

ICA/JA-ZENCHU/IDACA/AARRO
4th International Conference on

WOMEN
IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES
IN ASIA AND AFRICA

CONCLUSIONS,
RECOMMENDATIONS
AND RESOLUTION

CONFERENCE REPORT

334:3-055.2
ICA

held at

IDACA, Tokyo, Japan
August 24-29, 1999

Organised jointly by

ICA ROAP [International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia-Pacific]
JA-Zenchu [Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives-Japan]
IDACA [Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia-Japan]
AARRO [Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation]

Report of the 4th International Conference on
WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN ASIA AND AFRICA
Tokyo, Japan. August 24-29, 1999

organised jointly by:
ICA/JA-ZENCHU/IDACA/AARRO

Report compiled and edited by:
Daman Prakash
Senior Consultant, ICA ROAP, New Delhi

CONTENTS

Introduction	...	...	...	...	01
Conference Objectives	...	...	...	...	01
An Overview	...	...	...	...	02
Group Discussions – Main Points Made by the Conference Delegates	...				14
Field Study Visits – Iwate Prefecture	...	...	...	...	20
Conclusions, Recommendations and Resolution	...	...	...	...	22
Annexure-I Conference Delegates	...	...	...	...	28
Annexure-II Conference Programme	...	...	...	...	33
Annexure-III Action Plans proposed by the Conference Delegates	...				37

Report published by

The Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia-IDACA
4771 Aihara-Cho, Machida-Shi, Tokyo 194-02, Japan
Telephone: [81]0427-824331 TeleFax: [81]0427-824384

October 1999

ICA/JA-ZENCHU/IDACA/AARRO
4th International Conference on
“Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa”
Tokyo (Japan). August 24-29, 1999

CONFERENCE REPORT

Introduction

The 4th International Conference on “Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa” was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 24th to 29th August 1999. The Conference was organised jointly by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP); the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan (JA-Zenchu), the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia-Japan (IDACA); and the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO).

The Conference was attended by 32 delegates representing 16 countries from Asia and Africa and three international organisations, a list of which is placed as **ANNEXURE-I**. The programme followed by the Conference is placed as **ANNEXURE-II**. The previous three conferences hosted by the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), were held in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Conference Objectives

The Conference was organised with the following objectives in view :

- Take note of the discussions held in the previous conferences and the follow-up actions;
- Participation of women in farmers’ groups, agricultural cooperatives (or farmers’ organisations), in organisational and management matters;

- Food security issues vis-à-vis World Trade Organisation and other international organisations in relation to the position of farmwomen in food-related issues: and
- Take note of the activities of women's associations in Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives and observation of such activities through study visits, farm-stay, literature and discussions.

An Overview

In developing countries, among the poor, rural women are the poorest and most vulnerable. Empirical evidences suggest that women in rural areas are more adversely affected by poverty than men. The incidence of poverty among rural women is on the rise in most of the developing countries. The issues of gender bias and equity point to the double burden women have to bear – that on being poor and being women. Further strategies and programmes for development had largely overlooked the question of gender equity. Projects aiming to reduce poverty view the poor rural women as the recipient of benefits of development, instead of being active participants, and still poor rural women have the least access to basic needs such as food, health and education.

Hunger and Poverty

Hunger, which usually follows food shortages, is caused by a complex set of events and circumstances (social, economic and political factors) that differ depending on the place and time. Although hunger has been a part of human experience for centuries and a dominant feature of life in many low-income countries, the causes of hunger and starvation are not very well understood. Our understanding of the main causes of hunger and starvation has been hampered by myths and misconceptions about the interplay between hunger and population growth, land use, farm size, technology, trade, environment and other factors.

Poverty cannot be defined simply in terms of lacking access to sufficient food. It is also closely associated with a person's lack of access to productive assets, services and markets. With access to these, it is unlikely that production and income-earning capacities can be improved on a sustainable basis. Rural poverty is related to food insecurity; access to assets; services and markets; income-earning opportunities; and the organisational and institutional means for achieving those ends.

Discrimination and Underdevelopment

It is relevant to consider some aspects of the marginalisation of the status of women in the world by having a look at the figures which are based on the documents of the United Nations. Some of the findings are:

- **Unemployment Rate:** Male unemployment rate decreased by 11% from 1984 to 1988 while that of women, unemployment rate increased by 0.5% during the same period;
- **Women in the Informal Sector:** Without legal protection or security, women depend on informal trade for their survival. In third world countries, a high percentage of food vendors were women: in Nigeria 94%, Thailand 80%, and 63% in the Philippines;
- **Inequality in Pay:** All over the world women earn only two-thirds of men's pay and earn less than three-quarters of the wages of men doing similar jobs. Women form a third of the world's official labour force, but are concentrated in the lowest-paid jobs and are more vulnerable to unemployment than men;
- **Domestic Work:** Women do almost all the world's domestic work and coupled with their additional work in the productive spheres – this means most women work a double day. Unpaid domestic work is regarded as women's work. Though it is vital work, it is invisible work, unpaid, undervalued and unrecognised. Yet, in real terms the women's contribution to society in this regard is enormous;
- **Agriculture:** Women grow about half of the world's food, but own hardly any land, have difficulty in obtaining credit and are overlooked by agricultural advisors and projects. In Africa, three-quarters of the agricultural work is done by women while in Asia, Latin America and the Middle-East, women comprise half of the agricultural labour force;
- **Health:** Women provide more health care than all health services combined and have been major beneficiaries of a new global shift in priorities towards prevention of disease and promotion of good health;
- **Education:** Women continue to outnumber men among the world's illiterates by about 3:2 ratio, but school enrollment boom is closing the education gap between boys and girls; and
- **Political Affairs:** Due to poorer education, lack of confidence and greater workload, women are still under-represented in the decision-making bodies of their countries.

Women and Food Security Issues

Not only do women produce and process agricultural products but they are also responsible for much of the trade in these and other goods in many parts of the third world. In many parts of the world, women continue to play an important role

as rural information sources and providers of food to urban areas. This may involve food from the sea as well as from the land. Although women rarely work as fisherpeople they are often involved in net-making and the preparation and sale of the catch.

Women's roles and status all over the world are generally determined by social institutions and norms, religious ideologies, eco-systems and by class positions. The Indian social systems exhibit such grave disparities. Indian women are not a homogeneous group. Their traditional roles are not identical in all strata of society. Norms and taboos governing their roles and behaviors within the outside the family, the structure of family organisations and social practices and the positions accorded to women in a community differ considerably across regions, cultures and levels of socio-economic development.

It is needless to emphasise on the significant contribution of women to agricultural production and household food security. In the process of production, handling and preparation of food, women play a multiple role throughout the sequence. They are said to be "feeding the world". Do women really feed the world? Let us consider the evidence. On a global scale, women produce more than half of all the food that is grown. In sub-Sahara Africa and the Caribbean, they produce up to 80% of basic foodstuffs. In Asia, they provide from 50 to 90% of the labour for rice cultivation. And in South-East Asia and the Pacific as well as Latin America, women's home gardens represent some of the most complex agricultural systems known.

In most countries, women do not own the land they cultivate. Discriminatory laws and practices for inheritance of and access and ownership to land are still widespread. Land that women do own tends to consist of smaller, less valuable plots that are also frequently overlooked in statistics. Furthermore, women are usually responsible for the food crops destined for immediate consumption by the household, that is, for subsistence crops rather than cash crops. Also, when data is collected for national statistics, gender is often ignored or the data is biased in the sense that it is collected only from males, who are "assumed" to be the heads of households.

These handicaps have contributed to an increasing "feminization" of poverty. Since the 1970s, the number of women living below the poverty line has increased by 50%, in comparison with 30% for their male counterparts. Women may feed the world today, but, given this formidable lists of obstacles placed in their path, will they be able to produce the additional food needed for a world population expected to grow by three billion in 2030?

During the FAO-sponsored World Food Summit in 1996, world leaders from 186 countries adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and a Plan of Action. These international agreements specified that the role of women in agriculture and food security must be emphasised, in order to create the enabling

political, social and economic environment required for the eradication of hunger and poverty.

Equality is not a technocratic goal – it is a wholesale political commitment. Achieving it requires a long-term process in which all cultural, social, political and economic norms undergo fundamental change. The UNDP Human Development Report-1995 outlines a vision for the 21st century that should build a world order that:

- Embraces full equality of opportunity between women and men as a fundamental concept;
- Eliminates the prevailing disparities between men and women and creates an enabling environment for the full flowering of the productive and creative potential of both sexes;
- Promotes more sharing of work and experience between women and men in the workplace as well as in the household;
- Regarding women as essential agents of change and development and opens many more doors to women to participate more equally in economic and political opportunities;
- Values the work and contribution of women in all fields on par with those of men, solely on merit, without making any distinction; and
- Puts people – both women and men – clearly at the centre of all development processes.

The UNDP Report-1995 also states that the GDI (Gender-related Development Index) ranking can be different in different situations, as is shown by the following conclusions of a recent survey:

- No society treats its women as well as its men. Substantial progress on gender equality has been made in only a few societies;
- Gender equality does not depend on the income level of a society. What it requires is a firm political commitment, not enormous financial wealth; and
- Significant progress has been achieved over the past two decades, though there is still a long way to go. Not a single country has slipped back in the march towards greater gender equality at higher levels of capabilities, though the pace of progress has been extremely uneven and slow.

Women in Agriculture

Women play an indispensable role in farming and in improving the quality of life in rural areas. However, their contributions often remain concealed due to some social barriers and gender bias. Even government programmes often fail to focus on women in agriculture. This undermines the potential benefits from programmes, especially those related to food production, household income improvements, nutrition, literacy, poverty alleviation and population control. Equitable access for rural women to educational facilities would certainly improve their performance and liberate them from their marginalised status in the society.

Socio-economic goals of productivity, equity and environment stability are closely woven around the agriculture sector policies and new dimensions in programmes implemented are already emerging as new values. Regardless of the level of development achieved by the respective economies, women play a pivotal role in agriculture and in rural development in most countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Asia-Pacific region had witnessed spectacular development in crop yields which even surpassed the population growth rate in the past decade. However, pockets of hunger remain when landless or small farm rural population lack economic access to food because of a lack of remunerative non-farm employment in rural areas, where 80% of Asia-Pacific's 400 million poor live. It has also been suggested that with the acceleration of crop-diversification programmes and the transformation of agriculture to commercial production levels, women's lot had been even further worsened by the addition of new burdens which they have to shoulder in order to realise profits in farm operations.

Rural women who are obliged to attend to all the household chores, children's welfare, nutrition and family cohesion along with farm work, are desperately driven to adopt a survival strategy to save the family food security from total collapse. Rural poverty has increased in the region particularly for farmers as priority has been accorded to the industrial and service sectors: this is both the cause and an effect of rural-urban migration leading to the "feminization of farming." Thus the numbers and the proportion of rural women among the absolutely poor and destitute, currently around 60%, is expected to increase to 65 to 70% by the year 2000.

In spite of social, political and economic constraints, women farmers have proved extremely resourceful and hardworking in their attempt to ensure household food security. Social constraints place barriers around their access to scientific information and technological support. Lack of collateral denies them access to agricultural credit. Culture or traditions accord membership of cooperatives only to heads of households – usually a man. Many rural women, even in highly mechanised farming systems such as the Republic of Korea and Japan would have agriculture for work in other sectors if choices were available.

After some decades of development, global problems and issues concerning environment, women in development, and poverty had reappeared. All these have emerged in rural communities and threatening their sustainability. Rural communities with norms developed for managing resources are important for the stability of community life. Gender-oriented rural development programmes which focus on role of women to guarantee the stability of life provide a sound basis for integrated development of the quality of life.

In progressive economies like Japan, rural women have shown anxieties over several concerns affecting their livelihood. Some of the priority items include measures for success in agricultural enterprises, expansion of periodic farming resulting in reduced holidays, the need to reduce agricultural work, changes in awareness of rural societies and reduction in the world connected with caring for elderly people. In order to redress these problems, *five tasks* have been identified for promotion which will result in making rural living more pleasant and comfortable. These tasks include:

- i. Creating awareness of changes and measures pursued to change the status of women by their active participation in agricultural and fisheries cooperatives;
- ii. Improving working conditions and environment;
- iii. Appreciating the positive aspects of living in rural areas and creating a conducive environment which will contribute towards better rural life;
- iv. Acquiring skills to diversify areas of involvement by women supporting women in entrepreneurial roles; and
- v. Adopt structured approach to execute the vision to improve rural conditions.

Rural Women in Agricultural Cooperatives

Women are represented in various forms and in various types of cooperatives in the region. In most of the South-Asian countries women membership in mixed membership cooperatives is generally lower as compared with those from other countries in the region. In societies where culture restricts women's membership in cooperatives, women-only cooperatives proliferate. It is in women-only cooperatives that women feel freer and less restricted in their participation in cooperatives. In countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, women comprise just 7.5% as compared with men (92.5%) of the total membership. In Malaysia it is around 30.6%. In many of the Asian countries women's membership is low (ranging from 2 to 10.5%) in agricultural cooperatives. This reflects the age-old stereotype that men are the farmers and not the women, and the title of the farm property should be in the name of the

man. This situation automatically prohibits women to be the members. Out of a total of 450,000 cooperatives with a total membership of 204.5 million in India, there were 8,171 women-only cooperatives with a total membership of 693,000. It is also known that the women-only cooperatives e.g., cooperative banks, consumer stores, fruits and vegetable vendors, have done exceedingly well and provided a whole range of services to their members. In India, with a view to involve women in the process of decision-making in local self-government bodies including cooperatives, a 33% representation has been instituted and in a number of states all boards of directors have women serving on them. There has also been a discussion to have a similar representation in state and national legislatures as well.

There are still some prevailing laws which place barriers for women's participation in agricultural cooperatives and/or farmers' associations, like land ownership and head of the household. In many societies the very women who need to organize to cooperate and prosper, lack the time for participation due to multiple work demands. Cooperatives being people-centred movement had recognised these limitations placed on women by the society and economic institutions. Experiments made in different parts of the world clearly indicate that women's participation in cooperatives and other local governments bodies not only provides them an opportunity to articulate their problems but it also helps them to be an active partner in the decision-making process.

In terms of the ratio of membership of women in agricultural cooperatives, the percentage is rather low, but they have a strong influence on them – through the heads of the household. Certain obvious barriers restrict their direct and formal entry in agricultural cooperatives. Agricultural cooperatives, in present times, everywhere have come under dark clouds due to heavy competitions and pressures of open market economy systems. They are now expected to meet the challenges which they had never anticipated before. Their business methods remain traditional and they expect government support in the form of protection and subsidies. These are no longer available and will not be available in the near future. In several countries; agricultural cooperatives have either crumbled or are under massive reorganisation.

The challenges faced by agricultural cooperatives can be enumerated as under:

- Need to improve professional management skills of those who provide advisory or guidance services to cooperatives and of the managers and some key members of primary level cooperatives;
- Establishment of a marketing intelligence system within the Cooperative Movement to enable the farmer-producers follow market trends and plan their production and marketing strategies;

- Assured supply of farm inputs (quality seeds, chemical fertiliser, farm chemicals, credit and extension services);
- Establishment of business federations through cooperative clusters to undertake primary agro-processing marketing of local products and to cover financial requirements;
- Be aware of quality controls and standardisation of farm products to be able to compete effectively in the open market;
- Participate in efforts to conserve natural resources which directly and indirectly influence farm production and rural employment; and
- Need for providing information to the farmers and farmers' organisations on the implications of restructuring, globalisation and WTO agreements.

Constraints Faced by Rural Farm Women

Based on the experiences of farm extension workers, field advisors and rural farm women in the Asia-Pacific and Africa regions, the following are the general constraints faced by them:

- High illiteracy rates and poor living conditions among rural women;
- Lack of leadership and inadequate participation in the organisational and economic affairs of their agricultural cooperatives;
- Absence of property inheritance rights, restriction on acquiring membership of agricultural cooperatives consequently being deprived of farm credit, etc.;
- Inadequate health-care services in rural areas;
- Inadequate water supply for household and farm operations;
- Lack of appropriate agricultural technology aimed at reducing the physical burden of farm women;
- Inadequate access to credit and agricultural inputs and other services;
- Lack of female farm extension workers;
- Lack of marketing facilities and opportunities;
- Traditional, religious, social and cultural obstacles;

- Less participation in decision-making – even within the household;
- Male migration/urban drift which increases pressure on women;
- Lack of opportunities to improve socio-economic status of farm women;
- Lack of skills and attitudes in leadership and management development; and
- Lack of secretariat supporting functions for women’s organisations and allocation of funds for them in cooperative organisations.

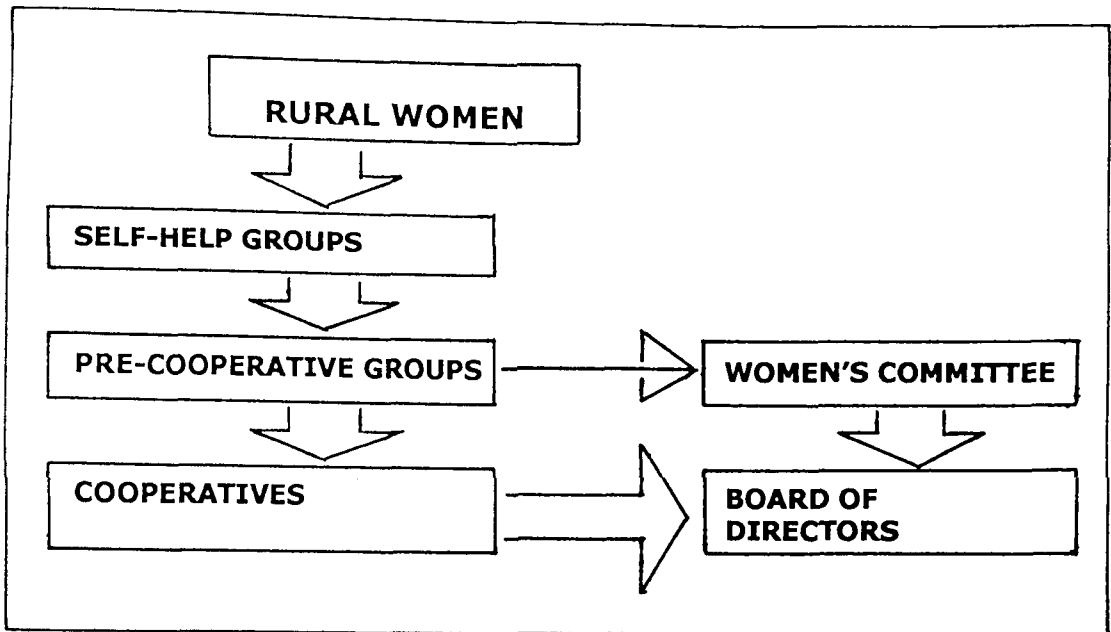
Self-Help Groups or Women’s Associations

Women often suffer due to lack of organisation and “bargaining power” although their total number is no less. In the rural sector, women often suffer from the following:

- Their savings are grossly inadequate;
- Their savings are often “taken over” by men;
- Their savings remain unaccounted due to absence of any organisation;
- Their individual role and contribution is not recognised;
- Their collective power has not been harnessed;
- They are often tricked in the name of “chit funds” and the like;
- They do not have any assets, leave alone the savings;
- They have no social or economic security; and
- They are not admitted to the membership of agricultural cooperatives, etc.

Rural women leaders can help the women to organise themselves to solve some of their social and economic problems. There are no proper leaders or motivators in rural areas who can organise rural women. They can be organised in the form of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Such groups could be operated in the form of “pre-cooperatives” making use of the universally-accepted Principles of Cooperation.

If the rural women can organise themselves into SHGs, they can overcome some of their problems through group work, and operate the groups on a continuing basis. When the groups have become operational and their progress has been satisfactory, they can expand the range of their services. The groups can also organise themselves into pre-cooperative groups and operate them on the basis of the Principles of Cooperation, like any other cooperative but without going into the process of formal registration or incorporation, etc. The pre-cooperative groups could eventually, if certain legal conditions are met, merge into a registered cooperative or have a separate cooperative registered.



Another view is that the pre-cooperatives can act as “pressure groups” within the cooperative environment and establish Women’s Committees or Women’s Associations and eventually enter the Board of Directors of a cooperative. The cooperative could then be influenced to institute some of the needed services e.g., thrift and savings, etc. This can happen only when the women are able to pick up some experience and sort out some of the legal hurdles.

Why Self-Help Groups?

There are many advantages of having self-help groups. These are:

- SHGs are necessary to overcome exploitation, create confidence for the economic self-reliance of rural poor (particularly women who are mostly invisible in the social structure);
- These groups enable the poor and weak to come together for a common objective and gain strength from each other to deal with exploitation;
- They become the basis ‘for action and change’;
- They help building of relationship of mutual trust among the members and between the promoting organisation and the rural poor by genuine efforts;
- They become a ‘community enterprise’ of the local area;
- Such groups provide easy access to credit at reasonable cost and with assured recovery and continuity; and

- Such groups enjoy full autonomy and freedom and no interference of influential persons or politicians.

Who Can Join Self-Help Groups (Target Group)?

Almost every and any rural woman can come forward to join the Self-Help Group. Women from the unorganised sector, as outlined below, can join such groups:

- Who do not own any land;
- Whose main task is to look after their families;
- Who are involved in wage-earning activities;
- Who have fewer and lower paid opportunities to work;
- Who are underemployed and casual or part-time workers;
- Who are more vulnerable due to lack of skills and formal education;
- Whose mobility is restricted due to social reasons;
- Who cannot work outside home due to heavy responsibilities;
- Those who do not have any access to land and other assets;
- Who are victims of exploitation by big farmers/industrial houses, etc.; and
- Who are treated as 'a person to spend rather than to earn' (They work almost 18 hours inside the house, but the work done is not recognised).

Japan's JA Movement and Food Security

In his special message to IDACA NEWS (No.67, 21st July 1999) Mr. Mutsutami Harada, President of JA-Zenchu and IDACA has outlined the role that the JA Movement is going to play in food security environment. He said: "As we move into the 21st century, we have set for ourselves a four-point agenda: [i] "Restructuring of agriculture and farming villages to ensure the stable supply of food for the people", [ii] "Reinvigoration of farming villages and making contributions to local communities", [iii] "Carrying through the JA reform in order to live up to the expectations and confidence of member farmers", and [iv] "Developing future JA group leaders".

"We have launched a three-way symbiosis movement involving the next generation, consumers and Asia. This represents a national movement aimed at creating a society in which producers and consumers, agriculture and other industries, farming villages and urban cities, and human communities and the natural environment can coexist. It is a society in which they do not confront each other and none is sacrificed as they recognise each other's role. The movement seeks the understanding and support of many people, and the sustainable development of Japanese agriculture.

"The bill for the enactment of the Basic Law for Food, Agriculture and Farming Villages is designed to bring wholesale change to the nation's agricultural policy for the first time in 40 years since the creation of the Agricultural Basic Law. It

would govern issues related to food, agriculture and farming villages in the 21st century, and lay down the direction of agricultural administration in the new century. It would significantly influence Japan's stance on the next WTO talks. Basically, the proposed law, set to focus on domestic agricultural production, is expected to take our positions into full account. But the details are yet in the making.

"The JA Group, for its part, will have to work hard to achieve reorganisation and further development of farming communities. The challenges before us are improvement of the food self-sufficiency rate, conservation of quality farmland, securing a talented workforce and revitalisation of farming communities.

"The JA reform is well under way. With successful amalgamation, the number of JAs nationwide had been reduced to 1,580 by April 1999. Amalgamation has occurred also at the level of federations: three economic federations became part of JA-ZenNoh (National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives) in October 1998. As regards the mutual insurance business, JA-Kyosairen (Prefectural Mutual Insurance Federations of Agricultural Cooperatives) in all prefectures are due to amalgamate with JA-Zenkyoren (National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives) in April next year. With regard to credit services, we are pushing preparations for their consolidation.

"We are doing our best to raise the ratio of owned capital to liabilities and to eradicate nonperforming loans in an effort to put agricultural cooperatives on a sound footing.

"Apart from these, we have begun to involve ourselves in welfare projects for the elderly in preparations for the imminent introduction of the nursing care insurance scheme in line with our community activities".

JA Women's Associations [JAWA]

The Women's Associations of JA were established by mustering women who had domicile in farming villages aiming at improvement of socio-economic status of women. The women's associations are grappling with a wide range of activities ranging from improvement of farm management to better-living of the members in a bid to create comfortable local communities having full spirit of heart-to-heart communication as well as mutual help.

Currently, there are 1,636 primary level women's associations with 1,480,257 members nation wide. These are composing of 47 prefecture level councils and these councils are further organised into the National Council concentrating their local activities to the nation wide scale.

The National Council will have the golden jubilee of its foundation in April 2001.

AARRO's Strategy for Development

Addressing the Conference, Dr. Bahar Munip, Secretary-General of the AARRO said that in the Asian-African region there is a strong need for focussing development strategies which help the farm women organise and create conditions for them to improve their social and economic conditions. The development strategies of the AARRO were aimed at:

- i. Increasing women participation in cooperatives, especially agricultural cooperatives;
- ii. Promoting development of self-help groups and associations among rural women to generate economic security through business and savings programmes;
- iii. Creating employment and income-generating opportunities through financing development projects in rural areas and other methodology for the improvement of better living conditions in the rural areas;
- iv. Enhancing human resource development;
- v. Creating appropriate environment through policy dialogues and legal measures to involve women in policy and decision-making organs;
- vi. Creating suitable environment within member-governments to expedite land reforms and land consolidation measures to give rights to women to gain access to titles and membership in cooperatives; and
- vii. Offering exchange of information and experience through exchange programmes and preparation of materials, and facilitating technology transfer among member governments.

Group Discussions Main Points Made by the Delegates

The delegates of the Conference were divided into three technical working groups and assigned topics for discussions. Their compositions and reports are given below.

Working GROUP-1

01. Ms. Babni Lal, India (Chairperson)
02. Ms. Laila Arjuman Banu, Bangladesh
03. Ms. Jamilah Bt. Din, Malaysia

04. Ms. Yee Yee Cho, Myanmar
05. Ms. Khin Maw Thet, Myanmar
06. Ms. Ramona Aquino Rebueno, Philippines
07. Ms. Bae, Su-Kyong, Republic of Korea
08. Ms. Preema Shanti Sooriyarachchi, Sri Lanka

1.1 *Discuss the methods and means of involving rural women in food production in the background of trade liberalisation and open market economy.*

Trade liberalisation and opening of economies tends to inexorably marginalise small farmers and other vulnerable sections of the society. Opening of markets implies increased competition, increased supply and a depression of prices, which generally renders smaller units unviable. However, if small farmers are to amalgamate and cooperate then they can by exploiting economies of scale, efficient risk management and access to capital on favourable terms offer a countervailing power to competitors and survive.

Some of the methods and means of involving rural women in food production that were suggested are given below:

- Forming self-help groups of women having homogenous backgrounds so that their needs can be addressed;
- Ensuring secure income for these women;
- Ensuring equality of pay and wages;
- Ensuring that the group gets the most attractive price by efficient marketing of products with the use of information technology; and
- Awareness programmes for women.

State support in the areas of :

- Skills development;
- Leadership development and entrepreneurship training;
- Transfer of technology (gender sensitive technology); and
- Cut cost of production by providing improved infrastructure so as to enable access to main markets and cut the middleman's margins.

1.2 *Discuss the role of rural institutions, e.g., farmers' associations, women's associations, women's clubs and agricultural cooperatives in generating income and securing employment and social security for rural women.*

In the context of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the group felt that while the women's groups in developed countries like Japan have now graduated to

address social security needs, the women's groups in developing countries are still addressing the economic needs of women.

Role of rural institutions:

- Income-generating activity must be followed by a savings programme so as to inculcate the habit of thrift amongst the members and also to meet the credit needs of the members. In this context the Mutual Aid Fund in Malaysia is relevant to mention. This Fund is used to extend hospitalisation benefits, financial assistance in case of death of family members, group insurance, etc.; and
- Reengineer the self-help groups to include the women members of the local self-governing bodies so that the activities of the self-help group can be steered in a more efficient and optimal manner.

Working GROUP-2

01. Ms. Angelita Angeles G. Valdez, Philippines (Chairperson)
02. Ms. Wafaa Mohamed Youssef, Egypt
03. Ms. Manjula Shanker, India
04. Mrs. Ruzleina Ramly, Malaysia
05. Ms. Edoublali Khadija, Morocco
06. Ms. Najat Bint Abdullah Al Ajmi, Oman
07. Ms. Teresita M. Mistal, Philippines
08. Ms. Kanchana Makchai, Thailand
09. Ms. Kanistha Buadsuntea, Thailand

2.1 *Enumerate the problems faced by rural women vis-à-vis their participation in cooperative activities.*

The group identified the following problem areas:

- Widespread illiteracy among women in rural areas;
- Multiple role of women and lack of time;
- Inadequate nutrition and weak health;
- Inadequate sanitation and lack of safe drinking water supply;
- Lack of working capital and limited access to credit;
- Stiff competition and marketing problems;

- Lack of training and education opportunities;
- Lack of statistics/disaggregated data;
- Low representation of women in national cooperative bodies and in the process of decision-making;
- Minor representation of women in cooperative activities;
- Customs, traditions and superstitions; and
- Lack of access to technology.

2.2 *Discuss the opportunities for development of women through various programmes of the government and of other institutions, e.g., the agricultural cooperatives.*

The following opportunities were identified:

- Subsidised training and education for women and men to solve illiteracy, for women to be more educated and for her to know her rights thereby helping the nation and her family;
- Training related to gender sensitivity, entrepreneurship, finance, marketing and credit management;
- Encourage and continue to support, organise, conduct forum, conferences, regional exchange programmes and visits to women in agricultural cooperatives (facilitation and co-ordination by ICA, AARRO, IDACA);
- Allocate financial resources for credit and liberal financial assistance to women projects;
- Programmes that will support entrepreneurship, support services which will take care of the health, nutrition and welfare of women;
- Review of policies, which will hinder full participation of women in membership and leadership in cooperatives;
- Review of policies to ensure that women are represented or have seats in the policy-making bodies in the government/cooperatives; and
- Allocate resources/document best practices of successful women

agricultural cooperatives and disseminate to media and general public/across countries.

Working Group-3

01. Ms. Shaheen Ijaz, Pakistan (Chairperson)
02. Ms. Rose Oteng, Ghana
03. Ms. Hye-Kyung Chun, Republic of Korea
04. Ms. Che Salmah bt Ishak, Malaysia
05. Ms. Bhuwan Dhungana, Nepal
06. Ms. Beverly Fajardo, Philippines
07. Ms. Erh-Rou Lai, Taiwan
08. Ms. Le My Pho, Vietnam

3.1 *Suggest a set of possible solutions or programmes for creating institutions for women in rural areas to secure their social and economic upliftment.*

The following possible solutions and programmes were suggested:

- Strengthening and streamlining the existing institutions;
- Government departments to be headed by women to co-ordinate activities for women development programmes;
- HRD of women for various levels such as credit for income-generating activities, improved technology;
- Creation of new institutions to explain the existing taboos attached to women in a peaceful and gradual manner without affecting the social fabric;
- Encourage the role of NGOs in the field of women development;
- Transparency and accountability in the operations of cooperatives, women's associations and farmers' groups, etc.;
- Easy accessibility to resources to women for their economic development;
- Encouraging of literacy among women;
- Better health-care for women;
- Enactment of laws for women representation in various elected bodies including cooperatives; and

- Recognise the existence of women in the society as an individual – not as mother or wife alone.

3.2 *Discuss a set of development programmes, which could create awareness for the empowerment of women in rural areas using agricultural cooperatives and farmers' associations.*

The group felt that the following programmes could create the needed awareness:

- Gender equality programmes;
 - Empowerment of women through agricultural based activities and their full participation in decision-making process;
 - Exchange/study programmes;
 - Introduction of modern technologies and methods; and
 - Incentive programmes for motivation for attracting and developing talent in agriculture and cooperatives.
-

Field Study Visits – Iwate Prefecture

The delegates of the Conference visited Iwate Prefecture from 26th to 29th Aug 1999. The visits were carried out under the leadership of Mr. Yukio Abe, Secretary Programme Coordinator of IDACA to the Prefectural Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Iwate, JA-Hanamaki Primary Agricultural Cooperative and its facilities and a discussion with JA-Women's Association of Iwate.

Iwate Prefecture, the largest prefecture on the main island on Honshu, is rich in magnificent natural beauty – a beauty represented by the two national parks found within its borders. Rikuchu Coast National Park features magnificent scenery known as the “Alps of the Sea”, while the mountainous Towada-Hachimantai National Park is often called a natural museum of volcanoes.

There are many sightseeing places of interest. Of particular interest is Hiraizumi, a city presided over by the feudal Fujiwara lords, and Ryusendo, one of Japan's three largest stalactite grottos. Iwate is rich in folk tales and rural traditions, events and beliefs which have been handed down from generation to generation, and for this reason is known as the spiritual home of the Japanese people. This environment has produced many great lyric poets, among whom Takuboku Ishikawa and Kenji Miyazawa are best known.

The population of Iwate Prefecture is about 1,500,000. Its area is approximately 5,900 square miles, making it the biggest prefecture in Honshu. Its capital, Morioka, is about two and a half hours north of Tokyo by Shinkansen (Bullet Train). Because of its fertile land and clear waters, Iwate is blessed with ideal farming conditions, as one of the prominent agricultural areas in Japan. It is particularly noted for its high-quality rice, fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers, and meat. In addition, it has become increasingly important as a center for food production and supply within Japan.

The Prefectural Union consists of 35 regular member-organisations (31 are the primary cooperatives) and two associate member-organisations. The main functions of the Union are reconstruction of agriculture, management guidance and development of human resources.

There were 57 JA-Women's Associations with a total membership of about 40,000. The main activities of the women's associations in the Prefecture are strengthening the management base of the associations, development of educational activities for welfare of the elderly, campaign to protect foodstuff and agriculture, campaign to protect life and good health and holding of meetings, training and discussions. The JA-Women's Association in the Prefecture is already 50 years old.

The JA-Hanamaki is one of the outstanding primary cooperatives in the country and among the best in the Prefecture. The range of activities of JA-Hanamaki include: distribution of information on farming inputs and farm technology, implementation of the concept of direct sale activities, provision of guidance to commodity-wise groups, production of a comprehensive agriculture promotion plan and farm mechanic repair centre. The JA-Hanamaki has direct access through computer network with all its members. The main production of the Prefecture has been rice, vegetables, bellflowers, fruits, mushrooms, beef cattle and dairy products.

The Conference delegates had the pleasure of visiting the farm and farm house of Mr. Shigeo Itoh, a progressive farmer and a prominent member of JA-Hanamaki. He holds a total cultivated area of 40 hectares and owner of a large variety of farm machinery. His main production has been paddy, soybeans and flowers. It was a rare opportunity for the delegates to have a direct interaction with Mr. Itoh and his family members. Itoh family and the Conference delegates had the opportunity of exchanging their experiences.

Conclusion

The delegates of the Conference had a fruitful discussions on topical subjects, e.g., institutional development for women in rural areas, the organisational structure and activities of Japanese agricultural cooperatives, the supplementary and complementary role of the JA-Women's Associations, food security issues and issues relating to upliftment of rural women including development of leadership among them. The delegates had the benefit of class-room discussions, participation in working groups, study visits to Iwate prefecture and inter-action among themselves.

With a view to obtain ideas and perceptions of the delegates upon their return to their home countries, a request was made to put in writing the main points which they would like to pursue. A compilation of their Action Plans is placed as **ANNEXURE-III**.

The facilities and work environment, including operational and infrastructural support provided by the IDACA and its Managing Director and his capable colleagues contributed immensely to the success of the Conference. The delegates expressed their full appreciation and satisfaction for the contributions and technical inputs made by Dr. Daman Prakash of ICA ROAP; Dr. Bahar Munip of AARRO and Mr. Yoshitada Nakaoka of IDACA . All the participants expressed their gratitude to the organisers and a wish to return to IDACA for a follow-up meeting or a technical programme.

Conclusions, Recommendations and Resolution

I. Preamble

The 4th International Conference on **“Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa”** was jointly organised by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP); the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives-Japan (JA-Zenchu); the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia-Japan (IDACA) and the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) at Tokyo, Japan, from 24th to 29th August 1999. The 1st Conference was held in October 1996, the 2nd in November 1997 and the 3rd Conference was held in August-September 1998.

The Conference was attended by 32 senior level women leaders representing 16 countries (i.e., Bangladesh, Egypt, Ghana, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam) and three international organisations (i.e., the ICA ROAP, AARRO and the ILO).

The Conference was hosted by the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia. The inaugural session of the Conference was addressed by Dr. Daman Prakash of ICA ROAP; Dr. Bahar Munip of AARRO; Mr. Nobuyuki Kohashi of JA-Zenchu; Mr. Yoshitada Nakaoka of IDACA; Mr. Hisao Kasagi of MAFF of the Government of Japan; Mr. Toshihiro Uetani of JICA; and Mr. Teiji Takahashi of FAO. Mrs. Aiko Takeshima, Chairperson of the JA-National Council of Women's Association; Mr. Teruyoshi Tanaka of JA-Zenchu responsible for Women Activities; and Mr. Nobuhiro Hayasaka of ILO Tokyo Branch submitted reports to the Conference. A familiarisation field study visit to Iwate Prefecture was organised for the delegates.

The Conference was coordinated by Dr. Daman Prakash, Senior Consultant of the ICA ROAP; Dr. Bahar Munip, Secretary-General of the AARRO; and the Managing Director of IDACA, Mr Yoshitada Nakaoka.

The Conference took note of the development work done by the ICA ROAP, AARRO and the IDACA in the field of agricultural cooperative development, and also of the discussions held at and the recommendations and conclusions made by the previously-held three Conferences (1996, 1997 and 1998).

II. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the discussions held, study of the reports and resolutions of the previously-held three Conferences, study of country background papers, reports of the working groups, and observations made during the field visits, the Conference arrived at the following conclusions and made the following recommendations and suggestions:

01 Active steps be taken by the organisers e.g., the ICA, JA-Zenchu, IDACA, AARRO and the sponsoring organisations of the delegates to follow-up the recommendations made, conclusions arrived at and the resolutions adopted by the four Conferences;

02 The Conference has taken note of the current emphasis in the Regions of Asia and Africa on liberalisation of trade and open market economy systems and felt that the role of rural institutions has come into a sharper focus to safeguard the interests of women cooperative members. Besides providing support services, the cooperatives have to encourage the women members to conduct direct sale of produce and processing of local farm products to secure higher economic returns and food security;

03 The Conference was aware of the implications of enforcement of intellectual copyrights and patenting of indigeneous materials abroad. It was stressed by the Conference that farm women leaders and activists put pressure on their respective governments to quickly enact their own patenting legislation and stage protests against the local materials being patented abroad;

04 In view of the continuing increase in the number of the aged people and the apparent lack of health-care systems in the two regions, the Conference took note of the valuable work done by the Women's Associations in Japan in the supply of health-care services to them. A number of cooperatives in the agricultural sector in Japan have developed and operated full-fledged hospitals and health-care services. Such a community-based experience can be of great help and relevance to the Agricultural Cooperative Movements in the rest of the Asian and African countries;

05 The Conference emphasised the relevance and importance of institutional development in the form of self-help groups and women's associations aiming at rural farm women to take care of credit supply, health, better-living, direct sale of local produce, food security and other income generating activities;

06 The Conference was of the view that swift land reforms measures are a key factor in ensuring food security and better income-generating activities for rural women. It was strongly recommended that the governments expedite implementation of land reforms and land consolidation measures;

07 Most of the governments in the Asia-Africa regions have developed a number of programmes to provide relief and security to women in rural areas. There is a

potentiality for cooperatives to become partners-in-development of such programmes e.g., access to appropriate farm technology which is women-friendly, effective marketing of farm produce, literacy and savings programmes. The Conference therefore, considered it necessary that national level cooperative institutions and national level women's organisations interact with their respective governments to gain access to such programmes;

08 The Conference suggested that the agricultural cooperatives and the governments solicit funding and technical support in creating programmes and institutions to organise rural women in self-help groups and pressure groups with a view to give them a stronger bargaining power;

09 It was felt that national cooperative organisations with the help of national and international organisations and their respective governments institute rural extension programmes aimed at empowering rural women and facilitate institution building for them in mobilising rural credit, child/mother-care activities;

10 National level cooperative organisations are requested to establish, where not yet available, and strengthen where available, women committees/women consultative committees or fora to stimulate and encourage women in the decision-making and participatory efforts;

11 National cooperative organisations in consultation with and with the support of national governments to take suitable, active and legal steps to enable women to own land titles and assets, raise financial resources from financial institutions and to become full-fledged members of agricultural cooperative institutions;

12 With a view to provide and enhance their entrepreneurial capacities, agricultural cooperatives and other cooperative institutions, on their own and with the help of national governments and international agencies, to help establish vocational training and skills development programmes and facilities with the objectives of: a) securing employment; b) generating additional income; and c) social and economic security;

13 Rural women be organised in a systematic and planned manner with sufficiently clarified objectives, programmes and facilities so that they could acquire sufficient bargaining power to improve their social and economic status. Marketing of farm and handicraft products has been a major impediments for rural women. Family health, balanced diet, rural sanitation, safe drinking water, access to information and social services, legal protection and safeguarding of human rights for women, recognition of labour put in are some others which are needed by rural women. Several models for organisation of rural women are already available within the Region e.g., the women's associations of agricultural cooperatives in Japan. It was suggested that such models be studied intensively and lessons derived from them be applied in other countries with appropriate modifications;

14 The Conference stressed on organising rural farm women in voluntary self-help groups to enable them to gain access to small loans and giving them adequate inputs in developing their activities on democratic lines, in accordance with the Principles of Cooperation and adhering to the principles of accountability and transparency;

15 In order to enable create interest among women to join cooperative institutions and other local self-government bodies, a certain percentage of seats be reserved for women;

16 The Conference recommended that women's organisations facing financial constraints be encouraged to prepare simple project proposals and approach various aid agencies (national or international, governmental or non-governmental) to secure technical and financial assistance. In this context, the Conference took note of the support made available by the JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency of the Government of Japan for grassroots level projects in which more of women and youth are involved;

17 The Conference requested the ICA ROAP, AARRO and Japan to provide technical guidance, resource material (e.g., training manuals, handbooks, audio-visual aids etc.), technical information and other support in carrying out women leadership development programmes of national women committees/national cooperative organisations;

18 The Conference recommended that the participating countries initiate the process of study visit/exchange programmes to learn from the experiences of each other;

19 The Conference having taken note of the informal character of Women's Associations and the implementation of better-living activities in collaboration with the agricultural cooperatives in Japan recommends and suggests that the IDACA and JA-Zenchu prepare suitable material for dissemination among other countries; and

20 The Conference strongly recommended that the international conferences and Asian regional training courses for rural women be organised more frequently by the ICA ROAP, AARRO, in collaboration with JA-Zenchu, IDACA and Government of Japan and other development partners and their intake and duration suitably expanded.

III. Resolution

The Conference unanimously adopted the following resolution :

The 4th International Conference on "Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa" held at Tokyo, 24th to 29th August 1999, attended by 32 delegates representing 16 Asian and African countries and three international organisations, having taken note of the discussions held at the previously-held three Conferences, takes note of the themes of the previous Conferences, e.g. the 1st Conference held in Tokyo in 1996 discussed primarily the broad concept of women farmers and comprehensive framework of gender issues in agricultural cooperatives; the 2nd Conference held in 1997 exchanged views on information gathering and field data accumulation relating to women in agriculture and agricultural cooperatives; the 3rd Conference held in 1998 focussed on discussing women-farmer participation in agricultural cooperatives which play a great role in national food security and rural development. The delegates attending the three Conferences had underlined the contributions of women in agriculture and agricultural cooperatives.

In the context of the deliberations of these three Conferences, the 4th Conference held in Tokyo in August 1999 centred on defining and building more concrete measures on food security issues and women-farmer equality and ensuring a better institutional support for them. In view of the discussions held and having taken note of the Resolutions of previous three Conferences, and the conclusions and recommendations made by this Conference, this 4th Conference hereby unanimously **RESOLVES** that:

01 The national cooperative organisations and the women's organisations in agricultural cooperative sector in the two Regions take note of the systematic development and their supplementary and complementary activities of the Women's Associations of the Japanese Agricultural Cooperative Movement and make an appropriate use of their valuable experiences;

02 The Conference recognises the importance of its being organised at regular intervals so that increasing number of rural women leaders are exposed to the issues relating to food security, institutional building and leadership development. The Conference hereby strongly recommends that such Conferences and rural women leaders training programmes are continued to be organised on a regular basis by the ICA ROAP, AARRO in collaboration with JA-Zenchu, IDACA and the Government of Japan and other development partners and their intake and duration suitably expanded;

03 The Conference having taken note of the direct sales of produce, processing of locally-grown traditional food items and care of the aged as practised by the JA-Women's Association strongly recommends that the Agricultural Cooperative Movements and farm women organisations in Asia and Africa study these experiments deeply and benefit from their successful experiences;

04 The Conference recognises the contributions made by women in production of food, its handling, processing and storage, marketing and even post-harvest handling of food items. The Conference emphasises the recognition of the role of rural women in the chain process of food production and its marketing.

05 The Conference having taken note of the informal character of Women's Associations and the implementation of better-living activities in collaboration with the agricultural cooperatives in Japan recommends and suggests that the IDACA and JA-Zenchu prepare suitable material for dissemination among other countries;

06 National cooperative organisations in consultation with and with the support of national governments to take suitable, active and legal steps to enable women to own land titles and assets, raise financial resources from financial institutions and to become full-fledged members of agricultural cooperative institutions;

07 With a view to provide and enhance their entrepreneurial capacities, agricultural cooperatives and other cooperative institutions, on their own and with the help of national governments and international agencies, to help establish vocational training and skills development programmes and facilities with the objectives of: a) securing employment; b) generating additional income; and c) social and economic security;

08 The Conference recommended that women's organisations facing financial constraints be encouraged to prepare simple project proposals and approach various aid agencies (national or international, governmental or non-governmental) to secure technical and financial assistance. In this context, the Conference took note of the support made available by the JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency of the Government of Japan for grassroots level projects in which more of women and youth are involved;

09 Active steps be taken by the organisers e.g., the ICA, JA-Zenchu, IDACA, AARRO and the sponsoring organisations of the delegates to follow-up the recommendations made, conclusions arrived at and the resolutions adopted by the four Conferences; and

10 The Conference places on record its highest appreciation for the efforts of the organisers i.e., the ICA ROAP, AARRO, JA-Zenchu and the IDACA in holding this 4th Conference in succession and successfully.

ANNEXURE-I

CONFERENCE DELEGATES

- BANGLADESH** 01 Mrs. Laila Arjuman Banu, Director
Bhairab Central Women Cooperative Society Ltd.
284/C Shantibagh, **Dhaka-1217**, Bangladesh.
- EGYPT** 02 Mrs. Wafaa Mohamed Youssef
Under Secretary of State for Int'l Agril Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
109, Sudare Street, Mohandsen
Doki, **Cairo**, Egypt.
- GHANA** 03 Ms. Rose Oteng, District Chief Executive
Ejisu Juaben District Assembly
P.O. Box 12, **Ejisu**, Ghana.
- INDIA** 04 Mrs. Babni Lal, Joint Director
Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India
Krishi Bhawan, Room # 274
New Delhi-110001, India.
- 05 Mrs. Manjula Shanker, President
Savitha Ambedkar Mahila Reshme Mathu Krushi
Belegarara Kshemabiurdhi Sangha - Huladenahalli
Lakkur Post, **Malur-563130**
Kolar District, Karnataka, India.
- KOREA** 06 Ms. Hye-Kyung Chun, Senior Researcher
National Rural Living Science Institute,
Rural Development Administration
88-2, Seodun-dong,
Suwon City, 441-100 Rep. of Korea.
- 07 Ms. Bae, Su-Kyong
Clerk, Cooperative Sales Support Department
National Agricultural Cooperative Federation
75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku,
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.

- MALAYSIA**
- 08 Ms. Jamilah Binti Din, Lecturer
Cooperative College of Malaysia
103 Jalan Templer, **46700 Petaling Jaya**,
Selangor, Malaysia.
- 09 Ms. Ruzleina Ramly
Head of Organisational Section
Farmers Organisation Authority
Jalan Pardi/Senawang, Peti Surat 234,
70720 Seremban, N. Sembilan. Malaysia.
- 10 Mrs. Che Salmah bt Ishak, Treasurer
Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Bhd.
Kg, Lubok Batu, Mukim Perubang
06000-Jitra, Kedah, West Malaysia.
- MOROCCO**
- 11 Ms. Edoublali Khadija
In-Charge of Rural Women Socio-Economic
Promotion Office
Department of Education, Research & Development
Avenue, Med Belarbi, **Alaoui BP.6598**, Morocco.
- MYANMAR**
- 12 Ms. Yee Yee Cho, Secretary-Director
Shwe-Se-Tun Agricultural and Livestock Breeding
Cooperative Limited,
No.4 Lammadaw Street, **Tharawady Township**
Bago Division, Myanmar
- 13 Ms. Khin Maw Thet, Lecturing Tutor
Sagaing Cooperative Regional College
Ministry of Cooperatives, Coop Department
No.259/263 Bogyoke Aung San Street
Yangon, Myanmar.
- NEPAL**
- 14 Mrs. Bhuwan Dhungana, President
Women Consumers' Cooperative (CHETNA)
Member, Women Committee of NCFN
PO Box 5725, **Kathmandu**, Nepal.
- OMAN**
- 15 Ms. Najat Abdullah Al Ajmi
Supervisor of Rural Women in Batinah Region
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
P.O. Box 2, Code 320 (Barka)
Muscat, Oman.

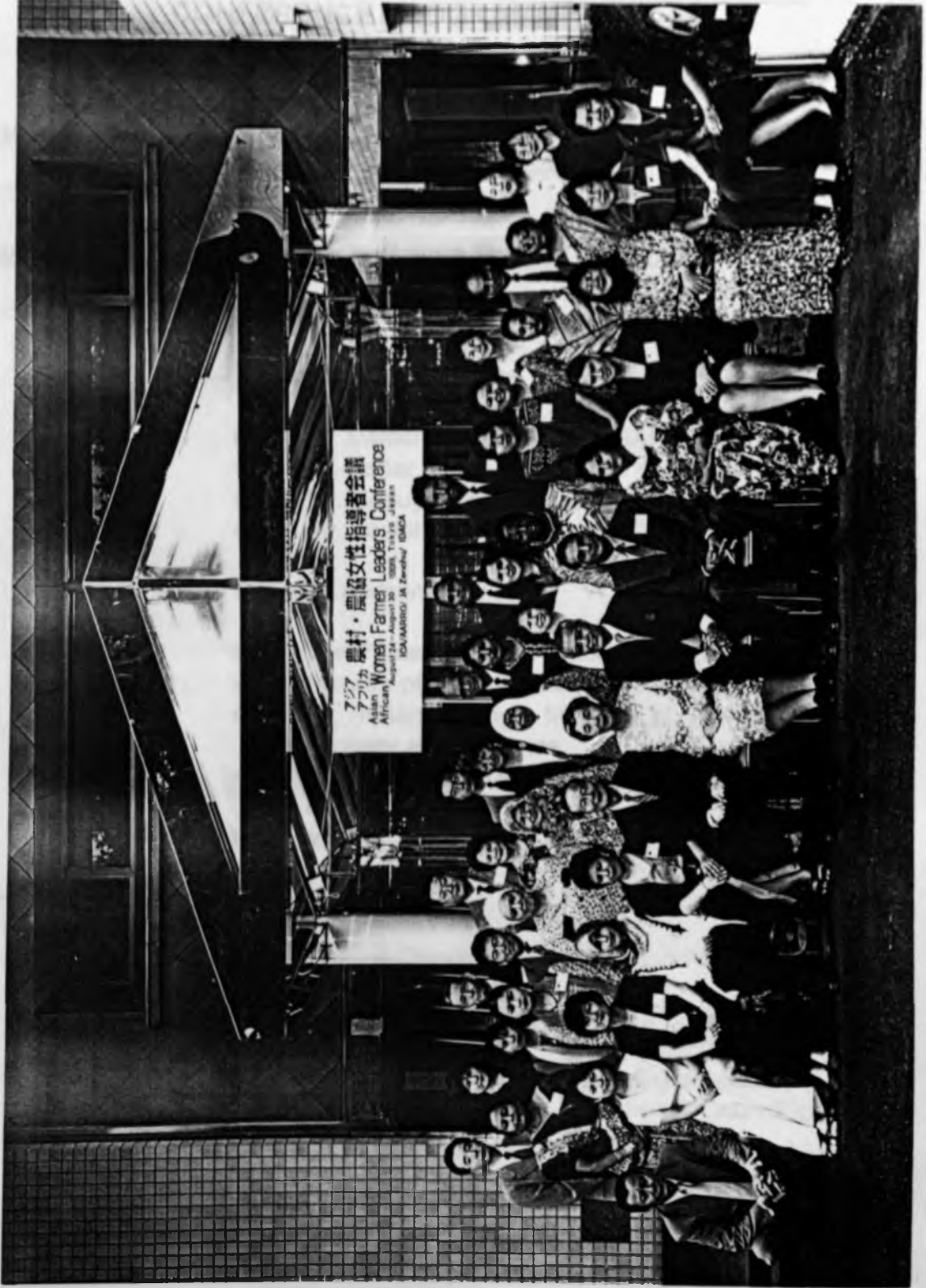
- PAKISTAN** 16 Ms. Shaheen Ijaz
Assistant Director – Agriculture
Pat Feeder Command Area Development Proejct
Dera Murad Jamali,
District Nasirabad. Balochistan, Pakistan.
- PHILIPPINES** 17 Ms. Teresita M. Mistal, Director
Department of Interior and Local Government,
Bureau of Local Government Development
4th Floor, Francisco Gold Condominium Building-II,
Cor. Mapagmahal Street, Edsa
Quezon City, Philippines.
- 18 Ms. Ramona A. Rebueno
Supervising Personnel Specialist
Career Executive Service Board,
Civil Service Commission
No. 3, Marcelino Street, Holyspirit Drive,
Quezon City, Philippines.
- 19 Ms. Angelita Angeles G. Valdez
Service Department Manager
Northern Luzon Federation of Cooperatives and
Development Centre (NORLU CEDEC)
12 Bokawkan Road, 2600-**Baguio City**, Philippines.
- 20 Ms. Beverly V. Fajardo, Director
Wesleyan Multi-Purpose Cooperative
214 Vigilia Street, Mabini Extension
Cabanatuan City, 3100 Philippines.
- SRI LANKA** 21 Mrs. Preema Shanthi Suriaarachchy
President, National Women’s Committee
National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka
455 Galle Road, **Colombo-3**, Sri Lanka.
- TAIWAN** 22 Ms. Erh-Rou Lai, Associate Professor
Department of Agricultural Extension
National Taiwan University
1, Sec. 4, Roosevelt Road, **Taipei-106**, Taiwan.
- THAILAND** 23 Mrs. Kanchana Makchai, Assistant Manager
Sikhiu Agricultural Cooperative Limited
400 M001 Sikhiu District.
30140 **Nakornrajasima** Province, Thailand.

- 24 Mrs. Kanistha Buadsuntea , Manager
Pimai Agricultural Cooperative Limited
67 M006 Pimai-Taladkae Road
Nirmuang 30110 **Nakornrachasima** Province
Thailand.
- VIETNAM** 25 Mrs. Le My Pho, Vice Director
International Economic Relations Department
Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
77 Nguyen Thai Hoc Street,
Hanoi, Vietnam.

International Organisations

- ILO** 26 Mr. Nobuhiro Hayasaka
Director, ILO Branch Office
United Nations University Building, 8th Floor
53-70 Jingumae, 5-Chome, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo-150, Japan
- ICA ROAP** 27 Dr. Daman Prakash, Senior Consultant
ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bonow House, 43 Friends' Colony-East
New Delhi-110065, India.
- 28 Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer
ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bonow House, 43 Friends' Colony-East,
New Delhi-110065. India.
- AARRO** 29 Dr. Bahar Munip, Secretary General,
Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization
No.2, State Guest Houses Complex,
Chanakyapuri, **New Delhi-110021**, India.
- 30 Mr. A. W. Anwar, Technical Officer
Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization
No.2, State Guest Houses Complex,
Chanakyapuri, **New Delhi-110021**, India.
- 31 Mr. P.K. Sasidharan
Executive Officer (Admn.)
Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization
No.2, State Guest Houses Complex, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi-110021, India.

32 Mr. A.S Sastry
Executive Officer (F&A)
Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation
No.2, State Guest Houses Complex,
Chanakyapuri, **New Delhi-110021**, India.



727 農村・農協女性指導者会議
African Women Farmer Leaders Conference
August 24 - August 30 2008 TOKYO JAPAN
ICA/MARRIOTT JA Zanzibar/ ICMCA

ANNEXURE-II

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

<u>23rd Aug, '99 Mon.</u>	Arrival of Conference delegates in Tokyo. Stay at IDACA/Hachioji Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, Japan.
<u>24th Aug, Tue.</u>	<u>(Venue : Conference Room of IDACA).</u>
10:00~11:00	OPENING CEREMONY Welcome Address by : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Daman Prakash, ICA ROAP.• Dr. Bahar Munip, AARRO.• Mr. Nobuyuki Kohashi, JA-Zenchu.• Mr. Yoshitada Nakaoka, IDACA. Opening Remarks by : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Prime Minister's Office-Japan (Message).• Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Japan (Message).• Mr. Hisao Kasagi, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.• Mr. Toshihiro Uetani, Japan International Cooperation Agency.• Mr. Teiji Takahashi, FAO Tokyo Branch Office.
11:00~11:20	Tea break
11:20~11:30	* Conference Objectives, Methods and Procedures. * Selection of Chairpersons * Confirmation of the Resolution of 3 rd Conference
11:30~12:00	Report on Progress from the last Conference (1): by Mr. Teruyoshi Tanaka, JA National Council of Women's Associations. Report on Progress from the last Conference (2): By Dr. Bahar Munip, Secretary-General, AARRO.

12:00~13:30	Lunch break and group photo Session-II : Chairperson, Ms. Jamilah binti Din (Malaysia)
13:30~13:45	Report on Progress from the last Conference (3): by Dr. Daman Prakash, Senior Consultant, ICA ROAP.
13:45~15:15	Report on Activities-Japan (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by Mr. Nobuhiro Hayasaka, Director, ILO Tokyo Branch Office. • Ms. Aiko Takeshima, JA National Council of Women's Associations.
15:15~15:40	Tea break
15:40~16:00	Questions and Answers
18:00~20:00	Welcome Dinner

25th Aug, Wed.

Session-III : Chairperson, Ms. Preema Shanti Suriarachchi
(Sri Lanka)

09:30~10:50	Presentation of Country Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia (Ms. Manjula Shanker - India) • Asean (Ms. Teresita M. Mistal - Philippines) • Africa (Mrs. Wafaa Mohamed Youssef - Egypt) • Middle-East (Ms. Najat Abdullah Al Ajmi - Oman)
10:50~11:20	* Questions and Answers * Formation of Working Groups * Explanation on group discussions
11:20~12:00	Working Groups in Session
12:00~13:30	Lunch break
13:30~16:00	Working Groups in Session Session-IV : Chairperson, Ms. Rose Oteng (Ghana)
16:00~16:45	Presentation of Reports of the Working Groups: Group-1 : Ms. Babni Lal (India) Group-2 : Ms. Angelita Angeles G. Valdez (Philippines) Group-3 : Ms. Shaheen Ijaz (Pakistan)

- 16:45~17:00 Presentation of draft Conclusions, Recommendations and Resolution by Dr. Daman Prakash.
- 17:00~17:20 Adoption of Conference Resolution
- 17:20~17:30 Closing
- 17:30~18:00 Briefing on Field Study Visit to Iwate Prefecture by Mr. Yukio Abe

26th Aug, Thu.

- 08:00~ Leave IDACA for Takao Station by taxi
- 08:30~ Leave Takao Station for Tokyo Station by train (JR)
- 09:56~ Leave Tokyo Station for Morioka by Shinkansen (Bullet Train)
- 12:44~ Arrive Morioka Station. Move to Metropolitan Hotel on foot.
- 13:00~14:00 Lunch at Metropolitan Hotel
- 14:00~ Leave the Hotel for JA-Iwate Prefectural Union by taxi
- 14:30~16:00 Visit to the JA-Iwate Prefectural Union of Agri Coops

27th Aug, Fri.

- 08:30~ Leave the Hotel by bus
- 09:30~10:30 * Visit to JA-Hanamaki Primary Agricultural Cooperative
* Inauguration/Questions and Answers
- 10:30~12:00 Visit to the Yamato Kindergarten run by JA-Hanamaki
- 12:00~13:00 Lunch at "Dashiki" Restaurant run by JA-Hanamaki
- 13:00~15:00 Visit to Mr. Shigeo Itoh's Farmhouse and his farm land
- 15:00~16:30 Move to Hotel Senshukaku by bus
- 16:30~17:15 Report on activities of the JA-Iwate Hanamaki Women's Association
- 17:15~18:00 Making broach with members of Women's Association

18:00~20:00 Dinner party with members of the Women's Association
JA's staff

28th Aug, Sat.

09:00~ Leave Hotel Senshukaku by bus for Sendai City

10:00~15:00 Sight-seeing in Iwate Prefecture

17:00~ Arrive at Hotel Metropolitan Sendai

29th Aug, Sun.

09:00~ Leave the hotel for Sendai Station

09:13~ Leave the Sendai Station by Shinkansen for Ueno

10:58~ Arrive at the Ueno Station

11:00~19:00 Sight-seeing in Tokyo and move to Reaga Royal Hotel
near Narita Airport.

30th Aug, Mon. Departure of Conference Delegates from Narita Airport

ANNEXURE-III

ICA/JA-ZENCHU/IDACA/AARRO 4th International Conference on
Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa
Tokyo, Japan. August 24-29 1999

ACTION PLANS PROPOSED BY CONFERENCE DELEGATES

01. **Bangladesh/Ms Laila Arjuman Banu:** "I will report to my organisation about the International Conference and especially the activities of the Japanese women farmers in the field of agriculture. I will, through my organisation, pursue activities on goat farming, paddy milling, poultry farming etc. with different women groups. I shall explain to them how the sale of such commodities and food items could be increased and how to develop leadership among women in the country."
02. **Egypt/Ms Wafaa Mohamad Youssef:** "When I return to my country, I will have meetings with my staff in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and give them a clear picture about the 4th International Conference. Then I shall ask them to consult with the concerned departments at the Ministry and prepare a number of small income-generating projects to help the rural women. I will submit these project to the donors and to the regional and international organisations for financing."
03. **Ghana/Ms Rose Oteng:** "Since I am the head of a rural district in my country, and with the knowledge acquired during this Conference, I am going to reorganise the existing women farming groups in the district to form proper cooperative associations. The groups would be given training in cooperative management and also get support from the District Business Assistance Fund. More women cooperative associations will also be formed throughout the district. I wish to share the experiences acquired from JA and knowledge acquired from my colleagues and country reports so as to improve upon our associations."
04. **India/Ms Babni Lal:** "My plan of action upon my return to my country from this Conference would cover the following: Data-base regarding women's cooperatives needs to be strengthened; Success stories of women cooperatives and documentation thereof; Specific pronouncements regarding women in the cooperative policy; Supportive cooperative legislation – restriction regarding one member per family to be removed; Reservation of 30% of seats for women in managing committees of cooperatives; Creation of a Women [Cooperative] Development Fund; Role of national cooperative federations in respect of women needs to be defined. This involvement should be visualised from apex to

the primary level; Convergence of all women's empowerment programmes at the ground level; and Forging linkages with Panchayats (village level local-self government bodies)."

05. **India/Ms M. Manjula Shanker:** "Development work on nine cooperative units in agriculture cooperative sector in Malur taluka of Kolar district in Karnataka State is at present being carried out in an unscientific manner. After attending this 4th International Conference I shall take up this challenge to make an effort to ensure proper working of the existing units and enlarge the activities by opening more units in agricultural cooperatives and by creating awareness among the rural women. I shall also encourage organisation of women's associations in my area."

06. **Korea/Ms Hye Kyung Chun:** "I am so happy to participate in the 4th International Conference on Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa. After I come back to my Institute that supports rural home improvement programmes of rural development administration and women farmers policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the Republic of Korea, I will contribute in improving the quality of life and empowerment of rural women through the following activities: (i) to research on technology and knowledge relating to food processing and food analysing and rural dietary life for rural women's income-generating activities; (ii) to cooperate with other organisations, groups and institutions of rural women's including the NGOs; (iii) to offer some data, papers and other information for any one who wants to learn about rural women."

07. **Malaysia/Ms Jamilah binti Din:** "My plan of action after my return from this International Conference and RECA Training Course will be to: (i) organise more of training courses for women on entrepreneurship, management skills and strategic management; (ii) put forward the idea of having women's associations/cooperation at national level; (iii) conduct a study on the strengths of women's associations in Malaysia – an analysis; and (iv) to write an articles and papers about women's involvement in improving their social and economic aspect from time to time."

08. **Malaysia/Ms Che Salmah binti Ishak:** "When I go back to Malaysia after the Conference, I will (i) give a briefing about what I have learnt during my visit to the cooperatives in Japan and in the Conference to the board of directors of my cooperative; and (ii) discuss with the board of directors about the programmes that are suitable and practiced to be implemented in our cooperative."

09. **Malaysia/Ms Ruzleina Ramly:** "When returning to Malaysia, my first and foremost assignment is to brief my organisation's director regarding the Conference which I have attended. Since one of Malaysia's National Government Policy is to support entrepreneurship, I would like to suggest to my organisation to finance a project done by a women entrepreneur. The selection of the participant concerned has to be very carefully done. Some criteria to be considered are: (i) willing to attend training courses; (ii) willing to commit whole-heartedly in the project, e.g., time, financial support; and (iii) willing to undertake new technologies. The project is to produce "dodol" – a Malay traditional food – in a modern way, i.e. using machines."

10. **Morocco/Ms Edoublali Khadija:** "In my country, the future outlook to improve women's cooperatives will depend on the concerted efforts of the women themselves, government policies and the growth of the rural sector. Attitudes will need to be changed and social barriers overcome since the literature has proved that preference is given to income-generating projects that have a direct impact on raising family income; show short-term profits rather than long-range profit projections.

"We must pay special attention to these ideas to succeed on active plans and programmes: pre-project planning is the first step for any project. It incorporates a few basic processes – needs assessment, clear definition of objectives, scheduling and budgeting. In order to make the agricultural women's cooperatives successful; it was recognised that government action alone would be insufficient to eliminate the socio-economic constraints facing women. Women's organisation clearly also have important role to play in this respect; provide special assistance to women cooperative members and help them to derive benefits in terms of services, credit and inputs provided; capital on micro-credit facility must be created to help women with economic initiatives; promotion of appropriate technology to increase efficiency and reduce wastage; and do the evaluation for all presented agricultural women cooperative, to know the negative and positive points for their work. I shall try to follow this programme when I go back to my country."

11. **Myanmar/Ms Yee Yee Cho:** "After attending the international Conference and the ICA training course and after my return to my country I shall report the findings and my experiences in Japan to my Cooperative. Also I shall try to introduce the following concepts in my cooperative: i) organise women's associations; ii) direct sale of products to the consumers; and iii) motivate women members to do more savings."

12. **Myanmar/Ms Khin Maw Thet:** "When I return to my country after attending the international Conference and the ICA training course, I shall report my experiences to my Department and Training Centre. During my work with the Training Centre I shall inform my colleagues and students about the agricultural cooperative development in Japan, JA Women's Associations and their activities. I shall also write lesson notes on my experiences."

13. **Nepal/Ms Bhuwan Dhungana:** "Thank you very much for your kind cooperation for managing a seat for the Women Consumers Cooperative in Nepal under which I had the privilege, as you know, for the first time to pay a visit to Japan to attend the 4th International Conference on Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa, Tokyo, 24-29 August 1999. After the completion of the Conference programme, I shall pursue the following ideas:

"[a] I have to make aware to my institution about the whole programme I attended. The experience I have acquired has been of great service to my organisation; [b] Gradually to develop women self-help groups in rural areas; [c] To up date women farmers (existing ones) on food and nutritional aspects; [d] I will try myself to seek more information, cooperation from organisations like ICA, IDACA, JA Zenchu and so on either for training programmes or for project implementation; [e] The villages and new target group will be

chosen. After a series of meetings with the women farmers, some skill development or income-generating activities will be introduced such as poultry, goat raising, tree plantation, vegetable farming, bee-keeping. The main objective is to make women economically independent so that they do not have to depend upon others for little things they need, and [f] After returning to my country I will try my best to seek cooperation from other agencies for providing assistance and training especially to the executive members of WCC to mobilise the women farmers to fulfil their socio-economic needs. Training is needed on: group formation; credit input delivery; on-farm experiments; agro-enterprise; household food; food preservation; market information/national and international.

“I shall try to develop a set of development programmes in rural income-generating activities e.g., i) Vegetablegrowing – 100 families: Selection criteria; Committee formation; Materials – seeds and fertiliser; Farm tools; Experts services; Technical support, training; Marketing and follow-up; ii) Bee-keeping: 50 families: Selection criteria; Committee formation; Materials [racks, boxes, bees]; Expert services; Technical support, training; Marketing; and follow-up; iii) Poultry farming – 50 families: selection criteria; committee formation; Materials (chicks and feeds); Electricity, tools; Expert training and services; Technical support, training; Manure treatment; Marketing; and follow-up; iv) Floriculture – 200 families; Selection criteria; Committee formation; Soil testing; Test plantation; Plantation; Tools; Expert services; Technical support, training; Marketing [domestic and experts]; and Follow-up.”

14. **Oman/Ms Najat Abdullah Al Ajmi:** “When I will go back to my country after attending the 4th International Conference I will do the following: i) Write a report about the Conference. It will include the introduction about the Conference and the AARRO and IDACA, the subject and the contents and the programme, information about Japan, information about other countries; ii) Prepare for a presentation about my experiences in Japan; iii) I encourage cooperative groups because it gives us a new information and ideas about other country studies, experiences and problems; and iv) I will hold classes and meetings on what I have learned in this Conference for the benefit of rural women in my region.”

15. **Pakistan/Ms Shaheen Ijaz:** “I am working in a very remote area of Pakistan which is a male-dominated Baloch community. When I go back to my country, I will do my best to try to conduct the following activities i.e., Give all the information in my monthly meetings about the development of all the countries which were present during the Conference, especially India and Japan and the efforts of the ICA, AARRO as to their contributions; Try to introduce new concepts in our community; Conduct some training for the males to create awareness about the work of Japan cooperatives; Conduct training programmes about income-generating activities in women groups; Conduct conference with the members of the JANG newspaper about the work of cooperatives in Japan to create awareness about the development in the cooperatives of Pakistan and especially for Balochistan.

“I will try my best to give the message about the development in agricultural cooperatives in Japan and motivate the people through this.”

16. **Philippines/Ms Beverly V. Fajardo:** “(i) Immediately upon arrival at my official station, I will prepare a programme of activities that will involve women members of agricultural cooperatives in our area; (ii) I will submit a resolution to the members of our board of directors for approval, a resolution involving our cooperative programme for women members of our neighbouring agricultural cooperatives; (iii) Together with our officers in our cooperative, we will meet with the agricultural cooperative office chosen in our programme involving women members of cooperative for the formulation of a Memorandum of Agreement for the said purposes; and (iv) Meet with the women members of the agricultural cooperative involved in the programme and explain the whole ideas.”

17. **Philippines/Ms Angelita G. Valdez:** “I come to study the situation of integrated cooperative activities of the different countries in Asia represented here and particularly that of Japan. I am very much willing to discuss and share in order to discover how other agricultural cooperatives integrated and coordinated different activities to solve problems related to credit, supply, marketing and consumers. I also expect to gain knowledge and *acquire skills to promote, organise and develop savings-based cooperatives among the informal sector in the Cooperative Movement and lastly be able to be good to retain them and apply in our beloved Philippines, NATCCO network and cooperative sector.* Upon my return I shall carry out the following activities: i) Coordinate with NATCCO to facilitate preparation of tools/research; prepare tools and conduct research; collate and validate; prepare gender planning and integration; integrate to programmes and services after series of consultation and validation; ii) Prepare terminal report; distribute training materials, arrange and conduct re-echo seminar; document best practices; promote concept to at least 5 pilot cooperatives; negotiate for possible application; and iii) Advocate importance of setting up gender desk and gender advocacy programme; assist coop to organise, conduct GST conferences and forum; formulate and implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, assist coop to develop projects to sustain gender programme.

18. **Philippines/Ms Ramona A. Rebuena:** “I vow to pursue the following actions after my completion of the Conference on women farmer leaders: i) I shall make a report, as I am expected to do, to my organisation on the details of experiences, the information I have acquired and the places I have visited in Japan. I shall also inform my staff and the field officials who are in charge of in the rural areas evaluating projects of field directors; ii) As a field worker myself, I will validate through first hand experience and findings of my co-delegates in this Conference in the rural areas and share the Japanese experiences with the field directors I am going to evaluate; iii) As the project officer in charge of developing text items for government executives screening for the grant of their eligibilities, I will help develop questionnaires on sustainable development particularly environmental consciousness with the objective of increasing their awareness in the subject-matter; and iv) I will encourage the formation of CESB employees’ cooperatives and engage in livelihood training for alternative income of government workers. In my own way, I hope, I can help foster cooperative spirit among rural women in the Philippines.

19. **Philippines/Ms Teresita M. Mistal:** “Upon return to the Philippines and report for duty, the following activities and programmes will be undertaken: i) Continue and expand the day-care programme of the Department, not only at the central level but also down to

the regional level; ii) Institutionalise the establishment of women's desk in all local government units; iii) Expand the establishment of the gender and development regional information centres down to the provincial level; iv) Expand the cooperative associations in the special zones for peace and development in Mindanao through financial and technical assistance.”

20. Sri Lanka/Ms Preema Shanthi Sooriarrachchi: “After my return to Sri Lanka I shall call upon the National Women’s Committee of the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka of which I am the current President, to select three agricultural areas (Pollonnarwa, Mathale and Hambanthota) for development of women’s associations with the help of local primary cooperatives. The main focus will be on giving them training, extension and education on planning and financing. I shall also consider and help them with some land to sell their local products.”

21. Taiwan/Ms Erh-Rou Lai: “As I am a teacher in the Department of Agricultural Extension at the National Taiwan University, what I plan to do after I go back home are as follows: i) to write a paper about what I have learnt here from the international Conference and the field study visits and have it published; ii) to discuss about this topic and share my experiences with my students who are interested in the ‘issues of rural women’, and who may become good educators for rural leaders one day in the future; and iii) to organise a series of workshops for women leaders as part of their training programme.”

22. Thailand/Ms Kanistha Buadsuntea: “When I return to Thailand I shall try to do the following: i) write a report to my organisation about the international Conference; ii) prepare a presentation about my experiences in Japan and give my recommendations; and iii) training of women in Pimai agricultural cooperative.”

23. Thailand/Ms Kanchana Makchai: “When I return to Thailand after participation in the international Conference I shall write a report for the information of my organisation and make a presentation on my experiences and recommendations.”

**RURAL WOMEN, FOOD SECURITY
AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES**

Daman Prakash



International Cooperative Alliance
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
43 Friends' Colony-East, New Delhi 110065. India



**RURAL WOMEN, FOOD SECURITY
AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES**
by Daman Prakash

CONTENTS

Introduction	...	...	...	...	...	01
Hunger and Poverty	...	...	...	...	...	02
Discrimination and Underdevelopment	...	...	...	...	...	03
Gender Division of Labour in Agriculture	...	...	...	...	...	04
Women and Food Security Issues	...	...	...	...	...	04
Gender Equality and Sharing of Opportunities	...	...	...	...	...	06
Women in Agriculture	...	...	...	...	...	07
Rural Women in Agricultural Cooperatives	...	...	...	...	...	09
Constraints faced by Rural Women	...	...	...	...	...	10
Facilitation Role of the ICA and its Development Partners	...	...	...	...	...	11
Issues Involved	...	...	...	...	...	12
Conclusions	...	...	...	...	...	12
References Used	...	...	...	...	...	13

Paper produced for presentation and to serve as a theme paper
at the 4th Asian-African International Conference on

Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa

organised jointly by the ICA, AARRO, JA-Zenchu and IDACA at Tokyo, Japan. August 24-29 1999

RURAL WOMEN, FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

Daman Prakash, Director
ICA-Japan Agricoops Management Training Project for Asia

Regardless of the level of development achieved by the respective economies, women play a pivotal role in agriculture and in rural development in most countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Evidently there are serious constraints which militate against the promotion of an effective role for women in development in those societies which were bound by age-old traditions and beliefs. Patriarchal modes and practices motivated by cultures and/or interpretations of religious sanctions and illiteracy hinder women's freedom to opt for various choices to assert greater mobility in social interactions. Resulting from these situations, women's contribution to agriculture and other sectors in the economy remain concealed and unaccounted for in monitoring economic performance measurement. Consequently, they are generally invisible in plans and programmes. They were, in fact, discriminated against by stereotypes which restrict them to a reproductive role, and denied access to resources which could eventually enhance their social and economic contribution to the society.

In terms of the ratio of membership of women in agricultural cooperatives, the percentage is rather low, but they have a strong influence on them – through the heads of the households. Certain obvious barriers restrict their direct and formal entry in agricultural cooperatives. Even in countries like Japan, the ratio of women membership in agricultural cooperative is extremely low. Only very few women serve on the Boards of Directors. Their simple and clear perception is that the administrative and decision-making domain rests with the men and women do not wish to overburden themselves with financial responsibilities in case something goes wrong with the cooperative. They, of course contribute significantly in farm operations. However, the women are very active in Women's Associations of Agricultural Cooperatives which organise their activities around the life and style of farm household members.

Introduction

Regardless of the level of development achieved by the respective economies, women play a pivotal role in agriculture and in rural development in most countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. Evidently there are serious constraints which militate against the promotion of an effective role for women in development in those societies which were bound by age-old traditions and beliefs. Patriarchal modes and practices motivated by cultures and/or interpretations of religious sanctions and illiteracy hinder women's freedom to opt for various choices to assert greater mobility in social interactions. Resulting from these situations, women's contribution to agriculture and other sectors in the economy remain concealed and unaccounted for in monitoring economic performance measurement. Consequently, they are generally invisible in plans and programmes. They were, in fact, discriminated against by stereotypes which restrict them to a reproductive role, and denied access

to resources which could eventually enhance their social and economic contribution to the society.

In developing countries, among the poor, rural women are the poorest and more vulnerable. Empirical evidences suggest that women in rural areas are more adversely affected by poverty than men. The incidence of poverty among rural women is on the rise in most of the developing countries. The issues of gender bias and equity point to the double burden women have to bear - that on being poor and being a woman. Further strategies and programmes for development had largely overlooked the question of gender equity. Projects aiming to reduce poverty view the poor rural women as the recipient of benefits of development, instead of active participant and still poor rural women have the least access to basic needs such as food, health and education.

Hunger and Poverty

Hunger, which usually follows food shortages, is caused by a complex set of events and circumstances [social, economic and political factors] that differ depending on the place and time. Although hunger has been a part of human experience for centuries and a dominant feature of life in many low-income countries, the causes of hunger and starvation are not very well understood. Our understanding of the main causes of hunger and starvation has been hampered by myths and misconceptions about the interplay between hunger and population growth, land use, farm size, technology, trade, environment and other factors.

Poverty cannot be defined simply in terms of lacking access to sufficient food. It is also closely associated with a person's lack of access to productive assets, services and markets. Without access to these, it is unlikely that production and income-earning capacities can be improved on a sustainable basis. Rural poverty is related to food insecurity, access to assets, services and markets: income-earning opportunities; and the organisational and institutional means for achieving those ends.

Throughout the history and in many societies, inequalities of women and men were part and parcel of an accepted male-dominated culture. It is a complex historical process, which requires detailed study before one can conceive of a viable strategy to improve and sustain the status of women in society. One of the basic factors causing unequal share of women in development relates to the division of labour between the sexes. This division of labour has been justified on the basis of the childbearing function of women and this is biologically important for survival. Consequently, distribution of tasks and responsibilities between men and women in a given society has mainly restricted women to the domestic sphere. Mass poverty and general backwardness has further aggravated the inequalities.

While the women's childbearing and child-rearing functions are respected in many countries, there has been very little recognition of women's actual or potential contribution to the economic, social and cultural states. The role of women within the family combined with high level of unemployment and under-employment of the population in general, has led to the unequal state of priority to men in matters of employment. It is understandable that women cannot be expected to join the army, for instance, as foot soldiers but Israel's well-known and rightfully feared *sabrahs* or women commandos have shattered the myth of man's physical superiority and thus priority for most jobs.

Discrimination and Underdevelopment

It is relevant to consider some aspects of the marginalisation of the status of women in the world by having a look at the figures which are based on the documents of the United Nations. Some of the findings are:

- *Unemployment Rate:* Male unemployment rate decreased by 11% from 1984 to 1988 while that of women, unemployment rate increased by 0.5% during the same period;
- *Women in the Informal Sector:* Without legal protection or security, women depend on informal trade for their survival. In Third World countries, a high percentage of food vendors were women: in Nigeria 94%, Thailand 80%, 63% in the Philippines;
- *Inequality in Pay:* All over the world women earn only two-thirds of men's pay and earn less than three-quarters of the wages of men doing similar jobs. Women form a third of the world's official labour force, but are concentrated in the lowest-paid jobs and are more vulnerable to unemployment than men;
- *Domestic Work:* Women do almost all the world's domestic work and coupled with their additional work in the productive spheres - this means most women work a double day. Unpaid domestic work is regarded as women's work. Though it is vital work, it is invisible work, unpaid, undervalued and unrecognised. Yet, the women's contribution to society in this regard is enormous;
- *Agriculture:* Women grow about half of the world's food, but own hardly any land, have difficulty in obtaining credit and are overlooked by agricultural advisors and projects. In Africa, three-quarters of the agricultural work is done by women while in Asia, Latin America and the Middle-East, women comprise half of the agricultural labour force;
- *Health:* Women provide more health care than all health services combined and have been major beneficiaries of a new global shift in priorities towards prevention of disease and promotion of good health;
- *Education:* Women continue to outnumber men among the world's illiterates by about 3:2 ratio, but school enrollment boom is closing the education gap between boys and girls;
- *Political Affairs:* Due to poorer education, lack of confidence and greater workload, women are still under-represented in the decision-making bodies of their countries.

The effects of the long-term cumulative process of discrimination against women have been accentuated by underdevelopment. Graphically, while women represent nearly 50% of the world's adult population and one-third of the total labour force, they labour nearly two-thirds of the total working hours but receive only one-tenth of world income and own less than one per cent of property. The story of overworked women in the rural areas of the developing and underdeveloped countries of the world is too well known. The type of agricultural activities generally expected of women is highly labour-intensive and the rural women generally do not enjoy the benefits of new technologies. Their wages are generally less because it is assumed that the efficiency of women's labour is poor compared to that of men. Regarding ownership of land, women do not enjoy equal rights, particularly in the developing countries where most of the production, processing, storage and preparation of food is carried out by the women. These account for 50% of the total labour required for food production. Many of these tasks are performed by children, especially the girls. Besides helping the menfolk in many farm operations, women have to shoulder the

entire responsibilities for household chores. Bringing water from far-off wells and rivers and gathering fuel wood from forests are also part of their daily duties. Such enormous waste of human energy is unnecessary in this technological age.

Gender Division of Labour in Agriculture

The particular tasks done on farms by men and women have certain common patterns. In general, men undertake the heavy physical labour of land preparation and jobs which are specific to distant locations, such as livestock herding, while women carry out the repetitious, time-consuming tasks like weeding and those which are located close to home, such as care of the kitchen garden. In most cultures the application of pesticides is considered a male task, as women are aware of the danger to their unborn children of exposure to chemicals. Women do a major part of the planting and weeding of crops. Care of livestock is shared, with men looking after the larger animals and women the smaller ones. Marketing is often seen as a female task, although men are most likely to negotiate the sale of crops. Some jobs are gender neutral. The introduction of a new tool may cause a particular job to be reassigned to the opposite sex and men tend to assume tasks that become mechanised.

The impact on women of the modernisation of agriculture is both complex and contradictory. Women have often been excluded from agrarian reform and training programmes in new agricultural methods. Where both men and women have equal access to modern methods and inputs there is no evidence that either sex is more efficient than the other. Technological changes in post-harvest processing may even deprive women of a traditional income-earning task.

Women and Food Security Issues

Not only do women produce and process agricultural products but they are also responsible for much of the trade in these and other goods in many parts of the third world. In many parts of the world, women continue to play an important role as rural information sources and providers of food to urban areas. This may involve food from the sea as well as from the land. Although women rarely work as fisherpeople they are often involved in net-making and the preparation and sale of the catch.

Women's roles and status all over the world are generally determined by social institutions and norms, religious ideologies, eco-systems and by class positions. The Indian social systems exhibit such grave disparities. Indian women are not a homogeneous group. Their traditional roles are not identical in all strata of society. Norms and taboos governing their roles and behaviours within and outside the family, the structure of family organisations and social practices and the positions accorded to women in a community differ considerably across regions, cultures and levels of socio-economic development.

It is needless to emphasise on the significant contribution of women to agricultural production and household food security. In the process of production, handling and preparation of food, women play a multiple role throughout the sequence. They are said to be "feeding the world". Do women really feed the world? Let us consider the evidence. On a global scale, women produce more than half of all the food that is grown. In sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, they produce up to 80% of basic foodstuffs. In Asia, they provide from 50 to 90% of the labour for rice cultivation. And in Southeast Asia and the Pacific as well as Latin America, women's home

gardens represent some of the most complex agricultural systems known. In countries in transition, the percentage of rural women working in agriculture ranges from about a third in Bosnia and Herzegovina to more than half in Poland. Across much of the developing world, rural women provide most of the labour for farming, from soil preparation to harvest. After the harvest, they are almost entirely responsible for operations such as storage, handling, stocking, marketing and processing.

Women in rural areas generally bear primary responsibility for the nutrition of their children, from gestation through weaning and throughout the critical period of growth. In addition, they are the principal food producers and preparers for the rest of the family.

Despite their contributions to food security, women tend to be invisible actors in development. All too often, their work is not recorded in statistics or mentioned in reports. As a result, their contribution is poorly understood and often underestimated. There are many reasons for this. Work in the household is often considered to be part of a woman's duties as wife and mother, rather than an occupation to be accounted for in both the household and the national economy. Outside the household, a great deal of rural women labour - whether regular or seasonal - goes unpaid and is, therefore, rarely taken into account in official statistics.

In most countries, women do not own the land they cultivate. Discriminatory laws and practices for inheritance of and access and ownership to land are still widespread. Land that women do own tends to consist of smaller, less valuable plots that are also frequently overlooked in statistics. Furthermore, women are usually responsible for the food crops destined for immediate consumption by the household, that is, for subsistence crops rather than cash crops. Also, when data is collected for national statistics, gender is often ignored or the data is biased in the sense that it is collected only from males, who are assumed to be the heads of households.

These handicaps have contributed to an increasing "faminisation" of poverty. Since the 1970s, the number of women living below the poverty line has increased by 50%, in comparison with 30% for their male counterparts. Women may feed the world today, but, given this formidable lists of obstacles placed in their path, will they be able to produce the additional food needed for a world population expected to grow by three billion in 2030?

During the FAO-sponsored World Food summit of 1996, world leaders from 186 countries adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and a Plan of Action. These international agreements specified that the role of women in agriculture and food security must be emphasised, in order to create the enabling political, social and economic environment required for the eradication of hunger and poverty.

Under Commitment-I of the World Food Summit Plan of Action agenda, governments committed themselves to:

- Support and implement commitments made at the 4th World Conference on Women that a gender perspective is mainstreamed in all policies;
- Promote women's full and equal participation in the economy...including secure and equal access to and control over credit, land and water;

- Ensure that institutions provide equal access for women;
- Provide equal gender opportunities for education and training in food production, processing and marketing;
- Tailor extension and technical services to women producers and increase the number of women advisors and agents;
- Improve the collection, dissemination and use of gender-disaggregated data [which distinguishes between males and females];
- Focus research efforts on the division of labour and on income access and control within the household; and
- Gather information on women's traditional knowledge and skills in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resources management.

FAO's Plan of Action for Women in Development [1996-2001] ensures that gender issues are considered in its development work. Objectives include giving women equal access to and control of land and other productive resources, increasing their participation in decision-making and policy-making, reducing the workloads of women and enhancing their opportunities for paid employment and income.

Gender Equality and Sharing of Opportunities

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognised several dimensions of human rights for all people. Some are tangible and quantifiable, such as access to education, health and a decent standard of living and ability to take part in the government of the country. Others are intangible, such as freedom, dignity, and security of person and participation in the cultural life of the community.

The goals of gender equality differ from one country to another, depending on the social, cultural and economic contexts. So, in the struggle for equality, different countries may set different priorities, ranging from more education for girls, to better maternal health, to equal pay for equal work, to more seats in parliament, to removal of discrimination in employment, to protection against violence in the home, to changes in family law, to having men take more responsibility for family life.

Equality is not a technocratic goal – it is a wholesale political commitment. Achieving it requires a long-term process in which all cultural, social, political and economic norms undergo fundamental change. The UNDP Human Development Report-1995 outlines a vision for the 21st century that should build a world order that:

- Embraces full equality of opportunity between women and men as a fundamental concept;
- Eliminates the prevailing disparities between men and women and creates an enabling environment for the full flowering of the productive and creative potential of both sexes;
- Promotes more sharing of work and experience between women and men in the workplace as well as in the household;
- Regarding women as essential agents of change and development and opens many more doors to women to participate more equally in economic and political opportunities;

- Values the work and contribution of women in all fields on par with those of men, solely on merit, without making any distinction;
- Puts people – both women and men – clearly at the centre of all development processes.

The UNDP Report-1995 also states that the GDI [Gender-related Development Index] ranking can be different in different situations, as is shown by the following conclusions of a recent survey:

- No society treats its women as well as its men. Substantial progress on gender equality has been made in only a few societies;
- Gender equality does not depend on the income level of a society. What it requires is a firm political commitment, not enormous financial wealth;
- Significant progress has been achieved over the past two decades, though there is still a long way to go. Not a single country has slipped back in the march towards greater gender equality at higher levels of capabilities, though the pace of progress has been extremely uneven and slow.

Much progress remains to be made in gender equality in almost every country. And in equality of choice in economic and political participation, industrial countries are not necessarily taking the lead. The areas showing the least progress are parliamentary representation and percentage share of administrators and managers. The clear policy message from this simple exercise is this: "In most countries, industrial or developing, women are not yet allowed into the corridors of economic and political power. In exercising real power or decision-making authority, women are a distinct minority throughout the world."

Women in Agriculture

Women play an indispensable role in farming and in improving the quality of life in rural areas. However, their contributions often remain concealed due to some social barriers and gender bias. Even government programmes often fail to focus on women in agriculture. This undermines the potential benefits from programmes, especially those related to food production, household income improvements, nutrition, literacy, poverty alleviation and population control. Equitable access for rural women to educational facilities would certainly improve their performance and liberate them from their marginalised status in the society. Other areas where women's potential could be effectively harnessed are agricultural extension, farming systems development, land reform and rural welfare. Landmark improvements have been recorded in such cases as the extension of institutional credit and domestic water supplies where women's potential have been consciously tapped.

Socio-economic goals of productivity, equity and environment stability are closely woven around the agriculture sector policies and new dimensions in programmes implemented are already emerging as new values. Regardless of the level of development achieved by the respective economies, women play a pivotal role in agriculture and in rural development in most countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. Asia-Pacific region had witnessed spectacular development in crop yields which even surpassed the population growth rate in the past decade. However, pockets of hunger remain when landless or small farm rural population lack economic access to food because of a lack of remunerative non-farm employment in rural areas, where

80% of Asia-Pacific's 400 million poor live. It has also been suggested that with the acceleration of crop-diversification programmes and the transformation of agriculture to commercial production levels, women's lot had been even further worsened by the addition of new burdens which they have to shoulder in order to realise profits in farm operations.

Rural women who are obliged to attend to all the household chores, children's welfare, nutrition and family cohesion along with farm work, are desperately driven to adopt a survival strategy to save the family food security from total collapse. Rural poverty has increased in the region particularly for farmers as priority has been accorded to the industrial and service sectors: this is both the cause and an effect of rural-urban migration leading to the "feminisation of farming". Thus the numbers and the proportion of rural women among the absolutely poor and destitute, currently around 60%, is expected to increase to 65 to 70% by the year 2000.

In spite of social, political and economic constraints, women farmers have proved extremely resourceful and hardworking in their attempt to ensure household food security. Social constraints place barriers around their access to scientific and technological information. Lack of collateral denies them access to agricultural credit. Culture or traditions accord membership of cooperatives only to heads of households – usually a man. Many rural women, even in highly mechanised farming systems such as the Republic of Korea and Japan would have agriculture for work in other sectors if choices were available.

After some decades of development, global problems and issues concerning environment, women in development, and poverty have reappeared. All these have emerged in rural communities and threatening their sustainability. Rural communities with norms developed for managing resources are important for the stability of community life. Gender-oriented rural development programmes which focus on role of women to guarantee the stability of life provide a sound basis for integrated development of the quality of life.

In progressive economies like Japan, rural women have shown anxieties over several concerns affecting their livelihood. Some of the priority items include measures for success in agricultural enterprises, expansion of periodic farming resulting in reduced holidays, the need to reduce agricultural work, changes in awareness of rural societies and reduction in the work connected with caring for elderly people. In order to redress these problems, five tasks have been identified for promotion which will result in making rural living more pleasant and comfortable. These tasks include:

- i. Creating awareness of changes and measures pursued to change the status of women by their active participation in agricultural and fisheries cooperatives;
- ii. Improving working conditions and environment;
- iii. Appreciating the positive aspects of living in rural areas and creating a conducive environment which will contribute towards better rural life;
- iv. Acquiring skills to diversify areas of involvement by women supporting women in entrepreneurial roles; and
- v. Adopt a structured approach to execute the vision to improve rural conditions.

Rural Women in Agricultural Cooperatives

Women are represented in various forms and in various types of cooperatives in the Region. In most of the South-Asian countries women membership in mixed membership cooperatives is generally lower as compared with those from other countries in the Region. In societies where culture restricts women's membership in cooperatives, women-only cooperatives proliferate. It is in women-only cooperatives that women feel freer and less restricted in their participation in cooperatives. In countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, women comprise just 7.5% as compared with men (92.5%) of the total membership. In Malaysia it is around 30.6%. In many of the Asian countries women's membership is low [ranging from 2 to 10.5%] in agricultural cooperatives. This reflects the age-old stereotype that men are the farmers and not the women, and the title of the farm property should be in the name of the man. This situation automatically prohibits women to be the members. Out of a total of 450,000 cooperatives with a total membership of 204.5 million in India, there were 8,171 women-only cooperatives with a total membership of 693,000. It is also known that the women-only cooperatives e.g., cooperative banks, consumer stores, fruits and vegetable vendors, have done exceedingly well and provided a whole range of services to their members. In India, with a view to involve women in the process of decision-making in local self-government bodies including cooperatives, a 33% representation has been instituted and in a number of states all boards of directors have women serving on them. There has also been a discussion to have a similar representation in state and national legislatures as well.

The highest number of women in cooperatives in the Region comes from the credit and consumer sectors. In Japan the membership of women in agricultural cooperatives and in decision-making organs is low. No discriminatory provisions preventing women's participation in agricultural cooperatives are contained in the Agricultural Cooperative Law nor in the bylaws of the agricultural cooperatives. In the majority of the bylaws, membership is based either on land ownership or work on the farm for more than 90 days a year. Despite this, women membership has not increased mainly due to the fact that most cooperatives have a membership policy that allows only one member per household, based on the idea that a household is the minimum unit for production. In addition, it is customary that women follow their husbands in the village life and decision-making. Women themselves do not want to cause troubles by challenging such a tradition. Therefore, men became the majority of directors and delegates and women quietly accepted the situation. However, the concept of plural membership from households is being encouraged.

There are still some prevailing laws which place barriers for women's participation in agricultural cooperatives and/or farmers' associations, like land ownership and head of the household. In many societies the very women who need to organise to cooperate and prosper, lack the time for participation due to multiple work demands. Cooperatives being people-centered movement had recognised these limitations place on women by the society and economic institutions. Experiments made in different parts of the world clearly indicate that women's participation in cooperatives and other local government bodies not only provides them an opportunity to articulate their problems but it also helps them to be an active partner in decision-making process.

The relationship between women and their cooperatives in the context of gender integration can be summarised as under:

- A cooperative being a social development agency should play an active role in advocating for gender equality;
- Since women have been active in development work, they should play central role in development;
- The cooperative can be a venue to improve women's social status and economic conditions; and
- thus, cooperatives should promote women's empowerment by integrating gender concerns and formulating a strategy that would address gender issues.

In terms of the ratio of membership of women in agricultural cooperatives, the percentage is rather low, but they have a strong influence on them – through the heads of the household. Certain obvious barriers restrict their direct and formal entry in agricultural cooperatives. Agricultural cooperatives, in present times, everywhere have come under dark clouds due to heavy competitions and pressures of open market economy systems. They are now expected to meet the challenges which they had never anticipated before. Their business methods remain traditional and they expect government support in the form of protection and subsidies. These are no longer available and will not be available in the near future. In several countries, agricultural cooperatives have either folded up or are under massive reorganisation. The challenges faced by agricultural cooperatives can be enumerated as under:

- Need to improve professional management skills of those who provide advisory or guidance services to cooperatives and of the managers and some key members of primary level cooperatives;
- Establishment of a marketing intelligence system within the Cooperative Movement to enable the farmer-producers follow market trends and plan their production and marketing strategies;
- Assured supply of farm inputs [quality seeds, chemical fertiliser, farm chemicals, credit and extension services];
- Establishment of business federations through cooperative clusters to undertake primary agro-processing marketing of local products and to cover financial requirements;
- Be aware of quality controls and standardisation of farm products to be able to compete effectively in the open market;
- Participate in efforts to conserve natural resources which directly and indirectly, influence farm production and rural employment;
- Need for providing information to the farmers and farmers' organisations on the implications of restructuring, globalisation and WTO agreements.

Constraints faced by Rural Farm Women

Based on the experiences of farm extension workers, field advisors and rural farm women in the Asia-Pacific Region, the following are the general constraints faced by them:

- High illiteracy rates and poor living conditions among rural women;

- Lack of leadership and inadequate participation in the organisational and economic affairs of their agricultural cooperatives;
- Absence of property inheritance rights, restriction on acquiring membership of agricultural cooperatives consequently being deprived of farm credit etc.;
- Inadequate health care services in rural areas;
- Inadequate water supply for household and farm operations;
- Lack of appropriate agricultural technology aimed at reducing the physical burden of farm women;
- Inadequate access to credit and agricultural inputs and other services;
- Lack of female farm extension workers;
- Lack of marketing facilities and opportunities;
- Traditional, religious, social and cultural obstacles;
- Less participation in decision-making – even within the household;
- Male migration/urban drift which increases pressure on women;
- Lack of opportunities to improve socio-economic status of farm women;
- Lack of skills and attitudes in leadership and management development; and
- Lack of secretariat supporting functions for women's organisations and allocation of funds for them in cooperative organisations.

Facilitation Role of the ICA and its Development Partners

Since the establishment of the ICA Regional Office in New Delhi in 1960, efforts have consistently been made to initiate and promote programmes aimed at emancipation of women and their involvement in the organisational and business activities of cooperatives. This has been done through a long chain of seminars, discussions, conferences and technical assistance programmes which have been carried out with the collaboration of its Member-Organisations and development partners. In the agricultural cooperatives sector some of the most recent initiatives have been as follows:

- A series of technical meetings and conferences were held which had taken note of the recommendations of UN and other international conferences and initiatives on women in cooperative development;
- A series of specialised training courses for rural women leaders in agricultural cooperatives, on an yearly basis, with the financial support of the Government of Japan and in collaboration with the JA-Zenchu and the IDACA;
- Three top level Asian and African Conferences on Farm Women Leaders in Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives during 1997 and 1998 [one more conference is planned in 1999] in collaboration with the JA-Zenchu, AARRO and the IDACA and with the full technical support of the Government of Japan in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries-MAFF;

- Development of training manuals and other supporting materials for the use of women leaders to develop women's associations and help increase women's participation in agricultural cooperatives.

Issues Involved

In the background of the above discussion and in view of the constraints faced by women with regard to their participation in agricultural cooperatives, the following issues need to be tackled by the concerned authorities and cooperative institutions:

- Identification of an appropriate mechanism which could provide development opportunities to women in rural areas;
- Encouraging cooperatives to have special programmes and tasks for women to perform in the organisational and business affairs. It has been observed that in many of the countries of the Region more women are being taken in to undertake administrative and functional activities – they make very good, reliable and honest cashiers, sales girls, inventory controllers, secretaries, public relations officers and member contact persons;
- Review, revision and reformation of cooperative legislation and government policies which facilitate and encourage women to become members of cooperatives and participate in decision-making processes. Cooperative institutions and their federations may take the lead on their own to institute programmes for the participation of women in cooperatives. Voluntary initiatives by cooperatives themselves do not necessarily to be qualified by government approvals. Cooperatives should lobby with their governments to replace or suitably amend the restrictive laws;
- Accord due credibility to the achievements of women in agricultural cooperative development through publicity, exchange of visits, participation in meetings and conferences. Women need a platform through which they could justify their participation in cooperative action;
- Replication of successful experiences. The work done by the Women's Associations of Japanese agricultural cooperatives and Han Groups has produced good results for the community and business of their cooperatives. Such experiences need a thorough study. They have a lot of good things to offer;
- Development of Plans of Action at all levels. Women's cooperative organisations at primary levels should try to federate themselves into higher federations or association so that their 'bargaining power' is strengthened. The cooperatives and women's associations should develop realistic plans of action to be followed for three-five years;
- Cooperatives to initiate education, training and extension programmes for women through vocational and literacy programmes [these also include home improvement activities e.g., cooking classes, handcrafts, social interactions, environmentrelated activities etc.];
- Creating conditions for women to market their products through outlets established by agricultural cooperatives. [Agricultural cooperatives in Japan set apart a space in their shopping areas exclusively for the Women's Associations and even for the individual farmers to sell their products, including organising Morning Markets etc.].

Conclusion

Women have been the focus of attention of all international and national development programmes. Efforts have been directed at empowering them in all fields of activity. Special programmes have been instituted to improve their social

and economic status through provision of education, employment, health-care and involvement in social and economic institutions, including cooperatives. Cooperative institutions and especially the agricultural cooperatives are the agencies which hold enormous potential for the development of women, and more particularly the rural women. Rural women are actively involved in the process of food production, processing and marketing. They often lack the legal status which prohibits them to have access to credit, education and technology. Cooperative institutions can help accelerate the process of development and participation of women in their organisational and business activities. Institutions like the International Cooperative Alliance [ICA] and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia-Japan [IDACA] together with the support of other international organisations and national level institutions can develop and sponsor programmes which are aimed at improving the lot of rural women. In the past some efforts have been made through which member-organisations, cooperative and agricultural departments all over Asia and Africa have been requested to make special programmes for rural women and set aside budgets for their implementation. In some cases some good responses have been received.

While it is generally agreed that education is central to women's development the participation of girls in the national educational system continues to lag well behind that of boys at every level. Among the factors that are believed to contribute to this gap are women's self-perpetuating negative social status, economic constraints and male-oriented biases in the design and delivery of primary and secondary education. These limitations have meant that millions of women have not received formal education and that millions more are deprived of the opportunity for more than token participation. Women, however, retain a strong orientation to self-help and group cooperation. They look to their own resources and to other women when faced with a problem of opportunity. This perhaps is the key factor on which women's development programme could be developed. This is their greatest asset. They have kept folk art, family bonds, religious traditions, cultural heritage alive, thriving and vibrant. They have played significant role in food security efforts and rural and small industrial sectors.

*Paper produced for presentation and to serve as a theme paper
at the 4th Asian-African International Conference on
Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa
organised jointly by the ICA, AARRO, JA-Zenchu and IDACA
at Tokyo, Japan. August 24-29 1999*

DP-MSW
June04,99

Rural Women, Food Security and Agricultural Cooperatives

by Daman Prakash

References Used

Rural Development and Women - Lessons from the Field. Issued by the International Labour Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland;

Women in Decision-Making in Cooperatives. Issued jointly by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office, New Delhi, and the Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum-Philippines;

Cooperative Leadership Training for Women – Report of the Regional Seminar held in Malaysia in December 1997. Issued by the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi;

Food Security Issues, WTO and Agricultural Cooperatives by Daman Prakash, International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, New Delhi;

The Contribution of Cooperatives to Social Development – The Cooperatives as Social Actor by Daman Prakash, ICA ROAP, New Delhi;

Cooperatives and Poverty Reduction – Enhancing Social and Economic Imperatives by Daman Prakash, ICA ROAP, New Delhi;

JA-Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives by Daman Prakash. Published by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, New Delhi.

Women Farm Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives – Third Asian Conference Report and its Documentation. Edited and compiled by Daman Prakash. Tokyo, Japan. 1998;

Reports and Documentation of the 7th and 8th **ICA-Japan Training Course for Rural Women Leaders in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia** organised by the ICA at IDACA-Japan;

Paradigm Shift in the Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia by Daman Prakash and GC Shrotriya. Published jointly by the ICA Regional Office, and IFFCO, New Delhi;

Women in Agriculture and Rural Development by Maithili Vishwanathan. Published by Rupa Books Private Limited, New Delhi;

Women's Health and Human Rights. Published by the World Health Organisation-Geneva;

Gender-Sensitivity Training for Cooperators – A Trainer's Manual. Issued by NATCCO-the National Confederation of Cooperatives-Philippines;

SEWA {Self-Employed Women's Association} Annual Reports, Teaching and Training Material, Manuals and other documents. SEWA-Ahmedabad, India;

Gender Issues in Cooperatives – An ILO-ICA Perspective. Issued by ILO Geneva;

Women in Rural Development – A Report. Issued by the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation {AARRO}, New Delhi, India;

Women in Farming and Improving Quality of Life in Rural Areas. Published by the Asian Productivity Organisation-APO, Tokyo, Japan;

Women Feed the World – TeleFood Material. Issued by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Rome and FAO Regional Office, Bangkok;

Land Reform 1997/Issue 1. Published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, Rome;

Human Development Report-1995. Published by the United Nations Development Programme-UNDP, New York.

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH PREVIOUS APPROACHES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY?

Some of the reasons for failures in the past were:

- a low level of participation by the poor. Rural poor are often denied a voice in the formulation and even in the execution of a poverty programme;
- Programmes have tended to rely on grants and subsidies as the main tools for serving the poor;
- Too little attention has been given to strengthening the negotiating capacities of the poor, to enhancing their power to participate *meaningfully in policy formulation and in the marketplace*;
- Most poverty alleviation programmes have had a single vector of intervention and have failed to confront the multi-dimensionality of poverty. Priorities usually have been set from 'the outside', thus being supply-driven rather than demand-driven and unable to respond to the particular needs and potentials of the poor.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Poverty alleviation is facilitated by:

- Increased access to productive assets for the poor such as land and water, credit and education, extension and public health services;
- The active participation of the poor and their representative bodies in decision-making. They must be provided with an enabling environment that encourages collective self-help action, personal investments and accumulation. Programmes need to be designed on a demand-driven basis rather than be imposed from the outside;
- Government institutions and the incentives that make them accountable to the general public should be reformed. They must become more responsive to the needs of the poor. Decentralisation and privatisation of government services and administration can assist in that process, and the NGO and private sectors have a crucial role to play. Transaction costs must be kept low;
- The building of sustainable capacities for poverty alleviation requires a well-defined and long-term development approach.

**SELF-HELP GROUPS
FOR
WOMEN IN COOPERATIVES**

Daman Prakash, Senior Consultant



International Cooperative Alliance

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bonow House, 43 Friends' Colony-East
New Delhi-110065. India

SELF-HELP GROUPS FOR WOMEN IN COOPERATIVES

Daman Prakash, Senior Consultant
ICA-Japan Agricultural Cooperatives Management Training Project for Asia
International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,
New Delhi, India

Introduction

In terms of the ratio of membership of women in agricultural cooperatives, the percentage is rather low, but they have a strong influence on them - through the heads of the households. Certain obvious barriers restrict their direct and formal entry in agricultural cooperatives. Even in countries like Japan where 60% of the farm labour put in is by women, the ratio of women membership in agricultural cooperatives is extremely low. Only very few women serve on the Boards of Directors [just 0.3%]. Their simple and clear perception is that the administration and decision-making domain rests with the men and women do not wish to overburden themselves with financial responsibilities in case something goes wrong with the cooperative. They, of course, contribute significantly in farm operations. However, the women are very active in Women's Associations of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan which organise their activities around the life and style of farm household members.

Rural Farm Women

The type of agricultural activities generally expected of women is highly labour-intensive. The rural women generally do not enjoy the benefit of new technologies because they are not women-friendly. Their wages are generally less because it is assumed that the efficiency of women's labour is poorer as compared to that of men. Regarding ownership of land, women do not enjoy equal rights, particularly in the developing countries where most of the production, processing, storage and preparation of food is carried out by the women. These efforts account for nearly 50% of the total labour required for food production.

In spite of social, political and economic constraints, women farmers have proved extremely resourceful and hardworking in their attempt to ensure household food security. Social constraints place barriers around their access to scientific and technological information. Lack of collateral denies them access to agricultural credit. Culture and traditions and even legislation accord membership of cooperatives only to heads of households - usually a man.

Empowering Rural Women

In progressive economies like that of Japan, rural women have shown anxieties over several concerns affecting their livelihood. Some of the priority items include measures for success in agricultural enterprises, expansion of periodic farming resulting in reduced holidays, the need to reduce agricultural work, changes in awareness of rural societies and reduction in the work connected with caring for elderly people. In order to redress these problems, five tasks have been identified for promotion which will result in making rural living more pleasant and comfortable. These tasks include:

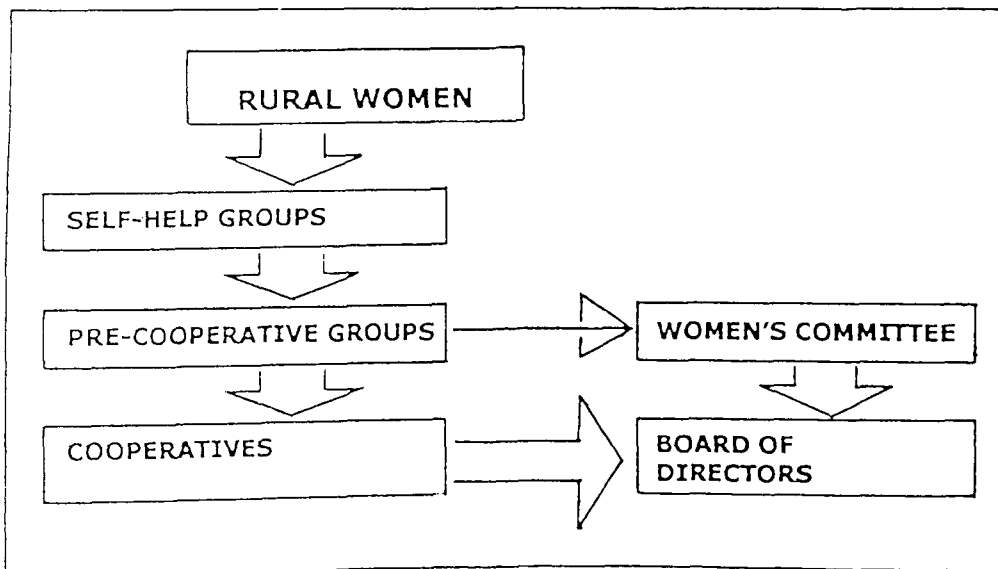
- Task-01 Creating awareness of changes and measures pursued to change the status of women by their active participation in agricultural and fisheries cooperatives;
- Task-02 Improving working conditions and environment;
- Task-03 Appreciating the positive aspects of living in rural areas and creating a conducive environment which will contribute towards better rural life;
- Task-04 Acquiring skills to diversify areas of involvement by women supporting women in entrepreneurial roles; and
- Task-05 Adopt a structured approach to execute the vision to improve rural conditions.

