head of Planning and Budget Section
 Name of Organization : Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
 Title of the Proposal : Improvement of livelihood condition through fish processing activities of women's group in San pa Tong village, Keo Oudom district, Vientiane province.
 Target Group : Five women's fish processing groups (total 50 women members).
 Implementing Agency : Fisheries Division, Department of Livestock and Fisheries and Vientiane Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office.
 Duration of the Plan : 2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)

Name of Country : **Malaysia**
 Name of the Participant : **Ms. S. Krismawati Hj Abd Mawah**
 Position : **Education Officer/Training Officer**
 Name of Organization : **The National Coop Movement of Malaysia (ANGKASA)**
 Title of the Proposal : **Empowerment of rural women in Keningau, Sabah.**
 Target Group : **50 women members**
 Implementing Agency : **ANGKASA and Malaysian Cooperative Commission Societies (MCCS).**
 Duration of the Plan : **2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)**

Name of Country : **Myanmar**
 Name of the Participant : **Ms. New Mi Mi Than & Ms. Ei Ei Khine**
 Position : **Supervisor and Manager**
 Name of Organization : **Central Cooperative Society Limited (CCS) & Kaung Myanmar Aung Business Development Coop**
 Title of the Proposal : **Development of women business group for promotion of bamboo basket production.**
 Target Group : **100 women from Sar Si Kyaung village in Sa Lin township.**
 Implementing Agency : **Central Cooperative Society Limited (CCS)**
 Duration of the Plan : **1 year (January to December 2012)**

Name of Country : **Nepal**
 Name of the Participant : **Ms. Prabha Koirala**
 Position : **Member of Board of Director**
 Name of Organization : **National Cooperative Federation of Nepal**
 Title of the Proposal : **Rural women empowerment through cooperatives**
 Target Group : **1,000 members of 34 women cooperatives in Kaski district**
 Implementing Agency : **District Cooperative Union, Kaski, Pokhara**
 Duration of the Plan : **1 year (January to December 2012)**

Name of Country : **Philippines**
 Name of the Participant : **Ms. Maria Elena C. Limocon**
 Position : **General Manager**
 Name of Organization : **LAMAC Multipurpose Cooperative**
 Title of the Proposal : **WE-REAP (Women Entrepreneurs for Rural Enterprise Development and through integrated Agricultural Production).**
 Target Group : **3,000 women from 18 branches in Cebu**
 Implementing Agency : **LAMAC Multipurpose Cooperative**
 Duration of the Plan : **2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)**

Name of Country : **Sri Lanka**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Inoka Hiranthi Kathiarachchi
 Position : Assistant Secretary
 Name of Organization : National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka
 Title of the Proposal : Organizing women cooperative district union in Sri Lanka
 Target Group : Existing women members of cooperatives
 Implementing Agency : National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka
 Duration of the Plan : 2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)

Name of Country : **Thailand**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Potjaporn Joonlaoun
 Position : International Affairs Officer
 Name of Organization : The Cooperative League of Thailand
 Title of the Proposal : Promoting of local coconut products selling in Kam Lang Jai Group by improvement of the marketing.
 Target Group : 50 members of Kam Lang Jai Group, Nong Jok Agricultural Cooperative Limited.
 Implementing Agency : The Cooperative League of Thailand
 Duration of the Plan : 1 year (March 2012 to March 2013)

Name of Country : **Vietnam**
 Name of the Participant : Ms. Duong Thi Kim Phuong & Ms. Nguyen Thuy Linh
 Position : Vice General Director of Center for Socio-Economic Programs & Officer of Emulation and Reward Council
 Name of Organization : Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
 Title of the Proposal : Build up the model of agricultural cooperative with the farm guidance in Vietnam rural areas.
 Target Group : 20 farmers for litchis production in Chu village, Luc Ngan District, Bac Giang province.
 Implementing Agency : Vietnam Cooperative Alliance through Bac Giang Cooperative Union.
 Duration of the Plan : 2 years (January 2012 to December 2013)

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.



ICA 02489