Self-Help Groups or Women's Associations

Women often suffer due to lack of organisation and "bargaining power" although their total number is no less. In the rural sector, women often suffer from the following:

- Their savings are grossly inadequate;
- Their savings are often "taken over" by men;
- Their savings remain unaccounted due to absence of any organisation;
- Their individual role and contribution is not recognised;
- Their collective power has not been harnessed;
- They are often tricked in the name of "chit funds" and the like;
- They do not have any assets, leave alone the savings;
- They have no social or economic security;
- They are not admitted as members of agricultural cooperatives etc.

Rural women leaders can help the women to organise themselves to solve some of their social and economic problems. There are no proper leaders or motivators in rural areas who can organise rural women. They can be organised in the form of Self-Help Groups [SHGs]. Such groups could be operated in the form of "pre-cooperatives" making use of the Principles of Cooperation.



If the rural women can organise themselves into SHGs, they can overcome some of their problems through group work, and operate the groups on a continuing basis. When the groups have become operational and their progress has been satisfactory, they can expand the range of their services. The groups can also organise themselves into pre-cooperative groups and operate them on the basis of the Principles of Cooperation, like any other cooperative but without going into the process of registration etc. The pre-cooperative groups could eventually, if certain legal conditions are met, merge into a registered cooperative or have a separate cooperative formalised.

Another view is that the pre-cooperatives can act as "pressure groups" within the cooperative environment and establish Women's Committees or Women's Associations and eventually enter the Board of Directors of a cooperative. The cooperative could then be influenced to institute some of the needed services e.g., thrift and credit, vocational training, sales points etc. etc. This can happen only when the women are able to pick up some experience, courage and sort out some of the legal hurdles.

Why Self-Help Groups?

There are many advantages of having self-help groups. These are:

- SHGs are necessary to overcome exploitation, create confidence for the economic self-reliance of rural poor (particularly women who are mostly invisible in the social structure);
- These groups enable the poor and weak to come together for a common objective and gain strength from each other to deal with exploitation;
- They become the basis 'for action and change';
- They help building of relationship of mutual trust among the members and between the promoting organisation and the rural poor by genuine efforts;
- They become a 'community enterprise' of the local area;
- Such groups provide easy access to credit at reasonable cost and with assured recovery and continuity; and
- Such groups enjoy full autonomy and freedom and no interference of influential persons or politicians.

Who Can Join Self-Help Groups (Target Group)?

Almost every and any rural woman can come forward to join the Self-Help Group. Women from the unorganised sector, as outlined below, can join such groups:

- Who do not own any land;
- Whose main task is to look after their families;
- Who are involved in wage-earning activities;
- Who have fewer and lower paid opportunities to work;
- Who are underemployed and casual or part-time workers;
- More vulnerable due to lack of skills and formal education;
- Whose mobility is restricted due to social reasons;
- Who cannot work outside home due to heavy responsibilities;
- Those who do not have any access to land and other assets;

- Victims of exploitation by big farmers/industrial houses, etc.; and
- Who are treated as 'a person to spend rather than to earn' (They work almost 18 hours inside the house, but the work done by them is neither accounted for nor recognised).

Points for Discussion

The basic question before the rural women is to have some kind of social and economic security without their having been exploited. They need work and some earning to maintain themselves and their families and to live in the society as responsible citizens. There is also the need to identify and train appropriate leaders at the village level.

In the light of the discussion above, the points for discussion could, therefore, be:

- Who should provide leadership to organise rural women?
- Is it absolutely necessary to secure the membership of a cooperative first?
- Are there some merits in organising Self-Help Groups or Women's Associations?
- What could be their main tasks?
- What role the cooperative institutions could play in organising rural women?

Note: The paper was used as a theme paper for discussion at the 9th ICA-Japan Training course for Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia held at IDACA, Japan during August 23-September 11 1999.

ICA/JA-ZENCHU/IDACA/AARRO 4th International Conference on
WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN ASIA AND AFRICA
Tokyo, Japan. August 24-29 1999



**COUNTRY BACKGROUND PAPER
OF
BANGLADESH**

Presented by

Mrs. Laila Arjuman Banu

Director

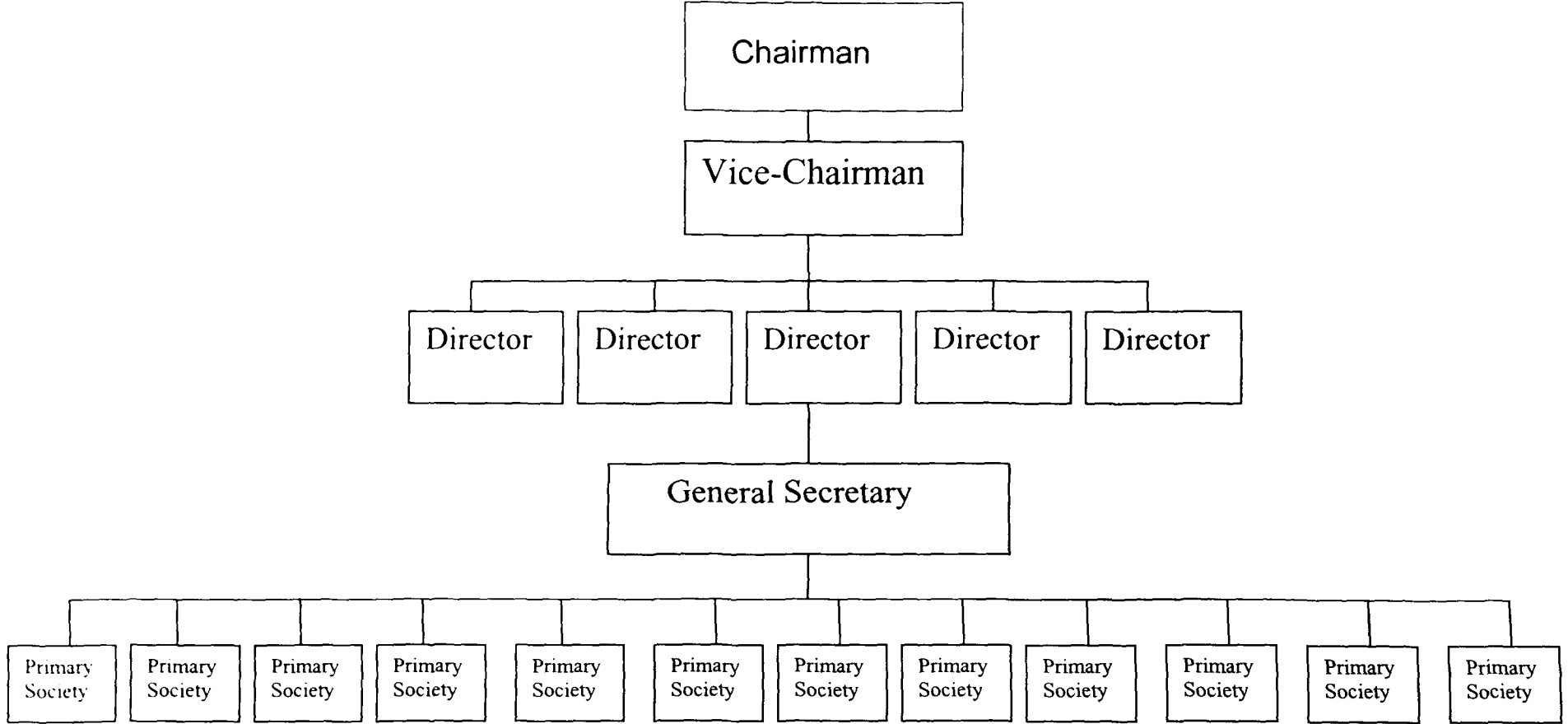
**Bhairab Central Women Cooperative Society Ltd.
Bangladesh.**

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES IN
ASIA & AFRICA
BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

Introduction

1. Bangladesh is one of the densely populated countries of the world. She has a population of about 120 million in an area of 55,000 sq miles. Fifty percent of the population is women and almost 80% of the population live in the rural areas. Agriculture is the main source of economical strength of the country. Monsoon weather during rainy season helps in growing different kinds of agricultural products. Bangladesh produces mainly food crops like: rice, wheat, potatoes, sugar and various kinds of vegetables. She also produces jute, tea tobacco etc. As the country's economy is mainly dependent on agriculture, it provides an enormous employment opportunity to the women folk of the country. Due to our social and religious bindings, women folk of lower income group used to remain idle, but after the liberation of the country in 1971, the women folk have come forward to participate in all sectors in the development process of the country. They are having a marked participation in the agriculture sectors through co-operative societies and also individually. The women of our country play a vital role in producing food grains and agricultural products. The women folk now-a-days work alongside the men in the crop fields and houses and putting up their manual labour, They are very laborious and are contributing their labour in development of the country's agricultural products. Participation of women folk in agriculture through collective farming is producing good result to the individuals and to the economy. The collective farming is done through the co-operative societies through which the women are taking part in the agriculture and contributing to the rural economy, The main disadvantages of the women in taking part in the agriculture, directly on the social prejudices. But women are now-a-days free to work outside the houses. Co-operative organizations, particularly through the women co-operatives in our region, have vast potentials to help develop the women leadership.

ORGANIZATION CHART
BHAIRAB CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY



Bhairab Central Women Co-operative Society Ltd.

2. Bhairab is a sub-district, 86 Km away from the capital city of Bangladesh. Most of the people of this area are farmers and agriculture is the main source of income. Fifty percent of the population is women. Bhairab Central Women Co-operative Society is formed with 12 primary women co-operative societies having 4000 women members. The organizational structure of the society is shown on the other page:

Each small society is formed with about 400 individual women primary members. There is a small honorary administrative body in the primary society who looks after the interest of its members and works as a liaison body between the primary society and the central society through the secretary. Director finance looks after the financial aspects of the central society as well as the primary society s. Director Administration looks after the smooth running of the primary societies. The secretary works as a media between the chairmen and the primary societies for proper functioning of the societies.

Objectives.

3. The main objective of the Bhairab Central Women Co-operative Society is to safeguard & protect the needs and interest of the primary women co-operatives in Bhairab area. It also provides marketing facilities for member societies and individual members for their farming products.

Functioning of the Primary Women Co-operative Societies.

4. The main task of the primary co-operative society is to maintain a close liaison between the central co-operative society and the primary society to help the primary members to take part in the assigned tasks of the society that is to say, in the agricultural activities. The central society maintains the fund of all the societies, which is collected from the individual members in the form of monthly deposits. The individual members receive a certain amount as loan from the central society for investment in the agriculture for a particular period of time. At the end of the crop period, they return the money after selling their agriculture crops. In the process they earn some profit which becomes the basis for the livelihood of the family.

5. The activities of the primary co-operative societies are enumerated below:
- a. To produce and process paddy, rice, wheat, jute, pulses, tobacco, vegetables etc.
 - b. Members are doing poultry farming, goat farming, paddy milling, bee keeping and agrobased industrial projects etc.
 - c. Tailoring and garment manufacturing to meet the local demands.
 - d. To provide training facility on different aspects of agriculture & garments to its members.
 - e. Selling agricultural products through the women members.

Projects.

6. The Bhairab Central Women Co-operative Society has taken up a project for marketing and selling the agricultural products and to create employment opportunities for its members so that the economic activities of its members get momentum to provide them a better living standard.

Problem Areas

7. The society experiences many problems, which include:
- a. Lack of financial support.
 - b. Lack of organizational support to improve the activities.
 - c. Lack of motivational steps to the members.
 - d. Lack of marketing facilities of their products.
 - e. Lack of proper health care, nutrition, education and vocational training facilities.
 - f. Lack of proper communication & understanding between the government & the co-operatives.

Conclusion

8. Bangladesh is one of the least developed countries of the world. The main strength of the country is its human resources who actively participate in all sectors of development activities of the country. The women folk being half of the population do not stay back. They are also working alongside the men in different development activities of the country. Their active participation in the agricultural sector through different co-operative societies has brought a positive contribution to the overall development of the country.

Recommendations.

9. ICA/ZENCHU/IDACA may organize more active participatory workshops and seminars for rural women co-operative leaders of this region. The workshop experience will definitely help the participants to introduce the new ideas in their own co-operative organizations for promotion and development of economic base of the poor women co-operators in rural agricultural activities. It will also be helpful if ICA/ ZENCHU helps the co-operative organizations of our region in the form of technical assistance and financial help.

I would like to extend my whole hearted thanks to ICA/IDACA/ZENCHU for inviting me in this workshop & specially Bangladesh National Co-operative Union for nominating me. We would look forward for such seminars in the future so that our women co-operative leaders can participate and get benefit out of it. Thank you.

JOY BANGLA - JOY BANGABANDHU.

**Conference & Seminar of
AARROH / IDACA**

COUNTRY PAPER
Submitted to 4th International Conference
On
Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in
Africa and Asia
23-29 August, 1999 and
21th RECA Seminar 30 August-07 Sept., 1999
TOKYO, JAPAN

Prepared by
Mrs. Wafaa yousef, Under Secretary of State
for International Agricultural Co-operation
EGYPT

Introduction

Effective the year of 1986, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation as, a pioneer in applying economic reform program, has taken active measures to apply the economic reform program in the agricultural sector, these measures included pricing and marketing policies, and others were related to agricultural foreign trade. The economic reform program in the agricultural sector could be summarized as follows:

- 1- Removing Governmental controls on farm output prices, this does not preclude Government crop price supports , crop areas, and procurement quotas with regard to all crops except cotton and sugar cane ,they have been liberalized.
- 2- Increasing farm gate prices of cotton and sugar cane to cope with international prices.
- 3- Removal of farm input subsidies.
- 4- Removal of governmental constraints on private sector in importing, exporting and distribution of farm inputs to compete with the PBDAC.
- 5- Removing governmental constraints on private sector in importing and exporting agricultural crops.
- 6- Diverting gradually the role of the PBDAC to financial services.'
- 7- Limitation on state ownership of land and sale of new land to private sector.
- 8- Confining the role of the MOA to Agricultural Research, Extension and Economic and Economic Policies.
- 9- Adjusting the land tenancy system .
- 10- Adjusting the interest rate to reflect the commercial rate.
- 11- Adjusting the foreign exchange rate to reflect the real value of local currency.

The economic reform program aims at ; releasing the agricultural sector from all restrictions and distortions; encouraging the private sector; improving terms of trade of agriculture and relieving the burden on it; encouraging the farmers to use modern technology in agriculture; increasing cultivable areas; productivity and farm income; improving the standard of living for the farmers and increasing export and raising the share of the agricultural sector in the social and economic development of the country.

Executive Summary

Women's Contribution to Agricultural Production

The number of persons economically active in agriculture decreased from the years 1976 to 1991. The decrease in the total number from 1976 to 1986 was 2.3% and from 1986 to 1991 it declined a further 11.0%. The percentage of females among those active in agriculture was 3.19%, 2.38% and 4.07% in 1976, 1986 and 1991 respectively.

The total number of employed persons, whether working on their own farms or are employed as either paid or unpaid labor within the family was 10,127,694 in 1976, and increased to 11,771,079 in 1986, the percentages of women were 34.4% and 23.4% respectively in these two years. However, the percentage of unemployed women decreased substantially, this may be due to improved statistical methods, to the fact that information were captured in respect that women accept work for less pay than men.

The contribution of women in the various agricultural activities related to the cultivation of crops is generally less than the contribution of men. In a special sample seed treatment and the harvesting of peanuts is about 50% of the total work required. In all other activities required for the cultivation of potatoes, tomatoes, broad beans, lentils, peanuts and soybeans, women contribute less than half the required work participation. Women work less in land preparation, planting, weeding, irrigation and pest control. They generally contribute moderately to seed preparation, fertilization and harvesting. In the production of wheat, maize, rice and clover, women's participation in storage and marketing is more than that of the number of employed rural women has been increasing over time. Although unemployment had spread among rural men during the 1980's unemployment had decreased relatively among rural women during the same period of time. This phenomenon indicates that the access of rural women to employment is increasing rapidly. This could be due to the fact that women accept lower wages than men for the same work.

The rate of participation by women in agricultural operations of the various crops was fairly high except in the areas of land preparation and pest control. Land preparation is the most tiring agricultural operation which needs a special strength that can be afforded better by men rather than by women because of women's physical nature. Pest control requires a relatively high level of technical know-how. As training in this field is directed to men rather than to women, the rate of women's participation in pest control is very low.

As for women's access to education, primary and preparatory school education is compulsory by law for children of both sexes between the ages of 6 and 14. Education is free at all levels including the university. In government school, books are provided free, but uniforms are paid for by the parents. There may, however, be some hidden costs represented in private lessons. In private schools, tuition, books, uniforms... etc. are paid for. In universities, tuition is free, but not books.

A ten-year national campaign to eradicate illiteracy (1989-1999) has been launched in Egypt. Within this campaign, and under the auspices of Mrs. Mubarak, the president's wife, a special project is directed to females in rural areas. Through this project, 3000 village-based one-classroom schools had been established for females aged 8-15. The curricula prepared for these schools have established for females aged 8-15. The curricula prepared for these schools combine literacy with income generating activities. Accordingly, the students can earn some income while being educated. This should encourage them to continue their education and at the same time will help them improve their standards of living.

As for rural women and health, there has been an increase in life expectancy among both males and females. In 1976, an Egyptian could expect to live an average of about 55 years, while by 1991, life expectancy had risen to 63 years for males and 66 for females this can be attributed to the increase in the number of health units and the scope of their services, and the number of beds, paramedical staff, technicians, physicians, dentists, etc. Nationwide, the number of health units has increased from 4,92 in 1978 to 6,370 in 1990. The increase was by about 15% in rural areas and 42% in urban areas. Hospital beds increased over the same period from about 80,000 to 108,000.

In an effort to coordinate planning and to develop and promote programs activities and services directed to mothers and children, the president issued a decree in January 1988, forming a National Council for Motherhood and Children, under the concerned Ministries. It should be noted that this council is giving special attention and priority to the problems and needs of rural children and their mothers to help upgrade and expand the services delivered to them and to establish new facilities in deprived rural areas.

As for the institutions at all levels to promote the advancement of women, service Ministries, as for example in the Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education, included departments for women to ensure that the special needs for women are considered at the policy and planning stages. In the Ministry of Social Affairs a WID unit was established in 1977. It is one of the most important and active units addressing the needs of women through Governmental, and non-Governmental organizations in both urban and rural areas. The number of NOG's in Egypt are over 4000 Community Development Associations working in general community development and over 10,000 Private Voluntary Organizations with a more specific mandate. Many of these are very closely linked with the Ministry of Social Affairs. In 1987 the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) established the Child and Women Unit within the population studies and research center, to provide the government with a basis for setting priorities and allocating resources towards specific answer to problems confronting children and women.

There are objectives for the strategy of women in agricultural sector which aims to ; Enhancement of the role of women in sustainable rural development in the light of the changes resulting from implementation of economic reform. Analysis and development of present structures and performance of rural organizations and institutions and determine the factors affecting the efficiency of these organizations in the development of rural regions of Egypt. Analysis of economic, cultural and social factors affecting the behavior of rural women in the field of preservation of environmental resources in Egyptian villages. Monitoring the economic and social impacts resulting from the implementation of the economic reform projects .The realistic picture of the statistical data of women's true agricultural participatory roles necessary for planning and programming will be achieved and a reliable data base will be increased.

Agricultural Cooperatives

Agricultural cooperation is a self-dependent system aiming at raising the farmer's standard of living, and improving his life's conditions by economic means. The raising of the standard of living is correlating with improving the income of the farmers. The increasing of the income requires increasing and improving the agricultural production and decreasing its cost including land preparation, providing the inputs, pest control, harvesting and marketing.

So, it is obvious that the role of the Agricultural cooperation in the rural area, is essential and effective in improving the quality and quantity of the agricultural production, to serve the fields of animal and plant production. The importance of the Agricultural Cooperation sector in Egypt became stronger under the conditions of the current economic change as it is considered a popular sector which has the elements of the business sector, these changes necessitate the strategic planning due to the role of this sector in the stages of the agricultural activities. ,

Defining and minimizing the role of the administrative body, and preventing the Government intervention. There were current changes of the agricultural cooperatives strategy concerning the market economics which require cooperatives changing in its form and contents, which qualify them to achieve their role, to enable them to become positive in the agricultural development, and to compete with the private sector. This requires the implementation of the productive projects which have high revenue providing the production inputs for their members, and marketing the production of their members to protect them from monopoly and help them in obtaining profitable revenue.

**Agricultural Scenario*

The agricultural economic policy of the government of Egypt includes a number of measures that aim to give agriculture its proper place as the major contributor to the national economy. These measures include removing governmental controls on farm output prices, removing farm input subsidies, increasing farm gate prices of cotton and sugar can, removing governmental constraints on the private sector, adjusting the land tenancy system, limiting state ownership of land, and confining the role of the MOALR to research, extension and policy making. These measures are expected to have impacts on rural women. Some of these are the increase in cost of agricultural production, as a result of canceling input subsidies and increasing rents. Others are related to some marketing bottle necks and the decrease in farm gate prices of some crops. This point however, needs further studies.

Egyptian rural Woman are actively involved in most agricultural activities, particularly those related to food security crop and animal production. More than 50% of rural women participate in fertilization weeding, harvesting, sacking, marketing and storage. Some also perform more difficult tasks like ploughing and irrigation. About 70% of women's working time in agriculture is devoted to animal husbandry (Table 1). Many rural women are also heads of households who must make daily decisions. In 1990, female headed households were 8.8% of the total households (Table 2).

Official data and statistics do not often reflect the true contribution of rural women to agricultural development because these usually refer to paid labor rather than unpaid labor and non-marketed domestic duties which the majority of women are known to perform.

The report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1993) state that it is impossible to separate economic development issues from environment issues. Among the problems of global concern are: soil erosion and degradation, sanitation and pollution of rivers and lakes, waste disposal and the use of toxic chemicals and pesticides which, among other things, lead to the contamination of ground water and to the general deterioration of the biosphere.

Table 1 : Division of Labour for Livestock production by Task, Type of Livestock and Gender.

Task	No. of families	Men's participation	Women's participation
Herding	4	4	0
Animal husbandry	44	32	12
Gathering fodder	45	31	14
Feeding	45	24	21
Cleaning with water	45	27	18
Caring for Health	39	38	1
Milking	42	14	28
Milk processing	41	—	41
Animal product processing	5	—	5
Marketing of animal Products	17	2	15
Processing of by-products	4	1	3
Animals cared for :			
Cows	13	12	1
Buffaloes	41	33	8
Sheeps & Goats	4	4	0
Horses	2	1	1
Donkeys	39	30	0

Source : PRA, (Mansoura, Talkha and Sherbeen in Dakahlia Governorate) done by the Statistical Dept. of the MOALR. 1994.

Table 2 : Heads of Housholds By Place, Gender and Year (Ismailia Governorate).

AGRICULTURAL CENSUS YEAR	HOUSEHOLDS				MALE - HEADED HOUSEHOLD			FEMALE - HEADED HOUSEHOLDS		
	TOTAL	% URBAN	% RURAL	TOTAL	% URBAN	% RURAL	TOTAL	% URBAN*	% RURAL*	
1982	6936	47	53	6306	46.7	53.3	630	51.0	49.0	
1990	10985	47	53	10016	45.5	54.2	969	59.8	40.2	

Source : Agricultural Census , 1982 & 1990.

* Percentages of the total Female-headed households.

The surface irrigation system, with its open canals and drains for the collection of agricultural water is now collecting domestic waste water from the rural areas and untreated industrial wastes. These open water conduits are still considered as accessible sources of water for rural women for their daily domestic uses, thus exposing them to various diseases, which diminish their health and affect their role as mothers responsible for the general health of the new generation.

According to the national policies, 97% of the rural areas are now supplied with sources of drinking water. Yet the provision of sanitary drainage facilities is still lagging behind in 93% of the rural areas. Rural Women are confronted with worsening environmental health conditions because of their discharge of wastewater in the streets and alleys of the rural residential areas. As a result, they still prefer to wash and perform most of their household cleaning in the canals and drains.

The increase in the pollution of the bays of the Mediterranean Sea as a result of the industrial development of the North Coast, the change in the ecology of the River Nile after the construction of the High Dam, and the pollution of the North Coast lakes has led to a profound decrease in the fish catch and the river's bio-diversity. Many fishermen have lost a sizable proportion of their income. Women who are involved in net-making and fish processing have also lost most of their income, leading to a decrease in family expenditures on basic nutrition and education, as well as on water, sanitation, house maintenance and general hygiene. There have been also many social problems that have undermined family stability, and forced more men to migrate to the urban areas or even to other countries in the Middle East. This, in turn, increases the burdens women who must bear as single heads of households.

There are a number of constraints that greatly limit the activities and contributions of rural women or decrease the returns of their hard work. Most of these constraints arise from cultural and social factors. Critical ones include illiteracy, high fertility rates, inadequate nutrition and health services, poor services in rural areas, inadequate training programs, limited access to and control over resources such as credit and extension services and there by to input supplies and marketing outlets.

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A-The Situation in the Early 1980's

The role of Egyptian rural women in agriculture, food security, food production and food processing is as traditional as their role as mothers and home makers. However, because most of their agricultural activities were carried out within the family farms as unpaid family labor they were underrepresented in the national statistics as participants in the agriculture labor force. In fact, women's wage labor was categorized together with that of male children between the ages of 6-12. The economic value of women workers in agriculture was not well recognized by policy makers until the early 1980's, Accordingly, most of them received neither the training they deserved nor the services they needed for modern farming production and processing that would have helped increase their productivity and thereby further the national goal of food security.

With the increased rates of male migration to cities and other countries in search of wage labor and temporary employment, rural women had to assume a greater proportion of the agricultural tasks in unpaid family farming as well as in the agricultural labor force. In 1982, it was estimated that at the national level females comprised 29.3% of those working on agricultural holdings (Table 3), and 10.1% of the paid permanent workers (Table 4).

The Egyptian labor force sample survey of 1984 found that women comprised 20% of the economically active population in agriculture. It should also be noted that women do much more farm labor than is reported by official statistical data because of their seasonal works, as well as other factors such as the methodology, time coverage, etc., of the surveys.

The rapid increase in food demand because of rapid population growth, urbanization and rising incomes have all led to more dependence on food imports. For example 75% of the wheat consumed in the country in 1981 was imported Villages that were once self-sufficient in basic foods such as bread, cheese, eggs, and meat began to rely on imported foods. This trend drew much attention to the need for increasing local food production.

Table 3 : Permanent* and Temporary Workers from the Holder's Household
"Working in the Agricultural Holding" by Region, Gender, and by year.**

Year	Region	Total Number of workers	Males		Females	
			Number	%	Number	%
1982 (1)	Lower Egypt	4589440	3068139	66.9	1521301	33.1
	Middle and Upper Egypt	3081342	2355377	76.4	727965	23.6
	Desert Governorates	102938	74721	72.6	28217	27.4
	National Level	7773720	5496237	70.7	2277483	29.3
1990 (2)	Lower Egypt	5601176	3839984	68.6	1761192	31.4
	Middle and Upper Egypt	355110	2608032	73.4	943078	26.6
	Desert Governorates	142459	99702	70.0	42757	30.0
	National Level	9294745	6547718	70.4	2747027	29.6

Sources : (1) Central Administration for Agr.Econ. and Statistics, Agricultural Census for the year 1981/82, Cairo, 1984.

(2) Estimates from Agr. Census 1990.

* Works for 6 months or more.

** Works for less than 6 months.

These workers are unpaid since they work in their families holdings.

Table 4 : Paid Permanent Workers "Working On Agricultural Holdings"*
By Region , Gender , and By Year.

Year	Region	Total Number of Workers	Males		Females	
			Number	%	Number	%
(1) 1982	Lower Egypt	116092	101657	87.06	14435	12.4
	Middle and Upper Egypt	47016	44743	95.2	2273	4.8
	Desert Governorates	3041	2992	98.4	49	1.6
	National Level	166149	149392	89.9	16757	10.1
(2) 1990	Lower Egypt	116669	107524	92.2	9145	7.8
	Middle and Upper Egypt	53779	51501	95.8	2278	4.2
	Desert Governorates	3326	3237	97.3	89	2.7
	National Level	173774	162262	93.4	11512	6.6

Sources : (1) Central Administration for Agr.Econ. and Statistics, Agricultural Census for the year 1981/82 , Cairo , 1984

(2) Estimates from Agr. Census 1990 .

* Paid workers from outside the holders families.

Since food products, animal husbandry, poultry, etc. are mainly women's domains, so the importance of their role became more visible, and agricultural planners began to give more consideration to the adoption of appropriate policies for their integration into food and agricultural development strategies. It was then realized that available data about women's involvement in the different areas of crop production, food processing and food security was very fragmentary and inadequate. Most statistics were not tabulated by gender, so it was difficult to draw the comprehensive picture that would be needed for formulating agricultural development plans and projects that would meet women's real needs and help them to increase their productivity. Therefore, and since 1961 special attention began to be given to the desegregation of data by sex in all censuses, research work and surveys dealing with agriculture and food production.

It was also recognized that the factors which contribute to rural family well-being are often interdependent with agricultural production and always related to economic and social progress, since agricultural production is frequently limited by malnutrition, disease and ignorance in the rural family. Therefore, increasing attention was directed to programs for rural women in which agriculture and food production play a major role. Concerned ministries and non-governmental organizations began to reorient traditional home economics and social programs directed to rural women to meet their multiple roles as mothers and homemakers as well as agricultural producers. Some of these reoriented programs provided women with knowledge and skills related to agriculture and family life, together with credit facilities to help increase productivity and hence their income. These types of programs helped to improve the nutritional status and the standards of living of rural women and their families, but on the whole their impact was rather limited because by the mid-1980's their coverage was still low.

Despite the steps that have been taken to increase women's agricultural productivity, most women were still handicapped by their limited access to, and control over, resources, be they information, technology, credit or training. Modern tools and labor-saving technologies, new seed varieties, fertilizers, insecticides, and improved farming practices were likewise not readily available to the majority of rural women. They still followed traditional agricultural practices that required much time and effort and did not provide rewarding returns.

There was no legal discrimination against women concerning education, employment, equal pay for equal work, social security and welfare services. But the primary obstacle to the advancement of rural women were the deeply rooted customs and traditions that governed the mode of rural life. These old customs and traditions could only be changed through group action that gains the confidence and support of the rural community, and organized rural women's groups were virtually non-existent. Therefore, women received lower wages than men for the same work, and their illiteracy rates were higher in some areas than the national average for women e.g. in 1986 average figure was 62% while in rural areas in Upper Egypt it was 8%. Women were still pressured by family members to give up their share of lands that they get through inheritance for the sake of their brothers, in order that they could enjoy their continued support particularly in cases of divorce.

Most rural areas suffered from inadequate infrastructure to furnish services such as clean water, waste disposal, electricity and roads. Basic health, educational and social welfare services were also rather limited. Without these amenities, women's domestic work was time-consuming and continued to limit their availability to contribute more effectively to the attainment of agricultural development objectives.

Changes since the Early Eighties

Inequality in the Sharing of Power and Decision-making.

Data from the special sample survey of 120 individuals carried out in Behera 1993 suggested that rural women participate little in decision-making at the household level in irrigated areas. The husbands have almost exclusive authority to make decisions in matters related to the use of new seeds, source of seeds, buying and selling of livestock, buying and selling of land, use of herbicides, use of agricultural machinery, what to grow, and where to sell production. The wife makes decisions in buying and selling poultry and their vaccination. They contribute to a lesser degree in making decisions related to agricultural projects and the vaccination of livestock (Table 5).

Table 5 : Women's Decision Making Authority at the Household level in Irrigated Areas, 1993. (1)

Items	Wife%*	Husband %	Others %**
Use of new seeds	5.00	92.9	2.1
Source of seeds	3.00	95.3	1.7
Protect animals against pesticides	8.40	89.9	1.7
Buying and selling livestock	6.30	93.0	0.7
Buying and selling poultry	88.50	8.80	2.7
Buying and selling land	2.80	96.4	0.8
Vaccinate livestock	16.50	82.0	1.5
Use of herbicides	0.60	96.8	2.6
Use of agr. machinery	2.60	95.7	1.7
Agri. projects	18.8	78.6	2.6
What to grow	4.60	93.6	1.8
Vaccinate poultry	85.70	12.5	1.8
Where to sell production	4.40	94.8	0.8

Source : special Sample Survey in Behera. Botros, S. 1993.

* Wives whose husbands are present + 4 widows.

** Other members of the household (in-laws and older boys and girls).

(1) The population in the survey sample: 120 women representing 30% of the women of El Bostan village in Behera Governorate.

There are fewer female than male employees at the higher administrative levels of the government, and in the public sector and the special cadres institutions. In 1983, of a total of 10,820 upper-level government administrators, only 636 (5.88%) were women. This situation had not changed by 1986, when 5.85% were females. The same trend also existed for employees in the special cadres institutions. In 1983, the number of employees was 112,117, of whom 124,913 (10.84%) were women. In 1986, the corresponding figures were: 112,177, 14,371; and 11.50%. In the Ministry of Agriculture, in 1993, the total number of high administrative positions were 62, of these only 3 were females. That means that women have not yet gained sufficient access to policy making positions at the national level (Table 6).

At the local level, in the project of Productive Families sponsored by the Ministry of social Affairs, generally more females than males received agricultural projects. In Qena, one of the governorates of Upper Egypt, females got 54% of the projects in 1985, and 65.7% in 1990. The number of projects available to productive families in Dakahlia governorate was 499 in 1985 and 1371 in 1990. Women got 403 (80.8%) and 354 (25.8%) of this projects respectively. This is due to the fact that the project is directed to the needy people and women constitute a major sector of this group. At the national level such projects are important for women as they can provide financial independence and income. GEMINT report mentions that 38% of households in a study were dependent on women's income for survival. Women's earnings are a family safety net, ensuring survival when the husband is unemployed or absent.

Information on members and office bearers of agriculture/rural organizations is not available. There are however, several types of agricultural/rural societies. These are non-governmental but are under the supervision of some governmental authorities. The types of these societies are:

1- Multi-purpose local cooperative agricultural societies, their total number is 4376 (4226 in villages, 128 in small rural towns or centers and 22 in governorates). These societies offer agricultural and social services as well as loans. Members and office bearers are almost exclusively men.

Table 6 Females at the higher Administrative Levels in Different Ministries (1993).

Ministry	Total No. of			Females				
	director General	Under Secretary	1st Under Secretary	Director Gen.		Under Secretary		1st Under Secr.
				No.	%	No.	%	
Agriculture	58	—	4	3	5	—	—	—
Communication	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Economic	25	12	6	5	20	2	17	—
Education	76	19	5	11	14	1	5	—
Electricity	8	2	1	1	13	—	—	—
Finance	335	65	6	10	3	—	—	—
Foreign Affairs	17	5	6	4	24	—	—	—
Health	31	16	2	8	26	2	13	—
Higher Education	36	6	—	10	28	—	—	—
Housing	19	5	—	4	21	—	—	—
Industry	13	4	3	1	8	—	—	—
Information	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	16	5	1	5	31	2	40	—
Interior	8	387	6	—	—	—	—	—
Land Reclamation	11	4	2	—	—	—	—	—
Law	233	200	208	—	—	—	—	—
Military Production	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Planning	54	28	4	21	39	8	29	—
Petrol	2	5	1	—	—	2	40	—
Public Works and Water Resources	17	22	3	4	24	—	—	—
Social affairs	37	14	—	11	30	—	7	—
Supply	101	19	2	19	19	2	11	—
Wakfs	19	6	1	1	5	3	50	—
Transport	14	6	3	1	14	—	—	—
Tourism	14	8	1	4	29	1	13	—
Civil Aviation	7	5	1	—	—	1	20	—
Total	1189	858	268	123		24		—
Females %					10.3		2.8	

Source : CAPMAS 1993.

- 2- Agrarian reform societies under the supervision of the General Authority for Agrarian Reform, MOALR, their number is 668. These offer services to farmers and provide them with production facilities. They also offer social services to rural men and women. Members and office bearers are from the local rural community and are exclusively men.
- 3- Land Reclamation societies under the supervision of the General Authority for Rehabilitation. These are 85 societies. There are also 286 societies for under-cultivation land and 142 for under-reclamation land. There are no women in these societies.

Insufficient Institutions and Mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women.

Service ministries include departments for women initiated to ensure that the special needs for women are considered at the policy and planning stages as for example in the Ministries of Health and Education. In the Ministry of Social Affairs a WID unit was established in 1977 (during the women's decade). It is one of the most important and active units addressing the needs of women through governmental, and non-governmental organizations in both urban and rural areas. The number of NOGs in Egypt are over 4000 Community Development Associations working in general community development and over 10,000 Private Voluntary Organizations with a more specific mandate. Many of these are very closely linked with the Ministry of Social Affairs. In 1987 the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) established the Child and Women Unit within the population studies and research center, to provide the government with a basis for setting priorities and allocating resources towards specific answer to problems confronting children and women.

In general these units did play a role in the effective planning and execution of policies for women. But more resources and support is still needed to enhance and strengthen their status and capabilities.

In 1992 a Policy and Coordination Unit for Women in Agriculture (PCUWA) was established in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation to be concerned with the needs and problems of rural women and in particular regarding their role in agricultural and food production.

A National Commission for Women has recently been revitalized in December 1993. It is comprised of four committees: information, legislation, economy and that for the contribution to political life and decision-making. It is concerned, in the first place, with all aspects that lead to the betterment of women in all walks of life, prominent among these are the welfare, the equity and the anti-poverty approach.

Department of Women's Services:

The Department of Women's services in the Ministry of Social Affairs is the technical secretariat for the National Commission for Women. It was created in 1977, and its mandate is to execute all projects recommended by the National Commission. The Ministry of Social Affairs coordinates NOGs working in the field. Concerning women, the Ministry of Social Affairs has produced approximately 34 directories to help women become aware of the services available to them, the names of institution interested in women's affairs, etc. They also have organized training for women at the village level in order for them to become a functioning link between the Ministry and the village. The Department works not only on projects, but also participates in and organizes international and national conferences and exhibitions for women.

There is a new Women's Information Center for the Department that contains all the research, books and reports concerning women and the issue of women in development.

In addition to its regular duties, the Department of Women's Affairs currently handles about 13 donor-sponsored development projects, scattered across 13 different governorates. Project activities include literacy, income generation, family planning and health. GOE is currently extending the capacity of the Women's Affairs Department in order to accommodate its increasing responsibilities. This has entailed the creation of new jobs at higher ranks, the development of job descriptions for all staff, and the removal of this department from the supervision of the Social Development Division.

Programs of the Department:

1- Rural Women Leaders (RWL) Radiates:

This program began in 1964 in 5 governorates, and was supported by the MOSA, the governorates and the UNICEF. Its aim was to train women to become social workers at the local units.

2- Women's Clubs:

This program began before 1975 with support from the UNICEF. Clubs activities included training women in planting, handcrafts, food production and also combating illiteracy.

Rural Women Project:

This project started in 1981 in 5 governorates. It was supported by the UNICEF and aimed at increasing incomes through a revolving loans scheme .

Other Projects:

USAID, through the National Agricultural Research Project (NARP) is working to achieve greater integration of women in extension work in MOLAR. USAID is also working with the Ministry of Education to construct schools in the rural areas. It is also involved in a project for low-income housing.

FAO Project:

FAO collaborated with the Ministry of Social Affairs in conducting a project to improve the role of women in food production. The project was implemented in six villages. FAO also collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in a training project for female extension agents with a view to promote the role of women in agricultural activities.

FAO financed a number of studies, meetings and publications, concerning rural women in agriculture and food security. This is in addition to other U.N agencies & International Organization's projects in this concern. FAO Regional Office is also actively involved in the development of a Policy Framework and Regional Program of Action for Women in Agriculture through the use of participatory mechanisms and tools .

The Policy and Coordination Unit for Women in Agriculture

In order to have women's concerns better integrated into the policy, planning and implementation process of agricultural development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation established in 1992 a unit for women in agriculture as a result of the recommendations made in the Government of Egypt's Agricultural Strategy for the 1990's. The objectives of this unit are to increase women's access to services and resources in agriculture for the improvement of their socio-economical status and to increase agricultural productivity and production.

There are many government and non-governmental agencies working with rural women, but there has been no prior or ongoing assistance of coordinating this work, or for working to integrate the concerns of women into policy formulation in the MOALR. The Unit is intended to fill this gap.

The Policy and Coordination Unit for Women in Agriculture, reports directly to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation. It is to work in collaboration with the departments and institutes of the MOALR to integrate issues of concern to women into the mainstream of agricultural policy and practice through these departments and institutes. It is also to serve as a link between the Ministry and external governmental, national, and international agencies working with women in agriculture. The Unit will develop a mechanism to assure that rural and urban women who practice agriculture at the grassroots level will be fully integrated into the programs and policies of the MOALR.

The unit will collaborate on projects, programs, and policy with the department and institutes of the MOALR to integrate women in agricultural development through the incorporation of gender issues into national agricultural policies, gender research, and gender training. The Unit will also promote the integration of women as participants in the benefits of mainstream agricultural and rural development programs and projects. Mainstream programs and projects refer to major development activities and, in particular, large-scale sustainable projects that support agricultural development.

Role of Women in Agricultural Development

Strategy of 2017

Introduction:

Many efforts were done and are still being done to improve the status of women and in particular the rural women, in Egypt. Because the recognition of the substantial contribution of rural women is of utmost importance in order that sustainable and effective rural development may be pursued. Women continue to provide food for their families although they still live in unfavorable atmosphere which is characterized by poverty, food insecurity, rural out-migration and degradation of the environment. They also suffer from limited access to capital, land, credit, proper technology, proper education, training and information. Rural women are still facing some backward traditions.

From a recent study done by the PCU and the World Bank in four governorates in Egypt (Shohag, Fayoum, Kalubia, and Behara) certain points are apparent. These points must be concentrated upon as indicators for the policies of development and enhancement of the role of peasant rural women in agricultural development. They are:

1- Illiteracy

The study shows that illiteracy was higher among than men in all governorates studied. It varied between 63% and 80% for women and 63% and 68% for men. Yet participation of peasant women in the programs abolishing illiteracy was weak. In sohag the attendance was 3.1%, Fayoum 1.7%, Kaloubiya 23.5% and Behera 9.3%. Reconsideration of the existing programs and their contents should take place.

2- Family Size

The average number of the family varied between 6.8, and 7.9. so the programs for the family planning should be considered as the contribution in these programs from the peasant women were nil in shohag, and 40% in Kaloubiya.

3-Endemic diseases

Still the suffering from Belharsia was very high. It was about 81.5% in Behera, 62.6% in Kaloubiya, 50.4% in shohag, and 22.8% in Fayoum. So raising awareness among rural people to the danger of this disease is must.

4- Agriculture as the main occupation

The income from working as a laborer in agriculture doesn't satisfy the needs of the peasant people nowadays and that is why they work as constructions laborer or other supporting work, to increase their income-working as agriculture labor among men from 30.5% - 81.4% and for women from 13.9% - 79.4% so we need to encourage the agriculture field.

5- Agriculture Wages

The equality wages between men and women for the same work still suffer from discrimination and it varies between 7-8 LE for men and 3-5 LE for women. So the need for up grading the women's skill in the agriculture field is essential .

6- Yearly Incomes

The yearly income varies form 2037 LE. 2593 LE for men and LE. 642 1314 LE for women. So there is a great gap between the income of men and women that means that poverty among women is higher.

7- Loans

The number of women who obtained loans form the bank are very few compared to men and this is due to the lack of collateral, and some other factors. Abolishing the constrains and facilitating the credit system especially for poor folk is urgently required.

8- Participation NGOs activities

The weak participation of women in NGOs. And increasing awareness among them is highly needed.

The inclusion of WID component in the current formulation of an agriculture strategy till the year 2017 should be integrated horizontally into every other component of agricultural considerations. It runs the serious consequence of further margins of an active segment of Egypt's agricultural human resource. Therefore in the drive to bolster agricultural production, and its quality for exportation women should be concerned and considered in all levels of agricultural planning, programming and research and data and projects formulation, etc.....

The overall objectives of the strategy are summarized in the following:

- 1- Enhancement of the role of women in sustainable rural development in the light of the changes resulting from implementation of economic reform.
- 2- Analysis and development of present structures and performance of rural organizations and institutions and determine the factors affecting the efficiency of these organizations in the development of rural regions of Egypt.
- 3- Analysis of economic, cultural and social factors affecting the behavior of rural women in the field of preservation of environmental resources in Egyptian villages.
- 4- Monitoring the economic and social impacts resulting from the implementation of the economic reform projects.
- 5- The realistic picture of the statistical data of women's true agricultural participatory roles necessary for planning and programming will be achieved and a reliable data base will be increased.

Draft Working programme on women in agricultural sector:

- 1- Strengthening the skills and capacities of rural women to reduce the burden of their labor and to raise their economic gains.
- 2- Enhancing the role of women in sustainable rural development in light of the changes resulting from implementing economic reform programs.
- 3- Analysis and development of actual structures and performance of rural organizations and institutions and identifying the changes affecting the effectiveness of these organizations in developing the rural regions of Egypt.
- 4- Analysis of the economic, cultural, and social factors affecting the behavior of rural women towards the environment.
- 5- Monitoring the economic and social impact resulting from implementing of economic reform in the Egyptian agricultural sector.
- 6- Research linked with outreach extension will greatly serve to reserve the trend of lack of accessibility of rural women to services, information, inputs, products and technology.

The expected return from implementing the new strategy :

- 1- Improve access to information and training .
- 2- Improve access to women credit .
- 3- Improve access to basic resources.
- 4- Improve access to control of resources.
- 5- Increase the self confidence of the rural women in their ability to improve their economic and social status.
- 6- Adjustment of rural women to changes resulting from economic reform.
- 7- Raising the standard of living of rural families.
- 8- Enhancement of the role of government and non-governmental organization to better serve rural people.
- 9- Increasing the income of rural families and improving the working conditions at home and in the fields by introducing simple modern technology.
- 10- Raising the effectiveness of demographic programs directed to rural women.
- 11- Suggest good points for research and extension and small scale enterprises.
- 12- Raising awareness to a clean environment.

Agricultural Cooperatives

Introduction

Agricultural cooperation is a self-dependent system aiming at raising the farmer's standard of living, and improving his life's conditions by economic means. The raising of the standard of living is correlating with improving the income of the farmers. The increasing of the income requires increasing and improving the agricultural production and decreasing its cost including land preparation, providing the inputs, pest control, harvesting and marketing.

So, it is obvious that the role of the Agricultural cooperation in the rural area, is essential and effective in improving the quality and quantity of the agricultural production, to serve the fields of animal and plant production. The importance of the Agricultural Cooperation sector in Egypt became stronger under the conditions of the current economic change as it is considered a popular sector which has the elements of the business sector, these changes necessitate the strategic planning due to the role of this sector in the stages of the agricultural activities. .

History of the agricultural cooperation:

The cooperation started in Egypt in 1908, and laws which organized it were issued since the 1952 revolution, when issuing the law No. (317) in 1956 then the law No. (51) in 1969, and this stage was characterized as follows:-

- All the owners were members in the agr. coop. societies.
- The importance of establishing an agr. coop. society in every village.
- The farmers obtained the agr. inputs only from the agr. societies.
- Marketing of cotton and rice was only by the agr. cooperatives (compulsory) .

Although the agr. cooperatives realized many achievements under the law No.(51) in 1969, these achievements were lacking to the true cooperative.

After issuing the village bank's law No. (117) in 1976, the cooperatives faced great difficulties in achieving their activities, and this

appeared in the process of distributing the inputs by the village banks which led to the possession of the banks for most of the society's stores, garners and building, also the village banks were undertake the (16) crop marketing. So the cooperative's activity highly decreased which resulted in deteriorating its financial situation so far that it was difficult for the cooperative to face the burden of its employment.

When issuing the current law No. (122) in 1980. The cooperatives started in achieving their various activities and restoring their building and stores, and this coincided with starting of the stage the economic change into the free economy.

Obstacles which face the agricultural cooperatives

- The current legalization dose not allow the agriculture cooperative societies to establish joint stock companies, or to buy the shares of the companies and the banks, which hindered them in achieving their economic activities and establishing the projects.
- The cooperative's members don't have the opportunity to contribute in the board's membership in view of the conditions of the current membership.

The Strategy of the Agricultural cooperatives in the current stage:

The current changes concerning the market economic which require cooperatives changing in its form and contents, which qualify them to achieve their role, to enable them to become positive in the agricultural development, and to compete as a private sector. This requires the implementation of the productive projects which have high revenue providing the production inputs for their members, and marketing the production of their members to protect them from monopoly and help them in obtaining profitable revenue.

The agricultural cooperatives prepared a strategy to become able to achieve its efficient role in raising the agricultural production, and raising its member's economic, social, and cultural levels, and to have a main role in the processes of production, marketing, projectsetc.

The main features of this strategy:-

- Democracy of administration.
- Defining and minimizing the role of the administrative body, and preventing the State intervention.
- The organizational development of the agricultural cooperatives.
- The self financing of the agricultural cooperatives.
- Providing the agricultural inputs.
- Undertaking the process of the cooperative's marketing and exportation.
- Developing the cooperative projects and promoting the agricultural processing.
- Increasing and developing the agricultural production by means of new technology.
- Spreading and developing the agricultural mechanization.
- Cooperative culture and training through all categories (women & men)
- Rural and social development
- Protecting the environment from pollution.

The Amendment of the current legislation:

In light of the agricultural cooperative's law No. (122) in 1980, and the requirement of the current economic stage, and the elimination of state intervention, there is a need to amend some items in the existing law, or creating some articles.

It is agreed to make the amendments which aims at :-

- Increasing the minimum of the share value to strengthen financial situation of all kinds of the agricultural cooperative societies to enable them to achieve their social and economic activities.

- **Giving the cooperative a chance to set up the following funds:**

A- Buffer funds for crop prices and agricultural-Inputs to protect producers from the fluctuation of the prices and guarantee them getting a high profit for their products.

B- Financial funds to provide self finance for cooperatives either by providing the production inputs, marketing ,or setting up projects ..etc.

C- Burden sharing funds among the agricultural cooperatives against fire, robbery, dishonesty and dangers of work which face the cooperatives and get benefit form the returns of these funds.

- Setting up specific unions to develop preparing, processing and marketing the crop either for local consumption or for exportation including in its membership all the concerned parties: producer those who are interested in preparing the corps, exportation, local marketing, Ministries of Agriculture, Economic, Trade and supply, industry, and research bodies.

General view on Agricultural Cooperatives at the credit areas'and their activities at the end of 30/6/1996.

The number of agricultural Cooperatives in credit areas in 30/6/1996 on different levels was (5258) with a membership of more than (3) million members.

The following is a schedule of the cooperatives:-

Type of cooperative	Number
Local multi purpose cooperatives.	4257
Multi purpose (Moshtaraka)on District level	131
Central Multi purpose on Governorate level	22
Specific cooperatives on Village level	761
Specific cooperatives on Governorate level	75
General cooperatives on Republic level	12
TOTAL	5258

- **The Role of the Development project for Rural woman in cooperatives could be summarized in the following points:-**

*Improving the family life level through training the women in some skills and providing her with the required information for improving income and to be more productive in farm and home activities.

*Learning the Rural women how to solve problem and how they can get loans and the repayment of such loans.

*Assist rural women in different aspects of educational and extension fields .

*To take care of the health of pregnant woman and the children by offering medical services.

*Improve the rural women skills in Agricultural work which implemented by the women particularly vegetable cultivation and floriculture .

*Maximizing the role of women in protection environment resources by reservation of such resources through the miss use of land & water through :

- Decrease the food pollution during food processing and cleaning of food (vegetable & fruits) .
- Decrease the air pollution inside home by stop using the old fashion ovens .
- Control of the home insects resulting from storage of the organic fertilizer near the living houses .
- Follow up the right roles and procedures in using drinking water and drainage residues .

Activities of the Organization in Agricultural Development

The contribution of my organization in respect of Agricultural Development/Cooperatives is to collaborate with the International funding agencies and other donor countries for identifying and formulation of projects aiming at improving and developing the rural women's role in related activities of agricultural production and achieving better life earnings settlement in New Lands.

Also we are working with different International Organization (FAO, UNDP, UNISCO, UNISEF, ILO, IFAD, UNFPA) and other international organizations where our participation in Agricultural Development or is more effective in enhancing such international organizations to provide funding for identified projects mainly on rural women activities for Agricultural development/cooperates.

Success Projects Involving Women in Agricultural Development/Cooperatives

Project for productive activities for beneficiary women in New Lands

This project signed on November, 1987 between the Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation and ILO of the united nations. This project started on Jan. 1988 up to Dec. 1990 in upper Egypt (Komobow). This Project was extended after then up to 1997 and funds provided for this project was as follows;

1988-1992

- 645000 US Dollars from Netherlands Government
- 650000 L.E. from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

1992-1997

-19,650 million Egyptian pound from the five year plan of the Government provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and land Reclamation.

Project achievements

Increasing, women capabilities and providing her the training to be more productive in plant production and animal production in reclaimed lands, providing training on small-scale project management credits and loans, encouragement the formulation of specialized cooperatives managed by beneficially women from new lands, providing development, healthy environmental and extension services for women in reclaimed lands and supporting the settlement and sustainability in reclaimed lands.

Extension phase from 1997-2002

This phase was financed within an agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and land Reclamation and the African Development bank on 1998. Where a loan was provided amounting to 28 million Egyptian pounds. The project will be executed in the following districts:

- Aswan Governorate (Komombodistrict)
- North Sinai Governorate
- Dokhalia Governorate (Heifer district)
- Behira Governorate, (North District)
- Sharkia Governorate (El-Hesenia District)
- Port Said Governorate (Sahel South district)
- Alexandria Governorate (Bangar El-Soukar district)

also another two areas are added Abou Senbl and Shark El-Weinate districts.

Project Objectives

To provide loans for trained women to increase their productivity in relation to plant and animal production in order to increase their income and family earnings and supporting these families in settlement process.

Conclusion of the Project first phase

This project has been implemented in Komombo area (in Upper Egypt, Aswan Governorate). This project actually established ten women centers. These centers are organized, managed and controlled by women settlers in Komobo area and undertake a wide range of productive activities. The following table indicates the ten centers.

	<i>Productive activities</i>	<i>Villages</i>
1	Unit for food processing (Bakery)	Balana
2	Unit for sewing work	Adndan
3	Unit for egg production – unit for Honey bee – Nursery	Toshki Eest
4	Unit for carpets production	Owyeniah
5	Unit for egg production – Unit for Honey bee – Unit for egg hatchery	Apreem
6	Unit for Sewing production	El-dewan
7	Unit for apostry production	Krosko
8	Unit for clothes production	El-Soila
9	Unit for leather production	El-deka
10	Unit for carpets – unit for Honey	Karsha

Project on Education of mothers hood childhood in the Egyptian Rural Country Sides

Project Objectives

- Increase the level of education & environmental knowledge for the country side women by presenting extension programmes and specialized training .
- Improve the country side women capabilities on the economical & Social aspects.
- Improve the level of education & thinking for the country side children developing the hand made products improve the awareness in the field of pollution and the environment aspects.

Project duration & funds

5 years 1992-1997 and this project is financed by the Ministry of Agriculture an extension been approved for another 5 years.

Project activities

1-Executed study tours for training the country side children to visit other new agricultural projects in the western desert to improve knowledge on dessert agriculture technology.

- 2-Free training for country side children to improve their professional and technical capacities.
- 3-Cultural awareness programmes in the field of environment, Nutrition, health & Education for rural women
- 4-Establishment 10 units for integrated development to serve the motherhood & childhood in the agricultural sector and food processing.
- 5-Training on Educational aspects for rural women .
- 6-Provide training on food processing aspects for rural women
- 7-Promote the economic lobby for the country side woman by training them on the hand made industries from the Environmental products.
- 8-Prepare short training course in the field of health services.
- 9-Improve the mental capacities for the village children.
- 10-Establishment of 5 mobile units as children library
- 11-Establishment of 2 mobile units for health care.

*** Project on rural women development in Dakhallia**

The rural women represents about 40% of the productive labor in the Egyptian Country Sides. This project aimed at the development of rural communities from the economical, social, cultural and health affairs through the following;

-Improve the family income by increasing the women participation in productive activities on farm and home (food processing, milk and dairy products, honey bees production silk worm rearing, poultry production)

-Increasing capabilities and educational information to rural women.

-Family planning for better childhood care and health services.

The project was implemented in 46 villages and the number of beneficiaries were 1230 families.

*** Project on the development of rural girls in Ismalia**

This project aimed at the training of rural girls aged between 18-24 years whom are not working in other activities, such training will increase their professional capabilities generating income. The main two project's training programmes were executed, one for nine months and the other was for six months, where after training the project will provide trained girls with sewing machines through agricultural cooperatives to assist them in generating incomes.

Project Name	: Agr. Production Intensification project (APIP)
Financing Agency:	IFAD
Project Cost	: 39 Million Dollar
IFAD Share	: 20 Million Dollar
GOE Share	: 19 Million Dollar
Target Groups	: Small farmers – Landless - Women

Women Activities:

Women Represents 48% of the work force in the Agriculture sector in Egypt. As well it represent 80% of the work force in the field of Animal husbandry.

For these reasons the design of APIP was quite keen to consider Women's role in its activities.

APIP consist of three main components Agriculture Extension, Credit and Project Management.

The Ag. Extension component includes special section for W/D activities. This section present necessary training to women in supporting agricultural production operations.

The ladies VEW's train the contact farmers on the agricultural practices about the subject through which women could support their husbands in the field works.

The Extension messages are designed to help the rural women in income generating activities. The packages are aiming at offering a small income-generating project to help the rural women in generating additional income to support their families.

Special attention was given to the agro. Ecological industries as lady farmers are trained on these type of activities to utilize the farm out puts to the maximum.

To support all these activities the project avail necessary financing through the project credit component to help the farmers in financing these project.

The share of Rural Women Project amounted to 20 % of the total credit component under this project.

Evaluation of the Innovative Programmes, Projects and Initiatives in Support of Women in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

1. Name of Project:	Agriculture Production and Credit Project 0202.
Project Purpose:	To provide credit to women farmers to enable them to start production projects and/or improve and expand existing ones.
Project Sites:	Started in Kaloubia governorate as a pilot project and then expanded to four more governorates : Dakahlia, Damietta, Sharkia & Fayoum.
Project time period:	Started in 1991 and Still ongoing.
Implementing Agency:	Principal Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit with financial support from USAID.
Beneficiaries:	Rural Women.
Innovative Characteristics:	Provision of relatively rapid low-cost source of credit through the village based bank. Simpler ways and means adopted to guarantee repayment, enabled needy landless women to obtain credit.
Total cost:	L.E. 60 million available for loans.
Cost per beneficiary :	Total amount of money provided in the form of loans till Dec. 93 L.E. 54010224 for 37000 beneficiaries i.e. approx. 2000 L.E. each.

Reasons for recommending replication: rural women need funds for inputs to increase production; repayment was being made without default and this made the project self-generating and able to continue to increase the number of beneficiaries. The project helped women increase their productivity and improve the nutritional status and standard of living of rural families.

2. Project Title:

Biogas and Efficient Use of Agriculture Residues.

Objectives:

To transfer the biogas technology to different villages of the area. To construct biogas plants for thermal and electrical energy generation and better quality fertilizer, to train local technicians for dissemination of biogas information, to briquette agricultural residues for energy and domestic uses.

Location/Sites:

Basaisa Village, Sharkia Governorate.

Grant Time Period :

21 months.

Implementing Agency:

The Integrated Rural Technology Center for Training and Production, Basaisa Community Cooperative for Development, Zagazig, Sharkia Governorate.

Beneficiaries:

Farmer's family.

Innovative Characteristics:

Use of biogas, from agricultural residues, as an energy source in the village has proven economical and wide acceptance would reduce the demand for conventional sources of energy.

Total Cost:

58,000

3. Project Title:

Improved Manufacture of Soft Cheese in the Rural Areas Using Modern Technology Methods.

Objectives:

To improve kareish cheese manufacture in rural areas by using direct acidification techniques; to promote damietta cheese making by enhancing rennet action in the small production units; to train the new graduates in manufacture of dairy products by simple methods to participate in solving the problem of unemployment; to use dairy by-product in manufacturing products suitable to pupils and patient groups.

Location/Sites:

Sharkia, Behera, Dakahlia and Menoufia Governorates, 4 sites in each Governorate.

Grant Time Period:

16 months.

Implementing Agency: Institute of Sufficient Productivity, Zagazig University.

Beneficiaries: Female farmers, Female extensionists and new graduates.

Innovative Characteristics: Success in training rural dwellers in proper cheese making should improve quality and shorten the cheese making time. New products can be made from cheese whey suitable for children and adults in poor health which will increase farmer income and reduce pollution resulting from drainage of whey in canals and streams.

Total Cost: L.E. 57000

4. Project Title: Introduction of appropriate technologies in olive processing.

Objectives: To produce high quality olive oil, to overcome the current manufacturing problems of olive oil, to produce high quality olive pickles (green & black), and to train concerned personnel in improved technologies of olive processing.

Location/Sites:
A. Beir El-Abd, North Sinai Governorate.
B. Siwa and Matrouh, Matrouh Governorate.

Grant Time Period: 10 months.

Implementing Agency:
A. Agricultural Governorate, El-Arish, North Sinai.
B. Agricultural Governorate, Marsa Matrouh.

Beneficiaries: Bedwin's families and Female extension and Bedwin's Female.

Innovative Characteristics: At present, there are few machines for producing olive oil and pickling of olives. Those being used are producing poor quality products. The grant will provide machines capable of producing high quality and instruction on how they should be operated. Also, the new technologies introduced for handling and processing of olives will provide a desirable product for local consumption and for export.

Total Cost: L.E. 200000

5. Project Title: A complete Small Poultry Production Unit for Small Farmers.

Objectives: To produce the small incubator and brooder unit locally; to distribute the units to small farmers and train them to increase egg and poultry meat production in the rural areas; to transfer this technology, through training, to other locations throughout the country.

Location/Sites: Menoufia Governorate, El-Bagour District, two villages around Bagour.

Grant Time Period: 16 months.

Implementing Agency: Faculty of Agriculture, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

Beneficiaries: Farmer's families.

Innovative Characteristics: There is a shortage in production of the preferred local poultry breed which makes the price of meat L.E. 6/kg and the cost of one local egg 22 piasters. Villages can hatch their own eggs for local use and sell any surplus to neighbours or into the local market. The brooder is small and portable, making it possible to move from one house to another, if desired.

Total Cost: L.E. 55000

6. Project Title : Rabbit production package for small farmers.

Objectives: To provide instruction on manufacture and/or repair of rabbit cages, to improve the hatch breeding system and production level of rabbits as a protein source, to train farmers and extensionists in proper management techniques including a nutritious ration.

Location/Site: Fayoum (5 districts) and Giza (3 districts) Governorates.

Grant Time Period : 15 months.

Implementing Agency : Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt.

Beneficiaries : Farmer's families.

Innovative Characteristics: The present traditional practices of rabbit breeding and production provide very little net revenue for the farmers' family. The transfer of proper cage technology, breeding techniques, provision of available and economic feed source will give marked increase in high protein food and income from marketing excess production. A farmer with 5 baladi rabbits does have a potential net income of L.E. 500 to 900 annually.

Total Cost: L.E. 61000

7. Project Title :

Development of basic life skills of village women through applying up-to-date technology for food production.

Objectives:

To increase rural family income, to acquire new basic life skills, to establish new nutritional patterns, to introduce new trends in food consumption and change of food habits including increase in protein.

Locations/Sites:

El Mai and Melaig Villages, Menoufia Governorate.

Grant Time Period:

21 months.

Implementing Agency:

Food Science Dept., Faculty of Agriculture, Menoufia University, Shebin El Kom.

Beneficiaries:

Female extensionists and female farmers.

Innovative Characteristics:

The village population will be introduced to new concepts of nutrition, food patterns and habits, sanitation and personal hygiene. Surplus production of horticultural products will be preserved for later use. Soybeans will be promoted as a human food source. Training will include extension workers and women leaders in the villages.

Total Cost :

L.E. 70000

5. Project Title: A complete Small Poultry Production Unit for Small Farmers.

Objectives: To produce the small incubator and brooder unit locally; to distribute the units to small farmers and train them to increase egg and poultry meat production in the rural areas; to transfer this technology, through training, to other locations throughout the country.

Location/Sites: Menoufia Governorate, El-Bagour District, two villages around Bagour.

Grant Time Period: 16 months.

Implementing Agency: Faculty of Agriculture, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

Beneficiaries: Farmer's families.

Innovative Characteristics: There is a shortage in production of the preferred local poultry breed which makes the price of meat L.E. 6/kg and the cost of one local egg 22 piasters. Villages can hatch their own eggs for local use and sell any surplus to neighbours or into the local market. The brooder is small and portable, making it possible to move from one house to another, if desired.

Total Cost: L.E. 55000

6. Project Title : Rabbit production package for small farmers.

Objectives: To provide instruction on manufacture and/or repair of rabbit cages, to improve the hatch breeding system and production level of rabbits as a protein source, to train farmers and extensionists in proper management techniques including a nutritious ration.

Location/Site: Fayoum (5 districts) and Giza (3 districts) Governorates.

Grant Time Period : 15 months.

Implementing Agency : Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt.

Beneficiaries : Farmer's families.

Innovative Characteristics: The present traditional practices of rabbit breeding and production provide very little net revenue for the farmers' family. The transfer of proper cage technology, breeding techniques, provision of available and economic feed source will give marked increase in high protein food and income from marketing excess production. A farmer with 5 baladi rabbits does have a potential net income of L.E. 500 to 900 annually.

Total Cost: L.E. 61000

7. Project Title : Development of basic life skills of village women through applying up-to-date technology for food production.

Objectives: To increase rural family income, to acquire new basic life skills, to establish new nutritional patterns, to introduce new trends in food consumption and change of food habits including increase in protein.

El Mai and Melaig Villages, Menoufia Governorate.

21 months.

Locations/Sites:

Grant Time Period:

Implementing Agency:

Food Science Dept., Faculty of Agriculture, Menoufia University, Shebin El Kom.

Beneficiaries:

Female extensionists and female farmers.

Innovative Characteristics:

The village population will be introduced to new concepts of nutrition, food patterns and habits, sanitation and personal hygiene. Surplus production of horticultural products will be preserved for later use. Soybeans will be promoted as a human food source. Training will include extension workers and women leaders in the villages.

Total Cost :

L.E. 70000

**AFRO-ASIAN-RURAL RECONSTRUCTION
ORGANIZATION**

**4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “WOMEN IN
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN ASIA AND
AFRICA”, 23-29 AUGUST 1999 AND 21ST RECA
SEMINAR, 30TH AUGUST – 7TH SEPTEMBER 1999**

COUNTRY PAPER – GHANA

**PRESENTER : ROSE OTENG
DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
EJISU JUABEN DISTRICT ASSEMBLY.
EJISU**

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Ghana is to be found in the West Coast of Africa. To the East, is the Republic of Togo, to the West, La Cote D'Ivoire and to the North, Burkina Faso and in the South, lies the Gulf of Guinea. Ghana's total land area is 238,537 sq km. It has a tropical climate and has a population of about 18 million. Ghana has ten administrative regions further sub divided into 110 Districts. It has a Presidential system of Government. Ghana has a large amount of natural resources (gold, diamond, timber, cocoa,)

AGRICULTURE IN GHANA

Ghana is basically an agricultural dependent country with most of the country's resources coming from the Agricultural sector. The sector consists of crops, livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and the Cocoa sub sector. The ministry of Food and Agriculture takes care of crops (except cocoa), livestock and fisheries.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Ghanaian economy and accounts for over 47% of Gross Domestic product, and most of the export earnings which goes to support about 80% of the total population. Agriculture covers 54.7 % of the total employment in the country. Most of those involved in Agriculture are rural land holders operating on small scale basis using traditional intensive labour practices. This is not to suggest that agricultural mechanization is not practised. Women form about 60% of these small holders and are more directly responsible than men for food provision through food crop production or purchase, processing and preparation, marketing and storage. Ghana's agriculture continues to exhibit lack of value added to finished products, thus indicating a market in need in the areas of food, fish and meat processing. Problems hindering development of the agricultural sector have been mainly centered on ageing farmers, low and outmoded technology in production, poor storage facilities, lack of processing facilities, limited marketing opportunities, post harvest losses, low producer income, poor farm tracks/road network. However a lot of measures have been put in place to address these problems in order to sustain and ensure food security in the country. These include:

- Encouraging the youth to take up agriculture

- Promoting and sustaining the growth of farmers' co-operatives to facilitate access to credit facilities, agricultural inputs, storage, processing and market facilities for the farm produce.
- Promoting other activities for rural farmers especially women to absorb and reduce the pressure on the land,- women in agro micro projects. The government is fully aware that real food security will be achieved with a conscious drive to increase food production and a substantial investment in storage, processing, distribution and the development of both internal and international market opportunities.

POLICIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

Realizing that the foundation for accelerated economic growth is a major increase in agricultural productivity, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has come out with policies for agricultural development and the provision of an enabling environment for an efficient and sustainable food production. These policies are also aimed at adding value to agricultural raw materials for a competitive world market.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has again put in place an accelerated agricultural growth strategy in line with the national goals and objectives as outlined under vision 2020 which is aimed at moving Ghana into the middle income level and securing self sufficiency for all Ghanaians in the agriculture and other sectors by the year 2020. It is envisaged that the sector will have a growth rate of 4.8% from the current rate of 1.8%.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY:

Observation of the National Farmers Day, on the first Friday of December of every year in Ghana, when gallant and hard-working farmers are rewarded for their immense contribution to the growth and development of agriculture in Ghana, has been acknowledged by all and sundry as another laudable government policy for agricultural development and food sufficiency.

NUCLEUS/OUTGROWER SCHEME

The nucleus/out-grower scheme and Youth in Agriculture concept are also government policies geared at promotion of agricultural cooperatives in Ghana.

Under this scheme, groups or farmers' cooperatives are given access to credit facilities, agricultural inputs, training and extension support programme guidance and supervision from staff of the ministry of Food and Agriculture. After harvest and subsequent sales of their farm produce, part of the money realised goes to defray the loan given them by Government in the form of credit facility or agricultural inputs. The Agricultural Development Bank and other Rural Banks found throughout the country have been established to cater for farmer needs through the granting of loans and other farm inputs.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE.

Historically both men and women in Ghana have been involved in growing crops to meet their family and national needs. As the nature of Agricultural production changed, with more crops being grown for the market and more technologies being introduced to enhance production, the participation by both male and female has continued. However over the years different patterns have evolved in the particular role that women play in the agricultural production process in the areas of processing and marketing products.

Therefore policy makers and planners recognise that attention to the needs of women farmers should be an essential aspect of overall economic and social development strategies.

The ministry of Food and Agriculture has therefore set up a Department for Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) that serves the agricultural needs of women farmers, processors and traders. WIAD also looks at technology needs, credit mobilisation and function of women cooperative groups. The department analyses programmes for gender sensitivity and serves as the link between the ministry and other organisations dealing with women farmers and their extension services. The department actively collaborates with other agencies like the ministry of Education and Health to adopt strategies in

a) Functional literacy and business skills

- b) Reorientation of farmer groups to be receptive to new technologies and interventions
- c) Design of appropriate nutritional packages to assist rural women
- d) Family planning and family life education
- e) HIV/AIDS and other health issues.

There is a close collaboration between the Department of Co-operatives and WIAD for credit facilities and other inputs like appropriate technologies for women groups.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN GHANA

Formal Co-operatives began in Ghana more than sixty years ago. The Department of Agriculture established fermentaries to improve the quality of cocoa beans which was the main cash crop. The initial response by local farmers was poor. However, the co-operative movement developed as a means of encouraging greater enthusiasm and participation by beneficiary farmers. By 1950 the marketing societies were widespread and effective and credit facilities were available in the form of short-term loans. The Co-operative Marketing Association also established its own bank.

Attempts at establishing a consumer co-operative was not effective, because members did not trade in everyday needs in the early stages, and most of the co-operative societies were short-lived. Nevertheless despite these less successful attempts the cocoa marketing societies remained progressive and well established. Later the co-operative movement spread to other cash and food crops.

There are a number of projects involving rural women in cooperative in agricultural development throughout the country. In my District, Ejisu-Juaben District Assembly, which is one of the 110 District Assemblies in Ghana, we have the 'Nyame Ye Ade' Palm oil project. This project - an agro- micro project is located at Besease. The project involves some rural women in oil palm production. The aim is to :

1. add value to oil palm produce by processing the oil palm fruits into oil
2. Processing the palm kernel into oil
3. Marketing the oil through organised points
4. Economies of scale practiced through organised use of technologies and skills.

5. Permanent employment of the women
6. Economic empowerment of the women.
7. Benefit of adult literacy classes, nutrition education and cost effective methods introduced and basic accounting techniques.

Again at Ejisu Juaben District, we have Anti Food Poisoning campaign Group. This group consists of rural women in agricultural ventures who have been trained to educate farmers and the general public through drama at various agricultural fora and meetings about the safe use of agro chemicals. Farmers and the public awareness on safe use of agro-chemicals is great now.

ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTORATE OF MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES EJISU-JUABEN DISTRICT ASSEMBLY.

The District Directorate strategic plan for accelerated agricultural production for the three year Medium Term Agricultural Development, spanning between 1999 and the year 2001, seeks to help make better impact of agricultural sector in the district; thus, ensuring the 4.62% agricultural growth rate per annum, during the period under review, and consequently, food sufficiency, employment and economic security.

For the achievement of the objectives under the programme a number of activities have been planned. These include;

- 1) Meeting the training needs of both farmers and the field staff
- 2) Encouraging the established agricultural cooperatives or rural women farmers, groups and individuals to add value to their farm produce.
- 3) Establishing milk processing centres in the district for processing local cow milk into fresh, chilled and satcheted milk, yoghurt, etc
- 4) Establishing pork processing centres for processing pork products eg. sausage making
- 5) establishing gari-processing centres for processing cassava into Cassava Chips, pastries etc.

CONCLUSION:

For many years farming has been the main occupation of women in our rural areas. The active participation of women in food production, cash crops

production, processing of agricultural produce, food storage and food distribution and as financiers of food production has contributed greatly to the economic development of the country. A lot of initiatives have been planned and executed to enhance the participation of women in agricultural ventures, including extension services, research and in decision making positions. A lot more needs to be done to encourage women in the agricultural sector in order to protect their health, promote their education and empower them economically.

Activities of Korean Agricultural Cooperatives
for women in agriculture

for

The 4th International Conference on "Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in
Asia and Africa", Tokyo, Japan, August 24-29, 1999

Reported by
Su-Kyong, Bae

75, 1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-Ku, Seoul, 100-707, Korea
Tel:(822)397-5766, Fax:(822)397-5770

National Agricultural Cooperative Federation

I . Introduction

At no time in Korean history were women discriminated against so excruciatingly as during the Choson Kingdom(1392~1910), when the norms and principles of Confucianism predominated in all classes of society. For upwards of 500 years, women were completely subordinated to men, reduced to little more than producers of labor and children.

Obviously, women's rights have come a long way since Korea opened itself up to the outside world, first during the Korean War, then through the industrialization efforts of the '60s, '70s and '80s, and finally through globalization in the '90s. During those periods the nation took up a new system of foreign values and thinking patterns especially from the West.

Most recently, President Kim Dae-jung called for efforts to foster a social climate, which encourages the political and social participation of women. And the amendment to the Equal Employment Law, which includes provisions and punishments on sexual harassment, went through the National Assembly.

Yet, despite the increased social status of women, discrimination against them, especially in rural communities, still remains.

According to the recent research, rural women take over 48% of agriculture workforce in Korea, but the share of women membership in the cooperatives accounted for only 15.6% in 1998. In addition, Korean women farmers are occupied with excessive household cares in non-farm sectors, but they have not treated correspondingly.

So I think that agricultural coops should make efforts to find ways of extending rural women to be equally and equitably treated.

In my report, I would like to introduce the Rural Women-related Businesses and Activities in Korean agricultural cooperatives.

II. Rural women-related activities of Korean Agricultural Cooperatives

1. Organizational structure

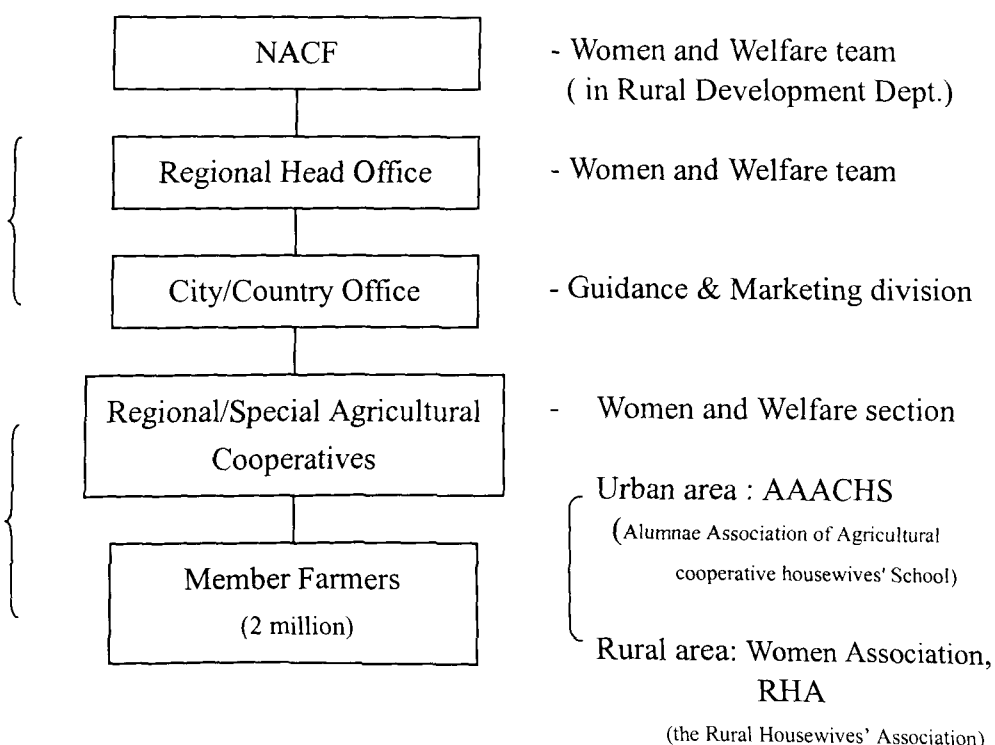
Korean National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) provides women in agriculture with various services.

Agricultural cooperatives in Korea have been organized into a two-tier system, comprising primary cooperatives in local areas and their national federation. The NACF has currently 1,203 regional cooperatives and 46 special cooperatives as its members. Almost all the nation's farmers are affiliated with these cooperatives. Also, as of the end of 1998, the NACF had 17 regional head offices, 156 city/country offices, and 701 branch offices across the country.

The NACF Head Office is organized into 27 departments. 'Women and Welfare team' belongs to the 'Rural Development Dept'. The name of the team was changed from 'Women's Welfare team' to 'Women and Welfare team' in 1998.

In every primary cooperative in local area, the section for Women and Welfare is organized.

Like this, the NACF has accomplished the services for women in agriculture with a two-tier system.



2. Activities in 1998

The NACF has taken the “100 vital tasks and projects for farmers” from 1996. In those, several activities for women have been contained.

I would like to introduce the major activities of NACF in 1998.

■ Increase of the membership of women farmers

‘Dual membership system’, introduced in June 1996 allows maximum two people in the same household to get the membership in local cooperatives. Through this system, the youth and women farmers are qualified to obtain cooperatives membership. They are expected to take part in the overall management of cooperatives.

The ratio of women members in the cooperatives was increased from 13.1% in 1997 up to 15.6% in 1998. The NACF will extend member cooperatives to enhance the ratio up to 20% by 2000.

■ Increase of the number of women executives

For the reflection of the women’s demand, the number of women executives must be increased. Then women can exercise their influence over decision-making in the meetings, furthermore women’s opinions are to be reflected in various cooperatives businesses and activities.

In 1998, the number of women executives is as follows. :

Representative	Director	Inspector
77	13	3

■ Support for obtaining a certificate of qualification

We have provided the book, titled ‘The able women are beautiful’, in which contained the examples of self-development of women farmers, the kind of various certificate of qualification and the way to obtain it.

The kind of the certificate of qualification follows.

Related to Agriculture	Related to living	Related to Welfare	Others	total
20	33	14	33	100

■ Development of a joint-undertaking for off-farm income

The NACF has published and provided the book, ‘Let’s be a woman manager’. In the book, 101 joint-undertaking items (the excellent examples of women organizations:43, related to agricultural processing biz:26, related to idea agriculture:32) are introduced.

■ Family Training for women-related organizations

We have practiced the 'Family Training' for women-related organizations in agriculture. The targets of this training are for women farm leaders in various agriculture organizations, wives of local public officials and women public servants in agriculture.

The main programs of the training are to encourage the understanding of important issues in current agriculture and to introduce excellent examples of agricultural management, etc.

■ Operation of the conference for special agricultural products

We have operated the conference for special agricultural products in the unit of the regional head offices for women farmers. The conference consists of over 50 women by the products. Several model products(2~3 kinds) have been selected out of the main products of each region.

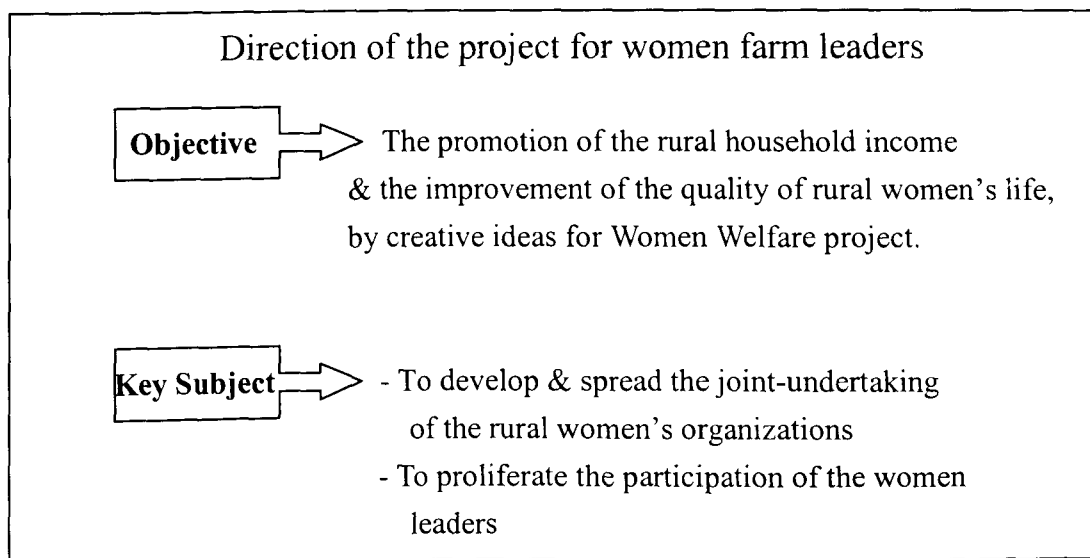
The main program of the conference is to educate about such products and to exchange the information on special local products.

■ Education for women

We have strengthened the education for the women farm leaders. The major program is to improve the ability of using computer, such as word-process and computer program for agricultural management.

III. Suggestion to strengthen the Role of Women Farm Leaders

We decided this year to be a year disseminating joint-undertakings of the rural women's organizations.



So we have carried out various plans for that purpose as follows :

■ **To strengthen the activities of the rural women's organizations**

We will put emphasis on fostering rural women's groups. These group members will seek mutual benefits by mediating the direct marketing of agricultural products and by participating in community activities through joint social programs.

■ **To give women more opportunities in education**

The NACF is seeking the way to collaborate with local universities and specialized education institutions to improve the level of education programs. And we'll encourage rural women leaders to join the program for obtaining various certificate of qualification.

■ **To encourage women to join NACF's diverse activities**

We'll extend member cooperatives to enhance the ratio of women member up to 20% by 2000 through 'Dual membership system'. And we plan to activate women's sub-committees, and reflect member farmer's opinion and encourage their voluntary participation.

■ **To introduce the 'Helper System' for farmers**

The local service groups consisting of volunteers will be organized. 'Helper' will serve for women farmers, who temporarily can't care for the agricultural work and/or household affairs because of the disease, maternity and participating in education.

■ **To strengthen the 'Family Training' for women farm leaders**

We will continuously strengthen the collaboration with local governments to provide diverse 'Family Training' programs for women farm leaders.

IV. Conclusion

I understand the women farmers, as agricultural producers, should not be treated as unacknowledged and unaccepted beings in the rural communities. More women farm leaders must join the decision-making procedure in the diverse women programs of the local government.

Furthermore, women must be urged to join agricultural organizations to form a global network of women in agriculture.

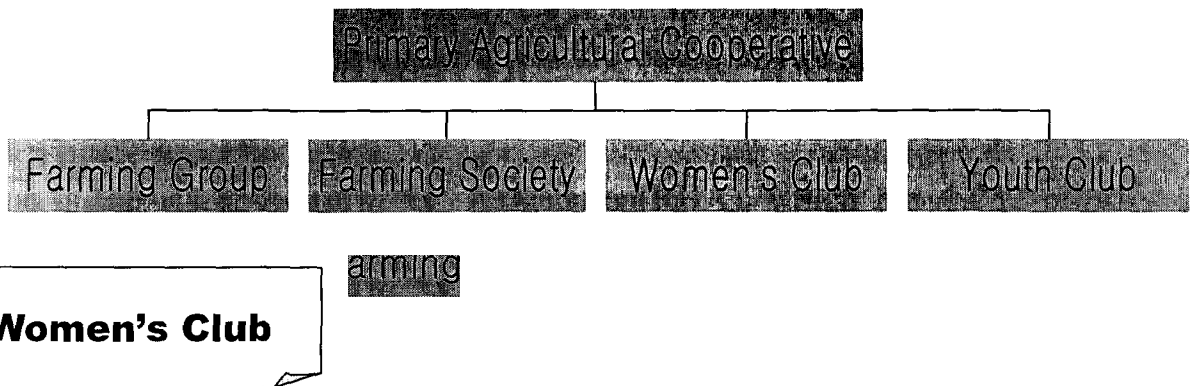
In the ICWA(the International Conference on Women in Agriculture), Dr Marilyn Waring(senior lecturer at the University of Waikato, New zealand) noted women, in agriculture, work longer hours than men and do most of the subsistence tasks associated with agricultural production. Lack of recognition of this fact leads to inappropriate policies. The obstruction of women by hindering their access to credit, land ownership and training has serious consequences for national development. On a global sense, extension services are directed at men and ignore gender division. In the many developing countries, such policies have led to a doubling of women's work. In the area of primary health care, no attention or recognition is given to the unpaid work of women. She also noted that equity and efficiency are not mutually exclusive and women farmers are integral to any attempts to meet the challenges for survival.

We, agricultural cooperatives, must fully recognize the important roles of women in the agricultural and rural development as well as understand the economic, social, legal and cultural factors affecting their status. We must provide them with diverse education opportunities to develop new skills, and easily access to information and global, local women networks. That's our duty.

< Cooperative Organizations of Members >

The current organizational system of primary agricultural cooperatives, covering wide areas such as the Up and Myun administrative units, makes it difficult for their members to interact smoothly. Therefore, for the purpose of eliminating the gap between members and cooperatives, it has become necessary to organize members at the village level into grass-root organizations to propel the agricultural cooperative movement from the bottom up. Such organizations of members can be viewed as lying within the framework of a corporate body called the agricultural cooperative, but retaining special purposes and constituting separate organizations in which the interaction of the members is active.

Figure : The Village Level Cooperative Organizations



Agricultural cooperatives have run housewife colleges and women's schools to improve the qualifications of women farmers, and get them to contribute to developing their regional communities. Women farmers also receive opportunities to take courses related to fostering sound households and participating in cooperative activities. Most agricultural cooperatives hold living improvement classes, lectures on culture, hobby classes, etiquette classes, nursing classes, handicraft classes, and recreation classes in their housewife colleges and women's schools. Graduates of housewife colleges have established a women's club called the "Housewives Club Thinking Of the Rural Hometowns." And through it are fully active in supporting rural communities.

The Women's Club is a cooperative group organized autonomously by women in villages for the purpose of contributing to the increase of rural women's welfare and building of sound households through the spirit of the Saemaul Movement. The age of members ranges from more than 20 to less than 60 years. The major businesses and activities of the Women's Club are as follow : the improvement of clothing, food, and living ; programs for the improvement of women's culture and qualifications; activities geared toward the improvement of nutrition and health, and campaigns for savings and the rationalization of consumption patterns.

< Concern for Community by Cooperatives >

Nationwide Housewife Network

With strong emphasis on sustained development, and as a means of reaching that goal, cooperatives have organized self-help groups among member farmers, including Farming Groups, Women's Clubs, and Rural youth Clubs at the village level. This practice of organizing people within the cooperative house is worth extending, for it creates the basis for the cooperatives reaching outward. Among others, the women's associations in townships and cities across the nation are in the frontline of this effort. The two women's associations fostered by the cooperatives are based in two groups : rural producers and urban consumers.

One is the Rural Housewives' Association(RHA), which has 1,232 primary groups, with 37 thousand individual members. This association aims basically at encouraging women's participation in the cooperative movement. Members often volunteer to support the cooperative business and community programs, including those related to environmental concerns, while the Association offers its members social education activities.

The other is the Alumnae Association of the Agricultural Cooperative Housewives' School (AAACHS), in which 681 primary groups offer 219 thousand members various social and cultural activities. Invited lecturers have provided expert information on such essential topics as consumer information, environmental conservation, child education, and family health. In the association, many members become actively involved in social services and the environmental movement in urban areas, and often participate in the NACF's public efforts to promote patronizing of domestic farm products.

These two Association, as pillars of women's groups in both urban and rural communities, have maintained a sisterhood relationship, seeking mutual benefits by mediating direct delivery of agricultural products and by participating in community concerns through joint social programs. As a result, these groups have forged a strong nexus for interaction between Korea's rural and urban societies.

ICA/JA - ZENCHU/ IDACA/ AARRO 4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON "WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATIVES IN ASIA AND AFRICA"

Tokyo, Japan August 24 - 29/1999

COUNTRY PAPER

Mrs LE MY PHO
Vice Director
Int'l Economic Relation Dept.
VIETNAM COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE
(VCA)

- Mr Yoshitada Nakaoka, Managing Director, IDACA.

- Distinguished guests!

- Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all please allow me as representative from VCA to this conference extending my sincere thanks to ICA/ROAP, ZA - ZENCHU, MAFF, JICA, IDACA, AARRO and Prime Minister's office for facilitating my attendance to this important conference. May I wish organizers and international participants good health and great success to our conference.

Now I would like to mention the developments of Vietnamese women in the cooperative movement under the leadership of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance and also the guidelines of General Action Plan of Vietnamese Women for increasing the role of women in the national development in general and that of agricultural cooperatives in particular.

CHAPTER I

Vietnam Cooperative Alliance and the participation of Vietnamese women in many activities especially in the rural areas

In Vietnam, in wars for defending nation as well as in building our nation, women always **play** an important role. Vietnam has been conducting the renovation for more than 10 years, step by step it abolishes the state subsidized economy directing to the market economy with the socialist orientation. Vietnam is a country that has big potentiality of labour force,

the population of Vietnam now is about 80 millions, among that labour force is 39.6 million, women labour accounts for 52% (20.5 millions). In the cooperative economy and cooperatives, women have a very important role. This is reflected by the fact that on 17th Jan. 1998, President of VCA signed the decision to set up "the Committee for the Advancement of women in the cooperative sector" with 11 members headed by Mrs Nguyen Thi Nghia, Vice President of VCA, General Director of Saigon Coop. This Committee has the following missions:

- 1- To set up plan and solutions to conduct the resolution by our Communist Party on renovation and to increase the mobilization work towards our women in the period of industrialization and modernization of the country.
- 2- To organize the broad publicity among the whole cooperative sector of the significance of convention on the abolishment of any discrimination towards women.
- 3- Oftenly to observe and catch the situation, periodically generalize and to submit effective measures to upper level for implementing resolutions of our State and Party relating to women labour.
- 4- To recommend to levels, branches on matters relating to guidelines, policies of our Party and State towards women in the cooperative sector.
- 5- To sum up, introduce achievements of all movements and good models in the field of liberating women and conducting the gender equality.

According to statistics from the Committee for the Advancement of women in the cooperative sector, now in Vietnam there are nearly 18,000

cooperatives, there are 390 directors are women. In particular of agricultural sector, there are 13,914 agricultural cooperatives, the rate of woman leaders (cooperative directors, in the Administrative or Control Committee) accounts for 30%.

Apart from supporting policies by the State, Vietnam Cooperative Alliance has been facilitating the development of women labour in the cooperative sector but in generally cooperative women have been not able enough to meet the requirements of the development and renovation. At the Central level (VCA), there are a moderate rate for women participation in the leading Board; only 4 women, among that Mrs Nguyen Thi Nghia is Vice President of VCA.

At the province/ city levels, the rate of women taking part in leading board of cooperative councils only accounts for 13 - 14%. In the field of the agricultural sector, it absorbs up to 75% women labour.

The followings are the causes to limit the participation of women to leading positions in the cooperative sectors, especially in the agricultural:

1- The knowledge levels of most of women, especially in the agricultural cooperatives are still limited. The women who have graduation level are mostly concentrated in the Central Council and province/city councils of VCA.

2- Most of cooperative woman leaders are limitedly trained, many of them work as cooperative directors since the state subsidized system but now the economy has been turning to the market economy but they do not have enough favourable conditions to upgrade their knowledge for meeting the new situation.

3- Gender perception has not been improved yet in order to estimate fully roles, functions of women.

4- There have not been complete, appropriate policies towards women labour in the cooperative economy.

CHAPTER II

Women in the rural areas and guidelines of the National Plan for the Advancement of Vietnamese women till the year of 2000

In order to develop a sustainable agriculture in Vietnam, one of the most important and decisive factor is to develop people, mainly the agricultural labour force in rural areas. In this force farming women pay a quite important role. There should be more understanding and better solutions in order to mobilize women in the rural areas to participate more actively and effectively in the development process of a sustainable agriculture.

According to statistics, rural population in Vietnam accounts for 79% of national population, among that woman rate is 51%, woman population has been increasing day by day. This means that position of the women labour in agriculture and rural areas as a whole is quite significant, women labour in the rural areas contribute agricultural product value at the rate of 61.05%. According to the guidelines of our State and Party, rural areas in Vietnam are conducting the structural movement in the agriculture in the direction of industrialization and modernization. In order to achieve this goal, there

must be a considerable investment, especially to infrastructure, public prosperity projects to serve production as well as life of the people.

At present, working conditions in rural areas are limited, especially women labour meeting a lot of difficulties. The Law on Cooperatives in Vietnam was approved by the National Assembly of Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 20th March 1996 and it was effected since 1st Jan. 1997.

According to the spirit of this Law, at this time cooperatives, especially agricultural cooperatives, in Vietnam have been converted from the old model into new one. As of March 1999, Vietnam has 13,914 agricultural cooperatives among that there are 492 newly - established agricultural cooperatives and the converted cooperatives account for 48.6%. The important task of cooperative leaders at all levels, from central to primary cooperatives, is how to make cooperative members, especially in the agricultural sector, perceive the basic advantages of new cooperatives so as to mobilize them to go with cooperatives and for cooperatives. Most of agricultural cooperatives in Vietnam now are not simply agricultural ones but they are agricultural services cooperatives, they serve their members in: irrigation, quality seed provision, finding markets for their products etc. After the approval of Cooperative Law, there are a lot of old cooperatives that turned into new ones and many newly established cooperatives. Operation principles of existing cooperatives now reflect fully 7 ICA cooperative principles. In the course of renovation in rural areas there is a significant contribution from women. Apart from taking part in expanding production mode with the sustainable agriculture, women in agricultural

cooperatives also actively participate in activities such as environment protection, family planning etc.

On the national scope, on the 4th Oct. 1997, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam approved the National Action Plan for the Advancement of Women in Vietnam till the year of 2000.

Followings are the objectives of this Action Plan:

- 1- To create jobs, increase income, contribute to hunger eradication and poverty alleviation and improve the living standards of women.
- 2- To facilitate equality for women in training education and to improve all aspects for women.
- 3- To improve care to and health protection for women and children.
- 4- To improve role, position of women in participating leading structure and decision - making.
- 5- To protect, to develop rights of women and facilitate women in participating social activities.
- 6- To improve the role of families.
- 7- To develop role of women in managing environment and natural resources, contributing to the sustainable development and living environment improvement.
- 8- To speed up information dissemination for the objective of improving perception on gender equality.

9- To contribute to strengthening peace.

10- To improve ability of the working system for the advancement of Vietnamese women.

11- To protect and facilitate for the ability development of young girls on all aspects.

At present, all branches, all levels, all economic - social aspects of the whole country are launching this Action Plan.

The above said is main point of women labour situation in the cooperative economy, cooperatives and all the country as a whole. Women in our cooperative economy commit ourselves to strive our best to contribute to implementing our national objective: " Rich people, powerful country, equal and civilized society", at the same time to make a significant contribution to movement of international women as a whole, we hope that Vietnamese women in general and cooperative economy and cooperatives in particular will increasingly receive effective and valuable support from women in other national cooperative organizations and international women organizations.

Thank you for your attention.

ABSTRACT

Ghana

Ghana occupies a total land area of 238,537 sq kms. and has a population of about 18 million. The country is endowed with natural resources like Gold, Diamond, and Timber. However agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing 47% of GDP.

Women form about 60% of the agriculture labour force. The agriculture sector grows at 1.8% and Government has introduced measures aimed at raising the annual growth rate to 4.8%. The measures include among others;

1. National Farmers' day, which is celebrated annually to reward outstanding Farmers.
2. Nucleus/Outgrowers Scheme and youth in Agriculture through which farmers are given loans.

To cater for the special needs of women farmers, the Department for Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) has been established by the Ministry of Youth ^{and} Agriculture (MOFA). In addition to the provision of agricultural services, WIAD collaborates with the Ministry of Education and Health to provide Functional literacy, Family Planning and other Health Services.

Through Co-operative Societies, Women have over the years undertaken agricultural projects in the country. In the Ejisu-Juaben District, the Nyame Ye Ade oil Palm Project is undertaking an agro-micro project. The project involves some rural women and aims among others to:

1. Add value to oil palm through processing
2. Give employment to women
3. Give economic empowerment to the women
4. Provide literacy classes, nutrition education, cost effective methods and basic accounting techniques.

An Anti Food poisoning campaign group also at Ejisu-juaben District, through drama at various agricultural fora educate farmers about safe use of agro-chemicals.

The Ejisu-Juaben District Directorate of Agriculture has developed a plan for accelerated agricultural production to cover 1999-2001. The plan aims at achieving a 4.6% per annum rate.

The major role played by women in economic development through agriculture has been recognised by Government. Women have been involved in food/cash crop production, food storage and distribution among others. There is the need to give a further boost to women in the agricultural sector in order to protect their health, enhance their education and give them economic power.

The Agricultural scene in India

1. Agriculture has all along been the most crucial sector of the Indian economy. Agriculture and allied activities make the single largest contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), accounting for almost 27% of the total GDP. It provides employment to around 65% of the total work force. The share of agricultural products in the total export earnings is also substantial. Many industries still depend on the agricultural sector for raw materials as well as for market. The performance of the agricultural sector has thus a close bearing on inflation, agricultural wages and employment generation in the economy.

2. India inherited a stagnant agriculture at the time of independence in 1947. The first task of Indian Government in the immediate post-independence period was, therefore, to initiate growth process in agriculture. The first three Five-Year Plans concentrated on growth with some *institutional changes* including abolition of intermediaries in agriculture, like Zamindars and Jagirdars. In the mid-Sixties a *new technology in the form of high yielding varieties (HYVs)* was introduced for cereals. Apart from the new technology, public investment in agriculture particularly in irrigation, was stepped up significantly. The *public sector played an important role* in promoting *agricultural research and education*. Large investments were made for the development of research system under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). Simultaneously, a well designed extension network was created for disseminating new technologies to the farmers. The *administered price policy* provided incentives to the farmers. Successive Five Year Plans aimed at improving the infrastructure through irrigation, stepping up the use of *fertilisers, improved varieties of seeds* implements and machinery and *supply of credit*. As a result there been a significant increase in the use of modern inputs leading to higher productivity and production.

3. The agricultural growth rate of around 2.7% per annum in the post-independence period was much higher than the negligible growth rate of 0.3% per annum in the first half of this century. The production of foodgrains increased from 50.8 million tonnes in 1950-51 to about 199.3 million tonnes in 1996-97. **As per the National Agenda for Governance, the GOI in 1998-99 has committed itself to the task of creating a hunger-free India and doubling food production in the next 10 years. Now with the eleventh successive normal national South-West monsoon, the country is poised to register an agriculture growth of about 3.9 % in 1998-99. During the year 1998-99, the country is likely to cross the landmark figure of 200 million tonnes in foodgrains production, an all time record. The expected rice production is 84.48 million tonnes and that of wheat 70.63 million tonnes, a much higher production level than that of the earlier best of 1996-97 i.e. 81.3 million tonnes and 69.3 million tonnes of**

rice and wheat respectively. The year is also likely to witness a record pulse production of 15.19 million tonnes against the earlier best of 14.5 million tonnes in 1996-97. The sugarcane production is likely to touch a new high of 282.68 million tonnes against 281 million tonnes of 1995.

4. Cooperatives in our country have a major presence in the agriculture sector. Agricultural growth influences cooperative development and vice-versa. At 2.2%, population growth was almost equal to agricultural growth during the last decade. With prospects of more population to feed, agricultural production has to be substantially scaled up. Given the limited scope to increase acreage under cultivation, focus in the coming years would be on increasing yield.

5. The present average yield is 1.6 tonne per hec. Experts estimate that this needs to be raised to 2.5 tonne per hec. or more to sustain food security. This would call for a second green revolution involving substantial investments in the form of irrigation, agro-credit, agro-input and post harvest facilities. The green revolution of the seventies could cover only one-third of the cultivable area leaving the entire eastern/north-eastern region untapped. Only a major initiative by the government and farmers' own organisations like cooperatives can, as in the past, bring about this change. The private sector has hardly shown any inclination to join hands in this task.

Agricultural Cooperatives

6. Cooperation is basically a State subject under entry 32 of the State List of the Indian Constitution. As such, all the States have their own Cooperative Societies Act. However, the cooperatives whose ambit of operation extends to more than one State are governed by the Multi State cooperative Societies Act 1984 which is being administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

7. Cooperatives have been playing an important role in our agricultural and rural economy. They are engaged in several economic activities such as disbursement of credit, distribution of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers, agro-chemicals, arranging storage, processing and marketing of farm produce. Cooperatives enable the farmers to get good quality inputs at a lower price as well as remunerative returns for their farm produce when marketed through cooperatives. The cooperative agro-processing units add value to their precious farm produce such as milk, sugarcane, cotton, fruits, vegetables and thus facilitate them in earning better returns.

8. As per the report brought out by the National Cooperative Union of India for the year 1997-98, **the cooperative sector in India has emerged as one of the largest in the world with 4.88 lakh societies of various types with a membership of 20.58 crore and working capital of Rs.165312.8 crore. Almost 100 per cent villages are covered under the cooperative fold and about 67 per cent of the rural household are the members of the cooperative institutions (see Annex I). The share of cooperatives in the National economy has been summarized in Annex II. It may be noted that the share of Cooperatives particularly in the area of agricultural credit has been**

reported as 46.3%, in sugar production as 54.9%, in Cotton procurement and marketing as 72.9% , in storage as 62% and in handlooms as 55%.

Prevailing Policy of the Government with respect to Cooperatives

Relevance of Cooperatives in a liberalized environment

9. The cooperative sector has played an important role in the economy of the country and has always been recognised as an integral part of our national economy. It has made significant contributions in sectors like agricultural credit, sugar, dairies, textile, fisheries, distribution of fertiliser and other agricultural inputs, storage and marketing. In spite of these significant achievements, it is some times said that **“cooperatives have failed, but they must succeed”**. This statement does not belittle the importance of the cooperative sector, but on the other hand it reinforces the belief in cooperatives and underlines that the cooperative sector could have done much more than what it has achieved so far. Questions are often raised about the relevance and feasibility of cooperatives in the face of burgeoning global competition and declining governmental support. Several events in the recent past have vindicated the adaptability of cooperatives even in a market based economic system. Indeed some of the innate characteristics of a cooperative form of organisation acquire added meaning and significance in the emerging scenario.

10. **Liberalisation seems to have rendered nations to be at the mercy of markets.** This is especially true of underdeveloped/developing countries. As an expert on international trade remarked sometime ago, “as economic growth gathers pace, and moves towards agricultural liberalisation gather impetus, there is a growing danger that these countries will become increasingly dependent upon imports with potentially adverse consequences for rural livelihoods”. **The advance of a global trade regime tends inexorably to marginalise small farmers and other vulnerable sections of the society. In such a scenario agriculture cooperatives whose constituents largely comprise small and marginal farmers have a decisive advantage in protecting farmers’ interests.**

11. The recent alarming suicides by farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra only highlight the extent of influence an unbridled market-based economy can exert on the farmer. Attracted by the prospects of earning sizable return, the farmers made huge investments in terms of seeds, fertilizers and costly pesticides by borrowing from money lenders at usurious rates on crops which they felt will have substantial market demand. Scientific advice on crop varieties suited to the soil, type of pesticides to be used, timing of spraying them and so on was not forthcoming from agro-extension agencies. Unchecked use of spurious pesticides supplied by private traders spoiled the crops and the gamble proved disastrous. The relevance of a dependable farmer-owned and farmer-controlled organisational system integrating production and marketing tasks backed by efficient institutional arrangements could not have been more profoundly demonstrated.

12. That cooperatives particularly those concerned with marketing and processing of agricultural produce are more beneficial to farmers can be buttressed by a number of examples. For instance, take the case of the Gujarat Cooperative Cotton Marketing Federation Comparative Studies show that the Federation has been able to contain its marketing costs between 4 and 7% of its sales receipts as compared to 10-15% incurred by the Cotton Corporation of India. The average share received by farmers affiliated to the Gujarat Federation was 93% to 96% of the sales receipts whereas in the case of CCI, this averaged 87.5%. Further comparison indicates that farmers received below 80% of the terminal price when they sold the produce through private trade but gained a higher share when they sold through cooperatives. **The presence of the Federation in the market ensured competition and as such the private trade had to offer better price to the farmers which they would not have otherwise. The case of Gujarat Federation shows what a federal cooperative can do for its affiliates.**

13. Apart from cotton, there are a number of other agricultural commodities like rice, oilseeds, sugar, fruits, vegetables, spices etc. which have strong competitive advantage in export markets. This has positive implications for agricultural cooperatives. Integrated cooperative enterprises in particular have an advantage as they are designed for procuring raw material through appropriate backward linkages with suppliers, and are at the same time capable of processing and marketing the value-added products through suitable forward linkages with buyers, without incurring undue transaction costs, as demonstrated by the functioning of a number of cooperatives particularly in the dairy and sugar sectors.

14. **Cooperatives will, therefore, retain their relevance for times to come. Practitioners and thinkers on cooperative thought have re-interpreted that the historical attributes of a cooperative – namely, countervailing power, access to capital on favourable terms, scale economies, risk management, and income improvement - provide it with the necessary strength and sustenance to overcome the challenges of a competitive market.**

Structural weaknesses and regional imbalances in Cooperatives

15. **With phenomenal expansion of cooperatives in almost all the sectors, signs of structural weaknesses and regional imbalances have also become apparent. The reason for such weaknesses can be attributed to the large percentage of dormant membership, heavy dependence on Government assistance, poor deposit mobilisation of members, lack of professional management, mounting overdues etc.**

16. State participation in cooperatives, although laudable as a concept seems to have lost its purpose somewhere mid-way. Rather than being selective, the state eventually has become a general partner in all manner of cooperatives right from the primary to the state/national level. **State's equity contribution in cooperatives became disproportionately high as compared to that of members who were in fact to be the owners of the enterprise. The large investments in cooperatives did not fetch the state any reasonable return either. It was therefore, understandable that this policy**

has come in for a lot of critical scrutiny. **There is a growing feeling within and outside the government that the state need not directly involve itself in the equity of cooperatives and should pursue a policy of gradual withdrawal.**

17. The second significant observation is that the *developmental support to cooperatives as a share in the total developmental expenditure of the state has been declining*. Consequently there is a corresponding downtrend in the return from cooperatives to state governments. Less and less support from state governments seems to have had a negative impact on cooperative development and on capital formation in the cooperative sector. On the positive side, this has however led to a rethinking on the viability and self-sustenance of cooperatives.

18. The third important fact noticed is the trend towards liberalisation of cooperative laws which had originally been put in place to meet the regulatory requirements of massive state support. While the earlier laws barred the cooperatives from accepting equity capital and other funds directly from State Government, the new laws passed by Andhra Pradesh and Bihar require cooperatives to raise funds from other sources, including from other State Governments and accord them a measure of autonomy in decision making and governance. Thus there has come to be a situation where some cooperatives may have to cope with multiple laws as the existing cooperative law also continues in these states. This issue needs to be addressed in the National policy on cooperatives.

19. Apart from these, we have other factors like politicisation of cooperatives, presence of a large number of sleeping and dormant cooperative members, emergence of coterie of vested interest groups, inefficient management resulting in wastage of resources and scarce capital and time and cost over-runs, lack of forward and backward linkages, outdated technology, lack of human resource development and unenlightened leadership, increase in overdues, corruption, over capitalisation by cooperative enterprises, lack of commitment to the principles of cooperation, and lack of level playing field for the cooperatives all of which further complicate the situation.

Revitalization of Cooperatives -New Initiatives

20. These developments engender a fresh look into the entire gamut of developmental dispensation available to cooperatives. **New initiatives are required** if cooperatives are to be provided equal opportunities for development, as organisations in other sectors of economy. These include –

▪ National Cooperative Developmental Policy

A **National Cooperative Developmental** policy should attempt to integrate the cooperative policies of various state governments. **In the absence of such a holistic approach in the past, the cooperative sector has witnessed a mushrooming growth of cooperative institutions without any enterprise focus.** Similar unity of purpose should also guide the central and state governments to bring about changes in cooperative laws.

▪ **Dilution of State Equity**

Complete withdrawal of government equity from cooperatives in some cases may not be in the interest either of the state or of the cooperatives. The cooperative policies and laws need to lay down the criteria and boundaries of state support. At the same time, the cooperatives themselves have to move away from state-dependence to member-dependence by repatriating government equity gradually. **The condition of redeemability of government equity needs to be made applicable both on the cooperative and the state government equally.**

▪ **Institutionalisation of State Funding**

“The state could consider transferring the functions relating to development of cooperatives to appropriate institutions. Since at the national level, organisations like National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) already fulfil this role, **institutionalisation is felt necessary at the state level.** Such a measure may not only eliminate the general problems associated with channelisation of funds through state governments – like budget allocation, delays, cost over-runs, under/non-utilisation, lack of accountability etc. but also ensure professionalism in the deployment and end-use of scarce resources. This may also pave way for provision of funds by apex institutions like NCDC by way of refinancing to state-level institutions.”

▪ **Cooperative Equity/Development Fund**

In an inflationary economy, even the best of cooperatives in the best of times find it difficult to muster the required equity capital. This is especially true of agro-processing units where upto 40% of the project cost has to be met by way of equity. This condition, although applicable equally to all units whether they be in the private, public or cooperative sectors, tends to affect the cooperatives the most, since majority of them are established by small and marginal farmers or people of small means whose access to resources is really limited. **This calls for alternatives like the National Equity Fund (NEF) for small and medium industries being operated by SIDBI.** The NEF is utilised to meet the needs of promoters' contribution through interest free loans or loans bearing nominal interest. The recent report of the Expert Committee on Small Industries has suggested further strengthening of the NEF. On the same analogy, a Cooperative Equity/Development Fund can be thought of – both at the central and state levels, from which short-fall in the promoters' equity and other requirements of development can be met.

▪ **Rehabilitation Programme**

The units in the cooperative sector like those in other sectors of economy are equally plagued by the problem of non-performing assets (NPA), sickness, under-utilisation of capacity, inefficiency in technical and financial management etc. **The sick and potentially sick industries have access to statutory reliefs and concessions through institutional arrangements under SICA and BIFR.** Even at the state level some state governments (Rajasthan) are thinking of having institutional arrangements for dealing with sick industries. However, corresponding facilities are not available for units in the cooperative sector. While there should, no doubt, be a clear exit policy for cooperatives which are not amenable to revival, sick cooperatives with a potential for improvement need to be afforded enough opportunities. To this extent, appropriate agencies and funding possibilities may have to be thought of. **This would bring the cooperatives on a level playing field with the units in other sectors.**

▪ **Federal Cooperatives**

In the changing environment, the role and functions of federal cooperatives are becoming important. While agricultural cooperatives in the developed countries are strengthening their federal structure or even experimenting with new forms of higher-tier set-up like holding companies etc. to overcome the challenges posed by globalisation, there is no gainsaying the fact that the federal cooperatives in India need to undergo a role change in similar circumstances. These bodies need to eschew competition with their own constituents. Their future focus should be more on providing consultancy and other support services like business planning, business alliances, exploring new investment opportunities, quality control, product branding, setting market standards, R&D and training and education to member affiliates. The cooperative laws need to be modified to enable federal cooperatives to assume the new role.

▪ **Linkage with Panchayats/NGOs etc.**

With the recent amendment of the Indian Constitution, the village level panchayats have become statutory bodies of self-governance. Responsibilities of the panchayats now include preparation and implementation of schemes for economic and social development of the area. Necessary financial devolution for undertaking these tasks has also been envisaged. Since cooperatives are village level institutions involved in socio-economic development, there needs to be an effective interface between them and the panchayats for better coordination and implementation of programmes. **This would call for re-engineering and revitalisation of village cooperatives.** NGOs and self-help groups (SHGs) have come to play an important role in involving rural poor in various livelihood and income generating activities. For a country like India with a large rural population and rural unemployment, the activities of these base level bodies are of particular significance. Cooperatives which are already widely dispersed in the rural hinterland promise to be ideal institutions for promotion of activities of NGOs and SHOs. The cooperative laws and statutes of promotional bodies, if need be, may be modified to strengthen tie-ups between cooperatives and these bodies.

▪ **Pooling of Resources**

There is an urgent need for better interaction among the cooperatives and the cooperative sector and other sectors of economy for sharing as well as prudent utilisation of scarced resources – manpower, money and material. Such an understanding will greatly help in the vertical and horizontal integration of support services for agro-industrial production processes. In particular, the operations of cooperatives should facilitate formation of partnerships among themselves and joint ventures with private or public sector organisations. If need be, the cooperatives should also be enabled to promote suitable subsidiary bodies or to come together to float holding companies to effectively tackle the challenges posed by the market-based economic system.

▪ **Assistance from International Agencies**

Strenuous efforts are required on the part of Government of India/promotional bodies like NCDC to attract funds and other forms of assistance from international agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, EEC, FAO, ILO etc. for specific developmental projects in the cooperative sector. The international funding agencies should not be unduly rigid on project structure, sophisticated technology or manpower. The emphasis should rather be on efficient and optimal utilisation of natural and other resource endowment available in the country. They should at the same time lend a helping hand to

the efforts of specialised institutions like NCDC engaged in the development of cooperatives. Considering this fact that the cooperative sector has carved out a niche for itself in the world economy, it would be ideal if international cooperative organisations like ICA, other cooperative forums of the world and the national level cooperative unions of various countries consider establishment of an international level funding institution/bank for helping financing and development of cooperatives.

21. Concrete steps are now being initiated by the Government of India to revitalise the cooperatives so as to make them vibrant democratic organizations with economic viability and active participation of members. These include the framing of National Policy on Cooperatives and finalization of a new Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill to replace the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 to address the above issues.

Women in Agricultural Cooperatives

22. It has been difficult for cooperatives to mainstream women. The share of women in the National Cooperative remains very small. Some statistics in this regard are given at annex III. Several initiatives have been taken by the GOI to increase the number of women in cooperatives. Some programmes are detailed below

Women's Empowerment through self help Group Approach

23. In most cooperatives the participation of women is notional and the interest of women often gets marginalised. In order to improve the participation of women in cooperatives the NCUI started an innovative programme of Women's Empowerment through self help Group Approach. In this programme women are first mobilized by forming self help groups (SHG) and then they are given the membership of some cooperative. Members of the SHG are chosen by making a quick survey of the village. Criteria for identification of the target group are women living in the same hamlet, belonging to households having common economic activity and access to common income generating activity. Membership of such groups range from 10 to 20. **Due to the smallness of the group and homogeneity of economic backgrounds, the needs of all members can be served with a sense of purpose and equity.** The entire activity cycle of the SHG i.e. assessment of needs, provision of credit, its appraisal, disbursement, supervision and recovery revolves around the members and builds up their stake in the system. This has the attendant advantage of better performance in recovery. Since the adoption of this approach till date as many as 700 SHGs have been formed with a membership of 9,500 women beneficiaries. For the successful functioning of these groups, collaborative links were established by project officers with the support of cooperative unions, NABARD, Women Development and other Development Agencies. As a result of this programme there is a remarkable increase in the income of the women and they are feeling empowered. The habit of thrift has increased manifold and there is a general improvement in the literacy levels, health, environment and awareness of the group members and the village.

Assistance to Women' Cooperatives

24. A Central Sector Scheme under which **financial assistance** is provided for organization and development of cooperatives, exclusively for women, aiming at their economic betterment was initiated during 1993-94. The objective of the scheme is to focus special attention on the needs of women and provide assistance in the form of assured work and income by organising cooperative societies for taking up economic activities in agro-based commercial/industrial sectors. Under the scheme, 100 per cent financial assistance would be provided by the Central Government to newly formed and existing women cooperative societies. Assistance would be in the form of share capital of Rs.40,000 working capital of Rs.40,000 and managerial subsidy of Rs.20,000. It is a 100 per cent centrally assisted programme in which the members have to raise only 25% contribution towards working capital and share capital. The assistance is routed through the State Government on a project basis and the implementation of the scheme is the responsibility of the State Governments. During the 9th Plan a total budget of Rs.8.50 crore has been provided to assist 850 women's cooperative societies. During 1998-99, an amount of Rs.1.40 crore is provided to assist 140 women cooperative societies. The proposed cooperative societies would be organized/promoted exclusively by women for their welfare. The target group to be covered under the scheme would be women engaged in different economic activities, such as scheme/programmes aimed at economic development of women through training, production, service programme self employment activities, small scale agro-industrial units which may be home-based or centralized.

Cooperative education and training to women

25. The **National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)** which is the apex level cooperative Union is implementing the programme of **cooperative education and training for women** through State Cooperative Unions. During the year 1997, 1.09 lakh women were educated under the womens' education programme. Beside, NCUI is directly implementing 2 exclusive women development projects in selected blocks of Shinog (Karnataka) and Behrampur (Orissa) to improve the socio-economic condition of women. As women's literacy is rather low in rural areas, facilities for cooperative education and training are being provided by NCUI at present in 16 States of the country through lady cooperative education personnel. **These programmes create awareness regarding the potential of cooperatives and assist and guide in their management. Of late the women's cooperative education has been linked up with the socio economic development of women. These programmes have been made development oriented and need based and the major thrust of the programme is on creation of income generating opportunities and diversification of such activities if need be.**

26. **In spite of this women remain marginalised in leadership. While they may at best be conditioned to becoming members they are not conditioned to becoming leaders.** This is the main reason why women refrain from seeking elections to the board of cooperatives. Some other reasons are lack of time, fear of proving incompetent, lack of money incentives as leader's duties are mainly honorary, fear of making decisions which are likely to spoil friends etc. **Several leadership development programmes are**

being run by NCUI to build the spirit of leadership in women members. These programmes while exposing these women to the concepts of development through cooperation, management of cooperatives, teach them skills like formulation of action plans for developing their own societies, prioritisation, ability to get others to listen, ability to communicate effectively etc.

Action Plan for Involvement of Women In Cooperative Development

27. For the involvement of more women in cooperatives as members, elected leaders and users of the services of cooperatives overall change is required in the cooperative legislation, policies and programmes, so that women become a part of the cooperative infrastructure and share its services. The following initiatives can be taken

- **The National Cooperative Policy adopted by the government should include a specific pronouncement in regard to involvement of women in cooperatives and their constructive role in the development of cooperatives .** It should also issue policy direction to the apex level cooperative institutions for taking measures in this regard.
- The cooperative legislation should be supportive and suitably amended by incorporating enabling provisions for involvement of women and also continue with the traditional steps till a specific constituency of women is built up within cooperatives.
- The recommendations made for reservation of seats for women in the Management Committee of Cooperatives should be incorporated in the State Cooperative Societies Acts as has been done in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.
- Organisation and registration of new women cooperatives , admitting women membership in the existing cooperatives including primary agriculture cooperatives should be facilitated. The restriction regarding one member one family in PACs should be removed in case of women membership. A reservation of 30% seats for women should be provided in management committees of all types of cooperative societies. Women SHGs should be admitted as group members in all types of cooperatives especially in PACS and other grass root cooperatives .
- The role of National cooperative Federations in regard to women's participation need to be defined. Each of the federations should formulate an action programme for promoting women's participation in their respective sectors. This involvement should be visualised from primary to apex level societies. In all the National Level Federations a women division should be established for planning and implementation of women development activities in respective sector. Cooperatives should make efforts to promote the unorganised women in the different sector of cooperatives viz. Labour, forestry, dairy, fishery etc. Cooperative institutions should adopt a joint strategy to support gender issues. Cooperatives should provide financial and social support to income generating activities of women. Creation of Women Development Fund at the level of Federal Cooperative Organisations.

- Many of the voluntary organisations have done commendable jobs for the promotion of women cooperatives . Examples may be cited of Self Employed Women's Association (Ahmedabad) Working Women's Forum (Madras), Annapurna, Mahila Mandal (Bombay) and Thrift Cooperative Association (Hyderabad). The expertise of such voluntary organisations should be for the planning and implementation of women cooperative activities. A nexus has to be built up with voluntary organisations and other organisations viz. KVIC, NABARD, DIC, DCCB, DWACRA, TRYSEM which have already devoted themselves for the promotion of women's participation in cooperatives. Such joint and collaborative strategy will ensure increased participation of women in Indian Cooperative Movement. To enhance the quality of women participation in cooperatives , women should be involved in decision making process and provide equal access to resources.

Success Stories

SHGs converted into a Mahila Primary Credit Society(MPCS)

28. The village Arjunpur is only 5 kms from Khurda Town which is now the headquarters of the Khurda District in Orrisa. A kachha and very rough road connects the village to the state high-way. The total families of the village are 300 out of which 260 families are below the poverty line. The tribal and SC families of the village are 58. Paddy is the only crop. No irrigation system is available. The soil is laterite in nature. Children are deprived of middle and secondary education as the village has only one primary school. The village has a post office and a gram panchayat.

29. With this background of the village, the Lady Mobilizer of the project motivated women to form the SHGs among themselves. By the end of December, 1994, 5SHGs having a membership of 75 were formed. Each member of the SHG was required to provide a monthly deposit of Rs.5/-. Further each member of the SHG has been taught how to manage the SHG in a democratic manner. The SHGs over a period of time started to meet the monetary demands of its members. As a result, the members stopped taking loan from the other families of the village by paying a higher rate of interest. The SHGs were able to meet the credit demand of an emergent nature i.e. medical treatment, small business, social function etc.

30. Steps were taken to tie up these SHGs with the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and Banks. For this purpose, many high level meetings were arranged involving the district officials. But to no avail. To provide better services to the members of SHGs, a decision was taken in the meeting of members to convert all the SHGs, into a Mahila Primary Credit Society (MPCS) by enrolling all the SHGS as members and transferring the deposits as the capital of the society. The Ma Mangala Mahila MPCS has since been registered by the ARCS Khurda on 27.4.95 and has 20 objectives. A few objectives stated in the registered bye-laws of the society are given below :

- (i) To accept all types of deposits from members and non-members paying interest at par with the Bank.
- (ii) To provide ST agricultural loan to the members for agriculture purpose.
- (iii) To provide loan for the cottage industry.
- (iv) To provide loan for the dairy, poultry, fishery project.
- (v) To provide long term/medium term loan for agricultural implements.
- (vi) To organise the consumer stores and provide the members and non-members the consumer goods.
- (vii) To encourage the members in cooperation, self-help and thrift.
- (viii) To organise the seminar, camps for health check up and arrange for the education of children.

31. The area of operation of the society is confined to the village Arjunpur. But the bye-laws provide that the area of the society can be extended to other villages of the Gram Panchayat after 2 years. Any woman of 18 and above, residing in the village of Arjunpur, and not a member of any other agricultural cooperative society can become a 'A' class member. The central, state governments and other institutions can be taken as 'B' class members. The society can admit 5% male members as 'C' class members having adequate knowledge in cooperation, social service and who can render service for development of cooperatives. The bye-laws do not provide voting right to 'B', 'C' class members. At present the membership of the society is 110 including the state government as 'B' class members. The society has enrolled 3 members as 'C' class members.

32. The value of one 'A' class share is Rs.5/-, 'B' class Rs.100/- and 'C' class Rs.10/-. **The total share capital of the society at present Rs.1,08,000/-** out of which the Government of Orissa has paid Rs.1,00,000/- during the year 1996-97. The main object of the society is to encourage the thrift habit of members and non-members. The society has introduced the monthly deposit scheme with the rate of interest of 10%. The members are in the habit of depositing every month as no banking services are available within the radius of 5 kms. As such the non-members keep the deposits with the society and draw the saving as and when they need. **At present the deposits of the society stands to Rs.1,38,000/-.** **The society has kept the surplus fund in the fixed deposit with its affiliated bank in shape of fixed deposit of Rs.1,47,121/- and saving deposit of Rs.1296/-.** It is kept at higher rate of interest to safeguard the depositors', interest and create confidence and faith in the society.

33. Women members of the village Arjunpur are engaged in various agricultural or allied income generating activities. The women who used to avail loan on higher rate of interest from other agencies paying interest at 5% or 10% per month pledging their land, utensils, ornaments or standing crop can now take loan on a lower interest rate. The society has recently decided that 50% of the total working capital will be invested among the members each year with rate of interest 1.5% per month, repayable in 10 monthly instalments, keeping the deposits as major security and also with 2 sureties. **The maximum loan limit is Rs.10,000/-.** The loanee and sureties are not allowed to draw their deposits so far the loanee has not refunded the principal and interest of the loan in

full. The loans are given only for income generating activities such as agriculture, small business, sewing machine, house repair, consumer durable goods, tea stall, grocery shop, readymade dress and for its sale centre, procurement of paddy and sale of rice. The society had lent 60 members an amount of Rs.1,83,800/- at the end of August 97. **The monthly payment, due to the society of Rs.76,840/- has been repaid by the loanees. The society has maintained 100% of collection in respect of principal and interest.**

34. The society has earned a net profit of Rs.10,446/- as on 31.8.97 after meeting the establishment cost and other expenditure. It is expected that the total profits during the year 1997-98 would be Rs.30,000/-. The society is functioning in the women centre established by NCUI and has moved the Collector for a piece of land . **This society is now a focus point in the cooperative movement of the state as it is the only women's credit society dealing with thrift and saving in the state.** The Collector, Khurda has allotted 14 acre of Anabadi land in favour of the society for fodder cultivation and social forestry. The Government of India has released Rs.1,00,000/- after getting the recommendation from the Government of Orissa for the society.

35. The society has made an action plan which provides opportunity to appoint 10 persons in the different posts to create business of 21,00,000/- by the end of 1998-99 which includes different income generating schemes for women, dairy scheme, small business, cottage industry, sale of cattle feed and medicine. Steps have been taken to convert the MPCS into a mahila primary coop. Bank with the approval of the RBI. **This will be Ist Mahila Bank in the State.** The growth and development of the society needs the full cooperation of the Central Government, state government, district level agencies and banks. **This society was accorded the best prize by the Chief Minister of Orissa at the state level for its outstanding performance.**

The Self-Employed Women's Association

36. Several innovative organisations have arisen in recent years to assist other "weaker sections," namely women. Most successful of these experiments have been urban and directed at women in the informal sector.

37. One such case is the famous Self-Employed Women's Association (known as SEWA) in Ahmedabad. SEWA demonstrates the remarkable achievements which can stem from innovative and dedicated leadership. Ela Bhatt, the founder of SEWA, worked initially in the women's wing of a textile-workers' union. Starting in 1971, she began organizing women in the informal sector; that is, women transporting goods by head load, working as vendors, as cigarette makers, artisans, etc. The head loaders won better terms from the shopkeepers who hired them, and the vendors and artisans got access to a cooperative bank founded by SEWA (Jain 1980). SEWA has undertaken a wide variety of functions. It identifies and trains grassroots leaders. It has established a number of cooperatives, including a women's cooperative bank. It offers a variety of social services, including maternity benefits, child care and compensation for widows. SEWA also lobbies for legislation that will extend legal protection of self-employed workers.

38. Without the skills, dedication and inspiration which Ela Bhatt provided as an outside volunteers, SEWA might not have been possible. Indeed, efforts to replicate SEWA in other settings have not been very successful so far . This suggests that it may be difficult to sustain such an organisation solely by the skills and efforts of its working-class members. Of course, there is nothing inherently wrong in an organisation being supported by outside contributions of human, as well as financial, capital. But there is always a shortage, relative to the need, of dedicated and effective volunteers; and many such leaders hope that their experiments will lead to self-sustaining organisations of the poor. Thus it is essential to understand what can and cannot be done on a self-help basis.

INDIAN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT AT A GLANCE	
ALL COOPERATIVES (1997-98)	
(Value Rs. In Million)	
Number of Cooperatives (All level)	488,158
(a) Primary Agricultural Cooperatives	136,104
(b) Primary Non-Credit Coops. (All Types)	349,510
- Membership of Cooperatives (All Types)	207.577 Million
(a) Membership of Primary Agrl. Coops	136.248 Million
(b) Membership Primary Non-Credit Coops	51.3298 Million
- Share Capital (All Level & All Types)	116,555.0
(a) Govt. Participation (Credit + Non-Credit)	21.65%
(b) Govt. Parti. In Agrl. Credit Coops	10.5%
-Working Capital (Credit + Non Credit)	1653,128
-Assets of Cooperatives (All Level)	1321,246.63
-Deposits	1056,472.2
-Rural Households Covered	67%
-Villages Covered by Cooperatives	100%
-Number of National Level Coop. Federations	21
-Number of State Level Coop. Federations	361
-Number of District Level Coop. Federations	2,741

Agricultural Credit	1996-97	1997-98
-Production Credit Advanced (ST+MT)		
(a) Short – Term (ST)	Rs.93,280	Rs.110,580
(b) Medium – Term (MT + LT)	Rs.36,160	Rs.33,810
-Investment Credit Advanced (LT)	Rs.18,950.4	Rs.21,000.0
-Total Loans Advcd.(ST+MT+LT)	Rs.148,390.4	Rs.165,390.0

Annexure-II

Share of Cooperatives in National Economy	
-Rural Network (Villages Covered)	100%
-Agricultural Credit Disbursed (NABARD)	46.3%
-Fertilizer Disbursedf (5.809 Million Tonnes)	31%
-Fertiliser Produced (5.932 Mln Tonnes)	20.9%
-Sugar Produced (7.062 Mln. Tonnes)	54.9%
-Capacity Utilisation of Sugar Mills	90.1%
-Wheat Procurement	29.7%
-Jute Procurement (1995-96)	21%
-Retail Fair Price Shops (1,25,200)	28.46%
-Milk Procurement to Total Production	6.7%
-Milk Procurement to Marketable Surplus	10.0%
-Oil Marketed (branded)	51%
-Spindleage in Coops. (3.27 Mln)	10.5%
-Cotton Marketed/Procurement (1997)	72.9%
-Cotton Yarn/Fabrics Production	16.3%
-Cotton Yarn Export	8%
-Handlooms in Cooperatives	55%
-Fishermen in Cooperatives (active)	21.5%
-Storage Facility (Village Level.PACS)	62%
-Soya Been Production	7.5%
-Self Employment Generated for Persons	12.5%
-Salt Manufactured	7.5%

Annexure-III

Women Cooperative	(Value Rs. In Million)	
	1995-96	1997-98
-No. of Cooperatives	8171	8714
-Membership	692,649	897,780
-of which SC Membership	3.2%	2.5%
-Share Capital	Rs.179.3	Rs.204.23
-of which Govt. Participation	26%	12.8%
-Working capital	Rs.1408.1	Rs.2041.39
-Business Turnover	Rs.811.3	Rs.984.48
Value of Product Produced	Rs.126.8	Rs.127.52
-Value of Sales (Total)		Rs.351.13
(a) Raw Materials	Rs.78.66	Rs.79.39
(b) Finished Products	Rs.211.8	Rs.179.94
-Societies Incurred Profit	34.13%	37.9%
-Cost of Management		Rs.170.26
General Information about Women & Youth by the schemes of TRYSEM, IRDP, Indira Awas Yojana & Jawahar Rozgar Yojna Programmes		
-No. of Women Trained	1996-97 1629763	
-% of Women Youth Trained	51.7%	
-No. of en Beneficiaries in IRDP	262026	
-Houses Constructed for Women	43325	
-Employment Generated for Women (Lac/days)	14582.38	
-Employment Assured (EAS scheme)	569.84	

The 4th Asian/African Women Farmer Leadeers Conference
From August 24 to 30, 1999, Tokyo Japan

Country Report
(India)

Presented by
Ms. Manjula Shanker
Honorary President
Savitha Ambedker Mahila
Reshme Mathu Krushi
Belegarara Kshemabiurdhi Sanga

4th International Conference on "Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia & Africa" Tokyo, Japan, August 24-29, 1999 by Mrs. Manjula Shankar.

The suggested Plan of Action for enhancing the participation of women in better-living activities aimed at improving their standards of living and involvement in the development work of agricultural cooperatives.

The urge to get together to form into groups is the basic instinct in all human beings. All human life from the primitive triable savage community to the sophisticated civilisation falls back upon this basic trait of men and women organising into groups in order to achieve their socio economic pursuit. Thus, viewed from this angle COOPERATION literally meaning some sort of a joint economic action on the part of two or more persons began as soon as people began to assemble as social beings. Indian traditional joint family system is an excellent example of practical cooperation. Members of such a family earn and spend jointly, they have common ideas and are joint in food, "worship, estate and work. In such a family there is a sort of voluntary insurance against unemployment and a member who earns little for the common pool has an equal share with others who earn much more. The association is completely voluntary. In such a joint family system though patriarch plays a vital role, the mother in such a family also play an equally important role by assigning work to the women members and also taking care of the domestic needs etc.,

In its modern form Cooperation was introduced in India by the Govt. in order to save people from the evil clutches of Money Lenders and their malpractices. A large lot of the vast majority of the Indian people have since ages been living in villages and depending for their livelihood on agriculture. During all these ages no attention was paid to education. people being illetterate have remained ignorant of development in agriculture and hence involveed in poverty and debt. The habit of savings was not in practice with the majority of the population. Eat, drink and be merry was the acquired habit. On the production side also they would produce only so much as they needed for the consumption in the near future and no more. Moreover, agriculture is a profession in which unforeseen expenditure cannot be ruled out. Failure of crops, natural calamities, cattle mortality, such cases make it necessary for the cultivators to borrow at the one time or the other. During the pre-British period borrowing remained at a very low level because surplus was very little. There is no protection for the Lenders and the machinery for recovering loans did not go beyond social sanctions. Borrowing power of the people was also negligible as they had very little repaying capacity. Value of the land was very little and there was prac-

tically no other property to be offered as security. Normally the amount on debt remained was very small. During British rule value of the property increased and Money Lenders got legal protection. The amount of debt therefore rose higher and malpractices were erept in. The major defect of this indebtedness was that most of the loans were used for unproductive purposes and as a result repayment become a problem. At this stage exploitation of the borrowers started, things began to take a serious turn and people openly raise in revolt against the money lenders. At this juncture COOPERATION was considered a possible remedy and then Govt. started the Movement in the year 1904. But the women cooperatives did not grow evenly throughout the country and it witnessed a very tardy growth.

However, the attainment of independence in the year 1947 and the consequent establishment of National Government in the country came in as a foundation of inspiration in the Cooperative Movement. As per the constitution Welfare State was the declared goal. Therefore, the operation of economic system was oriented towards distribution of wealth evenly. With this idea backg-

around the country decided to go in a planned way. Far- most emphasis was given to the development of Agriculture and Cooperation in all the Plans. The plans aimed at building up "a Mixed Economy" in which the private as well as public sector played an important role. In order to eliminate middlemen at private and public sector, Cooperative Sector was given a high place since it acted as a balancing factor between private and public sectors. Cooperation has the benefit of combining in itself, the freedom and opportunity for the small man with the advantage of "large scale management, it has been recognised as the principal agency of development in various fields such as agriculture, irrigation, small industries, distribution, housing and construction. Thus Cooperative Sector came to be regarded as very vital for the socio-economic upliftment of this country.

In India from times immemorial women have been playing a very vital role in the socio-economic development in any sector. In fact, Indian society regarded women as Gruhalaxmi ie. the Goddess of fortune of a family. We have the instances such famous women like Sarojini Naidu, Vijayalaxmi Pandith, Jansirani, Kasturba Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and such other women who played a very

vital role in the socio-economic, political and cultural transformation of the country. Even today crores of women are engaged in various avocations and contributing their might to the development of the country in general and to the growth of agricultural development in particular in their own way.

Given them due recognition and important positions in the Cooperatives, they can excel themselves in the organisational and management matters.

It is said that the Consumers Cooperatives of Great Britain are proverbial today, because it is the women who play an important part in the procurement, management, distribution and ultimately sale of the consumer goods. It is they who would keep the accounts and who propagates for the business of their "Stores."

In India wherever proper representation has been given to women in societies which are exclusively started for women and run by them have proved to be more successful because of their loyalty and meticulous management.

It is suggested that exclusive areas in the Cooperative Sector may be demarkated to Women Cooperators, so that they can set an example to the others by demonstrating that they can take up any responsibility.

The collective farming societies of Israel cover more than 60% of thier production. Here also Women play a very significant role.

The following Plan of Action is suggested for enhancing the participation of Women in better living activities aimed at improving their standards of living and involvement in the development work of agricultural coopratives:

1. In all agricultural cooperatives 1/3rd of the seats should be reserved for Women Cooperators. The employment also 50% should be reserved to the Women because they can use their common sence in purchases and buy assessing the domestic requirements of the families living in the area of operation.

As already naratted above, the Consumers Stores of England have been sucessfull because of the following factors.

- a) As Womens are playing a very dominant role in management and also day to day work.
- b) They strictly adhere to the Cooperative principals.
- c) They manage good relationship between the Employers and employees.

d) Women are good in savings, therefore they can contain the savings with the work of the societies. This will be advantageous because in this system the Societies will inform fully of shortage of funds.

Wherever women make purchases they can very judicious in not only selecting items but also in making bargains to the best advantage of the Societies.

While selecting the Women Cooperatives at the village level their integrity, intelligence and ability would be indispensable, qualification, the choice of employees.

To attract dedicated women to come forward to work in the Agricultural Cooperatives, the following suggestions have been given:

- 1) Modern methods in the field of personal management should be adopted to the extent possible.

- 2) Rational methods should be adopted in respect of matters like recruitment, training, placement, promotion and remunerative incentives should be introduced to the Women Cooperators and women employees.

3) A regular programme of carrier development should be introduced. For this purpose there should be adequate facilities for job oriented and practical type of training for Women. Financial incentives should also be given to those who work very hard and achieve tangible results. There should be constructive coordination between their male partners at the management level and at the floor level. Their greivances should be separately attended to. Reasonable greivences should be redressed as quickly as possible.

4) They should be provided clean work place, proper safety provisions, insurance benefits, social relations, adequate status and other things to motivate women in doing their jobs better may include:

a) Fair amount of independance, enable them to maintain their status and position freely sometimes by taking risk.

b) Variety in work to avoid monotomy.

c) Recognition for good work.

d) The membership of such societies should be thrown open to Women employees also.

Admission of employees as Members is sure to have a soothing effect of employee and employer relations.

We all know that most of the successful business ventures like Super Bazzars, Mauls and also other markets have become very successful because 75% of the staff consists of women employees, they can attract the customers with their curtesy and they are in a better position to sell the goods.

In village cooperatives also if more number of Women Directors and women employees are involved they can definitely change the facit of the rural life. There should be a system identifying the needs of the Members. If this job is entrusted to Women they can elicit a lot of information from the Women folk who are always available to answer the questionair or schedule given to them. They can also extract their opinion freely and frankly through the women enumarators.

If necessary on experimental basis, exclusive Cooperatives can be tried by organising better living societies exclusively for Women folk.

If all the suggestions enumerated above are employed and due responsibilities are given to the Women Cooperators, the village cooperatives will definitely become model cooperatives without any doubt.

I would like to draw the attention of the participants towards the role generally played in every household by women in 3 capacities as a 'Beloved Daughter, loved better off and a respected mother' of the family which will fetch them a respectable position in the agricultural cooperatives and the members will be happy to listen to them, to work with them and seek their guidance.

Lastly, I would conclude by saying that women in any Cooperative will become a better guide, friend and a philosopher which is an essential quality of becoming a successful and effective Cooperator.

**Country Paper : 4th International Conference
on Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in
Asia and Africa and 21st RECA Seminar,
1999, Tokyo, Japan**

**WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATIVES
IN REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**PRESENTED BY HYE-KYUNG, CHUN
RURAL LIVING SCIENCE INSTITUTE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

**Country Paper : 4th International Conference
on Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in
Asia and Africa and 21st RECA Seminar,
1999, Tokyo, Japan**

**WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATIVES
IN REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**PRESENTED BY HYE-KYUNG, CHUN
RURAL LIVING SCIENCE INSTITUTE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

I . General Information

Location



The Korean Peninsula extends southward from the northeast part of the Asian continent between 33 and 43 North Latitude and 124 and 132 degree East Longitude. The standard meridian of the peninsula is 135, nine hours ahead of GMT. The Amnok river and Tuman river border both China and Russia to north, and Japan is just across the East Sea.

Area and Topography

The total area of the peninsula is 221,607 km, similar in size to that of England, New Zealand. South Korea possesses 45 percentage of the total land mass, and North Korea, the remaining 55 percentage. About 70 percentage of the land is mountainous, mainly to the north and east. Along the southern and western coasts the mountains descend gradually towards broad coastal plains. Most of the rivers have their tributaries on the north and east sides, and flow into the Yellow and South Seas. Concentrated for the most part off the southern coast are upwards of 3,000 islands of various sizes that provide scenery unparalleled in the world.

Political System and Government

Korea is a democratic republic with power centralized in a strong executive president. Regional autonomy has been established since 1995.

On August 15, 1948, the government of the First Republic was born. Kim Dae-jung was inaugurated as the 15th-term President of the Republic of Korea in February 25, 1998. He calls his Administration "the Government of the People." It was created through the first ever peaceful transfer of power between the ruling and an opposition party in the 50 years of modern Korean political history since August 15, 1945.

Korea consists of 1 capital city, 6 metropolitan cities, and 9 provinces with 72 cities (shi) and 91 counties (gun). The capital city is Seoul, which is the political, cultural, commercial, financial, and educational center of Korea (Populations : 10.4 million as of Dec. 1997).

Economy

Since the end of the Korean War in 1953, the Republic of Korea has achieved astounding economic growth, a phenomenon sometimes referred to as the "Miracle on the Han River." The areas of strongest development are still shipbuilding, semiconductors and consumer electronics, although the Korean automobile industry is rapidly gaining a foothold in overseas markets. Korea is aiming to enter the twenty-first century with a restructured industrial model that will allow her to compete successfully in the free world markets. Great strides are being made in opening her traditionally protected markets to outside competition in response to the Uruguay round of trade talks. Korea has been invited to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as the 29th member in 1996.

< Economical Index : as of Dec. 1997 >

- Exports : US\$ 136,160 million
- Imports : US\$ 144,620 million
- GNP : US\$ 437.4 billion (per capita GNP : US\$ 9,511)
- Annual Growth Rate : 5.5%

II. Current Situation of Rural Women in Agriculture

1. Agricultural Situation

1-1. Agriculture as the foundation of the nation

Until the 1960s, Korea was a typical agrarian country, with agriculture generating almost half of its GNP, and employing half of the total labor force. In 1970, agricultural production contributed 23.3 percentage to GDP and the labor force employed in the agricultural sector accounted for 52.9 percent. Agriculture in Korea still has an important role in the national economy, accounting for a relatively large share of GDP(5.8 percentage in 1997) and employment(11.0 percentage), although the share of agriculture has been declining continuously.

Agriculture in Korea is perceived to be the backbone of Korean culture and tradition as well as to be important for security, stability and prosperity of the nation.

1-2. General characteristics of agriculture

The long history of the Republic of Korean agriculture is deeply rooted in tradition, culture and mentality of its people. Agriculture focuses mainly on rice cultivation. This concept dates back more than 5,000 years and continues to be interrelated with the Korean way of life.

The agriculture in Korea is characterized by small owner-operated farms with an average cultivated area of around 1 hectare for several decades. Rice is the dominant crop, accounting for about 30 percentage of the total farm production value. The rising income and population growth have created the increasement in the demand for livestock products, and most farmers are engaged in producing mainly rice in paddy fields, and to some extent, fruits and vegetables in the uplands. Livestock, fruits and vegetables have increased their shares in both food production and consumption. Changes in tastes, life styles, and higher incomes have increased the demands for livestock products and resulted to rapid expansion of livestock output.

Farm income is primarily supported through commodity price stabilization policy. The performance of the agricultural sector in Korea seems meager, in contrast to the successful development of the industrial sector. The agricultural sector has lagged far behind the other sectors because the development priority has been given to those sectors, where growth had contribution to the national economy seemed larger than the agricultural sector.

The farm sector is highly dependent on government support and is not yet prepared for market liberalization. Farm income and agricultural productivity remain relatively low. Over the years, although Korea had become self-sufficient in some major products, Korea continues to be heavily dependent on the agricultural imports.

2. The Changes in Agriculture and Rural life

The agriculture in Korea is still the backbone of Korean culture and tradition, and is perceived to be important for security and prosperity of the nation, although the situation of agriculture and rural life has changed.

2-1. General conditions in agriculture

Farm population has continuously decreased throughout the year as shown in Table 1. Therefore that of in 1997 was 4.4 million, about one-third of that in 1965. Of the 1.4 million farms in 1997, about 60 percentage (0.84 million farms) were full-time farm households depending their income on agricultural activities. The small-sized farm structure has remained virtually unchanged since 1960s and has resulted in an average farm size of 1.3 hectare.

Although major staple food crops such as rice were self-sufficient, the degree of food self-sufficiency was 30.4 percentage in 1997 due to increased demand for other food such as processed food.

Table 1. Major indicators of Korean agriculture

Classification	1965	1970	1980	1990	1997
Farm population (1,000persons)	15,812	14,422	10,827	6,661	4,468
As % of total population (%)	55.1	44.7	28.4	15.5	9.7
Total farm number (1,000persons)	2,507	2,483	2,155	1,767	1,440
As % of full-time farm (%)	90.7	67.7	76.2	59.6	58.7
As % of part-time farm (%)	9.3	32.3	23.8	40.4	41.3
Land area per farm household (ha)	0.90	0.90	1.01	1.19	1.34
Food self-sufficiency (%)	93.9	80.5	56.0	43.1	30.4

Source : MAF, Rep. of Korea, 1998, *Major Statistics of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries*

2-2. Economic conditions of farm household

The income disparity between urban and farm households widely differ, despite of the constant improvements in the economic conditions of farm (Table 2). On the average of living expenses per household, more spends expenses than urban family.

Table 2. Trends in the economic conditions between the urban and rural households

(unit : 1,000won, (%))

Classification	1970	1980	1990	1997	
Farm household	Income	256 (87.7)*	2,693(95.9)	11,026(97.4)	23,488(85.6)
	Living expense	208 (57.9)	2,138(101.5)	8,227(105.5)	17,045(97.7)
	Debt for family	7	112	1,015	1,775
Urban household	Income	292	2,809	11,320	27,448
	Living expense	359	2,106	7,800	17,444

Source : MAF, Rep of Korea, 1998. *Major Statistics of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries*.

* () means the relative ratio of farm household to urban household by %

Moreover, the debt for the living expenses has been rapidly increased in accordance with the income growth. Although non-agricultural income gradually increased with the total farm income, it is very low as compared to other countries (Table 3).

Table 3. Farm household income by source

(unit : 1,000won)

Classification	1965	1970	1980	1985	1990	1995	1997
Farm income (A=B+C)	112	256	2,693	5,736	11,026	21,803	23,488
Agricultural income (B)	89	194	1,755	3,699	6,264	10,469	10,603
Non-agricultural income (C)	23	62	938	1,060	2,841	6,931	8,278
The ratio of non-agricultural income(C/A:%) *	20.5	24.2	34.8	18.5	25.8	31.8	35.2

Source : MAF, Rep. of Korea, 1998. *Major Statistics of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries*.

* Japan 81.0%(1993), Taiwan 64.8%(1990).

3. The Roles of Rural Women in Agricultural Situation

Due to continued industrialization and urbanization, the number of farm households and population has decreased rapidly since late 1960s. As a result of the decrease in total farm population, many changes have occurred in agricultural sector, including labor structure, cropping intensity, farm wage rate, agricultural mechanization and other agricultural inputs. And the decrease in farm labor force has also resulted in greater participation in farming by the old and women, with increasing proportion of the aged and women in rural area. This situation has also led to the expansion of women's roles and activities in the development of agriculture and agricultural cooperatives.

3-1. Increasing participation of rural women in farming

The proportion of rural women, especially old women in farm labor force has increased in recent years. As shown in Table 4, the ratio of female farmers accounted for 51.9 percentage(2.3million) of total farm population in 1997, compared to 50.3 percentage (7.3million) in 1970. Of the total population of rural women, the percentage of rural women 51.9 percentage(2.3 million) of total farm population in 1997, compared to 50.3 percentage(7.3 over 60 of age stood only at 8.9 percentage in 1970, while it increased to 11.6 percentage and 31.8 percentage in 1980 and 1997, respectively. Also the corresponding proportion under 20 of age was 51.5 percentage in 1970, while it has fallen continuously to 43.6 percentage in 1980 and 20.0 percentage in 1997.

Table 4. Rural women's proportion and their trend in farm population

(unit : 1,000 persons)

Classification	1970	1980	1990	1997
<Farm population>				
Total (%)	14,422 (100)	10,827 (100)	6,661 (100)	4,468 (100)
Male (%)	7,164 (49.7)	5,415 (50.0)	3,279 (49.2)	2,149 (48.1)
Female (%)	7,258 (50.3)	5,412 (50.0)	3,382 (50.8)	2,319 (51.9)
<Trend in female population>				
Total (%)	7,258 (100)	5,412 (100)	3,382 (100)	2,319 (100)
Under 20 (%)	3,740 (51.5)	2,359 (43.6)	1,026 (30.0)	465 (20.0)
Over 20~Under 60 (%)	2,874 (39.6)	2,422 (44.8)	1,700 (50.3)	1,117 (48.2)
Over 60 (%)	644 (8.9)	631 (11.6)	656 (19.4)	737 (31.8)

* Source : MAF, Rep. of Korea, 1998. *Statistical Yearbook of Agriculture and Forestry*

3-2. Increasing farm household labor hour of rural women

In addition to the increase in the proportion of rural women, rural women's share in farm household labor hours has grown during the decades (Table 5). In family labor, the proportion of women's labor hours has increased from 30.0 percentage(1965) to 45.3 percentage(1997). This trend of increasing labor hour of rural women shows marked in employed labor and exchange labor. The proportion of women labor hours accounted for 47.9 percentage of total labor hours in 1997, compared to 27.5 percentage in 1965.

The major roles of farm women in rice farming are supplementary planting after machinery transplanting, rice seedbed flat arrangement, sowing, sheaving, dry, and others. We can find that farm women in fruit farming center on simple repetitive works.

Table 5. Women's proportion in farm household labor hours (average per household)

(unit : %)

Classification		1965	1970	1980	1990	1997
Total	Male	72.5	67.4	57.4	52.7	52.1
	Female	27.5	32.6	42.6	47.3	47.9
Family labor	Male	69.7	66.2	58.3	55.4	54.7
	Female	30.3	33.8	41.7	44.6	45.3
Employed labor	Male	82.5	74.0	57.4	44.6	-
	Female	17.5	26.0	42.6	56.4	-
Exchange labor	Male	70.2	65.2	49.5	36.5	35.9
	Female	29.8	34.8	50.5	63.5	64.1

Source : MAF, Rep. of Korea, 1998, *Statistical Yearbook of Agriculture and Forestry*

3-3. Participation in the off-farm employment

Off-farm employment of farm women has played a significant role in well-being of farm family. That is, off-farm earnings supplement low farm earning. Many farm women hope to participate on off-farm employment. But off-farm employment opportunity for farm women is limited.

4. The Barriers of Women's Participation in Agriculture and Rural Development

Farm women's social reproductive roles, such as community activities are restricted by lack of time due to over work and the patriarchal tradition of rural society. But according to social change and support, social activities of farm women have been increased gradually.

4-1. Patriarchal tradition and inadequate recognition of women's role

The women's contribution has not been adequately recognized in Korean society. As a result, although many farm women participate in farming, most farm women have been alienated from farm management and distribution process of agricultural products.

As shown in Table 6, The farm women's participation in decision making on farm management is low and their access to resources such as land is restricted.

Table 6. Participation in decision making

(unit : %)

What to decide	Women alone	Women mainly with men's assistant	Jointly	Men mainly with women's assistant	Men alone
Farming schedule	2.3	2.8	32.3	36.4	26.3
Selection of seeds, breed	1.8	2.8	26.3	35.0	34.1
Buying of farming materials	0.5	1.8	18.9	34.6	44.2
Selling products	1.8	1.8	24.4	38.2	33.6
Buying and selling farmland	0.0	1.4	25.3	31.3	41.9

Source : Mi-Ok Shim, 1997. *A Study on the Status of Rural Women and Its Related Variables*, M.S. Thesis, Seoul National University, Rep. of Korea.

As for participation in farming decision making, there is no item that farm women took the initiative. But the level of women's participation is more increased than before.

The proportion of "Man and women decide jointly" and "Man mainly decide with women's assist" is higher than the proportion of "Man decide alone".

The participation in decision making on agricultural policies is low. Agricultural policies are usually influenced by the opinion of farmer's organization. By the way, most of farmer's organization are mainly consisted of men farmers. Women were considered as only wives or mothers, not as farmers.

4-2. Dual-burden of productive roles and housework

Over-work is a very serious problem in the role performance of women farmers. Women farmers carry out most of housework while considerably perform productive roles.

As shown in the result of survey the conditions for Farmer's syndrome (Table 7), women's conditions were worse than those of man. The proportion of women who had Farmer's syndrome in busy farming season was 26.4 percentage that was almost twice of proportion of men (13.9 percentage). The representative symptoms of Farmer's syndrome are lumbago, shoulder pain, dizziness, sleeplessness, difficulty in breathing, and so on.

Table 7. Conditions of Farmer's syndrome

(unit : %)

Classification		Normal	Doubt of Farmer's syndrom	Farmer's syndrom
Male	Busy Farming Season	40.8	45.2	13.9
	Slake Farming Season	38.8	48.0	13.2
Female	Busy Farming Season	18.8	54.8	26.4
	Slake Farming Season	21.6	56.1	22.3

Source : Rural Living Science Institute, RDA, Rep. of Korea, 1994, *The Report of Research*

4-3. Low level of women farmer's skills on farming machines

The major farm machines in Korea are cultivator, rice planting machine, electric sprayer, combine, binder, tractor, and so on. These machines are utilized in cultivating paddy fields. Besides the level of mechanization for paddy fields farming that men mainly work is 90 percentage above, the level of mechanization for dry fields farming that women mainly work is very low. And most of women farmers lack skills on farm machines. Therefore, the ratio of machines utilization in women farmers is very low.

4-4. Low educational level and inequitable access to training and education

In 1995, the average education level of female farmer was 6.4 years. Although rural women have had higher education from 1980s, most of well-educated young women have abandoned farming. That brings about the low education level of rural female farmers as a statistical result.

Due to the conservation view of family and lack of time and need of women, women farmers have a few opportunity to participate in training and education of agricultural techniques, farm management skills and farm machines skills.

III. The Situation of Women in Agricultural Cooperatives

Although the roles of rural women in Republic of Korea have been enlarged and economic contribution has been increased, the present situation of rural women is still poor. These have acted as factors to distort the life of rural women, so that cooperatives of rural women are required to improve the structural contradiction and inequality. At these point, the cooperative organizations for rural women have very important meanings.

1. The Transition of Rural Women's Cooperatives

In 1957, with the establishment of Rural Home Division as one of the Institute of Agriculture (the Rural Development Administration : RDA) and the setting-up the home economics sections in the Provincial RDAs and the city/county Rural Extension Offices, rural home improvement program(RHIP) was started. As a moment, the Home Improvement Group was established as the organization under RDA to improve the life of rural women in 1958.

The women class, the Mother's Association for Family Planning (belonging to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs) and the Saemaul Women's Club (belonging to the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation : NACF) have been organized from 1967 to 1973.

The Saemaul Women's Club was reorganized by the Prime Minister's instruction in 1977 and managed the projects of the club by self-control. Seamaul Movement was magnified to countrywide.

But, according to weakening the Seamaul Women's Club due to many factors, rural worker desired new organization activity. As the result of that, the Rural Women Leaders' Federation(RWLF) on October 1994, the Rural Housewives' Association(RHA) on July 1996, the Korea Women Farmer Association(KWFA) on December 1989, and the Korean Woman Advanced Farmer Federation(KWAFF) on August 1996 was organized.

2. Current Situation of Rural Women's Cooperatives

Although many rural women participate in rural women's cooperatives such as the Rural Women Leaders' Federation (RWLF), the Rural Housewives' Association (RHA), the Korea Women Farmers Association (KWFA), the Korean Women Advanced Farmers Federation (KWAFF) and Seamaul Women's Club at present, their activities remain poor.

2-1. Saemaul Women's Organization

Establishment and objectives

In 1977, Women's organization in field which was reorganized by order of the Prime Ministry was united and reorganized. As a result 5 parts of division were established as follows : general service division, home improvement division, family plan division, culture guide division, house economics division. The goal of those divisions is based on development of rural area and rural women themselves.

Organization and Activities

Present the Saemaul Women's Club has sub-structure in the provincial, city/county and town levels which have 1,714,850 of members.

According to the pan-national magnification of Saemaul movement, the activities of Saemaul Women's Club were the practice of healthy and thrifty life, regional services, the creativity of income and the education project, in 1980s.

In 1990s they worked for the New Life movement, Home-Saemaul movement, environmental improvement movement and the activity of gathering funds in addition to the activities in 1970s and 1980s. But the activities related to the goal of Saemaul Women's Club at that time was unsatisfactory.

2-2. Rural Women Leaders' Federation

Establishment and objectives

The RDA had managed the home improvement section nominally until March 1989, and the Rural Woman Leaders' Federation and the sub-structures was created on October 1994. The objectives of RWLF is to bring up healthy rural home, to attempt the friendship between members, to make happy regional society with participating in development of rural society spontaneously, and to elevate of status and rights of rural

women and to support rural women successor.

Organization and Activities

The Rural Women Leaders' Federation (RWLF) is consisted of sub-structure such as 1 RWLF, 9 provincial RWLF, 6 Metropolitan RWLF and 151 city/county RWLF. And RWLF has 69,305 members on December 1998.

The main contents of RWLF activities are education service activity, environmental protection activities, income increasement activity and opening of meetings. Among these activities, the educations for the living improvement education and bring up the experts has been acted vigorously.

2-3. The Rural Housewives' Association

Establishment and objectives

The Rural Young Housewives' Association composed of rural housewives less than 45 years of age and the housewives of rural successor was organized by The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation 1994. To magnify the development of the association the provincial and city/country levels of association were established on November 1995 and the national level of association was made on July 1996. After then the age limitation was changed to the Rural Housewives Association on November 1995.

Organization and Activities

The Rural Housewives Association (RHA) consists of the Provincial RHA (13each), the City/County RHA (154each) and the town RHA(1,232 each), the number of rural women participated in RHA is 37,192 (as on December 1998).

As main activities, the agricultural technique management, the education for operation of agricultural machines, agricultural policy for wellbeing of rural women and regional service activities are executed.

And also NACF encourages rural women to join the union and the board to establish the women sub-committee, of union. Furthermore they support to develop regional business and strengthen the education.

2-4. The Korea Women Farmers Association

Establishment and objectives

The Korea Women Farmers Association has initiated from the effort of grouping for the union and independency of rural women's agricultural movement since 1985, and established on December 1989.

The objectives of KWFA are to support the present issue of female farmer in town, county and city for making a life worthy of man and establish the independent organization of female farmer.

Organization and Activities

The Korea Women Farmers Association (KWFA) consists of sub-committee in town, the county and province, and the number of members is 7,221 persons.

The KWFA has carried out the projected of present issue, education, finances, and activities to improve the welfare and the political power of female farmer.

On the whole, the KWFA is distinguished from others by the characteristics of movement group. That is to say, the KWFA proceed the activity of movement level to improve the wellbeing and solve the agricultural women's problems. Unlike to most of regional women's organization carries out the activities of education, services and welfare promotion, KWFA carries out activities in the aspects of movement.

2-5. The Korean Women Advanced Farmers Federation

Establishment and Objectives

The Korean Women Advanced Farmers Federation (KWAFF), which was established after receiving the approval of corporation on August 1996, is voluntary cooperatives and composed of rural women successor and the housewives of rural successor. Its objectives is to contribute to increasing the public welfare by mutual friendship between members, rational and scientific management of agriculture, and acquirement of their rights and improvement of status, successive development of regional culture.

Organization and Activities

The Korean Women Advanced Farmers Federation is composed of union based on regional unit, that is, province, city, county and town and so on. And the number of members is estimated about to 3 millions.

KWAFF works for mutual relationship between members, propagation of agricultural management techniques, living improvement, survey related to women farmer, and women's public opinion, proposal for agricultural policy publishing of many events and journal, education and expression of research content, transfer of international information, interchange of information with related institute, and successive development of cultural products.

Being at first stage of organization, KWAFF is trying to obtain much more members and fee. And they contrive to achieve the financial independence, to specialize the organization, and to reorganize the system.

3. The Problem in the Activities of Rural Women's Cooperatives

Although many efforts have conducted by these organizations, there are many problems in rural women's cooperative.

Structural aspects :

- the insufficiency of financial support
- the interference of government
- the lack of self-growing ability
- duplicated membership

Activities aspects :

- nearly the same program with other group
- the lack of program for leadership training

Membership aspects :

- the low level of education
- the low level of women's participation in agricultural cooperatives
- the lack of women's leisure time by the heavy work
- the aging member and inter-generational gap
- improper compensation for leader's activity
- the lack of consciousness of woman's participation in society

IV. Prevailing Policies of the Government for Rural Women

1. Policies for Women Empowerment in Agriculture

In 1998, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has planned a new framework for rural women. It is significant in that rural women were involved in a target of agricultural policy for the first, since the government of the First Republic of Korea has born in 1948.

Major concepts of this new framework are follows : 1) rural women's labor is

indispensable to solving the food problem 2) recognizing of rural women's great contribution in farming is requisite to keep up of agriculture 3) powerful activities of government, first of all, is necessary for promoting social status of rural women. This new framework sets a goal of main-streaming of rural women.

1-1. Objectives

- Evaluation of the labor of rural women in farming
- Promotion of the social status of rural women.
- Improvement of the living environment of rural women.

1-2. Backgrounds

- Increasing rural women's participation in agriculture accompanied by change of the structure of farm household labor
- Present government's policy with emphasis on maintenance and development of family farm
- Needs of promotion of rural women's social status and development on rural women's abilities in agriculture
- Strengthening acts of main-streaming of rural women
- Promotion of the internal and international cooperation among women organizations around the world
- Meeting the international guide lines related to rural women's roles

1-3. Major contents and activities

- Foundation of the exclusive charge of rural women in government section
- Planning guide lines for specialization of rural women related to their skills and abilities in farming
- Bringing up women farm successor
- Training rural women to apply the agricultural knowledge and technology to farming such as operating agricultural machinery and computer, selecting kind of crop, decision of making on time of shipping, etc.
- Supporting NGOs to be organized by rural women
- Developing various agricultural machinery for women farmers
- Improving the system of rural women's participation in decision making on agricultural policies

1-4. Future plans

1) Short-term (1998~1999)

- Improvement the acts and systems restrained activities of rural women
- Survey on real conditions of rural women
- Inauguration an advisory committee for decision making policies and acts related to rural women
- Preparing an space and opportunities for feedback of policies and consult of their problems

2) Mid-term (1998~2003)

- Bringing up women farm successor
- Developing various agricultural machines for women farmers
- To accelerate the exchange between urban and rural women organizations
- Inviting helper system for farm house affairs and setting up institutions for postpartum care in rural area
- Increasing rural women's participation in varied committees at national and local level
- Investigation the cases of discrimination reference to gender

3) Long-term (1999~)

- To encourage education programs for agreement with the equality of gender in rural area
- Systematic evaluation on rural women's labor value
- Development on training programs for promotion of rural women's abilities (for example : Women's Political Leadership Training)

2. Projects of RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Rural Development Administration(RDA) is the central government organization for agricultural researches and extension services. RDA has 12 institutes responsible for all aspects of agricultural research and education. And RDA has 9 Province Agricultural Research and Education Services, and 157 City/County Agricultural Development and Technology Center, which carry out research and extension services for their respective region.

Voluntary farmer organizations such as the 4-H Clubs, the Rural Women Leaders' Federation and the Rural Leaders' Association have supported financially and operationally since their inception by RDA

The programs of RDA for rural women are Rural Home Improvement Programs and research and education on rural living science carried out Rural Living Science Institute, et.

2-1. Rural Home Improvement Programs (RHIP)

The major projects of the RHIP focus into three categories ; Improvement of home management ability, improvement of living environment, and promotion of farmer's health. There are two basic methods for the RHIP ; The Adult Education Program for rural women and promotion through the Home Improvement Demonstration Villages. A total of 1,380 demonstration villages and 20,700 model households were established nationwide in 1995.

2-1-1. Supporting for income generating activities

The rural Development Administration (RDA) has developed income generating program for the rural women. The program aims to find out a piece of work which suits the rural women's ability, and to provide funds to the rural women groups and consists of supporting funds, training, consulting and marketing. The main contents of the works are the processing, packing and sales of agricultural products, and the production of special products in the local areas. RDA has subsidized 57 projects with national, and 407 projects with local subsidy. The funding support was amounted to 751 millions won (Table 8).

Table 8. State of non-farm income program for the rural women.

(unit : number of projects, million won)

Classification	Total	'90~'94	'95	'96	'97	total
National Subsidy	number of projects	29	9	9	10	57
	budget(million won)	232	139	128	200	751
	budget(million won) per project	8	15.4	20	20	-
Local Subsidy	number of project	307	56	44	-	407
	budget(million won) per project	3~30				-

2-1-2. Education program for development of rural women's abilities

As rural society develops, the role of rural women diversifies and expands. To cope with this trend, the RDA has executed the Adult Education Program for rural women. The education program aims to assist rural women in playing their adequate role in the changing situation, and to facilitate the development of rural society. In the provincial level, the major clients of the program are the key members of the Rural Women Leaders's Federation, and future farmers' wives. The county level program focuses mainly on the housewives in the

Home Improvement Demonstration Households and future farmers' wives. The major contents of the program are home management, labor hygiene, and dietary life, as shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Status of adult education program for rural women

Number of trainees(persons)			budget(thousand won)		budget(per person)	
Classification	'95	'96	'95	'96	'95	'96
RDA	170	190	6,000	9,600	35,294	50,526
Provincial ARESs	1,194	1,409	38,081	52,485	35,900	37,036
City/County ADTECs	181,679	212,435	1,358,054	1,158,536	8,700	7,148

RDA has equipped the education center with various facilities for rural women at the provincial and county levels (Table 10). These have been applied in the different educational programs for the needs of rural women.

Table 10. Status of education center for rural women

(unit : million won)

Classification	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	total
National expenditure	42.6	42.6	42.6	42.6	60.4	60.4	60.4	351.6
Number of centers	12	12	12	12	17	17	31	113

2-1-3. Improvement of rural living environment

The objectives of the rural living environmental improvement project are to reduce the burden of home affairs for farm households, and to make convenient and sanitary environment. The bank loan from the Agricultural Development Funds has been provided to support this project since 1983. The main contents of this project are to improve kitchen and toilets and install bathrooms. As a result, cooking times has been reduced by 20 to 40 percentage and a more cleaner and sanitary environment have been created.

2-1-4. Improvement of farming conditions and health management

According to the result of a survey on farmers' syndrome in the rural areas of Korea, many problems were found out caused by the heavy labors and the poor farming conditions. Therefore, to improve the farming conditions and remove stress by poor farming, the RDA supplied several facilities such as the health management and recreation room for farmer, and the intermediate resting programs in vinyl house, etc (Table 11).

Further, the training programs for Home Extension Agent and the development training

aids for rural women were included in the RHIP.

Table 11. State of the facilities for the improvement of farming conditions

(unit : number of projects, () : subsidy, million won)

Resource	Classification	'90~'95	'96	'97	total
National+ Local subsidy	Health management & Recreation room	-	80(280)	82(287)	162(567)
Local subsidy	Health management & Recreation room	990	169	-	1,159
	Intermediate resting room in vinyl house	1,145	200	-	1,345
	Public resting place for farmers	1,000	239	-	1,239

2-1-5. Supporting for rural women cooperative

Through supporting for the activities of Rural Women Leader's Federation, RHIP contributes in rural women empowerment, that is, RHIP encourages rural policy making and community development and improve the statues of rural women.

2-2. Projects of RURAL LIVING SCIENCE INSTITUTE

National Rural Living Science Institute (RLSI) of RDA is the unique national institute that carry out research and training projects on the rural living science.. RLSI supports RHIP of RDA and women famer's policy of MAF. to improve the quality of life of rural people by development of the capability of rural people especially women.

2-2-1. Brief history and Establishment

In 1968, in cooperation with international organizations such as UNICEF, FAO, WHO, etc., the Applied Nutrition Program(ANP) was started to improve nutritional status of rural farmers who were under nourished due to the Korean war.

In 1978, Rural Nutrition Institute(RNI), the predecessor of RLSI was established with support of government to implement research and survey projects on farmer's nutrition and education program for workers and rural women.

In 1994. RNI was reorganized and extended to Rural Living Science Institute(RLSI) adding the research function on rural life in order to accept farmer's diverse desires due to the increase of income and the change of rural life.

2-2-2. Objectives

The objectives of RLSI are to increase quality of rural people's life through scientific research and survey on rural life, to support improvement of rural women's status and related policy through research and education for rural women, to activate rural community through research on the traditional culture and public value of rural area, and contribute in the balanced national development through prediction of changes in the rural area and development of technology to solve problems in rural community.

2-2-3. The importance of projects carried out RLSI

For balanced national development, policy support for farmers who fell behind in process of economic development is needed because agriculture and rural community are the big axis to maintain the country and place of food supply. Research on rural life is needed to accept farmers' diverse desires, to improve quality of life of rural women, and thus to make the rural area not a place to come back. Research on rural life is very important to increase peoples' quality of life in nation wide because rural area has diverse public functions to converse ecological environment and to give people a place to rest their mind and body. Systematic, continuous, and integrated study is needed to support vulnerable group who has been excluded relatively in policies for farming, welfare, and women, and to support farming policy being changed.

2-2-4. Contents of main projects

In accordance with the change in agriculture and rural women's role, the institute is carrying out various research projects such as development of rural women's ability, supporting for their production activities, development of rural environment, succession of traditional living culture, enhance of farmer's health, increasing the value of farm products, and rural family and home management she main projects of RLSI are researches on living management and food, with the various training programs on rural living science for rural women and home extension workers.

1) Research on development of rural women's ability ;

- Survey on the actual conditions of rural women, the problems faced to present issues of rural life, the degree of women's participation in farming, the risk of women's work in farm, etc.
- Identity the variables related in the problems of rural women, the factors of the farmer's syndrome like as lumbago, dizziness, a pain in the shoulder, and the trends of women's role change at rural area

- Evaluation on women's labor value, what labor is consisted of farm labor and home labor
- Data base on the information involved in their problem solving and common knowledge of acts, policies, skills, technologies, other projects related to agriculture
- Seminar or symposium on the promotion of quality of rural women's life and welfare of rural family, the improvement of social conditions of rural women, the upgrading of rural women's social status, the cooperation of various rural women's organizations, the policies planning for rural women, etc.

2) Research on Improvement of rural women's living environment ;

- Study on the home living environments and farming conditions for women
- Survey on the status of farmer's syndrome and healthcare at rural area with five years
- Development on the health care programs, farming aids and facilities for reduction labor loads of rural women
- Suggest the models of rural housing and dwelling space

3) Research on rural dietary life and nutrition ;

- Nutrients analysis of food, cooked foods, new crops, and publication of "National food composition table" with every five years
- Survey on the level of farm population's food intake and nutrition with every five years
- Development computer software programs on self-diagnosis and consultation of dietary life and nutritional level
- Improvement production technology and knowledge related to food processing for member who extra income generating activity groups are consisted rural women
- Data base on traditional foods and their recipe and restoration of tradition cooking methods

4) Education and Training ;

- Adult education & training on income generating activities of rural women
- Development training programs on leadership, computer operating skills and other abilities of rural women
- On-the-job training and professional training for home extension worker

5) Others ;

- Support the references and indexes for planning policy connected with rural women
- To Cooperate other organizations, groups and institutions of rural women
- Offer some data, papers, publications, annual reports and other informations to researchers, students, professor and everybody who want to learn of rural women

V. Summary

Although the roles of rural women in Republic of Korea have been enlarged and economic contribution has been increased, the current situation of rural women is still poor. These have acted as factors to distort the life of rural women, so that cooperatives of rural women are required to improve the structural contradiction and inequality. At these point, the cooperative organizations for rural women have very important meanings. Their activity has made little progress, despite many rural women participate in rural women's cooperatives such as the Rural Women Leaders' Federation, the Rural Housewives Association, the Korea Women Farmers Association and the Korean Women Advanced Farmers Federation.

To overcome the barriers of women's participation in rural development, the new policy framework for rural women has planned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry(MAF) of Republic of Korea at the level of government, too. And the Rural Home Improvement Program of RDA and the Rural Living Science Institute support the policy of MAF.

In the future, the participation of women farmers will be enlarged as leaders of community organization, and women farmers will act as leaders of community organization. The exchange of rural women groups with those from the urban sector in the international affairs will be activated.

The 4th Asian/African Women Farmer Leaders Conference

From August 24 to 30, 1999, Tokyo Japan

Country Report

(Malaysia)

Presented by

Ms. Che Salmah bt Ishak

Cooperative Treasurer,

Koperasi Kaum Ibu

1 THE BACKGROUND OF THE COOPERATIVE

Name : Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Berhad
Address : Kampung Lubuk Batu , Mukim Pelubang, 06000 Jitra, Kedah.
Registration Number : Bil LPP9B)20/ Id. 8
Date of Registration : 1967
Number of Members : 416 Women only
Capital Share : RM 203796.78
Area of Transaction : The whole of Malaysia
Board of Directors : 12
General Manager : Puan Hajah Hasinam bt Md Isa

2 THE HISTORY OF THE COOPERATIVE

- 2.1 The cooperative was started in the year 1955 with the idea from a few society leaders in a small village, Kampung Lubuk Batu, in the state of Kedah. Some of society leaders mentioned are Haji Ramli bin Mehat, Haji Ishak bin Saad, Hajah Hasinam binti Md Isa and Hajah Che Pian binti Ismail. The main objective of the cooperative was to give loans to the members for starting work in their padi field. The farmers have to pay the tractors to plough their land, to buy seedlings and to pay the fee for those who help to plant the seedlings.
- 2.2 The cooperative started with about a hundred members with the total capital fee of about RM 3000 . The capital was collected from the members. The cooperative was then registered in the year 1967 by the name of " Syarikat Kerjasama Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Timur ". After registration the cooperative

widens its activities. Apart from giving loans to members, they started a retail shop, digging and selling of river sand for making buildings, breeding cows, buying and selling rubber and planting and curing tobacco leaves.

2.3 In 1996 the cooperative was reregistered and its name was changed to "Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Berhad". The business activities has been extended to the buying and selling of rice not only to the members and local society but throughout Malaysia, The cooperative also opens two restaurants in the town nearby to give employment to members and their children. It is also involved in the contract work and other activities. The cooperative keep on growing until it is rewarded with many awards by the state and the federal government.

3 GOALS OF THE COOPERATIVE

Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu had fulfilled the wishes of members in various aspects, such as :

- to obtain decent amount of profits and to declare dividend to the members.
- to create employment opportunities to members, their children and the members of local society.
- to give credit support to the members to help them start their work .
- to train members to do business

?
what
U414

4 THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COOPERATIVE

4.1 Retail Shop

- to supply goods to members and the local society
- to give rebate from the profit obtained to members
- (to buy rubber sheets and scrub rubber, dried them and sent them to the local factories) *to market members' rubber produce*

4.2 Wholesales of rice

- the most important activity of the cooperative now. Started on a small scale in 1971 by selling rice to other nearby sundry shops in the state of Kubang Pasu.
- It is widen when it gets the tender to supply rice to the FELDA and the Ministry of Finance. (schools, army camps, hospitals, etc)
- the cooperative gets its supply of rice from BERNAS and other local factories.

4.3 Curing of Tobacco Leaves

- the cooperative has 14 tobacco barns in Kampung Bukit
- the leaves are obtained from the tobacco planters (members) around the village
- production quota 33 300 kilograms
- 50 workers (members and children, local societies)

4.4 Restaurants

- the cooperative opens two restaurants in nearby towns (Bandar Darulaman and Jitra)
- 30 workers

4.5 Contract Work (Class B and F)

- Contract work to clean the water reservoir in Kampung Lubuk Batu and Pehubung and to maintain the surroundings
- to clean the riverside around the area of Kubang Pasu
- to supply building materials to the PPRT project
- buildings contracts

4.6 AFMY Enterprise

- started in 1995
- joint venture with the PPK Lubuk Batu and two other members
- to supply furniture such as tables, chairs, cabinets and other furniture to Guthrie Furniture Sdn. Bhd.

4.7 Loans to Members

- for members to start work in their agricultural activities especially padi planting
- the loans are release twice a year during the padi season

WORKING PAPER FOR A COFFEE GROWING PROJECT.

1. AIMS.

This Paper is tabled for consideration and approval of a grant from the Canada Fund to venture into a Coffee Planting Project undertaken by "Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Bhd." (Kubang Pasu Women's Co-operative Movement).

2. INTRODUCTION.

2.1 BACKGROUND OF THE MOVEMENT.

This Co-Operative Movement was formed in 1967 by a group of bumiputra (indigenous) women. The membership now stands at 416 and is still growing. The Movement's activities is administered by a Board of 12 Directors who are appointed at its annual general meeting. The Co-operative was established for the purpose of:-

- a) To open avenues to participate in various businesses;
- b) To uplift the economic status of rural women;
- c) To create job opportunities for members and their siblings;
- d) To generate dividends (profit) for its members;
- e) To eradicate poverty and unemployment among its members.

2.2 PRESENT ACTIVITIES.

- a) Sundry shops business
- b) Buying and selling (retailing) staple food (rice);
- c) Business dealings on rubber sheets and scraps
- d) Tobacco retailing
- e) Restaurants and food outlets
- f) Providing soft loans to farmers to till their land
- g) Religious classes for members and employees of the Co-operative

2.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE CO-OPERATIVE.

- A) To emerge as one of the Bumiputra Women's Advanced Co-operative Movement in Business ventures;
- B) To create work opportunities for local residents and plan of action to improve their economic livelihood
- C) To contribute towards national aspirations
- D) To create awareness and to train local women in Business Administration on various fields.

2.4 ADDRESS.

"Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Bhd."
Kampung Lubuk Batu,
Mukim Pelubang,
06000 Jitra. Kedah Darul Aman.
Tel: 604-9171470; Fax : 604-9176166

5 Cooperative Assets

5.1 8 units of shophouses and an office in Kampung Lubuk Batu

5.2 3 units of double storey shop houses (lot 67, Jitra complex, lot 29, Bandar Darulaman and lot 54 Pekan Jitra II)

5.3 A unit of residential house (lot 161 , Taman Setia Jaya, Jitra)

5.4 42 acres of agricultural land in Mukim Derang

5.5 Vehicles

- A unit of HINO lorry (14000 kg capacity)
- A unit of Toyota HIACE lorry
- A unit of Nissan Vanette
- A unit of pickup van

6 Investments

- The cooperative has also invested in many local companies such as the KUB, HICOM, ASK, FACB, DAMANSARA, BERNAS and a few other companies with the total sum of RM 73 794.95.

7 Awards

The cooperative has been awarded with many awards by the state and the Federal government in many categories from 1975 to 1995 :

- First Category in the SKS Progressive in the state and national level in the year 1975, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1981 and 1983.
- First category of ' Unit Ahli Jaya' in the state and national level in the year 1989 to 1995.

3. CIDA CONNECTION.

- 1) A grant of RM20,000.00 was received from CIDA in 1989 in the form of instruments and materials for a cottage industry to bind books. Information of such a financial grant existed was provided by Malaysian Prime Minister's wife Datuk Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali. The book binding project came to an abrupt stop after three years.
- 2) This came about when the trained staff resigned en masse when they were offered better paying jobs in industrial sector during its boom time. Suitable replacements were not found. The related implements for book binding are lying idle now.
- 3) To add to its woes the co-operative stores were submerged in flood waters for more than a week at a stretch on two occasions in the past three years resulting in stock piles of rice being destroyed and the Book Binding equipments being spoilt.

4. PROPOSED PROJECT.

The Co-operative Movement proposes to venture into growing coffee crops on a large scale on a 30-acre land with advise and co-operation of the district Agricultural Department and the Food and Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA).

5. ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT.

5.1.1 The Kubang Pasu Women's Co-operative as the land owner will oversee and manage the project.

5.1.2 Members of the movement will be paid a nominal sum to clear and prepare the area for planting the crops. They will:-

- Clear the land area
- Sow the seeds
- Maintain the farmland and manure the plants
- Supervise from day to day on the overall running of the project.
- Harvest and process the product for marketing
- Pay dividends to its members from the profits

6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

The Board of Directors has nominated its Chairman to be fully responsible for the success of the Coffee Project. In addition a Project Manager will be appointed on a full time basis to manage and maintain the project. He will work closely with the respective Government Agencies. The addresses of the Agencies are:-

Agricultural Department - District Agricultural Office,
Kubang Pasu, Jitra
(Tel: 604-9171285)

FAMA Office - FAMA Officer,
Padang Terap district,
Kuala Nerang
(Tel: 604- ?)

7. COMMENTS ON COFFEE PLANTING.

- a) The idea to go into Coffee planting was decided by the Board of Directors as a means to generate income for its members;
- b) The soil and environment of the land was considered ideal and suitable for this project.
- c) The forecast of better profit compared to other crops was one of the reasons.

8. VARIETY OF COFFEE SELECTED.

On the recommendations of the Agriculture Department and FAMA the co-operative movement selected 'Coffee Conephora' as the type to be grown because the soil at the land in question was suitable and ideal and the size of the plant was suitable to the environment and provided a better yield.

8.1 PLANS FOR PLANTING.

- Plotting of planting areas in Januari 1999
- Clearing of site and manuring in April 1999
- Revenue expected in three years from date of planting and the life expectancy of the crops is 15 years
- Eight employees will be recruited as planters/harvesters
- They will also be responsible for manuring the plants regularly and take care of them during their growth
- The workers will be paid on a daily basis and will be assessed from time to time

8.2 PROJECT COST.

The estimated cost of getting the project off the ground is:

- Clearing the land	RM1,800.00
- Cost of hiring a Tractor	RM3,000.00
- Digging holes for the plants	RM1,200.00
- Planting process	RM3,600.00
- Cost of seedlings	RM1,200.00
- Workers' emolument	RM4,200.00
- Manager's allowance	RM6,000.00

Total cost RM21,000.00

8.3 PROJECT SITE.

The project will be carried out at Kampung Bukit, Mukim Derang near Sungai Wang Tepus in the district of Kubang Pasu.

9.0 THE AIMS OF THE PROJECT.

- A) To benefit its members and the inhabitants of Kampung Derang
- B) To provide extra income for them whose dependence had been on meagre income of RM100 a month from rubber and rice only.
- C) Co-operative members will earn an annual bonus from the profits derived from the sale of products
- D) To encourage individuals to venture into such schemes on a smaller scale on their own plot of lands using their experience derived from participating in the Co-operative Movement's scheme.

10. BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME.

- Henceforth neglected land will be put to good use
- Unemployment will be reduced
- Productivity will be increased
- To make individual land owners aware of the possibility of turning their lands to churn out other produces
- To enhance the economic status and improve the standard of living of the people in general.

1 THE BACKGROUND OF THE COOPERATIVE

Name : Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Berhad
Address : Kampung Lubuk Batu , Mukim Pelubang, 06000 Jitra, Kedah.
Registration Number : Bil LPP9B)20/ Id. 8
Date of Registration : 1967
Number of Members : 416 Women only
Capital Share : RM 203796.78
Area of Transaction : The whole of Malaysia
Board of Directors : 12
General Manager : Puan Hajah Hasinam bt Md Isa

2 THE HISTORY OF THE COOPERATIVE

- 2.1 The cooperative was started in the year 1955 with the idea from a few society leaders in a small village, Kampung Lubuk Batu, in the state of Kedah. Some of society leaders mentioned are Haji Ramli bin Mehat, Haji Ishak bin Saad, Hajah Hasinam binti Md Isa and Hajah Che Pian binti Ismail. The main objective of the cooperative was to give loans to the members for starting work in their padi field. The farmers have to pay the tractors to plough their land, to buy seedlings and to pay the fee for those who help to plant the seedlings.
- 2.2 The cooperative started with about a hundred members with the total capital fee of about RM 3000 . The capital was collected from the members. The cooperative was then registered in the year 1967 by the name of " Syarikat Kerjasama Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Timur ". After registration the cooperative

widens its activities. Apart from giving loans to members, they started a retail shop, digging and selling of river sand for making buildings, breeding cows, buying and selling rubber and planting and curing tobacco leaves.

- 2.3 In 1996 the cooperative was reregistered and its name was changed to "Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Berhad". The business activities has been extended to the buying and selling of rice not only to the members and local society but throughout Malaysia, The cooperative also opens two restaurants in the town nearby to give employment to members and their children. It is also involved in the contract work and other activities. The cooperative keep on growing until it is rewarded with many awards by the state and the federal government.

3 GOALS OF THE COOPERATIVE

Koperasi Serbaguna Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu had fulfilled the wishes of members in various aspects, such as :

- to obtain decent amount of profits and to declare dividend to the members.
- to create employment opportunities to members, their children and the members of local society.
- to give credit support to the members to help them start their work .
- to train members to do business

?
about
UCIU

4 THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COOPERATIVE

4.1 Retail Shop

- to supply goods to members and the local society
- to give rebate from the profit obtained to members
- (to buy rubber sheets and scrub rubber, dried them and sent them to the local factories) *to market members' rubber produce*

4.2 Wholesales of rice

- the most important activity of the cooperative now. Started on a small scale in 1971 by selling rice to other nearby sundry shops in the state of Kubang Pasu.
- It is widen when it gets the tender to supply rice to the FELDA and the Ministry of Finance. (schools, army camps, hospitals, etc)
- the cooperative gets its supply of rice from BERNAS and other local factories.

4.3 Curing of Tobacco Leaves

- the cooperative has 14 tobacco barns in Kampung Bukit
- the leaves are obtained from the tobacco planters (members) around the village
- production quota 33 300 kilograms
- 50 workers (members and children, local societies)

COUNTRY PAPER

MALAYSIA

FOR:

**4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATIVE**

&

**21ST RECA SEMINAR
JAPAN**

24 AUGUST- 6 SEPTEMBER 1999

PREPARED BY :

**JAMILAH BINTI DIN
COOPERATIVE COLLEGE OF MALAYSIA
103, JALAN TEMPLER
PETALING JAYA
SELANGOR
MALAYSIA**

**RUZLEINA HAJI RAMLY
FARMERS ORGANIZATION AUTHORITY
KUALA LUMPUR**

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN MALAYSIA

1. **General Scenario Of The Cooperative Movement in Malaysia**

The cooperative movement in Malaysia was first introduced in 1922 by the British as a means of tackling widespread indebtedness of rural farmers and government servants. Since then, the movement has been regarded as a benevolent institution to alleviate the social and economic status of the less privileged section of the Malaysian society. The Department of Cooperative Development has since been entrusted with the responsibility of developing and expanding the movement under the Cooperative Societies Enactment (FMS Cap. 97) of 1922.

The 1922 Enactment has been repealed and replaced by the Cooperative Society Act 1948 (Act 287) for Peninsular Malaysia, Cooperative Society Ordinance, No. 3/1958 (Sabah) and Cooperative Society Ordinance (Cap. 66 of the Law Of Sarawak). In 1982, the declaration of the New Cooperative Era by the Ministry of the National and Rural Development, was to overcome irregularities in the management of certain cooperatives. The new Cooperative Society Act 1993 (Act 502) is now in force in Malaysia replacing the Act & Ordinances of Sabah and Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.

The Federal Malay States Posts and Telegraphs Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society Limited was the first cooperative society registered in the Malay State. The cooperative movement expanded rapidly in the 1970's especially after 1973 when the Department of Cooperative Development was directed to concentrate only on non agro based and non fishery-based cooperatives.

In Sarawak the cooperative movement started in 1949 and 10 years later in 1959, the cooperative movement started in Sabah. Their development has been quite encouraging and now plays an important role in the upliftment of the socio-economic status of the indigenous group.

Initially all cooperatives, regardless rural, urban, agro or fisheries' based came under the supervision of the **Cooperative Development Department**. However in the seventies, the rapid growth of the cooperative movement and its manifestation in the general economic development of the nation made it necessary for the government to introduce measures for the continued healthy progress of the movement. The **Farmers' Organisation Authority** was set up in 1973 to look after the agro-based cooperatives while the **Fisheries' Development Authority** took control of fishermen's cooperatives in 1974.

As at December 1998, there were 3933 registered cooperatives under the supervision of the Department of Cooperatives Development, 467 agro-based cooperatives and 1 Malaysian Fishermen Investment Cooperative (fishery-based in nature) registered with the Farmers' Organisation Authority and Fisheries' Development Authority respectively.

Currently cooperatives in Malaysia (non agro and fishery-based) have ventured into various sectors of the economy like housing, consumer, credit and banking, insurance, land development, transportation, investment and industry. The provision of cash loans and the financing of purchase of consumer goods for members, continued to be and remained as the main activities of the cooperatives, generally. Table 1 shows the statistic of cooperatives by functions:

Table 1: Cooperatives Statistic By Function

Function	no of coop	%	members (thous)	%	Shares capital (mill)	%	Total Asset (mill)	%
Credit/banking	448	11.4	1580.9	37.7	2270.5	66.0	8700.0	66.9
Housing	85	2.2	59.0	1.4	58.2	1.7	402.5	3.1
Consumer	2176	55.3	1681.3	40.1	218.3	6.4	950.5	7.3
Transport	430	10.9	164.3	3.9	45.5	1.3	217.7	1.7
Insurance	1	0.03	318.7	7.6	44.1	1.3	887.8	6.8
SMI	58	1.5	25.4	0.6	6.5	.19	95.5	0.7
Construction	186	4.7	33.6	0.8	5.9	.17	135.2	1.04
Services	327	8.3	309.2	7.4	537.4	15.6	666.3	5.1
Plantation	222	5.6	19.3	0.5	253.8	7.4	944.8	7.3
Total	3933		4191.8		3440.2		13000.3	

Source: Cooperative Development Department

Housing and property development are the major investment activities of medium sized cooperatives, while cooperatives located in the land development scheme (FELDA and FELCRA) are intensively involved in supporting services to the plantation activities. However, most cooperatives choose multipurpose function as their business feature, ie undertaking a number of business activities at a time. Table 2 below gives the business turnovers of cooperatives.

Table 2: Cooperatives' Business Turnover (1995 -1998)

Function	1995 (RM mil)	1996 (RM mil)	%	1997 (RM mil)	%	1998 (RM mil)	%
Credit/banking	1984.07	2725.79	37	3133.09	15	3601.26	15
Housing	231.85	96.58	-58	67.54	-30	47.23	-30
Consumer	596.80	769.28	29	874.18	14	993.39	17
Transport	18.96	16.51	-13	19.89	20	23.96	20
Insurance	142.38	164.15	15	205.19	25	256.49	25
SMI	142.18	143.4	0.9	164.83	15	189.46	15
Construction	6.11	7.91	29	5.42	-31	3.71	-32
Services	90.62	54.3	-40	46.81	-14	40.36	-14
Plantation	206.85	145.58	-27	51.79	-64	34.06	-34
Total	3419.82	4123.5	20.5	4568.74	10.8	5189.94	13.6
% increase	-	20.5%		10.80%		13.60%	

Source: Cooperative Development Department

Year 1997 and 1998 were the 'painful' year for Malaysian economy. Performance of the general economy were in bad shape due to the economic crisis faced not only by Malaysia but other countries in the region. While the Malaysian government was trying to address the problem, cooperatives seem to sustain their business performance. Consumer cooperatives managed to have an increase in their business turnover in 1998 by 3%, the rest are just maintained.

2. **Malaysian National Policies And Rural Development**

The rapid economic growth in the Asian Pacific region is anticipated to stimulate the economy of Malaysia. In anticipation of future population growth and increase in per capita income, a transformation of the structure of the Malaysian economy has been envisaged. This transformation is befitting and in line with the national aspirations as embodied in the *Vision 2020* and in the *Malaysia the Way Forward* in ushering in the era of modern technology and skilled manpower.

In this regard, the Ministry of Rural Development has taken the national cue by bringing about a paradigm shift in its philosophy and its rural development strategy in meeting the nation's future needs and aspirations. The shift from infrastructural development emphasis to human development through sustainable economic development by the Ministry is in itself an indication of its continuing effort in eradicating illiteracy, poverty, lack of economic opportunities and unequal access to various pertinent inputs (such as economic, financial, training and skills development) with particular reference to rural population.

The new thrust of direction in rural development is to transform both the physical and the human development aspects. From physical aspect, rural areas would be developed into progressive, attractive and profitable ones through commercialization and collective group farming which are to be undertaken by the Farmers' Organization or private companies. From human development aspect, it is also the goal of the new philosophy and Rural Development Strategy to develop quality rural population who are skilled in the use of technology.

As outlined in the Macro Strategy of the Seventh Malaysia Plan, the thrust of the development is towards productivity driven growth with poverty eradication as one of its prime aim. Rate of poverty is expected to be reduced to 5.5% in the year 2000 with the concentration on areas that have a high rate of poverty.

To expedite the achievement of the new Rural Development philosophy and the strategy within the time frame that has been set, an Action Plan toward the second transformation of rural development has been concretized into an organized plan to translate the seventh initiatives outlined in the new philosophy and strategy in the form of policies, strategies, programmes and projects including the methods of implementation. As a follow up, many new programmes were introduced to support and expedite the effort.

3. Profile Of the Rural Malaysian Women

Women comprise 50% of Malaysian population. The 1995 statistics showed that there is a decline in rural women's employment in the agriculture industry. Only 37.4% of the rural women worked in this sector, compared to 69.2% in 1980. However, by occupational employment there is an encouraging sign of an increase in rural women's participation in the manufacturing sector. The year 1995 recorded the highest rate (26.3%) of female employment in the manufacturing, compared to 1991 (22.6%) and 1980 (12.5%). General improvement in the educational attainment and job opportunities in the market place have provided more venue for women to make economic contribution, besides their traditional contribution in the household production or housework.

In the rural areas, the role of the women in housework is still predominant. About 61.8% of rural women outside the labour force have never worked before and they fall mainly in the age range of 15 to 35 years (Department of Statistics, 1995). Rural women who are outside the labor force are mostly fulltime homemakers (78.2%) and only 18.1% were still schooling (Department of Statistics, 1995).

Just like any other Developing Countries, rural women especially among poor households in Malaysia have been actively involved in the agricultural activities as unpaid family workers. Some studies have shown that the main responsibility in livestock farming and vegetable gardening was assumed more by women than by men. Despite high involvement of the women in agriculture and home production, the incidence of poverty is still prevalent in these areas.

4.. Poverty Eradication And Rural Women

The Sixth and Seventh Malaysia Plans have addressed and promoted the participation of women in national development. As a follow up, most government agencies have specific programmes/projects for uplifting the social well-being and socio-economic status of rural women. A large allocation of RM 2.4 billion has been set aside in 97/98 budget (economic report 97/98).

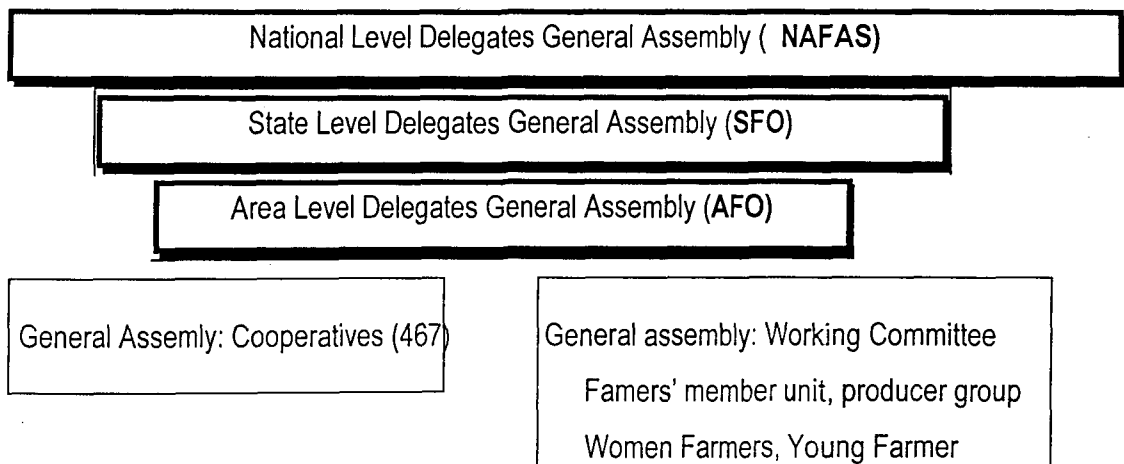
Poverty eradication program is aimed at improving the living conditions of women and families from the deprived state. For Malaysia, there is a need to develop programs to enhance the rural women's role in the mainstream development. The women and the families in who are not in the poverty cycle, need to be further equipped with marketable skills to improve their level of living. Studies have shown that the involoment agencies such as Department of Agricultural, KEMAS, RISDA, FELCRA, FOA have contributed significantly to increase of about 35 percent of the family income and improved level of living of families through their women's enhancing group.

The women's group are named Smallholder Women Group (PWPK) ,under RISDA Extension Group (KPW) under Depatment of Agriculture, Women's Farmers Group (KPW), under Farmers' Organization Authority. FELCRA has WADIRA and Community Development Division (KEMAS) and Felda has their women's group too.

5. The Role Of The Farmers' Organization Authority

The Farmers' Organization Authority (FOA) is a statutory agency under the Ministry of Agriculture, specifically responsible for registering, controlling and supervising the farmers' organization. FOA also acts as the development agency to promote, stimulate, facilitate and undertake the economic and social development of farmers' organizations. FOA plays an important part in galvanising the largely unorganised and inefficient small farmers in rural areas by promoting their participation in farmers' institution. Its major task is to set up and develop Farmers Organization (Fos) at the area, state and national level towards self reliance. The structure of three-tiered FO's movement is as below in table 3.

Table 3: Structure of Farmers Association



FOA in mobilising, organizing and activating small farmers' resources (land, labour and capital) collectively through FOs to increase farm productivity, is meeting the Ministry's specific and National Agricultural Policy's overall objectives to maximise farmers' income from the production of food (eg. rice, vegetables, beef, poultry, dairy product, fish, etc.) and primary commodities (eg. oil palm, rubber, cocoa, etc.)

6. The Agricultural Scenario related to the Agricultural Cooperative

The growth of the Agricultural Sector is relatively slower compared to the other other sectors of the economy. Its share to overall GDP is expected to decline further from 12.7% in 1996 to 12.2% in 1997 and 10.3% in 2000.

Area Farmers Organisation has played a beneficial and effective role in providing agribusiness services to farmers actively involved in agricultural activities. AFOs role is especially felt in area where there is intensive agriculture. In such area services that AFOs offer is clearly needed by Farmers.

In areas where Agricultural activities are less intense, AFOs level of agribusiness and farmers' participation is relatively much lower. This is especially so in areas where little cash crops are planted and where farm activities do not involve frequent tending of their crops, such as in the case of matured rubber areas. The situation is much better in area where such farmers also undertake cash cropping as supplementary activities, involving such crops as bananas maize, tobacco etc.

Currently, there are 282 Farmers' Organisation registered with FOA. 69 are supervised by the state authority, and 213 FOs under the jurisdiction of FOA. Table 4 shows the classification of the farmers' organization as at December 1998.

Table 4: Types Of Farmers' Organization

Type of farmers' association	Code	Number	Authority
National Farmers' Organization	NAFAS	1	FOA
State Farmers' Organization	PPN	12	FOA
Area Farmers' Organization	PPK	200	FOA
KADA-Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority	PPK	13	KADA
MADA- Muda agricultural Dev.	PPK	27	MADA
Dept.Of Agriculture Sarawak	PPK	28	DOA
DOA - State	PPN	1	DOA
Total		282	

Source: Farmers' Organization Authority 1996

At the area level, membership is made up of individual farmers grouped under the farmers' unit and institutional member via agro-based Cooperative Society Member units of the AFO. The AFOs then become members of the SFO which in turn are

members of NAFAS. The election of the members in the board at each level is in accordance with democratic principle practiced by cooperatives.

In general the FOs main activities are:

- I. Agricultural production; crop, livestock
- II. Agribusiness; input supplies and consumer goods
- III. Small scale industries; rice milling, food processing handicraft.
- IV. Transport and farm mechanization, construction work
- V. Agricultural Credit and loan facilities
- VI. Realty and securities
- VII. Other services; saving, insurance, utilities

For Fos in MADA ,KADA and DOA their economic and social development are undertaken by the respective authority and in accordance to their own plan and priority. For example Fos in MADA and KADA, they are closely tied with the paddy plantation, being the national 'rice bowl' region.

7. The Involvement Of Women In The Farmers Organization

The involvement of women as members of the Farmers Organization play an important role in FOS movement. Usually, they are hardworking and trusted group. Since 1985, the women participation is 16.9% of the total membership. This number increases to 21.3% in year 1995, showing that the women participation will continue to increase in the future. Women involvement in the Fos in meaningful as supporters towards Fos progress. Data involvement of women in Fos is as follows:-

Table 5 : Involvement of Women in Fos

YEAR	TOTAL MEMBERS	% increase	NO. women members	% women members	TOTAL SHARE	*TOTAL SHARE OF WOMEN MEMBERS
1990	340,911.00	10.7	63,782.00	18.7	12,782,632.00	2,391,238.00
1991	357,271.00	4.8	69,709.00	19.5	14,786,010.00	2,884,975.00
1992	372,522.00	4.3	74,126.00	19.9	16,907,831.00	3,364,391.00
1993	380,560.00	2.2	77,279.00	20.3	19,177,136.00	3,894,234.00
1994	387,473.00	1.8	79,433.00	20.5	20,850,717.00	4,774,452.00
1995	421,546.00	8.8	89,610.00	21.3	24,801,318.00	5,272,131.00

In decision making women in rural areas are becoming more confident to hold leadership posts and also able to influence the management staff for the movement of Fos. Their involvement in leadership can be seen in the following table:

Table 6: Women in Decision Making Group

No.	Post	Total Member	No. of Women	Percent
1.	Representative from small unit to F.O	16,860	2,100	12%
2.	Board of Directors	1,470	133	9%
3.	Board of Directors S.F.O.	132	7	5%
	Total	18,462	2,240	

8. Recognition Award For Successful Farmers

Farmers' Day was initiated in 1975 and the 6 August was conferred as the National Farmers' Day celebration by the late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak. The celebration was launched to give recognition to the contribution by farmers toward the national food production. Presently, the celebration has been renamed as *Hari Peladang, Penternak dan Nelayan (Farmers' Day for farmers, livestock rearers and fishermen)*. Until 1998, 112 women have received the Successful Farmers Award. This is only organization that awards recognition to women farmers.

9. Government Policies in Agricultural Cooperatives

In promoting and enhancing the prosperity of Farmers Institution/ agricultural cooperatives, government have underline several policy under National Agricultural Policy

- i) Selfhelp, self improvement and attitudinal changer to spearhead innovations and active participation of Farmers/Fishermen Associations and Agro-based cooperatives in the modernization process of Agricultural Development.
- ii) To established a Financial Institution effectively to meet the current and prospective credit needs of Farmers'/Fishermen's Institutions.
- iii) Farmers'/Fishermen's Institutions-specific Human Resources Development Program. To meet the increasing need for capable management and technical personnel inorder to run the institutions on a self reliant and self-financing.
- iv) The formation of Federation of Farmers, Fishermen's Institution

10. Women Organizations/ Cooperatives

- 10.1 As an individual member of the community, a women can do very little to promote the status of the women in the community, but when women are properly organized into groups they are able to interact and communicate with members of group, share experiences, express their needs and also identify the resources that they require.

10.2 A report from the Department of Cooperative Development indicated that there were 45 exclusively women cooperatives in 1994 with 13,611 members with share capital RM2,834,466. Most of these cooperatives were involved cooperative, transport, multipurpose and others. In total, women representing 31% of the cooperatives membership in Malaysia.

It was reported that in the same year (1994), 250 women organization were registered with the Registrar of Societies and 150 of them were quite active. Majority if not all of the organizations are located in the urban areas. There are efforts to mobilize rural women by government and semi-government implementing agencies (mentioned earlier) through women's group activities. However majority of women's groups in the rural areas are not registred body, therefore their activities and respresentations are limited to certain conditions within the context of the respective agencies.

Table 7 shows agencies involved in women organizations, their number, memberships and representations at the village and is in Department of Agricultural with 1,146 Women Extension Group (KPW) with 32,195 members in 1995. While FELDA has 324 women associations with 113,000 members.

Table 7: Implementing Agencies, Name and Members of Women Organizations and Their Representatives at Village Area and National Level

Agency	No. of Organizations	No of Member	Represtative Level (Village, Area, National)
Farmers Organization Authority	142 Kumpulan Peladang Wanita (KPW)	35,282	Village and Area
Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA)	324 Gerakan Persatuan Peladang (GPW)	113,000	Village (Scheme) Area (Kawasan National (JKPP) (13 BOD*)
Agriculture Department (DOA)	1,146 Kumpulan Pengembangan Wanita (KPW)	32,195	Village Level
FELCRA	97 WADIRA	9,629	Village Level
RISDA	660 Kumpulan Wanita Pekebun Kecil (PKWK)	1,647	Village/ National (1 member as BOD*)

10.3 With regards to decision making is the quality of involvement of women within the context of village development, is basically social and welfare in nature. As such there is little scope for leaders to make important decisions that can affects their livelihood such as economics participation, and control of resources.

11. Government Policies For Women

- 11.1 There is no discrimination against women in Malaysia. Women have the right to be in education, medical health, job opportunities as well as obtaining loans. Infact there are 2 women in the cabinet (Minister) a few holding posts of Deputy Ministers and Parlimentary Secretaries. In the Government sector women are heading Ministers as the Secretary General and heading Depaartments as Heads of Women - HAWA formally as Division under the Ministry of Social Services, now upgraded as a Department.
- 11.2 The Government has endorsed a National Development Plan for Women and agrees to adopt the resolution pased during the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination. Against Women during the Beijing Convention in 1995. Some of the Strategies adopted by the Government are:

12.0 Cooperative Education And Training

Cooperative College of Malaysia (CCM) was set up in 1956 with the aim to provide formal education and training to cooperatives members and board members. In the early days CCM was funded by the Colonial Welfare and Development Fund. However, in 1968, an Act of Parliament was passed incorporating CCM as a Statutory body. Since then, CCM is borne by the cooperatives movement in Malaysia by way of a statutory contribution of 2% of the net profit to the Cooperative Education Trust Fund.

In line with the function of the CCM to develop and promote cooperative education and training to meet the needs of cooperatives in the country as well as the personnel of the Government agencies supervising cooperatives, the role of the CCM therefore can be summarised into four main areas:

- I. Conduct courses in the field of cooperative, such as law, business management, finance, accounting and information technology.
- II. Provision of consultancy services to cooperatives

III. Publication

IV. Conduct research pertaining to cooperative

The training programme conducted basically based on adult education oriented with the audio visual support. This is to ensure the effectiveness of every programme conducted. Periodically, CCM conduct courses at the grass root level. Chronologically, there has been consistent change in the strategies used by the college to achieve the above objectives. As the number of cooperatives grew together with their membership and activities, thus it had become inevitable for the college to adapt and update its teaching materials, technique and approach.

Table 8: below shows the CCM's course participants from the year 1996-1998

TYPES OF COURSES	1996		1997		1998	
	male	female	male	female	male	female
Cooperative law and admin.	506	74	303	89	241	84
Business Studies	339	141	363	98	212	104
Account and audit	335	249	324	270	216	192
Computer	233	206	283	176	167	126

The courses and training provides by the college are usually tailored for the Board Members of cooperative and staff of cooperative at managerial, supervisory and clerical level. For the cooperative staff, the training are basically on job in nature. About 70% of the training in the college is programmed for board members and 30% for the cooperative staff.

From the table 8, it can be seen that the participants for every course are mostly men since they are to most number who are elected as the board members seat. Women shares only a small ratio compared to men in the courses designed for board members. However for courses like account and computer, women seem to be equal with men. These types of courses are fomulated for clerical level; and most women work as clerks in cooperative.

The courses programmed for cooperators in general are short in duration ie from three(3) days to one (1) week. These type of courses are designed to suit the cooperative board members, staff of cooperatives and government officers. Concurrently, college runs long programme course (1 year) for those who are interested to pursue the Diploma In Cooperative Management. The College also provide a distance learning programme for those who want to master in cooperative . This Master in Cooperative Management is awarded by the Leicester University of the United Kingdom and College is the tutorial center for the programme.

At the international level, College was given a task to conduct cooperative course for the African, Asean and Asia-Pacific countries under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). This is a five week course residential at the College and is fully sponsored by the Malaysian Government. This Certificate in Cooperative Management course was first introduced in 1984. So far about 224 (1998) participants from 49 countries (excluding Malaysia) have benefited from the programme. Table 9 below shows the data of the number of participants for the programme.

Table 9 : Number of Participants (1984 - 1998)

Year	No. Participants
1984	17
1985	15
1987	15
1989	19
1991	20
1992	17
1993	18
1994	21
1995	19
1996	23
1997	20
1998	20
TOTAL	224

Apart from the above mentioned course, periodically, college also conducts courses for the local cooperators in collaboration with international resource person in the area of cooperative such as ILO-COOPNET. We believe that this type of arrangement, will create a multiplier effect more effectively.

In year to come, college is planning to give equal emphasized in research as to become a resource centre for the Asean Pacific Region.

Beside CCM , other department like Farmers' Organization Authority (FOA), Fishery Development Authority (FDA) are also conduct training for cooperators either on their own or jointly with CCM. ANGKASA the apex organization for the cooperatives movement is also actively involved in providing education. Education needs amongst cooperatives are usually so vast that it would be virtually impossible for CCM to cope with them.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 Malaysia has its own National Policy for Women and this women in mainstream development. Approches in policies for women is **people-centered**.
- 12.2 Participation of women in economic activities are emphasized through the development of micro enterprise as to enhance their capabilities to become successful entrepreneurs are will utilized.
- 12.3 Lastly women in decision making is also an area of emphasis for rural women in Malaysia. Women need the opportunity to be emprowered both at village , area and national level. They need knowledge and skills to be good leaders and make effective decisions.

Distribution of Participants (1984 - 1993)

<u>Country</u>	<u>No. of Participants</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>No. of Participants</u>
1. Brunei Darussalam	10	2. Bangladesh	3
3. Bhutan	3	4. Botswana	2
5. Bosnia Herzegovina	1	6. Cambodia	3
7. Cook Island	2	8. Egypt	11
9. Fiji	9	10. Gambia	8
11. Ghana	6	12. India	1
13. Indonesia	13	14. Iran	2
15. Iraq	2	16. Jordan	3
17. Kiribati	3	18. Laos	1
19. Lesotho	2	20. Malawi	2
21. Malaysia	6	22. Maldives	4
23. Mali	3	24. Mauritius	7
25. Mongolia	1	26. Morocco	5
27. Myanmar	7	28. Nepal	7
29. Nigeria	1	30. Pakistan	7
31. Papua New Guinea	5	32. Philippines	8
33. Port Louis	2	34. Senegal	1
35. Singapore	4	36. Solomon Island	3
37. Sri Lanka	11	38. Sudan	3
39. Syria	1	40. St. Lucia	1
41. Swaziland	1	42. Tanzania	1
43. Thailand	11	44. Tonga	4
45. Turkey	1	46. Tuvalu	4
47. Vanuatu	6	48. Vietnam	2
49. West Indies	1	50. Zambia	2
51. Zimbabwe	2		

Total no. of Participants
1984 - 1993

224

Kingdom of Morocco
Ministry of Agriculture
Rural Development and Fisheries

AGRICULTURAL WOMEN'S COOPERATIVES IN THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

- 4th International Conference of AARRO (Tokyo, August 23-29th, 1999)
- 21st RECA Seminar (Tokyo, August 30th-September 7th, 1999)

Khadija EDOUBLALI
Department of Education, Research and Development
Division Of Agricultural Extension

WOMEN AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Morocco covers an area of approximately 442,000 square kilometers (71 million hectares) and has two distinct geographic regions: the agriculturally fertile coastal plains of the northwest and the economically poorer mountain and plateau regions of the east and south. In both of these areas, farmers practice agriculture - they grow cereal, citrus products, fruits and vegetables in irrigated croplands. In the more arid regions, they practice traditional nomadism of extensive animal husbandry. Relying on the rainfall to produce food supplies for both human and animal consumption, over 2 million households are dependent on agriculture. Among these, approximately 51% rely on rainfall crop production usually associated with animal husbandry.

I- THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN MOROCCO

The cooperative movement in Morocco has been important in the history of development of agriculture, food distribution, housing, banking, fisheries, handicraft and many others domains.

In 1997, there was registered a total of 3,753 agricultural cooperatives, with 267,996 members.

The following table illustrates the number of agricultural cooperatives and their increase:.

Year	Number of Cooperatives	Increase in Percentage
1993	3170	
1994	3208	19.1%
1995	3413	39.6%
1996	3583	5%
1997	3753	

In Morocco, women make up more than 50% of the rural population. They have multidimensional roles. They are actively occupied with domestic responsibilities as well as agricultural production tasks. It is quite common to find women involved in at least one type of handicraft and household skill geared toward the generation of supplementary income for the home.

II- WOMEN'S COOPERATIVES IN AGRICULTURE

As in many countries, in Morocco rural women's work is very important; studies estimate that women contribute 84% to the maintaining of the household. Women are in charge of keeping houses, bringing water (only 6% of rural population has access to running water) and wood, raising children, feeding and taking care of domestic animals and working in the fields.

The women's cooperatives are especially located in both rural areas and on the outskirts of cities. Small animal husbandry is the main activity of these cooperatives. There are 37 women's cooperatives in agriculture, which represent 36% of the total number of cooperatives in Morocco.

The following table shows the distribution of these cooperatives.

Type of projects	Number of cooperatives	Percentage
Apiculture (Beekeeping)	12	30.77%
Supplying	1	2.56%
Aviculture (Chicken Breeding)	4	10.26%
Dairy	3	7.69%
Cuniculture (Rabbit Breeding)	1	2.56%
Animal Husbandry	16	41.03%
Multi-Functional	1	5.13%
Total	39	100,00

The types of projects listed above do not require lot of financial resources.

Nevertheless, an acceptable capital and an appropriate technical training are critical for the success of the project.

You will notice that the Apiculture (Beekeeping) and the animal husbandry cooperatives represent 71% of the existing agricultural women's cooperatives. These two kinds of projects are the result of a close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Office of Development and Cooperation (ODCO), the National Union of Moroccan Women (Union National des Femmes Marocaines, UNFM), and other national and international organizations.

The 12 apiculture cooperatives which include 200 members, were created with the UNFM's support, in the form of training assistance and materials.

Table showing the distribution of women's agricultural cooperatives by region:

Region	Number of Cooperatives	Percentage
Chaoui- Ouardia	3	7.69 %
Doukkala-Abda	-	
Fes-Boulmane	-	
Gharb-Cherada-BeniHssen	2	5.14 %
Guelmim-Smara	1	2.56 %
Laayoun-Boujdour-Sakia	1	2.56 %
Al Hamra		
Casablanca	-	
Marrakech-Tensift-Al Haouz	3	7.69 %
Meknes-Tafilalet	16	41.03 %
Oued Eddahab-Lagouira	-	
Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zair	4	10.26 %
Eastern region	1	2.56 %
Souss-Massa-Draa	3	7,69 %
Tadla-Azilal	-	
Tanger-Tetouan	4	10.26 %
Taza-Al Houceima- Taounat	1	2.56 %
Total	39	100,00%

From this table we can see that the region of Meknes-Tafilalet has the most women's agricultural cooperatives with 41% of total cooperatives, and the highest number of members (441 women).

This situation infringes upon the efforts of national and international organizations, notably in the domain of ovine breeding.

III- THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IN WOMEN'S COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Agriculture has recently changed its general focus in order to better address the needs of the rural population. For many years, the direction has opted for the decentralization of many sectors within Moroccan agriculture and the transfer of activities and resources to local collectives. The objective is to create new poles of development in order to reach more of an equilibrium and to have the rural population participate in its own development and thus to better integrate agriculture into the national and international economic environment.

The Ministry of Agriculture whose main goal is agricultural development, training of agricultural engineers and young farmers, and technical guidance of farmers, is paying particular attention to the improvement of the agricultural cooperatives, especially women's. Through its specialized departments, the Ministry is responsible for orienting, coordinating and determining technical needs and the following up of cooperatives.

Some of the main objectives of the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture are to improve the number of rural women's cooperatives, to promote and to strengthen them through legal assistance building relationship with donors (micro-credits) and training in organizing of trips to other cooperatives and extension sessions. In addition, the Department aims to introduce appropriate technology in order to increase efficiency.

The department also seeks to find new ways to encourage rural women to share their experiences so that the cooperative model will spread to other areas.

Most importantly, we believe that the improvement of rural women's condition can not be reached without including men in these programs. Sharing and understanding the project, men are encourage to support these initiatives instead of standing against them as in the past.

Moreover, the department thanks to "Credit Agricole", an Agricultural Loan bank, encourages the micro-credit organizations. However, since there are not enough micro-credit organizations working in rural areas, most women have to borrow money from banks. At which point, the Department will organize training sessions to advise women and explain to them the process.

IV- SUCCESSFUL STORIES OF RURAL WOMEN'S COOPERATIVES

1- Rabbit breeding "Cuniculture":

- **Massouda Rabbit Breeding Cooperative:**

This Cooperative was created in Sebaa Ayoune (Meknes) with the cooperation of the French Fund Department and the Chamber of Agriculture in Meknes.

90% of the funding was provided by the French Department of Development to purchase materials, rabbits and train members at the Skikima school of rabbit breeding in Temara (near Rabat).

Massouda's cooperative includes 31 women and girls. The local was provided by another male cooperative to allow women to work within a formal framework (most women are male cooperative members wives). The women were in charge of feeding rabbit and taking care of them as well as cleaning the cages.

In spite of the low education level of the members, their lack of experience and management skills and their ignorance of the rabbit breeding field, we can say that the cooperative was successful.

- **El Ksiba Rabbit Breeding Station:**

The objective of this cooperative was to introduce rabbit raising and knowledge of proper breeding techniques in the Beni Mellal province. The project consisted of breeding a healthy initial stock of rabbits that could be sold cheaply to female residents of El Ksiba and the surrounding area. This project also aimed to improve any existing rabbit breeding techniques in the area through appropriate extension activities.

This project was administered by the National Union of Moroccan Women (UNFM) in conjunction with the Provincial Department of Agriculture in Beni Mellal which provided the building and paid the costs of electricity and water for the facility. The Ministry of Agriculture provided the initial stock of rabbits to establish the breeding community.

The women Used the income from the sale of the breeding stock's offspring to maintain the operation. Rabbits were weaned and sold at about three months.

An ongoing evaluation of the project was conducted to ensure efficacy of implementation, and progress toward achieving the desired goals. The health and success of the breeding stock was regularly monitored and records were maintained in order to assure progress and allow for selection of improved stock. Extension agents also made regular home visits.

2- Small Animal Husbandry:

• Rural development project in Tafilalet:

This project was implemented to introduce the practice of ovine breeding of D'Man in the Errachidia province. The D'Man is a local species that has the special characteristics of breeding twice a year and reproducing up to five lambs during each breeding period. This ovine breeding cooperatives were created in 1987 within the framework of a project collaboration between the UNFM, the Union Nations Funds for the Development (FNUAP), and the Regional Department of Agriculture in Tafilalet (ORMVART). This project focuses on impoverished women in the Errachidia province in order to help them improve their lifestyle and assure an income generating activity. Thus, every member is given one sheep on the condition that she agrees to give to the cooperative two sheep after three years, in order to extend the benefit to other future members.

The benefits include:

- * Essential nutrient source: sheep meat for consumption.
- * Extra income for household needs.

- * New professional skills for rural women.
- * Solidarity: bring women together in structured cooperatives.

The members of this cooperative have the following characteristics:

- 92% are illiterate.
- 72% are divorced or widowed.
- Each women has an average of 4 children.

Currently, there are:

18 cooperatives (issued from the first cooperative)

513 members

3,460 sheep

14 extension agents

The positive impact on the rural women:

The women are at ease with their new knowledge. The status of D'Man breeding has improved in the area, and is considered by many inhabitants to be viable income generator (every member makes 250 dirhams per month) and nutrition source .

3- Argan oil and honey production:

• Tissalliwine's cooperative:

This cooperative was created in 1997 by 25 women. It was founded thanks to the German GTZ Organization, within the framework of global conservation, protection and development of Argan tree program.

The cooperative members benefited from technical training to get more skilled.

The cooperative's main activity was the Argan oil production. And as direct consequence of the success of the project, women decided to extend to apiculture.

The main problem was the participants lack of education and experience, most members were illiterate. also they had no management experience.

Nevertheless, Currently the women are trying to get their own local, and collaborating with other agencies to find new markets for their products.

CONCLUSION

To overcome the challenges related to the ongoing liberalization of the Moroccan economy and the subsequent competition from abroad, the Ministry of Agriculture assists the small scale producers in grouping their efforts and work within cooperatives. The Ministry also helps these producers to integrate the local and the international markets. Future is encouraging for cooperative development in Morocco.

Finally, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed special programs, projects and policies to improve and promote women's cooperatives in agriculture.

NINTH ICA - JAPAN TRAINING COURSE
FOR WOMEN LEADERS
OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN ASIA
TOKYO, JAPAN
(AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 11, 1999)

COUNTRY PAPER

Submitted by:

1. DAW YEE YEE CHO

Secretary-Director

Shwe-Se-Tun Agricultural &
Livestock Breeding Coop, Ltd.,

2. DAW KHIN MAW THET

Lecturing tutor

Sagaing Co-operative Regional College,

(Participants from the Ministry of Cooperatives, Union of Myanmar.)

CHAPTER ONE

General Information on the Country

The Land, Location and General Physical Feature

01. Myanmar, a developing country in South-East Asia, is known as the Golden Land not only for its golden pagodas, but also for its rich natural resources. Geographically, it is located between latitudes $9^{\circ} 58' N$ to $28^{\circ} 31' N$ and longitudes $92^{\circ} 10' E$ to $101^{\circ} 11' E$. It has a total area of 676,577 sq km, sharing common borders of 5858 km, with Bangladesh and India on the North West, China on the North East, Laos on the East and Thailand on the South East. It has a total coastline of 2832 km. It stretches from 2090 km from north to south and 925 km from east to west at its widest points. The capital is Yangon, a port city.

02. Myanmar is also a forest-clad mountainous country. Three parallel chains of mountain ranges, a continuation from the Himalayas run from North to South. They are known as the Western or Rakhine Yoma, the Bago Yoma and the Shan Plateau. The snow-capped peak of the Hkakabo-Razi at 5881 metres is the highest in South East Asia. These mountain chains divide the country into three river systems, the Ayeyarwady, the most important river, about 2170 km long, and its major tributary the Chindwin, 960 km long, constitute the greatest riverine system in the country. The Ayeyarwady enters the sea by forming a vast delta of 240 km by 210 km.

03. According to these mountain chains and river systems, the country can be divided into seven major topographic regions: the Northern Hills, the Western Hills, the Shan Plateau, the Central Plains, the Lower Myanmar Delta Region, the Rakhine Coastal Region and the Tanintharyi Coastal Strip.

04. Myanmar has a tropical monsoon climate with three distinct seasons: the hot season from mid-February to mid-May, the rainy season from mid-May to mid-October and the cool season from mid-October to mid-February. Annual rainfalls vary from 500 cm in the coastal regions to 75 cm and less in the central dry zone. Mean temperatures, range from $32^{\circ} C$ in the coastal and delta areas to $21^{\circ} C$ in the Northern lowlands. During the hot season, temperatures could run considerably high in the central dry zone.

05. The population that spreads over Myanmar's Seven States and Seven Divisions was estimated at 46.9 million in 1997. With an annual growth rate of 1.84 percent the population will grow to 49.01 million in the year 2000 AD. Myanmar is a union of many ethnic nationalities, as many as 135 ethnic groups with Bamars who make up to 68.96 percent of the population.

06. The main agricultural products can be classified into Seven groups. These are :-
- (a) **Cereals** - rice, wheat, maize and millet.
 - (b) **Oil Seeds** - groundnut, sesamum, sunflower, rape and mustard,
 - (c) **Food Legumes** - black gram, green gram, butter-beans, red beans, soya bean, pigeon peas, chicken peas, cow peas and others.
 - (d) **Industrial Crops** - cotton, jute, sugar-cane, rubber, tobacco, etc.
 - (e) **Food Crops** - potatoes, onions, garlic, chillies, vegetables and spices.
 - (f) **Plantation Crops** - tea, coffee, cocoa, coconut, oil palm, bananas and other fruits.
 - (g) **Miscellaneous** - crops such as non-edible medicinal herbs.

CHAPTER TWO

Status of Agriculture in the Country

07. The economy of Myanmar is highly reliant on agriculture, and the Agriculture Sector not only occupies a dominant position in the development of the national economy, but also has definite bearing on other socioeconomic activities. Since the development in agriculture sector will enhance the socioeconomic development of the country, the government has designated agriculture as the main pillar of the economy and dedicating tremendous efforts to achieve greater progress in this sector.

08. The Agriculture Sector contributes 38 percent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its share in terms of foreign exchange earnings stands at about 40 percent. About 65 percent of the total labour force is basically engaged in agriculture. Thus, the Agriculture Sector reveals its importance on the country's economy.

09. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has laid down the following guidelines for agricultural development and has committed continuous efforts for its achievements.

- to permit agriculture production freely;
- to expand agricultural land and safeguard the rights of farmers;
- to permit economic production of industrial crops, fruit trees and perennial crops to the private sector;
- to permit participation of the private sector in the production of agriculture machinery and inputs.

10. The three main objectives of the Agriculture Sector are -

- to produce paddy not only for self sufficiency but also for export;
- to produce sufficient oil seed crops;
- to increase production of pulses and beans for export and industrial crops for local industries.

11. With the aim of achieving these objectives, the following strategies have been adopted and being implemented.

- development of new agriculture land
- provision of adequate irrigation water
- provision and support for increased agriculture mechanization
- acceleration of technology transfer
- development and utilization of high yielding quality seed.

Total Land Available for Agriculture

12. Myanmar has a vast potential of land resources for cultivation. For further expansion of the cultivable land totalling 67.6 million hectares, only 9 million hectares or 13.34 percent is under cultivation. There is also a great potential for further expansion of mixed and multiple cropping areas, especially in Lower Myanmar where the moisture content of soil and water availability are much better than in Upper Myanmar. Since a total of about 18 million hectares is estimated suitable for agricultural purposes, some 10 million hectares of more new land classified under fallow and culturable waste land can be brought under crop cultivation and livestock farming.

Land Holdings

13. Under the present situation, land is owned by the State and farmers have the right to till on it. The System is still working well, but is being under revision to be in line with the prevailing market economy for greater development in the agriculture sector. Generally, farm holdings are small. Land holdings larger than 20 hectares are rare, as the majority of the peasant families are working on less than 4 hectares of land.

Farm population

14. From the total population of 46.4 million, 18.36 million constitute the total labour force of the country out of which 11.57 million are engaged in agriculture. In most areas, the availability of farm labour does not pose problems as 4.54 million from those engaged in agriculture come from rural farmer families. Their labour cost is cheap, but some areas in the country are now demanding mechanical power for major farm operations and for timely farm activities.

Main Crops

15. The main crops are cereals such as rice, wheat, maize and millet. Rice is the country's main staple food and also the potential crop for export. Rice occupies more than 50 percent of the cereal crops grown. Food legumes come under the second most important of the crops followed by oil crops and lastly industrial crops.

General Features and Statistics Regarding Agriculture Including Irrigation Potentials

16. For the development of new agricultural land, the following activities are being carried out accordingly.

- Excavation of fallow and virgin land
- Granting rights to develop and cultivate culturable land, fallow and waste land
- Introducing rice-fish farming, construction embankments and drainage for farmers.
- Practising Sloping Agriculture Land Technologies (SALT) for development of soil depleted sloping areas.

17. The achievement of land developments accomplished in 1998-99 was realized as follows:-

- Fallow and virgin land = 34281 acres
- Development of deep water areas = 7656 acres
- Development of rice-fish farming = 10401 acres

18. The excavation of new agricultural land has also been conducted for effective utilization of waste land and construction of farm roads, upgrading farming plots coupled with proper irrigation systems are being implemented accordingly.

Irrigation Potentials

19. Although the country is naturally endowed with abundant water resources in the form of rivers, streams and lakes, its irrigated land covers only 17.5 percent of the net sown area in the country at present. As the availability of adequate water for agriculture is crucial in enhancing crop productivity, the government has accordingly taken all-out efforts with a view to raise irrigation coverage of the cropped area to 25 percent within a short span of time. Special focus has been given to water resources from perennial rivers, ground water and tidal sources. Activities being undertaken to realise more irrigation for agricultural purpose are -

- construction of new reservoirs and dams,
- efficient storage and utilization of running water at the catchment areas,
- renovation of existing reservoirs for raising storage capacity and efficient delivery of irrigation water,
- diversion of water from streams and rivulets during high water levels, into adjacent ponds or depressions for storage with sluice gates,
- lifting of water from rivers and streams through pumping and
- efficient utilization of ground water.

20. The irrigation networks for agriculture purposes had been carried out since the reign Myanmar Kings. Now the present government has made huge investments in construction of dams and reservoirs with national engineers at various places in the country. 16 irrigation projects are be

implemented including Thaphanseik reservoir, which will be the largest embankment, (length 4.5 miles).

21. Apart from construction of dams and reservoirs, the government has also been implementing 8 pumping water projects, 23 electrified pumping water schemes and 228 diesel generated pumping water schemes in various parts of the country.

Agriculture as an Industry

22. Draught animals are still the main source of power in Myanmar's agriculture. Agricultural Mechanization was introduced in 1951 and total number of tractors in use at present is only 5000. The level of farm mechanization with tractors, harvesters, threshers, dryers, seeders and water pumps is still relatively low and has much room for improvement and investments.

23. Farmers have their own experience of looking after their draught animals. To enhance animal health 12.8 million cattle, 1.042 million pigs, 14.52 chickens were treated during the past year. Cattle foot and mouth diseases is a very dangerous disease and can be caused anytime with our country's type of climate.

24. Health programmes for farm animals are carried out annually by the respective vets from the Ministry of Agriculture.

25. Animal feed supply is also important for cattle, and as such 6440 areas of land were developed in Kayah and Mon States, Sagaing, Bago, Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyarwady divisions for sufficient animal food supply.

Management of Agriculture as an Industry, Technological Development in Agriculture, Research, Training and Farm Education and Extension Services

26. In alignment with the market-oriented economy, Myanma Industrial Development Committee was formed on 18 July 1995 with a view to encourage rapid developments in agro-based industry in the country. Under the guidance of this committee, industrial zones were established and industrial shows were held accordingly.

27. To utilize mechanical power effectively and efficiently, and to save the budget of the country, the government initiated and developed a year-based tractor hiring system in 1996.

28. To initiate transitional movement towards mechanized agriculture, 23 model mechanized farming villages were established. Moreover, various measures have been taken to educate the farmers on agro techniques and to increase production by effective utilization of fertilizers. In order to boost agricultural production by mixed and multiple cropping, arrangements were made for extensive use of agro machinery and implements in various stages of cultivation, through practical demonstrations. With efficient and effective utilization of agricultural machinery and equipment, the cropping intensity increased from 126 percent in 1992-93 to 134 percent in 1997-98.

29. In order to promote crop yield and quality, breeding programs are being carried out continuously. New crop varieties are developed in local research institutions multiplied and distributed to the farmers. Improved varieties of crops for specific areas are also developed for adoption. Hybrid seed production is also considered for producing high quality crops. Quality seeds, especially vegetables and fruits are also imported, tested and distributed to the growers.
30. Seed Division of the Myanmar Agriculture Service (MAS) is making efforts in producing quality seed by closely supervising all activities starting from planting to threshing, transportation and distribution. MAS is also producing foundation seeds and registered seeds.
31. Realization of steady increase in annual growth rates of agricultural production will require adoption of improved production technologies suited to respective locations in the country. The changing technologies are adopted in the production of crops through usage of improved varieties, adoption of cultural practices, systematic application of irrigation water, fertilizers and other inputs and protection from pests. The agricultural education programs are being launched through public media like newspapers, radio and television, journals, bulletins, pamphlets and posters. Also field teams of technicians are educating farmers in their respective area of duty.
32. Besides water usage, fertilizers come second in importance in agriculture. Though chemical fertilizers are being produced in the country, the government had to import nearly 400 thousand metric tons of chemical fertilizers a year. At present, Htet Arkar Kyaw syndicate of Agricultural and General Merchandise Cooperatives is producing "Bokashi" fertilizer called "Shwe Myayzi Fertilizer" in Myanmar.
33. Different levels of training are being conducted in Myanmar by different institutions. These are, Agriculture State High Schools, Agriculture Institutes, Agriculture University, Central Agriculture Research Institute and Central Agriculture Development and Training Centre.
34. Agriculture State High Schools located in Mandalay, Patheingyi, Pyinmana and Myaungmya conduct low level training in Agriculture offering school leaving certificates after completion of 2 to 3 year courses.
35. Agriculture Institutes in Mandalay, Taunggyi, Pyay, Myitkyina, Thaton, offer medium level of training in Agriculture. Diploma is awarded after completion of the 3 years course.
36. Higher level of training is conducted at the Agriculture University which offers Bachelor and Master Degree Courses.
37. Short term trainings are given to In- Service employees at the Central Agriculture and Research Institute (CARI) and at the Central Agriculture Development and Training Centre (CADTC). The trainees are mostly employees of the extension departments of various enterprises under the Ministry of Agriculture who transfer the newly developed technologies directly to farmers.

38. Regarding Agriculture research activities in Myanmar, there are several research stations all over the country conducting experiments on various crops under different agro-ecological conditions.
39. Highly qualified researchers conduct experiments to a greater depth at the Central Agriculture Research Institute, established in Yezin, Pyinmana township, in central Myanmar.
40. Research is also conducted by the staff and students of Agriculture University as part of the training.

CHAPTER THREE

Status of Women in the Country

41. In Myanmar, women are all along given high standing in culture and they are treated with respect and have never been degraded. Myanmar traditions, customs and religious beliefs and practices have all safeguarded the equality of our Myanmar women in marriage, inheritance and social affairs.
42. Myanmar women have taken administrative roles since the days when Myanmar Kings reign. Royal Women had administered towns and villages by handling administrative, legislative, revenue and social matters capably.
43. In honour of women, the country has been termed "the mother land". In time of British rule when the country rose in resistance, Myanmar women fought bravely along side with men, a fact which was chronicled by the British themselves. In the colonial era, Myanmar women participated together with Myanmar men in nationalist efforts, forming women associations. Patriotic women joined the political associations and were in the forefront of efforts to gain independence. The "Independent Weekly" newspaper was established by women in the colonial days.
44. Myanmar women have equal rights to work along side with men to achieve political, economic and social objectives laid down by the State. Although Myanmar women have had equal status with men, social cultural and religious influences are such that they retain the ideal of "respect towards the husband." Myanmar women are good wives and mothers too, and are modest in their deportment. In Myanmar society, women take pride in managing their family and household and also in performing social duties.
45. In Myanmar culture, the husband is termed the spiritual head of the household. On the other hand the wife is catagorized as a sister and mother, the indication of respect and dependence men have towards their wives.
46. Thus, in Myanmar Society, men and women have a symbolic relationship with one being mutually dependent on the other.

Total Number of Women Engaged in Agricultural Industry

47. Since the monarchic days, women in Myanmar have taken part in agriculture and also in business enterprises. According to the Labour Force Survey of 1998 there were altogether about 14.28 million males and 8.82 million females in the country's labour force.

48. From among the 11.65 million persons engaged in agriculture, the female agricultural labour force constitute 5.73 millions. These persons come mostly from farmer family households and comprise of housewives and daughters of farmers. The rest come under literate women who are engaged in jobs related to agriculture at various departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Agriculture and also at the Agricultural Development Bank.

Types of Women Organisations

49. Myanmar women have the tradition of active participation in non-governmental organisations.

50. The Maternity and Infant welfare Society (MIWS) which was founded in 1911, played an active role in the promotion of maternal and child health care. The organisation is nationwide, reaching down to township level.

51. Another prominent organisation that appeared in the early part of the country was the Burmese Women's Association (BMA). It was founded in 1919 and the main aims of the association were, to work for the benefit of the members, to improve the educational status of its members and to help in the matters of national concern. In 1991, the Maternity and Infant welfare societies were incorporated into the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) which was formed after the enactment of the Maternal, and Child Welfare Law. This association is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), dedicated to promoting the health and social welfare of women, children and families, so as to achieve improved life standard of the people. This association has a wide public representation with 293 township associations and 418 branch associations throughout the country. Involvement of (MMCWA) at all levels of birth spacing programme promote the coverage and outreach of services.

52. The Non-Governmental Organisations listed below also came into existence as major associations. These associations operated programmes of education, morality, charity, economical management, defence of women's rights and promotion of nationalistic and patriotic ideals.

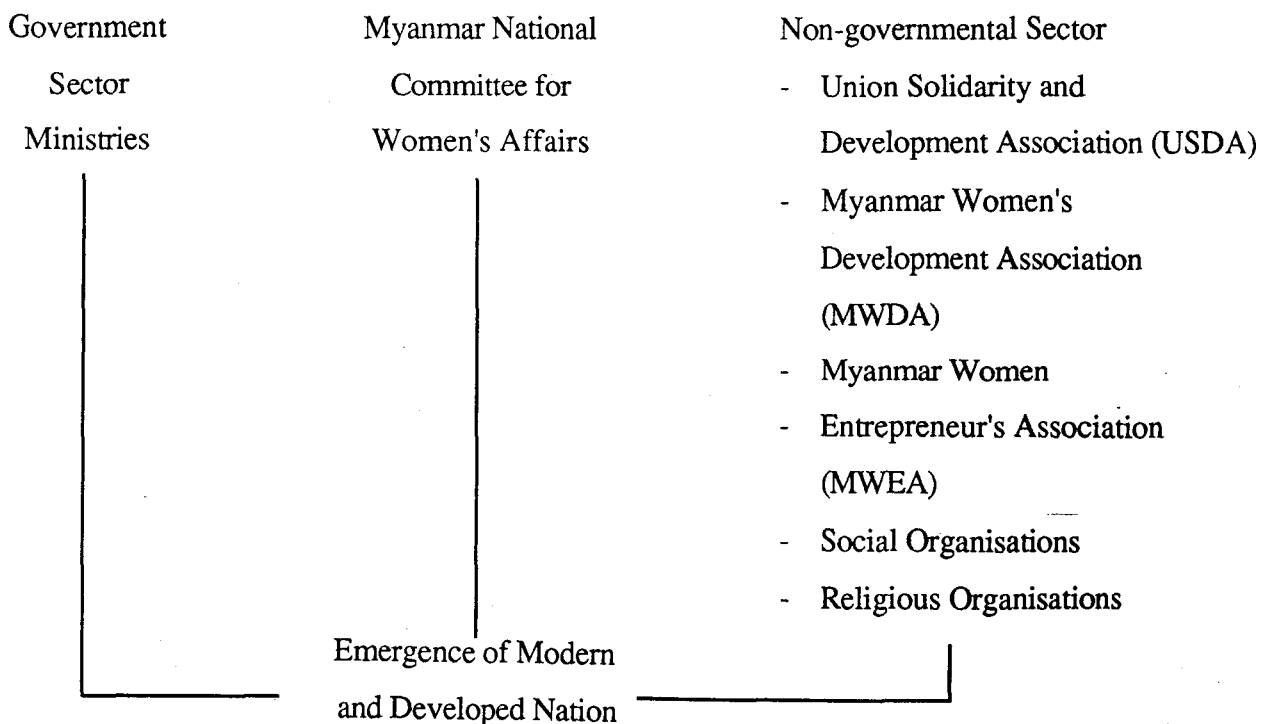
- (a) Maternity and Infant Welfare Society (MIMS)
- (b) Burmese Women's Association (BMA)
- (c) Charity and Well-Being Association.
- (d) Young Women's Buddhist Association (YWCA)
- (e) National Council of Women of Burma (NCWB)
- (f) Burmese Women's League.

- (g) Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA)
- (h) Myanmar Women's Sports Federation (MWSF)
- (i) Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)
- (j) Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)
- (k) Myanmar Women Entrepreneur's Association (MWEA) and
- (l) Myanmar Red Cross Society (with about 40 % females)

53. To systematically carry out activities for advancement of women, the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was established on 3rd July 1996, chaired by the Minister for welfare, Relief and Settlement, as this Ministry is designated as the national focal point for women's affairs. The Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs was subsequently formed on 7th October 1996 to implement the activities for the advancement of women. It was followed by formation of working committees for women's affairs at the State and Divisions, Districts and Township levels. The critical areas that were considered to be most relevant for the advancement of Myanmar women are Education, Health, Economy, Violence against women, Culture and Girl-child.

54. The Myanmar Women Entrepreneur's Association (MWEA) formed on 12th February 1995 is actively enhancing the role of Myanmar Women in business by arranging income generation programmes and implementing micro credit and micro-saving programmes for rural women.

Operational Mechanism of the Organisational Sectors,



Types of Women Cooperative Organisations in the Country

55. In the Cooperative Sector, many women are working along-side with men. These women are holding responsibilities as chairpersons, managing directors, executive directors, members and working staff in various types of cooperatives.

56. Women co-operatives emerge from all-round development of women's requirement in the co-operative movement. The first significance of women cooperative is Thiri-May Women Development Co-operative Society formed on 12 July, 1994 while Myanmar cooperative movement is moving itself into a new era. Other Women Development co-operatives are-

- (a) the Sandi Devi Women's Health Care Services Co-operative
- (b) the Chothae Orchid Women Development Co-operative
- (c) the Shwe Zin May Arts and Crafts Women Development Co-operative
- (d) the Mahaythi Women Development Cooperative
- (e) the Manawhari Women Development Cooperative
- (f) the Hlaing Htaik Htar Women Development Cooperative
- (g) the Myitta-Mun Women Development Cooperative
- (h) the Myittashin Family Development Cooperatives
- (i) the Ga-yu-nar Shin Women's Cooperative and
- (j) the Mingala May Women's all-round development Co-operative.

57. At present, twenty two societies of women cooperatives have already been formed in twenty one townships of five States and Divisions respectively. The total number of members are 2369 with a share capital of k 5.08 million.

58. Moreover, Myittashin Women Cooperative Syndicate Ltd., was formed in Yangon on 30 March, 1995 with three member societies. Myittashin Family Development Cooperatives are formed in (1) Kyauk-tan, Dawbon and Hlaing Thar Yar townships in Yangon Division (2) Pakokku, Yesagy, Myaing and Gangaw townships in Magwe Division and (3) in Monywa, Sagaing Shwebo, Khanti and Kanbalu townships in Sagaing Division.

Types of Activities Generally Performed by Rural Women

59. As 11.57 million persons from the total labour force of 18.36 million are engaged in agriculture, the types of activities generally performed by rural women are mostly related to agriculture. Women do play an important role. They may be mothers, housekeepers, wage labours or small business women. Besides the normal domestic chores of fetching water, collecting fuel wood, cooking, cleaning and child care they are engaged in a wide range of activities like fish and prawn paste processing, handicraft making, sewing and gardening.

60. In agriculture, women do the transplanting of paddy seedlings, clearing weeds, assisting in baling out excess water from the fields and at harvest time they work as reapers, gleaners and winnowers.

Representation of Women in Co-operative Organisations

61. Since the enactment of the New Co-operative Society Law in 1992, the cooperative movement in Myanmar has become stronger with a rapid increase in number as well as social standarding in the organisational set-up, the driving force behind the flexibility and modinity of the New Co-operative Law and the spirit of the Co-operative Departmental Personnel and members of the Board of directors at different levels of societies.

62. The following table shows the consolidated population of male and female Cooperators in the Directorate and Board of directors at all levels of co-operative societies.

Directorate of Cooperatives and Societies	Consolidated Male Population	Consolidated Female population	Total
Cooperative Department Personnel	7091	5123	12214
BOD members of all Societies	30965	17564	48529
Total	38056	22687	60743

Ratio of Women holding Senior position in Co-operatives.

63. The number of women holding senior positions in Cooperatives is 19484. Therefore, out of the total of 60743 personnel engaged in cooperatives the ratio of women holding senior positions is 2:5.

Government Policies and Programmes for Women

64. The government recognizes the important role of women in social development and to enhance the advancement of women it has, through the Working Committee for Women Affairs laid down policy guidelines and identified programmes on education, health, economy, culture, violence against women and the Girl-Child.

65. At present the government is striving its best to achieve the goal of "Education for all by the year 2000." With the political will and commitment, EFA Committee implemented basic literacy programmes in 98 townships that will be followed by Functional Literacy, Income Generation and Quality of Life Improvement Programmes. In these 98 townships, learning circles are opening for learners out of which about 77 percent are women learners.

66. To strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health, out of 324 townships in Myanmar, the MMCWA has conducted training on life skills for women in 96 townships since 1997.

67. Although violence against women is not a major issue in Myanmar, the MMCWA is combating trafficking in women, by means of education, poverty alleviation and income generation.

68. To preserve and safeguard the Myanmar culture and traditions articles like venerating elders are included in text books and publications. Religious classes & talks by eminent literary figures on "Patriotism and Culture" to girls and young women are being held and will continue. Publications for women with a focus on Myanmar culture and traditions are being published.

69. The sub-committee of Girl-Child is conducting action research on its target group in rural areas of Yangon Division, to protect and safeguard the rights of the girl-child.

Policies and Programmes Initiated by the Co-operative Movement Vis-a-Vis Women in Development.

70. Under the New Cooperative Law of 1992, cooperatives are encouraged to become self-reliant and self-motivated business enterprises & to compete with private entrepreneurs in carrying out their business activities.

71. As the co-operative movement is a socio-economic movement, cooperatives provides services to their members and extend loans at a low interest rate to the needy. Cooperative dispensaries in urban areas and village-tracts take care of health.

72. The most significant activities in the cooperative movement are the emergence of the Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., and Women Development Co-operatives. Another significant step taken by the Ministry of Co-operatives is the systematic emergence of the Co-operative Promoters' Bank and the Cooperative Farmers' Bank. The objectives are to provide financial assistance to agricultural producers, cooperative societies and trading cooperatives respectively, and earn bank interest by depositing.

Activities initiated by Women Co-operatives are-

- providing vocational training programmes such as sewing classes, embroidery classes, food processing & making of jams & Juice, flower decorations/arrangements, weaving, livestock breeding training in collaboration with the UNDP, as part of the Human Development Programme.
- Education programmes on family planning and public health.
- Producing industrial and artistic products.
- Decorations for functions, ceremonies and festivities.
- Catering for ceremonies.

- Wrapping, packing and delivering of kitchen goods to housewives.
- Marketing of industrial and artistic products and exporting of these products.
- Giving assistance in day-care work for children and old people, beauty parlour works, maternity works, sewing and house hold works.
- Other social or business activities that will enhance the development of cooperation by women's strength as a supportive role.

Achievements in Women Development Activities

- Creation of new ways for women of lower income groups, rural women and housewives to earn supplementary income for their families.
- Provision of micro credit to the employee family groups of Mingaladon Defence Services Special Bone Surgical Hospital and also to the village women of Pa-da-gyi village so that they could invest in some income generation activities. By letting them save some part of the loan money they paid back in instalments, they are now in a position to both earn and save at the same time.
- Micro-credit loans are provided four years in succession to the farmer families of Ka-yin-seik Village for agricultural activities, so as to earn supplementary family income.
- Provision of micro-credit loans to over (100) hawkers or casual sellers of Thanlwin Market in Yangon with a small interest. By letting them save the interest from the loan money they were able to accumulate their savings. The women's association has been disbursing loans to them 4 years in succession, since 1996. Similarly 60 hawkers of No. 1 Market in Thaketa Township, received the same treatment.
- Finding jobs for women of rural and villages at government as well as private owned weaving and garment factories according to their education and efficiency; some as skilled workers and some as apprentices.
- Giving cash donations and dry rations to vocational schools and cash donation of kyats 500,000/- towards the International Literacy Programme.
- Financial assistance to the children of low-income families and orphans in the form of school fees, stipends and scholarships.
- Providing prizes in cash and kind to the outstanding students of Co-operative Colleges and Basic Education High Schools.

Problems Faced by Rural Women in Agriculture

- Agriculture provided the major source of income in the rural areas and it employs a large number of family members. But, due to low agricultural productivity and marketing

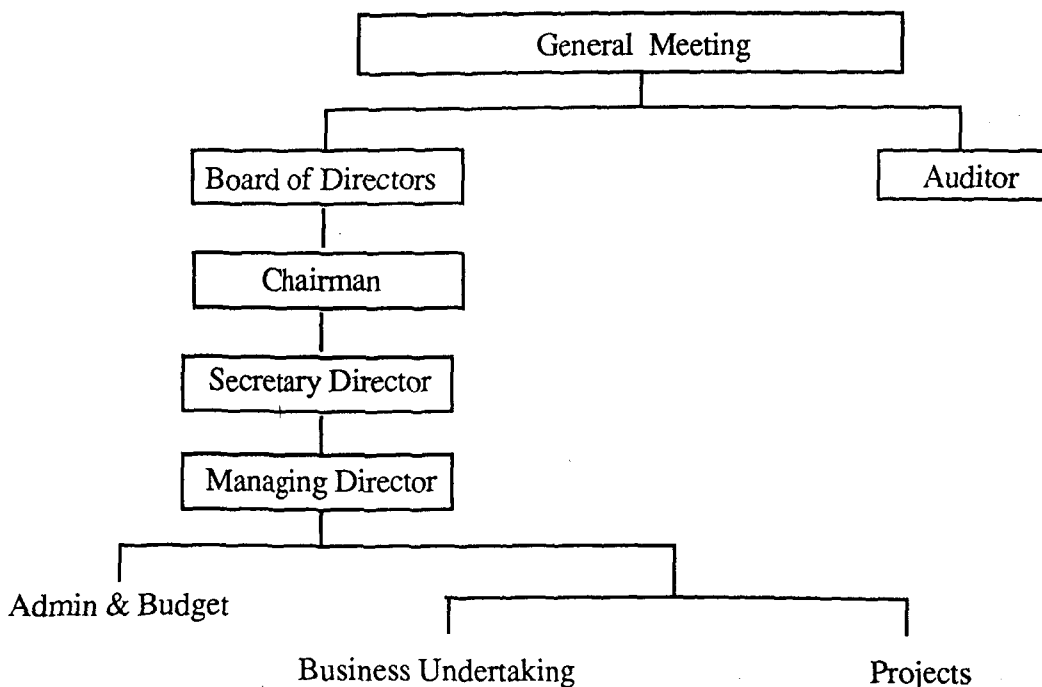
constraints, their income are generally very low. For the majority of the landless and poor households, the only income-earning opportunity is to hire themselves out as casual and low-paid labourers.

- The landless poor are in-accessible for formal credit service. Besides the problem of social security and lacking in financial resources, there also lacks good and active leadership for them.
- They don't receive good marketing opportunities for their products.
- The poorest of the poor do not have the vocational skills or confidence to develop small business activities.
- Restrictions in some religious and social matters.
- Prices of raw materials are very high and they have to encounter many difficulties to send their products to the market.
- They have to bear fatigue and tiredness from doing agriculture works.

CHAPTER IV

Brief Description of my Own Co-operative

73. My own co-operative is Shwe-Se-Tun Agricultural and Livestock Breeding Co-operative Society Limited of Tharawady, which is about 76 miles away from Yangon. It is a sort of family society. It was formed in 1994 with a total membership of 7 members. Each member has to purchase at least one share worth 10000 kyats, and total share capital is kyats 2.5 million. Board of Directors consists of chairman, Secretary. Managing Director, Director Member and Executive Member. Organisation structure of Shwe-Se-Tun Limited is shown as follows.



74. The allotted land is 500 acres of fallow and culturable waste land and deep water areas. We try to acquire our own seeds, inputs and do our farming activities with our own farm machinery.
75. Day to day affairs of the society is run by the Board of Directors. We have sown 228 acres of paddy and our society is in the planning stage to sow 150 acres of black matpe and 120 acres of white peas as winter crops.
76. We have also fish farming which occupies 14 acres of land in Po. kaung village, 7 miles away from Thonze.
77. Our co-operative needed a new look, new constructive ideas, more efficiency and better management. The co-operatives also have to change their current institutional set-ups so as to be more effective. But with the financial constraints, the changes were slow and not competent. Our co-operative, because of the demand for its services and of better management was able to withstand the winds of change. Still we were unable to afford modern outlets nor to streamline the distribution systems. Our solution is to have a free access to bank loans from government institutions with lesser interest. We also hope this financial crisis in the region will pass over soon, and we could overcome our temporary difficulties.
78. I am Secretary of Shwe-Se-Tun Agricultural and Livestock Breeding Co-operative Society Limited. As a Secretary, my duties include the buying and selling of farm produce and agricultural implements of crop collecting centre.

CHAPTER V

79. As Myanmar is an Agro-based country in South-East Asia, all agricultural purposes should be kept in the hands of people as private sector and the nation wide efforts including, co-operatives agriculture to support country's economy should also be undertaken. Agricultural cooperatives in Myanmar are now relatively fewer and should be established more and more with the participation of women to enhance women's role in the country. Women in urban and rural areas who are capable of dealing with the people and having interests for the nation should be broadly invited to engage in such cooperatives within the possible limits.
80. The possible limits to enhance women's role and their participation in agricultural cooperatives are :
- Credit support for economic activities from GOs and NGOs to self-help women groups,
 - Providing training for potential members to agricultural cooperatives by private and state run cooperatives as main economy for individual and national interest, and
 - Looking for other means and ways including advanced technological transfer from foreign countries to have the participation of rural women in agricultural cooperatives for more employment

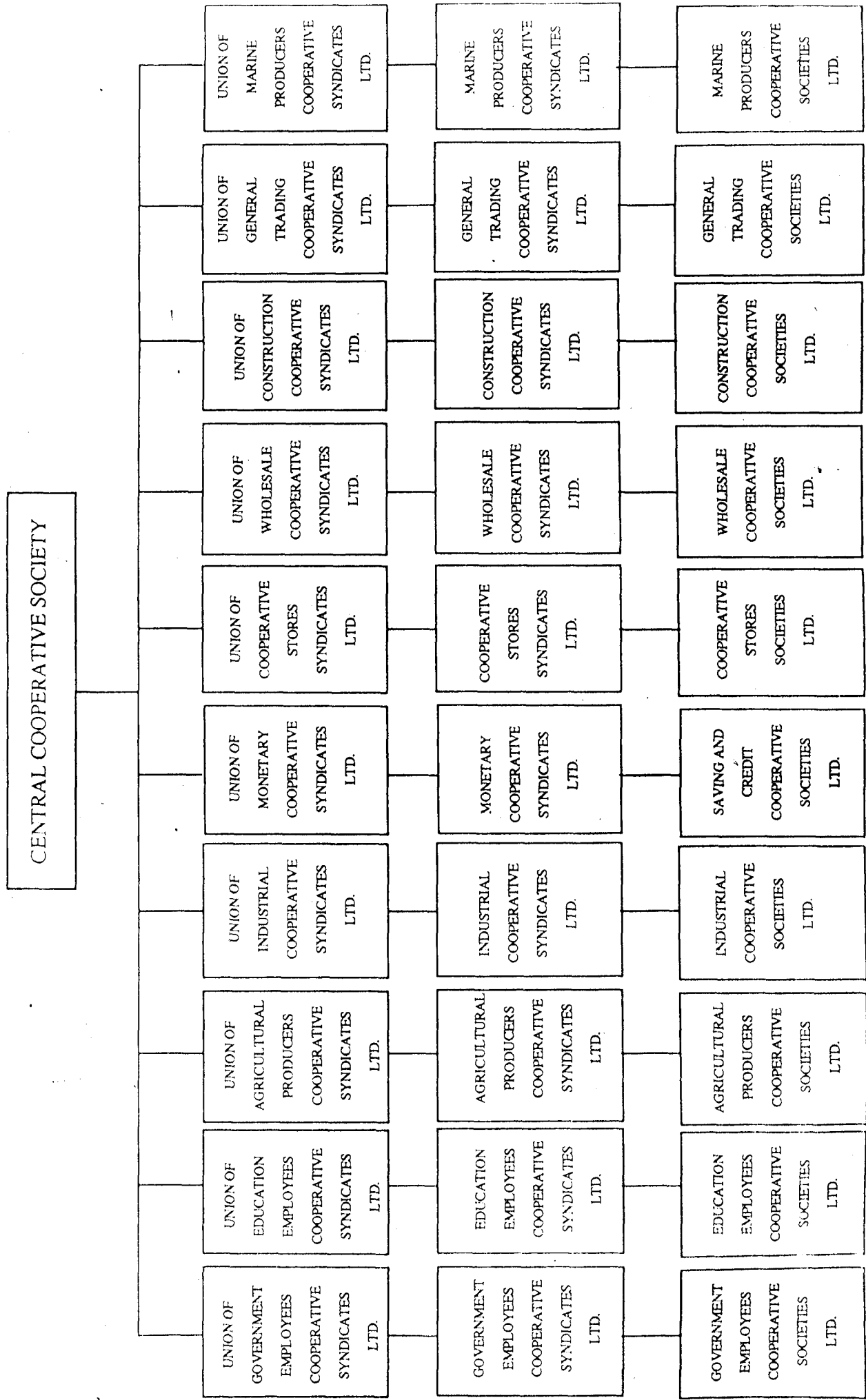
Size of Holding (1997-98)

Size of Holding	Peasant Families & Societies (000)	Area (000 ha)	Peasant Families & Societies (%)	Area (%)
under 2 ha	2804	2719	61.76	26.65
2 to 4 ha	1139	3292	25.09	32.27
4 to 8 ha	493	2773	10.86	27.18
8 to 20 ha	101	1127	2.23	11.05
20 to 40 ha	2	49	0.04	0.48
40 ha & above	1	242	0.02	2.37
Total	4540	10202	100.00	100.00

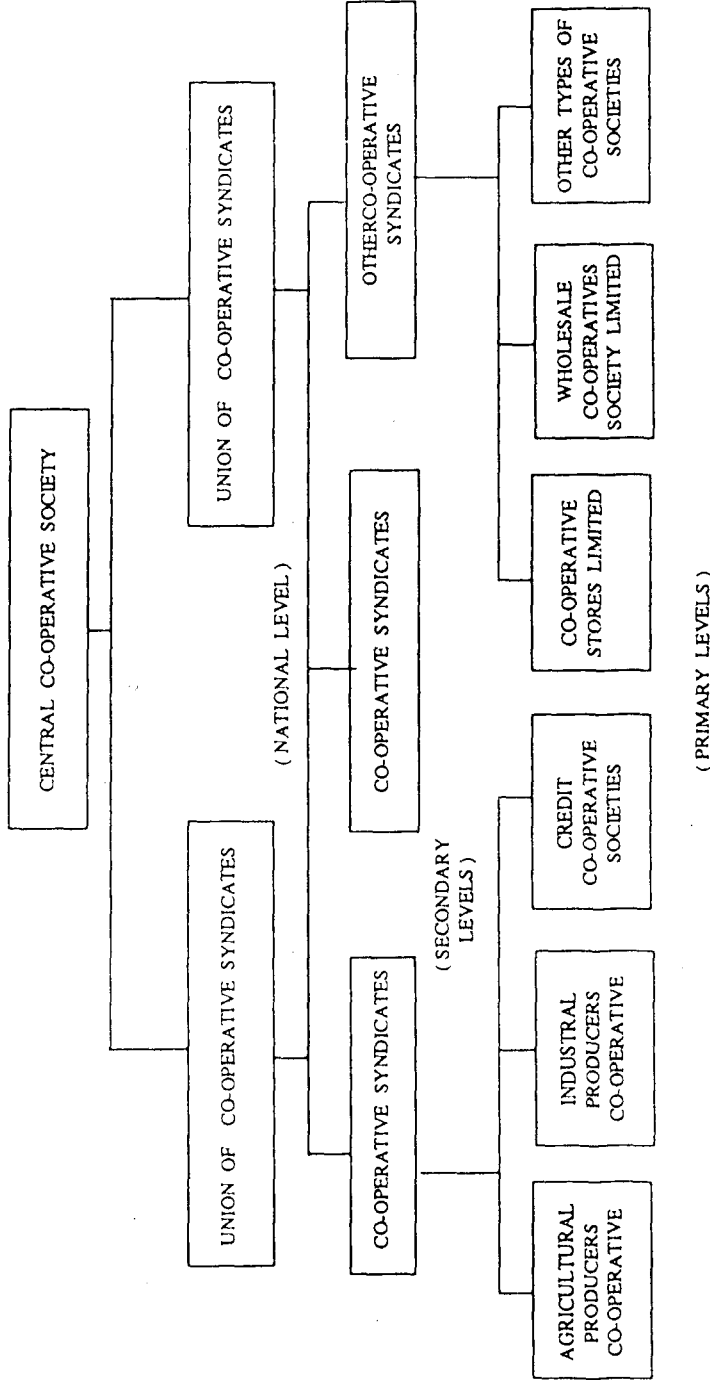
Irrigated Area

Year	Net Sown Area (000 ha)	Irrigated (000 ha)	Area %
1992-93	8714	1109	12.7
1993-94	8867	1534	17.3
1994-95	9000	1712	19.0
1995-96	9126	2036	22.3
1996-97	9322	1633	17.5

ORGANIZATION CHART OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES



ORGANISATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT



**Women in Agricultural
Co-operatives in Nepal
By Dhuvan Dhungana
President, Women Consumers' Co-operative**

Background :

Nepal is a land locked country located between China in North and India in East, West and South. Nepal is predominantly an agricultural country. The major crops are paddy, Maize, Sugarcane, Millet, Gilseed, Potato, Wheat, Jute, etc. Women play an important role in the agricultural production process in Nepal. Out of the total population 50.05% population are women and 98% of women in Nepal are engaged in agriculture.

Women in agriculture:

In Nepal, the government's intervention to organize the women focused agricultural programmes were initiated in 1992 when His Majesty's Government reorganized the structure of Ministry of agriculture. It also created Women Farmers Development Division (WFDD) at ministerial level. This is the only division of government level that focuses fully on women in agriculture. The division undertook field studies to find out the women's roles in crop, horticulture and livestock production, and nutrition and food, in sericulture and agriculture extension and training. The objective of this division is to enable women farmers to use their labour more efficiently, to take an equal place with man farmers. In relation to this, an attempt has been made to identify appropriate long and short term strategies for women farmers development.

**Table 1 : Targets for Women Farmers Development in the
Eight Five Year Plan**

(in percent)

	49/50	50/51	51/52	52/53	53/54
1. Food Crops	10	15	20	25	30
2. Cash Crops & Industrial Commodities					
2.1 Sericulture	25	30	35	40	45
2.2 Bee Keeping	30	35	40	45	50
2.3 Cardamom	20	25	30	35	40
2.4 Tea			10	15	20
2.5 Cotton			10	15	20
3. Horticultural Crops	10	15	20	25	30
3.1 Orchard Establishment	10	15	20	25	30
3.2 Kitchen Gardening	25	30	35	40	45
3.3 Nursery	15	20	25	30	35
4. Seed Production	5	10	15	20	25
5. Livestock Production					
5.1 Buffalo	10	15	20	25	30
5.2 Cow	10	15	20	25	30
5.3 Goat	30	35	40	45	50
5.4 Pig	25	30	35	40	45
5.5 Poultry	30	35	40	45	50
6. Animal Nutrition	15	20	25	30	35
7. Breed Improvement	10	15	20	25	30
8. Animal Health	10	15	20	25	30
9. Compost/Green Manure	25	30	35	40	45
10. Training	15	20	25	30	

Table : Short Term Programmes for Women Farmers

Sub-Sector	Programme Areas	Sub-Programme Area	Objectives
Crop	Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General production 2. Post-harvest technology 3. Green manuring 4. Compost making 5. Storage 6. Seed Selection 	To impart first hand technological information to increase agricultural productivity
	Extension	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contract farmer selection 2. Participation in demonstration 3. Participation in field days 4. Participation in crop competition 	To involve women farmers in first hand TOT process
	Seed Production	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group formation 2. Training 3. Technical support 4. Credit/input delivery 5. Marketing information delivery 	To encourage women farmers first hand information on appropriate technologies
Horticulture	Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orchard management 2. Kitchen Gardening 3. Nursery Establishment 	To provide first hand technological information to women farmers
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vegetable Nursery raising 2. Commercial veg. production 3. Seed Potato production 4. Fruit nursery 5. Kitchen gardening 6. Turmeric, ginger cumin, garlic & offseason onion production 7. Storage of junar 	<p align="center">For Programmes 1-5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group formation 2. Training 3. Technical support 4. Credit/input delivery 5. Marketing information deliver 	To involve women farmers in income generating activity.

Sub-Sector	Programme Areas	Sub-Programme Area	Objectives
Livestock	Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animal Production (buffalo, cow, pig, goat and poultry) 2. Animal Nutrition (including fodder management) 3. Veterinary services 	To provide first hand information to women farmers on appropriate technologies.
	Pilot Animal Production (cow, buffalo, pig, goat and poultry)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group formation 2. Training 3. Technical support 4. Credit/input delivery Marketing information delivery	To participate women farmers in income generating activities.
Research	On-farm research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-farm experiments 2. Training 3. Field Days and Tours 	To involve women farmers in technology generation programmes
Agro-enterprise	Contraction Govt. farms to women entrepreneurs Sericulture & Beekeeping Vegetables processing* Fruit processing** Beekeeping Vegetable Seed production Spices processing Mushroom production	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agro-enterprise development 2. Training 	To develop women entrepreneurs
Food & Nutrition	Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Household Food Security 2. Nutrition 3. Food Preservation 	To update women farmers on food and nutritional aspects
	Mass Communication	Radio Programmes	
Crop	Mini seed bank	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group formation 2. Training 3. Technical Support 4. Credit/input delivery 5. Market information delivery 	To establish women seed entrepreneurs

* Cauliflower, tomato

** Apple, lapsi, citrus

Sub-Sector	Programme Areas	Sub-Programme Area	Objectives
Horticulture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fruit production (banana, papaya, pineapple) 2. Organic Farming 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group formation 2. Training 3. Technical Support 4. Credit/input delivery 5. Market information delivery 	To establish commercial women horticulture farmers
Livestock women	Fodder Production	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group formation 2. Training 3. Technical Support 4. Credit/input delivery 5. Market information delivery 	To establish the women farmers for fodder production in large scale
Food & Nutrition	Integrated Nutritious Food production (horticulture, small animals and birds)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group formation 2. Training 3. Technical Support 4. Credit/input delivery 5. Market information delivery 	To involve women farmers in supply of nutrients on sustained basis
Agro-enterprise	<p>Establishment of Food processing centres near the collection points</p> <p>Operation of Women's Co-op Societies</p> <p>Establishing linkages with market chains (domestic & foreign) for items produced by women entrepreneurs</p> <p>Exploring niche markets for women entrepreneurs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group formation 2. Training 3. Credit & input support 4. Follow-up 	To establish entrepreneurship among women farmers.

In much of the communities in Nepal almost all household activities and agriculture works are carried out by the women. They are involved in planting, sowing, harvesting and in post harvest operation. In addition to these agricultural activities, women are engaged in the collection of fuel and fodder, cooking food, fetching water from a long distance, feeding and care of children. Illiteracy, unawareness, backwardness are the main problems of women farmers.

Investment of women farmers in different farm activities depend upon the ecological zones, socio-economic status, caste and ethnic group, education level etc.

Table 2 : Agro-ecological Variation of Gender Involvement of Crop Production

Crop	Zone	Contribution &		No. of Studies	Development Regions
		Male	Female		
Rice	Mountain	59	41	1	E
	Hill	49.6	50.4	6	E, C, W
	Terai	48	52	5	E, C
Maize	Mountain	50	50	1	E
	Hill	35	65	6	E, C, W
	Terai	49.8	50.2	4	E, C
Wheat	Mountain	28	72	1	E
	Hill	49.5	50.5	4	E, C
	Terai	59	41	1	C
Millet	Mountain	32	68	1	E
	Hill	25.5	74.5	3	E, C
	Terai	nd	nd	nd	nd
Pulses, Legumes & Oilseeds	Mountain	nd	nd	nd	nd
	Hill	39	61	3*	E, C, W
	Terai	60	40	2	C
Horticultural and cash crops	Mountain	60.5	39.5	2	E, W
	Hill	38.8	61.2	7	E, C, W
	Terai	74	26	1	C

Note: * Two of these studies do not give quantitative data. E, C, and W indicate Eastern, Central and Western Development Regions respectively.

nd : no data available

Various studies show that there are 50.51 percent economically active population. Of economically active population in farming, about 60.47 percent are women. This indicates that the development programmes should be gender specific.

Co-operative Development in Nepal :

Co-operative development is supported and regulated by the Government Department of Co-operatives (DoC) in the Ministry of Agriculture. The DoC operates the Co-operative Training Centre (CTC), maintains regional and 68 co-operative District offices (DCOS) and employs more than 1000 people. In addition, following the 1991 general elections, National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) was formed with the initial task of revising the co-operative registration and designing a strategy for revitalizing the co-operative movement so as to make it self reliant and people managed. The permanent status of the NCDW was subsequently (in 1992) confirmed by an act of parliament, its main functions being to assist the government and the co-operative movement. The NCDB comprise representatives from the co-operative movement and the different government ministries and institutions concerned with co-operative development.

On the initiative of the NCDB, a new co-op Act was developed and ratified in 1992 and "an outline of the programme, policy and future structure of the co-op movement prepared. The new co-operative Act, together with the proposed policies and plans constitute the framework for an independent and democratically managed co-operative movement, enjoying the full support of the govt. The creation of the National Co-operative Federation (NCF) was also a result of the new policies.

(I.L.O. Experts' Report)

Women's Participation in co-ops :

There are approximately 110 women only agro-based co-operatives throughout Nepal. Women's Participation in Agricultural Co-operatives is influenced by social, environment and is very limited. Recently women representatives are increasing through saving

co-operatives. Some of activities that the women's co-operatives carry are as follows:

Consumer's co-op

Dairy co-op.

Vegetable Farming, Tree Plantation

Beekeeping

Livestock

Knitting and Serving, Handicrafts

Pickle, Spices, Making

Sericulture

Fisheries

Mushroom Farming

Garment co-op

Saving co-op

Gardening - Nursery

Women Consumers' Co-operative (Agro-based co-op) :

Women consumers co-operative (CHETANA) is a self governing body in informal sector registered under co-op Act 2041 in 1989 based on the spirit of mutual assistance among its members. At present it has 200 members. The working committee consists of nine elected members.

The economic empowerment of women is seen by CHETANA as the first step in overall social and economical empowerment of women in Nepal. WCC uses the co-operative model of economic participation. The consumer store run by WCC provides an outlet for goods produced by the members of WCC as well as other women run co-operatives. Rural women from Kappau, Gokarna, Sundarizal VDC are also involved in WCC.

WCC Achievements :

1. WCC believes that a priority for women's development is to have an ideal family. A family is a cell of society, and thus the more civilized the family, the more civilized the society. WCC helps women members to take care of their home and properly handle relationship with the family, neighbours.

2. WCC has organized training programmes (both for urban rural women) to give the women new role, skills or to teach them things they can do at home such as pickle making, spices making, candle making, knitting, sewing and sales promotion. Income generating project (Agro-based) for rural women supported by SNV/Nepal has been launched.
3. Training in gender analysis, health, empowering women through co-operatives, awareness among rural women about co-operatives, savings were conducted.
4. WCC members participated in study tours, seminar/workshops in U.S.A. ^{in Larkspur, Colorado} ~~Larkspur, Colorado~~, vegetables, pickles made by rural women to women consumers of Chetana living in Urban areas.

Suggested Plan of Action :

Women's powerlessness arises from their illiteracy, lack of information and self confidence. Rural women have little exposure to the outside world as they are pre-occupied with their day to day work. They remain in a state of ignorance and most survive in the belief that they cannot change their socio-economic condition. These women have few opportunities to share their joys and sorrows. We believe that the co-operative activities especially for rural women should not only be focused on economic enterprises (not only on agro-based activities) but with the changing society, should also be directed to address moral, welfare, educational, environmental and other important issues to which women can contribute and in certain cases more so than men -

- a) Training in gender analysis.
- b) Establishment of linkages with government developmental agencies and NGO, with sister co-operative organizations to materialize the objectives of the gender integration.
- c) Promotion of women's self help groups.
- d) Loan advancement to rural women for production.
- e) To mobilize rural women more into co-operatives.

- f) Organizing co-operatives, women co-operations on the basis of the need densification.
- g) Creation of necessary legislative framework (both national + international) which would ensure women's involvement and participation in co-operations.
- h) Creation of women cells within the National co-operative organizations, NCFN/Dept. of co-operatives in the Govt. to handle gender times, especially to solve the problems of rural women.
- i) We further stress the networking amongst the women co-operative activists and organization in Asia and Africa to exchange ideas, share information and evaluate progress made in their respective countries in relation to women in agriculture co-operatives.
- j) A national consultant on co-operative development especially a women with wide experience of women co-operatives if assigned along with international consultant for a period of one year will surely bring fruitful result regarding women in agricultural co-operatives.

Following table shows the details of societies, secondary unions, and National apex:

Type	Total Coops Registered	Total Affiliates	Women Affiliates	Registered after 1992 ACT
National Apex	1 (National Coop Federation)	(53 Unions, 5 Societies)	-	1
Central Unions	3 (Consumers, Dairy, Savings and Credit)	(200+550+222 Societies)	-	3
District Unions	72 (Including Single Purpose Unions)	NA	-	39
<u>Primary Societies</u>		<u>Total Members</u>	<u>Women Nos.</u>	
Agricultural				
Multipurpose	1662	9,71,141	77,173	792
Consumers	258	9,106	905	258
Dairies	661	27,228	1,856	661
Savings and Credit	343	16,041	4,721	343
Others	248	18,895	3,568	134
Grand Total	3,208	10,50,411	88,223	2,231

Source: Department of Co-operative.

It is noted that a large number of primary societies, Secondary unions and apex organization have been registered after the introduction of new cooperative Act 1992.

Sultanate of Oman

Ministry of Agriculture

Rural Women in Oman

Prepared by :

**Najat Abdullah Al-Ajmi
Supervisore of Rural Women Programs
In Batinah Region**

**Tokyo , Japan
(August , 1999)**

INTRODUCTION

The sultanate of Oman is situated in the South East of Arabian Peninsula, comprise a total land area of 309,500Km². Oman's land area is composed of three principal types of terrain and climate. The mountains regions (15% of total land area), the fertile coastal plains (3% with total of 1,700Km of coastline), and semi arid and desert regions (82%).

Oman falls into a number of distinct areas: Muscat Area (the capital), Batinah Plain, Western Hajar Mountains, The Interior, Dhahira Area, Sharqiya Area, Southern Region (Dhofar) and The Musandam.

The climate varies from region to region . In the coastal areas it is hot and humid in summer. In Interior it is hot and dry, with the exception of some higher location region, where it is temperate all year round. In the southern region, the climate is more benign. The country's rainfall is generally low and irregular.

The population of Oman was 2,018,074 according to 1993 census (73% Omanis and 27% non- Omanis) .

The rural Omani people exhibit several different life styles, corresponding to the environment in which they live, e.g: coast people, live on fishing – seafaring – trading and agriculture. The Bedouin lifestyle prevails in the semi arid and desert interior regions, while mountains people parctice a combination of farming and live stock herding.

Status of the Rural Women

Women play a very important role in family and home life , in both urban and rural areas. They are totally responsible for running the household and for child raising . Women are also active in their immediate micro-economy, particularly in farming and live stocking.

According to 1993 census, the percentage of females is 49,9%. The annual natural growth rate was expected to remain at its current level or even rise slightly in the second half of the 1990, due to the large number of women entering the reproductive age group every year. However, the Ministry of Health has launched an attention to reduce the high annual

growth rate through a birth spacing projects since 1994, which then gave the result showing current growth rate of 2.9 %.

Agricultural census in 1994, results showed that the decisions for 13% of rural household are taken by females in the absence of their husbands. Out of the total landowners 8% are females, the percentage of female work force in agriculture and related fields is 24% and is expected to rise. The role of women in this field is also on the rise, since young men are leaving the rural areas in order to search for employment in field other than farming and fishing.

Woman activity in the

Farming:

The result of the agricultural census showed that women contribute by 24% of agricultural work force. The women participate in all agricultural activities starting from land clearance and going throughout all agricultural operating with particular emphases on crop harvest. The women mostly do these activities is members of their families and received no payment for it.

Livestock:

Women in the rural are also active in the field livestock. They play a big role in this part as a supervisor, and keepers particularly for poultry.

Traditional activities:

Rural women making pottery, weaving, tailoring, cap and incense instruction, and handcrafts. They sell these items in the local market.

The contribution of women to the economy of rural community and rural household throughout the country is very well known and their efforts have been noticed through the Ministry of Social and Affairs and Labour (MSAL). This ministry works directly with local communities throughout

the country, aiming to raise standards of living through education, income generation and self-help schemes. It has developed a credible core group of people who can dialogue and work with local communities.

Some of the very successful rural enterprises were supported and organized by MSAL. They include pottery, weaving, tailoring, and handcrafts .All the programs utilized local available materials and domestic appliances.

Ministry of Agriculture and fisheries established a section for rural women within the department of “Extension and development information”.

The role of MAF in developing a Rural Women

The section for rural women in agriculture is fully responsible for the development of rural women especially in agriculture and its related fields such as, food processing and agriculture by- products processing.

Main function and responsibilities of section :

- 1- To carry out field studies in order to asses the roles and contribution of rural women in the field of agriculture.
- 2- Preparation of suitable programs necessary for the development and improvement of rural women and their roles in agriculture.
- 3- To carry out needed training to enable rural women to perform the agriculture roles in harmony with their local environment such as conservation of natural resources and sustainable agriculture .
- 4- To coordinate and cooperate with other government institutions, Non governmental, regional and international organization dealing with rural women affairs.

In cooperation with MSAL this section has carried out a number of programs aiming at increasing the rural women income, it is expected that the rural women will utilize the new technology introduced to them and start their own small / village based enterprises.

Rural Women Extension Programs

- 1- Bee Keeping .
- 2- Backyard Poultry Keeping .
- 3- Agricultural controlling of product quality.

During the precedent period several programs were implemented and many extension methods were adopted such as extension symposia and lectures, the use of TV, video and slides.

Programs of this season aiming to:

- 1-Apply the MAF programs.
- 2-Advise rural women to employ their agricultural resources. .
- 3-teach rural women to perform the agricultural roles in correct ways.
- 4-Notify them about extension programs and the benefit of their application.



A COUNTRY STATUS PAPER

PREPARED BY

MS. SHAHEEN IJAZ,

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT,

GOVERNMENT OF BALOCHISTAN,

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

A COUNTRY STATUS PAPER

Pakistan located between latitudes 24 N and 37 N and longitudes 61 E and 76 E is home to 135 million people predominantly Muslim with minorities like Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis. The country covers an area of approximately 800,000 square kilometers.

Pakistan have four provinces and its population of 135 millions with an annual population growth rate of 2.6% and is the tenth most populous country in the world. The population of women are 52 %. the country has a total land mass of 88.2 million hectares, out of which 61.8 million hectares is survived and only 32% is categorized as cultivable. Pakistan has a variety of landscapes and climates. The average winter temperature range from 10 c to 15 c and from 25 c 50 c in summer in different parts of the country.

Pakistan is still categorized as Agricultural country. The major crops are wheat, Rice, Maize, pulses, oil seed, sugar cane, Tobacco, cotton and different types of fruits and vegetable.

women in Pakistan contribute actively to its economy feeding the various dimensions rural and urban - Formal and informal sectors - within the household and out side the household. These contributions do not resume a homogenous pattern country wide. Several socio economic factors determine the extent and

nature of this contribution to the economy. some major factors underlying the female labor participation include socio-culture norms - Women's participation being confined to the premises of household and hence ignored in official statistics. The concept of honor and social class are also important factors designing the fabric of women's economic participation followed by the provincial practices for production and education level determining the employment status.

The male labor force participation rate in Pakistan as reported by labor Force service is equivalent to international rates. In contrast the (crud) female labor participation rate, 5.8% is one of the lowest in the world and second lowest in all of Asia.

women contribute actively to different sectors yet the statistical data in this regard often displays a shadowed picture of the facts. According to the labor force survey 1987-88 the distribution of female labor force is 72.27% of these workers is Agricultural workers. Manufacturing represents 13% of the female labor force and community, personal and social services comprising a further 11% women's participation in all other sectors is minor.

The rural women are major contributors in four sectors of the rural economy 1) crop production, 2) livestock production, 3) cartage industry 4) Household and family maintenance activities. such as transporting water, fuel and fodder to and from the home, food preparation and preservation and caring for children and the elderly and disabled. Exceptionally, the Agricultural census 1980 captures a much higher participation rate, estimating that 9.5 million (or 42%) of the 22.8 million economically productive persons in Agricultural household

are female. The women's participation is high in cotton, rice, pulses and vegetable. Activity rise men have higher levels of input in the early stages of production such as soil preparation and monopolize most mechanical/technical inputs. For instance, mechanical threshing is carried out by men, hand testing is a female intensive activity. Some activities are rigidly gender specific such as driving tractors and watering the fields are reserved for men while cotton picking is an exclusively female task. Female participation is notably higher in food stage and processing, but they involved in this activity at house level.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS AND ITS CONTRIBUTION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES.

Balochistan is the largest but Least populated province of Pakistan. with its 347,190 square kilometers occupying almost 44% of the total land surface of Pakistan, it estimated 6.2 million inhabitants in 1993 account for only about 5% of the total population. This population is ethnically diverse, geographically dispersed, and predominantly rural. It is geographically and chemically varied, ranging from barren mountains, to cool highlands, to blistering plateaus and deserts. Rainfall throughout the province is low and variable. with few perennial streams or lakes water supply is one of the key factors limiting economic potential and social well being.

Approximately 82% of Balochistan inhabitants live in the rural zone, in widely scattered villages and settlements numbering somewhere between 5,000 and 9,000 in all. Most of these rural inhabitants are engaged in a variety of Agro-pastoral activities, depending on the ecological possibilities. on the small percentage of arable surface available, farmers practice rainfed or flood agriculture to produce food crops or, where conditions permit, invest in irrigated agriculture for cash crops. So Agricultural development in Balochistan suffers badly from inadequately in irrigation water which is a key input for increased Agricultural Production. Nasirabad area is the only part of the province which is blessed with canal irrigation system. The government has launched a gigantic project called widening "Pat Feeder Canal" with financial

and technical assistance of ADB (Asian Development Bank), OECF and Federal Government with a total revised cost of Rs.6.9 billions.

Nasirabad Division, the project area is virtually the "Granary" of the province, grows 63% of the total grains produced in the province. Main crops of the area are wheat, Rice, oilseed and fodder crops. But Pat Feeder command Area (PFCA) is still backward in term of application of modern technology and productivity as compared to the production of crop field in other provinces. This backwardness is because of the many reasons. some of them are:-

- Settlement of the area was done hardly 20 years ago as the Patfeeder was designed in 1960.
- Most of the farmers are illiterate and not aware about modern crop production technology.
- Feudal system is a major constraint in pace of development and tenants show little interest to improve their production.
- Lack of sustainable development approach.
- Lack of women involvement in the farm and livestock activities.
- Lack of appropriate extension messages both for crop and livestock development.

These constraint could be addressed through:

- i. Establishment of Agriculture Development Groups (ADGs) involving all the farmers categories in obtaining access to agriculture services through Agricultural staff.
- ii. Equitable distribution of water throughout improved water courses compatible with new minor canal system and establishment of water user Associations (WUAs).
- iii. Establishment of women development Groups (WDGs), involving them in crops and livestock activities.
- iv. Strengthening and providing incentives to the institutional staff to deliver better services for the farmers.

The main objectives of the project are to enable the target groups of small farmers, sharecroppers, landless people and women of the project area to exploit the water resources and to increase their income and to improve their social welfare.

Secondly objectives is to stimulate the formation of self-help organization both through the activities of the NGO and through group formation i-e (ADGs & WDGs). The project comprises of the following components:-

ON FARM MANAGEMENT.

AGRICULTURE

LIVE STOCK.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.

The Community Organization component would strengthen the capacity of participating communities in the main areas, and the component activities would be concerned with the following.

- i. Village organization support, where 200 village organization will be established.
- ii. Productive infrastructure, such as irrigation water supply, surface water storage, village protection bunds, school and other buildings, link Road and erosion control schemes.
- iii. Income generation unit, where demonstration and experiments in Agriculture, livestock and other income generation activities would be carried out under the supervision of project staff.
- iv. Water supply and Health.

- v. Rural credit, where the relevant NGOs would provide credit to target groups to develop their own resources which is indispensable for sustainable development.

About 26000 farm families, comprising of small owners, tenants, land less people and women would benefit from the project activities. benefits would result from the following sources.

- 1) Increased in crop and farm income resulting from increased availability of water and improved agricultural support services.
- 2) Increased in livestock income from reduced disease, better feeding and genetic improvement.
- 3) Nutrition and Health Improvement from the formation of women development groups and training of midwives and encouragement of backyard Agriculture.
- 4) Family income and welfare improvement from NGOs program through establishment of self-help organizations.

Specially the role of women in the Pat Feeder area is following.

Women in the part Feeder command Area Development Project (PFCADP) play significant roles in crop production. Their work is concentrated in activities which require hard, physical labor and minimum skill, including transplanting, weeding, thinning, harvesting, binding sheaves and fodder cutting. Other tasks are post-harvest activities, which include threshing, husking, frying, cleaning and storing grains.

Women are specifically disadvantaged as they are heavily involved in agricultural production without having access to information and control over production system in terms of crop selection of direct monetary benefit from crop sale. Their limited exposure to information and lack of contact with outside development interventions constrains them from articulating their needs and problems in specific ways, and finding solutions to them, although they themselves are often well aware of their needs and problems. Village opportunities to get together and share common problem.

The Pat Feeder Command Area Development Project helps the rural women organize into women's Development Groups (WDGs), providing them with an opportunity to closely interact with each other, and with the project, to better articulate their needs, and to plan and implement activities to meet these needs. This process also assists women improve their access to extension services and facilities. Women's Development Groups, with an average membership of 15-30 women, are composed of all women in the community who are interested to participate in group activities.

The organization of the WDGs is the responsibility of the 9 female field staff (6 from Agriculture Extension and 3 from Livestock Extension Department) who are under the joint supervision of Female Assistant Director, Agriculture Extension and Female Assistant Director, Livestock Extension.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Once organized, the WDGs undertake the following joint activities with the female staff of the Project training on livestock related activities, post harvesting activities, kitchen gardening and pest control. With the commencement of the Project's rural savings and credit program, women will have the rare opportunity to help in improving the economic condition of their family. To date, 23 WDGs are actively participating with the Project undertake the above-mentioned activities.

**PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN COOPERATIVES
AND
SUSTAINING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

**A Country Paper for the
4th International Conference on Women in
Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia (IDACA)
and
21st RECA Seminar
August 23 - September 07, 1999**

DIRECTOR TERESITA M. MISTAL
Department of the Interior and Local Government
PHILIPPINES

MS. RAMONA REBUENO
Supervising Personnel Specialist
CESB, PHILIPPINES

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN COOPERATIVES¹

By: *Dir. Teresita M. Mistal*²
*Ms. Ramona Rebuena*³

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship can be defined as an "innovative approach in rearranging an existing set of economic factors to create a new economic niche for commercial gain." This is what sociologists always refer to as capacity building.

The process of capacity building is most effective and successful when it mobilizes large number of men and women to collectively struggle and deal with the forces of their own socio-economic exploitation. Individually, poor people do not have strength to deal with these forces, but collectively a new strength is created which do not exist before. This collective strength enables the poor men and women as a group, to mobilize the existing economic factors of the system into an innovative approach to create a new economic/material niche for themselves in society for commercial gain. One strategy for commercial gain through entrepreneurship is cooperatives-And this is where women like us, excel, like Filipino Women.

WOMEN IN COOPERATIVES

The world at large is having a difficult time coming to terms with women in their role as producers, independent persons who have the right to control resources, as persons who have the right to contribute. And cooperative across nations, by and large, share this world like of women as being primarily a consumer.

¹ A paper presented during the 4th International Conference on Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa, 23-28 August 1999.

² Director, Bureau of Local Government Development, DILG, Philippines

³ Supervising Personnel Specialist, CESB, Philippines

While several consumer cooperatives with women membership have been promoted, women are still not seen as potential members of even such cooperatives as housing cooperatives, which conservatives thought would have defined primarily as women's arena.

In the Philippine context, it is believed that recognition of women as workers will result not only in fair wages and control over those wages, but will result in her recognizing and using her right to access resources - credit and production assets.

It is noted that the cooperative movement, the world over, has few women in the forefront. Even though women are members in known Cooperatives, the process of cooperative democracy and cooperative federating, throws a largely male leadership to the forefront - in the Philippines, in India and elsewhere. Sad to say that these simply isn't a small or large group of women with cooperative management and development experience who are visible enough to be seen as role models for other women to want explore cooperation.

Thus, it is our position that government agencies, non-government organizations and the private sector should encourage active participation of women in development and become equal members of cooperatives. Recognition of the role of women in cooperative movement and empowering them as equal partners in development will surely result in a significant change in the status quo at home, at work, in relationships in control.

EXISTING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The past decade witnessed the enactment of laws and implementation of programs designed to promote the advancement of women.

Foremost of these, is the promulgation of Republic Act (RA) 7192 in 1992, also known as "Women in Development and National Building Act" which provides for equal rights and economic opportunities to factors of production. The aforementioned act also strengthens the mandate of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) as the national machinery for women tasked to ensure the integration of women's concerns in development at national and sub-national levels.

In the same year, the government promulgated R.A. No. 7192, mandating equal access to loans and credit. Specifically, the said law stipulates that women should be given the same credit arrangements as men and the right to act as incorporators and enter into insurance contracts.

Another significant legislation influencing the plight of women was the passage of R.A. 6972 in 1995, which provides for the establishment of a day care center in every barangay. This is to enable women to use other options such as taking a job, going back to school or engaging in microenterprise business.

Another national government policy that supports entrepreneurship among men and women through cooperatives is Republic Act No. 8435 - The Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997.

Under several provisions particularly the Information and Marketing Support Services sector, Filipino farmers and fisherfolks, particularly the women involved in agricultural and fisheries, will be linked to profitable markets for their products. This is considered as a landmark legislation of the country where women are recognized as prime movers for the country's food security in the next millennium.

In response, concerned government entities have taken the challenge by providing financial and technical assistance to rural women. To mention a few:

1. Department of Agriculture (DA) - undertook a training program with rural improvement clubs (RICs) to promote community-based income generating activities for women such as homeyard food production through bio-intensive gardening, cooperatives, cottage industries and other income-generating activities. In addition, the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) has allocated P25 million as training and administrative grant funds to equip Grameen Bank Replicatos i.e., NGOs, Coopbanks to service the credit needs of rural women. As of January 1995, a total of P31.4 million worth of loans have been granted to 12,357 members. Report shows that repayment under this program stood at 96%.
2. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) - implemented skills training and credit programs for disadvantaged women to enable them to engage in livelihood activities. Forty productivity centers with 19 expansion centers nationwide were put up for this purpose. Furthermore, the department has allocated interest-free credit and without collateral for livelihood projects through the Self-Employment Assistance for Women Program.
3. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) - launched its "Tulong sa Kababaihan" (assistance to women) program, a component of "Tulong sa Tao" or (assistance to people), an NGO Micro-Credit Program" (TST-NGO/MCP) to address the credit needs of existing and potential women-entrepreneurs through the extensive use of NGOs, especially women organizations as conduits for lending assistance. As of December 1994, a total of 14 Women NGOs have availed P6.0 million in credit.

4. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) - implemented a credit program which provides credit with minimum interest and no collateral to women beneficiaries payable in five years. Between 1992-1993, there were about P32.5 million loans released to a number of credit cooperatives under this program.

The poverty alleviation initiatives of the government are being complemented by the NGO sector, a key partner in helping women become more productive. Most of these NGOs are involved in community organizing, information dissemination, training and delivery of credit and other basic services.

FILIPINO WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVES AND OTHER INCOME GENERATING ENDEAVORS

In the Philippines, women have been joining cooperatives and other income generating endeavors out of economic necessity and partly, in response to economic opportunities.

Below are statistical information on women participation and access to agricultural cooperatives:

Since the adoption of more gender - sensitive agrarian reform policies that recognize women's right to land, Filipino women holders of Emancipation Patents have increased by two percentage points from 1990 to 1993 and women recipients of Certificate of Land Ownership Awards have increased by close to 10 percentage points during the same period.

Under Republic Act 7882, government makes credit available to women for livelihood activities. The Department of Trade and Industry data yielded information that women beneficiaries of their credit program comprised 62% while women borrowers of capital funds from Household-Operated Activities formed 63.7% in 1992.

POLICY INTERVENTIONS TO TRANSFORM RURAL FILIPINA TO AN ENTREPRENEUR

While significant strides have been accomplished to promote entrepreneurship among women, especially those living in the rural areas, much need to be done:

1. Intensify Existing Education and Training Programs on Entrepreneurship - these are most potent means of empowering more women to gain and enhance their knowledge and skills in order to uplift the family's standard of living and contribute to the overall development of the community. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) should coordinate with concerned agencies i.e., Agricultural Training Institute, Cooperative Development Authority to formulate an integrated training program.
2. Provide Additional Credit for Women through viable NGOs, Cooperatives, Cooperative Banks and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) - evidently, the efforts both from the government and NGOs in providing financial and technical assistance to rural women are laudable but are inadequate. In this regard, the government must allocate additional credit resources for this type of project because: 1) the impact on income is significant; and 2) the repayment rate is considerably high.

3. Enhance Information Campaign - more effective and massive campaign should be done to promote the rights and crucial role of women in community development and poverty alleviation and existing programs available for rural women. The Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with concerned government agencies, NGOs, and the media should take the lead in generating greater awareness and appreciation among women of the policies and programs of government.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN COOPERATIVES AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP.

There is a growing awareness of the need to see to it that development programmes in general, and cooperatives in particular involve women more thoroughly. Recently, there has been a shift in the focus of projects carried out by development agencies towards emphasizing income-generating activities for women, and the formation of cooperatives as a means of carrying these activities.

However, there are major obstacles which continue to limit fuller participation by women in cooperatives and their integration in the cooperatives' leadership. Among these are:

Traditional Constraints

The attitude that a woman's only role should be that of wife and mother is prevalent in most parts of the world in varying degrees. Ironically, a woman's involvement in a cooperative is usually motivated by the desire to increase the family income and improve their situation. Participation in a cooperative, although often perceived as being in conflict with a woman's wife/mother role is actually an extension of these roles.

CONCLUSION

It is our fervent hope that with these inspiring developments and proposed policy interventions, the country can hurdle the remaining obstacles on women in cooperative and eventually, the traditional role and pattern of rural society which holds in check women's capacity and zealously pursue our goal of transforming the rural Filipina the cooperatives movement.

REFERENCES:

1. Abrilla, Edna E. "The Integration of Men and Women into Decision Making Processes and Its Impact on Cooperative Entrepreneurship and the Attitude of Men and Women to the Integration of Women in Cooperative Leadership." Chairperson, Cooperative Development Authority, Philippines.
2. Coloma, Teresita M. "Sustainable Global Community for Women: Women's Participation in Decision-Making and Leadership through Cooperatives," NAPC, Philippines.
3. Quedancor-Veloso, Lorna M. "Transforming the Rural Filipina to an Entrepreneurs - Experiences and Needs."
4. Filipino Women: Facts and Figures. NCRFW, Philippines.

ANNEX A

The Agriculture Modernization & Food Security Program of the Philippines within the Context of His Excellence President Estrada's Framework of Governance

I. THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL SITUATION

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

1. Our record of economic growth is tainted by the increasing gap between rich and poor.

From 1992 to 1997, our gross national product grew at an average of 4.8%. With population growth estimated at 2.3% per annum, GNP per-capita (in real terms) increased by an average of 2.5%. This improvement, however, was not felt by the poor, because of the way income is distributed in the Philippines. In 1988, the richest 30% accounted for 63.4% of total income, while the poorest 30% accounted for 9.3%. In 1994, the situation had deteriorated: the richest 30% of Filipino families accounted for 63.7% of total income, while the poorest 30% accounted for a measly 8.8% of total income.

In the rural areas, those who were covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program reported a 21% increase in gross income from 1989 to 1995 (based on a study conducted by the University of the Philippines). The Ramos Administration reportedly distributed a total of 2.7 million hectares of land which is larger than the 1.7 million hectares of the Aquino Administration. These figures, however, are still way below the targets (10 million hectares from 1988 to 1998) provided for under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, indicating that many more are awaiting to be covered by this reform program.

2. This year, uncertainty prevails in our economy because of the effects of the Asian currency crisis.

Growth is expected to be slower. The government has scaled down the GNP target in 1998 from 7.5% to a range of 3% to 4%. There is continuing uncertainty in the stock market. From July 1997 to

February 1998, the peso has dropped by 55%. interest rate for 91-day treasury bills reached an average of 17.7% in December 1997, compared to 10.5% in June 1997. The government will have a lower budget surplus (the trend has been going down since 1994). Balance of payments for the first nine months of 1997 recorded a deficit once more. It is expected that workers will have more difficulty finding jobs. Likewise, underemployment is expected to increase.

THE SOCIAL SITUATION

Despite a decline in poverty incidence, poverty remains prevalent.

Based on official government statistics, poverty incidence in 1994 was 35.5%, down from 44.2% in 1985. While some may take comfort in the downward trend in poverty statistics, the bottom-line is that there is still one out of every three Filipino families who do not have the means to eat a decent meal three times a day.

On the average, the standard of living is not at par with our Asian neighbors.

Average calorie intake is 2,452, which is lower compared to our Asian neighbors. Life expectancy is 68 years - while higher than the level in 1992, this is still lower than that of Singapore (77), Malaysia (72), and Thailand (69). We have 38.6 people per telephone -- way below that of Singapore (2.0), Malaysia (5.5), and Thailand (13.5).

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

We have a political system with democratic institution, mechanism, and processes firmly in place. The level of political awareness of our people has improved a lot over the years. The Filipino people has manifested time and again the capability to assert themselves on critical issues affecting the nation, such as charter change.

THE AGENDA FOR HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS A SELF-EMPOWERED, PRODUCTIVE, RESPONSIVE, AND COMPETITIVE CITIZENRY

Poverty alleviation will be our goal. We will eliminate the obstacles that prevent the poor from becoming productive and commanding their own economic destiny. In the end, our goal is to make the poor the winners (not the victims) in the development process.

Our agenda for poverty alleviation shall have four components: the provision of an environment to improve distribution of income and wealth, the economic empowerment of our people, the political empowerment of our people, and the provision of special focus and support for the vulnerable sectors of society.

OUR POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Income and Wealth Distribution: Improvements Through Reform Program

We will improve, in favor of the poor, the way income and wealth is distributed in our country. This will be done through implementation of the appropriate reform programs and through an over-all environment that is favorable for development.

Because land is an important asset and land ownership is a critical concern of our farmers, we will complete the agrarian reform program and provide support to agrarian reform beneficiaries so that they will become more productive.

We will respect and recognize the ancestral domain rights of minority groups. We will pursue the institutionalization of the property rights of indigenous peoples.

We will undertake reforms in education, in recognition of the role of education as a great equalizer and as a means to break the cycle of poverty.

2. Economic Empowerment: Enabling our People to Participate in Economic Development

We will work for the economic empowerment of our people. We will arm our people, especially the disadvantaged, with the necessary skills, resources, and opportunities so that they can fully participate in the global economic field. We will improve the capability of the poor to or for their own development through programs designed to increase their absorptive capacity for development interventions.

- 2.1. We will empower the poor to earn a living through more jobs or more opportunities for entrepreneurship. Job generation will be our primary development objective.
- 2.2. We will provide for **basic needs and support services** for our people so that they will become productive and competitive. We will improve our system of targeting the beneficiaries of these government programs so that our resources will be put to best use with the maximum impact.

We will work for food sufficiency for our people -- one that is not based on importation but rather on increased productivity of our farmers, fisherfolk, and livestock breeders. By doing so, we can support the requirements of our economy while providing the stimulus to encourage economic activity in the countryside. During times of calamities, we will improve access of the poor to food by undertaking well-targeted subsidy programs with a definite termination date.

Rural and countryside development will be our priority. We will increase the share of agriculture to 10 percent of national budget. We will implement the **"Food First" productivity booster program.**

We will prioritize government support to economic support programs like farm-to-market roads, post-harvest facilities, **irrigation systems** (especially small-scale irrigation projects), agricultural research and development, among others.

- 2.3. We will provide **credit facilities** for the poor so that they will have more access to financial resources.

We will create an environment so that the poor will have more access to credit facilities from both government and private financial institutions.

We will foster more competition in the banking system so that other entities, such as cooperatives and non-government organizations, can mobilize local savings and provide credit facilities for the poor.

We will focus on the special banking needs of the poor by implementing a "Banking with the Poor" program to strengthen cooperative banks owned by the poor and encourage the transformation of non-government organizations (NGOs) into banks dedicated to providing deposit and credit service to the poor.

- 2.4. We will promote **health and nutrition** of our people, with special focus on the requirements of the poor.

We will expand the coverage of occupational health and safety programs to include not only those in the normal employment sector, but also the **self-employed, farmers, fisherfolk, among others**. We will give highest priority on the prevention of work-related diseases such as asbestosis, silicosis, tuberculosis, and schistosomiasis.

3. **Political Empowerment; People's Participation in Governance**

We will mobilize our people and ensure that they will be able to meaningfully participate in governance and in the general affairs of the nation.

We will support the development of **cooperatives** and other grassroots organizations. We will establish a trust fund to support developmental activities of these groups. We will undertake training programs to enhance the absorptive capacity of the poor. We will also train our local executives in various methods of mobilizing civil society for local governance.

We will pursue decentralization and strengthen local autonomy in line with the principle of subsidiarity. We will empower our smallest political unit, the barangay, so that they can take a more active and responsible role in community affairs.

4. Vulnerable Sectors: Providing Special Focus and Support

We will provide special support and focused interventions for the vulnerable sectors of Philippine society, such as disadvantaged women, children, youth, elderly, disabled, and indigenous communities.

- 4.1. We will support the continued empowerment of women and enhance their participation in nation-building.
- 4.2. We will protect the rights of children from all forms of abuse and work for an environment that will enable them to grow up as productive members of society.
- 4.3. We will implement youth-oriented programs and projects to develop their capabilities and provide opportunities for them to participate in governance.
- 4.4. We will provide avenues for the continued participation of the elderly in community development as productive members of society.
- 4.5. We will ensure that the disabled are mainstreamed into Philippine society by removing the barriers that put them at a disadvantage.
- 4.6. We will uphold the way of life of indigenous communities in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs and protect their ancestral lands.

The Agricultural Modernization and Food Security

Today, the country faces a major challenge that has compounded the regional economic crisis which hit the entire Asian region. The unprecedented climatic change, specifically the "EL NIÑO PHENOMENON" has caused widespread drought and extensive damage to food crops has adversely affected and to the agriculture sector as a whole.

Addressing such challenge calls for a multi-sectoral policy agenda on agriculture and food security. In the light of the passage of the **Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA)**, we have to gear the agriculture sector towards increased productivity; promote rural industrialization and cooperatives; and general employment in the countryside.

Under the framework of agricultural modernization, the Philippines can achieve food security and achieve greater productivity in food production. But again, only by making food security and agricultural modernization as a priority agenda of the administration can we be assured that government resources are harnessed to boost the agriculture sector.

The Perspective for Agricultural Modernization

As the Philippines engages in global trade relations with other nations, we need to carefully assess our strengths and weaknesses in agriculture. We have to learn from our lessons and recognize our constraints, yet realize our potential for growth and development.

By knowing ourselves and knowing where we are, we can be able to draw-up a strategy that would boost our comparative advantage in agricultural production to match those of our counterparts, not only in the Asia region but in other parts of the globe.

Given the proper incentives and support, the local government units can spell the difference in making this country globally competitive in area of agricultural productivity. At this point, we would like to assure our local officials and representatives of the farmers and fisherfolks organizations that part of our scheme for food security and poverty alleviation is the provision of infrastructure support and technical assistance to realize our goal for food security.

Framework for
Agricultural Development
and
The Ten-Point Agenda in
Agriculture and Fisheries



Guiding Vision and Philosophy

A scenario of the future that the Philippine Government can reasonably aspire for is one where every Filipino has access to adequate supplies of food at all times, absolute poverty is eradicated, citizens and communities are empowered to shape their future through improved mechanisms of participation in government decision-making.

The foundation of this future is a modernized small-holder agriculture and a diversified rural economy. These must be dynamic, technologically advanced and internationally competitive, yet whose transformation is guided by the sound practices of resource use efficiency and sustainability, the principles of social justice and active private sector participation.

Towards the realization of this vision, we must be able to discern from the huge mass of experience and lessons, what really works from what simply does not, the fundamental from the peripheral constraints, and the rightful roles of government and the private sectors. It is critical that we now extract the insights and use them to advance the country's goals of achieving international competitiveness and empowering the population with opportunities and means to improve their welfare as they consider appropriate in a society free from hunger and deprivation.

In our situation, sustained employment and income generation and the transformation of our small-holder agriculture sector into one that is modern technology- and science-based, provides the best means for an enduring solution to poverty. This requires political will, financial commitment and enlightened governance.

When government efforts are dispersed over a wide front, implementation is not adequately governed and monitored, and thinly financed, given public resource constraints. Government falls short not for lack of programs or understanding of the complexity of the issues but for lack of a rationalized, simplified focus - a strategic vision.

Government resources must be channeled to where they yield the greatest sustained impact on poverty and food security goals. The necessary strategy must therefore strive for a few simple but rationalized priorities, and enable quick and innovative responses. These can only be assured by a sound and responsible governance.

The Estrada Government, therefore, will put highest priority to the provision of enlightened governance focusing on the generation of employment and income opportunities to the poor for long-term impact. No effort will be spared to address immediate sufferings and protect the most vulnerable.

THE TEN-POINT AGENDA IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

1. Expansion and Revitalization of Productivity Programs

- ☞ Massive seed production
- ☞ Application of modern science
- ☞ Increase coverage and intensity of techno demos
- ☞ LGUs as food security leaders
- ☞ Expand Gintong Ani Programs to rainfed and marginal areas
- ☞ Encourage/support farmers-cooperatives engaging in postharvest processing and other high-value-adding enterprises
- ☞ Intensively promote use of hybrid rice, corn and high-value crops
- ☞ Encourage/support corporate farming
- ☞ Intensify provision of technical assistance to Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) in partnership with DAR

2. Quick-response/intervention to calamity and disaster situations

- ☞ Organize quick/emergency response centers at the DA, bureaus, attached agencies and RFUs
- ☞ Use all forms of media in information and early warning systems
- ☞ Allocate adequate funds
- ☞ Buffer seed program and related interventions
- ☞ Coordinate with other sectors like DND, DOST, DOTC, DILG, DOH, and DSWD

3. Irrigation

- ☞ Massive repair/rehabilitation and construction of irrigation systems by NIA, LGUs, and farmers' groups
- ☞ Installation of additional small-scale irrigation projects (STW, SFR, SWIP/DD) by BSWM
- ☞ Improvement/reforestation of irrigation systems' watersheds in partnership with DENR
- ☞ Enhance capability of irrigator's associations to manage irrigation systems and facilities
- ☞ Promote proper water management practices among water users
- ☞ Expand the use of pressure irrigation on high value commercial crops

4. Farm-to-Market Roads and Related Infrastructures

- ☞ Major shift of infrastructure priorities to the rural areas
- ☞ Encourage LGU participation and counterpart schemes in developing rural infrastructure
- ☞ Increase investment in rural infrastructure
- ☞ Adequate rural infrastructure that reduce the cost of doing business
- ☞ Lobby for the accelerated liberalization of land and inter-island transport, port handling and telecommunications industries

5. Agriculture and Fisheries R & D

- ☞ Reorganize the agricultural research and development system according to the provisions of the AFMA
- ☞ Increase R & D budget to at least 1% of the agriculture and fishery Gross Value Added starting 1999
- ☞ Prepare the medium term national agricultural research and development agenda
- ☞ Fast track the rehabilitation of research and development facilities of the Department of Agriculture
- ☞ Private sector and farmers/fisherfolks to initiate, lead and participate in agricultural research and development
- ☞ Fully tap SCUs, particularly Centers of Excellence
- ☞ Strengthen partnerships with DTI, DAR, DOST/PCAMRD/PCARRD and other institutions
- ☞ Increase effort in packaging and popularization of mature technologies

6. Extension, Education and Training

- ☞ Enhance agri-business and market assistance services
- ☞ Massive re-tooling of extension technicians and other staff in collaboration with LGUs and SCUs
- ☞ Set-up agribusiness and technology promotion centers in every province
- ☞ Expand Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs) and Magsasaka-Siyentista Programs
- ☞ Develop a DA Human Resource Development Plan
- ☞ Mobilize the SCUs in every province to assist LGUs
- ☞ Develop linkages with Agencies/Foundations providing grants
- ☞ Research-based public awareness and information program

7. Rural Finance

- ☛ Lobby for more credit funds
- ☛ Strengthen rural financial institutions' capacity to intermediate in rural sector financing
- ☛ Consolidate existing credit funds and develop a more flexible and accessible package of credit assistance
- ☛ Repeal of Agri-Agra Law

8. Food Price Stabilization

- ☛ Timely intervention in preventing sharp fluctuations in food prices by NFA
- ☛ Institutionalize a transparent and timely rice and corn import policy and decisions
- ☛ Private sector participation in rice importation
- ☛ Institutionalize a buffer stock program with the private sector
- ☛ Separation of regulatory function of NFA from its proprietary function

9. Private Sector Participation and Empowerment of Farmers and Fisherfolks

- ☛ Agricultural Enterprises Development
- ☛ Corporate farming
- ☛ Membership in DA National Committees
- ☛ Representation in DA Agencies' Boards
- ☛ Co-sponsor provincial, national and international trade fairs
- ☛ Assist in implementing regulatory measures
- ☛ Involvement in planning and implementation of DA programs
- ☛ Strengthen farmers associations and cooperatives

10. Renewal of the DA Bureaucracy

- ☛ Transparent Systems and Procedures
- ☛ Proper Implementation of Civil Service Rules and Regulations
- ☛ Reward and Incentives System
- ☛ Merit and Output-Oriented Evaluation system
- ☛ Implementation of Magna Carta for S & T Workers
- ☛ Reengineering of the bureaucracy

4th International Conference
on
"Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa"
Tokyo, Japan.
August 24-29 1999

Papers presented by

Mrs. Prima Shanthi Suriaarachchy,
President, National Women's Committee,
Nation Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka.
No. 455, Galle Road,
Colombo 3.
SRI LANKA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sri Lanka is situated at a very strategic point in the Indian Ocean which lies in the Southern tip of the Indian sub continent between 5 - 6 latitudes above the equator and 79 - 82 eastern longitude.

Not only the nice sea breeze round the country, Sri Lanka is very fortunate in its geography and hinterland. From mean sea level it rises up gradually from the Western coast to the central hills and then again its naturally slopes to the Eastern coast. The central hill range is surrounded by the plain coastal belt and rivers are flowing round the country through its valleys enriching the soil texture of the Island.

Since the coastal belt is partitioned by the central hill, the country is experiencing rains from both South-West and North-East monsoons. Not only the monsoonal rains the country is experiencing inter-monsoonal rains throughout the year enriching rivers with plenty of abundant water adding more beauty to the environment.

The central hills demarcate the Island into a number of ecological regions. The South-West region is wet and humid throughout the year and North-East part of the country covers 2/3 of the land area in the dry zone and a very calm and cool climatic condition prevails in the central region.

The length and breadth of the country is 435km. (250 miles) from North to South and 235 km. (140 miles) from West to East and approximately covers a land area of 65.610 sq.km. (25.000 sq. miles). The natural environment the soil structure with a well spread rainfall and supply of water through irrigation make the country to be more suitable for agriculture.

contd. 2/-

Area Under Land Use

	Area (Hectares)	%
Homesteads	781280	11.5
Tea	201630	3.0
Rubber	199030	2.9
Coconut	300040	4.4
Paddy	800470	11.8
Cinnamon	9130	0.1
Cashew	2430	0.0
Sugar Cane	16770	0.2
Oil Palm	1070	
Mixed Trees & Other Perennial Crops	52630	0.8
Sparsely used Crop land	1288710	19.0
Other Crop Land	58790	0.9
Forest Land	2353360	34.6
Non Agriculture Land	730110	10.7
Total	6795450	100.0

Source : Survey Department - (1981 - 1988)

The land use pattern of the country is as follows :

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Area in Hectares</u>	<u>Percent</u>
01. Major plantation crops (Tea, Rubber, Coconut)	798,103	39.7
02. Other permanent crops	176,500	8.8
03. Asweddumized paddy	556,982	27.7
04. Temporary crops other than paddy	195,048	9.7
05. Wood and forest land	54,129	2.7
06. Pasture land	20,097	1.0
07. Cultivable area but not cultivated	91,648	4.6
08. Area under roads & buildings	75,416	3.7
09. Rocky and waste land	40,805	2.1
TOTAL	2,008,728	100.0

Since the Independence in 1948 the population of the country rose almost approximately thrice and now in 1995 the Sri Lankan population is around 17 M. The annual growth rate has decreased from 1.8 percent in 1978 to 1.2 in 1994. This growth rate comparing to the other Asian and African countries is one of the lowest. Out of the population the rural sector comprises of 72.4% and the urban sector is 21.5% while the plantation sector is about 6.1%. Furthermore the population above 55 years comprises 10% and the vast majority of total population is comprised of the young and adolescent who are very dynamic. Number of persons per sq.km. has increased from 230 in 1981 to 273 in 1994.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

More than 70% of Sri Lankans are living in rural areas. Urbanisation trend is relatively low and for many more decades to come the rural folk will rely mainly on agriculture. Table of land use pattern in Sri Lanka shows that there are two main sectors.

AREA : SRI LANKA

ATT1 : PADDY - GROSS EXTENT CULTIVATED UNDER MAJOR SCHEMES
 ATT2 : PADDY - GROSS EXTENT CULTIVATED UNDER MINOR SCHEMES
 ATT3 : PADDY - GROSS EXTENT CULTIVATED UNDER RAINFED AREAS
 ATT4 : PADDY - TOTAL GROSS EXTENT CULTIVATED

YEAR		ATT1	ATT2	ATT3	ATT4
94	MAHA	262,421	149,356	169,287	581,064
	YALA	207,466	63,284	77,806	348,557
	TOTAL	469,887	212,640	247,093	929,621
95	MAHA	267,168	133,607	165,875	566,650
	YALA	206,357	66,365	75,649	348,371
	TOTAL	473,525	199,972	241,524	915,021
96	MAHA	238,475	106,719	153,736	498,930
	YALA	149,846	41,015	58,955	249,815
	TOTAL	388,321	147,734	212,691	748,745
97	MAHA	225,545	97,008	150,444	472,998
	YALA	144,166	46,667	65,984	256,817
	TOTAL	369,711	143,675	216,428	729,815
98	MAHA	266,142	147,883	159,823	573,845
	YALA	195,098	42,237	37,084	274,419
	TOTAL	461,240	190,120	196,907	848,264

ATT1 :SOURCE : DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
 ATT2 :SOURCE : DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
 ATT3 :SOURCE : DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
 ATT4 :SOURCE : DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

UNIT : HECTARES
 UNIT : HECTARES
 UNIT : HECTARES
 UNIT : HECTARES

Tea, Rubber and Coconut are main tree crops in the country. For over a period of 100 years is the dominant sector has been the plantation sector. Over the period due to management and other social constraints the income from those crops is reducing due to global market changes.

Due to unfavourable prices people have lost interest in the cultivation of Coffee. Cardamon, Cloves etc. of which the production has not shown significant increase.

Paddy production being the most vital agricultural activity in our traditional farming, plays a very vital role in the overall economy in Sri Lanka. Paddy is the staple carbohydrate of Sri Lankans. Its importance to the nations's economy by saving of foreign exchange through import substitution and employment to a large segment of the rural population cannot be ignored. About 1.8 M. farmers or 10% of the total population are engaged in paddy cultivation. Rice accounts for 45% of per capita calories in the Sri Lankan diet. The total extent of paddy increased from 0.487 m.ha. in 1957 to 0.835 m.ha. in 1993 showing an increase of 74% during the period.

Similarly the government has shown a very keen interest in fisheries and milk production as they provide the other proteins and minerals for Sri Lankan people. The government is very keen to harness the fishery resources available in and around Sri Lanka which shows very high potential. This includes even resourceful inland fisheries. With huge irrigation tanks this sector can be very well developed to supply the protein requirement of the local population. Estimated fish production in 1994 was 224,000 MT. It was an increase of 1% when compared with the previous year. Output of the coastal fishery sub-sector which accounted for 78% of the total fish production, increased by 3% from 169,000 MT. in 1993 to 174,500 MT. in 1994. Production of the offshore fish of the deep sea sub-sector rose by 14% to 37,500 MT.

contd. 4/-

Table 1: Land Utilization within Agricultural Holdings - Sri Lanka

	Small Holding Sect		Estate Sector		Total	
	Ac	%	Ac	%	Ac	%
Asweddumised Paddy	1355095	37.3	21236	1.6	1376331	27.7
Temporary Crops other than paddy	470295	12.9	11680	0.9	481975	9.7
Major Plantation Crops	1027407	28.3	944743	71.0	1972155	39.7
Other Perenianent Crops	355617	9.8	80526	6.1	436143	8.8
Forest Land	51854	1.4	81904	6.2	133758	2.7
Pastures	10952	0.3	38710	2.9	49662	1.0
Cultivable Land but not Cultivated	170332	4.7	56137	4.2	226469	4.6
Lands under Roads & Buildings	138183	3.8	48174	3.6	186357	3.8
Lands not suitable for cultivation	53916	1.5	46917	3.5	100833	2.0
Total	3633651	100.0	1330032	100.0	4963683	100.0
	73.2		26.8		100	

Source: Census of Agriculture - 1982

Dairying is the major component of the livestock industry and is acceptable to all communities and has no religious or social constraints. Milk market in Sri Lanka is dominated by imported powdered milk facilitated by low tariff rates. The convenience and facilitation of storage and aggressive marketing strategies of the milk powder importers have been unique. Sri Lanka produces about 330 M. Litres of milk per day, but do not process even 10% due to non-availability of technology, machinery and other facilities. 90% of the milk produced is collected either by MILCO or by NESTLES. The farmers are not getting reasonable farmgate prices for their production. On the other hand the farmers are aware that the companies are collecting a very big profit margin which is not ploughed back for the development of the sector.

In tea, rubber and coconut land about 70% of the land owners are small or marginal holders possessing less than two acres. Those small blocks are being cultivated and looked after by family labour. Recent surveys show that the crops and the production of the small farmers are increasing specially in tea and particularly rubber, coconut and paddy giving opportunities to earn higher incomes. Due to other constraints like labour shortage small farmers are in an advantages position to get involved in the co-operative movement from which common input supplies, marketing extension and processing facilities could be under taken as co-operative ventures.

Co-operatives in its widest sense has been in extent in every fabric of rural life in ancient Sri Lanka.

However, the formal co-operative movement was introduced by the colonial government of Sri Lanka. At the beginning of the current century as a means of ameliorating the problems prevailing in the socio-economic environment in the rural sector. Hence it was a top down movement and not necessarily a down up one.

contd. 5/-

The Thrift and Credit Co-operative Societies (TCCSs) ordinance of 1911 provided legal recognition for the establishment of TCCSs and this provided the training ground for early co-operatives. The societies formed at the initial stages were unlimited liability credit co-operatives as the law enacted and not facilitate the registration of other types of co-operative societies.

Members unlimited liability for debts of the society was considered an attractive service to enlist trust and confidence of lenders to a class of impoverished rural poor who could not provide marketable collateral as suitable security against their borrowings.

This phase of the development of the co-operative movement from 1911 to 1942 could be considered as the credit co-operative era. During this period the initial legislation was amended to facilitate the registration of secondary co-operative societies and also for the purpose of registering co-operatives other than credit.

The Secondary Co-operatives took the form of unions of TCCSs and finally Co-operative District, and Provincial Banks and an Apex Co-operative Bank until the amalgamation with the People's Bank in the year 1962.

SERVICES RENDERED BY THE CO-OPERATIVES TOWARDS AGRICULTURE.

Nothing demonstrates the failure of past policies so much as the present sorry state of agriculture and the rural population. Despite much loud pro-agriculture rhetoric, the fact is that past Government policies forced agriculture to compete with other sectors on grossly unequal terms as high levels of industrial protection taxed agriculture heavily. This government has promised to remove the institutional and policy obstacles which have reduced agricultural profitability and constrained investment. The Government interventions in agriculture will also be limited to improving markets, whereby farmers will be assured of stable and remunerative prices for their produce and the supply of inputs and technology.

In other words, the new agricultural development strategy is designed to ensure that the creative energy and independent spirit of our farmers are not stifled by bureaucracy and over regulation. This Government has confidence in the rural masses and in their capacity for making rational choices. The broad thrust of Government policy will be to assist farmers, fishermen, and other agricultural workers to make the transition to a more open, challenging and competitive environment which can end stagnation and usher in prosperity.

As mentioned earlier the rural farmers though they are producing they are not accumulating a sufficient income over the years. They could not upgrade from their subsistence farming to a well organized life style due to various constraints.

The credit sector is organised through major state owned banks. Still the officers in there have not changed their attitudes towards the rural farmers and the latter have to undergo severe hardships. From the point of approaching them and up to the granting of a loan to the farmers faced with hundreds of problems ultimately they find that it is not getting them in appropriate time. Filling of various forms and the behaviour is not positive towards the rural farmer.

In desperation, the village money lender and the so called middleman appears and they look after the rural farmer with a more warmth and extends helping hand. The middleman gives financial assistance at the sowing time, land preparation and even up to harvesting. During the lean period he looks after the farmer family. The farmers' family necessities are being looked after by the middleman and social obligations too. Ultimately Middleman collects the harvest from the rural farmers.

This is the phenomenon. The middleman will become the collector or wholesaler or the supplier to the public and thus the harvest in the bulk form reaches the main urban market. When it comes there glut is being collected at the city market centre which collect only a meagre income. Cultivator or the producer is getting a pittance at the grass root level and consumer pays high price at the urban level. Middleman makes exorbitant profits.

The MPCSSs has an island-wide network assisting farmers in this situation. The requirement of the MPCSS is to look after its members. If the co-operatives have a clear vision, they are the only organisation which can work towards the welfare of their members. As the middleman, the MPCSS also can extend loans at the appropriate time of sowing and harvesting, marketing as well during the period the farmers are at a lower ebb economically or sudden cash need arises due to social and cultural obligations.

Some MPCSSs have engaged in this service in a very effective manner. We are having examples of such co-operatives. They know who are the genuine farmers out of their membership, and for them they extend a very vital service. They provide them with cash as well as inputs at a subsidised rate. Most effective way is to supply inputs in kind. In large paddy, onion and vegetable growing areas the co-operatives are practising these methods and have obtained fruitful results. They have successfully collected the produce and transported them to the cities, releasing them from the clutches of the middleman.

In the big onion trade, the achievements are very promising. Since the introduction of a floor price the farmers can sell their produce to anybody. If they sell it to the MPCSS, they can store it and release to the market gradually. The main purchasing organisation - the CWE, who support the consumers throughout the country buy it from the Co-operatives by giving a service charge and advancing money to MPCSSs. In turn this service charge is being given to the members of the co-operatives as a second payment which enhances the confidence on the MPCSS.

Valuable service is rendered by the Milk Producing Co-operatives to its members. As an example Co-operative Milk Unions of Kuliypitiya and Meda-Rata in Kandy can be cited. They have significantly improved the hygiene and general quality of milk at the farm level, and the handling of milk between the farm and the plant to allow the production of safe and high quality dairy products. Further these unions have improve the productivity and potential income through improved milking procedures., stables, sanitation procedures with the cow, the milker and the milk storage equipment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION & ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN WOMEN PROGRAMME.

The traditional role of women in Sri Lanka is to look after her husband and children. However, with the social, economic and political changes in the early half of the twentieth century, the introduction of adult franchise and free education, the status of women improved significantly. Both sexes enjoy legal freedom. The literacy rate in Sri Lanka is nearly 90% and the literacy rate for females is 83%. Marriages are still arranged by parents though it is changing in the urban areas. During the early days dowry played an important role in securing good match, but now the demand for working wives is increasing among urban lower middle class because of economic compulsion.

Women have participated in the co-operative movement of Sri Lanka since its inception. However, sufficient statistics are not available on this subject. There is no discrimination in the participation of women in co-operative Law. Although, every member of a family can enroll as a member. In most families only the householder becomes a member, but the actual participation is by the female. Out of the total membership 38% are women.

Co-operative women's activities in Sri Lanka was organized in 1976, and a structure building up from primary society level to National level was established. We are very thankful to the ICA and Swedish Co-operative Centre for their great help and assistance given to us during this period.

The organization of the women's committee is such that this function is now being attended to by the women leaders. Therefore, intelligent and active participation of women members is a welcome sight in the co-operative movement. Women's Committees have no legal status in the society, but, its main objectives are to increase the participation of women and extending the scope of activities of the society, in advisory capacity. Therefore, the women's organization takes into consideration the location of the society, the resources available in the area (man power as well as raw materials), requirements of the members before organizing and commencing on any such venture.

In all districts of the island various activities are being carried out by the Women's Committee, according to the requirements of the members. Very often traditional crafts are being given prominence through the societies. This is specially evident in the Kandy district. Very often the initiation of such project is taken by a group of women members of a self employment basis. They seek loan facilities from the society rural banks etc. In the rural areas animal husbandry, some gardening, handicrafts, making sweet meats, conducting pre-schools, saking of incense, sticks (joss sticks) making of masks and wood carving take precedence over activities requiring more training and skills. However, in these areas the women leaders concentrate more on programmes based on nutrition, family health, budget control or family income, and preparation of balanced diets for the family.

Women leaders in Sri Lanka work voluntarily, spending their time and energy resources to carry out these activities to develop the standards of the rural women members. The success of a project depends mostly on the dedication of the leaders and the members.

In Sri Lanka, as in other Asian countries, there are constraints preventing the active participation of women members. Specially, members with careers have to combine conflicting demands of a career with the responsibilities as wife and mother, leaving her no time for participation in the development of the society.

contd.10/-

Social traditions and cultural restrictions confine the rural women to take a second place in the society. Thus preventing their active participation in decision making. Lack of motivation among members themselves is a major draw back towards the development of the society. Therefore, though our women members may be academically qualified, they have to be trained in the co-operative ways too.

The Women's Consumer Co-operative Project conducted with the sponsorship of SCC and NCC was able to provide limited knowledge on consumer education to the women members of selected societies. The Loyalty and dedication improved. A change in their attitudes towards the society and their activities changes as a result of the activities and programme of this project.

Subsequently, with the assistance from the Canadian Co-operative Association income generating activities were continued. An annual lottery was held to raise funds for the women's activities.

Under the present leadership of the NCC, special interest is being taken to uplift the Women's Committees and the Co-operative Women's Movement. Several meetings have been held for the women leaders at district level as well as national level. Suggestions have been made to prepare a National Plan for better co-ordination of women's activities which are been carried out in sporadic and isolated manner at present. There is an idea to form a separate Co-operative Women's Apex organization for the upliftment of women membership of our movement.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S SECTOR IN SRI LANKA.

Various changes have taken place in the Co-operative Movement of Sri Lanka and within the NCC, once the completion of the Women's Co-operative Consumer Education Programme. With the decentralisation of state administration and evolution of power more activity is taken place at Provincial level. The restructured NCC is being organized in keeping with the present trends for the emergency of a more viable, effective self reliant and independent National Movement. The membership of the NCC now consists of the 27 autonomous District Co-operative Councils and the Aoex Unions. Its administrative structure consists of three main divisions: Education/ Training and Publicity, Planning and Development and Finance. Women and

Year 1975 was declared International Women's Year by the U.N. In July 1975 under the sponsorship of the ICA, SCC and the Malaysian Co-operative Movement a seminar was held in Malaysia on the subject of "Role of Women in Co-operative Development" Three women representatives from Sri Lanka participated. As a result of their active participation, the SCC decided to conduct a Project in Sri Lanka on "Women's Co-operative Consumer Education" with funds collected by the Swedish Co-operative Women's Gilds. Sri Lanka being a small country with a very high presentage of literacy among women, and the women being much involved in co-operative activities was considered the best country in Asia to conduct this programme. Mrs. T. Kulasinghe one of the representatives at the seminar in Malaysia was a Director on the Board of NCC. After her return she actively involved herself in forming women's committees, in the MPCSSs with two main objectives.

1. to develop women's participation in the co-operative movement.
2. to assist in developing and strengthening the co-operative movement in Sri Lanka.

A National Women's Committee was formed was formed in 1976. Today the present organization of women's co-operative activities is not confined only to the MPCSSs. The Thrift and Credit Co-operative Movement has Organizations in different fields.- for example, Fisheries and Agriculture. These different departments has National Women's Committees. The National Women's Committee of the NCC elected tri-annually. It consists of nine members elected from the main provinces at a General Body Meeting. There is one representative nominated by the Department of Co-operative Development (see Annexed I)

The MPCSS by-law specifically states that 2 members of the Board should be women. At district level the District Women's Committee President is accepted as a Member of the Board of the District Co-operative Council. The National Women's Organization of the FTCCS consists of nine members elected once a year from the nine provinces at an Annual General Meeting. In the organizational structure of the Fisheries sector there is a district level women's advisory committee. In forty primary fisheries societies out of seven members of the Committee two are women.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

Wide range of education and training programmes are scheduled for different target groups in activity self-employed activities, technological know-how, environment and human behaviour. These programmes were conducted at village level, zone level and district levels. In National and International Level women programmes planned to identify the national level policies, major issues and their implementation, work programmes, development of curriculums, education methodology, educational management and planning purposes which scheduled through apex level, national level and international level workshops, seminars and consultation committees.

Women education programmes also involve pre-school education and pre-school teachers training programmes in consultation with Open University and other relevant organisations. The new education areas identified in women sections are development of women's management skills, decision making, programmes budgeting, evaluation, project appraisal, resource utilisation, family planning and attitude changes etc.

To popularise the programmes which introduced in-service training programmes, practical training and self employment programmes as income generation to women. In field level and activity level, self-employment programmes were conducted at vocational training centres in consultation with expertise organisations and the Institutions. To maintain programmes continuity, efficient management and increased productivity were introduced, loan schemes with concessional interest rates, and practical guidance too were also provided.

PROPOSED CULTURAL CENTRE FOR NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE.

The ideas were discussed at various level of leadership and this centre would be helpful for furnishing marketing and distribution channels to women's self employment programmes. The various activities are undertaken by the centre likewise, development of production designs, allocation of products, upliftment of quality, exhibition of products, resource mobilisation and utilisation etc.

International linkages and co-ordination would be preferred for development of the centre as international cultural and co-optrade centre in future. The proposed cultural centre for National Women's Committee is planned to be established in relation to the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka. The activities relating to pricing marketing, resource utilization and allocations, production planning and designing would be monitored at the national level. This Centre would be helpful for the women's cultural concepts and attitudes in the rural poor. The Organizers' of the Cultural Centre are mostly welcome - national and international level assistance to develop the centre in various aspects in future.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

Today in Sri Lanka, the Co-operative Movement faces severe Challenges it has never encountered before. The Movement has always been deeply involved in developing the standards of the members within the framework of our socio-economic system.

The co-operatives established in 1911 with state sponsorship still continue to be instruments of development of the state because of their strategic importance as a reliable network of distributing outlets readily available at times of national disturbances and disaster. The Movement is of one voice to be independent and be totally free of state interference. But the Co-operative Law and Rules and Regulations and absence of a state policy for co-operatives or a comprehensive manpower policy for the development of the human resources of the co-operatives are considerable drawbacks.

Women in Sri Lanka exercising equal status as men. There are no painful differences any one could see in practice. Co-operative Movement in this country officially started in year 1911 even before that co-operative characteristics reflected in economic, social and cultural activities in their lives. Sri Lanka has agro based economic patterns. In the agriculture fields men and women equally participated. In Co-op. Societies as well as the co-operative movement women are active as men, women in this country has very much to understand about the co-op. system and could see more involvement in the business of Co-operatives. Also there are women committees functioning

RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTIONS:

1. In Sri Lanka there is a significant improvement in the situation of women in co-op. membership and involment in management levels.

Since improvement took place due to implementation of Gender polices and the training programmes which were conducted to change their attitude and the ammendments of By-Law giving them oppertunity to involve in decision making pracess.

2.i. We need a seperate apex level organisation for women in order to discuss their problems and implement some projects. (It is in progress now)

ii. By-Laws of Co-operatives should be annexed and make provisions to elect at least women to the management. (Board)

iii. Women leader at the national level women's Co-op. Organisation should be a director of the NCC.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Total number of Individual member - 4967.87

Percentage of women members 30% - 40%

EMPLOYEES

Total number of employees 51,000 (approx.)

Percentage 50% - 60%

WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT

Total number of senior managers - 120

Number of Woman - 30

Total number of middle managers - 1266

Number of men - 423

TYPE OF DEPT. WHERE WOMAN ARE MANAGING.

Finance	- 60%
Human Resource	- 30%
Marketing	- 2%
Production	- 3%
Public Relation	- 25%
Others	- 30%

4. We are mainly concerned about following areas for the Beijing platform for Action.

Women and Poverty
Education and Training at women
Women and Health
Women and environment
The hert child
Violence against women.

5. Women are playing vital tale in domestic economy. We must open avenues to increase their living conditions lack of capital and skills are major problems. Therefore, regional and country level. Fund for the financial assistance to women is much needed.

4th International Conference on
"Women in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Africa"
and
21st RECA Seminar
23 August - 7 September, 1999

Women in Farmers' Organizations in Taiwan

Presented by

Erh-Rou Lai

Department of Agricultural Extension
National Taiwan University
Taipei, Taiwan 106,
Republic of China

Organized Jointly By

Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA-Zenchu)
The Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia,
(IDACA), JAPAN
Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization (AARRO), INDIA

Women in Farmers' Organizations in Taiwan

Erh-Rou Lai

Executive Summary

Farm women play an indispensable role in family management, farm work, and rural development, both in developing and developed countries. Due to different culture and tradition, women in agricultural cooperatives could be different in different countries. It is an important and interesting issue need to be discussed in more detail.

In Taiwan, farm women contribute greatly in farm operation. However, most of their efforts are put on their family farms, serving as farm helpers rather than farm managers. They seem to be less active in leadership behavior compared to their counterparts in urban areas. For example, among the 305 farmers' associations, there are only 5 women general managers, even the majority of the employees in farmers' associations are female.

Over the years, many women empowering programs are carried out through the operations of farmers' organizations. The implementation of home economics education programs, enhancement projects for farm and aboriginal women, the reformation of agricultural production and marketing teams, and the yearly award of ten outstanding farm women are four essential programs to empower rural women.

Even the enhancing programs are implemented for so many years, and proved to have significant outcomes, there are still some obstacles and difficulties encountered in women empowering process. Stereotype of gender identification, less access to academic opportunities and lack of empowerment, lack of participation in public affairs, less access of development programs, and less access of agricultural information technology are some of the important aspects worthy to be discussed.

This paper concludes that farmers' associations are the most important farmers' organization in empowering women, compared to others. The social and educational functions are more significant than economic functions to rural women in farmers' associations in Taiwan. Upon the rapid social change and accession into WTO, agriculture tends to lose competitiveness, result in farmers' economic crisis in making a living. Therefore, more solid and comprehensive development programs are needed to guide and direct the rapid social change.

Women in Farmers' Organizations in Taiwan

Erh-Rou Lai

Introduction

Farm women play an indispensable role in family management, farm work, and rural development, both in developing and developed countries. In Taiwan, farm women greatly participated in farm operation (Tu, Su, & Liu, 1999; Liu, Su, & Tu, 1996). However, their contributions are often neglected in national accounts and census data. They are invisible farmers (Sachs, 1983). Since the declaration of 1975 as the International Year for women, women's issues have become an important theme among the advocates and proponents of women's rights in many countries, so as in Taiwan (Kuo, 1999). How rural women in Taiwan are involved in farmers' organization and how women empowerment programs are carried out are the main themes to be explored in this paper. In the beginning, a short description of farmers' organizations in Taiwan will be introduced. Among the various farmers' organizations, farmers' associations will be explored in more detail, followed by an explanation of agricultural extension and home economics extension systems. Finally, the projects and problems for women empowerment are discussed.

Two groups of farmers' cooperative organizations exist in rural Taiwan. The first group is so-called "agricultural cooperatives", are organized bodies of farmers formed primarily to manage the business of production (Hung, 1994), including cooperative farms, agriculture-related cooperatives, and fruit marketing cooperatives. The second group includes farmers' associations (FAs) and fishermen's associations (FIs).

In Taiwan, the objectives of the first type of farmers' organizations are particularly focusing on agricultural production and marketing. The number of cooperatives and members of this type of organization is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of Cooperatives and Members of Agricultural Cooperatives in Taiwan

Kinds of Agricultural Cooperatives	# of Cooperatives	# of Members
Cooperative Farms	205	20,923
Agriculture-Related Cooperatives	255	110,072
Fruit Marketing Cooperatives	9	87,425
Total	469	218,420

Source: Chen, Chiu-Ren, The Formation and management improvement of Agricultural Cooperatives in Taiwan, 1999.

The second group of farmers' organization is one kind of multi-purpose cooperative organization, aimed at increasing of common benefit of farmers, farming, and farm village. They served as economic, political, social and educational organizations in rural Taiwan. The number of members of this type of organizations is especially larger than that of the first group. The effects of these organizations are also more significant than the former one. In addition, data shows that very few women are involved in the agricultural cooperatives, including the representatives, directors, and supervisors. Therefore, this paper will focus on the second type of organization, their operations and impacts, specifically on farmers' associations.

Farmers' Associations in Taiwan

Farmers' Associations are essentially voluntarily organizations. It is one type of business firm serving farmers directly by handling their products and filling their service needs. It is an organization of farmers, by the farmers and for the farmers. Farmers' associations are organized to carry out consolidated operations and mutual coordination in all tasks, provide the finest services, and achieve the greatest results (National Training Institute for Farmers' Organizations, 1999). The **objectives** of farmers' associations include:

1. To protect the interests of farmers
2. To enhance the know-how and skill of farmers
3. To promote the modernization of agriculture
4. To increase profits from production
5. To develop the rural economy

According to the Farmers' Association Law (1995), the **missions** of Township Farmers' Associations are as following:

1. Dissemination of agricultural laws and regulations, and mediation of agricultural disputes, in order to protect the interests of farmers.
2. Assistance in farmland-related improvement of irrigation, conservation of soil and water, and cultivation of forests.
3. Extension of superior seeds and fertilizers.
4. Guidance and demonstration for agricultural production, propagation of superior varieties, and promotion of the operation of specialized agricultural production.
5. Agricultural extension and training, and provision of incentives for agricultural production.
6. Matters related to farm mechanization and improvement of labor efficiency.
7. Guidance and promotion of joint and entrusted operations, family farm development, and contract farming operations.

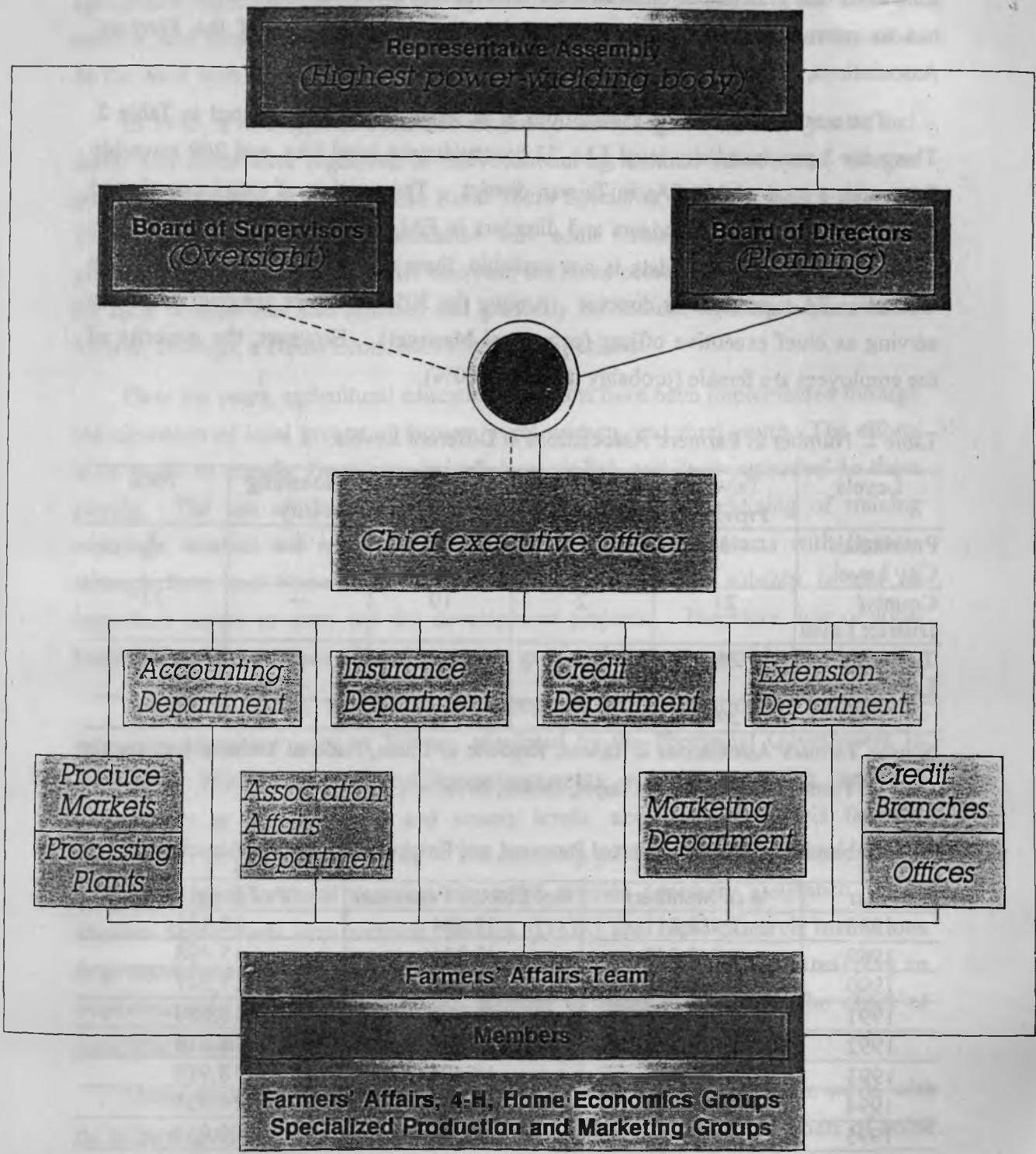
8. Marketing, storage, processing, and manufacturing of animal products, and operation of markets.
9. Importation, processing, manufacturing, and distribution of agricultural production materials, and sales of daily necessities for association members.
10. Agricultural warehousing, and joint utilization by association members.
11. Financial services for association members.
12. Acceptance of commission to handle agricultural insurance.
13. Acceptance of commissions to assist in agricultural insurance matters and in farm housing construction.
14. Rural cooperation and social services matters.
15. Promotion of rural sideline occupations and rural industries.
16. Matters of rural culture, health and sanitation, welfare, and relief work.
17. Improvement of farmland utilization.
18. Agricultural disaster prevention and relief.
19. Commissioned business on behalf of the public treasury or public and private groups.
20. Other matters approved by the authorized concerned.

The Farmers' Associations operate on three level—provincial, county/city and township. The township Farmers' Association (TFA) is the basic farmers' organization. It maintains a direct contact with the farmers and serves them. Membership can be divided into both regular members and associated members. They are also known as farm members and non-farm members. Only one person from each farm household can join the township Farmers' Association as its member (Lin, 1979).


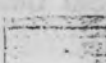

The organization chart of Township Farmers' Association is presented in Figure 1. Usually, there are six divisions in the TFA, namely, credit division, supply & marketing division, insurance division, extension division, accounting division, and general affairs division. Among the six divisions, credit division is designed to provide financial support and stabilize rural economy. The function of supply & marketing division focuses on the supply of agricultural necessity and marketing of agricultural products. The insurance division pays attention to health care and family insurance. Extension division aims to educate rural people in order to strengthen their ability of problem solving and decision-making. Many TFAs have produce markets, and processing plants, and credit branches in different places, as shown in Figure 1.

Since 1975, some Farmers' Associations were restructured for some reasons, some for financial crisis, some for rapid decline of farmers, some others for being

Figure 1. The Organization Chart of Township Farmers' Association



Legend:

- Direct relationship ———
- Indirect relationship - - - - -
- Authority units 
- Operating units 
- Authority-operating division point 

unable to survive. Most recent case is that some Township Farmers' Associations have been faced the problem of inadequate or illegal processing of loans, and result in survival crisis. To rescue these farmers' associations from bankrupt, the government has to restructure these farmers' associations by merging some of the Farmers' Associations, or being taken charge by other Farmers' Association.

The number of farmers' associations at different levels is presented in Table 2. There are 3 provincial/city level FAs, 33 county/district level FAs, and 269 township FAs, with a total of 305 FAs in Taiwan district. The number of members, elected personnel (including supervisors and directors in FA), and employees are shown in Table 3. Even statistical data is not available, there are only few rural women are elected as FA supervisor or director. Among the 305 FAs, there are only 5 women serving as chief executive officer (or general Manager). However, the majority of the employees are female (probably more than 60%).

Table 2. Number of Farmers' Associations at Different Levels

Levels	Taiwan Province	Fu-Chien Province	Taipei City	Kaohsiung City	Total
Provincial/City Level	1	--	1	1	3
County/District Level	21	2	10	--	33
Township Level	268	1	--	--	269
Total	290	3	11	1	305

Source: Farmers' Associations in Taiwan, Republic of China, National Training Institute for Farmers' Organizations, Taipei, Taiwan, 1999.

Table 3. Number of Members, Elected Personnel, and Employees in Farmers' Associations

Year	# of Members	# of Elected Personnel	# of Employees
1988	1,488,811	13,484	15,155
1989	1,543,043	13,336	15,498
1990	1,580,954	13,887	17,247
1991	1,557,778	13,702	18,680
1992	1,615,423	13,729	18,814
1993	1,659,382	14,494	18,920
1994	1,698,358	14,361	19,836
1995	1,709,889	14,280	20,014
1996	1,708,548	15,352	20,601
1997	1,734,928	14,623	20,669

Source: Farmers' Associations Year Book in Taiwan District, 1998 Edition, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Government of Taiwan, and Taiwan Provincial Farmers' Association.

Agricultural Extension Education in Taiwan

Since the restoration of Taiwan to the Republic of China in 1945, many agricultural agencies have carried out agricultural extension programs in one field or another, and most have asked the extension workers in township farmers' association do the work with farmers.

In 1952, a new type of extension education work began with rural youth, and many 4-H clubs were organized in the vocational agricultural schools and villages under the guidance of an American Rural Youth Specialist, Mr. A. J. Brundage. In 1955, a pilot farm extension education with adult farmers was started with the guidance of Mr. J. D. Pope. After one year, the home economics extension program for farm women was also initiated and gradually carried out with the assistance of Miss B. Billings, a Home Economics Extension Specialist.

Over the years, agricultural education programs have been implemented through the operation of local groups of farmers, rural women, and rural youth. The efforts have made to transfer "new knowledge", "new skills", and "new attitudes" to these people. The use of visual aids and reference materials, conducting of training meetings, method and result demonstrations, and frequent contacts with farmers through farm and home visits have been emphasized, even subsidy is still an important means to carry out the development projects. Therefore, use of local leaders and the operations of local extension groups/clubs are essential.

According to the regulations governing the implementation of agricultural extension education work in Taiwan, stipulated by the Provincial Government in 1965, the PDAF and County/City governments act as sponsoring agencies respectively at the provincial and county levels, and the three levels farmers' associations as executing agencies. The township public offices act as cooperating agencies, and other local agencies concerned provide necessary assistance. The District Agricultural Improvement Stations (DAIS) and other research institutions (e.g. agricultural universities and various specialized crop research institutes) play an important role in providing technical support to extension work. The chart of agricultural extension system is shown in Figure 2.

Home Economics Extension is one part of the agricultural extension work, with its targets specifically on rural women. Following are four primary goals of home economics extension education by farmers' association:

1. To strengthen the rural family function, foster healthy physical and mental development of rural family members, and promote amicable, harmonious, and mutual-help relations in rural society.

2. To guide farm families in the effective management and utilization resources so as to stabilize the home economy.
3. To guide improvement of the rural living environment and strengthen education in environmental protection.
4. To popularize rural nutrition and health education, guide the formation of balanced eating habits, and strengthen sanitation and health services.

The home economic extension service in Taiwan has always been addressed to the need and problems of rural and farm families. It aims at the betterment of living conditions for rural and farming populace by means of dissemination and promoting /adoption of new knowledge, methods and techniques of modern home making. In the beginning, home economics extension services started from the promotion of three subject matter fields: food for health, home improvement and easy sewing. Over the years, four additional fields—household insect control, childcare, home environment beautification and sideline skills training have been added to meet the needs of rural and farm families in order to upgrade the rural family life.

Home economics extension services in Taiwan are financed and conducted cooperatively by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Under the supervision of Council of Agriculture, District Agricultural Improvement Station (DAIS) is the most important governmental agencies to carry out agricultural policies, especially extension policies, programs and projects. Township Farmers' Associations and District Fishermen's Associations are the important non-governmental organizations. At present, there is 7 DAIS in Taiwan. They conduct experimentation and research, proving new knowledge and skills to extension agents and farmers. Subject-matter specialists in DAIS also serve as a linkage (bridge) between government and farmers' associations. Different levels of government officials give guidance and supervision to the extension agents and provide financial assistance. The five level system of home economics extension is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. The Five Level System of Home Economics Eextension

Levels	Governmental organizations	Non-governmental Organizations
National Level	Council of Agriculture (COA)	
Provincial Level	Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry (PDAF), Provincial Fishery Bureau, Provincial Aboriginal Bureau	Provincial Farmers' Association (PFA), Provincial Fishery Association (PFI)
District Level	District Agricultural Improvement Station (DAIS)	District Fishery Association (DFI)
County Level	County Government	County Farmers' association (CFA)
Township Level	Township Office	Township Farmers' Association (TFA)

Projects Involving Women in Farmers' Organizations

In recent years, several programs are initiated to empower rural women, aiming to develop their knowledge and skills in farm and family management, in order to enhance their capacity, self-esteem and self-reliance. Following are four important programs.

The Implementation of Home Economics Education Programs

Home economics education programs are primarily implemented through the Home Economics Improvement Clubs. Rural women are grouped together based on the locality and women's needs under the facilitation and supervision of home economics extension workers. In 1999, there are 156,187 club members in 7,039 home economics improvements clubs with 5,250 local leaders (volunteers) in 288 township and city farmers' associations, 39 district fishery associations and 52 aboriginal townships (Chen, 1999). These clubs hold group meetings regularly or irregularly, usually once every two months. In the beginning stage of group formation, they select their own director, vice director, secretary, and bookkeeper. Those women with sympathy, consideration, and leadership skill are more likely to be elected as club's cadres. Serving as group cadres is a great opportunity for rural women to develop their interpersonal skills and to enhance their capacity.

During the group meeting, they often invited family experts to teach what they like to learn. From the Q & A with experts and specialists, these women learn how to be a competent wife, best mother, and active citizen. After several attendance of home economics education programs, many rural women reported that they became more self-confident, self-reliant, and more efficient. More recently, four kinds of education projects are implemented through the operations of home economics improvement clubs, which include: 1) Livelihood Improvement of the Rural Elderly, 2) Strengthening Preventive Health Services, 3) Strengthening and Family Functions, and 4) Beautification of Rural Living Environment. And the outcomes proved to be very significant. Many women reported that, as they became more efficient, more productive, and happier, their family members are also benefited from this kind of change (Lai, 1999).

Enhancement Project for Farm and Aboriginal Women

This project is intended to develop and strengthen farm women's ability in farm management, agricultural technology, and family management to strengthen farm family's functions. Implementing measures include home management, health enhancement, nutrition balance, stress management, family economic management,

etc. Income generation programs are also important in this project. The items include the training courses of traditional meal services, rice and fruit processing, bakery, home care services, farmers' markets management, bed & breakfast services, and traditional handicrafts making (including weaving, sculpture, wood carving, embroidery, pottery), etc. This project was started in 1996, and implemented in farmers' associations and fishermen's associations. Because of time constraint of farm women, most activities should be held at night. The outcomes of home economics extension services for farmers and fishermen projects is shown in Table . According to Chen(1999), most of home economics extension workers expressed their recognition of the value of this project. The recipients also reported their gratitude for obtaining useful knowledge and skills.

Table 5. Outcomes of Home Economics Extension Services for Farmers and Fishermen Projects

Year	Farmers' Association			Fishermen's Association		
	# of FAs	# of Groups	# of Participants	# of FIs	# of Groups	# of Participants
1996	47	47	1,106	15	15	365
1997	64	64	1,535	12	12	260
1998	106	106	2,467	3	3	85
1999	64	64	--	12	12	245
Total	281	281	--	42	42	955

Source: Chen, Hsiu-Ching, 1999, Enhancement Project for Farm and Aboriginal Women in Taiwan, R.O.C.

The Reformation of Agricultural Production and Marketing Team Involving Women Farmers

Since recent years ROC government has put great effort to the formation and guidance of Agricultural Production and Marketing Teams (APMT). They are formed by farmers living nearby and growing the same crops, aims at advancing the knowledge and techniques of farm management, to increase farm income and enhance quality of life of farmers. There are 6,618 teams of different crops (or livestock) by the end of 1998. Even farm women contribute greatly in farm work (Tu, Su & Liu, 1999), few women are registered as team members in the APMT. Traditional gender role ideology results in this fact. Only when the husbands have jobs outside their homes, the wives become team members. According to a pilot survey of top 90 teams conducted by Chiang & Tuan (1999), female members only accounted for 15.6%. The percentage of female team cadres is very low, 3.3% for director, 2.2% for vice director, 6.7% for secretary, and 22.2% for bookkeeper, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Women Playing Leadership Role in Agricultural Production and Marketing Teams

Roles	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Member	--	84.4	--	15.6
Cadres				
Director	87	96.7	3	3.3
Vice-Director	88	97.8	2	2.2
Secretary	84	93.3	6	6.7
Bookkeeper	70	77.8	20	22.2

Source: Chiang, Yin-Chih & Chao-Lin Tuan, 1999, Strategies and Successful Factors to the Utilization of Women's Resources in Agriculture Management--ROC Experience.

Even the number for women who takes leadership role in local farmer' group is quite limited, Zhuo-Lan Women Fruit Production and Marketing Team is a unique example of the APMT. It was organized on 19 August in 1991. Under the guidance of Tao-Yuan County Farmers' Association, Zhuo-Lan Township Farmers' Association, Tao-Yuan District Agricultural Improvement Station, this group was organized to enhance their agricultural knowledge and ability in farm management. With a total of 20 women, this group had reached into the top 100 Agricultural Production and Marketing Team after 6 years of its establishment. Most of the members felt significant progress of their knowledge, ability and techniques in farming. In addition, their family members all appreciate their enhancement of capability in family and farm management.

The reason why these women can be organized into a group is that most of their husbands had out-of-farm jobs (eight worked as businessmen, 6 government officials, and 6 as farmers). Their average age is 45 years old. According a supervisor From Tao-Yuan Agricultural District Improvement Station, these women were pretty shy and inexperienced in the beginning, now they can speak with confidence in front of others, ask questions when they don't understand. They are as active, capable, innovative as compared to their male counterparts, and willing to take risk if it is good to their farms.

The Yearly Award of Ten Outstanding Farm Women

Since 1983, the government initiated an award program to encourage better performance in farming and family management for farmer, farm women and rural youth. The women who won this prize usually were those who played the roles as competent housewives in their families, and as active and efficient farm partners or decision-makers in their farms. In addition, these women should be active members participating in community affairs, and being respected by most of the community

members. It is a very competitive contest for farm women with public recognition and great honor.

Problems Encountered in Empowering Rural Women

Though the above programs of empowering rural women have been carried out for many years in Taiwan, there are still some problems and difficulties encountered during the empowerment process.

Stereotype of Gender Identification

In Chinese society, due to traditional culture and value system many people have a stereotype of gender identification. They tend to perceive that men play instrumental role and women play expressive role. As a result, men should be responsible for farming and attend farming groups, and women should be responsible for the family and children and attend home economic clubs. In fact, in the changing society, the role of men and women tend to be converge, which means, men should increase their role in family affairs, and women can contribute more in farming, then a better balance of role play will be reached. As in attending agricultural extension activities, men may attend home economics improvement clubs, and women also should have equal opportunities to attend agricultural production and marketing teams.

Less Access to Academic Opportunities and Less Empowered

Since the traditional value system places higher value on men than women, hence families tend to invest more in education on men than women. When there is a shortage of resources, women's education is likely to be sacrificed. Due to lack of education and social exposure, consequently, women tend to be less confident in their decision-making. Besides, women are not empowered to make decisions or even to express their opinions in public affairs. Fortunately, compulsory education system which had been implemented for many years, has helped reduced the educational gap between both sexes.

Lack of Participation in Public Affairs

In many occasions, we have seen that women are not as likely as men to be elected as leaders in rural community organizations, such as local religious, educational (Parental Association), and farmers' organizations as a contrast to their counterparts in the urban community. In fact, rural women can contribute a lot in those activities and should be encouraged to participate actively. In this regard, there is a strong need to reserve some leadership roles for women to help develop their

leadership as well as organizational skills.

Less Access in Development Programs

Women tend to have less opportunities in attending skill development programs. In the modern society, social and economic environment has been changing very fast and profound, agriculture as a way of living is under very severe challenge due to potential accession into WTO. Unless the agricultural productivity can be improved to sustain the competition from imported products, otherwise it may become a survival issue. To solve this problem, it takes a joint effort of sound governmental policies, good agricultural research, as well as farmers with advanced farming skills, or the preparation of a second career. Therefore, it is very important for these people to access the skill development programs. The issues involved the assessment of potential impact, the skills required to manage the changes, what will be the most important skills for women, etc.

Less Access of Agricultural Information Technology

Undoubtedly, this is an era of information technology change. Rural women are those with comparatively disadvantages in this area due to lack of access to the technology and information needed. Clearly, there is an urgent need for the government to provide training courses on computer literacy related to agriculture.

Conclusions

Farm women play an indispensable role in family management, farm work, and rural development, both in developing and developed countries. Due to different culture and tradition, women in agricultural cooperatives could be different in different countries. It is an important and interesting issue need to be discussed in more detail.

In Taiwan, farm women contribute greatly in farm operation. However, most of their efforts are put on their family farms, serving as farm helpers rather than farm managers. They seem to be less active in leadership behavior compared to their counterparts in urban areas.

Over the years, many women empowering programs are carried out through the operations of farmers' organizations. Farmers' association and fishermen' association are the prominent executing agencies to carry out women empowerment programs. The implementation of home economics education programs, enhancement projects for farm and aboriginal women, the reformation of agricultural production and marketing teams, and the yearly award of ten outstanding farm women are four important programs to empower rural women. These programs are found to

have prominent outcomes. However, as to rural women, social and educational functions seemed to be more important than economic function.

Even the enhancing programs are implemented for so many years, there are still obstacles and difficulties encountered in women empowering process. These obstacles may become significant challenges during the rapid social change and time of accession into WTO. As agriculture could lose its competitiveness, the transition of agriculture, the agricultural information technology and the preparation of second career will be essential for the training programs of rural people, including women.

References

Chen, Chiu-Ren

1999 "The Formation and management improvement of Agricultural Cooperatives in Taiwan", *Taiwan Bank Quarterly*, 50(2):252-271.

Chen, Hsiu-Ching

1999 Enhancement Project for Farm and Aboriginal Women in Taiwan, R.O.C., paper presented in APO Seminar on Strategies for Improving Women's Role in Farm Management.

Chiang, Yin-Chih & Chao-Lin Tuan

1999 Strategies an Successful Factors to the Utilization of Women's Resources in Agriculture Management—ROC Experience, paper presented in APO Seminar on Strategies for Improving Women's Role in Farm Management.

Hung, Chih-Cheng

1994 "Agricultural Cooperatives in Taiwan", in *Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific*, Report of an APO Multi-Country Mission, 21 June-1 July, 1994.

Kuo, Chung-Chin

1999 Opening Remarks for "APO-COA Seminar on Strategies for Improving Women's Roles in Farm Management", 10-15 May 1999.

Lai, Erh-Rou

1999 The Development Process of Home Economics Improvement Clubs in Taiwan, National Taiwan University.

Lin, Jen-Yue

1979 Rural Development through Farmers' Associations in Taiwan. Unpublished Master Thesis, Iowa State University.

Liu, Ching-Yung, Yei-Fei Su, & Su-Hao Tu

1996 The Role of Women in Agricultural Production: A Comparison between Flower and Vegetable Farms.

Ministry of Interior, R. O. C.

1995 Farmers' Association Law. Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.

National Training Institute for Farmers' Organizations

1998 Farmers' Associations in Taiwan, Republic of Taiwan, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC.

Tu, Su-Hao, Yei-Fei Su, & Ching-Yung Liu

1999 "The Farming Work Role of Farm Women in Taiwan", Taiwan Bank Quarterly, 50(1):283-310.

Sachs, Carolyn E.

1983 The Invisible Farmers: Women in Agricultural Production. Totowa, New Jersey: Rowman & Allanheld.

R. O. C. at a Glance

Official Name	Republic of China (on Taiwan)
Area	Total:36,000 km ² Cultivated Land Area:8,648 km ² (24.02%) Forestry Land Area: 21,017 km ² (58.38%)
Location & Topography	Situated in the Pacific Ocean about 160 kilometers (100 miles)from the southeastern coast of the Chinese mainland. Latitude between 21°45' and 25°56'. Longitude between 119°18' and 124°34'.
Climate	Straddling the Tropic of Cancer, Taiwan is surrounded by warm ocean currents. The climate is subtropical in the north and tropical in the south. The weather in summer (from May through September) is hot and humid. Winter (from December through February) is usually short and mild in its weather.
Language	Mandarin and Taiwanese
Capital	Taipei City
Population	Total: 21,871,000 (1998) Male: 11,213,000(1998) Female:10,213,000(1998) Growth rate: 0.865 percent(1998) Density: 607.42 per km ² (1998) Sex ratio: 105males per 100 females(1998) Average Persons Per Household: 3.51(1998) Dependency ratio: 44 (1997) 65 years of age and over: 8.05% (1997)
Life Expectancy	Male: 71.93 (1997) Female: 77.81 Average:74.58
Education	A nine-year compulsory education program has been in effect in Taiwan since 1968. Under this program, nearly 100% of Taiwan's children begin their education at the age of six and 99% of all primary school graduates go on to junior high school. Total number of students at all levels are more 5 million (about 26% of the population).

Religion	Buddhism and Taoism are the predominant religions in Taiwan, along with significant numbers of Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Moslems.
Agricultural Population	782,136 Farm Households (12.32%) (1998) 3,727,761 Farm Persons (17.04%) Average Persons Per Farm Household: 4.77
Agricultural Labor Force	Total: 822,000 persons (8.9%) (1998) Male: 587,000(71.4%) Female:236,000(28.6%)
Per Capita GNP	US\$12,040 (1998) NT\$402,564
Per Capita Income	Farmers: NT\$206,656 Non-farmers: NT\$297908 Farmers Income as % of Nonfarmers:69.37%
Currency	The unit of currency is New Taiwan Dollar (NTD). The exchange rate is around NT\$32 to US\$1.
Electricity	110 Volts AC

IDACA

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN ASIA



How It Started

The first Asian Agricultural Cooperative Conference was held in April 1962 in Tokyo under the sponsorship of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan. One of the resolutions adopted by this conference was related to the establishment of an institute in Japan for the development of agricultural cooperation in Asia through extending training, research and development services to those people devoted to cooperative movements in the region. The Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia was thus established on July 8, 1963, with funds raised among agricultural cooperatives in Japan and also with the support of the Japanese Government.

Ever since, with the president of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives as its president, the Institute has trained overseas agricultural cooperators as part of its international cooperative projects and has assumed the role of a survey, research and development agency.

The Institute building was named the Hasumi Memorial Hall because, without the efforts of the late Mr. Yasushi Hasumi, then the president of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, the Institute would not have materialized.



Mr. Mutsutami Harada
President of IDACA

IDACA UPDATE

Japan's agricultural cooperatives played an epochal part in reconstructing and developing Japanese agriculture after the end of World War II.

This was made possible by the spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation nurtured among farmers from the days of prewar cooperative societies as well as the systematic and vigorous activities of the cooperatives which gave a concrete form to this spirit.

In 1963, Mr. Yasushi Hasumi, President of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, who was the first president of IDACA established IDACA as an institution for leaders of cooperatives in developing countries to study within Japan's agricultural cooperative movement and to foster solidarity in the international community. Forty years since then, IDACA has accepted more than 3,700 participants from abroad, establishing itself as a place of study and training contributory to strengthening international solidarity and mutual understanding in the cooperative movement.

We aspire to enhance the functions further and make a renewed start in the 21st century with the firm belief that the cooperative movement will continue to spread the circle of cooperation and solidarity throughout the world and that the participants from abroad will deepen their understanding of Japanese agriculture and agricultural cooperatives.

It's Role and Function

The aims of this institute are to provide training, research and development services to those associated with the agricultural cooperative movement with the intent of advancing the cooperative movement and hereby promoting the socio-economic betterment, primarily in developing countries. This Institute, in attaining such purposes as mentioned above, is to engage in the following activities; (1) Training necessary for the development of agricultural cooperation; (2) Research and development necessary for the development of agricultural cooperation; (3) Publication of literature and pamphlets necessary for training, research and development work as well as collection and dissemination of information; (4) Management and control of the training, research and development facilities and their installations for accommodation., and (5) activities other than those mentioned above which are necessary for attaining the purposes of this Institute.

The Board of Councilors and Board of Directors consist of the persons concerned in Japan as policy making and executive bodies, respectively. The Board of Advisors consists of the persons concerned in Asian countries as the advisory organs.

Training Courses

Training in the IDACA consists, in good coordination, of (a) Lecturing, (b) Discussion/Case Study/Report-Making, (c) Study Visit.

1. Lecturing

Lecturing is mainly aimed in the theme to instruct Japanese agricultural cooperative experiences. Audio-visual aids like films, slides and OHP are employed for better understanding of what is given in lectures. Instructors and advisors i.e. practitioners, the management and academicians are to introduce present and past experiences and the perspective in view of the structural, the managerial and the business operational, focussing on the following aspects;

- (1) Empowerment and Mobilization of Farmer-members and its Groups
- (2) Mutual-Benefit, Interlinkage and Integrated approaches of relevant Cooperative Business Function
- (3) Education and Information
- (4) Leadership of the Management

2. Group discussion/Case Study

Appraisal/Report-making

Discussion group-wised is to take up as its more focussed topics the subject matter of the lectures. Lecturers are to attend such discussion as advisors.

Case study is designed to study mainly farm guidance, cooperative management, regional development plan and project building, etc. It approaches from view point of the numerable and the qualitative, as compared of status of respective organizations in Asia.

For appraisal, two aspects are to be designed. First, training system suitable and learning performance effective. Instructors, institute staffs, participants jointly participate in the appraisal.

Report-making is to be helped through understanding of the knowledge and information given on various phases of agricultural cooperatives. At the end of the course each participant is required to submit a final report, as is done a country report at the beginning.

3. Study Visit

Study-visit is to be conducted in such a manner that the lectures and discussions can be thoroughly understood through observation of the first-hand facts and operations of agricultural cooperatives. Of clear need is a duet with two aspects in trainings: desk study(lecture) and study visit. It is to be designed in many fields; Visit office building inside deposit&loan counters, insurance briefing desk counters, consulting desks for farming, daily living, law and tax, and computer system. Visit farm production, processing, marketing facilities included high technology,. Visit health care center, consumers store, social service facilities. Visitors are to get in touch and exchange views with local cooperative leaders and farmers, often join local meetings and social events.



● Training Programmes

1. ICA Regional Seminar

The seminar is sponsored by IDACA. It is held annually for the period of three weeks for participants from Asian countries.

2. ICA Agricultural Cooperative Management Training Course

Six-months training course is organized by the ICA with the financial contribution of Government of Japan for the purpose of strengthening and improving management of agricultural cooperative in Asia, out of which the course is organized at IDACA for the period of two months.

3. ICA Training Course for Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia

This training course jointly organized with the ICA is designed mainly for women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia with the financial contribution of the Government of Japan.

4. Training Course in Agricultural Cooperative System

The training program under the contract with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is designed mainly for government officials from developing countries. The program lasts for two months.

5. Training Course on Rural Development and Agricultural Cooperatives (China)

This is a training course sponsored by JICA which is intended to study the roles that the Government plays in organizing farmers and developing agricultural cooperatives.

6. Training Course for Interlinkage of Business

This is a course funded by the Japanese Government and participants are invited from two countries in the Asian region.

7. AARRO Seminar

This is a seminar sponsored by Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization and it is held twice every three years at IDACA for participants from AARRO member countries.

8. Farm Guidance & Environment Seminar

This is a seminar funded by the Government of Japan. The seminar is intended to study how to promote agricultural development, while maintaining a balance between farm management and environmental protection.

9. Other Training Courses

IDACA is also conducting other training courses under contract with other national institutions and cooperative organizations in the region..

● Cooperation with Partners on agricultural cooperative

Small farmers are to be placed in unity to break through poverty and social unrest. Development cooperation is expected to extend to agricultural cooperative organizations in the countries where are participants at present and in the past. Human resources in IDACA are to be effectively got used. Development cooperation works effect aggregated training program and vice versa.

1. The aim is focussed on organizing and promoting farmer groups and agricultural cooperative associations in terms of poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development.

Agricultural cooperatives idealize both business achievements and local resources be fairly distributed to farmers and regions, in assuring an accountable and transparent presentation of the status of international cooperative principle.

2. Development cooperation works are to architect both institutional building and capacity building, as being used available skills of participants for agricultural cooperative setup and promotion.

3. In collaboration with agricultural cooperative circle, the government, international organizations and also counterpart countries, IDACA takes the initiative to extend project technical cooperation, project survey, expert advice, management consultation, seminars, workshops, discourses and training programs.



● Research, information and issue "IDACA News"

Research and information of agriculture, rural community and agricultural cooperative in Asia, Africa and Latin America are basic and indispensable (tools) for training programs and development works enhancing.

Country reports submitted by training participants, Development survey, Expert's reports and in particular informations mailed by participants are of great use. Exchanges views through Reunion program also availed. The periodical "IDACA News" is edited composed of articles on agriculture and cooperative, ex-participants update news and Japanese and international economic and social community.

Information network are to be built in a bid to enhance human relationship in Asia and international cooperative circle.

● Cooperation with International Organizations and Research & Training Institutes

International Organizations, government and non-governmental, provide training/trainer programs, development project implementing and publication of relevant books in collaboration with IDACA. Research & Training Institutes in the Region initiate jointly researches and makes academic studies on cooperatives and agriculture with IDACA.

Representatives of a few International Organizations assume the posts of the IDACA Councilors Board legally installed.



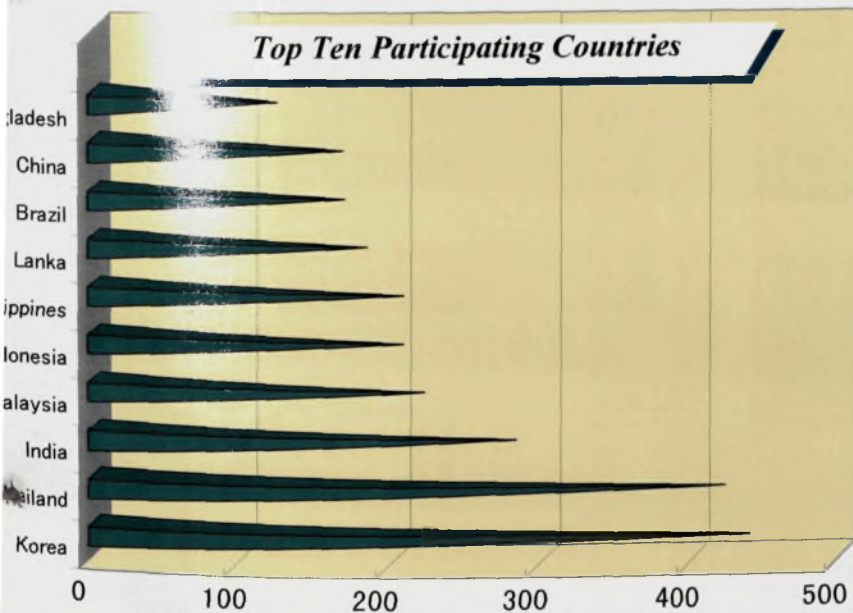
● Group Life at IDACA

On the campus of the Institute, all participants are supposed to spend their daily life in groups and the campus itself is a place of community life of the people coming from different parts of the world.

Total Number of Participants by Region



Top Ten Participating Countries





IDACA

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN ASIA
財団法人 アジア農業協同組合振興機関

4771 AIHARA-CHO MACHIDA-SHI TOKYO 194-0211 JAPAN
TEL (81)42-782-4331 FAX (81)42-782-4384
E-mail : idacaco@red.an.egg.or.jp

INDEX

A. Overview of Agricultural Cooperative Movement in Japan

1.Introduction	1
2.Historical details of the Agricultural Cooperative Movement	6
3.Recent Development of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperation in Japan	8
4.Organizational Structure	16
5.Distinctive Feature of Agri. Coop. Movement	20
6.Democratic Control and Management of Multi-Purpose Society	22
7.Activities of Multi-Purpose Society	25

B.Various Approaches to some Cooperative Development Efforts

1.Cooperative Values and Management Development	37
2.Characteristics of Japan's Agri. Coop Movement	40
3.In the Search for Relevance of Japanese Agri. Coop Experiences	41
for the cause of Coop Development in Developing Countries	
4.Prerequisites for Co-operative Success or Criteria for Genuine	42
Co-operative Societies (By Mr. K.Forgelstrom)	
5.Case Study on Isinamva Development Community Centre in South Africa	43
6.The Socio-Economic Cultural and Political Milieu	46
Surrounding Cooperatives	
7.Saemaul Movement (New Community Movement)	48
8.Agricultural Cooperative Development Project in Thailand	50
9.Case Study on Grameen Banking on the poor)	51
10.Paper on the Regional Expert Consultation Meeting	56

1. Introduction

I would like to express my thanks for being given the opportunity today to talk about the problems facing Japanese agriculture and agricultural cooperatives.

In addition, I want to refer to factors behind the development of Japanese agricultural cooperatives.

The modern history of Japanese agricultural cooperatives dates back to 1900 when the Industrial Cooperative Law was established on the model of the Raiffeisen Credit Cooperative as in the case of Thailand, Indonesia, India and other Asian countries. In the preceding feudal days, mutual aid in the form of mutual financing associations was a general practice.

As a result of the promulgation of the Industrial Cooperative Law, four different types of cooperatives came into being. Subsequently, the law was amended to lay the foundations for multipurpose agricultural cooperative societies.

During this time, Japanese agricultural cooperatives went through a lot of difficult twists and turns as they faced acts of sabotage by merchants and were compelled to operate as collecting agencies for the government throughout World War II.

After the end of the war, farmland reform was introduced under the directive of the Occupation authorities, and in 1947, democratic cooperatives started with the establishment of the Agricultural Cooperative Society Law.

But many agricultural cooperatives faced a management crisis in the process of a shift from a wartime controlled economy to a free economy.

In an effort to save cooperatives, the government implemented elaborate protective policies, such as the Agricultural Reconstruction and Reorganization Law and a low-interest lending policy, including an agricultural bill system, for the relief of destitute farm households.

The government's policies, introduced primarily to help alleviate dire poverty in the immediate postwar chaos, aimed to encourage the increased production of rice, traditionally the staple food, thereby promoting political and economic stabilization, and the reconstruction of the country.

From the second half of the 1950s up to the so-called oil crises in 1974, Japan basked in a high-growth era that Southeast Asian nations had enjoyed until recent years.

In the intervening years, the government established laws to narrow income gaps between agriculture and other industries, introduced a policy supporting the

prices of farm products and aggressively forged ahead with an agricultural development promotion policy, such as pushing, on its own initiative, the amalgamations of cooperatives, to consolidate their organizational and management foundations. In this way, Japanese agricultural cooperatives attained impressive development.

As a result, they established a three-tier operating system, which enabled them to bolster their organizations, thus becoming recognized as one of the nation's three major pressure groups, the other two being the business community and the Japan Medical Association. During this time, they formed strong links with the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

2. Moves of Japanese agriculture and agricultural cooperatives

In and after 1975, the waves of agricultural and financial liberalization began sweeping Japan in tandem with a shift of the national economy from peak growth to a low growth rate.

On the other hand, with the advent of an "affluent society," changes developed in the eating habits of the people, leading Japanese agriculture, traditionally centered on rice, to transform, with the result that there developed a trend toward an oversupply of farm products, resulting in the compulsory reduction of the acreage for rice cultivation.

In and after 1985, problems surfaced, such as the progress in liberalization, deregulation, information-intensiveness and globalization, and a decrease in the farming population, the aging of the farming population and shortages of young people to take over farm labor while agricultural cooperatives came to be pressed hard by economic rationalism-minded business groups, notably big business, which advocate the import of large quantities of farm products in return for the export of automobiles and household electrical appliances. This compelled cooperatives to change their conventional ways of operating and services.

For small-scale Japanese farm households, however, that engage in family farming because the percentage of arable land in our mountainous country is as small as that in Switzerland and Nepal, it is extremely difficult to compete with cheap-farm imports no matter how hard they may try.

Even if farm products from abroad are cheap, total reliance on imports from other countries could expose any sovereign state to a national risk.

This is readily surmisable from the fact that in the past, food was used as a diplomatic instrument or embargoed.

Full dependence on foreign countries for food supplies could imperil the existence of any nation. The government, therefore, has taken a variety of steps to ensure the sustainable development of agriculture and agricultural cooperatives, now experiencing difficulties in the face of liberalization, etc., fully aware of the importance of protecting domestic agriculture from the standpoint of securing a given quantity of food and conserving national land as EU nations do.

And partly in line with such steps, agricultural organizations, which are central to agricultural cooperatives, are now staging vigorous activities urging the government to establish new agricultural policies geared to the call of the times, i. e., a "New Agricultural Basic Law," for the sustainable development of Japanese agriculture.

The contents of the new law we have proposed are roughly as follows:

(1) To establish a policy aimed at securing the stable supply of food, based on domestic agricultural production;

(2) To establish a policy to ensure the sustainable development of agriculture;

(3) To establish a policy for the creation of rural communities that are full of vitality and capable of giving full scope to multilateral functions; and

(4) To reform the services and organization of agricultural cooperatives.

Of these items, the rural policy (3) urges agricultural cooperatives to introduce a "system to guarantee direct income" like that in Switzerland to apply to agricultural production activities in less favored areas, to ensure the maintenance of the multilateral functions intermediate mountain areas have.

As regards the reform of the services and organization of agricultural cooperatives (4), on the other hand, we are lobbying the government to continue acknowledging cooperatives as vitally responsible for the nation's agricultural and rural policies, in view of the leading role they play in promoting the development of regional agriculture and stabilizing the management of member farm households.

In the meantime, in a bid to cope quickly with the changing times as a strategy for the survival of agricultural cooperatives, we are forging ahead with the reorganization of agricultural cooperatives by promoting their mergers.

We have plans to reduce the number of cooperatives from the present 2,000 to about 550 by the year 2000 through amalgamations.

As part of such plans, we have decided to unify about 49 primary agricultural cooperative societies in Nara Prefecture, the nation's most ancient capital region, into a single cooperative.

In addition, prefectural economic federations in three out of 47 prefectures nationwide have merged with the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations in a move to consolidate them yet further structurally.

In this way, Japanese agricultural cooperatives are fast reforming their organizations to adopt to problems in terms of liberalization, deregulation, etc.

In such a situation, we are shifting the nation's agricultural cooperative organizations to a two-tier system as in the case of South Korean cooperative organizations.

4. Conclusion

As you may already be well aware, the Southeast Asian financial crises, which started in Thailand, have indicated signs of abating little by little.

But Japan is still in the grip of economic uncertainties with a postwar-high jobless rate of 4.5 percent, and the recovery of the Japanese economy is a pressing need for the economic rehabilitation of the Asian region.

In addition, Japan at present remains unstable politically under a coalition government, and predictably, a general election will take place this year.

On the other hand, when we turn our eyes to the world, we find that this year has witnessed the birth of the Euro and tangible trends toward domestic, as well as international, industrial mergers. In Japan, Nissan Diesel Motor's tie-up with DaimlerChrysler was made public last year, to our surprise.

Again, as an ignominious world event, a scandal involving members of the International Olympic Committee has surfaced, exposing the true faces of Japan and other industrial democracies rushing about madly working behind the competition to secure host rights to the Olympic Games.

However, it may be said that the fact that the Olympic scam came to light instead of being hushed up testified to justice having been done.

Well, as I commented earlier on the actual status of Japanese agriculture and agricultural cooperatives, with the intensification of competition under the market economy system, the climate surrounding them is growing increasingly severe every year, and, moreover, Japanese agriculture, which has in the past been sheltered by the government's warm protective policy, is facing new ordeals, such as a re-examination of the subsidy policy.

This is also the case with Southeast Asian countries, but unless something is done, there is the strong possibility of Asian agriculture and rural communities, centered on family farming, being brought to ruin by the U. S. and other food-exporting

countries.

I think that in order to cope with such problems, there is the absolute need for Asian agricultural organizations to unite.

This is why in Japan, agricultural cooperatives, as I said earlier, are staging vigorous activities to improve agricultural administration with the cooperation of the government in a bid to have a domestic production-based food security policy incorporated into the New Agricultural Basic Law.

And in tandem with these activities, the 21st National Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives in 1997 adopted a resolution calling for "symbiosis with Asia, " and agricultural cooperatives have started searching for a way to form solidarity with farmers' organizations in Asia.

I will be very happy if my speech helps promote your better understanding of Japanese agriculture and agricultural cooperatives.

Thank you very much.

2. HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The transformation of Japan into a modern society started about 130 years ago, when the Meiji restoration took place and Japan changed from a feudal society into modern state. However, during the Meiji period, industrial development was of primary importance in the Government Economic Policy and agricultural sector was imposed with heavy responsibility not only in food supply but also in tax assessments. As an inevitable consequence, many farmers were forced to ruin, leading to the spread of social unrest. It was a fatal blow to the Government and Landlords.

Under such circumstances, the Government extended positive assistance to promote establishment of cooperative societies and during 1880s many marketing societies in primitive form were established on voluntary basis for major export commodities, such as silk and tea.

In 1900 the first Cooperative Law was enacted, which gave statutory approval for establishment of four kinds of primary cooperative societies, such as credit, marketing, purchasing and processing. The first revision of the Law in 1906 enabled credit cooperative societies to operate marketing, purchasing and processing businesses concurrently. This established the groundwork for the development of the present type of multi-purpose cooperative societies. The second revision of the Law in 1909 opened the way for establishment of federations and national union. With these legal supports, promotional measures of the Government and the devoted efforts of the leaders, the cooperative movement made a rapid expansion throughout the country.

Agricultural panic in 1930s gave a fatal blow to rural communities in Japan and the Government promoted "Self-reconstruction Campaign of Agricultural Economy" as a counter-measure against the ensuing agricultural panic. In response to such government programme, cooperative societies had also implemented Five Year Cooperative Expansion Programme from 1933. The objective of the Programme was to establish a cooperative society in every village throughout the country involving all farm families and to enable

all the rural cooperative societies to operate credit, marketing, purchasing and utilization activities. Thus, the cooperative movement established strong foundation and made remarkable progress during 1930s with positive government assistance and guidance.

Toward the end of 1930s, along with the shift to a wartime economic control, various business activities of cooperatives were brought within the confines of overhead control. In 1943, the Agricultural Organization Law was promulgated and the cooperative societies were merged into Agricultural Society together with other agricultural organizations. All the farmers were enforced to become members of Agricultural Society. Cooperative movement started in 1900 ceased to exist until 1947 when the new Agricultural Cooperative Law was enacted.

After World War II, cooperative societies were re-established under the new cooperative laws. In pre-war period it was only one cooperative law, under which various types of cooperatives were registered. After World War II, however, cooperative laws were enacted separately for each branch of cooperatives, such as agriculture, consumers, fisheries, small and medium enterprisers and forestry-owners.

In pre-war days, cooperatives in rural area experienced a lot of difficulties since they embraced landlords and non-farmer residents as members. But their interests often conflicted with those of farmers. In post war period it was an urgent task of the Government to promote democratization of rural communities and to ensure successful implementation of Land Reformation. The Government, therefore, enacted separate Agricultural Cooperative Law to enable agricultural cooperative societies to serve farmers in voluntary and democratic manner to the maximum extent by making farmers as their regular members with a view to eliminating any possible interference of the Government and non-farmers' interests.

3. RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN JAPAN

The following is the outline on how the agricultural development with a special focus on the agricultural cooperatives in Japan has evolved since the postwar period. One could divide its development process roughly into the following four stages.

The first stage is "the Reconstruction Period After the Second World War" from 1945 to 1955 in which priority was given on reconstruction of the country which included the democratization of the country, the land reform, the dissolution of business concerns and etc. It could be also described as the chaotic period of the national economy in the wake of the war, causing the people to suffer an acute food shortage.

The present agricultural cooperative society law which was enacted in 1947 laid the solid foundation for the development of agriculture and rural communities. After the enactment of the law, the agri. coops and their feds. were established on the municipal and prefectural and national levels. However, some of them plunged into financial difficulties after their establishment as a consequence of the economic turmoil and drastic shifts resulting from the government's economic policy in 1951. The Law for Rehabilitation and Consolidation of the Agri. Forest Owners' and Fisheries Coop came into effect to help them overcome such difficulties. It provided for the rehabilitation of the financial status of cooperatives experiencing management difficulties.

The second stage is "the period of take-off of agricultural development and agricultural cooperatives" from 1956 to 1965, in which Japan attained the self-sufficiency in paddy rice, the staple food for the Japanese and experienced a high economic growth. In 1961 a new legislation called "The Agriculture Basic Law" was enacted with a view to improving agricultural productivity through selective expansion of agricultural commodities to meet the diversifying needs of the consumers. It aimed at assuring farm families to enjoy the living standard at par with wage earners. The law positioned the agricultural cooperatives as the core farming institution to promote farming for the rationalization of

distribution and improvement of agricultural structure.

As for the agri. coops, they weathered the chaotic period of the postwar economy and began their activities in a more integrated manner based on the demand of members so as to tailor the cooperative activities effectively to the members' farming and livelihood improvement targets.

The third stage is "the period of economic expansion" from 1966 to 1975 in which Japan continued to make its sustained economic development until "the oil crisis" in 1973 which resulted in the slowing down of a hyper-economic expansion of her economy. What characterized this stage is that overproduction of rice started to surface mainly caused by decreased consumption trends which forced farmers to make production control and also that the major farm products saw their price-hike. The overproduction trend could be observed not only in rice but also in other major farm products.

The fourth stage is "the period of turbulence or uncertainty from 1976 to early 1990s" in which Japan became a super economic power with massive investments in foreign countries, creating the so-called hollow-out of domestic industries. During the period, many a Japanese company attempted to set up joint ventures in foreign countries or relocate factories to oversea countries centering on the Southeast Asia in a bid to streamline their business operation.

Thus advertisement of "Made in Japan products" could be found ubiquously in southeast asian countries.

It was in this period that many complex problems cropped up. With trade surplus increased as a result of reckless export of industrial goods from Japan to other foreign countries centering on U.S., they began to call upon her strongly to liberalize its agricultural markets to offset the huge deficit they were running into. The other problems encountered were continued trends of overproduction of the major farm products like rice, orange, milk which led to the reinforcement of crop conversion programme, a sharp decline in the number of farm successors, increase of part-time farming, increased abandonment of farmland especially, citrus orchards in some geographically disadvantageous mountainous areas, the aging of farming population and so on. Speaking of the progress

of aging, those farmers over 60 years old are currently occupying nearly 60 percent of the total farming population.

As such, our society is graying at such a unprecedented fast speed and is projected to overtake Sweden perhaps within this century and will be given No.1 status which we would not wish. Because of this, economic vitality, a driving force of Japanese economy in the post war period is now forecasted to decline unless proper measures are not taken to address the problem. Hence, all-out efforts are now being made to implement a drastic agricultural policy reform.

Since the enforcement of the Agricultural Basic Law in 1961, a drastic change was brought about with regard to the traditional pattern of agricultural production. The change gave a serious impact on both farming communities and agricultural cooperatives alike. As stated in the foregoing, Japan suffered the food shortage until the 50s and then came to experience the overproduction problem since from the late 1960s. Agricultural systems established in the postwar period was aimed to boost rice production. The surplus of rice turned out to be a difficult problem to solve. There are two reasons attributable to this. The first one is that, productivity of rice production increased rapidly through promotion of farm mechanization and etc. as a result of which overproduction of rice surfaced. The second one is that along with the westernization of the people's dietary habits, there arose a shift from carbohydrates centering on rice to more protein rich farm products centering on livestock. As a result, people's consumption of rice declined sharply in the course of last three decades from 115kg in 1960 down to 70kg in 1990.

Owing to these factors, there occurred a huge amount of carryover, which produced a large deficit in the Special Account in the concerned Ministry. Consequently, rice crop conversion programme was enforced as a countermeasure to cope with the structural surplus in rice production. Under the programme, producers could receive some sorts of bounty as a kind of compensation, on the condition that they comply with the government's call of converting paddy rice to other commodities whose demands were rising. However, reduced planting acreage and

marketing of a lesser amount of rice dealt with a serious blow on producers and agricultural cooperatives, because large proceeds derived from sales of rice which had hitherto constituted a major source of income for the agricultural cooperatives were no longer expected.

In an attempt to secure their income, the government introduced a new rice market mechanism, an idea of semi-government controlled rice system side by side the conventional government-controlled rice. This was to facilitate or rather encourage rice farmers to engage in the production of quality rice whose marketing prices are higher so that their income level would be sustained. The semi-controlled rice was thus distributed at a higher price level than that of government-controlled rice. And the way their prices were determined was not by the government but in accordance with what the market forces dictate. Of the rice being distributed in Japan, the ratio of the semi-controlled rice accounted for nearly 70 percent by 1992.

For the part of the gov't, this was precisely what it had intended for, because it thought this would lead to reducing its heavy financial burden of governmental subsidy, for the gov't controlled-rice. However, it was ironic that concerning most non-rice crops such as vegetables and flowers and livestock products, the marketing power of agricultural cooperatives remained far behind compared with that of rice. Therefore, those cooperatives with less marketing power had to face difficulties in marketing such crops efficiently in free markets. Moreover, the conventional marketing and distribution system was considered by producers as one of the root causes of higher costs of farm products. Accordingly, rationalization of marketing channels was called for and consequently the new food law was established of late by scrapping the old one to allow market mechanism to function smoothly.

In parallel to this, enactment a new basic agricultural law that can comply with the needs of the 21st century is now being discussed widely. The new law will be formulated keeping in view the policy issues confronting the present Japanese agriculture. Over the years, circumstances which have surrounded Japan's agriculture and agricultural cooperatives have been changed greatly, making it

imperative to review the present law to fit into a changing situation. The new law envisages such an agriculture that has a competitive edge, provides safe foods at reasonable prices to consumers and make young farmers feel attracted to take up farming as an lucrative occupation.

Meanwhile, as far as the agricultural cooperatives are concerned, with revenue from profit making credit and mutual insurance businesses dwindling recently because of mounting fierce competition among financial institutions, liberalization and so on, many an agricultural cooperative which have tended to rely their main sources of income on such businesses to make up for losses of other businesses are now finding it difficult to continue to follow the same conventional pattern. So, review is now being made to rectify the present business management structure which has lopsidedly leaned toward these two businesses and to make each business stand on its own feet financially.

With regard to farming, young farm successors have tended to leave farming to take up a more lucrative employment in non-farming sector. In this regard, it would be interesting to note that in 1995 only about 1,700 new graduates from schools entered into farming occupation across the country, whereas Toyota company alone employed 4,300 people in 1991. Beside this, the number of part-time farm households has been on a steady increase. It is therefore said that they now occupy as much as nearly 85 percent of all farm households. Moreover, it is of much concern that the aging of Japanese farmers are making rapid progress.

On the nation's food self-sufficiency, there has been a sharp decline as mentioned above. So it has become the grave national concern and controversial issue to wrestle with this problem. Today, the net ratio of domestic supply in the nation's food demand in calory bases has gone down to less than 50 percent.

Under the backdrop of such situation, many people have recognized the importance and urgent necessity to implement a fundamental agricultural policy reform. Along with the EC and the U.S., Japan shares a number of problems in the sphere of agriculture. In view of this, the Agricultural Ministry (MAFF) announced the comprehensive policy measures with the aim of

promoting expansion of scale of farming by core farmhouseholds. The new policy aims to expand the scale of farming of individual farm management to cope with declining number of farm successors, increased trends of part-time farming and promote the increase of agricultural productivity particularly in rice by encouraging group farming. Policy measures include fundings from the government to public agricultural land corporations and provide cheaper loans to producers who have already achieved a certain degree of expansion of management scale and facilitate them to further promote mechanization and purchase farmland. In the areas where core positive farmers do not exist, group farming initiated by agricultural cooperatives is to be encouraged.

Meanwhile, the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA ZENCHU) is vigorously forging ahead with various activities such as promotion of amalgamation of agricultural cooperatives to strengthen their management bases, restructuring of organizational structure, creation of regional communities full of vitality, encouragement of farming groups, protection of rural environment and etc. There are currently about 2,000 primary agricultural cooperatives throughout Japan in 1996. By the year 2,000, it is projected that the number of agricultural cooperatives be reduced to 550. While at the same time, various other reform measures are being implemented by agricultural cooperatives to cater to the diversifying needs of member farmers in a changing rural environment.

As the things stand now, the agricultural cooperative organizations put forward and adopted a resolution on the basic strategy of agricultural cooperatives looking ahead to the 21st century in their recent two national congresses, in which the Cooperatives' Challenge Toward the 21st Century and Reform were adopted. What were envisaged in these resolutions was that the agricultural cooperative organizations being at stake now should make concerted efforts to firmly establish basic policies for revitalization of agriculture and rural communities, to achieve agricultural reform and to consolidate the businesses and organizations of agri. coops including reexamination of the present three tier system into two tier.

To conclude my paper, it could be said that the Japanese agricultural cooperatives seem to have functioned well so far as being admired by many former IDACA participants who witnessed their success while their stay in Japan. Entering a new stage, however, our cooperatives are being confronted with a host of new problems as mentioned above. Given the challenges, it might not be perhaps avoidable that Japan's agriculture continue to be dwindled in the future. But as our former cooperative leaders might have faced the similar problems and managed to overcome them by racking their brains in those days. I am sure that our present cooperative leaders would be also able to address these difficult problems with concerted efforts, thereby leading us to the way for sustained agricultural development. The agricultural cooperatives in Japan are now trying to grope their ways to cope with these new challenges with tooth and nail.

Notes and Reference

1. Agricultural Cooperative System of Japan By Mr.S.Futagami
2. Prerequisite for Cooperative Success or Criteria for Genuine Co-operative Societies By Mr.K.Forgelstrom
3. A Country Paper by a South African Participant of JICA Training
4. The Socio-Economic, Cultural and Political Milieu Surrounding Cooperative By ACCI, the Phillipines
5. Saemaul Movement (New Community Movement) of Korea
6. Agricultural Cooperative Development Project in Thailand
By Cooperative Promotion Department
7. Search for Relevance of Japanese Agricultural Cooperative Experiences by Bangladesh Student of MA in Tokyo University of Technology
8. Paper on the Regional expert Consultation Meeting by FAO Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
9. Japan Agrinfo Newsletter Vol.14.No.4 Dec.1996.
10. Cooperative Values and Management Development Asia-Pacific Coopnet Update July 1996 ILO
11. Sarvodaya Movement
12. A Success Story of Bangladesh Grameen Bank

4. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Primary Societies

Primary agricultural cooperative societies are organized at village, town and city level with farmers as regular members and non-farmer residents as associate members. The former has a voting right, while the latter does not have a voting right.

There are two types in primary societies. One is multi-purpose agricultural cooperative society which operates a wide range of services such as credit, marketing, purchasing, utilization, guidance on farm management and better living, etc. and the other is single-purpose agricultural cooperative society which concentrate on marketing of specific products such as orange, mushroom, cocoon, dairy products, etc.

Multi-purpose agricultural cooperative societies cover almost all the farmers in Japan and play a central role in the agricultural cooperative movement.

Prefectural Federations and Unions

Primary societies are federated at prefectural level according to functions. They are prefectural economic (marketing and purchasing) federation, credit federation, mutual-insurance federation, welfare federation, dairy federation, sericultural federation, horticultural federation, etc. Besides these business federations, there is a prefectural union in each prefecture which is not engaged in economic activities. Functions of the union are guidance, education, auditing, research, publicity, and legislative activities.

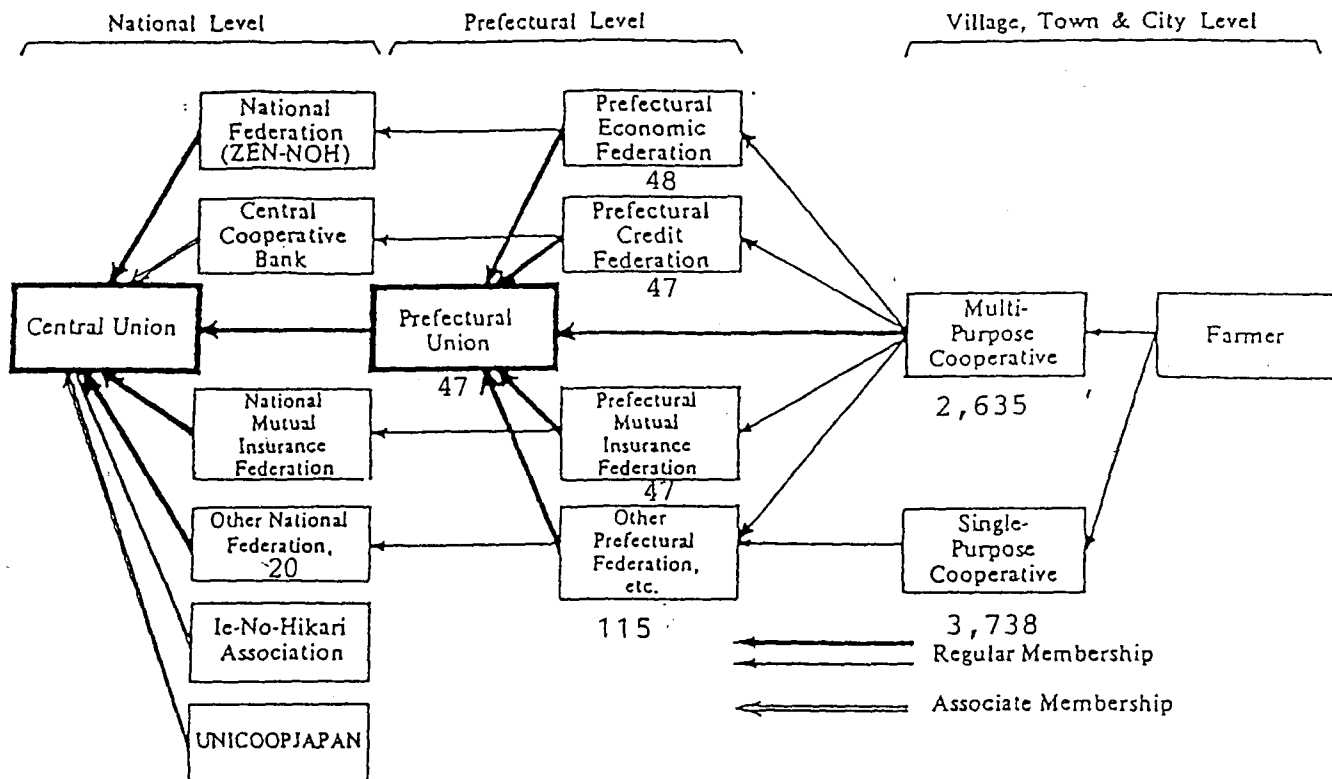
National Organizations

Prefectural federations and unions have their national counterpart. Among important national organizations, there are those which are not registered under the Agricultural Cooperative Law such as the NORINCHUKIN BANK, IE-NO-HIKARI Association and UNICOOPJAPAN.

COOPERATIVE LAWS enacted after the World War II

Agricultural Cooperative Law	1947
Consumer Cooperative Law	1948
Fisheries Cooperative Law	1948
Small & Medium Enterprisers Coop. Law	1949
Forestry Owners' Cooperative Law	1951

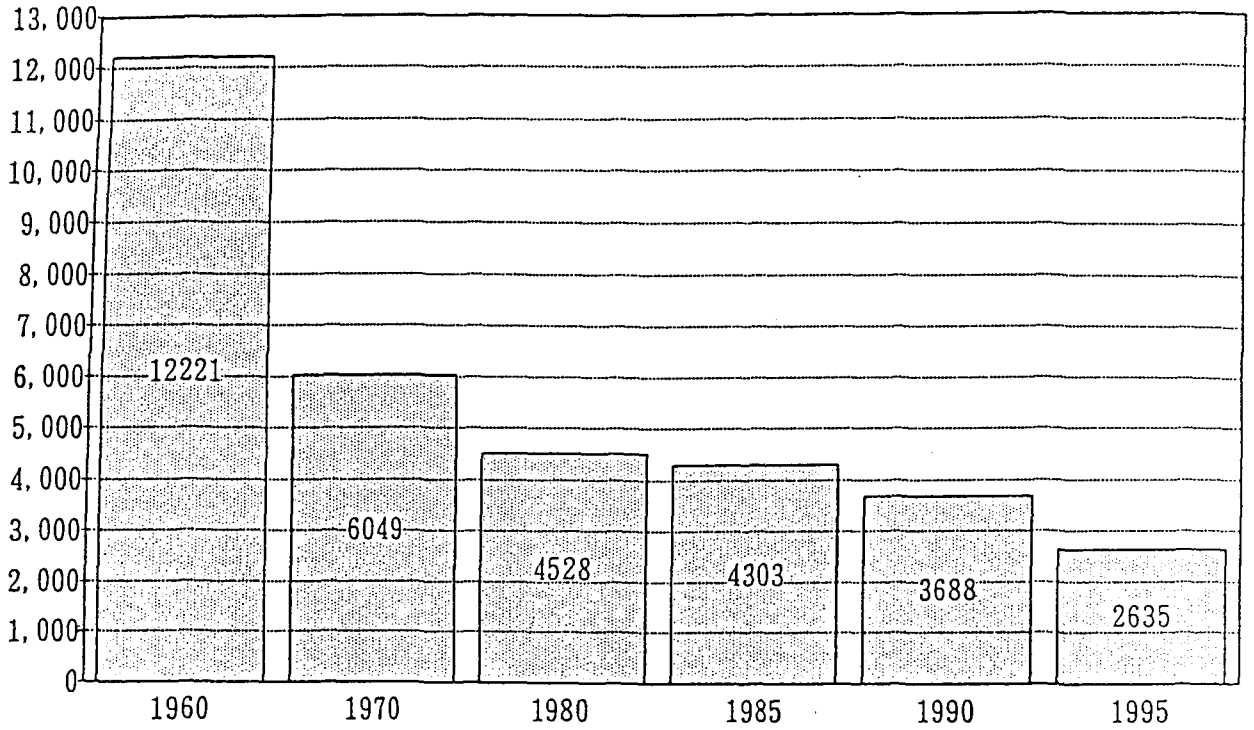
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE in F.Y.1995



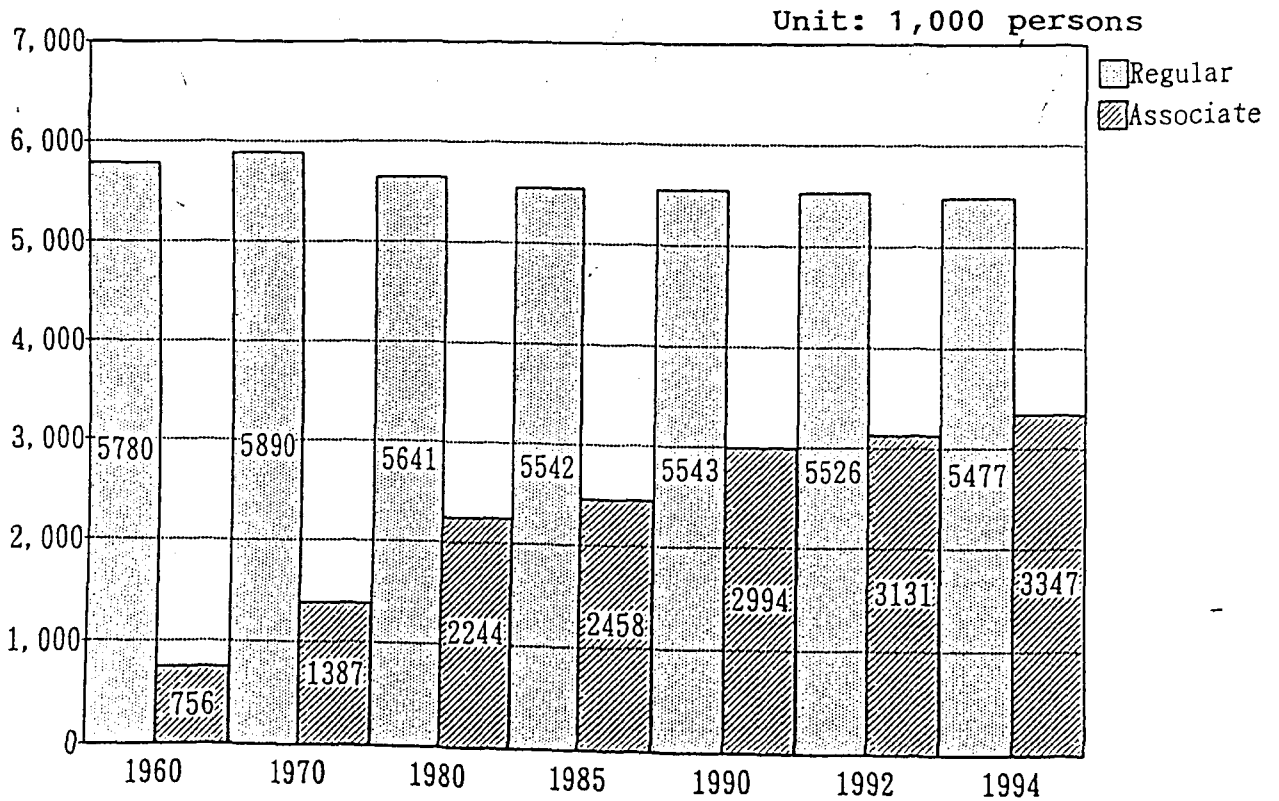
Membership of Multi-Purpose Coop.

- Regular Members
 - Farmers who cultivate more than 1/10 ha: or work more than 90 days a year.
 - Farming associations
- Associate members
 - Non-farmer residents who want to utilize agri. coop. facilities.
 - Organisations formed by farmers and non-farmer residents.

NO. OF MULTI-PURPOSE AGRICULTURAL COOPS.



TREND OF MEMBERSHIP



MULTI-PURPOSE AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATIVE SOCIETY
(Average figures per society)

Fiscal Year 1994

		persons	TOTAL
Membership	Regular members	5,461.0	8,966.0
	Associate members	3,505.0	
Elected officials	Directors (Board of)	16.2	20.5
	Of which full-time	1.5	
	Auditors	4.3	
Employees	General managers	0.8	103.6
	Farm advisors	6.2	
	Better-living advisors	1.1	
	Other employees	95.5	
Share capital		428 million yen (¥260,000/member family)	
Turn over (¥ million)	Marketing	2,043	
	Supply	1,808	
	Balance of loan advanced	6,278	
	Balance of savings	22,001	
	Long term insurance (Amount insured)	342,994 billion yen	
	Short term insurance (Premium received)	393,782	

5. DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF AGRI. COOP. MOVEMENT

The distinctive feature of the Japanese agricultural cooperative movement is the multi-purpose system which is characterized by its integrated operation of a wide range of business activities. Particularly, credit, marketing, supply and utilization are integrated through farm guidance services.

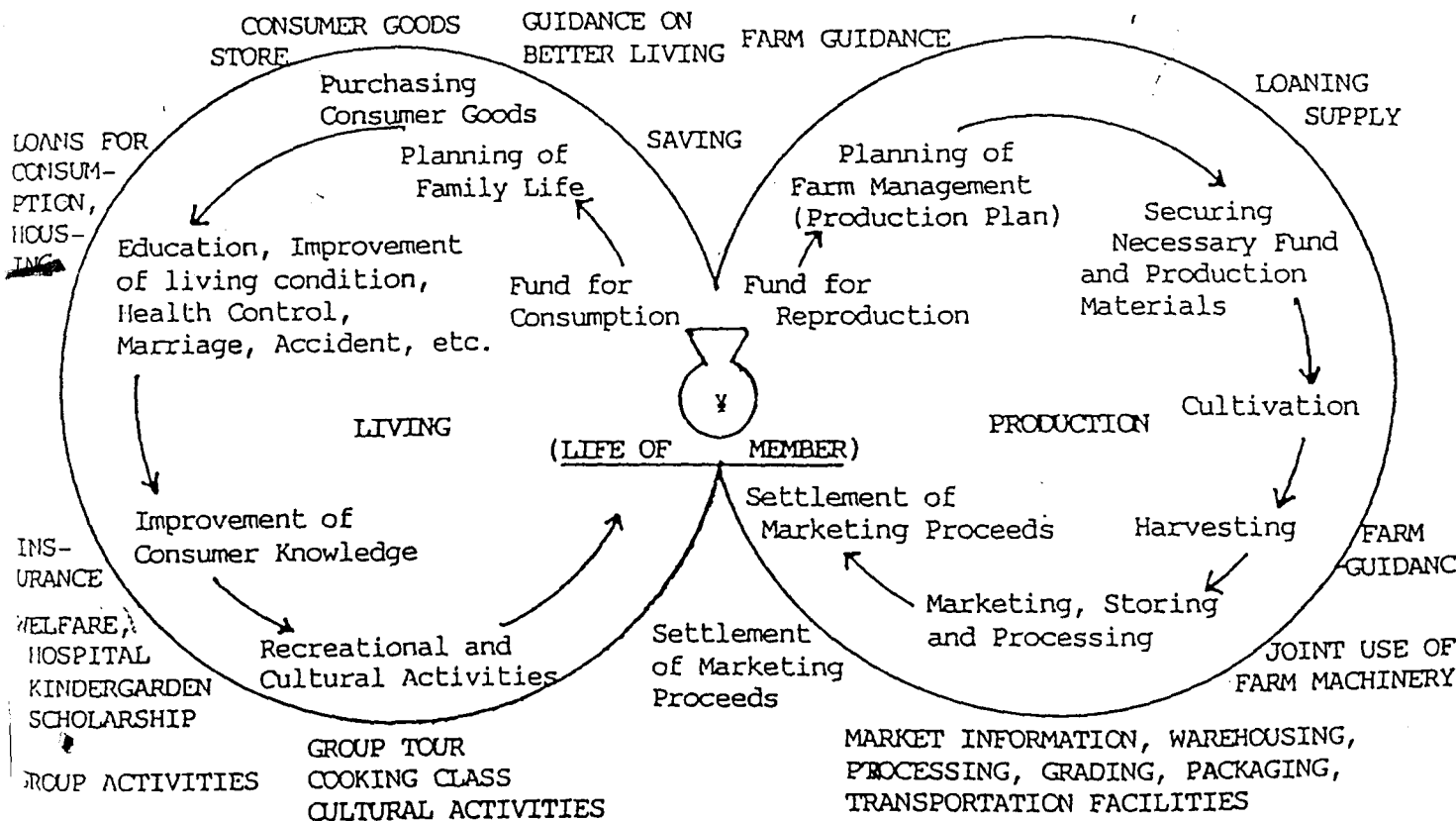
Integrated Approach of Multi-purpose Cooperatives

Though credit, marketing, supply and utilization services were undertaken by one society even pre-war days, it was not called as multi-purpose cooperative society. In these days, four services mentioned above operated independently and there was not much linkage between them. Any one of these four services, however, is an integral part of farmer's economic life. It was necessary, therefore, for agricultural cooperatives to contribute more effectively to the increase of agricultural production and to the improvement of economic and social standard of farmers by integrating various functions through farm guidance service. This idea was realized after World War II and it has become a special feature of the agricultural cooperative movement of Japan.

- 1) Ways of integration of various activities for the increase of agricultural production and farm income.
 - i. Guidance service on formulation of farm management improvement plan based on the regional and individual conditions.
 - ii. Procurement of the fund required for implementing such farm management improvement programme of individual farmers.
 - iii. Establishment of facilities required for implementing such programme and supply of production materials.
 - iv. Guidance service on effective use of facilities and materials.
 - v. Grading, assortment, processing and packaging of products.

- vi. Joint shipment and marketing.
 - vii. Collection of marketing proceeds and settlement of the payment.
- 2) Ways of integration of various activities for the improvement of living standards
- i. Guidance service on formulation of long-term and short-term planning for better living.
 - ii. Savings to meet household expenses in immediate and distant futures.
 - iii. Supply of consumer goods and establishment of facilities required.
 - iv. Correct use of consumer articles and facilities.

ACTIVITIES OF MULTI-PURPOSE SOCIETIES IN RELATION TO THE LIFE OF MEMBER FARMER



6. DEMOCRATIC CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF MULTI-PURPOSE SOCIETY

Administrative Organs

1) General Meeting

General meeting is held annually and it is the highest authority of a society. Matters to be resolved at the general meeting are as follows;

- (1) Amendment of the bye-laws
- (2) Dissolution/amalgamation of a society
- (3) Expulsion of a member
- (4) Annual business plan
- (5) Membership contribution & method of collection
- (6) Maximum amount of bill discount
- (7) Business report, inventory, balance sheet, profit and loss statement and disposal of surplus or loss
- (8) To become a promoter of a new federation or union and to give consent to the proceedings of the establishment-committee meeting
- (9) Joining or withdrawal from federation or union
- (10) Election of board members

2) Representative Meeting

Any society with more than 500 members may set up representative meeting in place of general meeting. Number of representatives should be more than $\frac{1}{5}$ of the total regular members.

3) Board of Directors

Members of the board of directors shall be elected at the general meeting of a society.

Number of directors:

More than 5

Eligibility:

More than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the board

members must be regular members.

Less than $\frac{1}{3}$ may be non-members.

No director may hold another post of organization which is competitive to businesses of the society.

Prohibition of interlocking duties: Any of the directors shall not be concurrently be an auditor or an employee of the society.

Term of office: 3 years (No restriction for re-election)

A president and one or more managing director(s) are elected from among the board members by a mutual vote to serve in full time.

4) Board of Auditors

Members of the board of auditors shall be elected at the general meeting of the society.

Number of auditors: More than 2

Eligibility: No specific conditions

Prohibition of interlocking duties: Any auditor shall not be concurrently a director or an employee of the society.

Term of office: 3 years (No restriction for re-election)

Supporting Organizations of members within Multi-purpose Society

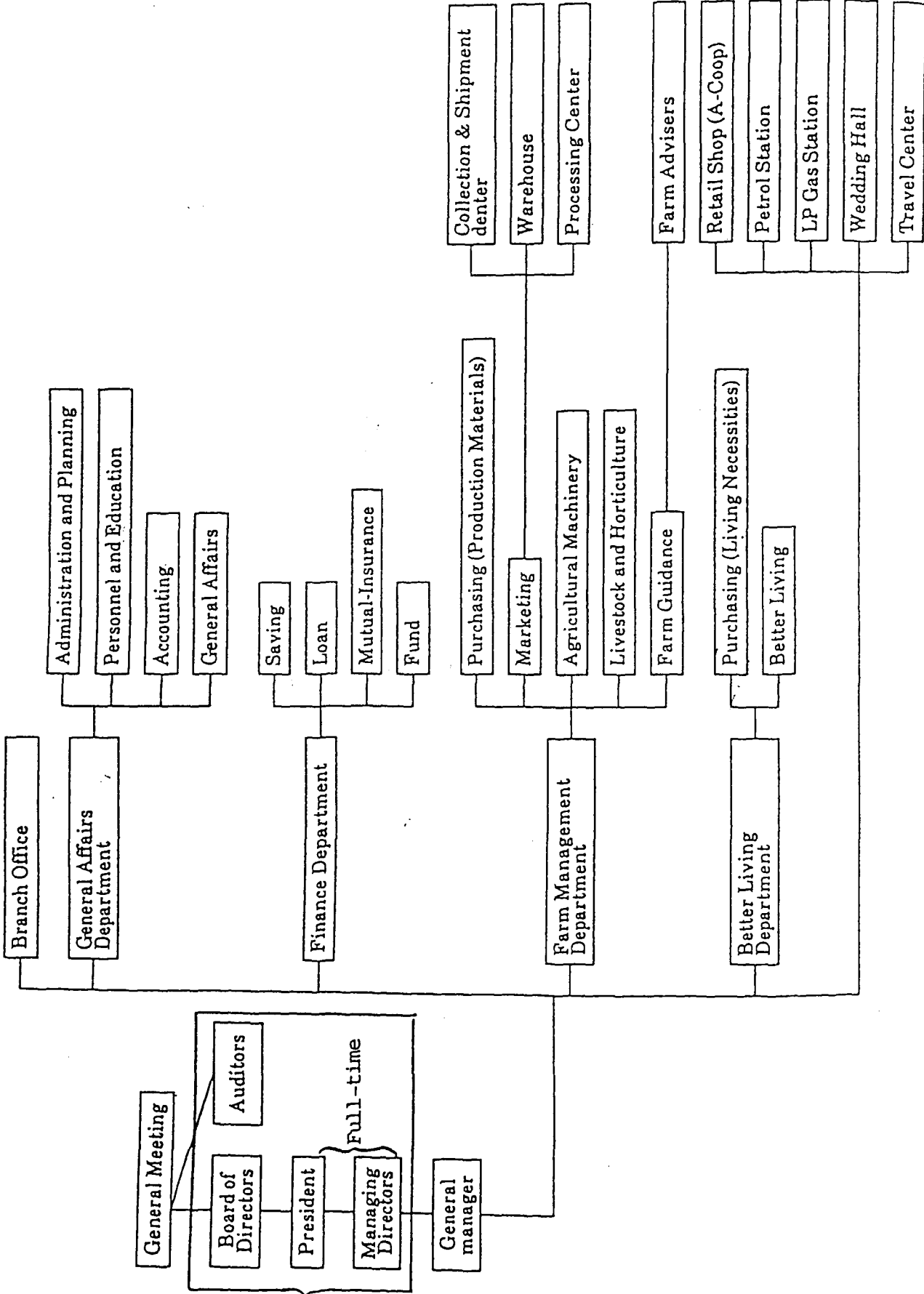
Commodity-wise Groups: Rice Growers Group, Horticultural Group, Citrus Growers Group, Pig raising Group, Poultry Farmers Group, Dairy Farmers Group and so on.

Functional Groups: Cooperative Store Management Group
Insurance Policy Holders Group, etc.

Hamlet Groups: Farming Association

Gender Groups: Youth Association of Agri. Coop.
Women's Association of Agri. Coop.

GENERAL PATTERN OF INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF
MULTI-PURPOSE AGRICULTURAL COOP SOCIETY



7. ACTIVITIES OF MULTI-PURPOSE SOCIETY

1) Guidance Activities

(1) Farm Guidance

Farm guidance is to help farmers in planning and operating their farm production more efficiently and in establishing better terms of marketing. Guidance services are extended in the following areas by farm advisors of multi-purpose agricultural cooperative societies.

- i. Planning of farm management in accordance with regional agricultural promotion plan
- ii. Improvement of farm infrastructure
- iii. Quality control and joint marketing of farm products and joint purchase of farm inputs
- iv. Promotion of group farming by commodities
- v. Exchange of cultivation and breeding techniques
- vi. Close collaboration with agricultural extension office and other relevant institutions

FARM ADVISORS (Mar. 1994)

Total No. of Farm Advisors	17,880
Average per society	6.2
<u>Socs. by No. of Farm Adv.</u>	
Non	11.3%
1	14.6%
2	13.4%
3	10.9%
4	9.3%
5 - 6	11.9%
7 - 10	13.4%
11 - 20	9.4%
21 or more	5.8%
	100.0%

Specialised area of Farm Advosors	
Rice cultivation	24.0%
Silkworm raising	2.0%
Livestock	17.0%
Vegetables	26.6%
Fruits	11.7%
Farm management	8.9%
Farm machinaries	2.4%
Others	7.4%
	100.0%

(2) Guidance on Better Living

Multi-purpose society extends guidance service on better living to improve standard of living of member

2) Marketing

Characteristics of marketing practice

- i. Unconditional consignment
- ii. Pooling account system
- iii. Planned production and shipment

Marketing Turnover per Society

Fiscal Year 1993

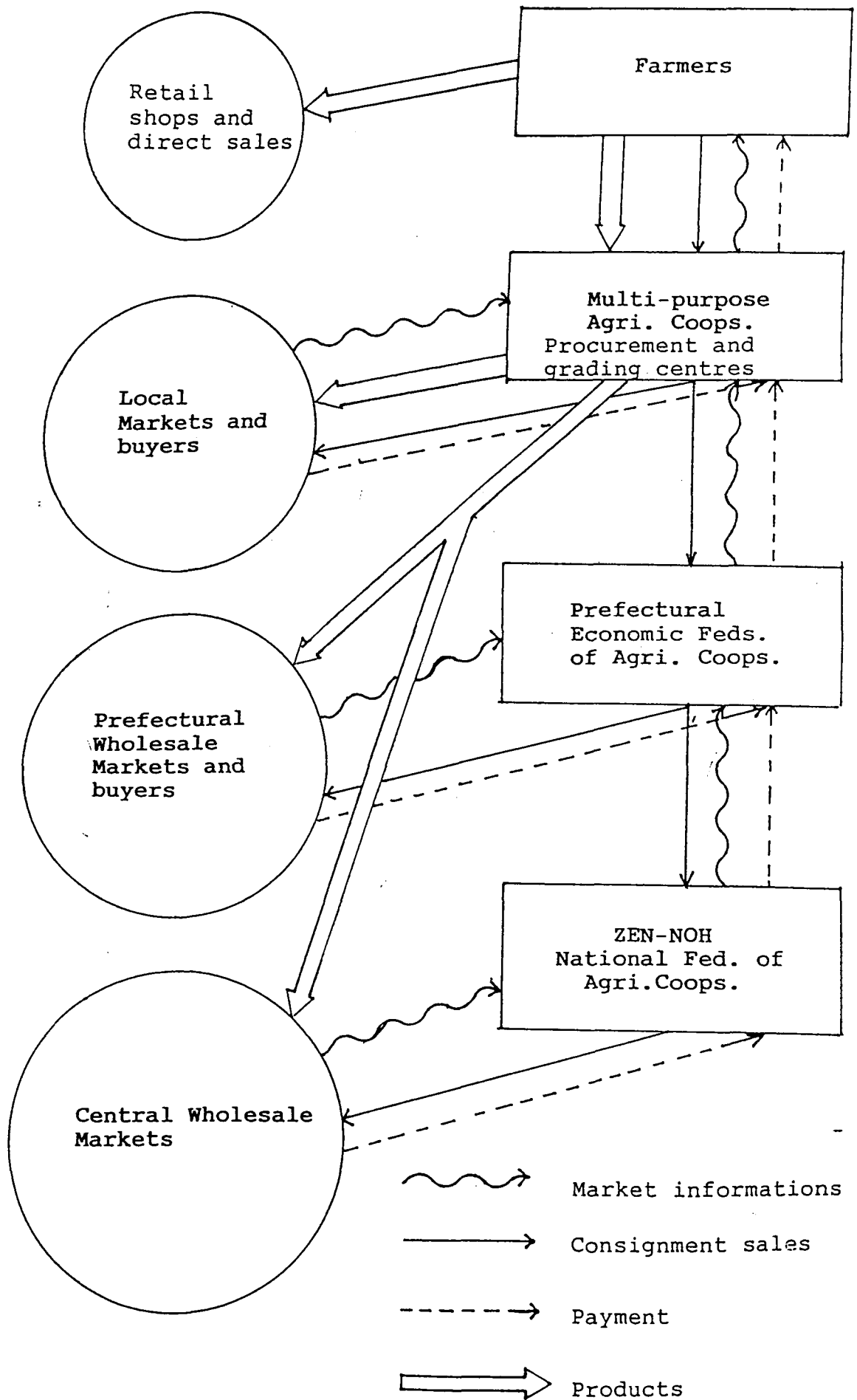
	Per society (¥ million)	Composition (%)	Rate of commission(%)
Rice	606	29.7	3.0
Vegetables	497	24.3	2.2
Fruits	236	11.5	2.4
Fresh milk	130	6.4	1.2
Eggs	18	0.9	2.5
Broiler	6	0.3	0.8
Beef cattle	124	6.1	1.1
Others	426	20.8	-
Total	2,043	100.0	2.4 (average)

Share of Agricultural Cooperatives in Total Sales of Member Farmers

Fiscal Year 1993

	Multi-purpose Agri. Coops.(%)	Pref. Econom. Federations %	ZEN-NOH %
Rice	95.0	95.0	95.0
Vegetables	53.1	51.0	30.9
Fruits	52.4	46.4	21.3
Beef cattle	47.6	41.5	27.5
Pig	29.5	35.0	15.2
Fresh milk	59.7	59.3	14.1
Broiler	5.2	17.0	18.0
Eggs	14.8	30.1	31.2

Marketing System



3) Purchasing

Characteristics of purchasing practice

- i. Order in advance
- ii. Quick settlement of bills

Purchasing Turnover per Society (M-P)

Fiscal Year 1993

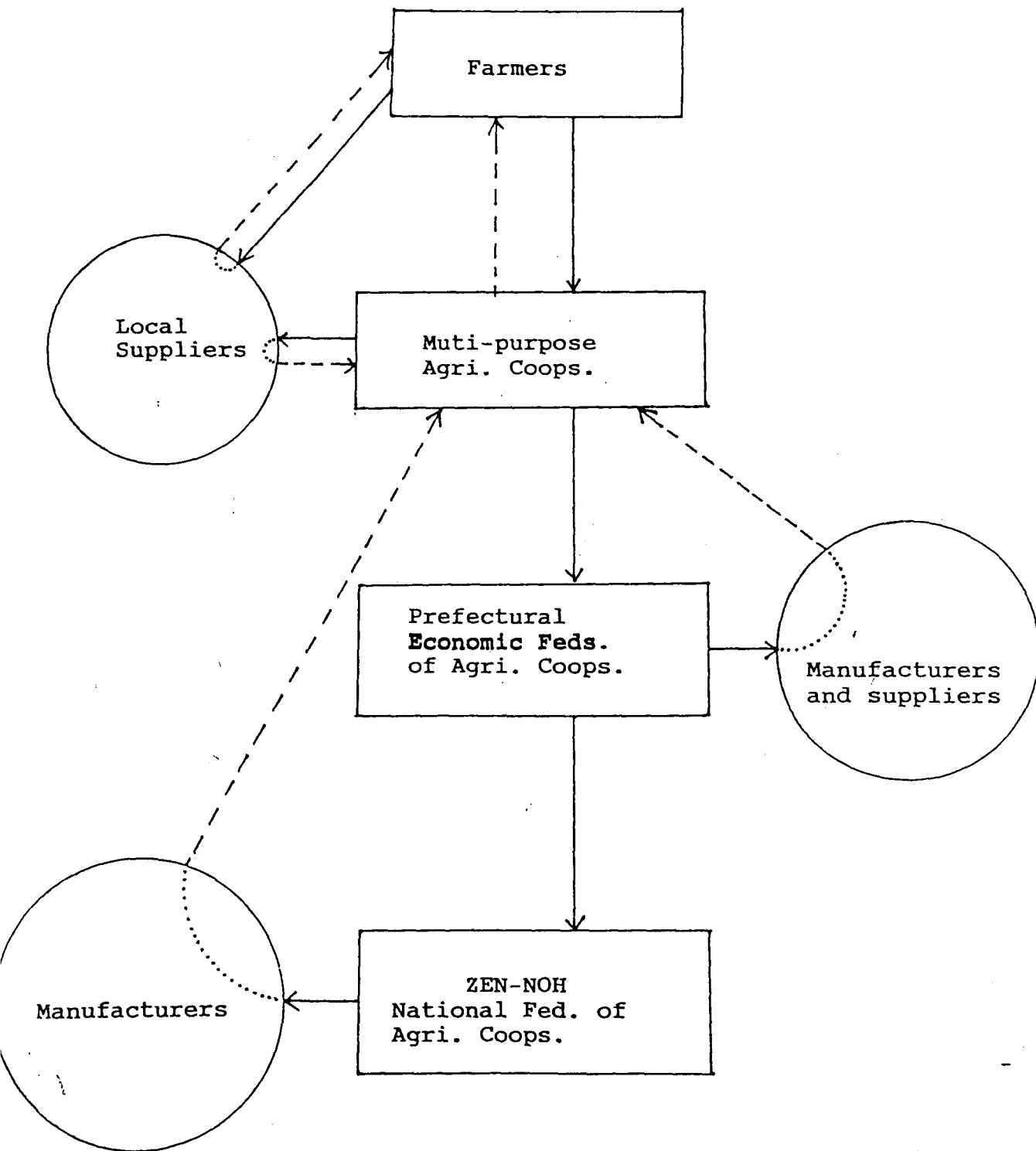
	Purchase per society (¥ million)	Composition (%)	Rate of commission (%)
Feeds	160	8.8	4.8
Fertilizers	140	7.7	12.0
Agri. chemicals	112	6.2	10.1
Agri. machinaries	134	7.4	10.3
Petrol products	220	12.2	20.5
Automobiles	106	5.9	6.0
Other prod. materials	218	12.0	-
Consumer goods	719	39.8	18.7
Total	1,808	100.0	14.0

Share of Agricultural Cooperatives in Total Purchase of member Farmers

Fiscal Year 1993

	Multi-purpose Agri. Coops. %	Pref. Economic Federations %	ZEN-NOH %
Feeds	36.5	32.4	32.4
Fertilizers	91.6	80.6	70.0
Agri. chemicals	70.0	50.0	45.0
Corrugated paper agricultural use	79.7	72.7	61.6
Kraft bags	88.9	77.8	60.0
Vinyl for green house	66.0	31.0	21.0
Polyethylene for agri. use	66.0	30.0	17.0
Farm machinery	53.0	41.7	26.6
Automobile	24.8	17.5	12.9
Petrol products	57.0	53.0	52.1
LP gas	46.9	42.3	36.1
Consumer goods	15.6	12.4	4.2

Purchasing System



—————→ Orders

- - - - - → Delivery of goods

4) Credit

(1) System of Farm Finance

Farm finance in Japan is operated by three types of institutions:

- (i) Multi-purpose Agricultural Cooperative Societies
(Loanable funds are savings of members)
- (ii) AFFFC (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Finance Corporation) Funds are from the Government
- (iii) Private financial institutions such as commercial banks

(i) and (ii) account for the dominant portion of outstanding farm loans of members. Also various types of government programmed loans provide funds to farmers at concessional terms in order to support agricultural policies of the government.

OUTSTANDING SAVINGS AND LOANS OF MEMBER (AVERAGE PER FARM HOUSEHOLD)

Fiscal Year 1993

Savings with:	Agri. Coops.	35.8%
	Post office (Postal savings)	8.7%
	Commercial banks	22.1%
	Insurances	33.4%
		100.0%
Loans from:	Agri. Coops.	46.0%
	Government Fund	18.3
	Commercial banks	23.9%
	Others	11.8%
		100.0%

(2) Government Programmed Loans

Government programmed loans are classified into three types according to the sources of the loanable funds.

- (i) Loanable funds from the Trust Fund Bureau of the Ministry of Finance (AFFFC loans, etc.)
- (ii) Loanable funds from the budget of the National and Prefectural Governments (Agri. Improvement Loans)
- (iii) Loanable funds from agricultural cooperatives and other commercial banks. Interest subsidies are provided by the government (Agricultural Modernization Loans, Natural Disaster Relief Loans, etc.)

OUTLINE OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMED LOANS

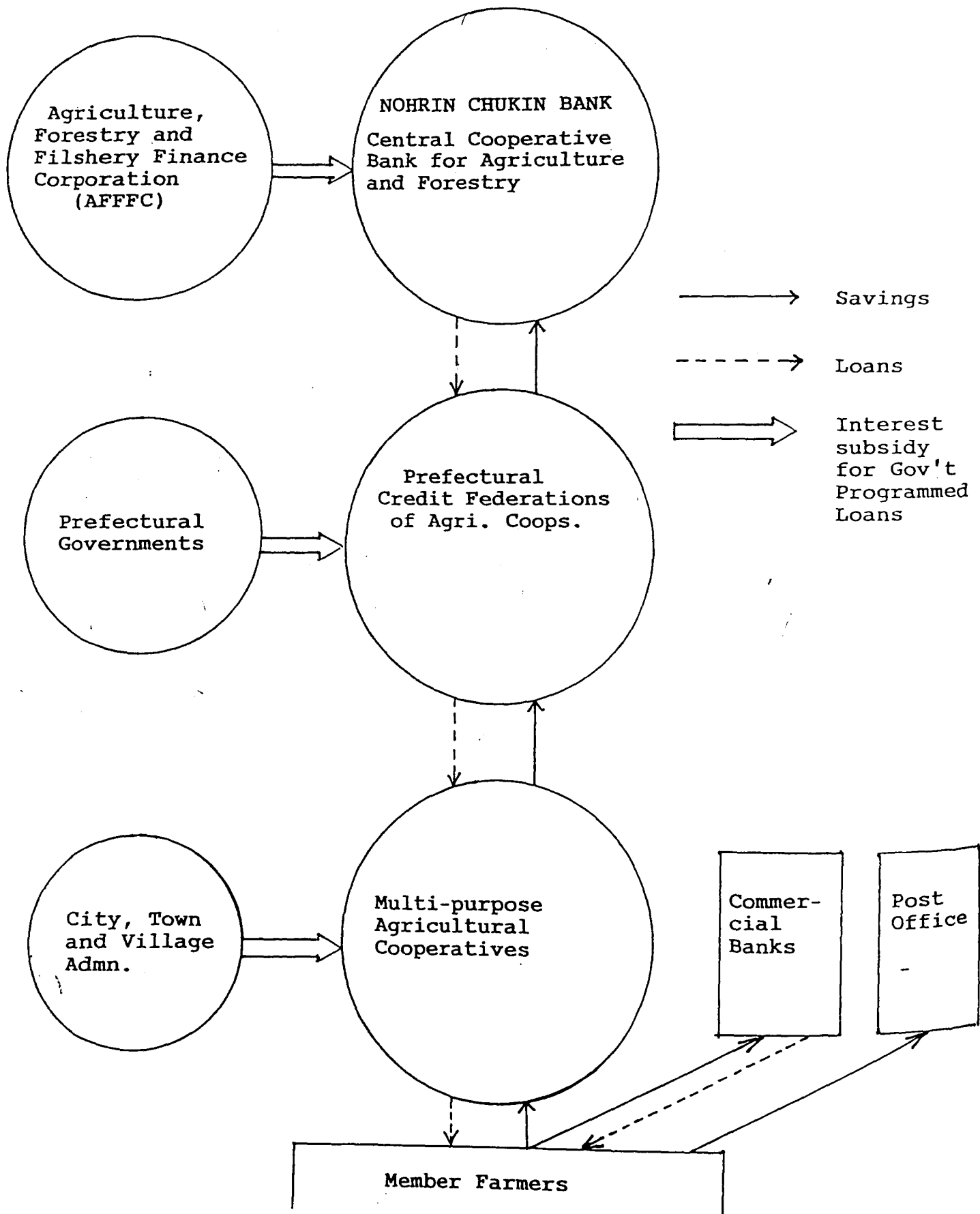
	AFFFC loans	Agri. Modernization loans	Agri. Improvement loans	Natural Disaster loans
Source of fund	Government	Agri. Coops.	Government	Agri. Coops.
Loan Agency	AFFFC	Agri. Coops.	Prefectural governments	Agri. Coops.
Term	Long	Medium, Long	Medium, Short	Medium, Short
Interest rate	Low	Low	Free	Low
Purpose	Maintenance and promotion of Agri. Production	Modernization of Agri. Machinery and facilities	Adoption of New Technologies	Relief of damaged farmers by natural disaster

(3) Terms of Loans

In case of AFFFC loans, interest rates are 3.0 - 5.6 percent and the period of redemption 10 - 25 years. The loan covers up to 60 - 90 percent of the total cost of the borrower's project. Either or both collaterals and guarantors are required.

Interest rates are generally low for those projects which the government seeks to encourage for policy reasons and those for the rehabilitation of damage caused by a natural disaster. They are also lower on loans made to unsubsidised projects than those to subsidised ones.

Credit System



5) Mutual Insurance

Multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives are the original contractor of the insurance policies and they are reinsured with the prefectural mutual insurance federations and national mutual insurance federation.

Types of insurance are as follows;

Long-term insurance	Life Endowment
	Juvenile
	Building Endowment
	Home Construction
Short-term insurance	Fire
	Coop Building Fire
	Automobile
	Group Term Life
	Automobile Liability

LONG-TERM INSURANCE, POLICIES IN FORCE

Fiscal Year 1993	
Types of Insurance	Amount insured (¥billion)
Life Endowment Insurance	180,593
Whole Life Insurance	45,626
Children's Insurance	1,283
Long-term Life Insurance	29
Building Endowment Insurance	115,420
Others	41
Total	342,994

SHORT-TERM INSURANCE

Fiscal Year 1993	
Types of Insurance	Premiums (¥million)
Fire Insurance	13,161
Automobile Insurance	281,457
Personal Accident Insurance	16,960
Group Term Life Insurance	6,077
Automobile Liability Insurance	70,518
Others	5,608
Total	393,782

6) Utilization and Processing

Primary agricultural cooperative societies try to provide facilities and services that members would otherwise be unable to access. There is a variety of facilities, such as heavy tractors, grain elevators, repair shops, pumps, pig breeding stations, and chicken and food processing plants. Joint use of these facilities not only raises productivity but also is essential for unified grading, planned production and marketing.

Joint facilities designed for personal use are also extremely diverse, ranging from medical, barber and wire broadcasting services to wedding halls.

The purpose of cooperative processing is not only to increase the value of agricultural products but also to encourage individuals to produce their own supplies cheaply. While primary societies have comparatively small plants of their own, prefectural economic federations and the National Federation engage in large-scale processing in their directly managed plants or fully paid-up joint stock companies.

TYPES OF FACILITIES FOR JOINT USE owned by MULTI-PURPOSE AGRI. COOPS.

Facilities for production activities of members	Facilities for home-life improvement activities
Large-size tractors Combines Power sprayers Rice centre Country Elevator Grading Centre Farm machinery workshop Fertilizer mixing plant Joint nursery centre Livestock breeding centre Joint transportation facility Warehouse Chicken processing centre Meat processing centre	Meeting hall Living improvement centre Consumer goods stores LP gass service facility Petrol stations Rice polishing facility Flour mill Noodle processing plant Simple food processing plant Baking plant Joint cooking facility Wire broadcasting studio Barbershop/Beauty parlor Resort facilities Sports facilities Library Wedding/Funeral facilities Mobile clinics, hospitals Rehabilitation centre

7) Welfare

Medical care and health control services are also important activities of multi-purpose agricultural cooperative societies. Medical treatment of members and residents in rural communities is undertaken in agricultural cooperative hospital which are run by prefectural welfare federation of agricultural cooperative societies. Health control services are provided by multi-purpose societies with the help of agricultural cooperative hospitals. These services are as follows;

- Health consultation
- Periodical health check-ups
- Examinations for adult diseases
- Campaigns to improve nutrition

Women's association of agricultural cooperatives are involved in these activities.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE HOSPITALS owned and operated by Pref. Welfare Federations of Agri. Coops.

March 1994

Number of Agri. Coop Hospitals	115
Number of Clinics	57
Mobile Clinics	194
Number of Beds for inpatients	38,012
Doctors (full-time)	3,207
Nurses	18,733

一人は万人のために

万人は一人のために

EACH FOR ALL

ALL FOR EACH

We have enjoyed a decade of "almost enough", enough to cause complacency. If there is a touch of hunger in the Sahel, then we have tried to patch it up with a few concerts and shipments of food. However, we are now looking toward a much more difficult decade, one in which many will face a rude awakening. The world faces a grave agenda: poverty, hunger, a deteriorating environment, growing populations, new and dreadful diseases. These problems respect no artificial boundaries. Nor are these simply the problems of governments and international organizations, I firmly believe that it is only when people and their structures become directly involved, when responsibility is with those whose interests are genuinely, at stake, then solutions are possible. We can no longer afford the luxury of leaving problems to governments. We must seize the initiative and involve ourselves and the people of the world in attacking hunger, disease and poverty. The future of our world depends on it.

Dr. V. Kurien
Chairman, National Dairy
Development Board, India

1. Cooperative Values and Management Development

Management development in the context of a cooperative can be viewed as a process of honing the skills and competencies of its elected leaders, managers and staff in order to enable them to manage the cooperative to the satisfaction of its members. The broad indicators of the success of management of a cooperative can be said to be: it is effective i.e. the cooperative increasingly and efficiently meets the complete needs of products and services of its members; viable i.e. it covers its costs through its earned incomes from business and services with its members and does not depend on subsidy for its survival; self-reliant i.e. it is autonomous and capable of meeting the challenge of market place and raise resources on its own without any artificial props; competitive i.e. it offers services and products in terms of price, convenience, quality and customer-satisfaction at levels which are significantly at par with similar other enterprises in the market; and on a growth trajectory i.e. the cooperative is growing at least at a rate which helps it retain competitive edge in the market place and enables it to effectively serve its membership.

As well as the main goals before the cooperative management, these are also the areas which determine the framework for management training and development efforts for a cooperative.

COOPERATIVE VALUES AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

In its pursuit to effectively manage a cooperative, its management encounters the issue of cooperative values, when it begins to tackle the following aspects of its mandate:

- developing mission statement;
- corporate governance;
- dealing with members;
- human resource management

Developing mission statement

The values included in the ICA Statement of Cooperative Identity provide the basic coordinates for evolving and developing a mission statement by a cooperative. The values that are of particular significance are: democracy, self-help and equity and ethical values of openness, social responsibility, and caring for others. These values not only help a cooperative to stand out, but also instil confidence among all stakeholders in the cooperative. The usual emphasis on commitment, service, quality, community and environment generally included in a corporate mission statement ought to be tempered, in the case of a cooperative, by these values which inspire them and underpin their operations.

Asia-Pacific
Coopnet Update July 1996
ILO

Corporate governance refers to the organs, processes and positions that are created and used to direct, manage and carry out the activities of a corporate body. In the contemporary context, the dominant defining features of effective corporate governance are: centralism, professionalism and profit maximization. The measure that is employed to gauge the success of corporate governance is the stock-market price of the equity of the corporation. It is a neat arrangement, evolved and honed over a number of years. In the emerging era of liberalization, privatization and globalization, the above is seen almost a natural way to corporate governance. Even some cooperative managements seem to accept its rationale and logic; this could either be because of ignorance, or out of frustration born out of slow pace of traditional decision-making processes involved in governing cooperatives; or merely due to its "simplicity" and "neatness" - no hassles of consensus-building, no intrusion by small-holders in corporate management, and no accountability other than of EPS - *earning per share*.

The second area, therefore that needs to be addressed, while instilling cooperative values ought to be corporate governance. The design of corporate structure - the organs of decision-making, the processes used for setting objectives and harnessing resources and defining the role and responsibility of various positions in a cooperative - ought to be based on the overriding values of democracy, equality, equity, and self-help.

Democracy, as MacPhearson, has stated, is a complex word. It can usefully be thought of as a listing of rights; indeed, the struggle for democratic rights on a political level is a common theme of the history of the two last centuries. Within cooperatives, "democracy" includes considerations of rights; indeed rights and responsibilities. But it also means more: it means fostering the spirit of democracy within cooperatives, a never-ending, difficult, valuable, even essential, task.

The values of equality and equity are also closely related to the value of democracy. Taken together these result in empowerment of membership, make elected office-bearers accountable to members (and not to stock markets) and members participation an article of faith. The value of self-help points to the imperative of helping members to develop themselves through cooperative action by the skills they learn in facilitating the growth of their cooperatives. In this respect, cooperative is an institution that fosters the continuing education and development of all those involved with it.

All these values thus provide an alternative basis of designing and organizing the corporate governance structure. Such a structure provides for democratic control on the basis of one-member one-vote and an elected board of directors which is

encourage members closer involvement and participation, so that they can learn develop themselves to realize their potential; and positions that can effectively implement policies and programmes decided by members and their representatives.

In so far as these organizational positions are concerned cooperatives can a few lessons from investor-owned corporates. Among these lessons are: the professionals should man these positions; the professionals should enjoy enough autonomy; and these professionals should be adequately rewarded and encouraged to create a result-oriented culture where the entire staff seeks to achieve excellence.

Dealing with members

Corporates often determine their business activities on such considerations as profitability, market share and leadership, export market potential; core competence etc. In cooperatives, activities are determined on the sole consideration of members' needs. The central focus of the cooperative movement must always be the best interests of members in both short and long term. Cooperatives exist primarily to serve them, and any measure of their effectiveness must be based on how well these needs are served.

On the basis of the logic of its definition and the value of self-help, cooperative management has to seek and develop alternative frameworks for starting, expanding and establishing forward and backward linkages. Here, it is not simply the question of starting an activity or offering a service to members; it is really the issue of fostering relationship with members - widening and deepening it all the time. Ideally, a cooperative should offer a range of services that encompass the entire needs of an average household. The growth strategy should be focussed on expansion of relationship with members. Only then can a cooperative ensure its most stable growth and its long-term permanence.

It should be understood here that members of most cooperatives relate to their organization in three ways: as owners (decision makers and controllers); users of its services (provide income earning activities); and investors (provide finances). All these three kinds of relationships need to be fostered. This is best done through, on one plane, efficient service, and, on another, education. Corporate managements in investor-owned organizations seldom if ever bother themselves with such an idea. For cooperative management, this is crucial to their survival and success.

Human resource management

Finally the cooperative values must permeate all human resource management policies, practices and programmes in every cooperative. Human resources here include elected office-bearers, employees and members. The values of self-

help, equality, solidarity, openness, and caring for others must always inform all human resources-related action. Human resource management and development efforts in cooperatives must be geared to i) provide opportunities to all to grow, develop and realize their full potential; ii) provide working conditions that induce them all to give their best contribution to cooperatives; iii) deepen their relationship with cooperatives;

iv) effectively participate in appropriate manner in the management, activities and operations of cooperatives; and v) make all people feel important and worthy of the trust and confidence that cooperatives have reposed in them.

That is how cooperative Management can be made effective and purposeful

2. Characteristics of Japan's Coop Movement

- 1) Multi-purpose Agri. Coop
- 2) Emphasis on or existence of small-group activities
 - Producer's groups (commodity-wise G)
 - Women's Associ. of Agri. Coop
 - Youth Assoc. of Agri. Coop
 - Regional farming group etc.
 - Han group for better living activities
- 3) Active Education & training programme to achieve cohesiveness among farmer
- 4) Nearly 100% of all farmhouseholds are members of the Agri. Coops.
- 5) Member participation in Agri. Coop is high
- 6) Strong Gov't supports but no interference in day to day affairs of the coop
 - Joint use facilities
 - Interest subsidy on land (Agri. modernization)
 - Infrastructure building (Land consolidation)
- 7) Linkage (with) among other rural development agencies & constitutions
 - MAFF & local gov't etc.
 - Agri. research statims/Extension office/Land Improvement Distirct, etc.
 - J.J.C. (Japan Joint Committee of Coops)
- 8) Planning (Meticulous planning)
 - Life plan
 - Production, marketing, shipment & sales
 - Long term perspective planning
- 9) Active PR activities

Other salient features:

- 1) Pursuit of quality products unique
- 2) Unique marketing system
 - Consignment, pool account and commission system
- 3) Promotion of amalgamation of Agri. Coop 3,000→ 800
(by the year 2000)
- 4) Relevance of Japan's to Agri. Coops in developing countries
 - 1) Farm guidance
 - 2) Education
 - 3) Better living etc.

3. In the Search for relevance of Japanese Agricultural Cooperative Experiences for the Cause of Cooperative Development in Developing Countries

- 1) Japanese coops serve their members from cradle to grave. There's rarely an activity of socio-economic nature that these societies are not engaged in. And that's why they have become a part and parcel of farmers' lives and the latter take pride in identifying themselves with their society.
- 2) Subsistence farming was fast replaced by commercial farming. Agricultural Cooperatives acquired the characteristics of modern business and industry with growing market orientation.
- 3) Relatively egalitarian distribution of land has meant few households can adequately support themselves entirely on agriculture.
- 4) Loyalty to one's hamlet and desire to maintain its solidarity were valued aspects of the Japanese rural society which provided useful foundations to build the modern coop movement.
- 5) Most remarkable achievement has been to adjust to the changing agricultural situation and to help members to earn higher incomes through enhanced productivity, greater efficiency and innovative organizational devices.
- 6) Replication of formal structures often results in failures.
- 7) It is largely due to the loyalty, discipline, industriousness and concerns for communicating interests among their members. These are typically Japanese qualities.
- 8) One has to see what could be done within the framework of one's own culture and values. Every society has its own strength and weakness.
- 9) The Japanese are known for suppression of individual interests in favour of communicating interests and assertion of authoritarian control which perhaps contributes to the success of coops.
- 10) Cooperation involves subordinating narrow individual interests for the interests of collectivity which ultimately safeguards and promotes individual interests, too.
- 11) Create multiplex ties among members in order to strengthen the cooperatives appears to be another important lesson one could learn from the Japanese cooperatives.

4. Prerequisites for Co-operative Success or Criteria for Genuine Co-operative Societies By Karl Fogelstrom, ICAROAP

This paper identifies a number of factors or prerequisites considered essential for the success of co-operative society. In the view of the writer a large number of co-operatives in developing countries do not meet the requirements that would characterize a genuine co-operative society. Most co-operatives are government-initiated and should rightly be labelled "pseudo" co-operatives as they do not fulfill the criteria for a genuine co-operative society.

Still government has a positive role to play in supporting and promoting co-operative development in the same way as government support and encouragement is important for the development of other types of economic enterprises.

The writer states that there are definite limits to what can be achieved by "engineering" genuine co-operative development. Government need to take cognizance of true nature of a co-operative society and revise its policies accordingly.

Finally the writer points out that there is an increasing realization among politicians and government officials that government-initiated co-operative societies need to be transformed into independent and member-led co-operatives.

For a primary society to succeed not only one but several requirements must be satisfied in order to create a situation conducive to the formation and growth of a viable co-operative society:

• Prerequisites for Cooperative Success

1. "Awareness, realization and felt need" among the prospective members
2. Basic knowledge of the co-operative principles and a basic understanding of the mechanics of operating a co-operative society among the members & leaders
3. Honest local leaders with unblemished integrity
4. Honest and competent staff
5. Adequate base/volume or potential to sustain viable business
6. The existence of and access to a functioning market and marketing structure
7. Co-operative legislation allowing the co-op to function as independent, democratic and member centered business organization

5. Case study on Isinamva Development Community Center in South Africa

Taking Isinamva Development Community Center as a case study, we have tried to implement some of the ideas that have just been mentioned, although it has not been easy. But at the same time, we are just on the path. Isinamva community Center is engaged in programmes of education and training that are aimed at enabling people in the rural areas suffering from oppression and deprivation to regain their full human life and dignity through genuine participation. This means being part of the experience of transforming their situation for the better. This transformation can only happen in and through concrete and relevant projects in which there is a process of problem solving and growing awareness about the forces that affect the lives of the people.

Julias Nyerere says freedom and development are completely link together as chicken and egg. Without chickens you get no eggs without eggs you lose chickens. So without development there is no freedom and without freedom you soon lose all efforts towards development.

The conditions in the rural areas are not that conducive to development because people in rural areas are isolated and forgotten. They were never budgeted for and they' have been poor for so long. Even with these theoretical guidelines, it is not easy for us to do community work to make people critically aware. As I have said, this is done through concrete and relevant programmes. At Isinamva we work with health, agriculture and income generating projects. But it is the perception that is the most important thing. How development is perceived will affect ones efforts of development. The definition extracted from the united Nations Literature describes development as follows:

"Community development has come into international usage to connote the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with government authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of the community to integrate the communities into the light of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to the national programme. This is a complex process which is made up of the essential element of participation of the people themselves to improve their level of living with reliance on their own initiatives as far as possible and with the provision of technical and other services in ways that encourage

the initiative so self-help.

This definition could however be seen as too broad and technocratic. There is the humanization approach which stresses development which meets people's material needs as well as their spiritual needs. It is as important to develop the person, as it is to develop the infra-structure in which the person lives. At Isinamva we have taken this into account by making sure that growth and expansion do not merely take place in an impersonal manner, but all progress involves people at grass-roots level. All expansion is to be people-oriented so that material needs as well as spiritual aspirations are met. We at Isinamva have settled for the reformist approach which is essentially a compromise between the technocratic approach, whose objective is to increase productivity and the radical approach which is based on the structural causes of poverty. Therefore the reformist approach involves attempts to redistribute power, income and access to resources. Isinamva view training and development as "lifelong learning for change." Given the lack of human and financial resources, it has been a long and hard struggle at Isinamva, yet we have come far. Starting with candlemaking, people felt they could do something themselves, even if as a project it did not grow in leaps and bounds. But there was an awakening, poor people felt that they could do something and did not have to rely on shops to get candles.

Paulo Freire, Brazilian psychologist, adopting the conscientization approach, maintains that people who are oppressed see themselves as objects controlled by outside forces, such as political systems, unknown economic forces, fate, destiny, luck and the "will of God." They do not have, nor do they expect to have, significant control over their lives, their livelihood, their place in society, their access to land, education, or even their health. Freire regards such oppression as fundamental condition of modern times.

Thus the great task facing oppressed people everywhere is humanizing their existence so as to become self-determining individuals. He refers to liberation as a painful emergence of a new person, who is no longer an oppressor or oppressed, but a person in the process of achieving freedom. It is only the oppressed, by freeing themselves, who can achieve such a change in consciousness both for the individual and for society as a whole. There are four aspects that distinguish the conscientization

approach from other approaches to development and social changes:

- 1) The transforming process is on-going and ever-deepening. It is never completed. There is no "final revolution." It begins with the raising of awareness that leads to action, which leads to empowered awareness, and which in turn leads to further action.
- 2) The process of conscientization take place within a group.
- 3) The communal raising of awareness empowers community action.
- 4) Conscientization enables people to truly understand their situation and to look deeply into the social conventions that affect them.

Although the process of conscientization may begin with efforts to relieve hunger, increase income, or improve health; its ultimate aim is to change unjust social, and economic decision-making structures which are the root causes of poverty and oppression. NGO's would be wise to practice, as may do Dr. Dent's maxim's on appropriate development as far as possible:

GO TO THE PEOPLE
LIVE AMONG THE PEOPLE
LEARN FROM THE PEOPLE
PLAN WITH THE PEOPLE
WORK WITH PEOPLE
START WITH WHAT THE PEOPLE KNOW
BUILD ON WHAT THE PEOPLE HAVE
TEACH BY SHOWING, LEARN BY DOING
NOT A SHOWCASE BUT A PATTERN
NOT ODDS AND ENDS BUT A PATTERN
NOT ODDS AND ENDS BUT A SYSTEM
NOT A PIECEMEAL BUT AN INTEGRATED APPROACH
NOT RELIEF BUT RELEASE
But with the best leaders
When the work is done the task accomplished
The people will say
"WE HAVE DONE THIS OURSELVES"

6. The Socio-economic, Cultural and Political Milieu Surrounding
cooperatives

A common observation that runs through the literature reviewed is that the cooperative institution has simply been imported from the West and imposed on local rural communities in Asia without considering the differences in the cultural, socio-economic and political conditions between the West and the developing countries in Asia. This is why cooperatives have not been the instruments for the poor in most of Asia, as they were in the West, where the movement originated and grew, often against the opposition of governments.

In Asia, governments usually have been the main promoters of cooperatives, a development started under colonial rule but continued by national governments after the countries had gained their independence. Despite government funds and legislation, co-ops have failed.

Anthropologist Clammer writes that cooperatives performance is greatly affected by socio-cultural factors (1979). Citing the case of Thailand, he shows that cooperatives implementation was difficult because of the traditional rural Thai concept of 'authority: "Thai villagers have a very rigid concept of superior-inferior relations along with a fear that the rather than help him..." The cooperatives program was being implemented by community development officers. There was a big gap in status and information between these officers and the villagers. So that, either the officer fails to communicate with the villagers because of his own concept of his superiority or the villagers feel "obliged" to the officer rather than treat him as someone who will help them. This affected the effectiveness of cooperatives policy implementations. Clammer also notes that the success of an innovation in the village was tied up with the traditional authority of the innovators, usually those with wide influence through the village and its institutions. In other words, the success of any good idea was conditioned not so much by the economic or social value of the idea itself but rather by the social status of the initiator or backers.

Recognizing the need to identify and assess local conditions that make for effective cooperatives, the United Nations Research

Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) studied 14 cooperatives in 14 rural communities initiated and administered by government in some communities, by non-government organizations in others. The study found that cooperatives that had high impact were established in areas where the social structures was relatively flexible, caste and class barriers relatively weak. Although traditional solidarity remained high, there was a predisposition for community action on a voluntary basis. The communities were furthermore found to have been more exposed to external influences. There also existed high levels belief in growth possibilities and just reward for effort. Communities, on the other hand, with low-impact cooperatives were characterized by low inter-class mobility, isolated class and caste groups, low levels of interpersonal trust, a fatalistic orientation and belief that distributive systems were exploitative. The study then points out that efforts to create workable cooperatives are futile in rural communities where inequalities of wealth, power and status are great, where commitment to traditional structures is strong, and where positive individualism has not developed.

It is significant to note that only 4 out of the 14 communities in the UNRISD study had effective cooperatives. In a 1971 report of farmer cooperatives in developing countries, the Advisory Committee on Overseas Cooperative Development (AC OCD) stated that only 1/5 of farmers in developing countries belonged to farmer cooperatives. Membership in cooperatives seems to be the exception rather than the rule, in Thailand for example (Muralt, 1975).

It has been generally observed that cooperatives have had a limited impact on the rural communities, especially on the poorer sectors. The AC OCD (1971) report found that local leaders tended to monopolize the benefits of the cooperatives. government-initiated and administered cooperatives became forms of official tutelage. Loans which were supposed to be for production needs went either to immediate consumption needs or to the larger farmers. Small farmers, tenants and sharecroppers were unable to qualify for loans. In effect, the cooperatives increased the gap between the poor and the rich.

7. Saemaul Movement (New Community Movement)

1) Objectives

The Saemaul Movement aims precisely at doing away with the kinds of social ills and problems that undermine the efficiency and productivity of human activity.

2) The spirit of the Saemaul Movement

1) diligence 2) Self-reliance 3) cooperation

The people of Korea have evolved a beautiful spirits of cooperation, rooted in the ancient. Three kingdoms period and further development in the Y. Dynasty era.

3) Why it started

The people had been accustomed to accepting poverty as a kind of fated condition and were living with an attitude of resignation and despair. In accepting these problems as the result of fate, the Koreans resigned themselves to the unhappy situation, acquiescing in the name of Confucian and Taoist teachings.

A Korean proverb: Blame the ancestors when things don't go well. Thus, people were in the habit of blaming such problem as their backwardness, stagnation, poverty and disorder on their forefather or the government or their leaders.

4) Goal of the 5th year plan

To close the gap between the city and the country, agriculture and industry, has been the goal of the Saemaul Movement.

5) Path to the success

- The success of the movement is anchored in the intense purpose of "diligence, self-reliance and cooperation"
- Human behavior does not succeed where perseverance is absent
- Diligence and self-reliance kindle self-confidence
- Saemaul philosophy has nurtured an attitude of cooperation

and has inspired new ways to better living.

☆ Saemaul is a national campaign to collectively and cooperatively improve the standard of living in the nation. It seeks to restore revival and pursue universal ideals of truth, goodness and beauty and struggles to build a democratic welfare state where justice rules supreme.

(By Kim Joon, Director, Saemaul Leaders Farming Institute)

☆ Saemaul Movement is the shorted route to national renaissance and a righteous path towards the improvement of our destiny. We trust, help and love one another. The saemaul spirit is applied to our daily lives and incorporated into the building of our character. This is the oath of our Saemaul leaders.

Republic of Korea



Land area	: 98,484 km ²
Population	: 39,330,000 persons
Capital city	: Seoul (8,360,000)
Religion	: Buddhism, etc.



The monument reads "diligence, Self-reliance and cooperation"



A farmer's house whose thatched roof was changed into the slate one.

8. Agricultural Cooperative Development Project in Thailand

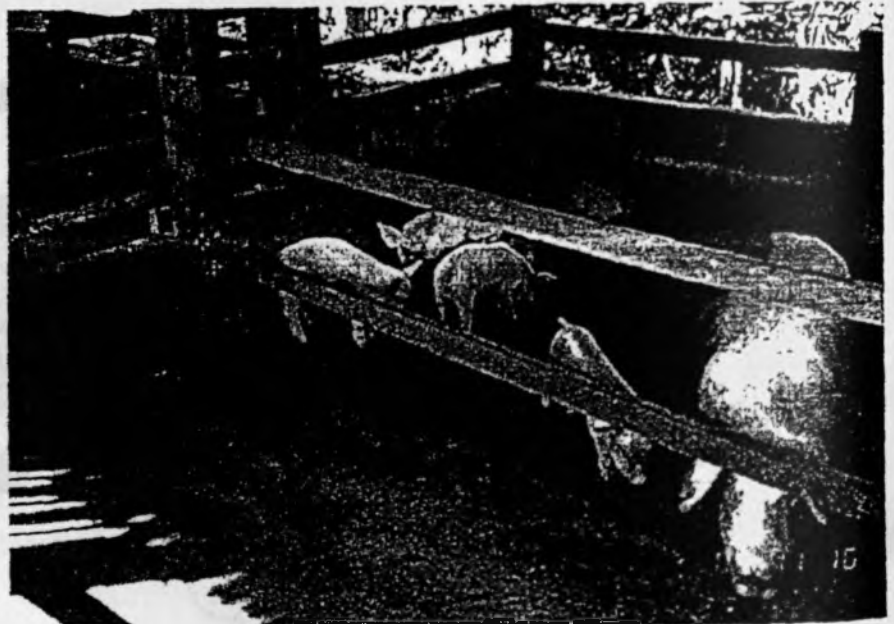


Opening Ceremony of Bamboo Savings

One Bath (5 yen) per day

ビマイ農協における
竹筒貯金 (1日1バツ)
開封式典

87 11 16

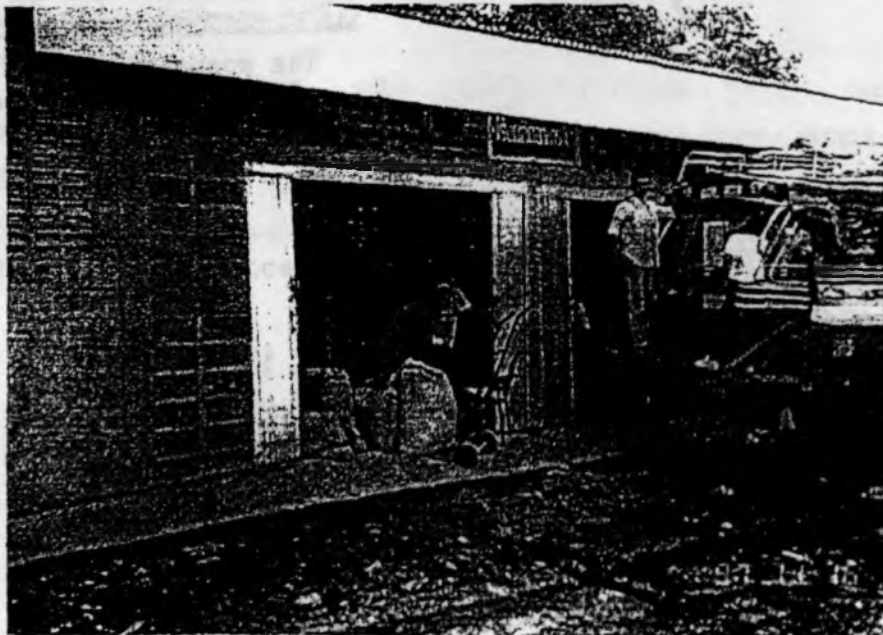


Improved pig barn

プロジェクトの指導に
よる改良豚舎 (ビマイ
農協)



15



ビマイ農協に設けられた
飼料配合施設 (共同利用
状況は非常に活発)



Joint feed mixing facility

9. Case study on Grameen Bank (Banking on the poor)

- Giving credit where it is due

When Mohammed Yunus set up the Grameen Bank, he challenged not only Bangladesh's entrenched social structure of poverty and deprivation but the well cherished economic theories of the West. Gray Segal reports on the man Bill Clinton thinks should get a Nobel Economics Prize.

When Bill Clinton was still on the campaign trail, presenting voters with his vision for rebuilding the American social landscape, he amazed journalists and economists by his espousal of a minor Bangladeshi bank as a grassroots example of how to reinvigorate the world's largest economy. The Grameen Bank has so impressed the new president with its program of providing very small loans for microenterprises in poor communities that he has been advocating it as a model for similar community development banks in the United States, to help stimulate depressed urban and rural areas.

The idea of giving the poor greater access to credit may appear radical in a U.S. context, but in Bangladesh - one of the world's poorest and most densely populated countries - it is having a profound, almost revolutionary impact on literally millions of people.

The Grameen Bank (grameen means "village" in the Bangla language) had its tentative beginnings in the late 1970s. It is the brainchild of Dr. Mohammed Yunus, a former Fullbright scholar and economics professor, who is passionate about eliminating the extreme poverty in his country.

"Economic development," he says, "Must be treated as matter of human rights. The elimination of poverty should be recognized as the central issue in all development thinking. Unfortunately, most planners don't think enough about who the poor are and how they can contribute to improving their condition and that of the country. Most obviously forgotten are the women."

Since he first formed the bank, Yunus has focused on the rural women of Bangladesh as the key to its success. Grameen began as a research project when he was teaching at Chittagong University, and was becoming increasingly disillusioned with his attempts to apply

western economics to a country like Bangladesh, with its bitter recent history of hardships - first its savage war for independence from what was then West Pakistan, and then the terrible famine of 1974 which killed over 1 million people.

In the villages near his campus Yunus found that although the women were generally more industrious than the men, they were underpaid for their efforts. He also saw that when women did have some control of household finances the family income was better spent, especially where children's health and education were concerned. However, not even the smallest amounts of capital were available to them from traditional banks: as in any country, the poor were seen as a credit risk because of their lack of assets. This reluctance was compounded by the traditional disapproval of lending and borrowing in Bangladesh's Islamic society. The moneylenders that do exist charge exorbitant rates of up to 10 percent per day.

The event that convinced Yunus that something had to be done was when he discovered the plight of some local women who were weaving bamboo stools and were making only 2 cents a day because they had to borrow the money to buy their bamboo from the same traders to whom they would then sell their products. The women said that if they could just raise a total loan of only 30 dollars they would be able to buy enough supplies to increase their incomes and escape from this vicious circle of poverty.

"I was terribly ashamed of myself for being a part of a society which could not provide 30 dollars to 42 able, hard-working, skilled persons to make a living for themselves, and for teaching fancy 'development' theories in the classroom," says Yunus.

He decided to lend the women the money himself. However, realizing that securing just one loan for a single group of people was a short-sighted solution, he asked a local bank to provide the women with some credit. The bank manager turned down his request. There was no profit from such tiny loans, he said, and anyway these people had no collateral to offer the bank - and besides, they were illiterate and could not fill out the loan application!

Yunus eventually offered to act as the loan guarantor himself, and had his own students complete the complex paperwork. After six months of letter-writing and red tape, the bank's head office approved a loan totaling approximately 26 dollars. It took far less time for the borrowers to increase their incomes even while

repaying the loan. But what moved the professor and his team most was to see a new sense of dignity and self-esteem in the eyes of these women.

The experiment was repeated in other villages with similar success. After failing to convince the traditional banks to adopt his ideas, Yunus decided he must start an alternative bank. After several years of persistently knocking on the doors of the Central Bank and other government offices, official approval for the Grameen Bank was finally granted in 1983.

Today, the Grameen Bank can boast some remarkable statistics: over 1,000 branches in almost every province in the country; borrowing groups in 28,000 villages; 1.2 million borrowers, of whom 92 percent are women; a loan repayment rate of over 98 percent - vastly higher than other banks in the country and highly favorable in banking anywhere in the world; and a rapid growth rate of about 20 percent a year. Like other community development projects in Bangladesh, the Grameen Bank also has a wider social agenda, encompassing adult education classes for the borrowers, as well as preparatory education system for their children.

The rapid growth of the Grameen Bank has not been without opposition. Not only was the concept of a bank for the poor a challenge to the existing banking structure, its 'focus on women borrowers' also upset religious leaders and (male) village elders. Even the women's husbands were suspicious and hostile to the idea of their wives going into business. The bank was accused of being full of CIA spies, of trying to convert people to Christianity, and even of kidnapping women and making them sex slaves.

Left-wing opponents accused it of being a Western conspiracy to plant capitalism "like opium" among the poor to cool down their revolutionary zeal and prevent them becoming involved with larger issues. But the women themselves have shrugged off all threats and rumors, recognizing that they have from this opportunity to improve their lot.

The Grameen lending system is simple but effective. To obtain a loan, potential borrowers must form a group of 5 of the same sex, gather once a week for loan repayment meetings, and learn by heart the bank rules and the "sixteen Decisions" (see box) which they chant in unison at the beginning of their weekly sessions. Once a group is approved, two of the members are given the first loan - usually between 25 dollars and 4- dollars, a very large sum for

landless Bangladeshis. If regular repayments are made on these loans over the next month, then the third and fourth members receive their loans, and after a similar wait so does the fifth. The loans are repaid in weekly installments over one year and have a simple interest charge payable at the end of the year.

Not only is this method readily understood, it is designed so that peer pressure - rather than bank pressure - ensures that repayments are made on time. The borrowers take out loans for income-generating activities that they know will produce immediate results. For women, the usual activities are rice-husking, trading in food and other essentials from their homes, and raising cows or goats. Men usually use their loans for trading in the marketplace (where women are excluded) and for buying rickshaws - the local form of transportation for both people and goods.

As borrowers become more confident in repaying their 12-month loans, so the amounts increase. Ten-year house loans are also available and many have taken advantage of this opportunity. Grameen not only makes available the 300 dollars required for a typical structure, it has also designed a house made of bamboo, concrete and tin which won the prestigious "Aga Khan Award" for appropriate architecture. The pride is obvious in the faces and demeanor of families who have built house for themselves - usually the first home they have ever owned.

The success of the Grameen Bank has inspired similar community development projects in other Asian countries, including Malaysia and the Philippines, and Dr. Mohammed Yunus now travels widely to spread his philosophy and practical experience about development.

Wherever he goes, his message is consistent; the changes must start at the bottom and work upward. He says that development aid must be addressed to the bottom 50 percent of the population if it is to make a difference, because the top 50 percent are already taking care of themselves. And the best way of assisting these people in the bottom strata is by providing them with credit.

"Credit can equip a dispossessed person to fight the economic odds. It creates an opportunity for self-employment, in which the poor person can control his or her economic destiny. Although large institutions such as the World Bank are likely to resist at first, the soundness of this approach will ultimately prevail. Whether in a Bangladesh village or on the south side of Chicago, access to credit must be a central part of any serious attack on-

poverty."

It is a message and a method that President Bill Clinton is taking very seriously. So seriously, in fact, that he has said Dr. Mohammed Yunus should be given a Nobel Prize for economics.

The sixteen decisions

1. The four principles of Grameen - discipline, unity, courage and hard work - we shall follow and advance in all walks of our lives.
2. Prosperity we shall bring to our families.
3. We shall not live in dilapidated houses. We shall repair our houses and work toward constructing new houses at the earliest.
4. We shall grow vegetables all year round. We shall eat plenty of them and sell the surplus.
5. During the plantation season, we shall plant as many seedlings as possible.
6. We shall keep our families small. We shall minimize our expenditures. We shall look after our health.
7. We shall educate our children and ensure that they can earn to pay for their education.
8. We shall always keep our children and the environment clean.
9. We shall build and use pit-latrines.
10. We shall drink tubewell water. If it is not available, we shall boil water or use alum.
11. We shall not take any dowry in our sons' weddings. Neither shall we give any dowry in our daughters' weddings. We shall keep the center free from dowry. We shall not practice child marriage.
12. We shall not inflict injustice on anyone, neither shall we allow anyone to do so on us.
13. For higher income we shall collectively undertake bigger investments.
14. We shall always be ready to help each other. If anyone is in difficulty, we shall help him.
15. If we come to know of any breach of discipline in any center, we shall all go there and help restore discipline.
16. We shall introduce physical exercise in all our centers. We shall take part in all social activities collectively.

Prof. M. Yunus explained how training, retraining, workshops and policy dialogues for and with its staff, form an integral part of Grameen Bank activities.

REPORT ON THE REGIONAL EXPERT CONSULTATION ON THE ROLE OF

COOPERATIVES IN PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

BANGKOK, 12-15 FEBRUARY 1991

INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Expert Consultation on the Role of Cooperatives in Promoting Agricultural Production in the Asia and Pacific Region was held from 12-15 February, 1991 at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAPA), in Bangkok.
2. There were 25 participants at the Consultation including experts from 11 countries of the Region : -Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand; representatives from ACCE, AFMA, APRACA and ICA; observers from international agencies - ESCAP, ILO and UNDP. (List attached)
3. Mr, D.H.J. Abeyagoonasekera, Senior Regional Rural Development Officer, officiating as the Secretary to the Consultation explained briefly the reasons for convening the meeting. He referred to a number of consultations held in the Asia Pacific Region during the last two and half years - convened by ICA and the FAO on the subject of cooperatives, their role in the development of agriculture and the importance attached to them by governments as vehicles for economic and social development.
4. He drew attention to the Regional Consultation convened by ICA in June 1988 at which FAO participated on the role of government in promoting cooperative development in the Asia Pacific Region, at which FAO proposed the setting up of a regional network of agricultural cooperatives consisting of both governments and cooperative agencies, which could not only provide a common forum for discussion to promote a better understanding of each others expectations and assist in resolving issues hindering such progress but also enable cooperative organizations to

mutually benefit from each other by intercountry sharing of experiences.

5. These proposals had been endorsed at subsequent meetings held in the Agriculture Committee of the ICA, the Asia Pacific Cooperatives Ministers Conference held in Sydney in October 1989, and the COPAC meeting in Manila last year. The Guidelines and criteria for the formation of an agricultural network were spelt out at an Expert Consultation held by FAO in June 1990, and more than 15 countries had already accepted them as a suitable framework for setting up such a network. The present meeting was a follow up to these recommendations.
6. He also stated that to look at the experience of cooperatives in other countries is valuable, as there will always be lessons that need to be understood and considered in terms of their relevance to local conditions in the participating countries. He concluded by stating that the present meeting represented, both in technical and financial terms, a significant commitment on the part of the FAO Regional Office, despite the fact that it was going through rather tight fiscal constraints.
7. In his opening address to the Consultation, Mr. A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO for Asia and the Pacific, stated that in the poor villages and depressed rural areas of the region cooperative movements played an important role, although there were instances where in actual fact, cooperatives were almost invariably favouring the already rich and the better off, and not conforming so much to the principle of equity.
8. In describing his own work as a young man in the villages of his native Bangladesh, he said that one soon discovered a simple, stark and basic fact that a village is not a harmonious community. There were the elite few, with access to resources, education, information; then, there was the over-arching governmental apparatus, well-meaning but often insensitive; and finally, there was the large majority-poor, stripped of access to resource and in many cases even of hope.

9. Such disparities, he continued, moulded village institutions and favoured those who already have the power and the money. Small and marginal farmers was thus transposed into dependents of the affluent and educated. He singled out aborted agrarian reforms as one example of how these institutions worked against the poor.
10. Yet the last four decades clearly showed that organizations of small farmers and landless labourers were a key component in alleviation of rural poverty. He warned, however, that they could not survive as isolated production units, but had to be organized into peer groups, including cooperatives.
11. A process has to be evolved whereby the people themselves had more say about their own lives. This would ensure their survival and security, and also human rights. It also opened the way for cooperative economic mobilization.
12. Too many countries, glossed over the need for structural reforms and opted to foster marginal increments in "policies", in effect for maintaining the status quo. Such changes were merely cosmetic. In reality they differed little from existing policies that allowed an urban elite to keep an iron grip on resources. There was no attempt to recast institutions, processes and control to ensure more equitable sharing of production benefits.
13. He also went on to say that benefits were thus cornered by the better-off sectors and rural poverty became even more entrenched. In turn this skewed pattern of power spawned another problems, i.e. paternalism by governments.
14. Cooperatives were treated as extensions of the bureaucratic machinery and as delivery systems, rather than as people's own organizations. When such rural cooperatives were taken-over entirely by the government, it did not take long for the rural power barons to take over, and small farmers cooperatives quickly degenerated into vehicles for "genteel elitist corruption".

15. The Consultation expressed its appreciation to the thought provoking comments made by the ADG and RR as they provided a useful background to their discussions.
16. The Consultation elected Dr. Noer Soetrisno, Director, Center for Rural Cooperatives Research and Development, Indonesia, as Chairman and Mr. Ian Alan Langdon, Dean, Business Faculty of the Gold Coast College of Advance Education and Director of the Research and Information Centre for Australian Agricultural Cooperatives, Queensland, Australia, as Vice Chairman.
17. The Agenda and Timetable adopted by the Consultation (Annex I.)

OVERVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
(I.-V.)

18. Document No. RAPA/RU/COOP/91/2 was presented by Mr. R.V. Gupta who served the Consultation as FAO Consultant. The various issues were considered in five separate sessions as follows:-
- I . Review of the Present Trends and Regional Perspective of Agricultural Production
 - II . Review of Policy Developments Relating to Agricultural Production and the Role of Cooperatives
 - III . Review of Present Status of Cooperatives in Agricultural Production
 - IV . Review of Issues and Constraints in Promoting Agricultural Production by Cooperatives
 - V . Recommendations for Improving the Role of Cooperatives in Agricultural Production
19. While reviewing the present trends and the regional perspective the Consultation noted that -
- i) Agriculture in the region was an extremely important economic activity and all Governments accord high priority to its development, particularly in respect of food crops. Starting in the early 50s, mostly with the food deficit countries of the region and increased production significantly and the growth rate of foodgrains has outstripped the rate of population growth.
 - ii) The increase in production had been on account of two factors; expansion of area under food crops, and intensive cultivation in areas with irrigation or reliable rainfall using high yielding seeds/fertilizers/inputs technology. A cause for concern is the high cost of production relative to farm prices.
 - iii) There was an increasing awareness for more concerted and scientific policies for improving production in the rainfed and dryland farming areas.
 - iv) The perspective in most countries was for a higher growth rate of food production than trends. A step up was achievable through intensive cultivation so that yields were closer to the realizable potential.

- v) The trend was towards a more integrated management of crops so that farmers incomes increased through more diversified production covering cash crops, horticulture and livestock.
- vi) Most of the poor live in rural areas and their incomes have increased at a lower rate than their urban counterparts. There was a need to create more farm-linked job opportunities through agro-industries.

20. While reviewing the policy developments relating to agricultural production and the role of cooperatives the Consultation made the following observations : -

- i) While there had been sustained support to agricultural production in all countries, there was now an increasing emphasis on a more scientific, management oriented approach, making use of developments in research and technology, and their dissemination through extension services.
- ii) There had been a shift towards the more intensive and optimal use of land and water resources. At the same time there has been more concern on the environmental aspect and sustainable development approach.
- iii) With food self sufficiency in most countries, the trend was towards diversification of crops as well as mixed farming.
- iv) Appropriate pricing of farm products has had an important role as an incentive for productivity in respect of food as well as cash crops.
- v) One of the important aspects of agricultural policy was to improve rural living standards and nutritional levels. This also focussed attention on the need for support to the small farmer who predominates Asian agriculture. To make optimal use of land, consolidation of fragmented holdings was considered necessary.
- vi) Most countries have a positive policy statement recognizing the important role of cooperatives as the most suitable agency for providing the farmer with pre and post harvest support services particularly in respect of agricultural credit, agricultural requisites, marketing, storage and processing of agricultural produce.

21. The Consultation reviewed the present status of cooperatives in supporting agricultural production and made following observations and recommendations : -

- i) Most of the cooperative movements of the region were initiated through Government support as a drive against usury and agricultural credit had been the most significant activity.
- ii) The multipurpose cooperative was the most dominant form and its strength or weakness was often an indication of the status of agricultural development. In countries such as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea where agricultural growth had been spectacular, cooperatives have been dominant in the provision of credit and input support services.
- iii) Farm guidance and research were integral activities of Japanese and Korean cooperatives and a similar approach was recommended in other countries as this would result in a greater involvement of cooperatives in agriculture.
- iv) Processing of agricultural produce enabled farmers to obtain a share in the profits beyond the farm gate as had been shown by cooperatives of some countries, particularly Australia and India.
- v) Though the geographical coverage of cooperatives was significant the growth of membership as well as activities in credit, inputs and marketing and agroprocessing were not commensurate with their potential.
- vi) In some countries, the adoption of the multiagency approach, as well as privatization, have resulted in an overall decline in the relative share of cooperatives.

22. The Consultation reviewed the issues and constraints of cooperatives in promoting agricultural development and made the following observations : -

- i) While most countries have a role assigned for cooperatives, there was often no consistency in approach of sustained support in programmes. Historically, such sustained support and resulted in the growth of good cooperatives in many countries.
- ii) Cooperatives are sometimes referred to as agents of Government; in reality they should be partner of Government and agents of members.
- iii) Lack of members loyalty and motivation was one of the causes

for concern. This was mainly on account of the inadequate priority towards training and education, as well as communication between the cooperative and its members.

- iv) Lack of clarity on the roles of members of the elected Board of Directors and management staff was often a cause of friction and resulted in inefficient working of cooperatives.
- v) The slow progress of cooperatives in some countries had led to the proliferation of alternate forms of Government supported rural institutions. The performance of such institutions had generally been no better than that of cooperatives. Rather than experiment with new forms of organization the reasons for the poor performance of cooperatives need scrutiny so that corrective steps could be initiated.
- vi) In many countries the "Apex" Cooperative and/or the Central financing bank have not given the movement the momentum and leadership that was expected. There were also instances where they have directly competed with the primary cooperatives. The role of these organizations therefore needed to be recast so that their approach was oriented towards development.
- vii) Cooperative personnel, particularly in the primary societies, were inadequately skilled and lacked motivation in their attitude to work. This was a major constraint to the better functioning of cooperatives.
- viii) Inadequate intercountry cooperation amongst cooperatives has often resulted in lost trade opportunities which could have been mutually beneficial to the members of cooperatives.
- ix) The dilution of democratic functioning of some cooperatives, and the politicization of the movement were problems that needed to be attended to on a priority basis.
- x) The media image of the cooperative sector needed to be improved as it was usually at variance with the reality of their achievements.

-

23. The Consultation after an overview of the cooperative's role in agricultural production made the following recommendations : -
- i) The government must make a clear policy statement about the important role of cooperatives in increasing agricultural production and should give sustained support to the movement.
 - ii) Apex cooperatives should be organized to provide strong operational and policy support and such organizations to their members. Their role and functioning, particularly in respect of business development, leadership and guidance needs to be clearly stated.
 - iii) A programme of revitalization of the cooperatives in credit and marketing needs priority attention so that farmers are able to receive support services; as only viable cooperatives would be able to adequately help the weaker sections of rural society. There was also need for greater attention towards training and education.
 - iv) Successful multipurpose cooperatives must expand the range of their services so as to include farm guidance and better living as an activity as this linkage will benefit farmers in using new technology for increasing production and improving productivity. Environmental degradation and its adverse effects in rural areas should also receive attention as cooperatives could propagate measures of protection and conservation amongst their members.
 - v) The policy of privatization, and introduction of multiple institutional agencies in agricultural credit and inputs, needs a detailed review, to assess their comparative efficiency and cost effectiveness with that of cooperatives as proliferation of supply sources has led to malpractices such as usurious interest rates and substandard agricultural inputs in many countries.
 - vi) The performance of cooperatives in agro processing in countries such as Australia and India has demonstrated their potential for improving farmers income through a share in profits beyond the farm gate. A farm linked industrialization programme needs to be drawn up and in its implementation, positive preference should be given to cooperatives as the most suitable institutional form for the development of agroindustry. This would also result in more opportunities for non farm employment in the rural sector.

- vii) The establishment of a Development Bank for cooperatives needs to be considered by all countries as this would result in access to funds and expertise in planning, promoting and financing the development of cooperative infrastructure. This would be a Bank for cooperatives supported fully by Governments, as distinct from a Bank of cooperatives to be organized and supported by the movement without much dependence on Government assistance.
- viii) Inter country cooperation amongst cooperatives in trade would be mutually beneficial and its potential needs follow up action.
- ix) Cooperatives are often used as agents of Government or parastatals in procurement of foodgrains or distribution of agricultural requisites and consumer goods. Any losses sustained in agency operations must be fully reimbursed to cooperatives by Government.
- x) Similar to the universally accepted "Cooperative principles", there is a need to evolve a consensus amongst political groups, within the respective countries, regarding non interference with the democratic functioning of cooperatives. The basis of such a consensus could be Resolution No.127 of the ILO and the recommendation concerning economic and role of developing countries at the Ministers of Cooperatives Conference convened by the ICA at Sydney, in 1990.
- xi) There are many examples of outstanding success in practically every sphere of activity. There is, therefore, need for documentation and publicity so that the media image of cooperatives becomes more positive.
- xii) International agencies can play an important role through providing funds (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and expertise (FAO, ILO, ESCAP, UNIDO, UNDP and ICA) for cooperative development. This function could be made effective through the proposed Regional Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives being promoted by FAO.

Cooperation in the Changing Environment

ICA ROAP organized a Regional Consultation on Cooperation in the Changing Environment in the Asia Pacific region as a prelude to the forthcoming Cooperative Ministers Conference in March 1997. The consultation was hosted by the ministers of Cooperatives in Myanmar at Yangon from 03 to 06 December 1996.

should have a shared vision on accepted principles.

1.3 To ensure consistency in implementing the Statement of the Cooperative Identity as adopted by the ICA Centennial Congress in Manchester in 1995 given the following considerations:

1.3.1 the political and bureaucratic realities of the Region.

and open market economies.

1.5 To provide or advocate technical assistance (e.g., from cooperatives in developed economies) to the Regional country-members' apex organizations and cooperative training centres to enable them to cope with the diverse and specialized training needs of rapidly expanding cooperatives.

1.6 To continuously advocate for appropriate legislation and policies that will enable cooperatives to develop themselves as autonomous and democratic people-based associations, while preserving their true identity. The cooperative movement must seek methods of advocacy that are persuasive, appropriate, and done in the spirit of cooperation.

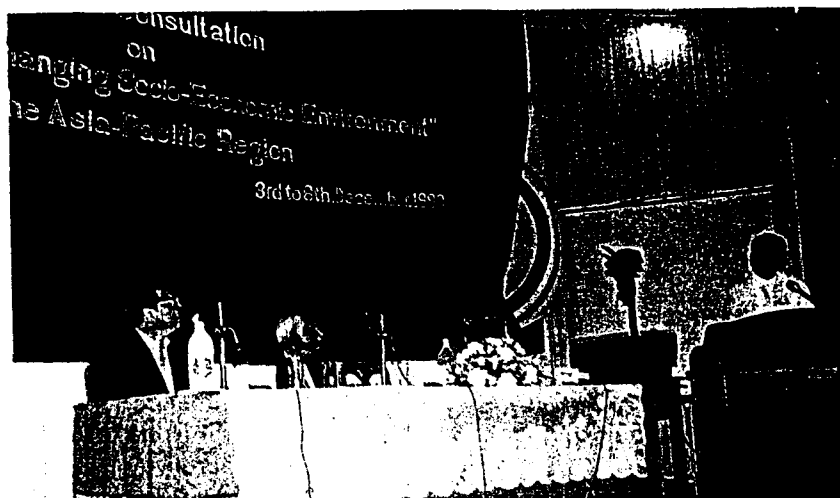
1.7 To avail of government support and assistance in a manner that will consistently maintain the cooperatives' attributes as self-help and self-reliant economic units.

1.8 To solidify its structural and financial base while maintaining the flexibility to mobilize the full potential and active participation of members, not just as passive "shareholders" but as concerned "stockholders".

1.9 To set up and/or strengthen their own financial institution (e.g. banking, insurance), which could be wholly owned and self-initiated, or developed in collaboration with other institutions, preferably cooperatives, nationally; or internationally, by way of tactical or strategic alliances as the situation permits.

1.10 To revitalise the ICA Banking and Financial Coops Committee in the Asia-Pacific region and for the said Committee to study the feasibility of a Regional Cooperative Development Bank and draw the support of existing international financial institutions for coop development.

1.11 To consider education and



Hon'ble Minister for Cooperation of Myanmar addressing the Consultation.

Thirty-nine delegates at the level of secretaries to the ministers and CEO's of national federations from 17 countries had joined the consultations. In addition 21 observers from Canada and Myanmar participated. Hon. Minister for Cooperatives, Myanmar inaugurated the Consultation.

The major recommendations of the consultation to be presented before the Cooperative Ministers Conference are:

1. For ICA and Member Cooperatives:

1.1 To identify other government entities in member countries which play key roles in cooperative development and consider their representation in future dialogues.

1.2 To advocate among major multi-lateral agencies (e.g., ADB, the World Bank) the adoption of "Policy on Cooperatives" which

1.3.2 the pressures of competition due to trade globalization.

1.3.3 diversity of needs and impact of technology in operations.

1.3.4 rapid growth which could result in erosion of cooperative values and favour privatization.

1.4 To promote sustainability of cooperatives, a smooth collaboration between government and cooperatives must be ensured along the following areas:

1.4.1 service to members;

1.4.2 member education and information;

1.4.3 professional and efficient management;

1.4.4 cost and quality consciousness;

1.4.5 incorporation of reformulated cooperative principles in Cooperative Laws;

1.4.6 support to cooperatives to enable them to adjust to global

training as a vital and strategic factor to ensure sustainable cooperative development. A network of cooperative institutes and other centers of excellence must be created. The movement must take advantage of the vast educational experiences and systems already developed in selected member countries.

1.12 To set up a sustainable cooperative development fund utilizing a "cooperative taxation scheme" similar to the Singaporean model" or any other viable schemes.

1.13 To commission a study on Cooperative Taxation schemes and recommend an appropriate tax treatment for cooperatives.

1.14 To identify potential exchanges and strategic alliances on trade and investment, technology transfer, joint projects and to commission a study on expanding trade among member organizations.

1.15 To develop and support an appropriate role for government by collating the country Development Plans incorporating the role of cooperatives from the government of each member country. ICA, together with the member organizations will analyse the same for the purpose of making it consistent with the Cooperative Identity Statement and assisting the National Governments in ensuring the implementation of the Plans.

1.16 To strengthen collaborative efforts of the ICA with the United Nations, bilateral and multi-lateral funding agencies.

1.17 To enhance relations with government, private sector and selected social development organizations.

1.18 For the ICA and the Asia-Pacific countries to discuss ways of maximizing the participation of Asia-Pacific National Cooperative Movement in ICA ROAP affairs and activities.

2. For Government Authorities :

2.1 For Cooperative Authorities, to advocate for ensuring a common understanding of the cooperative Identity Statement among government agencies which play many roles in cooperative development.

2.2 To formulate laws and policies consistent with the cooperative Identity Statement.

2.3 To advocate for macro and sectorial policies and programs deemed vital to the development and competitiveness of cooperatives.

2.4 As agricultural Cooperatives play an important role in national development, the ICA urges National Governments to:

2.4.1 support agricultural cooperatives as they play an active role in agri-business;

2.4.2 give priority to farmer cooperatives in the agri-business industry by providing:

2.4.2.1 concessionary loans based upon business feasibility;

2.4.2.2 infrastructure, research and development and other pre-conditions of agri-business in the public domain;

2.4.2.3 concessions on imports of technology relating to agri-business;

2.4.2.4 education and training relating to business operations;

2.4.2.5 regulatory conditions to ensure a free and fair market;

2.4.2.6 fair price policies; and

2.4.2.7 otherwise, make it possible for cooperatives to adjust to global and open market economies.

2.4.3 ensure that cooperatives or small and medium industries are not disadvantaged by industry and trade regulations;

2.4.4 review and rectify discrepancies caused by multi-level taxation;

2.4.5 extend to cooperatives incentives and concessions granted to private and public sectors; and

2.4.6 recognize cooperatives as

partners in regional accords and agreements regarding agri-business;

2.5 To review the progress of implementation of the recommendation adopted in the last 3 Cooperative Ministers' Conferences.

2.6 Gender and Development :

2.6.1 For National Governments and Cooperatives to eliminate all legislation, policies and criteria which hinder the full participation and leadership of women and men in cooperatives.

2.6.2 For government and cooperatives to provide training opportunities to ensure that gender issues in cooperatives are properly understood by governments and cooperative officials.

2.6.3 For government and ICA members to set up gender desegregated data base to carry out proper gender analysis.

2.6.4 It is recommended that the Cooperative Ministers/departments and cooperative organizations allocate funds for gender and women's activities, such as data collection, gender sensitivity training, women leadership training, women's entrepreneurship development programmes, etc., where such funds do not yet exist.

2.7 Sustainable Development :

2.7.1 To enjoin cooperatives and government agencies to establish strategic alliances for the purpose of pursuing :

2.7.1.1 sharing of research information and resources;

2.7.1.2 working towards creating public awareness on ecosystem management and sustainable livelihood;

2.7.1.3 provision of incentives for labour contribution to sustainable development; and

2.7.1.4 introduction of environmental accounting and other measures for development projects including entrepreneurial activities.

... Cont'd on page 7

sometimes said to express, together with the co-operative values, a co-operative ideology. The concept co-operative ideology is often used, however, as a kind of religion, i.e., diffuse demands are placed on logic, consistency and stringency. In the way many writers treat the co-operative ideology it can contain almost anything without much being explained other than the author expressing sympathy with certain ideas and ideals. Co-operative ideology of this kind may be destructive, since it can entice people to attempt to achieve things that do not concur with the economic demands

an antiquated ideology.

Thus, we can hear people in Swedish agricultural co-operatives arguing that distance neutrality (no geographical price differentiation) must be maintained because it is a co-operative principle, that interest should not be paid on individual equity capital in a true co-operative, etc. Arguments of this kind prevent innovations and improvements in efficiency. It is close at hand to believe that members demanding status quo do so simply to protect their own interests, e.g., that members wish to retain freedom from interest, but these relationships do not appear to be

In circles characterised by a co-operative ideology it is not unusual to find that co-operative values are regarded normatively. There is a desire to demand that members, elected representatives and officials have certain co-operative values in their norm system and to demand that co-operative societies and enterprises are based on these values. It is difficult to fit this view into a scientific context. Its character of authoritarianism and hierarchy is also difficult to fit into a set of democratic values. In other words, there is a contradiction here. Use of administrative or political means to demand

Figure 2: Co-operative Values

Autor	a. Sociality Values					b. Sovereignty Values		c. Rejected
	a1 goals	a2 resources	a3 operations	a4 member treatment	a5 control	b1 member independence	b2 enterprise independence	
Münkner (1974 p.14-17)	economy social advancement	self-help (solidarity)	equity	democracy	liberty			altruism
Marcus (1988)		member commitment		honesty care for others	democracy			
Böök (1992), p 51)	economy (meeting peoples' economic needs)	social emancipation (mobilization of human resources)	mutual self-help (solidarity & self-reliance)	equity (social justice)	equality (democracy)	liberty (voluntariness)		altruism (social responsibility) internationalism (international solidarity, peace)
Böök (1992) p.52)			solidarity mutuality constructive- ness	honesty humanity, caring fairness responsibility fidelity	democratic approach			
Böök (1992, p.219)	economic activities meeting needs	human mobilization		social responsibi- bility	participatory democracy			national & international co-operation
Craig (1993, p.44)			mutual assistance	economic justice equality human rights.		freedom		

and which thus may in fact work against their own interests. Many co-operative enterprises have attempted to justify the failure of unfortunate commercial decisions by referring to

entirely clear-cut. Observations suggest that there are members who genuinely experience a co-operative ideology, though ideologies with often quite different contents.

that members of co-operatives should adhere to a certain set of values is unreasonable, particularly since members are independent beings and co-operative organisations are autonomous, to-

not those of the leadership or the employees. To the extent the latter have observed co-operative values it is through implantation by members and elected representatives in connection with recruitment and socialisation. That there are no co-operative values within an organisation as such is obvious - they can be characterised by co-operative principles to the extent they have been entered into statutes, policies, and sets of rules.

The co-operative values are thus found in the members and the co-operative principles are attributes of the co-operative organisation. Naturally, if the employees of the organisation accept co-operative values much is gained, since they will then probably work for the benefit of the members and the communications between members and employees will be easier. A specific co-operative organisation culture is valuable for the enterprise to operate for the benefit of the members.

The values that are called co-operative values are entirely general and are widespread within many cultures. They may be closely characterised as

humanistic values and are found in different ideologies and different cultures. Co-op values thus consist of a set of

values that they have a positive effect on human efforts to run a business together in order to achieve common benefits.

The role of co-operative values is explained in Figure 1 (on page 4). If the co-operative firm is to be able to work for the benefit of the members the relationship between members and the co-operative must be designed in accordance with certain principles. If the members are to accept that these principles are to be adhered to, they must pay tribute to certain sets of values. The co-operative values are, thus, conditions for the co-operative principles, and the starting-point for both the values and the principles is the cooperation concept as established in the definitions. If the principles of open and voluntary membership and domestic control mentioned in the figure are to be maintained, then there must be accepted opinions among the members that equality, human rights and freedom are im-

portant facets of human interaction. With such member opinions it will be easier to get the co-op firm to function well. The set of values and principles presented in Figure 1 is only one sug-

Statement on the Co-operative Identity

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 co-operative principles 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-operatives; members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any of the following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting 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-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so they can be elected representatives, managers and employees and 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 COMMUNITY

Co-operatives work for sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

values that co-ops by no means have a monopoly of, though the concept of co-op values is rarely ever used outside co-op circles. What makes these common values appear to be co-opera-

Developing Leadership in your Organisation need not be a SCHIZOPHRENIC AFFAIR

by Dr Michael Sabiers

All Co-operatives have a "Split Personality" that clashes with itself when trying to define what a good Co-operative leader should be and how he should act.

One of our splits is "democratic", believing that all co-operators are equal, with one vote per person, and that decision-making consists of talking through the pros and cons of ideas to reach the best solution.

For the "democrat", a leader is one with an inspirational vision that others can rally around, one who can diplomatically resolve conflicts between rival factions and still be humble enough to be seen as a "servant of the people". Our democratic personality does not want leaders to be too pushy or too quick to give orders. As volunteer participants in an egalitarian co-operative, members don't expect to be ordered about like the hired help!

The other half of our split personality is "authoritarian", believing that those with proven skills and abilities in the management of complex tasks earn their place at the top of a hierarchy, giving necessary orders to ensure that the production of the co-operative's goods and services are carried out most effectively and efficiently.

To the authoritarian side of our co-operative personality a leader is one with specific technical skills who can make the hard decisions of hiring, evaluating and firing subordinates, on who can plan, organise and control. Certainly we don't want our executive director wasting staff time by having them discuss and vote on work rules. That's for the Board and membership. Which of these extreme personalities is

right is a moot point. In our less-than-ideal world, co-operatives will need leaders with all kinds of skills who can be effective in both authoritarian and democratic settings or can be a role model for co-operative values.

Those of us now in leadership positions have responsibility to prepare others to take a place when we leave. Although good leaders may share traits they were born with good leaders don't just happen. All leaders have to improve their skills through practice and experience. Only current co-op leaders, no one else, can provide three critical things to ensure that our successors will do a better job than we are doing:

1. Access to management-level information.

Co-ops are more open about the decision-making process at all levels than most organisations, but much still does not filter down. Invite your prospective leaders to sit on as many high-level board or staff meetings as possible. Discuss financial and other reports with them so they become aware of the breath, depth and types of information needed to make effective organisational-level decisions.

2. Access to experiences that require motivating and co-ordinating the efforts of others.

On the "democratic" side, make sure prospective leaders have the opportunity to take responsibility for enlisting the co-operation of volunteers by chairing committees or task groups. On the "authoritarian" side, make sure they experience supervising others, maybe by over-seeing a part-timer restocking shelves on a week-end shift. And make sure you give them plenty of feedback on their performance.

3. Access to relationships with other leaders.

There is one certain thing that all co-op leaders do: in their behaviour they model the ethics and values of the organisations they represent. We who are now leaders learnt those behaviour by watching and imitating other leaders who we respected and saw in action.

We also have come to rely on a network of our peers who we trust for counsel and advice. Invite your prospective leaders to activities where you meet your peers from other co-ops. Encourage them to get actively involved in professional groups outside your co-operative. Take them along to formal gatherings of regional co-operative society meetings or trade groups.

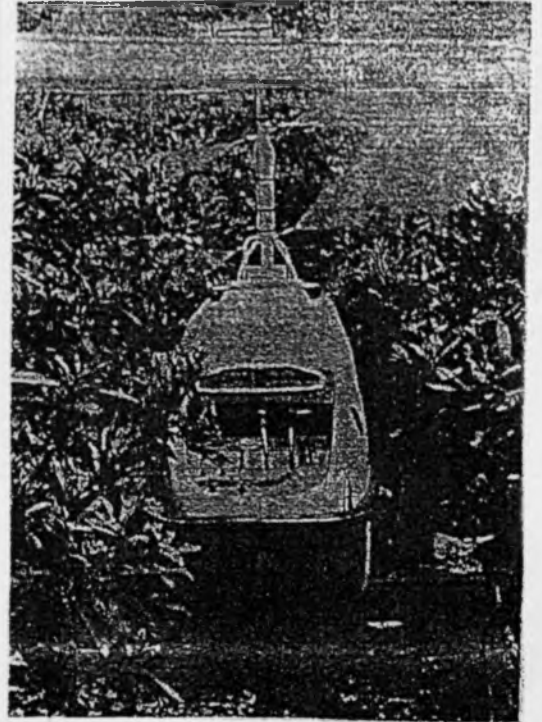
And don't forget the informal gatherings where supportive friendships are forged - the after-meeting social times, or the pre-meeting breakfasts with just you and a couple of people you think they should get to know (and who should get to know them).

Your good leadership really can "rub off" on other people. You just have to keep them close to let it happen.

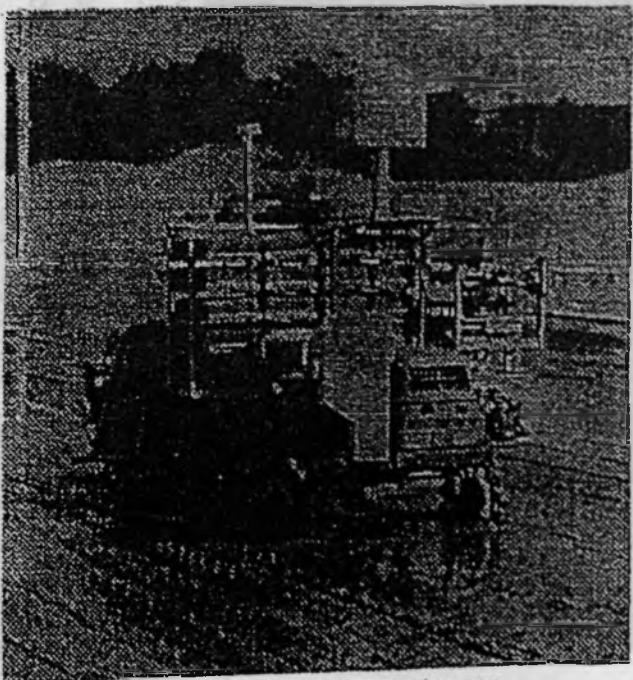
Dr Michael Sabiers is the Assistant Professor of Management at the University of Hartford (CT). He teaches in the Master of Science in Organisational Behaviour program and consults on the design and development of co-operative, self-managing work systems.



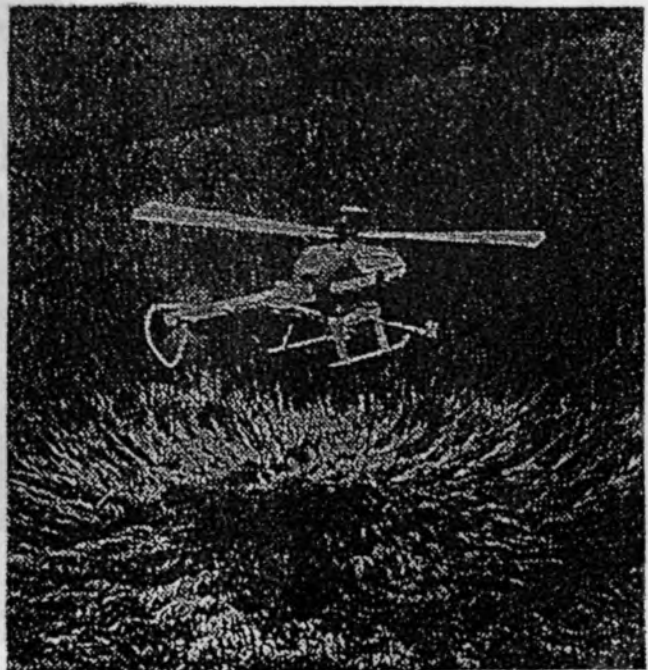
Old days' rice transplanting which lasted until around early 1960



Automatic chemical sprayer in the green house



Automatic rice Transplanter



Chemical spraying by remote control helicopter

適期見極めキャベツ収穫

ロボット進化

収穫適期のキャベツを判断して取る収穫ロボットを、農水省農業研究センター（茨城県つくば市）が開発した。畝間を自動走行し、機械にセットしたテレビカメラがとらえたキャベツ画像から収穫適期かどうかを判断して切断、収納作業を行う。今後、茎葉の切断精度を高めながら、作業のスピードアップを図る。

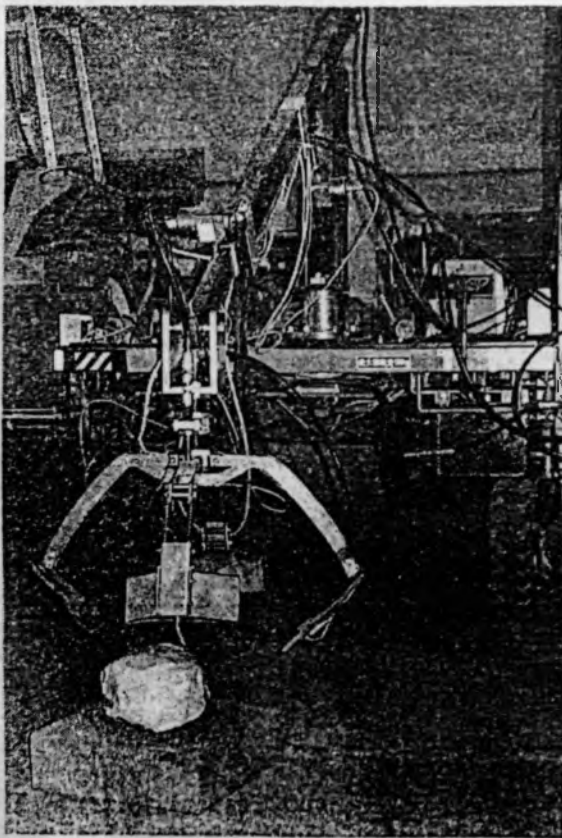
農水省農研センター開発

このロボットは、約一・八メートルの高さに据え付けたカメラでキャベツの位置を確かめてから結球部を抽出、その画像を分析することで適否を判断する。適期の見極めは、外葉と結球部の葉色の違いで行う。

選んだキャベツは四本指の収穫ハンドでつかみ、茎葉を切断。その後、キャベツをコンテナ上に移動させ、指を放して作業を終わる。

今のところ、一個目の収穫は画像処理からコンテナに入るまでに平均四十五秒かかる。

葉色の違い判断



るが、二個目からは一個目で一定の情報を得ているため、

もつし遅く処理できる。たつのように結球性野菜を適期に収穫する機械はこれからの分野。市場の品質評価も厳しくなっている中で、品質をさえずに自動収穫できる機械の開発が求められている。

最近、農作業の機械化に向けた研究が盛んだが、キャベツロボット試作二号機

課題を残しながらも、一応の成果を収めたキャベツ収穫

The 21st RECA Seminar
From Aug. 23 to Sep.7, 1999 Tokyo Japan

The 9th ICA/Japan Training Course for
Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia
From Aug. 23 to Sep. 11, 1999 Tokyo Japan

Actual State and Problems of Women in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

September 1, (Wed), 1999

By Ms. Michiko Iwasaki
Deputy Chief
Women and Life Division
MAFF

1. Basic agricultural indicators

Table-1 Basic agricultural indicators

	Fiscal 1960	Fiscal 1994
GDP (¥1,000 billion)	16.6	479.0
Agricultural output (")	1.5	7.6
% of GDP	9.0	1.6
Total working population (10,000)	4,465	6,455
Farm workers (10,000)	1,196	335
% of total working population	26.8	5.2
Of whom, those 65 years or older (%)	12.3*	38.8
*No. of farm households (10,000)	606	339**
Full-time farm households (%)	34.3	16.7**
Type 1 part-time farm households (%)	33.6	17.4**
Type 2 part-time farm households	32.1	65.9**
Cultivated area (10,000 ha)	607	499**
*Average farm size (ha)	0.88	1.40
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries budget (¥100 million)	1,319	30,947**
% of general expenditure (%)	10.5	4.0**
Self-sufficiency rate calories (%)	79	42**
Cereals (%)	82	30**

Notes: 1) the mark ** represents fiscal 1996 figures;
the mark * represents fiscal 1968 figures.

2. Important Role Played by Rural Women

The Number of women engaged in agriculture is 2.2 million , which represents 57% in the total farming population and they play an important role in agricultural productior

Not only in the agricultural production, rural women greatly contribute to maintaining and activati management of farm home and communities through housekeeping, raising children, nursing of th aged and participation in various events in the community.

Table-2 Proportion of women in agricultural labor power

(Unit : Thou.Peop./%)

	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1997
Farm-household population	26,595	23,197	21,366	19,839	17,296	12,037	11,308
of which women	13,737	11,955	10,966	10,177	8,875	6,158	5,791
% of women	51.7	51.5	51.3	51.3	51.3	51.2	51.2
Population engaged in farming	10,352	7,907	6,973	6,363	5,633	4,140	3,892
of which women	6,337	4,932	4,300	3,885	3,403	2,372	2,204
% of women	61.2	62.4	61.7	61.1	60.2	57.3	56.6
Core farmers	7,109	4,889	4,128	3,696	3,127	2,560	2,408
of which women	3,857	2,591	2,092	1,826	1,505	1,188	1,115
% of women	54.3	53	50.7	49.4	46.4	46.4	46.3

3. Promotion of Participation in Decision Making

In the increase in importance of women in agriculture and rural communities, their participation in social activities and decision making on agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the community still remains on a low level , though the situation is gradually improving year by year .

Awareness of women themselves is much to blame , but another reason is that the role of women is not properly recognized in the whole community and the system in which women can fully demonstrate their ability is not ready yet.

Table 3 Trends in female membership of agriculture, forestry and fisheries organizations and management participation

	(Unit:persons:%)					
	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997
Agricultural committee members	65,940	64,080	65,524	60,917	60,997	60,610
of whom, women	41	40	93	203	394	451
% for women	0.06	0.06	0.15	0.33	0.65	0.74
Full members of agri. Coops	5,635,000	5,636,000	5,535,547	5,432,260	5,419,580	5,380,083
of whom, women	497,000	574,000	667,468	707,117	718,955	727,156
% for women	8.82	10.37	12.05	13.02	13.27	13.52
Agri. Coop. Officials	81,059	77,490	68,611	50,735	49,288	44,578
of whom, women	29	39	70	102	113	129
% for women	0.04	0.05	0.1	0.2	0.23	0.29
Full members of fishery Coops	409,960	381,758	354,116	317,553	312,592	
of whom, women	19,944	21,180	20,425	18,337	17,237	
% for women	4.86	5.55	5.77	5.77	5.51	
Fisheries cooperative officials	23,224	22,563	22,022	20,449	19,873	
of whom, women	10	13	22	29	37	
% for women	0.04	0.06	0.1	0.14	0.19	

Sources: Economic Affairs Bureau Administration Division and Agricultural Cooperatives Division; Fisheries Agency, Fisheries Cooperatives Division.

Notes: Agricultural committee members As of 1 August each year, except for fiscal after 1990 which was as of 1 October.

Agricultural cooperatives - As of the end of each accounting year (between the end of December and the end of March depending on the cooperative).

Fisheries cooperatives - As of the end of 31 March each year.

Number of Fisheries cooperatives in 1994 is the end of 31 March 1993

4. Economic position of women

- 1) Though rural women pay a great deal of agricultural production and fisheries, 26.7% of the agricultural woman and 39.0% of fisheries women do not receive remuneration.

Table 4 Agricultural and Fisheries women's remuneration

(Unit: %)

	Agricultural Women	Fisheries Woman
receive every month	16.2	15.2
receive several times in year	2.0	2.1
receive in proportion to dealings	5.3	7.9
receive when necessary	49.1	35.9
do not receive	26.7	39.0

Source: Survey on intention of Agricultural Women

Survey on intention of Fisheries Women

(1996 the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)

- 2) About the holiday, though in the off season, 13.1% of agricultural woman and 6.1% of fisheries woman have a holiday. Women who have a holiday regularly is only 3.1% of agricultural women and 25.3% of fisheries women.

Table 5 Holiday of Agricultural and Fisheries Women

(Unit: %)

	Agricultural Women		Fisheries Women
	Busy season	Off season	
every week	1.7	4.8	17.9
regularly in month	1.4	2.2	7.4
not regularly but take by ones will	32.2	50.0	16.1
not regularly but take by agreement of family	24.1	29.8	15.4
only when the fishing is impossible by the bad weather			37.0
do not have holiday	40.5	13.1	6.1

Source: Survey on intention of Agricultural Women

Survey on intention of Fisheries Women

(1996 the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)

5. Review of the Home Living Improvement Extension and Strengthen Support System by the Government of Japan

1) The Home Living Improvement Extension and Cooperative Agricultural Extension Services

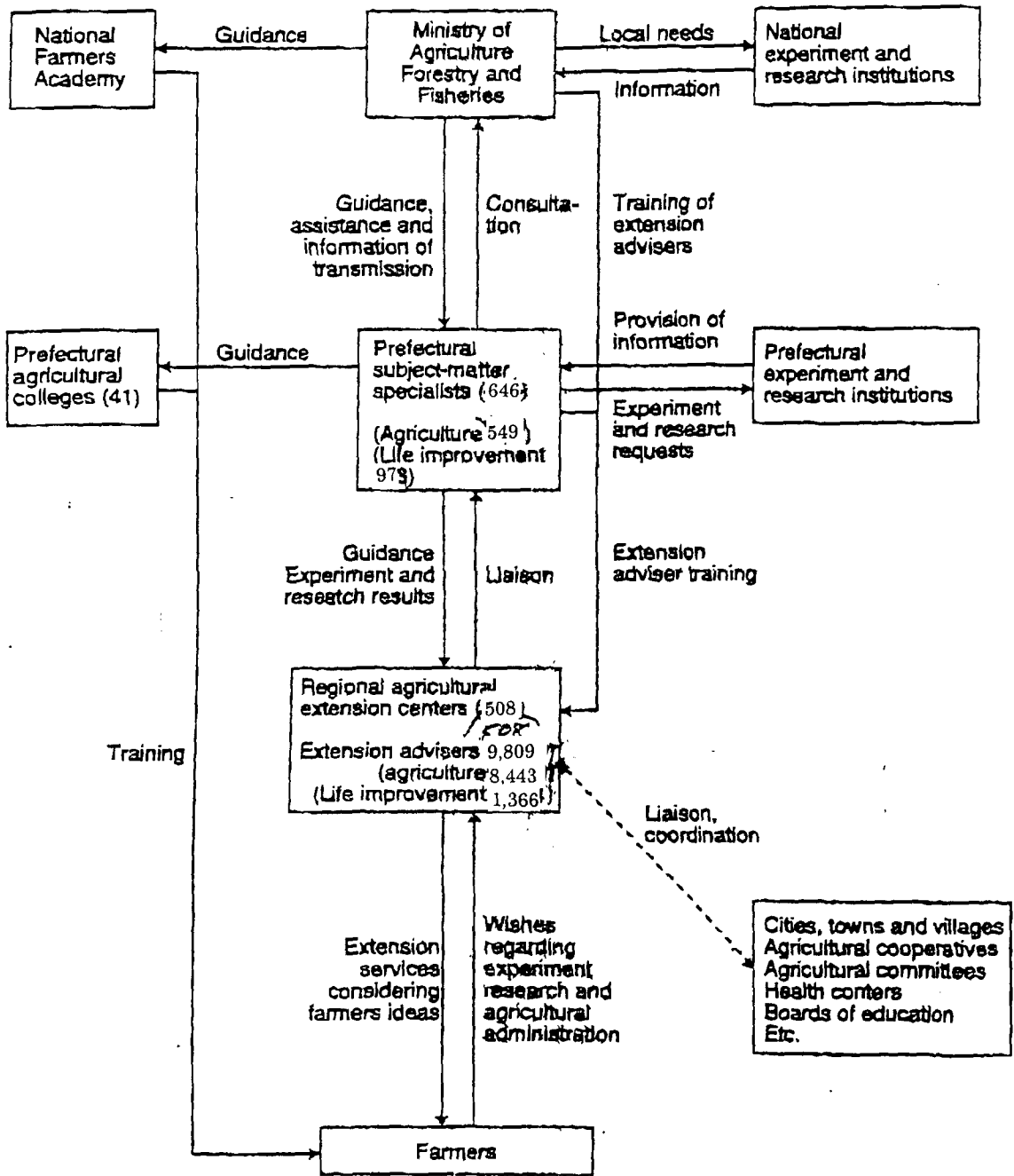
In order to promote projects for rural women, the home living improvement extension needs to be reviewed and extension activities for health problems caused by agricultural labor and for revitalization of the rural areas through promoting activities such as processing of regional agricultural products should be strengthened.

(1) Characteristics of Cooperative Agricultural Extension Services

The government must promote uniform extension services on a national basis while giving full consideration to achieving a balance among all prefectures to facilitate the stable supply of the nation's staple foods, stable and sustainable regional socioeconomic development, and preservation of the national land and the natural environment. For their part, prefectures must implement extensions services which are in line with their promotion policies for agriculture and rural villages and which are in line with their promotion policies for agriculture and rural villages and which make effective use of regional characteristics.

- ① Extension services are implemented as cooperative programs between the national government and individual prefectures, and follow guidelines agreed upon by both sides.
- ② Prefectures are responsible for establishing regional agricultural extension centers and staffing these centers with appropriately qualified staff
 - Specialists are stationed at prefectural institute of agriculture or in the prefectural office, and carry out research and research institutions and the prefectural administration. They also provide guidance and advice to extension advisers (or directly to farmers provided it does not hinder their primary duties).
 - Extension advisers belong to the regional agricultural extension centers, and provide guidance and advice directly to farmers.
 - Prefectural agricultural colleges are link in the chain extension services, providing important agricultural training for farm successors.
- ③ The government provides the funds needed for extension services through cooperative agricultural extension service grants.

Figure 1 Structure of Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service



Notes:

1. Fiscal 1998 figures.

2) Present Activities for Rural Life Improvement

Key area	Theme	Activity details
Forming a comfortable rural environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forming an environment and views that make full use of the characteristics of rural area. 2. Improving the home living environment in view of both hygiene and safety. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Guidance to farmers on how to prepare village environmental check maps, and on how to improve the rural views on the basis of the participatory approach. (2) Providing information and promoting consensus on joint waste water treatment and rubbish disposal facilities (covering such aspects as convenience, hygiene, cost and maintenance, and making compost).
Farm labour improvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintaining and improving farm workers' health. 2. Developing a better work environment. 3. Developing regional labour adjustment systems. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Developing organizations to promote regional educational campaigns concerning the need for rest days on farms. (2) Measuring light, temperature and humidity in packing and product preparation facilities, providing information on lighting and air-conditioning equipment and work clothes, and extending assistance for improving work facilities. (3) Introducing successful examples of the helper system.
Establishing a new style of farm household management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarifying individual family member's roles and responsibilities and promoting family agreements. 2. Establishing life plans after understanding the overall household economic state. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Introducing good examples of work remuneration calculations and guidance on drawing up family agreements incorporating these remuneration calculations. (2) Guidance on analysing household accounts, and guidance and assistance on preparing life plans based on the results.
Promoting the effective use of farm products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing high value added farm products. 2. Exchanges with regional residents through "food". 3. Developing a unique and rich food culture that is deeply rooted in the regional ambience. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Developing processing technologies using local farm products and promoting the spread of these technologies. (2) Advice on providing a local flavour to agricultural festivals and preparing publicity leaflets. (3) Advice on using local farm products for school lunches.
Support for women to fulfil their potential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enabling women to display their capabilities from their viewpoint and using their individual skills. 2. Enabling women to improve their abilities and fulfil their roles as the driving force of regional agriculture. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Technical guidance on product processing using the views of women as consumers (mass production technology, standardizing technical levels, packaging methods, etc.). (2) Providing information and advice on setting criteria for qualification systems.
Support for the elderly to fulfil their potential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enabling elderly people to display their capabilities using their individual experience, knowledge and skills. 2. Enabling elderly people to feel a sense of satisfaction in their lives. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Organizing groups of elderly people. (2) Advice to elderly people on contemporary ideas regarding handicraft products. (3) Promotion of regional social activities by elderly people. (4) Introduction of cultivating systems which are suitable for elderly people (i.e. production of many kinds of vegetables in small amount)

I . Outline of the Basic Law on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas

1. Purpose

Establish a new basic law to replace the existing Agricultural Basic Law established in 1961, in order to respond to the recent changes in the Japanese economy, foods, agriculture, and rural areas. The purpose is to clarify the basic philosophies and policies regarding various measures taken for food, agriculture, and rural areas.

2. Outline

(1) Basic philosophy

Specify the basic principles and basic matters for realizing comprehensively and systematically implementing policies on food, agriculture and rural areas.

- 1) Securing stable food supply
- 2) Fulfillment of multifunctional roles
- 3) Sustainable agricultural development
- 4) Development of rural areas

(2) Basic plan for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas

In order to promote various measures implementation of the basic philosophy, the government will draw up a basic plan which clarifies the basic policies about the measures, basic direction in formulating policies, target for food self-sufficiency ratio, as well as policies implemented comprehensively and systematically by the government etc. This plan will be revised approximately every five years along with various changes in society and evaluation of its effectiveness.

(3) Basic policies

1) Policies for securing stable food supply

Improvement of food consumption policies, sound development of the food industries, policies on import/ export of farm products, food security for emergencies, promotion of international cooperation, etc.

2) Policies for sustainable agricultural development

Establishment of desired agricultural structure, farming operation by full-time farmers, securing and effecting utilizing farmland, improvement of the agricultural production infrastructure, securing and fostering the workforce, development and promotion of agricultural technology, price formation of farm management, compensation for disaster assesment, maintenance and promotion of natural cyclical functions of agriculture, and measures regarding agricultural materials.

3) Policies for development of rural areas

Comprehensive development of rural areas, development of hilly and mountainous revitalization of agriculture in urban areas.

(4) Annual report, and the council of food, agriculture and rural area policies

- 1) The government draws up an annual report on measures regarding food, agriculture, and rural area.
- 2) Establish a council to study and discuss the factors vital for implementing this law, regarding food, agriculture, and rural area..

Outline of the basic law designed to promote a gender-equal society

Purpose

“a gender-equal society ” means the men and women are given equal opportunities to participate in every activity in society based on their own volition, and that men and women receive equal political, economic, social, and cultural benefits, as well as being equally responsible for these items.

If a gender-equal society is realized, the human rights of both men and women will be respected, and a rich and vital society will be developed to handle various social and economic changes, such as the aging of a population with fewer children, etc.. Various measures a gender-equal society will be comprehensively promoted based on proper planning, in order to create a society where men and women participate jointly.

Main contents of the bill

a) Basic philosophies

- ① respect for the human rights of women and men
- ② consideration of social systems and practices
- ③ equal participation in policy-making and decision-making processes
- ④ compatibility of activities in family life and other activities
- ⑤ international cooperation

b) National and local governments and citizen's obligations

c) Basic issues concerning the promotion of the achievement of a gender-equal society

- ① The government's obligation to decide basic plans
- ② Prefectures and designated cities obligation to decide plans
- ③ Cities, towns and villages' obligation to endeavor towards deciding plans
- ④ Legal and financial measures
- ⑤ Annual reports, etc
- ⑥ Considerations for deciding policies
- ⑦ Measures to deepen citizen's understanding
- ⑧ Handling complaint, etc.
- ⑨ Investigative research
- ⑩ Measures for international cooperation
- ⑪ Support for local public and private organizations

Annex 3 Family Business Agreement (Example)

(For the case of a husband and wife and the successor husband and wife)

(Purpose)

Article 1. The purpose of this agreement is to build up a modern farming operation through the joint and responsible participation in the business by (husband; Person A), _____ (wife; Person B), _____ (successor, Person C) and (spouse of successor; Person D), and at the same time, to foster a healthy and happy family life.

(Preparation of business plans)

Article 2. After mutual discussion and agreement Persons A, B, C and D will prepare a long-term farm management and improvement plan containing future plans for funding, planting, capital purchases, improvement of working conditions and so on, and an annual management plan containing specific operational details.

(Division of management responsibilities)

Article 3. Persons A and B shall be responsible for the following business management aspects: a. _____ b. _____

Persons C and D shall be responsible for the following business management aspects: a. _____ b. _____

No final management decision on any area of responsibility shall be made without consultation with the other two parties.

(E.g. Person _____ shall be responsible for book-keeping, and Person _____ shall be responsible for daily work records)

(Profit distribution)

Article 4. Of the profit arising from farm operations, the amounts stipulated below shall be deposited in the individual bank account of the person concerned. Person A - ¥ _____ ; Person B - ¥ _____ ; Person C - ¥ _____ ; Person D - _____

In cases where the profit exceeds forecasts, an additional amount agreed to by all parties may be deposited in the individual bank accounts as a bonus. The amount distributed to each person shall be reviewed annually taking into account profits, and planning work, field work and other conditions of work according to the business plans.

(Working conditions)

Article 5. The following are the working conditions.

- (1) In principle, the daily working hours for Persons A and B shall be _____ and for Persons C and D shall be _____. With the agreement of all parties, working hours may be extended or reduced according to the amount of work to be done.

- (2) In principle, all parties shall have rest _____ days each month however this may be changed with the agreement of all parties based on seasonal work factors, their health condition work-load in other areas, and other relevant considerations.

Rest days during the New Year period and the Bon Festival period shall be set following discussions among all parties.

(Future transfer of business)

Article 6. Business rights and business assets held by Persons A and B shall, with the agreement of Persons A and B, in the future transfer to Persons C and D. The time and method of transfer shall be determined by Persons A and B after full discussion, while considering the views of Persons C and D.

(Other items)

Article 7. Decisions on items not covered in this agreement that may arise from time to time shall be made after consultation among all parties. This agreement may be revised with the concurrence of all parties, and any such revision ~ must be signed by all parties in the presence of a witness.

(Supplementary provisions)

1. This agreement shall come into force from _____.
2. This agreement shall remain in force for years from the date of its enforcement, and shall be renewed automatically unless there is an objection by one or more of the parties concerned.
3. Five copies of this agreement shall be produced, and one copy shall be held by each of the four parties concerned and the countersigning witness.

(Date)

(Address)

Person A (husband)

Person B (wife)

Person C (successor)

Person D (spouse of successor)

Witness

Annex 4 Expansion of Female Membership in the Farmers' Pension Plan

I. Purpose

Membership in the pension plan for full-time farmers has been quite rare among women who are engaged full-time in farm management with their husbands because they generally do not hold rights or title over the farm land, and also because of the view that there is only one principle manager of a family farming operation.

However, with the current amendment to the law, from 1 April 1996 women who are engaged full-time in farming with their husbands and are responsible for farm management but who do not hold rights or title over the farm land will become eligible to join the farmers' pension plan.

II. Structure

1. Membership criteria

(I) A person who does not hold rights or title over farm land shall be eligible to take up voluntary membership in the farmers' pension plan provided the following criteria are met (Article 23 Paragraph I Subparagraph (2)).

- a. The person must be the spouse of a member of the farmers' pension plan, and must be involved in the management of cultivation or other farm operations .

Note: As for whether the spouse is involved in farm management, the spouse's participation in business decision-making and share of the profit or loss is confirmed in the family business agreement at the time of joining.

- b. The combined area of the husband's and wife's part of the farm land constituting the business must be at least a set area (1ha).
- c. The person must be engaged in cultivation or other farm operations on a regular basis.

- d. The person must be a member of the national pension scheme (not a member of the welfare pension or other employee pension schemes), and, in principle, and must be able to contribute to the pension plan for at least 20 years by the age of 60.

Note: In principle, the person must be under 40 years of age, but in cases where certain conditions have been met, such as the person has been engaged in farming with her husband for ten years or more, a person under 55 years of age when the amendment comes into force may join the plan (however, benefits will be calculated on the period for which the premiums were paid).

- (2) A person who holds rights or title over farm land and who is confirmed as being involved in farm management (confirmation procedures are the same as those in the note above) shall be eligible to join the farmers' pension plan (Article 22 and Article 23 Paragraph I Subparagraph (1), Application).

Note: In either case, a husband and wife couple from a farm household are eligible to join the plan.

2 . Management transfer

Rights to the farm land constituting the farming business must be transferred in total with the agreement of the husband and wife (to the successor or other party). (Article 42-2)

Transfer of the business to the spouse of the successor who meets certain criteria is also approved. (Article 42 Paragraph I Subparagraph (2)b.)

3. Benefits and obligations

Each of the husband and wife shall receive their respective pension benefits and shall pay their respective pension premiums.

JICA's Efforts in Gender / Women in Development (WID)

September 1, 1999

Tomoko TAIRA DVM, MSc
Environment, WID and Other Global Issues Division
Planning Department
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

1. Self-introduction

2. "What is JICA" (5 min)

3. "JICA's Efforts in Gender / WID (15 min)

(1) Definition "WID and Gender"

(2) JICA's efforts

(3) Outline of JICA's Gender / WID Activities

4. Two Cases of JICA WID Projects (Video)

(1) Nepal (35 min)

<break (15 min)>

(2) Kenya (35 min)

6. Group Discussion (40 min)

- What do you find out WID/Gender consideration in regard to your work ?
- How do you promote forming women groups (organizing women) ?
- How do you promote women's participation in agricultural cooperatives activities ?

7. Funding Information (5 min)

- (1) UNDP Japan WID Fund
- (2) JICA Community Empowerment Program
- (3) Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects

JICA's WID Related Cooperation

Number
(WID% of related cooperation)
Expenditure in thousand yen

Fiscal Year	Trainees Acceptance	Individual Experts	Equipment Provision	Project-type Technical Cooperation	Japan Overseas Cooperation	Development Studies	Expert Training Courses*1	Project Finding Formulation*2	1 Nov. 1998	
									Total Expenditure (Thousand yen)	(%)
1990	128 (1.7%) *4			16 (8.3%)		13 (4.5%)				
1991	119 (1.5%) 165,619	4 (0.3%) 12,816		21 (11.5%) 2,542,785	120 (4.3%) 494,760	13 (4.5%) 1,241,302	1 (5.3%) 6,229			(3.9%) 4,463,511
1992	122 (1.5%) 319,276	12 (0.8%) 106,119		25 (12.1%) 3,855,337	265 (9.5%) 1,324,470	14 (5.1%) 942,758	1 (5.6%) 6,985			(5.0%) 6,554,945
1993	181 (1.8%) 486,166	35 (1.9%) 159,264		29 (17.1%) 3,663,475	479 (16.3%) 2,132,508	22 (7.5%) 1,992,574	1 (5.6%) 7,193			(6.3%) 8,441,180
1994	362 (3.4%) 596,056	64 (3.2%) 502,312		35 (16.2%) 4,549,407	539 (17.2%) 2,403,401	32 (10.5%) 3,020,982	1 (5.6%) 5,137	5 (4.8%) 12,646		(9.0%) 11,089,941
1995	433 (3.8%) 617,548	68 (3.5%) 545,749	5 (0.1%) 22,893	35 (16.0%) 4,621,654	541 (16.1%) 2,619,559	52 (8.5%) 5,842,142	1 (4.1%) 6,424	8 (6.7%) 30,502		(9.9%) 14,306,471
1996	514 (4.5%) 861,923	45 (2.6%) 548,239	23 (0.6%) 113,410	33 (14.5%) 4,598,719	535 (16.1%) 2,529,885	60 (19.6%) 5,378,950	1 (8.3%) 13,548	10 (8.7%) 135,916		(9.2%) 14,180,590
1997	574 (5.0%) 1,027,393	66 (3.6%) 785,663	21 (15.3%) 88,472	41 (16.7%) 5,622,399	411 (11.6%) 2,351,514	74 (25.4%) 9,170,641	3 (1.1%) 31,848	16 (8.3%) 229,808		(12.3%) 19,307,758

*1 Number of WID-related expert training courses; the total expenditure including the invitation of WID-related overseas development experts

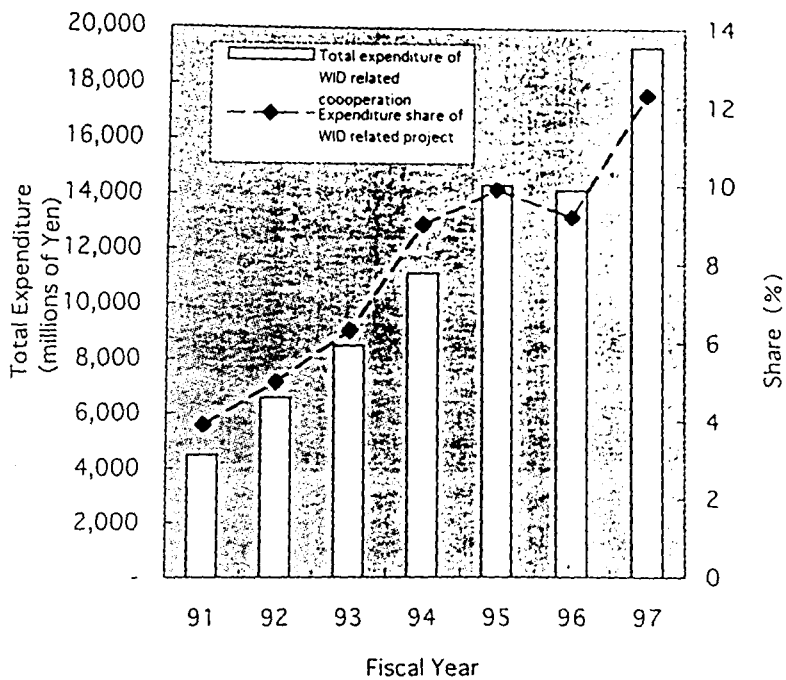
*2 Including Project formulation studies, Project formulation specialists, and Local technical advisors.

*3 Each expenditure and the number of experts and JOCV were not determined in 1990.

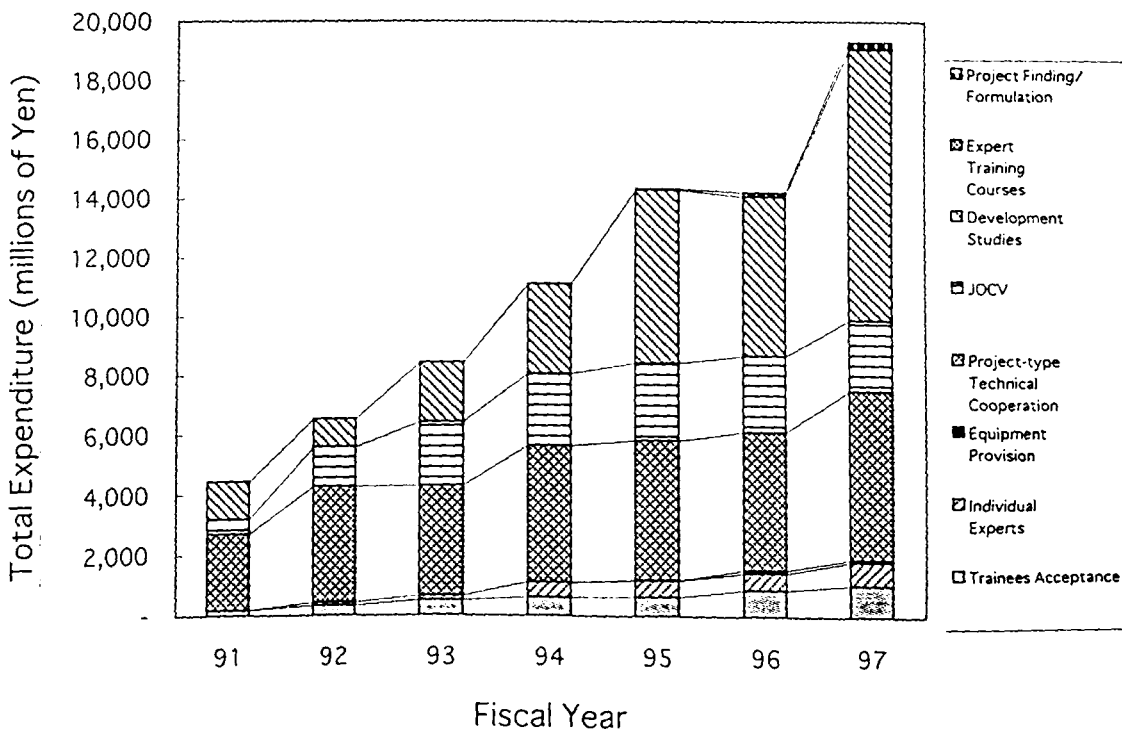
*4 The percentage represents the ratio of the sum of each WID-related project toward its total number in the related cooperation as a whole.

(The percentage of "Project Formulation Studies" and "Expert Training Courses" represent the ratio of expenditure of each WID-related project toward its total of related projects since 1997.)

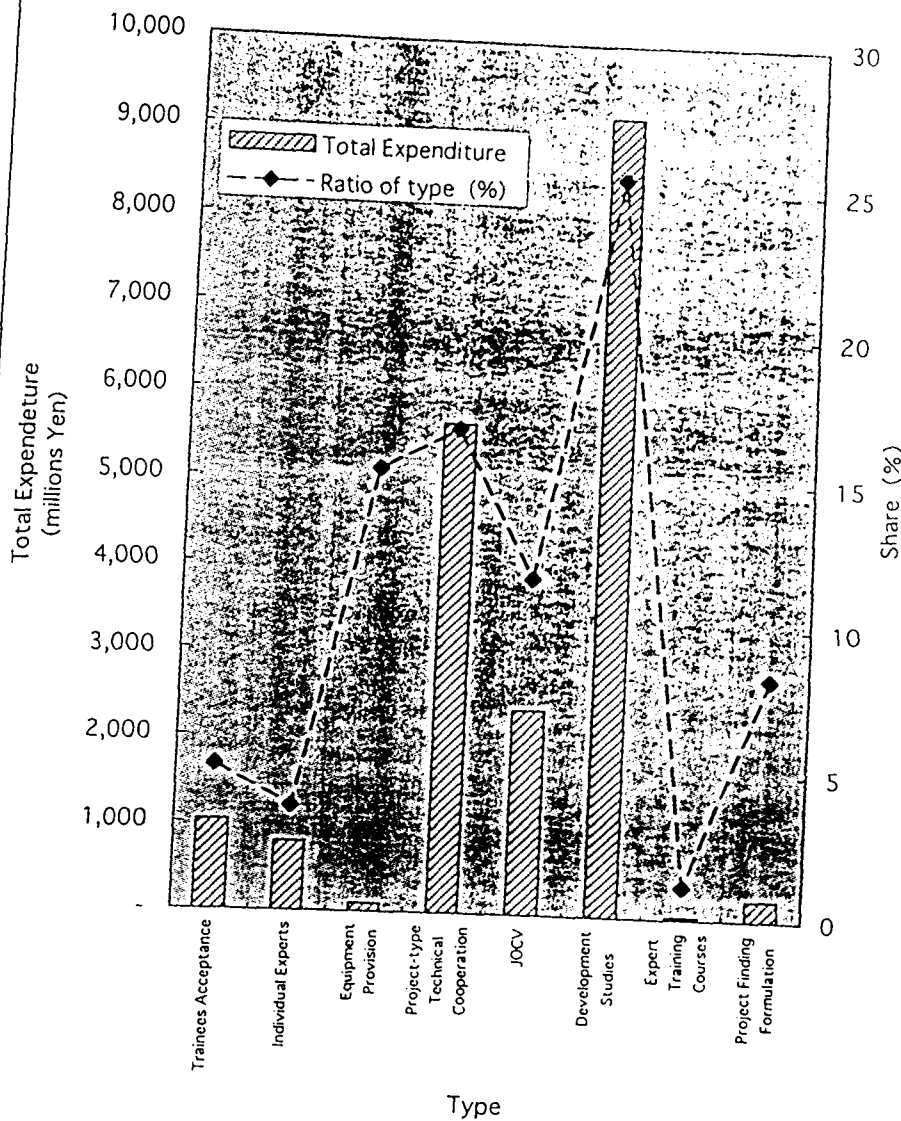
JICA's WID-Related Cooperation



JICA's WID-Related Cooperation by Type



JICA's WID-Related Cooperation by Type in FY 1997



Topics of JICA's WID-Related Cooperation in FY 1997

- 1) The total expenditure of WID-Related Cooperation increased by 36% over the Previous year ('97) mainly due to increases in Development Studies and Project-type Technical Cooperation.
- 2) The total expenditure of WID-Related Cooperation toward the total expenditure showed a significant increase (+12.3%) compared to the previous three years (about +9% in '94-96). This was primarily a result of increases in Development Studies (+25.4%), Project-type Technical Cooperation (+16.9%), and Equipment Provision (+15.3%).

It seems that gender information gathering and the introduction of gender analysis contributed to the increase in Development Studies.

In Project-type Technical Cooperation, additional training, expert dispatch, sociogender analysis in agro/forest projects as well as maternal and child health projects have increased.

Project Design Matrix of HMG/JICA Community Development and Forest/Watershed Conservation Project
and Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project

(Prepared in October 14, 1998)

1. Period of cooperation; 5 years (from July 16, 1994 to July 15, 1999), 2. Japanese Executing agency; Japan International Cooperation Agency, 3. Nepalese executive agency; Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, 4. Target area; Southern Kaski and Parbat districts, 5. Target group; People in the Project area

Narrative Summary	Verification Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><Overall Goal> To improve the natural environment in the hill areas in Nepal through community resources (including forest resources and human resources) development and conservation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation of the decrease of forest resources in hill areas in Nepal Improvement of the land productivity in hill areas in Nepal Empowerment of the people (male and female) in hill areas in Nepal 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Government's statistics related to the hill areas in Nepal Government's statistics related to the hill areas in Nepal Scientific survey on the people and rural communities in hill areas in Nepal (after 1999) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HMG of Nepal continuously adopt the participatory forest conservation policy Political, economic and social situations of Nepal do not change seriously
<p><Project Purpose> To improve the natural environment and land productivity, particularly to mitigate the depletion of forests and other natural resources, and build up the capacity of people for development and conservation of community resources by deployment of exemplary community development activities for the improvement of the living standard of the rural communities, promoting their own initiatives and efforts, and paying due consideration to women and poverty issues.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Changes of forest conservation conditions in hill areas in Kaski and Parbat Districts Changes of land conservation conditions in hill areas in Kaski and Parbat Districts Achievement of empowerment attained by the local people (male and female) in hill areas in Kaski and Parbat Districts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative study on a tendency in forest conservation in the Project areas in Kaski and Parbat Districts Various survey data available for the Project areas in Kaski and Parbat Districts Project impact survey on the people and rural communities including women and the poor 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HMG of Nepal appreciates the development model and makes an effort continuously to disseminate it to other hill areas in Nepal Political, economic, social and natural situations in Kaski and Parbat Districts do not seriously change

<p><Outputs></p> <p>1. Models for community resources development and conservation would be established and activated based on the people's (both men and women) initiative in Kaski and Parbat Districts through the rural community development activities.</p> <p>2. Methods and related technologies for community resources development and conservation are transferred to Kaski and Parbat DSCO staff and NGO staff.</p> <p>3. Appropriate methods for community resources development and conservation applicable to other hill areas in Nepal are proposed.</p>	<p>1-1 Completeness and applicability of the Operational Guidelines</p> <p>1-2 Number and quality of the community development activities implemented in Kaski and Parbat Districts</p> <p>2-1 Number and quality of training, seminars and workshops</p> <p>2-2 Number and quality of sub-projects which are subjectively planned and implemented by DSCO and NGO staff.</p> <p>3-1 Number and quality of cases for community resources development and conservation</p>	<p>1-1 Impact evaluation survey on the community development activities, M/P teams' monthly reports, experts' quarterly and final reports and other project reports</p> <p>1-2 Monitoring sheets of the community development activities and impact evaluation survey</p> <p>2-1 Experts' quarterly and final reports and other project reports</p> <p>2-2 Sub-project request forms and reports</p> <p>3-1 Case studies on sub-projects and other project documents.</p>	<p>a. Cooperation of HMG's central and local governments (DDC, VDC, CBO, etc.) is provided</p>
<p><Activities></p> <p>1-1 To prepare a guideline to identify people's needs</p> <p>1-2 To prepare a field survey methodology in line with the guideline then to apply it in carrying out surveys</p> <p>1-3 To assist in the preparation of participatory community development plan and its implementation paying due consideration to participation of women and the poor</p> <p>1-4 To make analysis on appropriate inputs required for the community development</p> <p>1-5 To procure equipments and materials referring to the result of analysis in 1-4 above</p> <p>1-6 To develop and apply appropriate techniques for the community development</p>	<p><Inputs></p> <p><u>HMG of Nepal</u></p> <p>1. Land area for the project office</p> <p>2. Building and facilities for the project office</p> <p>3. Counterpart personnel</p> <p>- Project director (Director General, Dept. of Soil Conservation);</p> <p>1 person x 5 years</p> <p>- Project manager (District Soil Conservation Officers, Kaski and Parbat); 2 persons x 5 years</p> <p>- Officials of Dept. of Soil Conservation; about 14 persons</p> <p>1 person x 5 years</p> <p>4. Local cost</p> <p><u>NGO</u></p> <p>1. Counterpart personnel</p>	<p>a. Counterparts form HMG and NGO are for a certain period involved in the Project</p> <p>b. The local government (DDC, VDC, CBO, etc.) cooperate with the Project</p> <p><Pre-condition></p> <p>a. The Government of Japan government following its initial</p>	

<p>1-7 To develop and apply an appropriate monitoring method for the implementation of community development activities</p> <p>1-8 To develop and apply an appropriate evaluation method of the results of community development activities</p> <p>1-9 To closely coordinate with all related organizations and groups concerned</p> <p>2-1 To strengthen the capacity/capability of HMG staff, local NGOs, etc. through organizing training at various levels including field level seminars and workshops</p> <p>3-1 To extract common key elements by analyzing the adopted methodology to Kaski and Parbat districts</p> <p>3-2 To reflect the above key elements extracted and to prepare guidelines and manuals applicable to other hill areas</p>	<p>- Director ; 1 person x 5 years - Staff ; 16 persons x 5 years</p> <p><u>Government of Japan</u> <u>JICA</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long-term expert; 4 persons x 5 years 2. Short-term expert; some x 5 years 3. Local cost sharing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) General local cost 2) Enlightenment/extension activities cost 3) Afforestation promotion cost 4) Project infrastructure consolidation cost 5) Technology exchange cost 6) LLDC special local cost 4. Machinery, equipment and materials 5. Counterpart training in Japan <p><u>JOCV</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JOCV leader; 1 person x 5 years 2. JOCV volunteers; 10 persons x 5 years 3. Local cost sharing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) JOCV general local cost 2) JOCV special equipment cost 4. Machinery, equipment and materials 5. Counterpart training in Japan 	<p>commitment, continues to support to "the Community Development and Forest / Watershed Conservation Project" and "the Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project"</p> <p>b. The HMG of Nepal following its initial commitment, continues to support to the Projects to the local people (male and female) in various socio-economic strata understand and participate in "the Community Development and Forest / Watershed Conservation Project" and "the Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project"</p> <p>c.</p>
--	---	---

RP

RP

Population Education Promotion Project in Phase II

Project Design Matrix (As of May 17, 1994)

N a r r a t i v e S u m m a r y	V e r i f i a b l e I n d i c a t o r s	M e a n s o f V e r i f i c a t i o n	I m p o r t a n t A s s u m p t i o n s																																			
<p>Overall Goals: To reduce the population growth in the Republic of Kenya</p>	<p>Change in the population growth rate in Kenya</p>	<p>Monitoring by NCFD, MOH, CBS and PEPP</p>	<p>Continuation of current population policy in Kenya</p>																																			
<p>Project Purpose: To strengthen IEC activities in the field of population by developing and disseminating appropriate multi-media strategies and by enhancing community development</p>	<p>Trend analysis of family planning index (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) in the pilot districts and model communities</p>	<p>Monitoring by PEPP</p>	<p>Constant supply of contraceptive</p>																																			
<p>Output:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To develop need assessments and establish dissemination channel for multi-media materials 2) To diversify subjects of multi-media materials including population and development as well as MCR/FP 3) To develop and disseminate low-cost, hand-made audio-visual aids and folk media 4) To develop an integrated model of IEC activities and service delivery in the model communities 5) To expand the Project's outputs to other areas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)-1 Demand assessment through IEC workshops at the district level -2 Distribution of multi-media materials -3 Numbers of days and participants in AV van activities <p>2) Production of multi-media materials</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>'93</td> <td>'94</td> <td>'95</td> <td>'96</td> <td>'97</td> <td>'98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Video</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slide</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Radio</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Print</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Numbers of events coordinated 4)-1 Numbers of seminars held and participants attended in health centres -2 Running costs for health centers from income generating activities by women's group -3 Infant/child mortality in model communities 5) Collaboration with other organizations 		'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	Video	4	4	6	6	9	9	Slide	1	1	2	2	3	3	Radio	1	1	2	2	3	3	Print	3	6					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitoring activities by PEPP 2) Monitoring activities by PEPP 3) Monitoring activities by PEPP 4) Monitoring activities by PEPP 5) Monitoring activities by PEPP 	<p>Sustainable management of Health Centre Continued involvement of Kenyan personnel trained by PEPP</p>
	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98																																
Video	4	4	6	6	9	9																																
Slide	1	1	2	2	3	3																																
Radio	1	1	2	2	3	3																																
Print	3	6																																				

PROJECT PROPOSALS: FORMAT AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To encourage country ownership and full participation of intended beneficiaries, proposals should be formulated by, or jointly with, local organizations working for social and economic development to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Consultation in advance with the local Japanese embassy is also encouraged.

The UNDP country office should forward to GIDP an initial 3-4 page project proposal that describes:

- ▲ background of the relevant sub-sector, including brief description of key local organizations and NGOs involved in the project;
- ▲ problems to be addressed, and prior or ongoing UNDP assistance;
- ▲ target beneficiaries and their role in the planning of the project proposal;
- ▲ major objectives, expected outputs and activities; and
- ▲ cost breakdown of the project.

This initial submission should indicate how the project will enhance gender equality and empowerment of women toward sustainable social and economic development. It should also make clear how the project will build the capacity of local organizations working for gender equality and the advancement of women.

After initial screening, GIDP notifies the country office, which will then be required to submit a fully elaborated project document written in accordance with the standard UNDP format, as shown on the "Gender at UNDP" website (<http://www.undp.org/undp/gender>). The following will need to be clearly identified at this stage:

- ▲ all objectives, outputs, activities and inputs (including detailed budget);
- ▲ performance indicators to measure the success of the project; and
- ▲ a plan and schedule for monitoring and evaluation, which must include twice-yearly reports on project progress and an end-of-project report, to be forwarded to the UNDP country office, UNDP Regional Bureau and GIDP.

Project proposals should be sent in both print and electronic format (e-mail or on diskette) to GIDP at the address indicated on this brochure.

ABOUT THE GENDER IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (GIDP)

The advancement of women is one of UNDP's high-priority areas along with governance, sustainable livelihoods and the sustainable management of environmental resources to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication.

The Gender in Development Programme (GIDP) advises, supports and facilitates UNDP gender equality policy, dialogue and practice, and promotes the empowerment of women. These goals are to be achieved through the mainstreaming of gender considerations into UNDP's policy, programmes and organisational practices. To achieve its objectives, GIDP actively engages in resource mobilization through trust fund and cost-sharing arrangements such as the JWIDF.

The JWIDF is complementary to GIDP's own Global Gender Programme, which identifies UNDP's key areas of emphasis for the years 1998-2000: policy/analytical frameworks; capacity-building for gender mainstreaming; information, communications and networking; political and economic empowerment of women, and follow-up to the World Conferences.



Gender in
Development
Programme
(GIDP)



THE JAPAN WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT FUND



JAPAN
Official Development Assistance



Gender in Development Programme

THE JAPAN WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT FUND

For further information on the JWIDF, please contact
JWIDF/Gender in Development Programme,
Bureau for Development Policy

One UN Plaza, 20th Floor ▲ NY, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 906-5368/5051 ▲ Fax: (212) 906-5857
Email: gdp@undp.org

Web Site: <http://www.undp.org/undp/gender>



FOCUS AREAS

The JWIDF supports projects aimed at social and economic development to enhance gender equality and the advancement of women. Key strategies toward these goals include capacity-building of women's organizations to influence policy and legal frameworks, and sustaining locally managed development initiatives in partner countries. The JWIDF is especially interested in supporting projects related to three priority areas of "Japan's Initiative on Women in Development" launched at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

In addition, the JWIDF seeks to support the achievement of targets set forth in the report "Shaping the 21st Century: The Contribution of Development Co-operation" which was adopted by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/ DAC) in 1996. (The report is available on the OECD web-site <http://www.oecd.org>)

ABOUT THE JAPAN WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT FUND (JWIDF)

The Japan Women in Development Fund (JWIDF) was launched by the Government of Japan in 1995 as a cost-sharing arrangement with UNDP. The Fund is intended to serve as a catalyst for promoting and supporting women's participation in economic and social life, and ultimately for building their capacity for achieving empowerment and equality, toward more sustainable human development.



As of 1998, contributions to the Fund totalled US\$ 7.9 million. The JWIDF is administered by the Gender in Development Programme (GIDP) in accordance with UNDP's established policies and procedures for programme cost-sharing contributions. GIDP is responsible for vetting and coordinating projects supported

by the JWIDF, in close consultation with other partners within UNDP, (the Bureau for Resources and External Affairs, the Regional Bureaux and country offices) and with the Government of Japan.

Three Priority Areas of Japan's Initiative on WID

- ▲ Education
- ▲ Health
- ▲ Economic and Social Participation

OECD/DAC Targets

Economic Well-being

- ▲ a reduction by one-half in the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

Social Development

- ▲ universal primary education in all countries by 2015;
- ▲ demonstrated progress toward gender equality and the empowerment of women by eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005;
- ▲ a reduction by two-thirds in the mortality rates for infants and children under age 5 and a reduction by three-fourths in maternal mortality, all by 2015.

PROJECTS

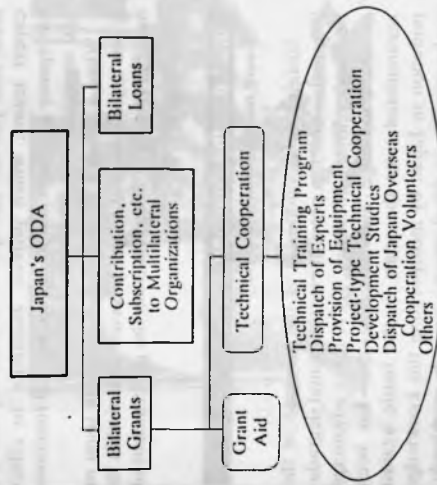
The JWIDF also encourages South-South cooperation and will fund qualified projects that involve several countries. The JWIDF typically considers projects that last a duration of one to three years, and which cost in the region of US\$ 100,000-300,000.

Examples of past and current projects supported by the JWIDF include:

- ▲ micro-credit schemes in Asia;
- ▲ girls' education in Guatemala;
- ▲ enhancement of vocational training and employment opportunities for women in the countries of Indonesia;
- ▲ strengthening women's involvement in the planning of national development programmes; and
- ▲ capacity-building through the Asia/Africa Forum on Empowerment of Women which was held in Bangkok in July 1997.

(For a complete listing of projects, please check the *Programmes* section of our web-site <http://www.undp.org/undp/gender>)





WHAT ROLE DOES JICA PLAY?

The technical cooperation provided by JICA takes the form of assistance in building nations and in helping to develop human resources in developing countries.

JICA targets the effective transfer of technology through the "human" element, offering support to the people of developing countries as they shape their nations with their own hands and through their own efforts.

JICA works towards this goal by means of the following activities.

Record of JICA's Activities

Program Type	FY1997	Accumulated Total
Technical Training Program	9,586 participants	144,085 participants
Youth Invitation Program	1,593 participants	16,602 participants
Experts Dispatched	3,050 persons	51,083 persons
Equipment Provided	19.2 bil. yen	305.7 bil. yen
Project-type Technical Cooperation	245* projects	-
Development Studies	296* cases	-
JOCV Volunteers Dispatched	1,153 persons	18,018 persons
Grant Aid Projects (supervised by JICA)	217 projects (E/N basis)	-

* includes on-going projects.

JICA Overseas Offices



57 JICA Offices
(as of April, 1999)

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

Shinjuku Maynds Tower
2-1-1, Yoyogi Shibuya-ku,
TOKYO 151-8558, JAPAN
Phone 03-5352-5311~4

99.5

WHAT IS JICA?

WHY SHOULD JAPAN ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?

As a nation dedicated to the spread of peace, Japan has a responsibility to maintain peace and prosperity throughout the world.

As part of this responsibility, the Japanese government extends Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries based on four principles: (1) that assistance goes toward sustainable development, (2) that aid is not put to military uses, (3) that aid will help bring about economic and social development which will contribute to international peace and stability, and (4) that aid will promote a market-oriented economy and good governance. Japan's ODA puts priority on global issues such as protecting the environment and controlling population, fulfilling basic human needs, and developing human resources.

Today, Japan is the world's largest donor nation in terms of net ODA disbursement, providing assistance to more than 140 countries.

HOW DOES JAPAN'S ODA WORK?

There are three kinds of Japanese ODA: (1) bilateral grants (grant aid and technical cooperation), (2) bilateral loans (loan assistance), and (3) contributions and subscriptions to international organizations. Of these, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is responsible for the major portion of bilateral technical cooperation.



JAPAN
Official Development Assistance

JICA
Japan International Cooperation Agency

<http://www.jica.go.jp>

HOW DOES JICA ACCOMPLISH ITS AIMS?

Technical Training Program

Contributing to the development of human resources

JICA training programs bring to Japan engineers and administrators who are vital to the nation-building of developing countries.

In addition, Third-Country Training Programs are carried out in developing countries. The participants come not only from the third countries (neighboring countries), but from the host country as well. The Youth Invitation Program invites young people from ASEAN and other countries to spend a month in Japan, where they participate in cross-cultural exchanges with young Japanese people.

Dispatch of Experts

Helping Japanese technology take root in developing countries

Experts are sent from Japan to developing countries in order to help transfer vital and appropriate technology to the host nation. Along with the training program in Japan, this program is one of the key functions of JICA's technical cooperation.

Provision of Equipment

The effective linkage between "soft" and "hard"

JICA supplies equipment and machinery to developing countries to facilitate transfer of technology pursued under the expert dispatch program and training program in Japan.

Project-type Technical Cooperation

Integrated approach for technology transfer

JICA also conducts Project-type Technical Cooperation as a combination of the above-mentioned

three programs, namely (1) dispatch of Japanese experts who will provide technical guidance to their counterparts in the recipient countries, (2) accepting counterpart personnel for technical training in Japan, and (3) providing needed equipment and materials. This type of cooperation requires a relatively long period of time, and so makes it possible to identify and transfer those technologies that are best suited to local conditions.

Development Studies

Formation of an optimum plan for development

The development studies carried out by JICA include pre-investment studies that examine the feasibility of proposed projects, not only in terms of their technical and financial aspects, but also in consideration of economic and social factors, organization and management, and the environment. Study teams made up of consultants are assembled and charged with formulating development plans for the recipient country.

Development studies also cover the formulation of master plans for regional or sectoral development.

Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

Cooperation on a grass-root level

The individuals that make up the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers fall between the ages of 20 and 39. They are sent overseas on two-year assignments. The program encourages and supports young Japanese people who want to participate and assist in the economic development of developing countries.

Volunteers live just as the local people do and the

range of skills they bring with them cover more than 160 technical fields.

Grant Aid

Providing assistance for basic human needs

Grant Aid is a form of financial assistance offered to developing countries in accordance with bilateral agreements, without the obligation of repayment.

The major targets of Japan's grant aid are in the area of Basic Human Needs, which covers medical care, public health, the domestic water supply, rural and agricultural development, and the development of human resources.

JICA provides special support in order to expedite the execution of grant aid, assuring that the overall cooperation program can be implemented smoothly. JICA also initiates follow-up to the grant aid assisted programs when necessary.

Enhancing Aid Effectiveness

To ensure development effect

To ensure development effect of aid projects, JICA implements project formation surveys for the purpose of finding out whether the aid request from a developing country is appropriate for its development needs. In project confirmation surveys, each specific project is screened and confirmed before implementation.

Japan Disaster Relief Team

Providing a prompt response in the event of a disaster

In the event of a disaster, JICA dispatches the Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR), who provides emergency medical assistance and other relief measures.

There are three types of JDR teams: (1) teams, whose main activity is to save human life; (2) medical teams, which provides medical treatment and prevent the spread of disease, and expert teams, which provide assistance to emergency measures and to restore normal functions and services.

When a disaster occurs, the appropriate teams are dispatched to the affected area within hours of receipt of a request from the government of the disaster-hit country.

JICA and the Environment

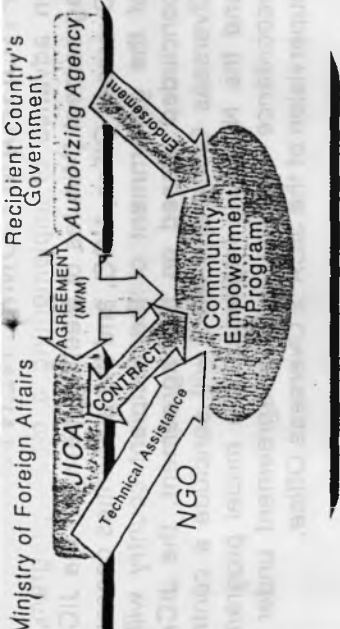
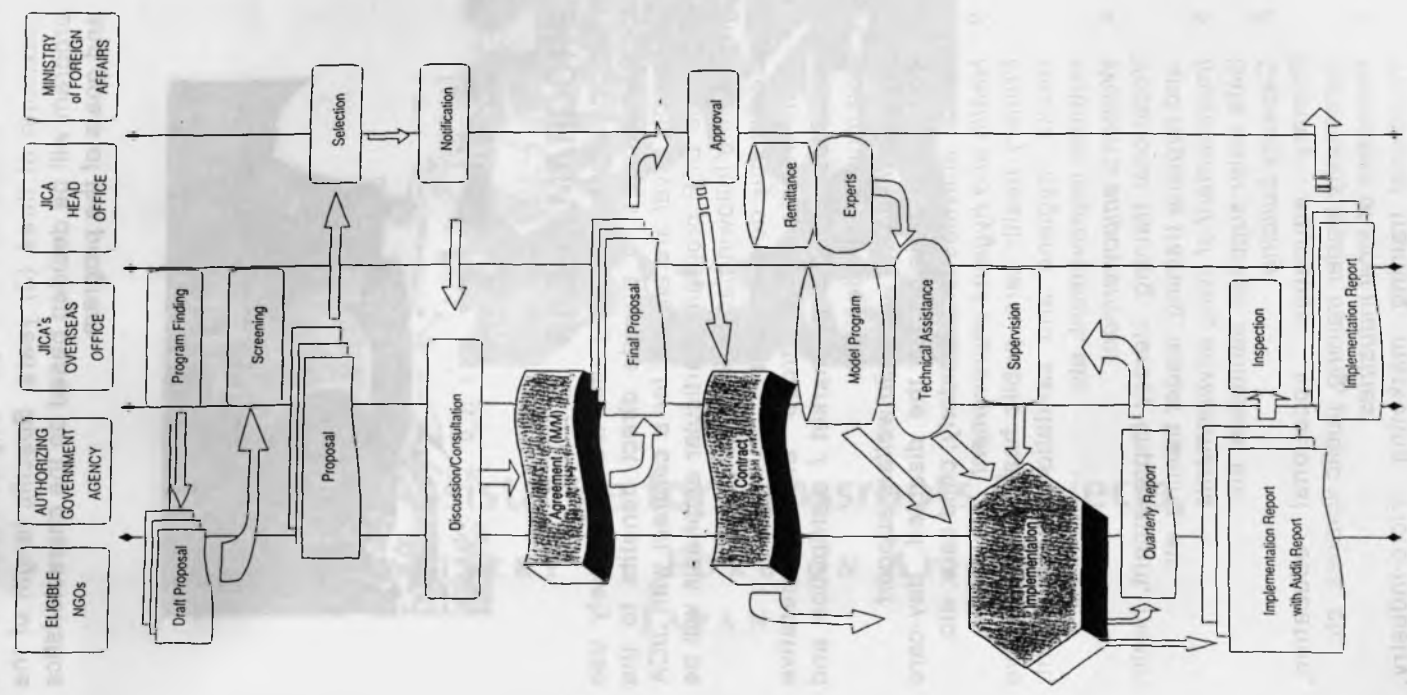
Toward sustainable development

Sustainable development is the keynote of 90s, and in order to prevent environmental degradation in developing countries, JICA takes advantage of the knowledge and expertise that has accumulated over the years in the battle against pollution in Japan by incorporating this knowledge and expertise in development projects worldwide. Activities include pollution control, protection urban living environments, forest conservation and reforestation, conservation of natural environments and prevention measures for natural disasters. These are carried out by means of above-mentioned cooperation schemes.

Community Empowerment Program



Japan International Cooperation Agency



ISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS

The funds allocated by the budget of the program must be used exclusively on specific activities agreed in the contract. The JICA's Overseas Office reserves the right to request reimbursement of expenses if money is used for any other purpose.

To assure accountability, the NGO should submit a progress report every quarter to the JICA's Overseas Office, as well as a final report at the time of termination of the contract, including accounting documents audited by a registered audit firm established in the recipient country. To facilitate auditing, it is recommended that the NGO maintain CEP program's records separate from other activities.

If the NGO finds that it has to modify the activities of the plan for any reason, it must obtain prior approval from the JICA's Overseas Office.

OBJECTIVES

The Japanese Government offers various assistance programs to meet the diverse needs of developing countries through Official Development Assistance (ODA). While the role of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in society is increasing as actors responsible for the nation building and human development of developing countries, the Community Empowerment Program (CEP) was introduced in 1997 as a new scheme of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the executing agency for technical cooperation of the Government of Japan. The program was created to directly benefit people at the grassroots level in developing countries for the improvement of their livelihood and welfare. Under this scheme, a model program, with endorsement of the recipient government, will be implemented by JICA together with NGOs which play an important role in implementing projects at the grassroots level.



PROGRAM PERIOD

Model programs will be implemented for a maximum of three (3) years. Specific length of the program will be decided based on the characteristics and goals of the program.



PROGRAM AREAS

Participatory model programs that effectively use local resources to provide direct benefits to the grassroots level are eligible for a contract with JICA under the CEP program. Particular emphasis will be given to the following activities:

1. *Community development*
Reinforcement of group and cooperative activities, community market / distribution and community activities, etc.
2. *Elderly, disabled, and child welfare support*
Vocational training for the disabled, day-care center activities for the elderly, child care, etc.
3. *Health and hygiene improvement*
Primary health care, public health, reproductive health, hygiene and sanitation improvement, nutrition improvement, etc.
4. *Women's empowerment*
Vocational training, literacy improvement, health and hygiene training, leader training, etc.
5. *Improvement of living environments*
Safe water supplies, sanitation, etc.
6. *Capacity building*
Primary education, vocational education, community leader training, public libraries, etc.
7. *Promotion of local industries*
Vocational training, marketing, micro-industry, agro-industry, etc.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

In advance of implementing a model program, an agreement (Minutes of Meeting) between the JICA's Overseas Office, NGO, and the authorities concerned of the government of the recipient country will be concluded. Based on this agreement, the JICA's Overseas Office and NGO will conclude a contract, and the NGO will implement the model program in accordance with the contract agreement under the supervision of the JICA's Overseas Office.

1. Model program

JICA will provide the necessary expenses in accordance with the approved budget for implementation of activities specified in the contract agreement. The budgets will be prepared every fiscal year (April through March) of the Japanese government and entrusted to the NGO. Eligible expenses include:

- Technical personnel expenditure related to the project
- Small-scale machinery / material / equipment
- Small-scale construction / renovation of physical facilities
- Training / seminars / workshops
- Other costs necessary for program operation



2. Technical assistance

Technical assistance will be provided by Japanese experts, including members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), to implement the program effectively. These experts will be dispatched at the expense of JICA, based upon an official request from the government of the recipient country.

ELIGIBLE NGOS

NGOs such as Volunteer Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations, Community Organizations, and other private or semi-governmental organizations which implement development programs and have more than two (2) years experience in similar activities in the country are eligible under the CEP.



Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
JAPAN



JAPAN
Official Development Assistance

The Japanese Government offers a financial assistance program for development projects designed to meet the diverse needs of developing countries. Known as "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP),"* this scheme supports projects proposed by various bodies such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local government authorities. The GGP program has acquired an excellent reputation because it provides flexible and timely support to development projects at the grassroots level.

This pamphlet outlines the objectives, procedures, and other requirements for obtaining assistance under the GGP scheme.

* Previously known as Small Scale Grant Assistance (SSGA)

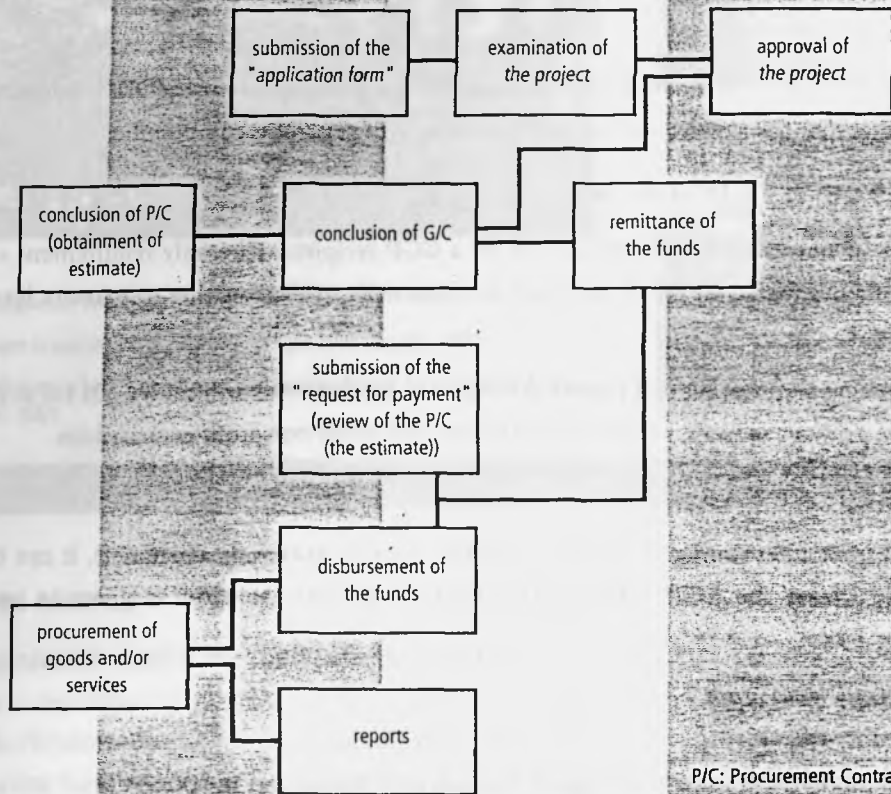
FLOW CHART OF GGP

**SUPPLIER OF GOODS
AND/OR SERVICES**

**RECIPIENT
ORGANIZATION**

**OVERSEAS MISSION
(EMBASSY OR
CONSULATE-GENERAL)**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF JAPAN**



P/C: Procurement Contract

G/C: Grant Contract



Project to renovate a clinic in the village of N'Diass (Senegal, 1995).
Support for improving efficiency.



Provision of an ambulance to a local hospital (Haiti, 1993).

Cover page photo:

Project to assist the social integration of Pygmies in the Mongoumba region (Central Africa, 1994).

Support of NGOs promoting programs to settle and integrate the local people. Provision of medicines and agricultural equipment, excavation of wells, etc.

OBJECTIVES

The GGP program provides non-refundable financial assistance to NGOs, hospitals, primary schools, research institutes and other non-profit associations, to help implement their development projects.

The availability of GGP funding in each eligible country provides Japanese ODA with a new means of cooperation that has a direct impact on the well-being of grassroots communities.

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

Any type of non-profit organization can be a GGP recipient. The only requirement is that it be a non-profit organization implementing development projects at the grassroots level in eligible countries.

The following are examples of potential recipients: international or local NGOs (of any nationality), hospitals, primary schools, research institutions, and other non-profit associations.

PROJECT AREAS

1) As long as a development project is geared towards grassroots assistance, it can be eligible for financing under the GGP scheme. However, particular attention is given to projects in the following areas:

- *primary health care*
- *primary education*
- *poverty relief*
- *public welfare*
- *environment*

Some examples (not an exhaustive list) of eligible projects are:

- *refurbishment and supply of equipment for primary schools*
- *refurbishment and supply of medical equipment for hospitals*
- *excavation of wells*
- *vocational training for the handicapped*

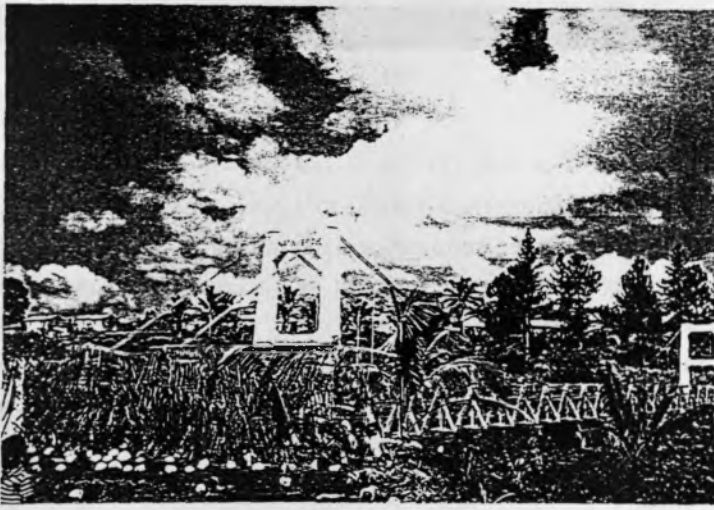
Particular attention is also given to projects which involve women in development activities.

2) Priority areas may be determined by the Embassy of Japan in each eligible country, according to the development needs of that country.

AVAILABLE FUNDS

GGP funds are provided after an examination and evaluation of each application on an annual project-by-project basis.

The grant amount per project generally cannot exceed US\$100,000. Even in some exceptional cases, the maximum grant amount is less than US\$200,000. Prospective applicants should note that the following budget items cannot be financed: salaries, fuel, travel expenses, per diem charges, and other administrative and operating costs of the organization.



Above: Nativi Suspension Bridge Construction Project (Fiji, 1989).



Top right: Program to provide motorized pumps for agriculture (Senegal, 1993).



Bottom right: Project to build extensions to the Nanjing School for Hearing and Speech Disabled (China, 1993).

HOW TO APPLY

If your organization satisfies the conditions described above and you want to receive GGP funds to implement a development project, submit an application form to the Embassy of Japan in your country. (In certain countries, you may submit your application to the Japanese Consulate-General.) The application form must be accompanied by a detailed budget for the project, a map showing the project site, a feasibility study for the project, and, if available, a brochure and a copy of the regulations of your organization.

Please bring or send the application form and other required documents to the local Embassy of Japan or consulate. As we may need to ask you for additional information, it is essential that you provide your contact details.

When submitting your application form, please bear the following in mind:

- 1) In selecting projects for funding, the Government of Japan places a high priority on the impact and sustainability of the project. First and foremost, you must convince the Embassy that your organization is capable of the sound management of sustainable development projects. A detailed description of the past achievements of your organization would therefore be appreciated.
- 2) As mentioned above, the Government of Japan cannot provide funding for salaries and other recurrent operational costs. The operation of the project must therefore be independently financed by your organization. In order to convince the Embassy that you can maintain the project, you must show that you have sufficient funds to cover running costs.
- 3) Pro forma estimates must be supplied for each budget item so that we can ensure value for money. You should submit estimates from three different suppliers wherever possible. In certain circumstances (e.g., in emergency situations, or where there are only a limited number of suppliers), the Embassy may waive the requirement for three separate estimates.

APPROVAL PROCEDURES

The Japanese Government receives far more applications than it is able to support. Funds are therefore provided only for the most suitable projects after detailed examination and evaluation.

After the application form and accompanying documents are received by the Embassy of Japan, the procedures below are followed:

- 1) Examination of the project: When the application is received, the project is examined by Embassy staff, paying particular attention to the objectives, socio-economic impact, and cost of the project. On this basis, potentially suitable projects for grant assistance will be selected.
- 2) Site visit: The Embassy staff will visit the site of the selected project, after which a decision will be made whether or not to provide grant assistance.
- 3) Grant Contract: The Embassy of Japan and the recipient organization sign a Grant Contract. The Grant Contract contains the title, objectives and details of the project, the name of the recipient organization, and a clause outlining the appropriate use of funds; and it specifies the maximum amount to be disbursed.
- 4) Disbursement of funds: The recipient organization must conclude procurement contracts with relevant suppliers for the delivery of goods and/or services. The contracts are carefully examined by the Embassy of Japan to verify that the costs and budget items are appropriate. Once it has approved the costs and received a signed request for payment from the recipient organization, the Embassy will disburse the funds.
- 5) Implementation of the project: The grant should be used properly and exclusively for the purchase of the products and/or services necessary for the approved project. Once the grant funds have been disbursed, implementation of the project is expected to proceed in a timely manner, and in conformity with the agreed-upon timetable.
- 6) Reports: At the discretion of the local Embassy of Japan or consulate, the recipient organization may be asked to provide an interim report during implementation. A final report is required at the end of all projects. The final report must be accompanied by a financial statement and receipts showing how the funds were utilized.

MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Funds received must be used exclusively within the framework of the implementation of the project. The Embassy of Japan reserves the right to claim a refund of the grant if the funds are used for any purpose other than for the implementation of the project.
- 2) It would be preferable if the recipient organization could maintain separate accounting for the implementation of the project in order to facilitate audit operations by the Embassy of Japan or its representative.
- 3) Regardless of the project's starting date, grant funds shall be disbursed prior to March 31 (the end of the Japanese fiscal year).
- 4) If the recipient organization finds that it has to modify the project plan for any unexpected reason, it must consult the Embassy and seek its prior approval.

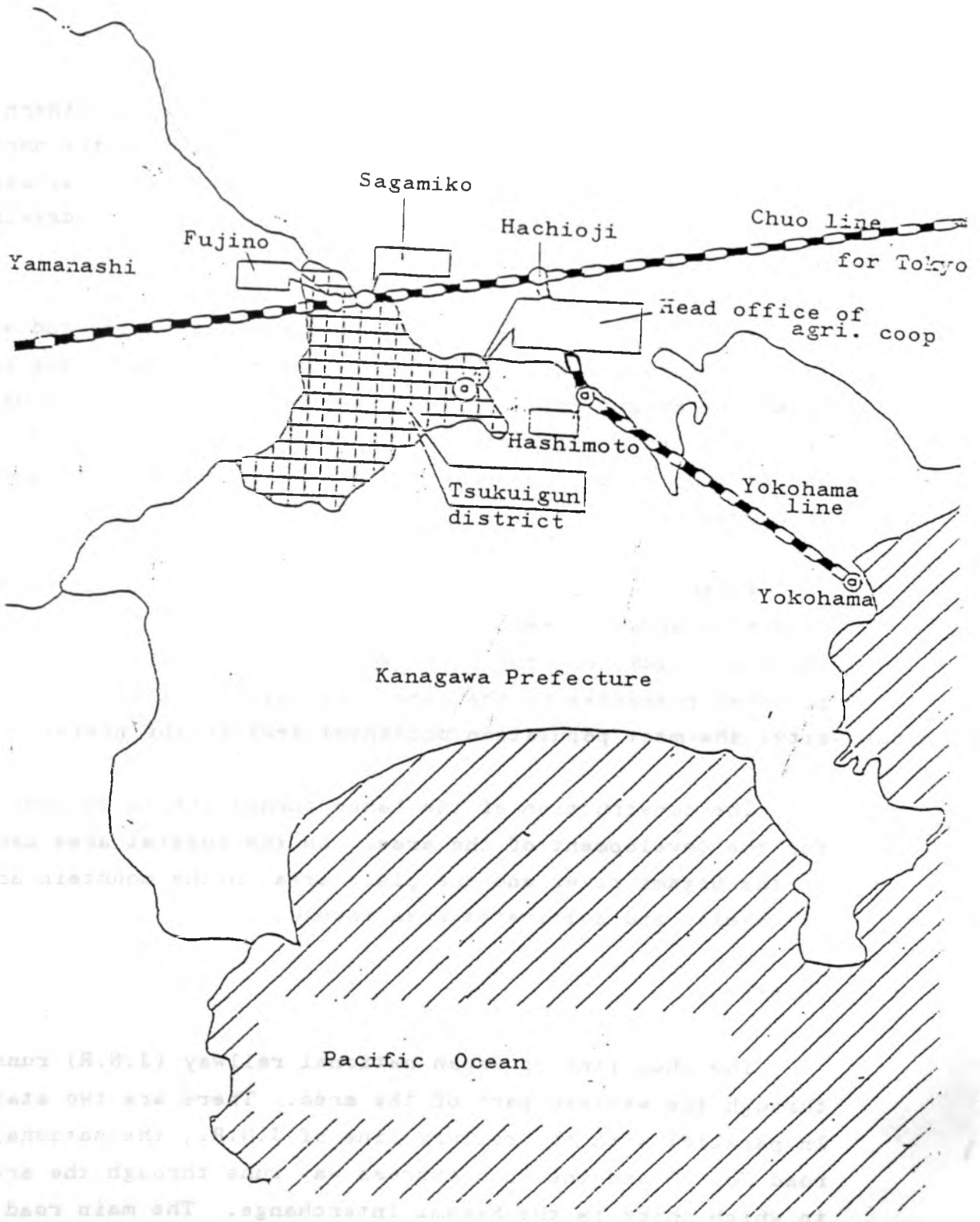
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The 21st RECA Seminar
From Aug. 23 to Sep.7, 1999 Tokyo Japan

The 9th ICA/Japan Training Course for
Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia
From Aug. 23 to Sep. 11, 1999 Tokyo Japan

Background Information Paper on the Tsukui-gun Primary
Agricultural Cooperative Society

September 2, 1999 (Thu)



Sagamiko

Fujino

Yamanashi

Hachioji

Chuo line
for Tokyo

Head office of
agri. coop

Hashimoto

Tsukuigun
district

Yokohama
line

Yokohama

Kanagawa Prefecture

Pacific Ocean

Overview of the area of operation

(1) Location and topography

The operational area is located in the west-northern part of Kanagawa prefecture bordering on Tokyo in the north and Yamanashi prefecture in the west. It is easily accessible to big cities like Tokyo and Yokohama with one-hour driving by car.

90% of the area constitutes forests and rivers and arable land accounts for only 7%. In the northern side of the area flows the Sagami rivers, the main river and in its tributary are found the Akiyama river, the Doshi river, the Hayato river and so on. It is characterised by the topography being rich in undulation.

Attention has been drawn to exploiting such a natural condition as water resources and hence two artificial lakes, the lake Sagami and the lake Tsukui were constructed to serve as water resources to the satellite towns centering on Yokohama city, the most population condensed area in the prefecture.

The construction of the lakes turned out to be useful for the development of the area. In the coastal area centering on the Sagami river and the plain area in the mountain area are hamlet and cultivated area formed.

(2) Traffic

The Chuo line of Japan national railway (J.N.R) runs through the western part of the area. There are two stations. In parallel with the railway line of J.N.R., the national road No. 20 and the Chuo express way runs through the area in which there is the Sagami Interchange. The main road which crosses in the east-western part links between the Sagamiko town and the Sagamihara city, the Hashimoto city. The Tsukui-cho-nakano which is situated in between them is the central part of the municipality.

- (3) Area of land
 - 23.1 km in the east-west
 - 22.1 km in the south-north
 - 238 km² Total area of land

(4) Administrative division and main industries

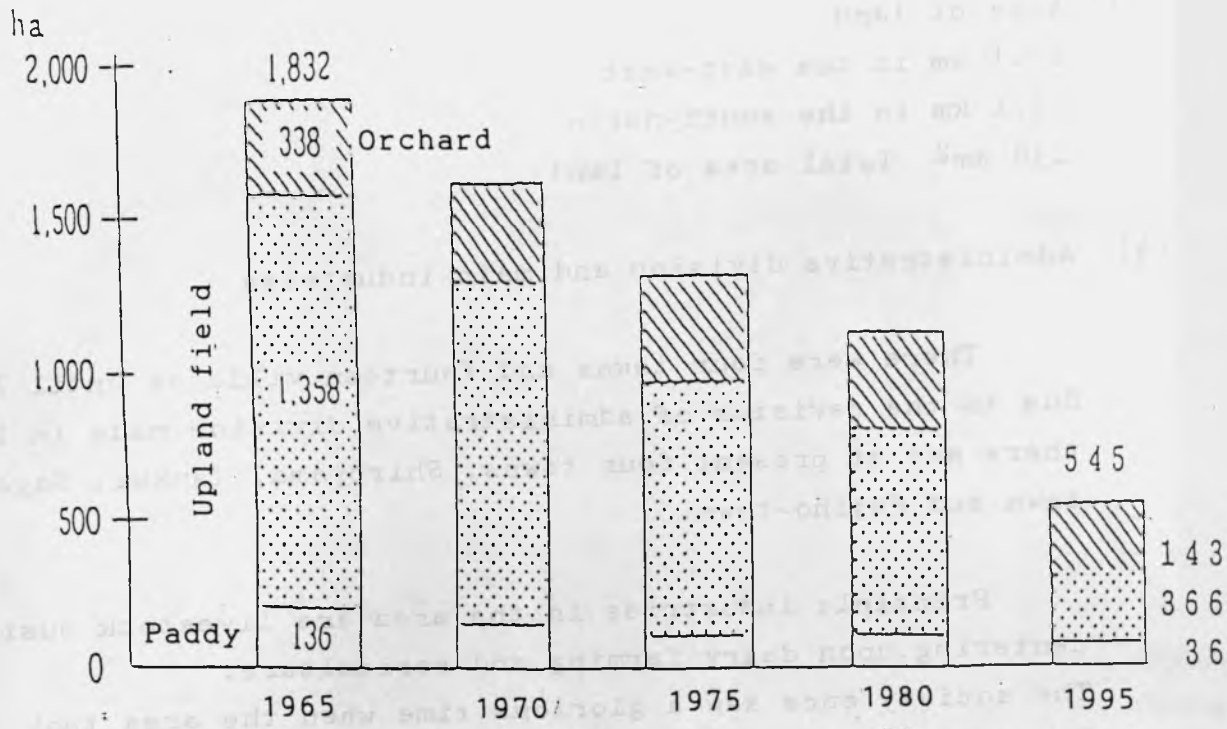
There were four towns and fourteen villages until 1955. Due to the revision of administrative division made in 1955, there are at present four towns, Shiroyama, Tsukui, Sagamiko-town and Fujino-town.

Principle industries in the area are livestock business centering upon dairy farming and sericulture.

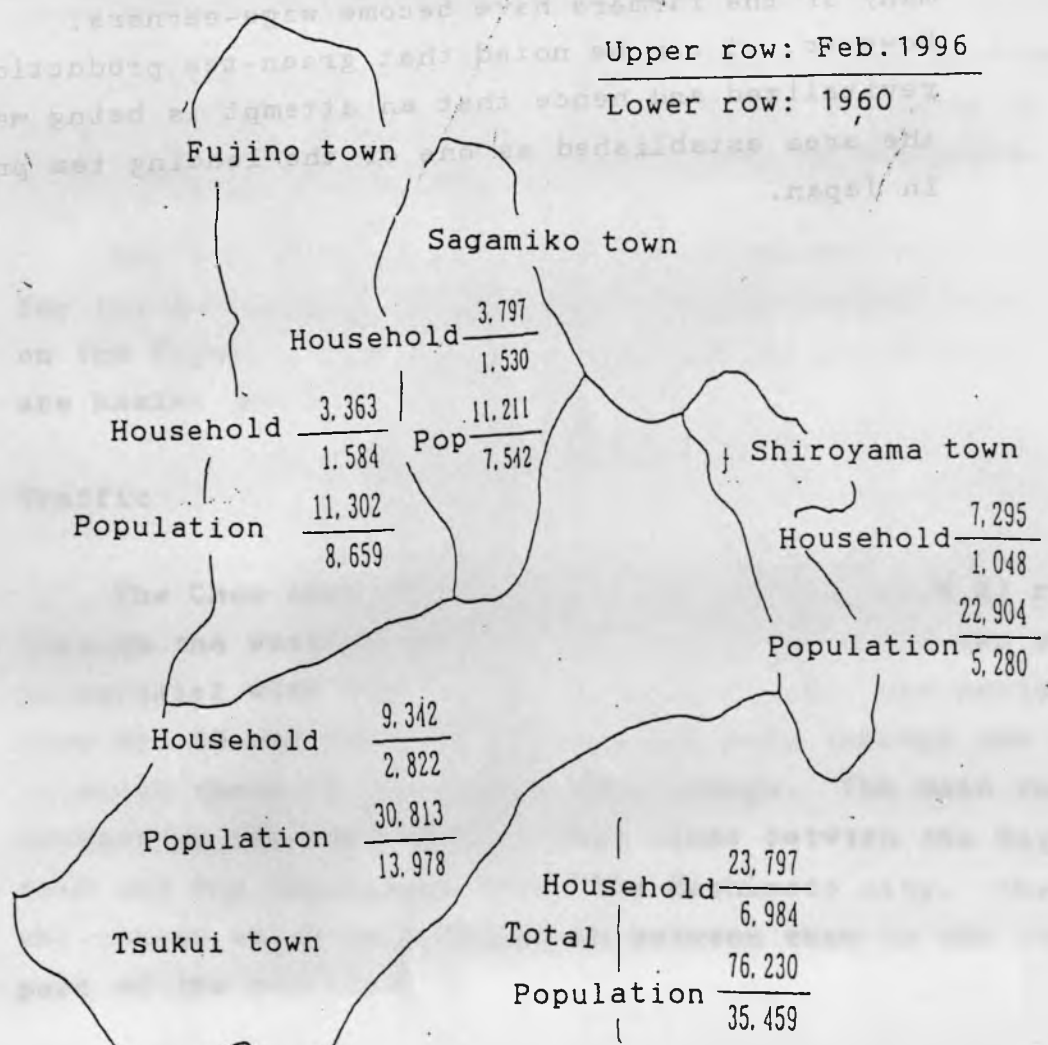
The society once saw a glorious time when the area took the Tokyo wholesale markets by storm as a vegetable producing area (especially, egg-plant), but at the present the vegetable production has been declining as a result of the fact that many of the farmers have become wage-earners.

However, it can be noted that green-tea production has been revitalized and hence that an attempt is being made to make the area established as one of the leading tea producing areas in Japan.

Changes in cultivated land of Tsukui district



Changes in No. of households and population



2. History of the Tsukuigun primary agri. coop

(1) As mentioned above, the area is demarcated into 4 administrative division (Tsukui town, Shiroyama-cho, Sagamikomachi and Fujino-machi) in the area of operation in the Tsukuigun primary agri. coop. There were 14 multi-purpose primary agri. coops, 1 primary dairy agri. coop and 1 district dairy coop (formed with capital investment of the multi-purpose agri. coops) before the amalgamation of administrative division took place. Most of the agri. coops except the district dairy coop were suffering from the business failure because of its small scale management.

Preceded by amalgamation of one district, two agri. coops (Nakano and Mitsui) (Yoshino and Sanokawa) out of 14 multi-purpose agri. coops in the area had already completed amalgamation.

And the remaining primary agri. coops signed the merger with the exception of one coop and thus the Tsukuigun primary agri. coop came to be formed.

It was the July 1959 when the society was given an approval for its establishment. After that, the remaining cooperative namely the Kawajiri primary agri. coop finally agreed to amalgamate with the former amalgamated society namely, the Tsukuigun primary agri. coop on March 1978. In addition, on March 1, 1993, Tsukuigun Dairy Cooperative amalgamated. With this amalgamation materialized, the present Tsukuigun primary agri. coop which now covers the whole district came into being.

(2) Motivation of amalgamation

It can not be denied that one of the big factors for the amalgamation of our coop was that we felt the keen need of consolidating the weak foundation in management i those days.

On the basis of the idea that the ultimate goal of amalgamation does not lie in improving the management of agri. coops perse, but that a priority should be given to increase the stagnant agricultural production in the area, thereby contributing to the enhancement of farm household economy.

With this in mind, the investigation was made from the various angles as to what kinds of method and what size and scale of coop were desired to be established to obtain the optimum effect and to serve the purpose of amalgamation. As a result of it, it was decided that amalgamation of all the coops be made.

(3) The main policies which have been implemented after amalgamation

- 1) Number of farm advisors was increased to strengthen farm guidance activities
- 2) Expanded the scale of farm management by advancing loans for the production fund positively and thereby fostered full-time farm households
- 3) Regarding supply business of fertilizer, feedstuff and other production inputs, the advance order system was established after amalgamation through various producer's group and full-time farmers were encouraged to use feedstuff in bulk in order to reduce production costs.
- 4) Concerning credit business, efforts were made to increase the amount of the fund to extend loans for the production and the development of the operational area as well as for the promotion of various industries.
- 5) Regarding mutual insurance business, its sales promotion has been made by combining the long-term and the short-term insurances reasonably to safeguard the life and assets of member farm families.

(4) The policies which have been implemented for a certain period after amalgamation

- 1) Founding of milk plants (in 1962)
- 2) Founding of joint nursery centre for sericulture (in 1962)
In 1964 the centre was shifted to a new site.
In 1983 it was refurbished
- 3) Repairing work of electric water and farm implements was strengthened.

(5) The present policies to which top-priority is being given.

- 1) Strengthening of organizational activities
- 2) Completion of educational activities
- 3) Establishment of democratic management

3. Development of principal business after amalgamation

As a result of having examined the financial condition closely of the former cooperatives in 1959, the amount of deficit increased to 38,510,000 yen, up 7.65 million yen from 30,860,000 yen at the time of amalgamation. As an effort was mainly made to consolidate the internal structure system. in 1959 the business promotion was given a low priority, hence no remarkable business achievement has been made.

In accordance with the policy to expand the businesses which began from 1960, the problem of deficit was solved in 1962, three years after the amalgamation took place and even some profits were recorded.

The number of the employees which was 190 at the time of amalgamation, but now it has increased to 376,, showing a 1.98 times increase.

Changes in the results of principal business after amalgamation

(Unit:10,000yen)

	At amalgamation period '59 Aug.	1959	1963	1973	1983	1985	1995	At amalgamation period '95
Agri. production handling turnover		20,946	29,580	30,450	25,705	21,601	11,380	
Livestock handling turnover	26,446	16,427	39,680	82,959	101,295	97,876	78,719	3.4
Purchasing supply turnover	24,028	24,746	48,909	138,757	508,340	533,192	386,816	16.1
Savings	20,738	24,534	108,414	1,023,662	5,008,995	5,641,906	11,730,439	565.6
Loans	20,533	23,586	95,831	719,164	1,944,993	1,988,778	3,053,125	148.7
Mutual insurance holding inforce	20,380	38,024	155,251	2,206,646	22,849,608	27,095,446	45,468,212	2,231.0
Balance of share capital	3,638	3,814	6,504	35,066	84,283	91,8891	109,806	30.2
No. of members	4,469	4,192	4,183	4,527	7,777	8,074	9,526	2.1
Surplus	Δ 3,086	Δ 3,851	369	11,440	30,577	34,192	49,906	-

* Increase of members in the period between 1973 and 1983 was due to the amalgamation with JA Kawajiri.

No. of farm households by full-time and part-time
(From Agri. census)

FY	Full-time	Part-time			Total	Fluctuation rate
		I	II	Total		
1960	761	1,736	1,695	3,431	4,192	100.0
1965	661	1,324	1,820	3,144	3,805	90.8
1970	251	574	2,715	3,289	3,540	84.4
1975	182	280	2,664	2,944	3,126	74.6
1985	215	190	2,474	2,664	2,879	68.7
1990	166	134	1,698	1,832	1,998	47.7
1995	159	74	1,375	1,449	1,608	38.4
Fluctuation rate	20.9	4.3	81.1	42.2	46.9	-

Number of members

FY	Regular members	Fluctuation rate	Associate members	Fluct. rate	Total	Fluct. rate	Ratio of reg. mem. to asso. mem
'60	3,719	100.0	487	100.0	4,206	100.0	88.4
'65	3,428	92.2	556	144.2	3,984	94.7	86.0
'70	3,227	86.8	829	170.2	4,056	96.4	79.6
'75	3,301	88.8	1,763	362.0	5,064	120.4	65.2
'80	3,652	98.2	3,700	759.8	7,352	174.8	49.7
'85	3,591	96.6	4,483	920.5	8,074	192.0	44.5
'90	3,675	98.8	5,131	1053.6	8,806	209.4	41.7
'93	3,653	98.2	5,438	1116.6	9,091	216.1	40.2
'95	3,643	98.0	5,883	1208.0	9,526	226.5	38.2

(4) Outline of the Tsukuigun primary agricultural cooperative society

The Tsukuigun primary agri. coop was formed the merger of 11 primary agri. coops and dairy cooperative federation. In those days as attention was drawn to its amalgamation from other cooperatives across the country as a experimental model to be copied in amalgamating cooperatives. After the first amalgamation had taken place, it further amalgamated with the Kawajiri primary agri. coop in 1978 and in this way the present Tsukuigun primary agri. coop came to be established. As a result of it, there is now only one primary cooperatives in one gun or district(sub prefecture).

The number of members which amounted to 4,000 in those days now exceeds 9,526 and thus the coop is serving as a place to provide the residents in the area with various services.

1. Number of members 9,526 (as of Feb. 1996)

2. Number of officials (35 persons including counselors)

• President	1	} Full-time
• Executive director	1	
• Managing director	1	
• Board of directors by region	17	} Part-time
• Board of directors by business	8	
• Auditors	5	
• Counselors	3	

3. Number of employees 376 (as of Feb. 1996)

Male	254
Female	122

4. Members' organizations and general representatives of JA

a. Number of branches	177
b. Number of general representatives	560

5. Affiliated organizations of JA

a. Production group	7 (Dairy, Pig raising, Poultry, Green tea plants, Horticulture)
---------------------	---

- b. Women's Association 16
- c. Youth Association 5 (3 commodity-wise groups)
- d. Financial committees 17
- e. Board of director 3 (General affairs, Finance & Mutual special committees insurance, Economic)
- f. Branch office 17 (Each branch office) management committees
- g. Agri. policy 252 (Except secretariat) promotion meeting

6. Other activities

a. Education· Information activities

- JA Tsukui-gun News

Publishing once a month ···· Public information committee

- Ayumi (Information letter for women) ···· Publishing 4 times a year
- Women's Association seminar ···· 4 times a year
- Regional training meeting

b. Better living activities

Three better living advisers of the coop are conducting the various activities for the benefits of the member farm families.

Cooking, flower arrangement, promoting reading circle by using the Ienohikari monthly magazine

Health control activity.

Health screening for the early prevention of such diseases as adult diseases, anemia, blood circulation, womb cancer and so on. Moreover, the health consultation service center is established in the central branch to complete the health examination activity thoroughly.

c. Consulting activities

- Taxation consultation ····· Full-time
- Law consultation ····· (Once a month)
- Car accident consultation ····· Full-time
- Financial consultation ····· Loans activities
- Farm guidance consultation ····· Farm advisors and veterinarian are full-time

- Farmers' pension consultation
- Marriage consultation 23 marriage consultants

Group activities (from march 1,1995 to feb. 29, 1996)

(No. of participants) (Handling turnover of JA)

Livestock	Dairy farming	(40)	747 million yen
	Pig raising	(8)	26 "
	Poultry farming	(8)	15 "
Agri. production	Horticulture	(39)	36 "
	Sericulture	(27)	11 "
	Green tea	(140)	47 "
	Plants· trees	(15)	19 "
	Foods	(40)	1 "
	Youth·Prime of manhood group	(30)	
	Consultation activities	(2,398)	Law, Taxation, Car accident
	Pensioner's club	(3,007)	
	Women's Association	(1,837)	16 organizations

Cultural activities (3,729) ① Study of culture, actual use of cultural advisors

Health care (2,164) ② Uterine, cancer, Lumbago, Medical check-up etc.

Farm successors seminar -(787) ③ Series training 4 times

Regional training meeting-(1,629) ④ Exchange meeting of branches

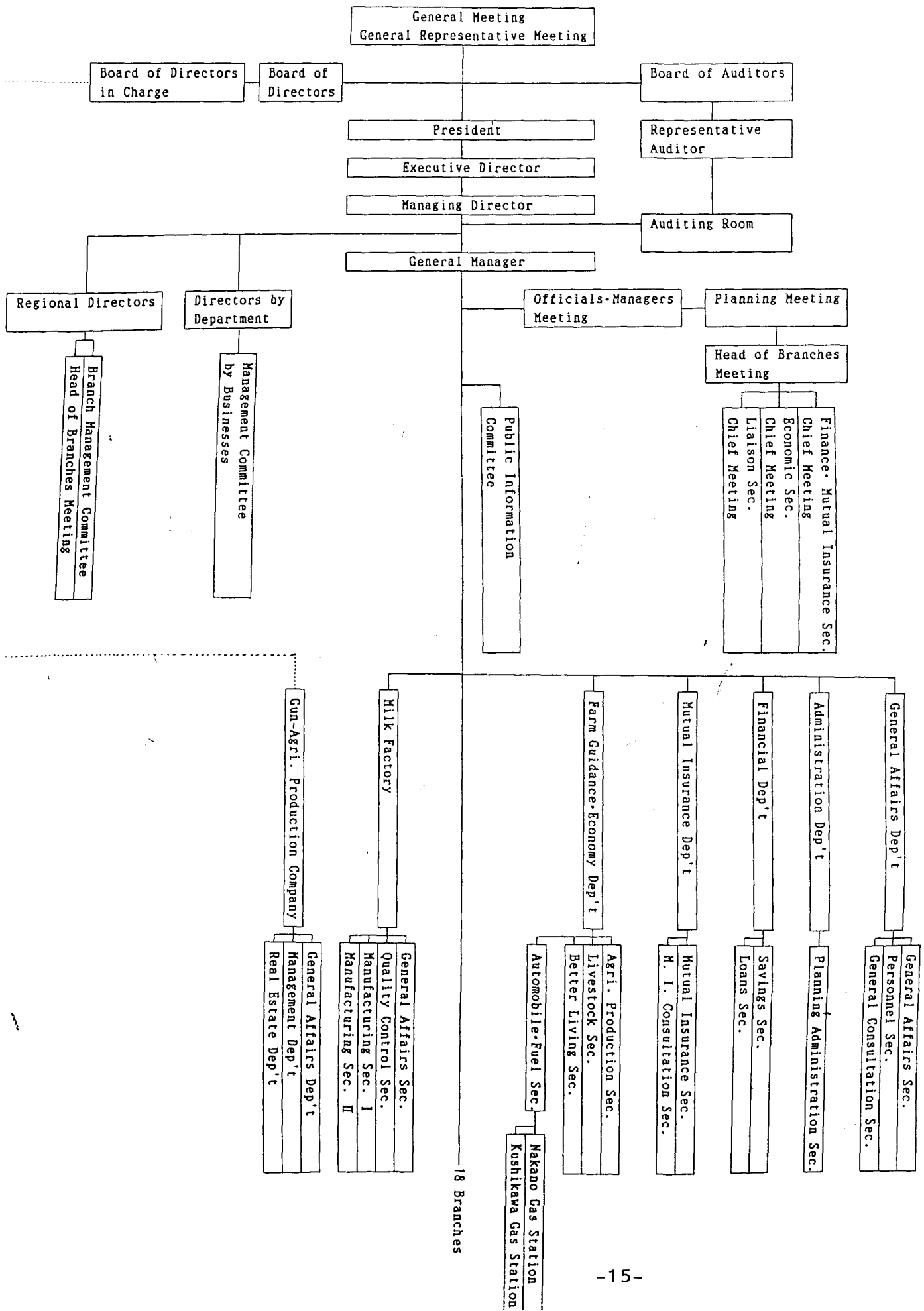
Stationing of staff

Main office·Milk factory						Branch offices		
Positions	Manager	Section chief	Deputy sec. chief	Employees	Branches	Head of branch	Deputy manager	Employees
General manager	-				Kawajiri branch	1	2	23
Auditing room		1	1	1	Harajuku "	1		10
General affairs dept.					Shonan "	1	1	5
General affairs sec.	1	1		12	Nakano "	1	1	20
Personnel sec.		1		1	Mitsui "	1		3
General consultation sec.		1		2	Chuo "	1	1	7
Administration dept.					Kushikawa "	1	1	16
Planning & admini. sec.	1	1		7	Toriya "	1	1	9
Financial dept.					Aonohara "	1	1	8
Saving sec.	1	1		7	Aone "	1		8
Loans sec.	(2)	1	1	5	Uchisato "	1	2	10
Mutual insurance dept.					Sagamiko "	1		14
Mutual insurance sec.	1	1		8	Chigira "	1	1	5
Mutual ins. consultation	(1)	1	1	3	Yoshino "	1		5
Farm guidance·Economic dept.					Fujino "	1		10
Agri. production sec.	1	1		6	Sanogawa "	1		5
Livestock sec.	1		1	7	Nichiren "	1		12
Consumer goods sec.	1			17	Makino "	1		10
Automobile· Fuel sec.		1	3	14	Total	18	11	180
Milk factory								
General affairs sec.	1		1	1				
Manufacturing sec.		2	2	20				
Quality control sec.		1		3				
Tax accountant office				4				
Gun Agri. production company	1	1	1	9				
Total	13	15	11	128				

As of Feb., 1996

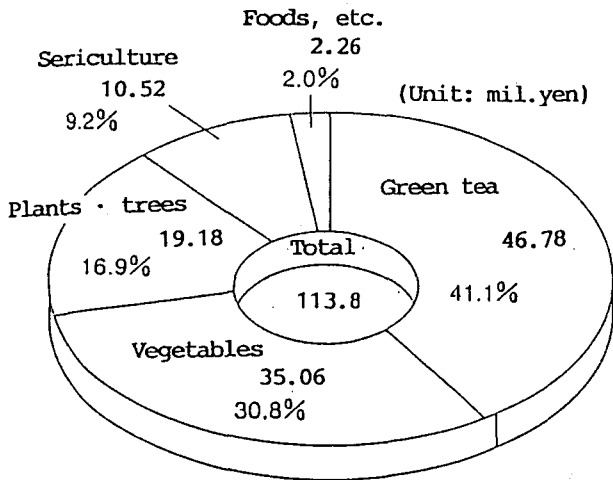
Total 376 persons

Organizational Structure of JA Tsukui-gun

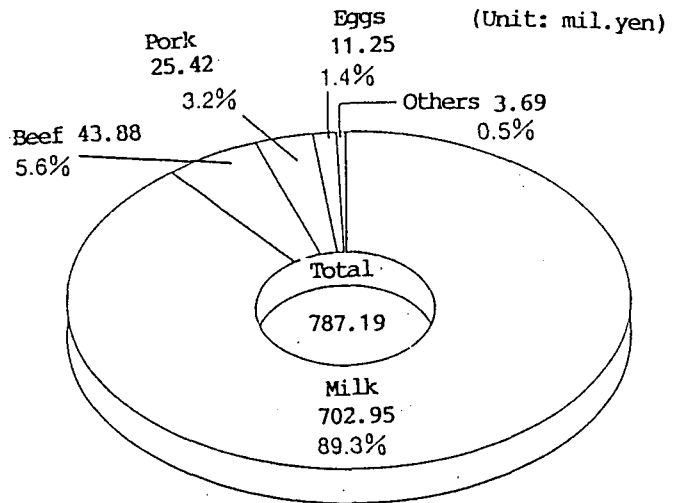


RESULTS AND CONTENTS OF EACH BUSINESS

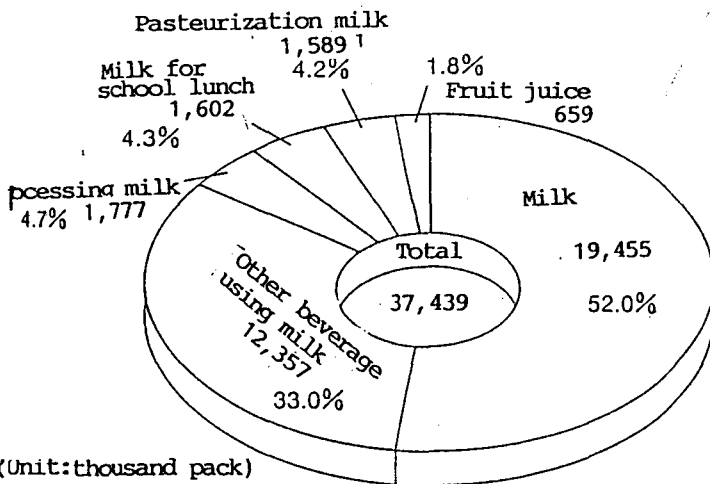
• Agri. production business



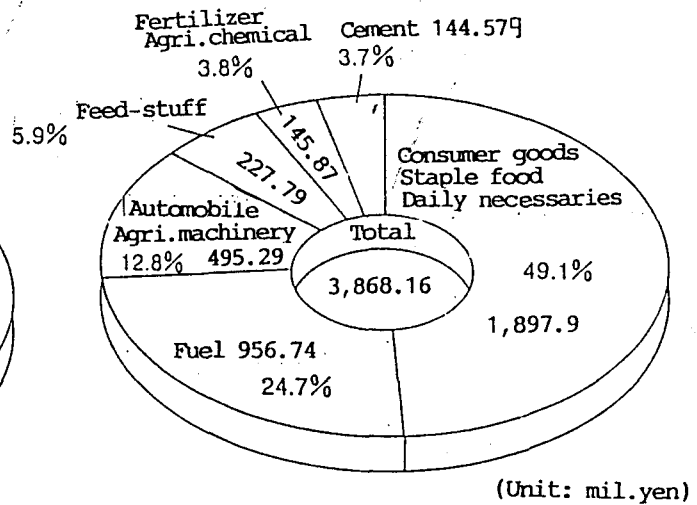
• Livestock business



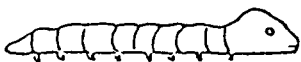
• Milk factory



• Purchasing business

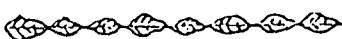


• Sericultural business



57,000 Cocoons

Green tea processing business



87,000kg

• Tractor business



16 ha

Dairy farming helper business



7,800 heads

(Unit: thousand yen)

Classification	Handling charge	Classification	Handling charge
Agri. products	3,303	Production materials	36,802
Livestock products	12,833	Consumer goods	565,516
Total	16,136	Total	602,318

The 21st RECA Seminar
From Aug. 23 to Sep.7, 1999 Tokyo Japan

The 9th ICA/Japan Training Course for
Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia
From Aug. 23 to Sep. 11, 1999 Tokyo Japan

History and Activities of Women's Association in Agricultural Cooperatives

September 2, 1999 (Thu)

By Mr. Teruyoshi Tanaka
Assistant General Manager,
National Council of
Women's Association of JA

The Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA)

1. History of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives

(1) The Background of establishment Women's Association

- Amid the Post-war upheaval

① The Situation of Farmers before the World War II

② Liberation of Farmers

- 1946 Land Reform

- 1947 Promulgation of Agricultural Cooperative Society Law

③ Liberation of Women

- Suffrage

- Organizations by Women

④ Impoverished Agriculture and Rural Communities

- Overpopulation

- Economic Recession

- Management Crunch of Agricultural Cooperatives

(2) Establishment of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives(1947~1951)

① Encouragement to Women to set up their organizations on their close terms

② Initiative taken by Agricultural Cooperatives

③ Establishment of National Council of Women's Associations in 1951

(3) Main Activities of the Associations at its inception

① Propagation and strengthening of the Associations

- Publication of Newsletter of the National Council

- Holding of the Council's Meeting on an district basis

② Better Living Activities

- Simplification on Ceremonial Occasions
- Improvement of Kitchen Facilities
- Improvement of Dietary Habit
- Family Planning
- ③ Diffusion of Monthly Magazine, IE-NO-HIKARI
- ④ Propagation of Saving Promotion Group of Women's Association

(4) Method of establishing the foundation of the Association

- ① Creating Song and Badge of the Association
- ② Problem of dullness of the Association
- ③ Definition of Characteristics of the Association
 - Promotion of the Agricultural Cooperative Movement
 - The Membership --- women from farm household
 - Voluntary Management
 - Organization by like-minded women
 - Politically Neutral
- ④ Holding of the 1st National Congress of Women Associations of Agricultural Cooperatives

(5) Measures for Expanding the Association

- ① Action launched for producing a movie of the Association
 - 3-year plan from 1957
 - Movie titled "Niguruma no Uta (the song of a cart)" favourably received
- ② Diversified Better Living Activities
 - Movement of creation of healthy communities
 - a. Family planning
 - b. Extermination of flies and mosquitoes
 - c. Extermination of parasitic worms
 - Holding of the 1st Report Presentation Meeting on Better Living Activities

《Themes for the Report》

“ Promotion of Use of Household Account Book for Better Living”

“ Joint Kichen Work”

“ Improved Public Bath and Washing Place by Women”

“ Saving Box for Simple Water Service”

“ Household Account Book and Improvement of Kichen”

“ Our Group Activities ”

“ Better Living Activities Firmely Established in Our Life”

“ Better Living Activities in Group”

③ Promotion of Hamlet-based Activities

④ Incorporating Young Wife into the Assiciation

6) Development of the Association and Its Activities (1960-1974)

(1) Measures for strengthening the Association

① Revision of “ The Five Fundamental Rules of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperative”and adoption of“Principles of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperative”

② Issuance of “ Handbook of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperative”

③ The 20th Anniversary of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperative (1971)

a. Song of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperative

b.Publication of the 20-year History of Women's Associations of Agricultural Cooperatives

④ National Speech Contest of Young Wives

(2) Improvement of Its Activities

① Better Living Activies

a.Movement of Life Planning

b.Patronaging Movement of A-Coop Commodities

c. Health Management Activities

d. Consumers' Movement

② Farm Management

a. Promotion of Farming Work Study Group and Joint Farming

b. Countermeasures against off-the-season temporary work outside

③ Lobbying Activities

a. Participation in the Headquarters for Rice Price Countermeasures of Agricultural Cooperatives

b. Active lobbying activities in cooperation with the Youth Association of Agricultural Cooperatives

④ Learning/Cultural Activities

a. Setting up the Month for Learning on a nation-wide basis

b. Hobby/Sports Activities

(3) Relation with other women's group

a. Cooperation with women's organizations in Japan

b. Exchange Programme with overseas countries

7) The Main Activities since 1975

(1) Promotion of Exchange Programme between Production Sites and Consumption Sites (1975~)

(2) Campaign for More Use of Powder Soap (1978~)

(3) Campaign for Reviewing Dietary Habit (1978~)

(4) Campaign for More Use of Statistics in Daily Life ~ Survey conducted on Household (1978~)

Account Book

(5) 10-yen Saving Campaign for Supply of Fresh and Safe Water to Children of the Cooperatives around the World (1985~1986)

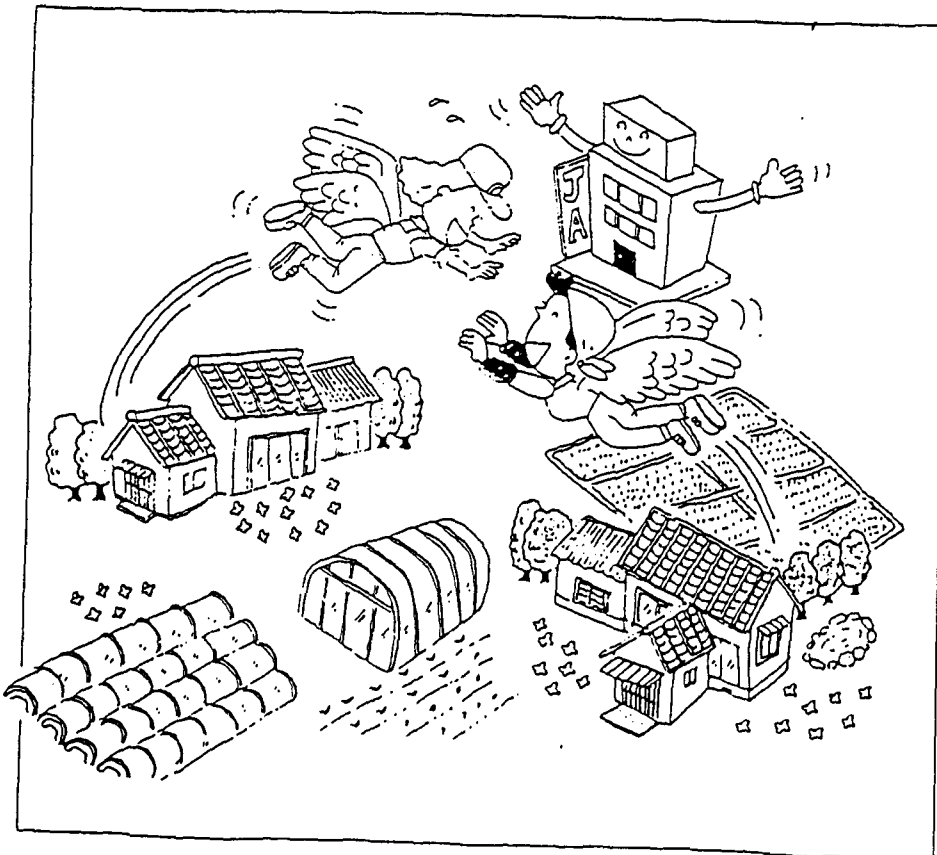
- (6) Donation Campaign for Relief of Starving People in Africa
(1985~1989)
- (7) Nationwide Campaign for Unity of Women with a slogan of “No More Teasing
(Discrimination) against Farmers and Show Women's Pride”
- (8) The Way to 21st Century for Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives
- (9) Drafting Sun-Sun Plan of National Council of Women's Associations of
Agricultural Cooperatives
- (10) Drafting Action Plan of 21st Century for JA Women

We are Members of JA (= Japan Agricultural Cooperative) Women's Associations

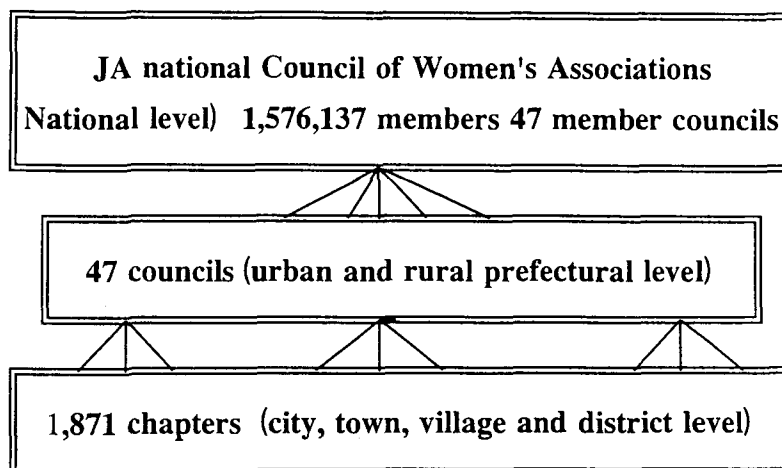
About JA Women's Associations

Our JA Women's Associations were organized primarily among women living in agricultural areas with the purpose of improving their social and economic status. Everyday we participate in JA activities and work in broad areas ranging from agriculture to the general improvement of regional lifestyle in closely-knit, cooperative societies.

Currently the organization counts 1,871 chapters and 1,576,137 members. These are led by a national council and lower councils in 47 urban and rural prefectures, bodies which collectively work to administer activities nationwide.



JA Women's Associations Organizational Diagram



The Development of JA Women's Associations

1. The Emergence of Agricultural Cooperative Associations

The period following World War II saw the implementation in Japan of policies aimed at democratization, spurring reform of agricultural land holding, recognition of women's rights and increasing organization of women in their own groups. Agricultural Cooperative

Women's Associations started to appear around 1948 and a national administration was formed in 1951.

While the early stages were difficult for the agricultural cooperative association, the JA

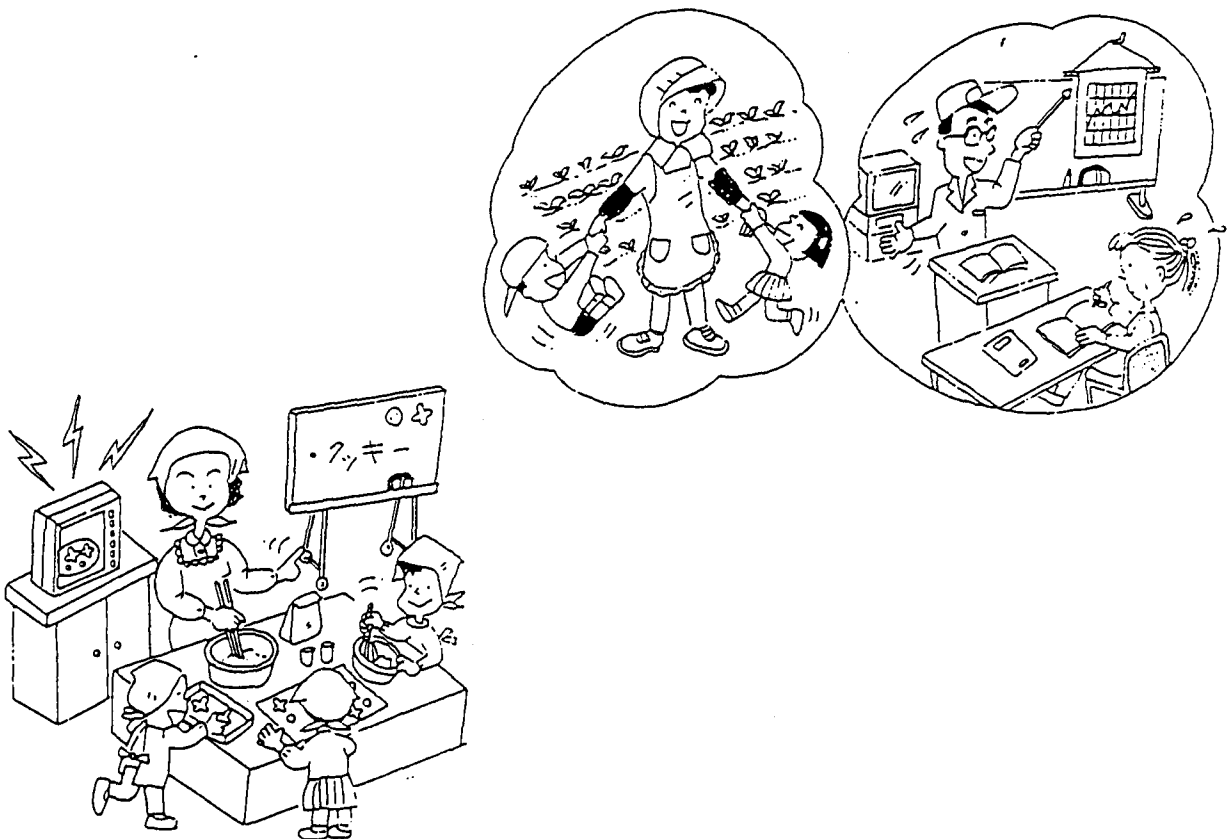
Women's Associations became a force in its rise by undertaking efforts to increase investment and encouraging savings.

To improve poor living conditions the JA Women's Associations actively mounted a campaign to share purchase costs of daily necessities, for example, matches and sugar, and improve

kitchen conditions y setting up small water supply systems, providing improved kitchen ranges and controlling vermin. Other programs to aid people focused on birth control, teaching management of family finances and cooking for better nutrition at a time when foods fell short of satisfying the needs of people who had to perform hard work. The benefits of these efforts soon became apparent.

Together with its activities, the organization's management grew stronger. An official song and badge were adopted. Membership reached a peak of 3.44 million people in 1958.

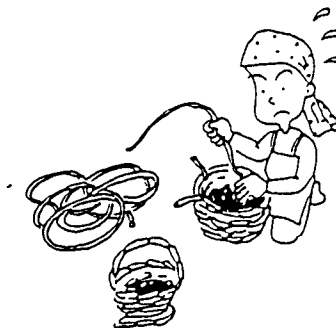
A movie was independently produced with funds generated by 10-yen contributions from members. Called "Niguruma No Uta (Song of a Cart)" it tells the story of a woman who gets married, deals with her children's illnesses, husband's infidelity, mother-in-law's abuse and the deprivations of wartime before finally finding happiness in her later years. The film was released and drew a very positive response among theatergoers.



2. Growth

As activities increased, the nature of the efforts undertaken diversified in hand with changing lifestyles. A list of primary activities launched on a national level is as follows.

- * Announcement of results of organizational activities with objective of learning from superior examples (1963~)
- * Nationally uniform “Agricultural Cooperative Women's Associations Pocketbook” issued. (1969~)
- * “Young Wives' Suggestions” national contest introduced to make the best use of young members' ideas (1974~)
- * Joint activities by women on the production side and women on the consumption side implemented to improve understanding between producers and consumers. (1975~)
- * Living conditions from the point of view of housekeeping guides surveyed to reevaluate living standards. (1978~)
- * Campaign launched to encourage use of environmentally-friendly detergents (1978~)
- * Fund-raising campaign launched , calls for contributions of 10-yen coins under the theme “Clean Water for the Children of the World's Cooperative Associations.” People of Sri Lank presented water well (1979)
- * Fund-raising campaign mounted to relieve starvation in Africa; food warehouse built in Caboverde. (1985)
- * National campaign calls for promises to be written on “ori-zuru” folded-paper cranes. Theme of “That's enough! Unfair to farmers. Let's respond to women's feelings” aimed at preserving food production and farm life (1988)
- *“ A campaign for Supporting Flooded District in North Korea” was launched and 64 tons of rice were sent to North Korea.



JA Women's Associations undertakes activities such as these

- ◇ Let's join agricultural cooperative associations as formal union members and work to become officials of the associations.

At present 60% of the people working in Japan's agriculture are women but less than 13% of the regular members of agricultural cooperative associations are women. among directors the share is slightly over 0.1%.

We are seeking to overcome the roles concept providing that "women are for work and policy making is for men" We need joint management of agricultural cooperative associations.

- ◇ Let's rebuild Japan's agriculture and produce safe, good quality food.



Outcomes of the GATT Uruguay Round of Talks undermined import controls even on rice, our staple food. Here in Japan, the world's leading importer of food, we are building regional agriculture and improving cooperation with consumers.

Objectives include raising Japan's self-sufficiency in food production, positioning food as "source of life," and encouraging healthy dietary habits suited to the Japanese lifestyle.

◇ Let's build a pleasant homeland where the elderly can live without worry.

There are many women today who find it difficult to support themselves when old because of inadequate social security and the fact that they worked without salary when younger.

To avoid such a fate, people advancing in years must be cared for with a better system. They must also carefully plan their lives with the intention of maintaining economic independence in later years.

We take measures readily at hand to make life in our regions agreeable to elderly people. We mount campaign to promote communications with them, and provide meal services and care programmes for their benefit

◇ Let's protect regional and global environment.

We constantly urge people to switch to environmentally-friendly detergents, stop the waste of resources and cooperate with recycling programmes.

Further, as producers, we pursue agriculture that is gentle to nature and we seek to perpetuate cultivation through better soils and less use of agricultural chemicals.



◇ Let's strengthen our Association by tackling the above 4 action plans.

we will vitalise the association, make efforts to promote joining of new members and also fostering young wife leaders.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES (J A)

(1/2)

YEAR (Month)	HISTORY OF JA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION	YEAR (Month)	HISTORY OF WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
1947 (Nov.)	Agri. Coop. Society Law is promulgated	1945 (Oct.)	Gov't decides provision of women's suffrage.
1949 (Apr.)	Guideline of Agri. Coop's Activities is adopted, and Emphasis is placed on Necessity of Education for Women	1949 (Apr.)	The 1st Women's Week is launched.
1951 (Apr.) (Jun.)	Nat'l Council of Women's Group is organized.	1950 (Oct.)	The Alliance for Protection of Women's Rights is organized.
1952	1st News Letter from the Nat'l Council is issued.	1952 (Mar.)	The Federation of Housewives adopts a campaign for ration of one-go (0.18 l) -for-one person-per day rice
1955 (Sep.) (Dec.)	The Song and Badge for Women's Association is adopted	(Jul.)	The Nat'l Federation of Regional Housewives is organized.
1958 (Mar.)	The Five Fundamental Rules are adopted	1953 (Mar.)	The 1st report presentation is made on achievement of improvement of rural life.
	The 1st National Congress of the association is held	(Apr.)	Japan Federation of Women is organized.
1959 (Jan.)	The Council is changed into the Nat'l Council of Women's Association./ The Membership reaches a peak of 3.44 mil.	1954 (Feb.)	The Regular Nat'l Congress of Women adopts resolution for banning prostitution
1960 (Dec.)	Movie "A Song of the Cart" is produced by the Council	1955 (Jun.) (Jul.)	The Council of anti-traditional family system is set up.
1963 (Jan.)	President and others of the Council attends the 8th Nat'l Congress of Agri. Coops.	1956 (Jun.) (Dec.)	The 1st Japan Mothers Congress is held.
1967 (Apr.)	Presentation of Achievement of the Activities	1957 (Feb.)	Representatives from Japan attends the World Congress of Mothers
	The Council joins Headquarters of Rice Price Countermeasures of Agri. Coops.	1959 (Sep.)	The 1st World Conference of Women Labourers is held.
	The Five Fundamental Rules are revised and New Principles of Women's Associations of Agri. Coops. is adopted.		The Nat'l Council of Consumers Groups is organized.
1969 (Feb.)	Standard version of Handbook of Women's Associations of Agri. Coops. is issued.		The 1st Consumers' Congress is held.
1970 (Oct.)	The Basic Concept of Better Living is adopted at the 12th Nat'l Congress of Agri. Coops.		The Nat'l Council of Women's Associations of Fisheries Coops. is organized
1973 (Dec.)	The Council attends the Meeting of the Association of Asian Rural Medicine	1964 (Mar.)	The Nat'l Study Council of Life Improvement Groups is organized.
1974	The 1st Nat'l Speech Contest of Young Wife of Agri. Coop.	1965 (Dec.)	National Congress for anti-Commodity Price Hike is held.
1975 (Oct.)	Discussion starts on woman's membership in Agri. Coops. Women's Exchange programmes are launched between production sites and Consumptions sites.	1966 (Dec.)	The Tokyo Dist. Court judges after-the-marriage retirement system for women as unconstitutional.
		1970 (May)	Household Labour Law is enacted.
		1971 (Jul.)	Akita Bank is in court struggle on unequal payment to men and women

YEAR (Month)	HISTORY OF JA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION	YEAR (Month)	HISTORY OF WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
1977 (Jan.)	Proposal is made to strengthen dialogue with Agri. Coops.	1972 (Feb.)	Nationwide people's Meeting is organized in opposition to commodity price hike
1978 (Oct.)	Survey on the Actual Situation of Life is conducted based on household account book	1973 (Nov.)	Oil crisis breaks out. People rushed to buy toilet paper for stock.
1979	10-yen Community Chest Campaign is launched for "Clean and Safe Water for Children of Coops. of the World."	1974 (Nov.)	The 1st Nat'l Meeting against the Use of Synthetic Detergent
1980 (Sep.)	Representatives of the Council attends Women's Seminar of South East Asian Region organized by ICA.	1975 (Jun.)	The 1st World Conference for the Year of Women is held in Mexico.
1982 (Feb.)	"Guideline for fostering Youth and Women's Associations of Agri. Coops. is drafted by Central Union of Agri. Coops.	1977 (Oct.)	The Ministry of Education establishes National Hall of Women's Education.
1985 (Sep.)	Donation campaign for relief of starving people in Africa is carried out.	1979 (Jun.)	Japan Society of Women is set up.
1986 (Sep.)	"3-Year Plan for Revitalization of Regional Activities by Women's Associations of Agri. Coops." is drafted.	1980 (Jul.)	The 1st World Conference for the Year of Women is held in Denmark
1988 (Nov.)	Long-term Policy of Women's Associations Activities of Agri. Coops., "The Way toward the 21st Century of Women's Associations is drafted."	1985 (Nov.)	Japan Congress for Int'l Decade of Women is held to adopt Action Programmes for the Goal for improving social status of women.
1989 (Oct.)	Representatives of the Council make the first attendance at Women's Committee of ICA.	1986 (Apr.)	The Law for Equal Employment Opportunities for Men and Women is promulgated.
1990 (Apr.) (Nov.)	"Sun-Sun Plan of the Council" is launched. Bulletin, "Fureai (Heart-to-Heart Contact)" is published for members of the Associations.	1989 (Apr.)	The Consumption Tax is introduced.
1992 (May)	New nickname, "JA Women's Association" is adopted.	1992 (Jun.)	The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries announces a policy for "Toward 21st Century of Women in Farming and Fishing Villages."
1994 (Nov.)	The 1st Nat'l. Exchange Meeting of Fresh Mrs. is held.	(Oct.)	ICACongress on Women is held in Tokyo.
1995 (May) (Oct.)	The Council changes its name as JA Nat'l Council of Women's Associations. The Principles and the Fundamental Rules of JA Women's Associations are revised.	1994 (Oct.)	Women's Forum of East Asia is held.
1996 (May)	"5-Year Plan toward 21st Century-Goal for JA Women's Associations	1995 (Sep.)	The 4th UN World Conference of Women is held in Beijing, China. submitted by the Promotion Council for Joint Participation of Men and Women
		1996 (Jul.)	"Vision for Joint Participation of Men and Women" is submitted by the Promotion Council for Joint Participation of Men and Women.
		(Dec.)	The Year 2000 Plan for Promotion of Joint Participation of Men and Women is decided by the Promotion Council.

The 21st RECA Seminar
From Aug. 23 to Sep.7, 1999 Tokyo Japan

The 9th ICA/Japan Training Course for
Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia
From Aug. 23 to Sep. 11, 1999 Tokyo Japan

Outline of Activities of Women's Association of
JA Tsukui-gun

September 2, 1999 (Thu)

Ms. Masami Sugimoto
Better Living Advisor
JA Tsukui-gun

Women's Association of JA Tsukuigun
Membership -- 17 groups, 2,277 members

Report of activities in fiscal 1993

1. Organizational activities

- (1) General meeting 28th April, 1993
138 representatives of women's association have participated
- (2) Board of directors meeting 6 times, participation ratio 92.5%
Director of Women's Association -- 17
Women Director of JA Tsukuigun -- 1
- (3) Publication of members news letter 'Ayumi'
-- 4 times
- (4) Gathering of Better Living Group of Women's Association
-- 41 times, participated by 1,483 members
- (5) Seminar for fostering successors of Women's Association
40 participants
- (6) Participation in Agri. Coop Festival 14th November
Bazar -- 464 items sales 188,500 yen
- (7) Assistance to children in Russia with garments
-- 200 boxes
- (8) Study visit to welfare facilities
-- 14 directors
- (9) Exchange meeting with IDACA participants
-- 26 leaders of agricultural cooperatives in overseas
- (10) Relief fund to earthquake stricken area in Hokkaido
-- 1,628,805 yen
- (11) Campaign to prevent import of rice October
-- 1,924 people signed

2. Consumers Activities

- (1) Survey on living situation
- (2) Survey on price
- (3) Cooking class 16 groups 49 times
- (4) Contest of home made soy bean paste
- (5) Ayumi Saving Campaign 571 members 14,481,896 yen
(25,362 yen per member)
- (6) Prefectural study meeting on joint purchase of fresh foods
-- 4 times
- (7) Study meeting on joint purchasing of soap -- 28 participants
- (8) JA Environment Protection Congress --60 participants

3. Better Living Culture Activities

- (1) Environment protection
 - ⊙ Making a soap from used cooking oil
 - ⊙ Collection of milk pack
 - ⊙ Making a fertilizer from used cooking oil
- (2) Adoption of cultural life advisor system
- (3) Cooking class for New Year's Day Foods
-- 35 places, 418 participants
- (4) Volley ball contest 11 teams, 256 players
- (5) Diffusion of 'Boruketto Ball'
- (6) Dissemination of health vegetable 'Jues Mellow'
-- distribution of 4,277 seedlings

(7) Ie-No-Hikari Association Activities

① Annual circulation Ie-No-Hikari --- 13,043
Chijo --- 252
Chagurin --- 1,207

② Ie-No-Hikari Congress

County congress -- 201 persons

Prefectural congress-- 39 persons

③ Diffusion of family account book 1,480

4. Health Control Activities

(1) General over view

◎ JA health screening 78 times 2,237 persons were examined
(Examination of osteoporosis symptom was introduced this year)

◎ One night stay complete check at hospital 385 persons

(2) Result of health screening

Adult disease	962 persons	, Reexamination	(57.7%)
Stomach	534	" "	(11.6%)
Uterine cancer	479	" "	(5.2%)
Bone marrow	235	" "	(28.9%)
Breast	19	" "	(42.1%)
Back pain	8	" "	(12.5%)

(3) Health Education

① Follow-up of health screening 18 times, 523 persons

(4) Committee meeting for promotion of health control activities
- 60 participants

(5) Use of automatic blood pressure meter
-- 7,394 times

(6) Rainbow dance
-- 28 times 259 participants

(7) Qualification of 3rd grade home helper by Ministry of Health and Welfare -- 4 persons

5. Expenses of the Women's Association

Total income	10,769,003 yen
Member fee 2,500x¥300	750,000
Assistance from JA for activities of Women's	4,545,000
Assistance from JA for health control activity	5,455,000
Surplus fund transferred from last year	19,003
Total expenses	10,769,003 yen

The 21st RECA Seminar
From Aug. 23 to Sep.7, 1999 Tokyo Japan

The 9th ICA/Japan Training Course for
Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia
From Aug. 23 to Sep. 11, 1999 Tokyo Japan

History of the Women's Association of Agricultural
Cooperatives in Japan About JA Women's Association

September 2, 1999 (Thu)

Ms. Teruyoshi Tanaka
Assistant General Manager
National Council of
Women's Association of JA

1. A Background for Establishment of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives

-In the movements of the post war period-

- (1) Situation of farmers before the World War II.
- (2) Liberalization of farmers
 - 1) 1946 Agricultural Land Reform
 - 2) 1947 Enactment of the Agricultural Cooperative Society Law
- (3) Liberalization of women
 - 1) Right for election
 - 2) Organizing women
- (4) Impoverished agriculture and village community
 - 1) Over population
 - 2) Economic recession
 - 3) Management difficulties in agricultural Cooperatives

2. Establishment of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives (1947~ 1951)

- (1) Organizing women among immediate circles
- (2) Initiatives taken by agricultural cooperatives
- (3) Establishment of National Liaison Council of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives in 1951

3. Contents of the activities in the initial stage

- (1) Dissemination and strengthening the organization
 - 1) Publication of News Bulletin of National Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenkoku Nokyo Fujin Dayori)
 - 2) Holding council meetings at each district
- (2) Better living activities
 - 1) Simplification of wedding and funeral ceremony
 - 2) Improvement of Kitchen utensils
 - 3) Improvement of dieting habits

- 4) Birth control
 - (3) Dissemination of monthly magazine "Ie-no-hikari"
(Light of a house)
 - (4) Extension of saving groups in women's associations
4. Measures taken in order to establish organizational bases
- (1) Song for Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives,
Badge for members of Women's Association of Agricultural
Cooperatives
 - (2) Tasks for purification of the organization
 - (3) Decision of the character of Women's Association of
Agricultural Cooperatives
 - 1) Promotion of agricultural cooperative movement
 - 2) Members are to be the farming women
 - 3) Autonomous management
 - 4) Solidarity
 - 5) Political neutrality
 - (4) Holding the 1st National Congress of Women's Association of
Agricultural Cooperatives
5. Measures taken for expansion of the organization (1957~ 1959)
- (1) Movement to produce movie film by women's association
 - 1) 3 years movement from 1957
 - 2) High reputations for the film "Niguruma no uta"
 - (2) Diversified better living activities
 - 1) Movement to create healthy village
 - a. Family planning
 - b. Destruction of mosquitoes and flies
 - c. Destruction of parasitic worms
 - 2) Holding the 1st Report Meeting on Better Living Activities
of Agricultural Cooperatives

-Themes for report-

- "Book Keeping activities for better living"
- "Joint cooking"
- "Common bath and laundry place improved by women"
- "Piggy bank saving and establishment of a symple water supply system"
- "Book Keeping and improvement of Kitchen utensils"
- "Our group activities"
- "Better living activities stabilized"
- "Better living in a group activity"

3) Encouraging hamlet level activities

4) Grouping young wives

6. Development of the organization and the activities (1960~1974)

(1) Measures for strengthening the organization

- 1) Revision of "5 Principles of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives" and setting up "Plat form for Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives"
- 2) Publication of unified "Pocket Notebook for Women's Association"
- 3) 20 years anniversary for establishment of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives (1971)
 - a. Song of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives
 - b. Publication of "20 years History of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives"
- 4) Implementation of National Speech Contest for young wives

(2) Fulfilling the contents of the activities

- 1) Better living activities
 - a. Campaign for life designing
 - b. Campaign to use A-Coop brand commodities
 - c. Health care activities
 - d. Consumers activities

- 2) Farm management activities
 - a. Study meeting on farming works by women and promotion of joint farming works
 - b. Measures to prevent seasonal works

- 3) Agricultural lobbying activities
 - a. Participation in the Head Office of Measures for Rice of Agricultural Cooperatives
 - b. Possitive agricultural lobbying activities tied up with Youth Association of Agricultural Cooperatives

- 4) Study Caltural activities
 - a. Establishment of a month to promote study meetings unified in a nation
 - b. Hobby and sports activities

(3) Relationship with other women's groups

- 1) Collaboration with womens groups in Japan
- 2) Exchange with overseas

7. Major activities after 1975

- (1) Project for promotion of exchanges between producing areas and consumption areas (1975~)
- (2) Campaign to use powder soap (1978~)
- (3) Campaign to review dieting habit (1978~)
- (4) Campaign to use statistics for living (1978~)
 - Survey on livings by the results of book Keeping-
- (5) Campaign to secure clean water for children in the cooperatives in the world (1979)
 - Saving 10 yen campaign-
- (6) Campaign to donate money for helping famine in Africa (1985~1989)
- (7) "Stop bullying farmer, let's appeal sprits of rural women" as a motto, the national campaign to unify the organizations was promoted
- (8) Drafting "Ways to 21st Century of Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives -Long-term Policy of Women's Association"

Appendix I. History of Women's Association of Agricultural
Cooperatives and Agricultural Cooperatives

- 1947 Nov. Enactment of Agricultural Cooperatives Society Law
- 1949 Apr. Deciding "Policy for Agricultural Cooperataive
Activities" in the National Guidance Federation of
Agricultural Cooperatives (Former organization of
C.U.A.C) and needs for education of farming women was
emphasized
- 1950 May "National Liaison Committee for Better Living and
Culture Activities for Farming Village" started
publicity activities for Women's Association of Agri.
Coops.
- 1951 Apr. Establishment of National Laison Council of Women's
Association of Agri. Coops.
- Jun. Publication of "National Women's Association of Agri.
Coops. News"
- Dec. Holding the 1st General Meeting of National Liaison
Council of Women's Association of Agri. Coops.
- 1952 Song of Women's Association of Agri. Coops. and the
symbol mark were decided
- 1953 Campaign for using Kumiai brand commodities started
- 1955 Sep. Decision of 5 principles of Women's Association of
Agricultural Cooperataives
- Dec. Holding the 1st National Congress of Women's
Association of Agricultural Cooperatives
- 1958 Mar. Reorganization of National Council of Women's
Association of Agri. Coops.

Number of the member was 3,440,000 at peak

- 1959 Jan. Completion of movie film "Niguruma no Uta" produced by women's associations
- This activities was started in 1957 with contribution of 10 yen per member and the fund was targeting 32 million yen. Some members contributed by kinds such as eggs, straw, papers for recycle use. It had played a big role to strengthen the organization.
- 1960 Dec. President of National Council of Women's Association of Agri. Coops. and other women leaders participated in the 8th National Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives for the first time.
- 1961 Nov. 9th National Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives resolved to vitalize better living activities by agricultural cooperatives.
- 1963 Jan. Report meeting for the results of activities by women's associations of Agricultural Cooperatives was held.
- 1967 Apr. National Council of Women's Association of Agri. Coops. joined the Head Office of measures for rice of Agri. Coops.
- May Revision of "5 principles of Women's Associations of Agri. Coops. " and decision of "Platform of Women's Associations of Agri. Coops." at the 17th General Meeting of The National Council of Women's Associations of Agri. Coops.
- 1969 Feb. Unified handbook of Women's Association of Agri. Coops. was published
- 1970 Apr. Okinawa Prefectural Council of Women's Association of Agri. Coops. joined the National Council
- Oct. "Basic Policy for Better Living Activities" was

resolved at the 12th National Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives

- 1971 Dec. 20 years anniversary for women's association "song for Women's Assn."
- 1973 Dec. National Council of Women's Association of Agri. Coops. Participated in the 1st Rural Medical Academy in Asia.
Campaign to use A-Coop brand commodities started
- 1974 1st National speech contest for young wives.
- 1975 Discussion started to encourage women to be regular member of agri. coops.
Initiation of mutual exchanges between producing areas and consuming areas.
- 1977 Suggestion for strengthening ties with Agri. Coops.
- 1978 Mar. Campaign to use powder soap. Campaign to review dieting habits started.
- Oct. Starting survey on living of farmhouseholds by book keeping.
- 1979 Mar. Developing campaign for 10 yen coin savings to supply clean water to children in the world cooperatives.
- 1980 Sep. Representative of N.C.W.A.A.C. participated in the ICA Regional seminar for Women leaders held in Sri Lanka.
- 1981 Jan. 26th National Congress of Women's Association of Agri. Coops. made agreement on women participation in Agricultural Cooperatives as regular members.
- 1982 Feb. C.U.A.C. decided policies for fostering Youth Associations and Women's Associations of Agri. Coops.
- 1985 Sep. Campaign for releasing African Countries from

starvation 200 million yen were donated.

- 1986 Sep. Drafting "3 year Plan for Vitalizing Local Activities of Women's Association of Agri. Coops."
- 1988 Jul. "Stop bullying farmer, let's appeal sprits of rural women as a motto, the national campaign to unify the organizations was promoted.
- Nov. Decision of "Ways to 21st century of Women's Association of Agri. Coops. - Long-term policy of Women's Associations"
- 1989 Oct. Participation in the ICA Women's Committee for the first time.
- 1990 may Drafting a plan to strengthen Women's Association by N.C.W.A.A.C.
- 1990 Nov. First publication of news bulletin "Fureai" for all members of Women's Associations of Agri. Coops.
- 1991 Jan. Initiating study meeting campaign for 3' million members of Women's Association of Agri. Coops.

Appendix II Progress of society and women's activities

- 1945 Oct. Right to election for women was decided.
- 1949 Apr. The 1st women's week implemented.
- 1950 Oct. Establishment of Alliance for Protection of Human Right for Women.
- 1952 Mar. Decision of campaign to consume rice under control 1 Gou (0.18 liters) for 1 person every day by House Wives Federation (Shufuren)
- Jul. Establishment of National Federation of Regional Women's Groups.
- 1953 Mar. 1st National Report Meeting for improving living in rural area.
- Apr. Establishment of Japan Federation of Women's Organizations (FUDANREN)
- Aug. House Wives Federation Started 10 yen Soybean Curd Campaign
- 1954 Feb. National Congress for Women held in the occasion of enactment of the Anti-Prostitution Law
- Nov. Establishment of the council to oppose recovery of the family system
- 1955 Jun. The 1st Japan Mothers Congress
- Jul. Participantion in the World Mothers Congress
- 1956 Apr. 1st Congress for Working Women
- June 1st International Conference for Working Women
- Dec. Establishment of National Council of Consumers

organizations

- 1957 Feb. 1st National Consumers Congress
- 1959 Sep. Establishment of National Council of Women's
Association of Fisheries Cooperatives
- 1964 Mar. Establishment of Study Circle Liaison Meeting for
better living groups
- 1965 Dec. National Congress to oppose price hike
- 1966 Dec. Tokyo Local Court judged the system to ritire after
marriage agaist the constitution
- 1968 Jun. Holding the 1st women's consumers cooperative school
- 1970 May Enactment of Home Industry Law
- Sep. 5 consumers groups refrained to buy Coloured T.V.
Sets
- 1971 Jul. Akita bank brougth the issue of equal wage for man and
woman to the court
- 1972 Feb. National Congress to oppose price hike
- 1973 Nov. Shortage of toilet paper--- people rushed to stores
- 1974 Nov. National Congress to stop use of chemical detergent
- 1975 Jun. International Women's Year World Congress
- 1976 Jan. Ms. Nobuko Takahashi Shuffled to the Deputy Secretary
General of I.L.O.
- 1977 Oct. National Women Education Hall was established by
Ministry of Education
- 1979 Jun. Establishment of Japan Women's Academy

- Oct. National Congress to oppose sales tax
- 1980 Jul. World congress for International Women's Year
- 1985 Nov. "U.N. 10 years for Women" Japan Congress--- action target to improve status was resolved
- 1986 Apr. Enactment of Law to Protect Equal Oppotumity of Employment for Men and Women
- 1989 Apr. Adoption of sales tax

The 9th ICA/Japan Training Course for Rural Women
Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia
From Aug. 23 to Sep. 11, 1999

*Ways to enhance Members' Participation as well as to
establish closer relationship between Members and JA*

September 6 (Mon), 1999

By Mr. Takashi Kuno
Section Chief,
Planning & Publicity Section
Planning & Administration Dept.
JA Higashi-chita

1. Basic idea for members' activities

Members' activities are bases of organizational activities and thus each group activities are carried out with voluntary participation as base. Therefore, each activity or event is planned and operated by members based upon the steering committee system. (JA staff always should work as stagehand.)

We have been implementing a lot of face to face exchange programs and events in which all the family can participate by giving importance to each area's local unique characteristics.

2. Members' organization of JA Higashi-chita

*Organizational activities are to be carried out at branch office level. (21 branches)

*Organizations in each area

- ① Kumiai (Cooperative) group --- Hamlet organization (174 groups, regular members only)
- ② Women's Associations --- Women's Organization (477 groups, 4,573 people, regular/
associate members)
- ③ Genki (lively) group --- Elderly people's organization (306 groups, 10,132 people, regular/
associate members)
- ④ Wellness Golf Club --- Users organization (21 regions, 1,846 people)

3. Activities by organizations

1) Kumiai (Cooperative) group

* Kumiai (Cooperative) group discussion meeting

--- Once a year for all regular members and is to be held at 76 places,
(Report of JA's business activities and explanation of business policy)

* Kumiai (Cooperative) group chairpersons' meeting

--- Once a month (Proposal and report on JA's business activities, discussion on the whole activities in the region)

* Events for family --- Participation of all the family (Branch office festival, walking events, barbecue party, study bus tour)

2) Women's association

* Chairperson's meeting --- Once a month (Proposal and report of JA's business activities, Discussion for activities)

* Activities by objection --- On occasion (411 groups, welfare for elderly people, joint purchasing, environmental problems, sports, hobbies, etc.)

3) Genki (lively) group

- * Chairpersons' meeting --- Once a month (Proposal & report on JA's business activities, Discussion for activities)
- * Activities of contribution for the region --- Cleaning of public places, guidance for school farm, transmittance of farming culture to next generation)
- * Other activities --- Lecture on health care, recreation tour, theater going ,golf tournament, walking rally)

4) Wellness golf club

- * Regional tournament (on occasion), Area tournament (highly ranked people at the regional tournament), Whole area tournament (highly ranked people at the area tournament)
- * Special tournament (The 25th anniversary of amalgamation memorial tournament, Participation of 1,213 people)

4. Other cultural exchange activities

1) Lecture meeting, Concert, Drama, Musical

- * About 10 times a year (not free of charge, mainly for all the residents)

2) Life and cultural lecture

- * 11 classes, 195 lectures, 2,315 audiences (with charge, for all the residents)

3) P.R. activities

- * Publication of cooperative news letter (for all members, issuing once a month, distributed by JA for each member household)
- * Community news letter (for all the residents, 6 times a year, a bill in papers)

4) Activities for children (for all children within the jurisdiction of JA)

- Jamboly (to gain an experience of nature and life in a group, 3days tour, 120 people participated)
- * Holding of summer school (experience farming, observation of JA's facilities, during summer vacation, from 20 primary school, about 900 children participated.The JA's bus was utilized.)
- *Provision of assistance for school owned farm (guidance on management of paddy and upland field to primary schools and subsidy for their farming activities
- *Competition of poster, calligraphy, pictures in summer vacation --- 11,000 works applied)
- *School boy baseball tournament (21 teams participated)
- *School boy food ball tournament (23 teams participated)

5) Study tour by JA bus (for members' organizations)

* Implementation of study tour by members various organizations using a bus owned by JA (using bus is free of charge)

*Approximately 357 organizations, 11,854 people participation in total.

ZENKYOREN

National Mutual Insurance Federation
of
Agricultural Cooperatives

SEP. - 7, 1999

General Affairs Department

Insurance Market in Japan

1. Private life insurance companies

46 (43 domestic, 3 foreign)

2. Private non-life insurance companies

63 (33 domestic, 30 foreign)

3. Postal life insurance

1 (government insurance provided through post offices)

4. Co-operative insurance

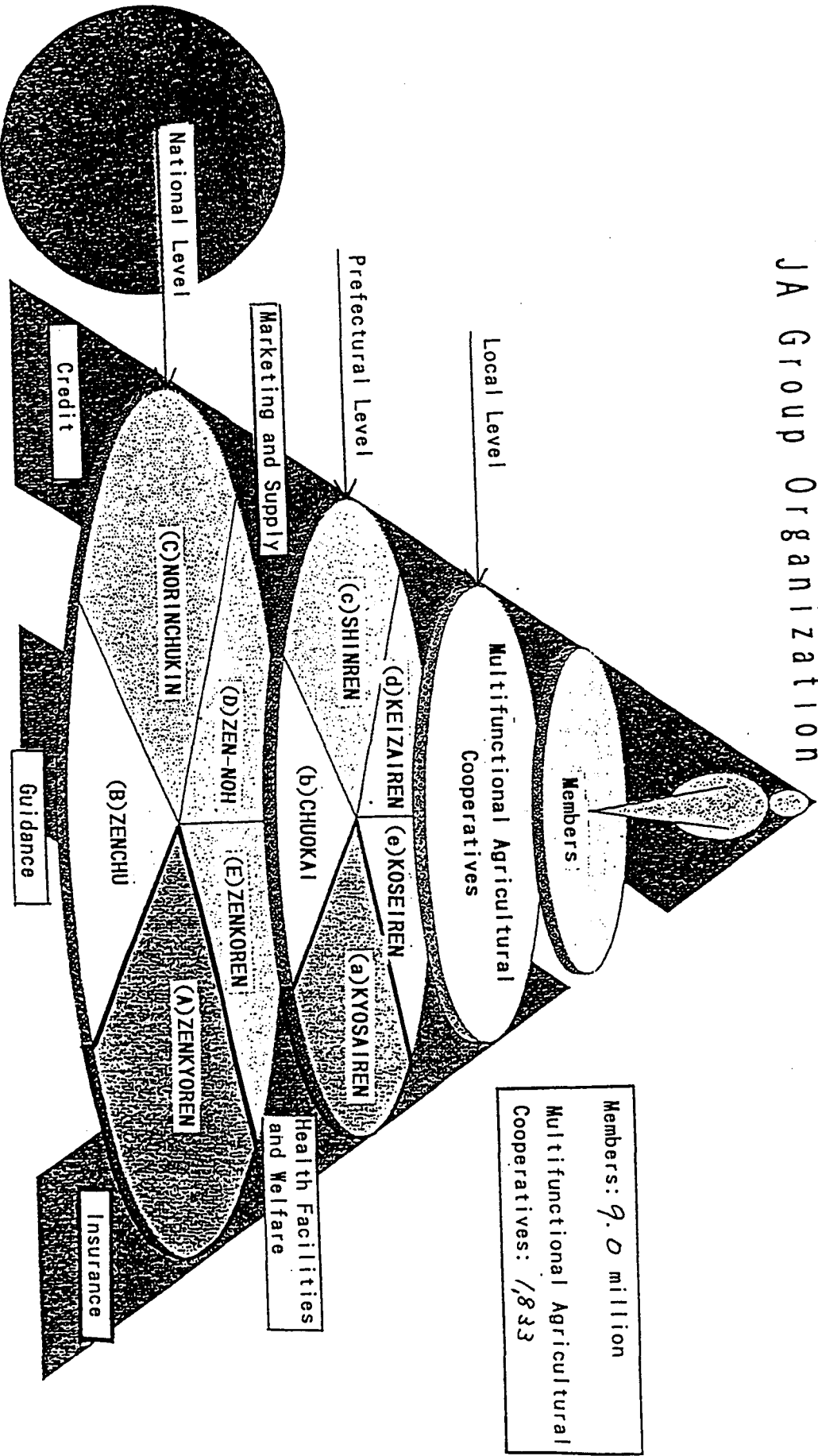
12 (agricultural, workers, consumers, fisheries etc.)

Year	Events
1973	Admission to the International Cooperative Alliance. Naka-Izu and Beppu Rehabilitation Centers completed. Building Endowment Insurance type 2 started.
1974	International Cooperative Insurance Conference held at Zenkyoren Bldg. Online system connecting Zenkyoren to Prefectural Mutual Insurance Federations brought into full operation.
1975	Endowment Life Insurance types 10 and 15 started.
1976	Asset Formation Savings Insurance and Insurance with Asset Formation Savings Plan started.
1978	After Primary Agricultural Cooperatives joined Zenkyoren directly, the first special meeting of representatives held. Building Endowment Insurance type 5 started.
1979	Long-term insurance policies in force of <u>100 trillion yen</u> achieved.
1980	Agricultural Machinery Insurance and Agricultural Machinery Renewal Insurance started.
1981	30th anniversary of Zenkyoren celebrated. Annuity Insurance started.
1982	London Representative Office opened. Pension Insurance started.
1983	Whole Life Insurance started.
1984	Automobile Training Center completed. Fixed-amount Term Life Insurance started.
1985	Long-term Insurance policies in force of <u>200 trillion yen</u> (US\$1.54 trillion) achieved. Zenkyoren Osaka Center Building completed.
1986	New York Representative Office opened.
1988	Zenkyoren Asset Management of America Inc. established.
1989	Zenkyoren Europe Limited (England) established. Liability Insurance started.
1991	Long-term Insurance policies in force of 300 trillion yen (US\$2,128.4 billion) achieved.
1992	ICIF Tokyo Conference and ICA Congress held in October in Tokyo.
1993	Revision work on Comprehensive Life Insurance.

Policies Offered

Type	Long-term Insurance (five or more years)	Short-term Insurance (less than five years)
Life Insurance	Comprehensive Life Insurance — <i>Whole Life Insurance</i> — <i>Endowment Life Insurance</i> — <i>Long-term Life Insurance</i> — <i>Pension Insurance</i> — <i>Children's Insurance</i>	Group Term Life Insurance Fixed-Amount Life Insurance
Non-Life Insurance	Building Endowment Insurance	Automobile Insurance Automobile Liability Insurance Fire Insurance Cooperative-owned Building Fire Insurance Personal Accident Insurance Liability Insurance Volunteer Comprehensive Insurance

JA Group Organization



II. Insurance System of Agricultural Cooperatives

<Three-tiered Structure>

1. The relationship between the Members and the Multi-purpose Agricultural Cooperatives

- Members make insurance contract with the Agricultural Cooperatives (Insurance)
- Members are given guidance about farming by the Agricultural Cooperatives (Guidance)
- Members buy many kinds of products from Agricultural Cooperatives. (Purchasing)
- Members can borrow money from or make deposits in the Agricultural Cooperatives (Banking)

2. Outline of the main functions of the three organizations in terms of insurance

(1) Primary Societies

- to promote the sales of new business
- to maintain the existing policies until their maturity
- to pay claims

(2) Prefectural Insurance Federations

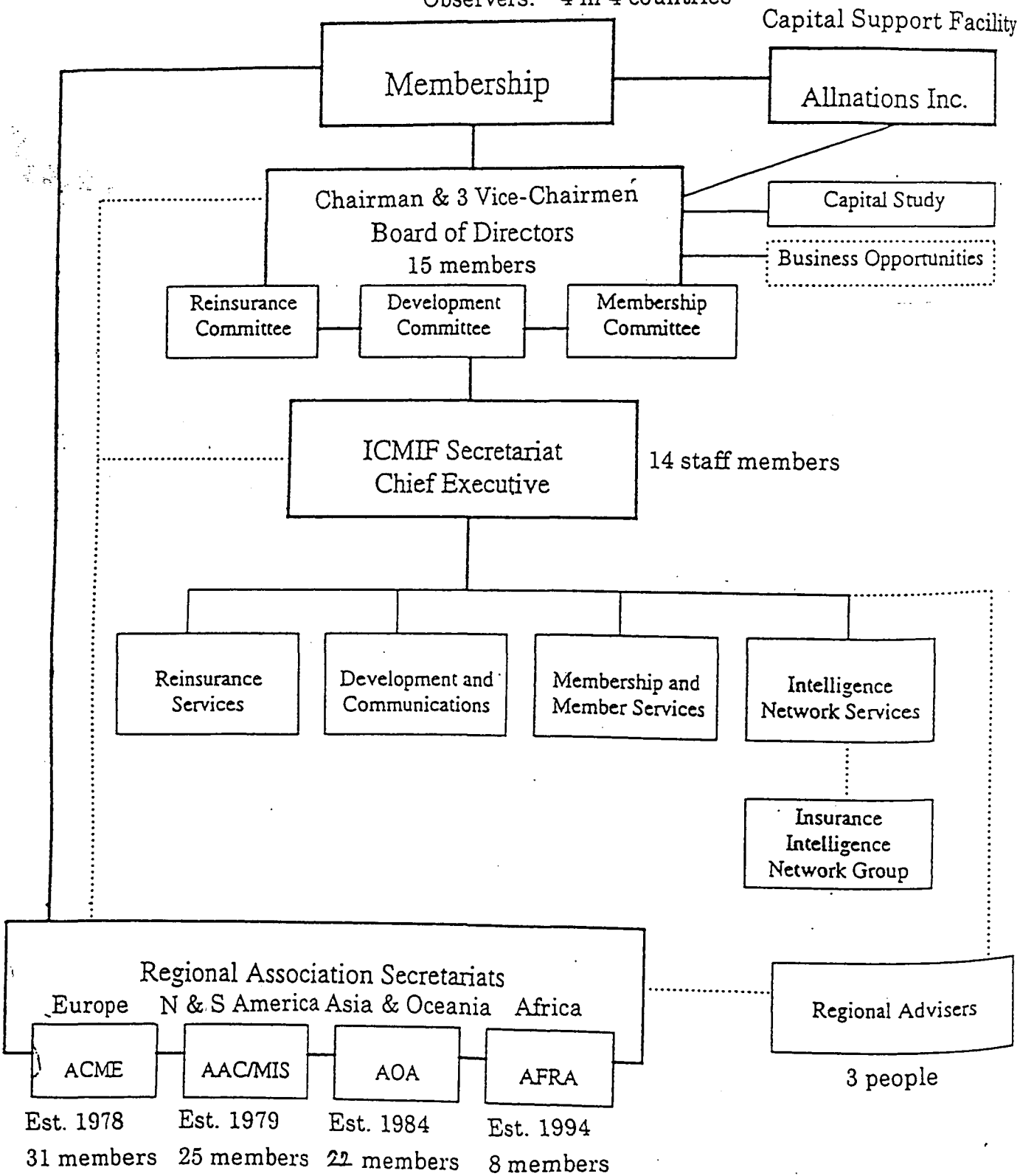
- to guide to the Primary Societies
- to underwrite insurances
- to settle claims of insurance

(3) Zenkyoren

- to develop or to revise insurance products
- to guide to the Prefectural Insurance Federations
- to centralize business processing by using computers

1. Overview of ICMIF

Table 1.1. Structure of ICMIF Full : 77 in 51 countries
 Associate: 4 in 5 countries
 Observers: 4 in 4 countries



AOA Members

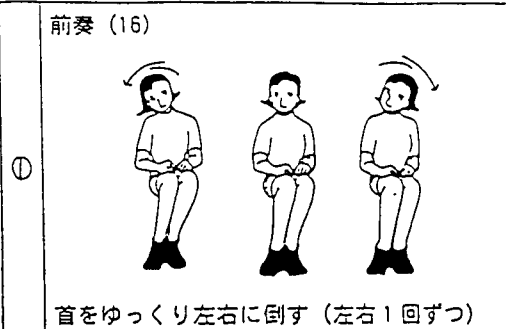
* 22 members in 10 countries (10 members in Japan)

<National> The name of organization
<Pakistan> The Cooperative Insurance Society of Pakistan Ltd. (CIS)
<Malaysia> The Malaysian Cooperative Insurance Society Ltd. (MCIS)
<Singapore> NTUC INCOME Insurance Cooperative Limited (INCOME)
<Indonesia> Koperasi Asuransi Indonesia (KAI)
<Indonesia> Bumiputera 1912 Mutual Insurance Company (Bumiputera 1912)
<Philippines> Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines Inc.(CISP)
<Philippines> Coop Life Mutual Benefit Service Association, Inc.
<Israel> Omer Mutual Insurance Fund(OMER)
<Korea> National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF)
<Korea> National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives (NFFC)
<China> Hebei Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (HFSMC)
<Japan> National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Cooperatives (Zenrosai)
National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenkyoren)

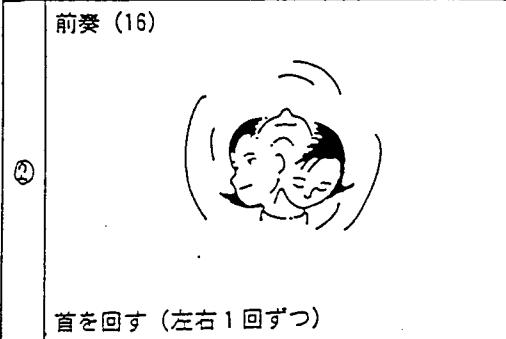
<National> The name of organization
<Japan> National Federation of Fire Insurance Cooperatives for Small Business (Nikkaren)
National Mutual Insurance Federation of Fishery Cooperatives (Kyosuiren)
Kyoei Mutual Fire & Marine Insurance Company (Kyoei Mutual)
Japan Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU)
National Federation of Motor Insurance Cooperatives (Zenjikyō)
National Federation of Forest Owners' Cooperativ Associations (Zenmoriren)
<Sri Lanka> National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC)
Japan Cooperative Insurance Association, Inc. (JCIA)
Agricultural Cooperative Insurance Research Institute

< Rainbow dance >

①
Bend your neck to the left
and then to the right



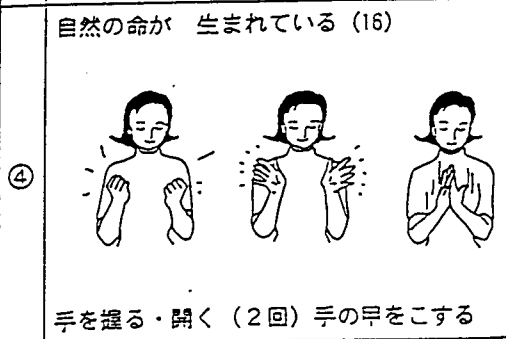
②
Roll your head from shoulder to shoulder



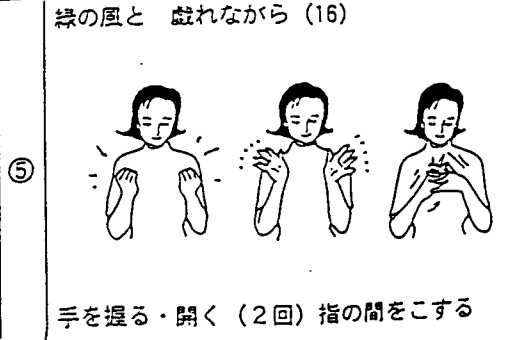
③
Grab your thumbs tightly and release.
Please repeat.
Then rub your hands together.



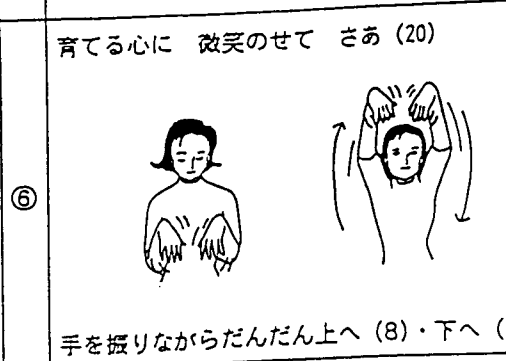
④
Again, grab your thumbs and release.
Please repeat.
Now, rub the back of your hands together
like this.



⑤
Again, grab your thumbs and release.
Please repeat.
Next, interlock your fingers and
rub them together like this.



⑥
Shake your hands as if they were wet,
while shaking raise them up
then lower them.



⑦
 Raise your left hand over your head
 and stretch to the right.
 Now, raise your right hand
 and stretch to the left.

⑧
 Raise your arms over your head
 as you look up,
 and rotate your hands like this.
 Drop your arms and your head.

⑨
 Holding on to your elbows,
 Put your arms up at chest level.
 Turn to the left and then to the right,
 but keep your heads looking to the front.

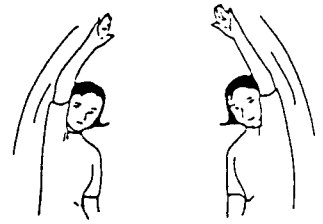
⑩
 Please repeat.

⑪
 Again hold on to your elbows and raise
 your arms above you head.
 Stretch back.

⑫
 Tap your shoulders eight times each.

貴女らしく 生きてゆこう (15)

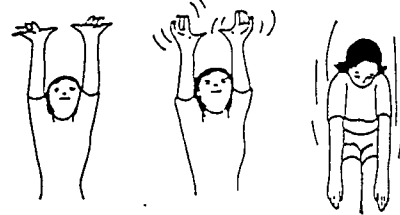
⑦



片手ずつ斜めに手を上げ、伸び (左右1回ずつ)

明日輝くために (16)

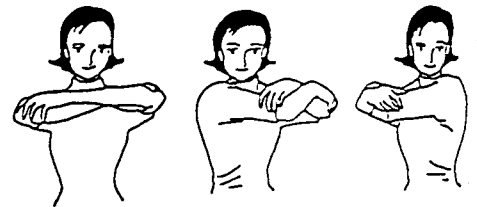
⑧



あごをあげ両手を上に (4)・手をキラキラ (4) 脱力

果てしない夕焼けの 空を見ていると (16)

⑨



肘を持って左右に伸ばす (左右1回ずつ)

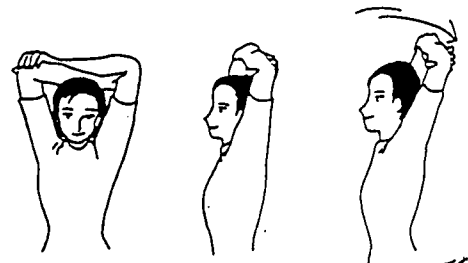
あの日の思い出 よみがえる (16)

⑩

⑨くり返し

母の温もりと 父の背中で (16)

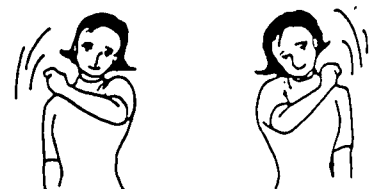
⑪



肘を持ったまま上にあげ、頭の後ろに引く (2回)・戻す

大きな愛を 伝えてくれた さあ (20)

⑫



肩たたき (左右8回ずつ)

⑬ Raise your left hand over your head and stretch to the right.
Now, raise your right hand and stretch to the left.

Raise your arms over your head as you look up, and rotate your hands like this.

⑭ Join your hands together like this and stretch by turning to the left and then to the right

⑮ Pull your ears up and release.
Pull your ears out and release.

⑯ Pull your ears down like this and then rub them between these two fingers like this.

⑰ Tap your head with your fingertips and then pat your face.

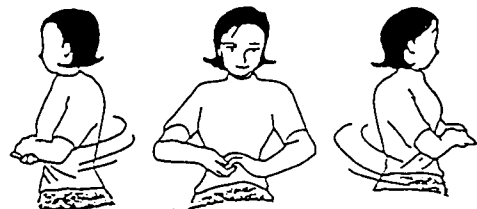
⑱ Tap your chest with your fingertips and then pound your lower back with the backs of your hands.

女性らしく生きてゆこう (16)
明日輝くために (16)

⑬ ⑦⑧くり返し

間奏 (24)

⑭



手を腰の高さで組み後ろにひねる (左右1回ずつ)

しなやかに心と 心がかよい合い (16)

⑮



耳をつまんで上に引っばる (8) ・横に引っばる (8)

やさしく扉を 開いてく (16)

⑯



耳を下に引っばる ・指ではさんでこする (8)

貴女と出会えた この喜びが (16)

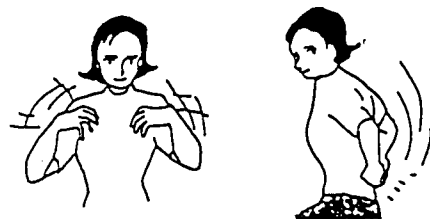
⑰



指先で頭をたたく (8) ・手のひらで顔をたたく (8)

しあわせ色の 夢へと踊る さあ (20)

⑱



指先で胸をたたく (8) ・手をグーにして腰をたたく (8)

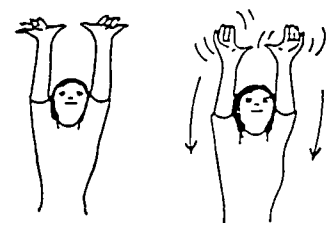
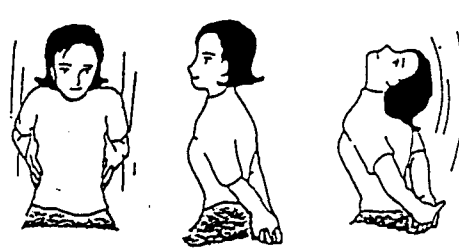
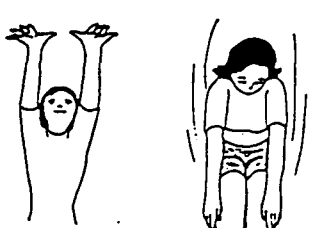
⑱ Raise your left hand over your head and stretch to the right. Now, raise your right hand and stretch to the left.

Raise your arms over your head as you look up, and rotate your hands like this.

⑳ Raise your arms over your head as you look up, and rotate your hands like this. Lower your arms and your head slowly. But keep rotating your hands.

㉑ Interlock your fingers behind your back. Stretch by lifting your arms up and bending your head back.

㉒ Raise your arms over your head with your fingers outstretched and look up. Lower your arms and head.

⑱	私らしく生きてゆこう (16) 明日輝くために (16) ⑦⑧くり返し
⑳	明日輝くために (16)  あごをあげ両手を上に (4)・手をキラキラ (4)・そのまま下へ (4)
㉑	エンディング (24)  体側をさわりながら、後で手を組み、あごをあげて体をそらす・脱力
㉒	エンディング (16)  両手を上にあげ、あごをあげる (8)・脱力

Members' participation and Agricultural Cooperatives

Sept.8, 1999

The Institute for the Development of Agricultural

Cooperation in Asia(IDACA)

Managing Director

Yoshitada NAKAO

Globalisation

The UNDP Human Development report for 1997

points out that –

“The globalisation (of Markets) is proceeding largely for the benefit of the dynamic and powerful countries”,

also that “growth does not help poverty reduction when chunks of GNP go out of the country”

What do we mean by competition?

Increasing competition is often cited as a problem facing cooperatives. In some cases the problem only arises because cooperatives only see competition as detrimental.

However, if the result of competition is to improve the quality of the goods and services provided to their members then it should be seen as positive.

The real challenge to cooperatives is to provide services that are better than the competition or, if they cannot do this, to move on to other activities where real benefits can be delivered to their members.”

Becoming efficient and more “businesslike”

There appears to be misconception in some quarters, where becoming more efficient or more businesslike is equated with becoming more like investor-businesses.

This should not be the case but what it should mean is that cooperatives, and all of their related institutions, have to be effective managers of their resources.

This is the only way they can deliver real benefits to their members.

The factors and trends driving change

- 1.The globalisation of markets
- 2.De-regulation and privatisation
- 3.The decline of the power of the state
- 4.Stricter competition legislation is being introduced
- 5.The decline of the power of the state
- 6.More demanding consumers
- 7.Advances in science and technology
- 8.A widening gap between rich and poor
- 9.People in search of a community
- 10.Concern for our planet
- 11.Gender issues
- 12.Global financial crises

Changes in cooperatives

1. Quest for economies of scale
2. Withdrawal of state sponsorship
3. Ascendancy of professionals
4. Decline of federal structures
5. Growth of “business operations”
6. Decline of class-based cooperatives
7. Sacrificing of control to access finance
8. Distribution of common funds
(De-mutualisation)
9. Social Economy concept
10. Integration of functions

Securing a positive response from politicians and governments

1. An appropriate legislative framework
2. Fair treatment under the tax system and within fiscal policy
3. Recognition of the special nature of the cooperatives within competition legislation
4. Support in terms of setting up financial markets where cooperatives can raise finance
5. Equal treatment to that afforded to investor-controlled businesses within the education system
6. Development aid policies which recognize the value of cooperatives

Growth areas for Coops.

1.Health and care

2.Public services

3.SME joint business ventures

4.Special needs

5.Knowledge sharing

6.Employment mutuals

7.Micro credit

8.Rural value pension providers

9.Community service cooperatives

10.Umbrella cooperatives

11.Multinational cooperatives

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AGRI.COOP.AND CORPORATION

	AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE	CORPORATION
Organizer	Farmers	Investers
Name of Organizer	Members	Share holders
Basic Idea	Self Reliance Mutual Help	Competition for Profit
Aim	Protect Members' Farming and Living	Persuit of Profit
Operation :	One member one vote Democratic Control	One share one vote
Features	Owner=Manager=User	Unspecific customer

日本における協同組合の種類
Types of Coops in Japan

組 合 名 Types	根 拠 法 Basic Laws	構 成 員 Members
農 業 協 同 組 合 Agricultural Coops	農業協同組合法 (昭22.11) Agri.Coop Law (Nov., 1947)	農民, その団体, 地域内住民 (准) Farmers, Farmers' Group Residents in the Area (Associate)
漁 業 協 同 組 合 漁 業 生 産 組 合 水 産 加 工 業 組 合 Fishery Coops Fishery Productive Association Fishery Processing Coops	水産業協同組合法 (昭23.12) Fishery Coop Law (Dec., 1948)	漁業者, その団体 (准) 漁業者のみ 水産加工業者 Fishermen and Fishermen's Group (Associate) Fishermen only Processors of Fishery Products
森 林 組 合 Forestry Coops	森林組合法 (昭53. 5) Forestry Coop Law (May, 1978)	森林所有者, 林業者, 同従事者 (准) Forest Owners, Forest Operators and Employees in Forestry (Associate)
信 用 金 庫 Credit Associations	信用金庫法 (昭26. 6) Credit Association Law (Jun., 1951)	個人, 中小経営者 Individual, Small and Medium Scale Business Manager
信 用 協 同 組 合 事 業 協 同 組 合 事 業 協 同 小 組 合 火 災 共 済 協 同 組 合 企 業 組 合 Credit Coops Common Facility Coops Petty Common Facility Coops Mutual Fire Insurance Coops Joint Enterprise Coops	中小企業等協同組合法 (昭24. 6) Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Cooperative Law (Jun., 1949)	個人小規模経営者 小規模事業者, 法人 小規模事業者 (昭33) 小規模事業者 (昭33) 零細事業者 Small Business Management Small Entrepreneur Small Entrepreneur (1958) Small Entrepreneur (1958) Petty Entrepreneur
消 費 生 活 協 同 組 合 Consumers' Coops	消費生活協同組合法 (昭23. 7) Consumers' Coop Law (July, 1948)	個人 Individual
労 働 金 庫 Labor Credit Associations	労働金庫法 (昭28. 8) Labor Credit Association Law (Aug., 1953)	労働者の団体 (労組, 生協等) Groups of Laborers (Labor Unions, Consumers' Coops, etc)

Size of JA in 1995 and in 2,000

Year	1995(1st Nov.)	2,000
No. of JA	2,465	567
per JA		
No. of Members	3,046	15,701
Regular	1,888	9,762
Associate	1,176	6,029
No. of Employees	104	531
No. of Branch-Offcies	9	40

Biggest JA(Topia Hamamatsu) no.of members 27,000
in ShizuokaPref savings 620 billion yens

(Okitama) no.of members 26,000
in Yamagata Pref savings 130 billion yens

(Irumano) no.of members 25,000
in Saitama Pref savings 640 billion yens

(Shinnshuu Ueda) no.of members 20,000
in Nagano Pref savings 260 billion yens

(Ennshuu chuuou) no of members 20,000
in Shizuoka Pref savings 360 billion yens

(Tottori Inaba) no. of members 20,000
in Tottori Pref savings 170 billion yens

(Hiroshimashi) no.of members 20,000
in Hiroshima Pref savings 330 billion yens

*Only 3 JA in Tottori Pref and 7 JA in Yamagata Pref in case the Plan attained
in the year 2,000

BUSINESS TURNOVER OF COOPERATIVES

the year 1989

(billion yen)

Agrl. Coops (primary)	Consumer Coops. (primary)	Fishery Coops. (primary)	Forestry Coops. (primary)
11,280	2,800 <i>3,400</i> <i>(1995)</i>	1,774	164
Zenoh (National) 6,815	JCCU (NATIONAL) 302		

2. THE PRESENT STRENGTH OF COOPERATIVES IN JAPAN

	Members	*Coops.	Federat- ions.	**officials & employees
Agri. Coop.	8,902,367	2,635	530	40
Consumers' Coop.	18,610,000	664	46	5.0
Workers & consumers Ins.	13,200,000	47	12	0.2
Fish. Coop.	521,626	2,058	77	4.0
Forest. Coop.	1,739,657	1,569	47	3.3
Total	42,973,650	7,000	712	53.3

(NOTE) * Multi-purpose coops. ** Unit: 10,000

TWO MAJOR TYPES OF AGRI. COOPS.

(Multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives)

(1)The services include at least Credit Business.

and

(2)The services include more than two Businesses.

(example: marketing, purchasing, mutual insurance, etc)

or

(3)The services include more than two Farm- Products.

(example: Horticulture, Sericulture, Livestock, Dairy, Poultry,
Pastured grass, etc.)

(4)and

The services include Farm Guidance Activity

(Single-purpose agricultural cooperatives)

The service concentrates business for(marketing of) specific farm products

(example: Horticulture, Sericulture, Livestock, Dairy, Poultry,
Pastured Grass Management, Reclamation, Rural Industry,
Farming Broadcasting, etc)

The Agricultural Cooperative Society Law

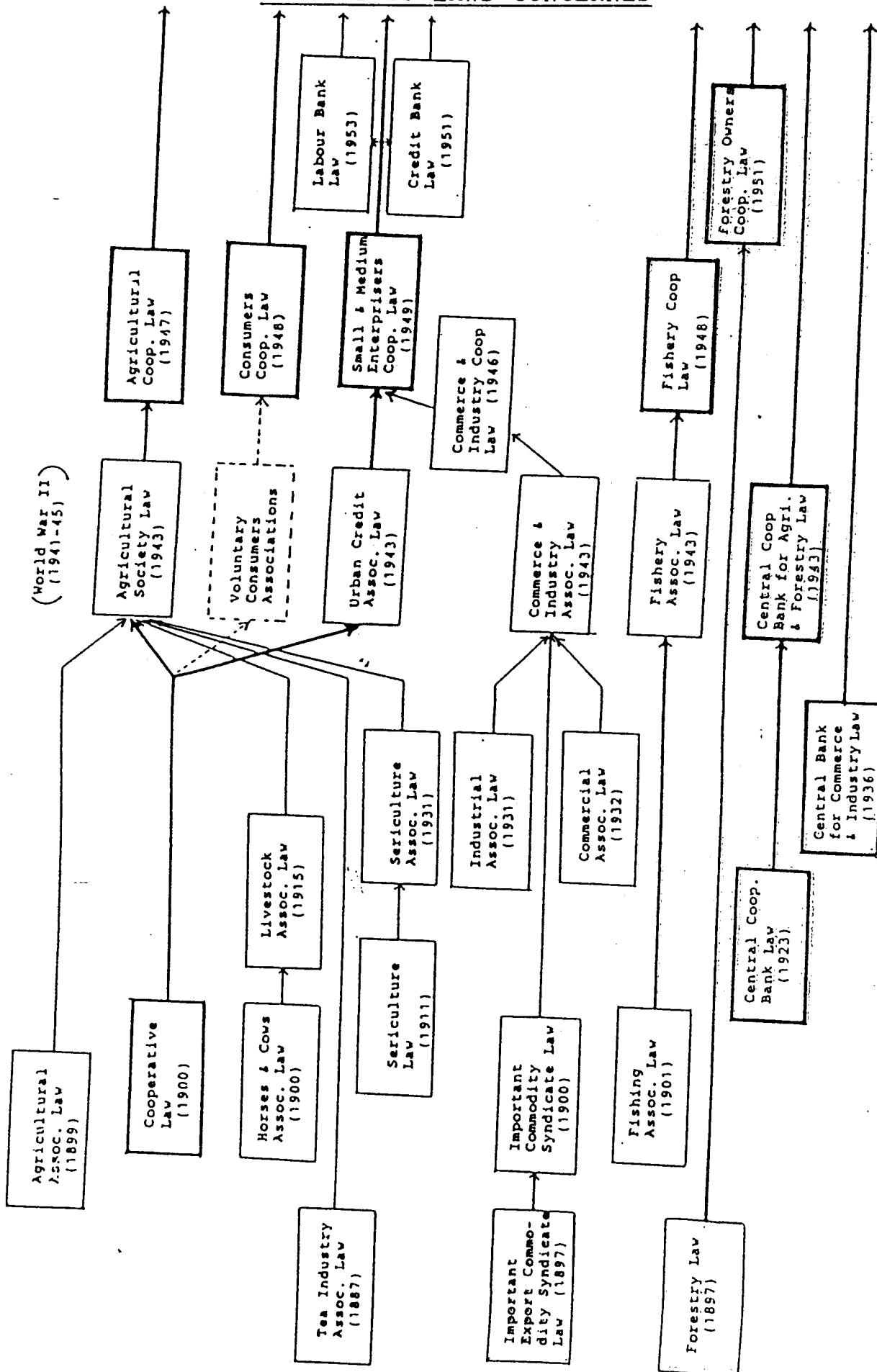
Section 2. Business

(Scope of Business)

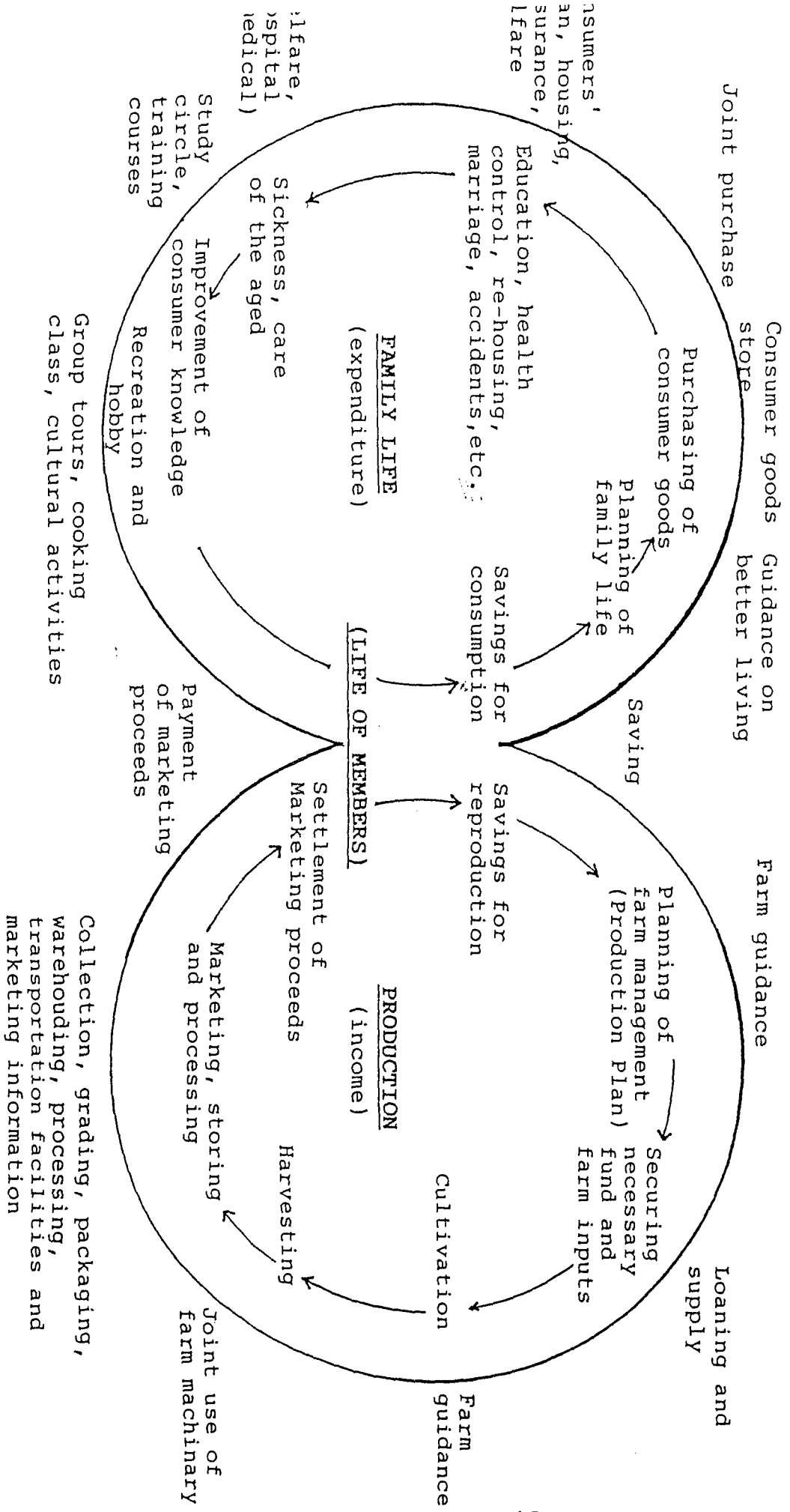
Article 10. A cooperative may conduct all or any of the following businesses:

- (1) Accommodating funds needed for the Members' business or living;
- (2) Accepting the Members' savings or installment savings;
- (3) Providing with supplies required for the Members' business or living;
- (3)-2. Installation of joint-use facilities (excluding medical facilities or concerning welfare of elderly people) necessary for the Members' business or living;
- (4) Facilities for promoting cooperation in farming or for increasing the farm labor efficiency;
- (5) Development, improvement or management of lands available for agricultural purposes; selling, leasing or exchanging lands available for agricultural purposes; or installation or management of agricultural water facilities;
- (6) Transportation, processing, storing or sale of the Members' produces;
- (7) Facilities related to rural industries;
- (8) Facilities related to mutual relief insurance;
- (9) Medical facilities;
- (9)-2. Facilities related to the welfare of elderly people;
- (10) Educational facilities for improving the Members' farming techniques or their managerial conditions, or the facilities for improving the rural life and culture;
- (11) Conclusion of collective agreements aimed at improving the Members' economic status;
- (12) Any other business incidental to the business specified in each of the foregoing Items.

CHANGES OF LAWS CONCERNED



ACTIVITIES OF MULTI-PURPOSE SOCIETIES IN
RELATION TO THE LIFE OF MEMBER FARMERS



Better Living Activities of Agricultural Cooperatives

1) Goal

To aim at realizing a healthy and rich life (body, spirit and economy) for members and their families.

- (1) To lead stable life with a clear future perspective
- (2) To secure income necessary for make a living
- (3) To enrich consumption life
- (4) To create living condition with health and satisfaction of life
- (5) To have a warm and happy family
- (6) To create an intellectual environment for easy and peaceful life
- (7) To create living condition with a sense of solidarity (cooperation)

*

Activities covers not only members but also expands to residents in the region.

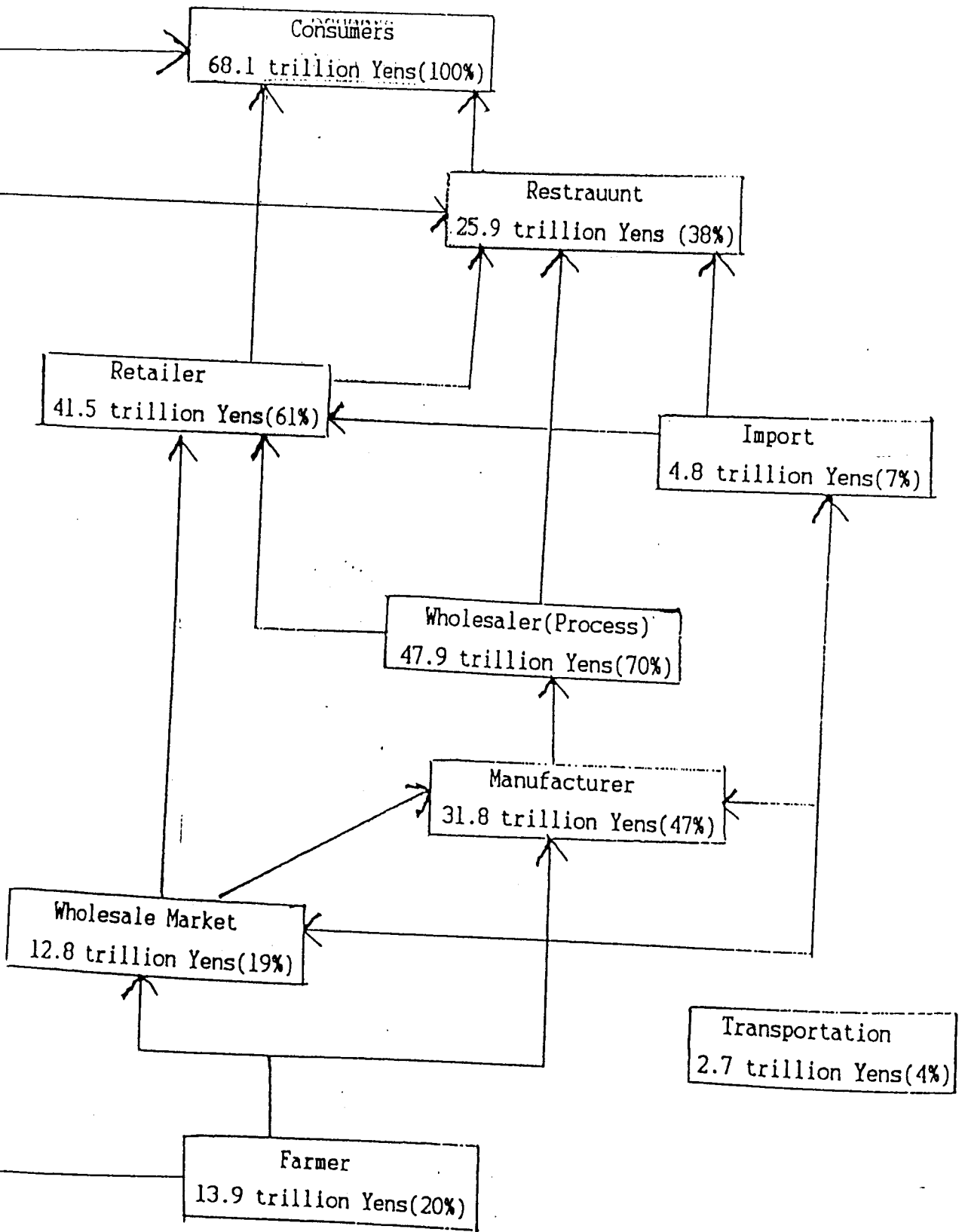
2) Scope of activities

The following activities are promoted to achieve the above goals.

- (1) Consultation activities on life and living
- (2) Joint purchasing and purchasing business through coop. store sales
- (3) Health control activities
- (4) Welfare activities for the elderly
- (5) Cultural activities
- (6) Life plan designing activities

*

To make above activities economically viable by defining them as coop business.



- ## Agriculture Value Added shares 11 % of Total Products Value Added of Japan
- ## 12 Million Workers employed in Agriculture and the Concerned
- 12 Million Workers share 19 % of Total Workers of Japan

INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE PROMOTION PROJECT

Comparison of Project Characteristics

(Case Study)

Management Framework	'85--'92	'96--'01
Paradigm	Agricultural Development	Rural development
Policy	Food security	Rural livelihood
Role	Technological Verification	Communication facilitation
Flow	Top Down	Bottom Up
Approach	Intra-departmental	Inter-departmental
Strong Point	Efficiency	Effectiveness
Attention	Impact	Sustainability

Survey on Image (in favour)of Agri.Cooperatives

1. 4 Agri.Cooperatives 6,000 Residents

Replied by 2,531 Residents (including 42 % of non-members)

2. Why do you utilize agri.coop.business?

- A. Received autimatically Pension and Salary
through agri.coop.deposit account
- B. Agri.Coop.located near to house (convenient)
- C. Frequent visit to house by employees
- D. Consultancy
- E. Preferential rate of interest of loan
- F. Payed autimatically utilities expense
from agri.coop.deposit account
- G. Credibility extended to agri.coop.
- H. A variety of loans(loan with car purchase)

	1991	1994	1996
No.1	A(26%)	B(27%)	G(27%)
2	B(22%)	A(22%)	B(25%)
3	C(17%)	G(19%)	C(22%)
4	D(15%)	C(18%)	A(19%)
5	E(14%)	F(17%)	F(18%)
6			H(12%)

3. What sector of agri.coop. should be more strengthened?

Farm Guidance activities	70%	
(Marketing power of regional produced products		31%)
(Overall farm guidance		21%)
Financial activites	50%	
(Supply informations as to finance		19%)
(Supply convenient varities of loan		13%)
Consultancy(tax, law, land utility)	17%	
Leisure(travelling)	12%	

4. Management of Agricultural Cooperatives

(1) Basic Fund

1) Share capital

2) Reserves

(2) Revenue

1) Commission charged from members for their sales and purchase consignments to coops.

2) Fees charged from members for their use of coop facilities.

(3) Expenditure

1) Personnel expenses

2) Operational expenses, office expenses

3) Facility expenses, depreciation costs

4) Educational, publicity expenses

(4) Appropriation of Surplus or Profit

1) Taxes: Totalled, approximately 39% of profit
(In case of ordinary enterprises: 60-65%)

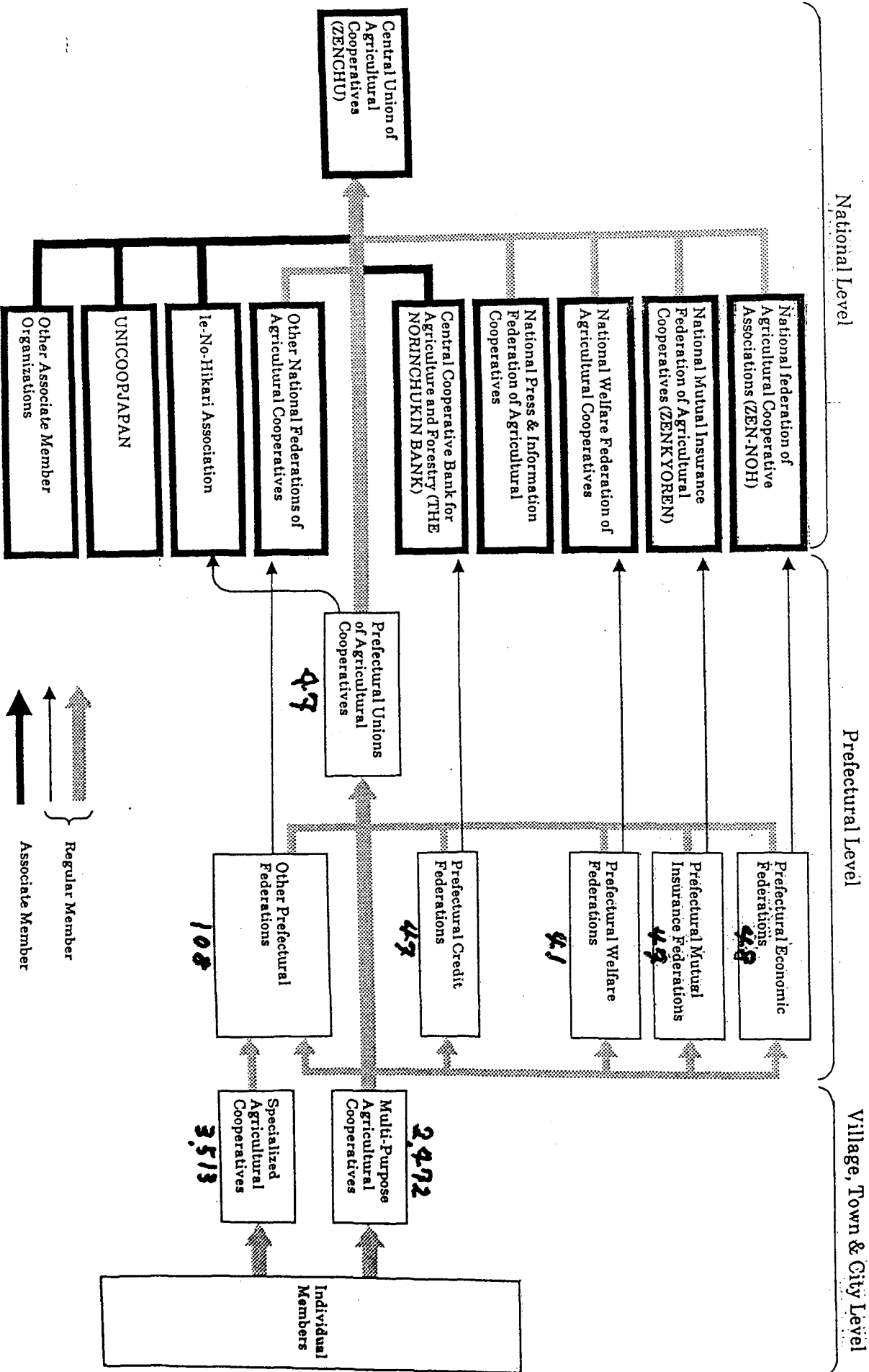
2) Mandatory reserve: 10% of profit

3) Share capital dividend: Within 7% of the share's face value

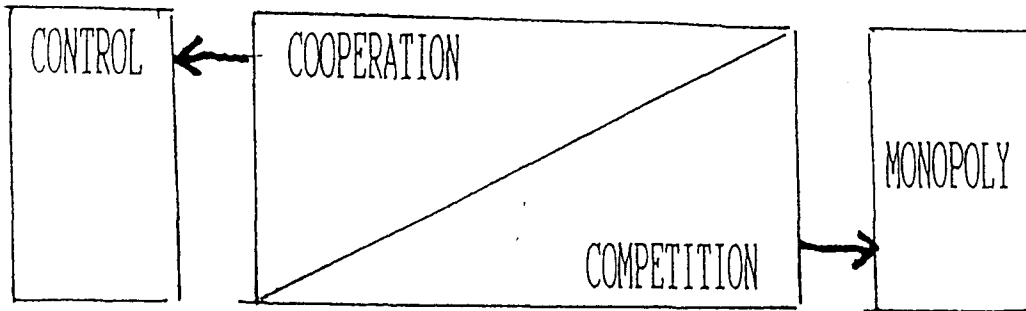
4) Patronage dividend: Varied according to the degree of patronage

(5) Integrated Management System

Chart 1. Structural Outline of Agricultural Cooperative Movements



COOPERATION AND COMPETITION



Future trend-----From Cooperation towards Competition

More competition----Marketing Business

Supply Business

Saving & Loan Business

Production technology

More Cooperation---use Farm Labours

use Farm Land

set Big scale Facilities/Joint

Use

set Big scale Investment

Structural Pattern of Competition

Demander Supplier	Majority	Minority	Mono
Majority	Pure- Competitive	Demand- Oligopolistic	Demand- Monopolistic
Minority	Oligopolistic	Supply&Demand Oligopolistic	Semi-Demand Monopolistic
Mono	Monopolistic	Semi- Monopolistic	Supply&Demand Monopolistic

ADVANTAGEOUS COOP BUSINESS SYSTEM

Membership x Voluntarism x Consciousness x Business system

(1) A Coin of Two Sides--Farming & Daily Living businesses oriented Advantage

(2) Structural-oriented Advantage (Multipurpose type Village Coop, Federated (3 Tiers) system)

(3) Farm Guidance-oriented Advantage

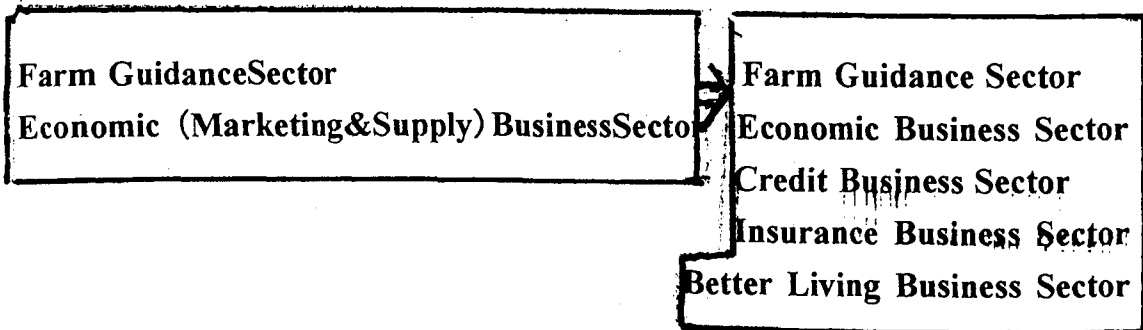
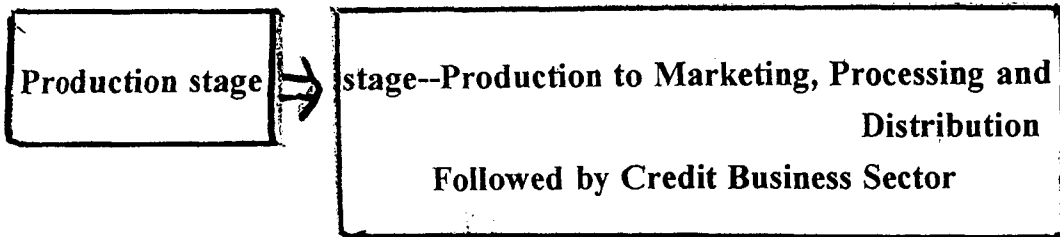
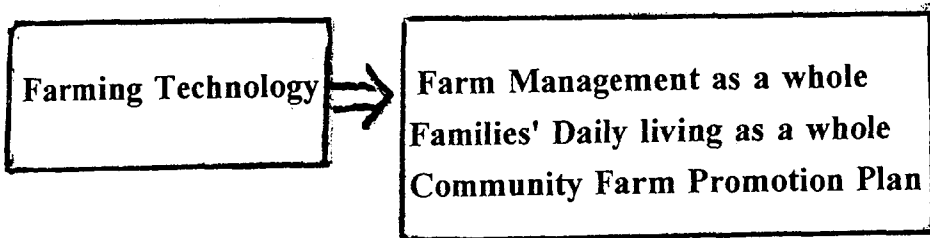
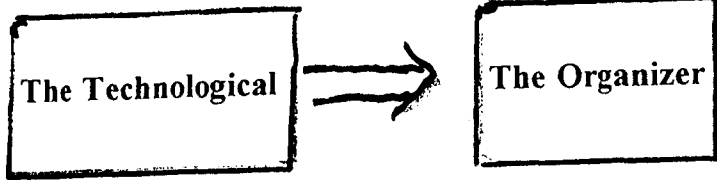
(4) Community-oriented Advantage

(5) Members' Participation-oriented Advantage

(6) Education-oriented Advantage

(7) Credit Business-oriented Advantage

Farm Guidance-oriented



Community-oriented

- 1. Conserve & manage Natural Resources (land, water, forest --)**
- 2. Function Mutual-Aid**
- 3.Keep & foster Self Governance & Accountability & Solidarity**
- 4.Learn Human Rights & Duty**
- 5.Baseament on Municipal administration**
 - a variety of human groups**
 - a variety of cultural events and traditional habits**
- 6 .Constituency for election of Coop Officers**
- 7.New International Cooperative Principles**

TOTAL COMMUNITY 132,039

COMMUNITY per JA 55

AVERAGE per COMMUNITY

Arable Land	39 ha
Paddy	22
Upland	9
Orchard	5
Pasture Grass	3

Household	82
Farm household	34
Full time farm	4
Part time I	6
Part time II	24

Rice farm household	26
(75% of total Farm households)	

Many Varieties of Producers Groups

(1) Groups on Planning Stage

Agriculture Committee
Land Improvement Committee
**Agricultural Cooperative Society (Credit Business, Farm
Guidance Business)**

(2) Groups on Production Stage

Farm Legal Person Farm Production Legal Person
Farm Work Legal Person
Corporation Limited
Group for Land Use/Improve
Farming Consign Association
Joint Work Group
Joint Farm Management Group
Agricultural Cooperative Society (Agri.Machine Bank)

(3) Group on Marketing and Processing

Voluntary Shipping Association
**Agricultural Cooperative Society (Marketing,
Purchasing, Storing, Processing Business)**

(4) Group on Income Distribution

Community Association
Farmers Association

Purchasing Order and Goods Delivery through Community Group

	Community Group	Commodity Group	Women Club	Coop Staffs	Contract Person
Production Materials					
Order	81.0%	38.8	20.4	33.3	6.9
Delivery	45.5	22.0	17.6	72.7	2.2
Daily Living Materials					
Order	33.3	4.4	74.9	34.2	3.6
Delivery	18.5	5.0	59.5	62.5	2.2
Information Delivery	76.9	28.4	37.3	43.5	8.0

Individual Farmer, Farmer-Group, Coop. and Corp.

Example	Indiv. Farmer	Group	Coop	Corp.
Water supply	Indiv. Farmer			
Land settlement	Indiv. Farmer	Group		
Fertilizer supply	Indiv. Farmer	Group	Coop	
Rice marketing	Indiv. Farmer		Coop.	
Insurance	Indiv. Farmer	(Group	--- Coop)	Corp.
Food supply				Corp.

**Individual Farmer, Farmer-Group, Coop. and Corp.
(Ideal)**

Example	Indiv. Farmer	Group	Coop.	Corp.
Water supply	Indiv. Farmer	(Group)	Coop.	
Land settlement	Indiv. Farmer	(Group)	Coop.	
Fertilizer supply	Indiv. Farmer	(Group)	Coop.	
Rice marketing	Indiv. Farmer	(Group)	Coop.	
Insurance	Indiv. Farmer	(Group)	Coop.	
Food supply	Indiv. Farmer	(Group)	Coop.	

Members Participation- oriented

1. COOP PRINCIPLES

OPEN AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP
DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

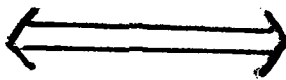
2. FARMER AS A COOP MEMBER

3. PARTICIPATION

IN DECISION ON COOP MANAGEMENT
IN COOP BUSINESS

4. Membership ratio

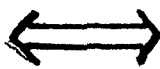
10----30%
ASIA



100%
JAPAN

Educated members

Educated
Semi-educated
Illiteracy



Graduated from Univ., High or Middle School
--

5. Participation in Coops

Decision Making on Coop Management	All Use Coop Businesses
---	------------------------------------

6. Participation in Members Groups

Community (Hamlet) Group	Commodity wise Groups Coop Business Promotion Groups Youth, Women Clubs Cultural Groups Land use, Water use Groups Joint work/Use Groups
-------------------------------------	---

7. Method

Dialogue Issue Circulars Meeting/Assembly Training Cultural Event PR/Information by National & Pref. Coop Feds.
--

MEMBER'S RIGHT

	Regular members	Associate Members
Voting Right	O	X
Election Right(for Officers & Representative Members)	O	X
Right to be elected as Officers	O	O
Right to be elected as Representative Members	O	X
Right to request for Convocation of General Meeting	O	X
Right to request for reelection of Officers	O	X
Right to request for Nulification of Resolution,Election or Election Returns	O	O
Right to request for Dismissal of General Manager or Chief Accountant	O	X
Right to request for Peruse of Documents	O	O
Right to request for Inspection of Coop Business or Account	O	O
Right to request for nomination of Temporary Directors or Convocation of General Meeting by the Administrative Authorities	O	O

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

(1) Main facilities to be utilized: Loan, Insurance, Supply (Living goods),

(2) Any member shall have one or more shares, prescribed under Agri Coop Law

(3) Promoting policy

- Secure stabilized to utilize agri.coop.facilities

- Understand and collaborate agri.coop.movement

- Join community or culture activities organized by agri.coops.

(4) Participation to Agri.Coops. Activities

- General Meeting, General Representative Meeting

- Hamlet (Community) Groups, Interest Groups

- Reader of Coop Periodicals

- Participating in Rally, Assembly, Festival

- Approve Agri. Coop. policies of agriculture foreign trade

NON MEMBERS

Agri.Coop.Law Article 10-2

A cooperative may, in accordance with the provision of its articles of incorporation, enable people other than members to use its facilities.

----- the amount of services available to non-members in a business year shall not exceed one-fifth of the services available to members in the said business year.

Education-oriented

1.Cooperative Principles

**Dissemination of significance of "cooperation"
(cooperative spirit)**

**2.Training schools run by Pref. and Central Union of
Agri.Coops.**

**3.Daily Farm News and Monthly Magazines issued by National
Press& Information Fed.of Agri.Coops. and Iyenhikari
Publishing Association**

4.Compulsory School Education

**Voluntary groups for saving
Experimental and Even-use Farmland furnished
Articles in a textbook for agriculture importance**

Credit Business-oriented

Set-up Farmer's Deposit Account in a Village Coop.



Farmer sells his products to the Government, Buyers



**The Government or Buyers pay to Farmer's Deposit Account of
Coop.**



Farmer keeps it as his Saving in his Deposit Account



**Farmer withdraws it from his Deposit Account , as he needs, for
example for buying "seeds" to be planted for next year**



**The system gets profits in both Marketing Business, Purchasing
Business and Credit Business**

Self-help Principles for Coop Business Consolidation

(1) Planned Marketing (Shipping) and Planned Purchasing

(2) Unconditional Consignment

(3) Order in advance

(4) Pooling Account

(5) Full Utilization (Demand Expansion)

(6) Margin (Commission, Charge)

(7) Cash trading

COOPERATIVE BUSINESS FORMULA

1. Marketing Business Formula

Three Formula (1) Consignment with members

(a) with conditions (terms)

(b) without conditions (terms)

Conditions (terms) mean Price (normally minimum price)
and Date, Buyers for shipping

(2) Purchasing from members

Normally Corporations tend to purchase from producers
with lowest price and sell with highest price.

Cooperatives are very hard to purchase from
member-producers with lower price.

In case big price fluctuation or some broken
accident on products, cooperatives apt to get loss.
Purchasing formula is not favorite to cooperatives
basically.

(3) Intermediate

Cooperatives introduce buyers to member-producers
so that member-producers directly sell to buyers.

Cooperative to act as Intermediate is exceptional.

- (1) Unconditional Consignment
- (2) Commission (Handling Charge)
- (3) Pooling Account
- (4) Full Utilization

2. Purchasing Business Formula

Three Formula (1) Consignment with members

Normally this is formulated in form of Advanced Order.

(a) with conditions (terms)

(b) without conditions (terms)

At modern age, mixed formula with terms and without terms are normal.

Comparatively easy to apply Advanced Order Formula---

--- Agri. Production Requisites

--- Basic Daily Goods and flavors every family ordinary use.

Difficult to apply Advanced Order Formula---

--- luxury or prevalent (fashionable) goods

with a variety of brands to be sold in stores

(2) Purchasing from members

Cooperatives are very hard to sell to members with highest price like corporations.

It happens many difficult cases that cooperatives could buy in goods on which big enterprises monopolize prices and distribution channels with reasonable price, so that this formula is not favorite to cooperative business basically.

However, recently this formula becomes largely to be introduced in many goods.

(3) Intermediate

(1) Unconditional Consignment

(2) Advanced Order (Order in Advance)

(3) Commission (Handling Charge)

(4) Pooling Account

(5) Full Utilization

(6) cash trading

3. Financial Business Formula

Six Formula (1) Mutual Aid Finance (combined Saving with Loaning
among members)

Recently increased attached with surplus fund
management

(2) Non Profitable Finance

(3) "Person" Collateral Finance

Increase assets securities

(4) Guided Finance (Finance with farm guidance)

(5) Three tier system of Finance

(6) Collaboration with Governmental Finance

Unconditional Consignment

Precondition==TRUST between Members and Coop

Unconditional Terms:

Price to be sold (bought)

Place to be sold (bought)

Time (Day) to be sold (bought)

Pooling Account

1. Importance=TRUST between Members and Coop
2. Tied with Planned Marketing and Planned Purchasing
3. Tied with Unconditional Consignment
4. Pooling Account according to Same Quality, Variety, Same Grading
5. Pooling Account according to Same Production Area
6. Account Settlement

Term---As to each shipping day
each week
each 10 days
each month
each a few month
each quater season
each year
over a year (5 years for swine marketing)

Area---Village (Coop District) level
Community
County
Prefecture
Main Production area
Bloc (Regional) wide
Nationwide

Margin (Commission, Charge)

1. Farmer's Handling Price		
2. Shipper's Expense Collection (Carring) cost Grading, Packing cost (incl. Assets Devaluation) (incl. Collection finance) Storing cost Marketing cost Marketing research (Demand analysis) Price negotiation Payment Marketing finance Research & Test cost Risk burden Marketing promotion	Manufacturing Price Collection cost Raw material cost Loan interest Assets depreciation Labourer cost Fuel cost Packing cost Storing cost	
3. Wholesale Market Place Expense		
Margin	Personnel cost Travel (Moving) cost Mailing cost Office supply cost	
AUCTION PRICE		
4. Wholesaler	Margin	Personnel cost Marketing cost Land & House/Depreciation cost Transporting cost Loss coverage cost Marketing promotion
WHOLESALE PRICE		
5. Retailer	Margin	Personnel cost Buying/Packing/Grading work cost Land & House/Depreciation cost Transportation cost Loss coverage cost Marketing promotion PR & Advertisement
RETAIL PRICE		

Margin Comparison

Item	Village Agri.Coop.	Commercial Retailer	
		Small&Medium	Total
Feeding stuff &Fertilizer	7.9% (Feds.2.5, 0.7%)	21.7%	17.9%
Farm Machine	10.3 (3.7,1.5)	27.9	25.5
Oil	18.7 (2.6,1.0)	26.2	22.7
Car	5.7(1.8,0.8)	25.4	18.2
House materials	4.5(2.3,.0.9)	22.8	-----
Rice	12.2(3.8,---)	21.6	17.8
Vegetables	19.8(2.9,1.1)	26.0	33.6
Foods (general)	16.4(2.9,1.1)	22.5	25.6
Cosmetics	13.9(4.6,1.3)	33.1	33.0
Durable goods	11.8(4.5,1.6)	32.0	29.7
Fuels (LP Gass)	41.5(7.5,0.9)	43.7	41.7
Cloth	14.9(4.9,2.0)	31.2	36.8
AVERAGE	13.5%	32.4%	28.1%

Handling Commission Ratio of
Economic Business of Agri. Coops.(1993)

	Agri.Coops.	Pref.Economic Fed.	National Economic Fed.(ZENNOH)	Total
animal feed	4.7%	2.9%	0.7%	(8.3%)
fertilizer	11.8	2.5	0.6	(14.9)
agri.chemical	10.0	3.7	1.5	(15.2)
agri.machinery	10.3	4.1	1.5	(15.9)
building materials	4.5	2.3	0.9	(7.7)
foodstuff	16.4	3.1	1.1	(20.6)
durable goods	11.8	4.5	1.6	(17.9)
clothes	14.9	4.7	2.0	(21.6)
rice (by government)	2.3	0.2	0.08	(2.58)
wheat	3.3	0.5	0.2	(4.0)
vegetable	2.2	1.0	0.7	(3.9)
fresh milk	1.2	0.6	0.6	(2.4)
egg	2.5	1.3	1.8	(5.6)
meat cattle	1.1	1.0	1.8	(3.9)
meat hog	1.2	1.8	1.8	(4.8)

MARKETING CHANNEL

1st Pattern: Original Marketing



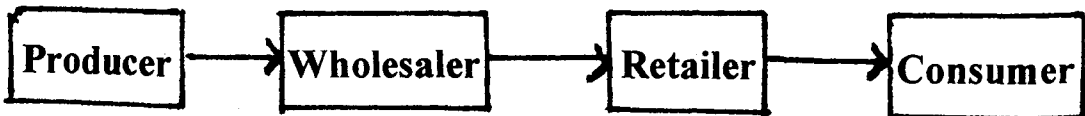
- (1) Open Market (Morning Market Evening Market Sunday Market)
- (2) Producers Group Market, Agri.Coop.Market, Municipality Market
- (3) Home Delivery (incld Postal Package)
- (4) Channel between Processing-Dealer and producer (or Agri. Coop, Importer)

2nd Pattern: Direct Channel between Producer and Retailer



- (1) Direct Channel between Consumers Coop and Producer (or Agri.Coop)
- (2) Direct Channel between Super Market and Producer (or Agri.Coop)
- (3) Direct Channel between Retailer and Procesing-Dealer

3rd Pattern: Wholesaler in between



- (1) More than one Wholesalers
- (2) Intermediary-Wholesaler between Wholesaler and Retailer

Methods from Order to Supply

1. Member Farmers (Farm Managing Book)

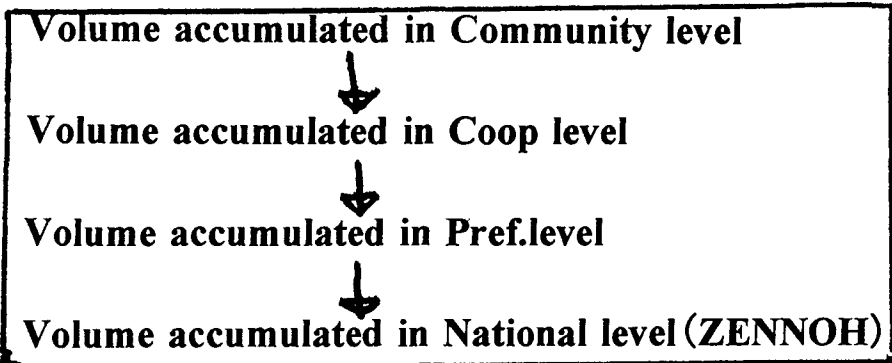


2. Community Meeting---Dialogue

- Coop Business Plan for the next fiscal year
- Business Promotion (Saving, Insurance, Order in advance for Fertilizer,---)
- Member Fees on special projects
- Members' Claim



3. Members' Purchasing Order in advance ----without price specified, Quality specified and Supply Term specified



4. ZENNOH <-----> MITSUBISHI MANUFACTURING CORP.

(Buyer) (negotiation) (Supplier)

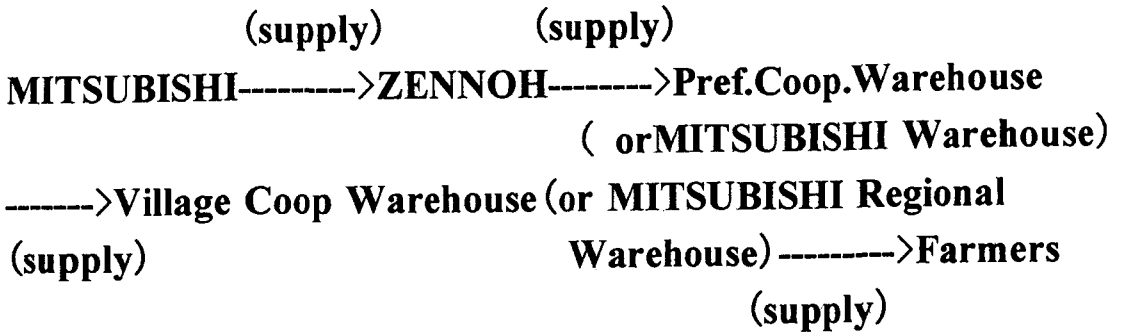
Countervailing Power (Q=Quantity, P=Price)

$Q_1 < Q_2$ ----- $P_1 > P_2$

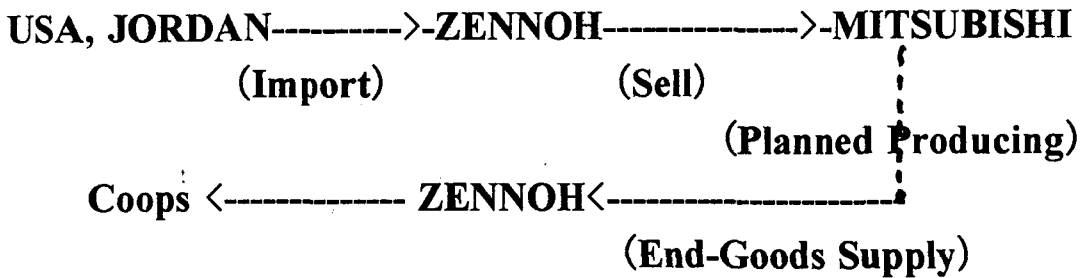
$Q_1 > Q_2$ ----- $P_1 < P_2$

- a. Transportation reduced
- b. Supply side Situation of raw materials understandable
- c. Good Quality assured easily acquired
- d. Price breakdown of End Goods (Manufactured) understandable

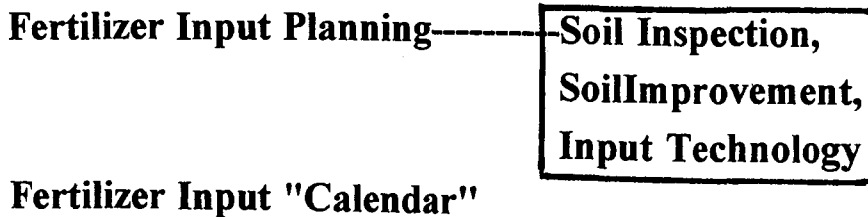
5.Commodity



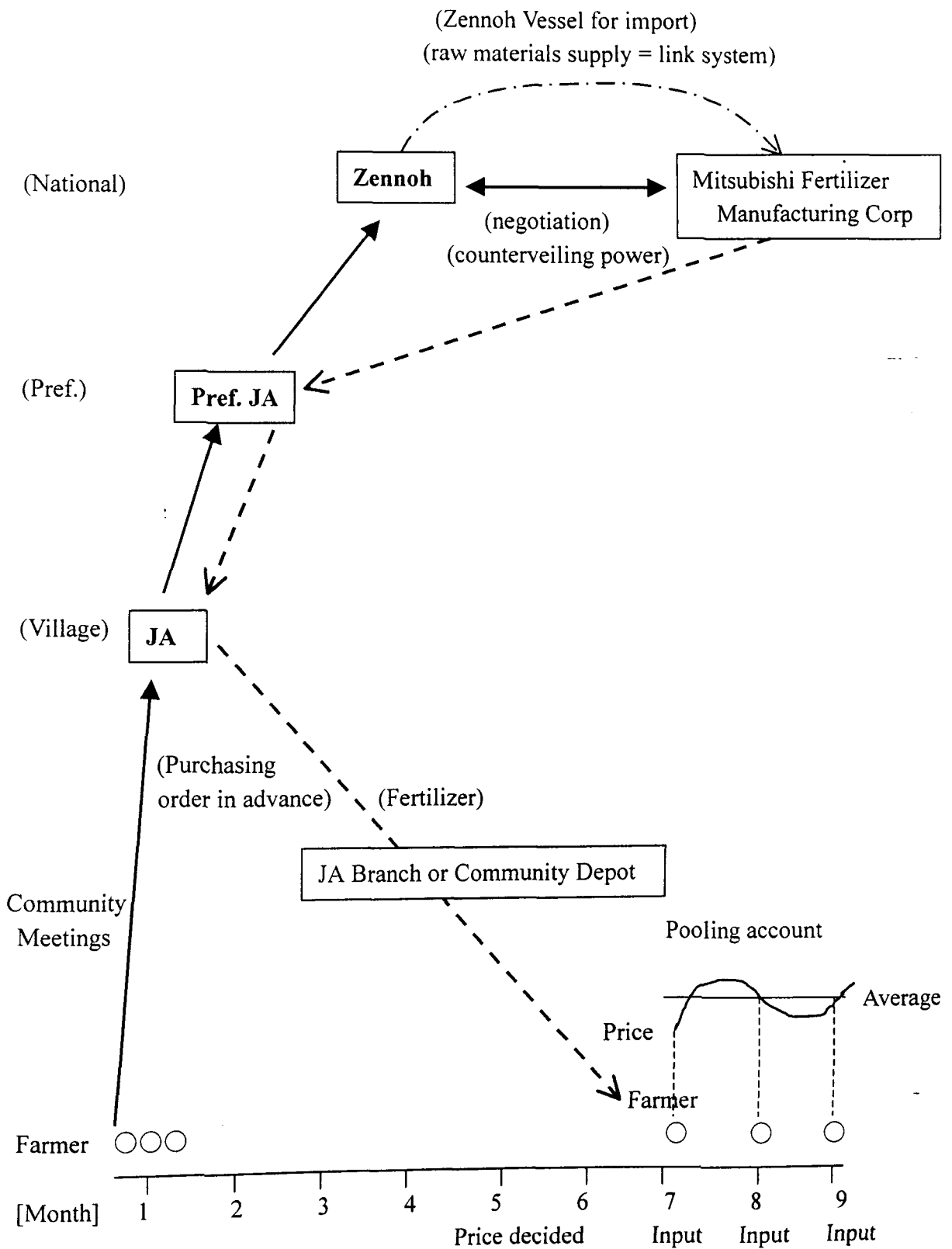
6.Raw Materials of Fertilizer



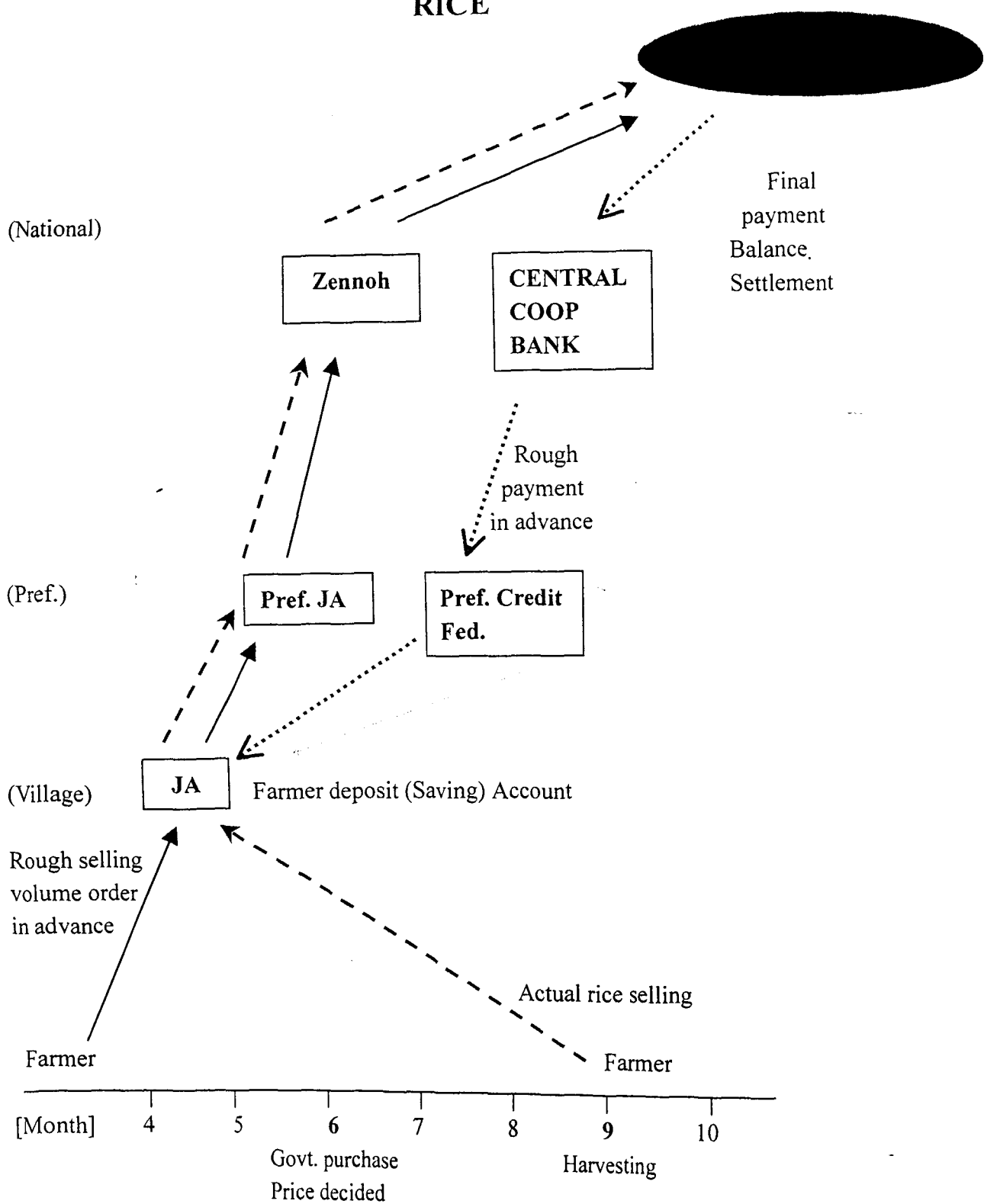
7.Farmer's Purchasing Order in advance per "Production Acreage"



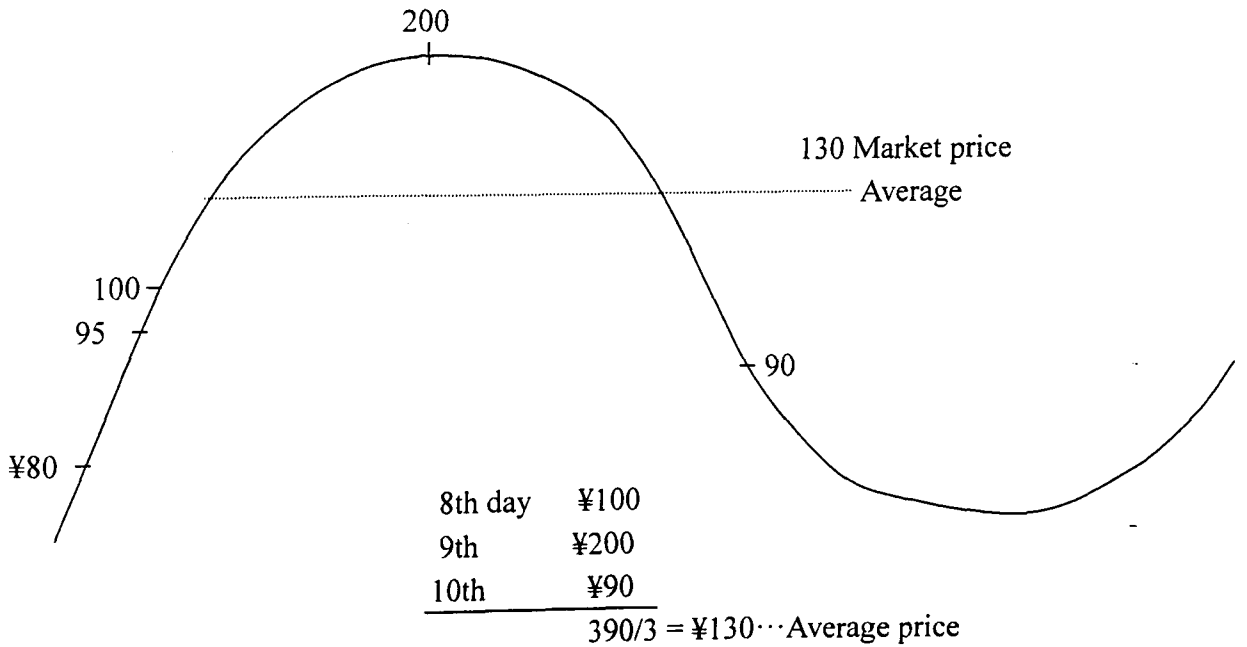
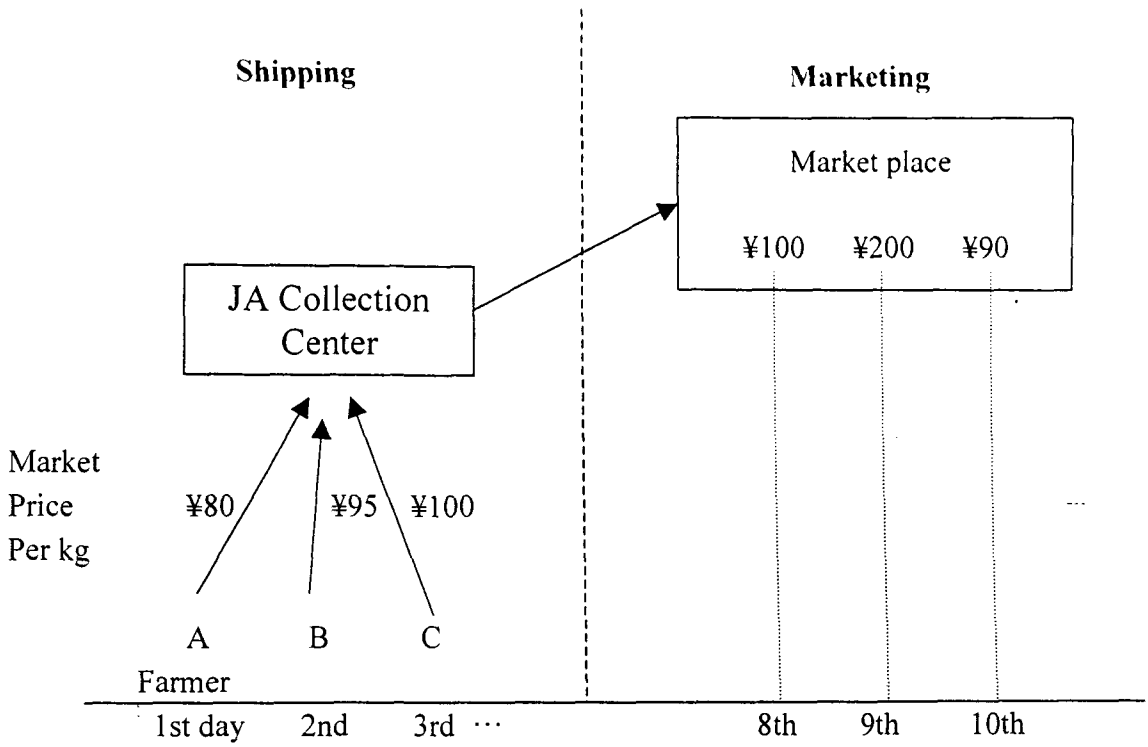
FERTILIZER



RICE



Pooling Account Payment Settled



(First)	(Second)	(Third)	(Fourth)
1840's	1900	1940's	1947 1960s' 1990's
Pre-Coops (Hotokusha) (Usuisha)			
	Coop. Law Coops (credit, marketing, supply, utility) 5 years coop. development plan		
		War-time agri. Assoc. Law	
		Agri. Coop. Law Land Reform Agri. Coop. Rehabilitation Laws	
			Economic high growth Agri. Basic Law Agri. Coop. Merger Law
			Agri. Coop. Restructuring

Specific Events for Step-up of Coop Movement in last 100 years

(1) 1900-----1940s

(a) Enactment of Cooperative Law

(b) 5 years' Cooperative Promotion Campaign

(2) 1947-----1960s

(a) Enactment of Agricultural Cooperative Law

**(b) Agri. Coops & Federations Rehabilitation and
Consolidation Laws**

(3) 1960-----1990s

**Agri.Coop.Development in line with High Economic
Growth**

Agri.Basic Law and Agri.Coop.Merger Law

**Agri.Coop.Business Scope Expansion and
Volume Increase**

(4) 1990-----2000

Agri.Coop.Restructuring in line with Economic Depression

**New Agri.Basic Law and New Food Control
Law**

**Restructuring, Globalization -- Merger,
2-tier Feds., Finance**

The History of Japanese Agriculture: A Chronology

- 1603 The Edo period begins
1868 The Meiji Restoration
1873 Land Tax Reform begins
1899 Agricultural Association Law
1899 Arable Land Reorganization Law
1900 Agricultural Cooperatives Law ("Industrial Cooperatives Law")
1904 Import tax on imported rice begins
1918 Rice Riot
1919 Land Reclamation Subsidies Law
1921 Rice Law
1923 Initiation of positive subsidies for irrigation and drainage improvement projects
1924 Tenancy Arbitration Law
1926 The state promotes the establishment of farming by owner-occupiers
1938 Agricultural Land Adjustment Law
1942 Food Control Law
1945 End of World War II
1945-50 Agricultural Land Reform
1947 Agricultural Cooperatives Law
1949 Land Improvement Law
1952 Agricultural Land Law
1953 Agricultural Mechanization Promotion Law
1961 Agricultural Basic Law
1962 Nationwide Comprehensive Regional Development Program
1962 Initiation of the Agricultural Infrastructure Improvement Project
1963 Japan becomes a GATT Article 11 nation
1963 System of deficiency payments for raw milk begins
1966 Revision of the Livestock Price Stability Law
1966 Vegetable Production and Marketing Stabilization Law
1969 Law Concerning Reorganization of Agricultural Areas to Be Developed
1969 Rice cultivation conversion policy begins
1969 Non-governmental system of the distribution of rice begins
1969 Beginning of liberalization of grapefruits and other imports

- 1970 Revision of the Agricultural Land Law (relaxation of restrictions on leasing and renting of agricultural land)
 - 1972 Vegetable Price Stabilization Fund established
 - 1973 USA restricts export of soybeans and grain
 - 1975 Amendment of the Law Concerning Reorganization of Agricultural Land to Be Developed (beginning of the project to promote the leasing of agricultural land)
 - 1980 Law for Promotion of Agricultural Land Utilization
 - 1980 Report of Agricultural Policy Investigation Committee (fundamental plan for agricultural policy in the 1980s)
 - 1981 Revision of the Food Control Law
 - 1986 US government presents a case to GATT concerning Japan's agricultural imports restrictions
 - 1986 Rice Millers Association presents a case to the US Trade Representative seeking the abolition of Japan's rice import restrictions
 - 1986 Beginning of the Uruguay Round
 - 1987 Decision to liberalize orange imports
 - 1988 GATT Board of Trustees finds Japan in violation of GATT with regard to restrictions on the import of ten agricultural products
-
- 1992 — A New Agricultural Policy on the foods, agri. & rural Community announced
 - 1993 — Partial liberalization of rice
 - 1995 — Staple Food Law (Law for Stabilization of Supply-Demand and Price of Staple Food)

Birth of Cooperatives

	(Japan)	(International)
1838	Senzokabu Assoc.	
1843	Hotokusha Assoc.	
1844		Rochdale Pioneers Society(Manchester)
1846		Raiffeisen Society(Germany)
1867		Grange(USA)
1878	Usuisha Assoc.	
1882		Dairy Society(Denmark)
1883	Ekishusha Assoc.	
1888	Doshinnsha Assoc.	
1895		ICA(1st Congress)(London)

COOPERATIVES BEFORE COOPERATIVE ACT 1900

1) Pre-Cooperatives (Primitive-Cooperatives Quasi-Cooperatives)

"HOUTOKUSHA" and "SENZOKABU KUMIAI" in 1830~40 years

Self-Help, Mutual-Help Spirits

Saving Promotion and Loan Activities

Share Capitals for Land Offering

Membership and Leadership

2) Marketing Cooperatives in 1870~80 years

"USUISHA" for Silk Marketing and Exporting

"IWATASHA" for Green Tea Marketing and Exporting

"DOUSHINSHA" for Fertilizer Supply

Entrepreneurship and Export-oriented Spirits

3) Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives been influenced more by

German Raiffisen Rural Credit Cooperatives than British Rochdale Cooperatives

START OF COOPERATIVES AS LEGAL ENTITIES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF
COOPERATIVE FEDERATIONS UNDER GROWING CAPITALIST ECONOMY
(1900---1930)

In 1900, The Cooperative Society Law was enacted.

credit, purchasing, marketing and utilizing--4 types cooperatives
members--those engaged in agriculture, forestry, fishery
those engaged in commerce and industry
workers
consumers

Ideological policy introduced from German Raiffeisen Credit Coops
(Only differed Japanese economic purpose-wised based on local
municipality form German agri. production-wised based on
Community)

1900	No. of Coops	21 (credit 62%, market 24%, purchase 33%, utilize 9%)			
		some functions duplicated each other			
1905	1,671	59	21	39	11
1910	7,308	73	40	58	12
1920	13,442	84	52	73	18
1930	14,082	86	59	73	38

In 1906, first revised Law, Credit cooperatives to launch into activities other than the credit business and this established the ground work for the development of the current type of multi-purpose cooperatives.

In 1909, second revised Law, Open the way to establish federations a union

	No. of federations	credit	market	purchase	utilise
1910	13	3(11)	2(9)	-(5)	-(1)
1912	34	14(30)	2(14)	1(15)	-(1)
1920	155	35(86)	6(79)	26(110)	-(2)
1930	185	33(65)	19(121)	21(121)	1(23)

()--No of functions duplicated federations

Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives been influenced more by
German Raiffisen Rural Credit Cooperatives than British Rochdale Cooperatives.

Cooperative Societies at Early Stage

Year	Number of Coops.	Total Membership (1,000)	Deposits (Y1,000)	Loans (Y1,000)
1905	1,671	69	423	1,427
1910	7,308	534	7,205	11,906
1915	11,753	1,289	43,670	56,364
1917	12,025	1,489	73,976	64,922
1920	13,442	2,290	224,321	189,144

The increase in membership derived from two factors; one was the increase in number of societies, the other was the increase of membership ratio (ratio of member farmers against the total number of farmers)

Average Membership Per Society

Year	Persons	Year	Persons
1905	82	1925	272
1910	107	1930	327
1915	124	1935	386
1920	188	1940	513

Membership Ratio

Year	%	Year	%
1904	1.4	1918	28.2
1910	12.0	1920	33.0
1914	20.0	1929	59.5

AGRICULTURAL PANIC AND SPREAD OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

(1930—1936)

The Depression of 1929, which started in the USA, made a full on slaught on Japan in 1930, creating serious repercussions on agriculture.

Government introduced the Economic Rehabilitation Plan for Rural and Fishing Villages, among other relief measures, gave cooperatives the key role in its implementation.

In 1932, Five year Cooperative Expansion Plan resolved in the 1st National Coop Congress and taken into action with other government actions.

- establish a cooperative in every village in Japan.
- recommend participation of all farmer families in cooperatives.
- operate all cooperatives involve all of 4 type functions
- activate community function (agri. practice associations (farmers Groups- legal person=Community group, Nouji Jikkou Kumiai, Nouka Ko Kumiai, etc.)
- increase scales of business volumes

These years were golden period of cooperative movement, although merchants and commercial organisations staged Anti-Cooperative Campaigns to oppose vigorous activities of cooperative movement.

	No of Coops	No of villages	% of villages of none coops	No of members	No of farm members
1932	14,352	11,800	15%	4,980,000	564,000
1937	14,512	11,400	3.7%	6,210,000	560,000

	paid share capital	reserve	savings	loans	market purchase	utilize
1932	240 million yens	124m.	1.0b.	1.0 billion	203m.	135m.
1937	(10%up)	(25%up)	(65%up)	(4%up)	(195%up)	(163%up)

Farmer Group (Community group=Nouka Ko Kumiai)

	Farmer Group	General	Specialized (saving, seed, poultry, joint ship-----)
1928	157,439	108,665	48,774 (5,615 8,696 3,495 1,979)
1933	235,036	131,428	103,608 (9,201 15,483 5,913 6,869)

Progress of five year plan

	1933	1937	1940	1941
1. Village with no coop. (%)	15	3.7	0.1	
2. Farmers enrolled (%)	62.4	78.5	94.8	
3. Multi-purpose of four businesses (%)	31.3	71.4	78.0	81
4. Societies with age warehousing (%)	20.8	33.5	33.5	39.8

The cooperative movement made every effort to attain the goals, but failed to meet them in the five years. The movement decided to continue the campaign again, this time as a three-year plan commencing in 1938. The progress is shown above. The goals have been not achieved perfectly.

Affiliates to Coops.

	Full-owner	Part-owner	Full-tenant
1930	31.1%	42.3%	26.5%
1940	31.1	42.1	26.8
1950	61.9	32.4	5.1
1980	86.4	12.3	1.1

	<u>Farmers Assoc.(or Farming Group),</u>	
Feudal Age	" Five Neighborhoods" Group(farming, administrating, guarding)	
1925	79,690	(about 30 farmers per Assoc.)(mainly farming)
1928	157,439	(ditto)
1933	235,036	(ditto)
1941	310,000	(ditto)
Present Age	about 140,000(Community(Hamlet)Groups under Agri.Coops)..	
	(mainly farming, coop.business promotion, coop.operation, etc.)	

1933	<u>235,000</u>	{ 131,428	Main function—farming technology in general
		{ 103,608	15,483—seeding
			9,201—money saving
			5,993—handicrafts
			5,913—poultry farming
			133,000—joint working
			6,869—farm products shipping/marketing
			1,902—pig farming
			1,348—tobacco producing
			953—horticulture
			36,822—sericulture

Other type Assoc. or Farmers Group

- 161(Tea Assoc.) (1932)
- 576(Livestock Assoc.)(1932)
- 508(Silk cocoon Assoc.)(1934)
- 3,647(Fishery Assoc.)(1933)
- 1,602(Forestry Assoc.)(1932)
- 11,985(Agri.Organization)(1928)

WAR TIME ECONOMIC REGIME AND STEP TOWARD GOVERNMENT AGENT
(1937---1945)

All economic activities and social movements brought under a single,overhead control as Japan proceeded from the Sino-Japanese War 1937 to the outbreak of World War Two 1941. People,resources and even man's mind were mobilized for the sake of warfare.

In 1943, Agricultural Organization Law was enacted,obliging cooperatives to function the unitary agent of the military regime for agricultural production collection, production input rationing ,channel rice delivery quotas to producers and to digest compulsorily government debentures..

Cooperatives all were merged into the Agricultural Society (Nougyou Kai).

Presidents and Chairman of Agri.Societies had to be appointed by Prefectural Governors.

Farmers were compulsorily made to participate.

NO OF COOPERATIVES IN/FROM 1905 TO 1941

	1905	1910	1915	1920	1925	1930	1937	1941
(ONE BUSINESS)								
CREDIT	986	2,226	3,015	2,650	2,573	2,449	895	613
MARKETING	92	217	234	235	289	328	297	162
SUPPLY	273	772	535	454	370	323	270	254
UTILITY	38	78	133	107	195	295	243	230
(TWO BUSINESSES)								
CREDIT&MARKETING	-	381	400	250	166	223	71	25
CREDIT&SUPPLY	-	1,239	2,583	3,045	2,649	2,024	219	73
CREDIT&UTILITY	-	14	39	61	125	149	75	46
MARKETING&SUPPLY	142	503	461	385	305	284	170	139
MARKETING&UTILITY	63	136	141	167	154	287	201	122
SUPPLY&UTILITY	30	49	37	20	71	102	174	162
(THREE BUSINESSES)								
CREDIT&MARKETING&SUPPLY	-	1,062	2,608	3,975	3,807	3,075	988	380
CREDIT&MARKETING&UTILITY	-	14	90	151	91	59	34	9
CREDIT&SUPPLY&UTILITY	-	26	57	73	308	374	101	74
MARKETING&SUPPLY&UTILITY	47	222	230	173	253	359	412	436
(FOUR BUSINESSES)								
CREDIT&MARKETING &SUPPLY&UTILITY	-	369	946	1,696	3,161	3,751	10,362	11,999
(TOTAL)	1,671	7,308	11,509	13,442	14,517	14,082	14,512	14,724

POSTWAR RURAL DEMOCRATIZATION, ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND
RISE OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AND THEIR FALLS IN
MANAGEMENT DIFFICULTIES

(1946---1954)

Immediately after the war, Japan was placed under the rule of the Allied Occupation Forces. As a means of rural democratization and also to ensure a stable supply of foods, ration scarce goods and materials, absorb savings in the rural sector and ease off social unrest, the enactment of Agricultural Cooperative Law was urged by both Allied Forces and Japanese government.

In 1947, the Agri Coop Law was enacted, and Land Reform put into action.

-(insisted by Allied Forces) dismiss Nougyoukai and newly establish
agri coop society

Two systems =agri coop society & federation
(insisted by Japanese Govt) maintain Community Group and 3 tier system
-Almost farmers affiliate voluntarilly to coops as regular members and
residents eligible to as associate members

-Coops seperated to each function according to each law enacted.

Since then, so many cooperatives (multi-purpose type 13,800, single-purpose type 14,800) were registered, In practice, however, not a few coops failed to crystalize free-will of individual farmers at the time of establishment and many of them were nothing more than the former agricultural societies (Nougyoukai) with only repainted signboards.

--Inherited assets and business from Nougyoukai to new Agri Coop Society
many officials and employees

Fixed and liable assets

Rice & Wheat collection business and its payment channel
(through voluntary registration)

Savings and loans

Government's Advanced Payment system of Rice & Wheat through
Central Cooperative Bank

Agri notes loan

1949 to 1950, Coupled with lack of competent managerial skill, drastic changes in economic policies, inherited bad assets and lack of cooperative activities, etc. drove a large number of agricultural cooperatives into management stagnation.

43% of primary agri coop societies were in deficit in 1947 and even in 1950 as much as 28% were suffering from a similar condition.

No of formation of Primary Coops	
1948	5,022
1949	30,229 (in this ,single purpose coops 18,173)

No of formation of National level Federations

1948 National Guidance Fed. and other 13 National Feds.

In view of the above, Government instituted assistance policies.

In 1950, Standard Financial Management Ordinance to set down the standard criteria for development and administration of property

In 1951, Law for Rehabilitation and Consolidation of the Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Cooperatives, effective for 5 years

In 1953, Law for promoting Consolidation of the Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Cooperative Federations, effective for 10 years

In 1957, Special Law on Consolidation Measures for the Agricultural Cooperatives

(these 3 Laws authorized the Government to render assistance, such as interest subsidy, to cooperatives and federations that have submitted rehabilitation or consolidation plans.)

In 1954, Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives was established, in place of the Guidance Federation which was then dissolved, in order to conduct, as the apex functional and guiding organisation, overall guidance and coordination activities including farm guidance.

STRUCTURAL REFORM OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES
AND COOPERATIVE EXPANSION CAMPAIGN FOR TAKE-OFF
(1955---1960)

Cooperative movement taken initiative by the Central Union focussed on self-help efforts through the National Campaign.

In 1954 to 1956, General Business Planning Campaign of Agricultural Cooperative Movement was undertaken.

- Accumulated individual members' farming plans and daily living plans to cooperatives and also to federations
- Accumulated and intergrated a variety of cooperative business functions
- Implement comprehensive business management plan

In 1957 to 1959, Three Year Plan for Renovation and Consolidation of Agricultural Cooperatives was undertaken

- Renovation of management (auditing, General Manager, Internal financial check system)
- Amalgamation (Optimum, size),
- Enhancement of Coop Ideology and Principles
- Expansion of Business Volumes

In 1960, Campaign for Renovation and Reform of Cooperatives

	multi no. of coops	regular members for one coop	% of societies current profit	% of societies current loss	Increase of Own Capital
1955	12,832	533 (assoc 58)	67%	31%	72
1957	12,559	530 (62)	70%	29%	100
1959	12,221	543 (66)	73%	27%	130
1960	12,050	537 (70)	77%	23%	146

EXPANSION OF COOPERATIVES AND NEW DIFFICULTIES
UNDER HIGH ECONOMIC GROWTH
(1961---1973)

Since 1960 onward, Japanese economy has achieved a major progress by virtue of a high pitched growth economy. Supply of cheap labor from the rural communities contributed significantly to this rapid growth.

Income gap between farmers and other sectors of the national economy has widened to the degree of increasing the number of nonviable and part time farms, while agricultural products flowing in from foreign countries has increased as a result of import liberalization or deregulation of import policies.

In 1961, Agricultural Basic Law was enacted aiming at meet gap between farm income and industrial sectors', strengthen livestock & horticulture farming and increase productivity,

In 1961, Amalgamation Promotion Law Of Agricultural Cooperatives was enacted

No of Multi-purpose Coops(Effects of Amalgamation)	
1960	12,221
1963	10,813
1965	6,544
1968	3,648

COOPERATIVES IN LOW GROWTH OF ECONOMY
(1974---1979)

In 1972, Food Crisis (Poor cereals harvest in Soviet Union and China)

1973 Oil Crisis

Embargo by US (soybeans)

1976 The 14th National Agri. Coop. Congress

(Campaign for Coop.Strength by Self-help Mutual-help)

(Campaign for Agri.Strength in 1980's)

1978 Tokyo Round of GATT and Over supply (surplus)of agri products

No.of Coops

1970(s.45) 6,185

1973(s.48) 5,488

1975(s.50) 4,942

1978(s.53) 4,657

RESTRUCTURING OF JA AGRI. COOPS.

Outline of JA Restructuring

The restructuring of the JA Group is the top policy agenda adopted by the National Agricultural Cooperative Congress in 1991, the main theme of which was "Agricultural Cooperatives; Challenge and Renovation towards the 21st Century". Particular The Restructuring is keenly required due to rapid change of financial situation of Japan. The Restructuring Scheme mainly consists of Amalgamation of primary coops and three-tier system to two-tier system.

1. Amalgamation of Primary Coops

The primary level agricultural cooperatives numbered 12,000 in 1960, reduced by amalgamation to some 2300 by 1995. We will further reduce this to 550 by the year 2,000.

Number of primary agri. coops.

1950(March)	13,314
1960	12,221
1970	6,185
1980	4,546
1990	3,688
1995	2,389

2. Three-Tier to Two-Tier System

JA Group is characterized by its three tier system. However, when the primaries increase in size they are likely to be able to take up at least some of the functions so far provided by the prefectural federations. It is logical, therefore, that the prefectural and national level organisations should consolidate, thus resulting in a two tier structure of organisation, with a two tier business system.

employee)

Approximately 17,500 agricultural cooperative staff leave their jobs annually after reaching mandatory retirement age or of their own accord. The staffs by 50,000 from the current 350,000 will be cut by the year 2000. The JA approved plan will replace only approximately 40 % of these retirees with newly recruited staff and will implement job transfers, including the dispatch of personnel to affiliated agricultural cooperatives. The plan will also introduce a system to urge early retirement at more beneficial terms than regular retirement conditions.

Staffs of Primary, Prefectural, and National Agri. Coops.

	primary	prefectural	national	total
1975	271,199	40,021	7,418	318,638
1980	286,377	43,464	7,767	337,608
1985	297,095	43,955	7,807	348,857
1990	297,459	44,033	7,625	349,117
1991	298,024	43,792	7,617	349,433
1992	300,162	43,930	7,676	351,768

** National level staffs for only Zenchu, Zennoh, Zenkyouren and Chukin

Labour Productivity of Agri Coops

	Gross Business Income (million yens)	Labour Productivity (thousan yens/person)	Increase to Previous Year(%)
1975	918,868	3,388.2	+15.6
1980	1,520,878	5,309.0	+1.1
1985	2,050,615	6,902.2	+4.1
1990	2,413,124	8,112.5	+2.8
1991	2,476,902	8,311.1	+2.5
1992	2,456,793	8,184.9	-1.5

**annual increase is 3.8 % by the year 2000

Two Laws of JA(Agri.Coop.)Reform

December 1996

1. (1) Law on Amendment of present Agri Coop Law
(2) Law on Amalgamation of Central Coop Bank and Prefectural Credit Feds.
of Agri.Coops.
2. Strength and Improvement of Managerial Executive Officers
 - (1) Prohibition of concurrency of other posts(offices) by Chairman and fulltime Executive Directors
 - (2) Introduction of more fulltime Executive Directors who are not members
 - (3) Setup of, if needed, Supervisory committee of member-representatives to recommend fulltime Executive Directors
3. Strength and improvement of Inspection on Cooperative Management
 - (1) Setup of fulltime Auditors
 - (2) Introduction of outside-Auditors who are not members
 - (3) Strength of Government Inspection
 - (4) Strength of Auditings of Cooperative Unions through a way of introduction of Certified Public Accountant
4. Increase of Coop Own Capital
 - (1) Increase of Internal Reserves
 - (2) Raise up of Legal Reserve
 - (2) Setup of Minimum Lowest Capital of coop.

SEEKING A WAY FOR COOPERATIVES IN THE YEAR 2000
(1980---1995)

In 1988, The 18th National Agri.Coop.Congress
(Basic Strategy for 21st Century)
(Globalization, Deregulation, Aging, Information)

1991, The 19th National Agri.Coop.Congress
(Coop Restructure)
(Corporate Identity JA)

1993, Minimum import access of rice (GATT Uruguay Round)

1994, The 20th National Agri.Coop.Congress
(contd... Coop Restructure)

1995 New Food Law

No.of Coops

1980((s.55)	4,546
1983 (s.58)	4,373
1985 (s.60)	4,303
1988 (s.63)	4,072
1990 (h.2)	3,688
1993 (h.5)	3,073
1996.7. (h.8.7)	2,255

Sales Turnovers of Supply and Marketing Businesses
of Primary Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan

(Unit: Million Yen)

	Items	1950	1991	growth ratio	
Supply Business	Production Materials	Feedstuff	3,514 (4.5%)	532,970 (9.9%)	152times
		Fertilizers	40,085 (50.9%)	407,695 (7.6%)	10times
		Agrochemicals	—	323,067 (6.0%)	
		Heat-keeping Materials	—	118,437 (2.2%)	
		Materials for Packaging & Transportation	—	154,123 (2.9%)	
		Farm Machinery	3,828 (4.9%)	381,326 (7.1%)	
		Petroleum	—	620,722 (11.6%)	
		Automobiles	—	340,031 (6.3%)	
		Others	6,874 (8.7%)	371,036 (6.9%)	
		Sub-total	54,301 (69.0%)	3,249,407 (60.7%)	60times
	Living Materials	Rice	—	205,893 (3.8%)	
		Fresh and Processed Foods	6,095 (7.7%)	1,056,406 (19.7%)	
		Clothing	—	70,791 (1.3%)	
		Consumer Durables	—	142,703 (2.7%)	
		Sundries & Health Goods	18,311 (23.3%)	229,026 (4.3%)	
Fuels for Home Use		—	213,087 (4.0%)		
Others		—	190,222 (3.6%)		
Sub-total	24,406 (31.0%)	2,108,128 (39.3%)	87times		
Total		78,707 (100.0%)	5,357,535 (100.0%)	68times	
Marketing Business	Rice	118,699 (62.4%)	1,889,496 (29.8%)		
	Fruit and Vegetables	7,604 (4.0%)	2,198,196 (34.6%)		
	Other Agricultural Products	61,515 (32.4%)	864,479 (13.6%)		
	Livestock Products	2,277 (1.2%)	1,397,065 (22.0%)		
	Total	190,095 (100.0%)	6,349,236 (100.0%)	33times	
Reference	Total Agricultural Production (Unit: 1 Billion Yen)	731	11,455	15times	
	GNP (Nominal, Unit: 1 Billion Yen)	3,970	453,985	114times	

1844

Local Price Sell

Distribute of Profits under Purchase.

No Credit

Both Sexes' Equal Rights

One man One Vote

Limited Interest on Capital

Regular & Frequent Meetings

Properly Accounts kept & Audited and Balance Sheet Presented to Members

1937

1. Free Access to Members

2. Democratic Control (One man One Vote)

3. Distribution of Profits under Purchase

4. Limited Interest on Capital

5. Political & Religious Neutrality

6. Cash Trading (No Credit)

7. Education

1956

1. Open and Voluntary Membership

2. Democratic Control

3. Limited Interest on Capital

4. Return of Surplus to Members

5. Education

6. Cooperation among Cooperatives

7. Co-operation among Cooperatives

1995

1. Open & Voluntary Membership

2. Democratic Control

3. Member Exon Participation

4. Autonomous & Independent

5. Education, Training & Information

6. Cooperation among Cooperatives

7. Co-operation among Cooperatives

! ! Definition: Value

THE ROCHDALE PROGRAMME 1844
(The rules and the methods)

- (1) To sell goods at prevailing local prices
- (2) Restriction to a fixed rate of the interest upon capital—this interest to have first claim upon the profits
- (3) the distribution of profits (after meeting expenses and interest charges) in proportion to purchase
- (4) No credit—all purchase and sales to be paid for in cash when the goods were handed over
- (5) Both sexes to have equality in member rights
- (6) Each member to have one vote and no more
- (7) Regular and frequent meetings to be held for the discussion of the society's business and of receiving suggestions for improving the society's welfare
- (8) Accounts to be properly kept and audited; and balance sheets to be regularly presented to the members

From the Rochdale Rules to the Principles of Co-operation¹

(1937)

The report of this committee, which was first of all submitted to the London Congress (1934), was finally adopted at the Paris Congress of 1937, with the following conclusions:

"Respect of the seven co-operative principles depends upon the adoption and application of the first four, namely:

- I. Free accession to membership
- II. Democratic control (one person, one vote)
- III. The distribution of surpluses to members in proportion to their dealings
- IV. Limited interest on capital.

In the Committee's opinion, the other three principles, namely:

- V. Political and religious neutrality
- VI. Cash trading
- VII. The development of education,

Co-operative Principles

(1966)

- **Open and voluntary membership**

Membership of a co-operative society shall be voluntary and available, without artificial restriction or any social, political, racial or religious discrimination, to all persons who can make use of its services and are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership;

- **Democratic control**

Co-operative societies are democratic organisations. Their affairs shall be administered by persons elected or appointed in a manner agreed by the members and accountable to them. Members of primary societies shall enjoy equal rights of voting (one member, one vote) and participation in decisions affecting their societies. In other than primary societies the administration shall be conducted on a democratic basis in a suitable form;

- **Limited interest on invested capital**

Share capital shall only receive a limited rate of interest, if any;

- **Return of surplus to members**

The economic results arising out of the operations of a society belong to the members of that society and shall be distributed in such a manner as would avoid one member gaining at the expense of others. This may be done by decision of the members as follows:

- by provision for development of the business of the co-operative;
- by provision of common services; or
- by distribution among the members in proportion with their transactions with the society;

- **Co-operative education**

All co-operative societies shall make provision for the education of their members, officers and employees, and of the general public, in the principles and techniques of co-operation, both economic and democratic;

- **Co-operation among co-operatives**

All co-operative organisations, in order to best serve the interest of their members and their communities, shall actively co-operate in every practical way with other co-operatives at local, national and international levels, having as their aim the achievement of unity of action by co-operators throughout the world.

International Co-operative Alliance

STATEMENT ON THE CO-OPERATIVE IDENTITY

— 1995 —

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 co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd 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.

4th 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.

5th Principle: Education, Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so 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.

6th 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.

7th Principle: Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

Cooperatives in the Year 2000

A.F.Laidlaw ICA 1980

(CRISIS)

First stage ----Credibility Crisis

Second stage ---Managerial Crisis

Third stage--- Ideological Crisis

(CHOICES OF THE FUTURE)

First ----Cooperatives for Feeding a Hungry World

Second ---Cooperatives for Productive Labour

Third----Cooperatives for the Conserver Society

Fourth ---Building Cooperative Communities

SHARE OF MARKET OCCUPIED BY COOPS IN THE WORLD

Membership	740 million (ICA Membership)
	800 million (Incl. non-ICAmembership)
Employees	100 million
Share of Total Population	Developed Countries 33%
	Developing Countries 20%
	Former Socialist Countries 39%
Share of Total Economy	Agri.Coops. over 50% of many agri.commodities (US, Japan, EU, Canada, India, Brazil, Argentina)
	Consumer Coops. the Biggest of retail Markets (North Europe, Swiss, Italy, Japan)
	Credit Coops. 17% of Saving Markets (EU) 35-45% of Users of Saving & Loan (US, Canada, Australia, Ireland)
	Workers Coops. 60 million workers employed (US, China, India, Indonesia)
	Service Coops Leading Role (Health Care—Brazil) (Rural Electricity—US) (Transportation—Israel) (Housing —Scandinavia)

(UN Report 1995)

COMPETENT ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES (所管行政庁)
(Article 98)

- Competent Minister -Central Union
-A cooperative whose territory covers an area beyond a prefecture
-A farmers-group corporation and a federation of agri. cooperatives with a prefectural area as its territory
- Prefectural Governor -other cooperatives and farmers-group corporations

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES.

1. Agricultural Cooperative Society Law

Chapter III Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives

Article 73-9 (Scope of Business)

73-9-2

"A Union may present proposals to the administrative authorities on matters related to cooperatives"

(中央会は、組合に関する事項について、行政庁に建議することができる)

2. Set-up of staffs and inner sections specialized in legislative activities in Central Unions and farmer-members groups in primary agricultural cooperatives

(中央会の専門部署とスタッフ設置、農協の組合員農政部会設置)

3. Participation to (Consultancy or Advisory) Committees organized by the Government on Agricultural Policy, Price, Supply & Demand Coordination, and so forth of Agricultural Products

(Rice Price Council, Livestock Council, Agricultural Policy Council, etc)

(各種政府審議会――米価審議会、畜産審議会、農政審議会等への参加)

4. Appeal directly by Farmer

(集会などによる直接アピール、意志反映)

5. Set-up of Independent Legislative Activity Organ. (The National Agricultural Policy Consultation Organisation organized by agricultural cooperatives) and its concentrated activities

(全国農協農政協議会の設置とその活動)

SUPERVISION CONCEPTS (監督)

1. Surveillance (監視作用)
2. Prevention (予防作用)
3. Remedy (矯正作用)

1. Surveillance (監視作用)

(1) Requests for reports (報告徴収) (Article 93, 100)

(2) Inspection (検査) - Inspection by request of members

(組合員の請求のもとづく検査) (94(1))

-- Inspection at any time in case coops violate laws and important provisions

(法令等の違反を理由とする任意検査) (94(2))

-- Inspection at any time in case to do so

(信用事業又は共済事業を行う組合に対する任意検査) (94(3))

-- Inspection once a year as a rule

(行政庁の常例検査) (94(4))

2. Prevention (予防)

(1) Sanction (認可)
(Licence)

Establishment, Change of bye-laws, Dissolution

(組合設立、定款変更、組合解散) (60(2), 44(3), 64(3), 65(3))

(2) Approval (承認)

Change of regulations or provisions

(規程の設立、変更、廃止) (11)

3. Remedy (矯正)

Revoke of approval of establishment (設立認可の取り消し)

(63(2))

PANEL PROVISIONS(罰則)

Penalty for Officers' Abuse of Powers (article 99)

(役員の権限 濫 越の罰則)

Penalty for Interference in Report-making or Inspection(100)

(報告、検査の妨害の罰則)

Fines for Officers and Liquidators(101)

(役員又は清算人の過料)

Penalty for Violation of Article 42(101-2)

(競業禁止違反の罰則)) (person engaging in business competing with coop business

Penalty for the Act Relating to Article 73-9(101-3)

(監査業務に係る秘密保持義務違反の罰則) (disclose Inspection Secretes)

Penalty for Misrepresentation(102)

(名称偽称の罰則)

AGRI.COOPS. and ROLE OF GOVERNMENT
(農協と政府の役割)

1. LEGISLATION(法制面での対応)

2. Agricultural Budget of Government (農業予算)

3. Incentive Measures(各種の奨励策)

(1)Implementation of Incentive Policy and Administrative Guidance
(誘導政策作りと行政指導)

(2)Subsidy(補助金)

(3)Assistance of Interest Rate of Loan (融資金利助成)

(4)Price Support(価格支持)

(5)Tax Exemption (優遇税制)

SUPERVISION

Primary Coops, Federations	Administrative Authorities			
	Primary Coops	Pref. Org.		National Fed.
		Primary Coops	Fed.	
<i>License</i>				
Sanction				
Establishment, amendment and abolition of the bye-laws (Article 44(2))	Pref. Governor	Pref. Governor	Minister	Minister
Establishment (59), Revoke of approval of establishment (63(2))	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Dissolution (64(2))	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Amalgamation (65(2))	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
<i>Approval</i>				
Mutual Relief Insurance regulation (11-4)	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Trust provisions (11-8)	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Regulations of the business of supplying residential plots of land (11-14)	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
<i>Supervision</i>				
Requests for reports and materials (93)	ditto	ditto	(Pref. Governor)	Minister
Inspection of business or account (94)	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Inspection once a year as a rule (94(4))	ditto	ditto	Minister	Minister
Inspection at any time in case necessary to do so (94(2))	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Suspension at any time in case coops violate important provisions (95(1)(2))	ditto	ditto	(Pref. Governor)	ditto

Revoke of approval of provisions (95(3))	ditto	ditto	Minister	Minister
Dissolution Order (95(2))	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Notice, Vindication, Hearing of the views of a Central Union(95(3))	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Nullification of resolutions, elections or election returns (96)	ditto	ditto	(Pref.Govnor)	ditto
Nullification of the contract of exclusive use of facilities(97)	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Nomination of temporary directors or convocation of general meeting by the admi.authorities(40)	ditto	ditto	Minister	Minister

CENTRAL UNION		
	Pref.Union	Central Union
Sanction License		
Establishment, amendment and abolition of the bye-laws (Article 73-17(2))	Minister ditto	Minister ditto
Establishment(73-27)	ditto	ditto
Dissolution (73-30)		
Approval		
Audit provisions(73-11(1))	ditto	ditto
Supervision		
Requests for reports and materials(93)	(Pref.Govnor)	ditto
Inspection (94(1)(2))	ditto	ditto
Inspection once a year as a rule (94(4))	Minister	ditto
Instructions necessary to Central Union(94-2(2))	(Pref.Govnor)	ditto

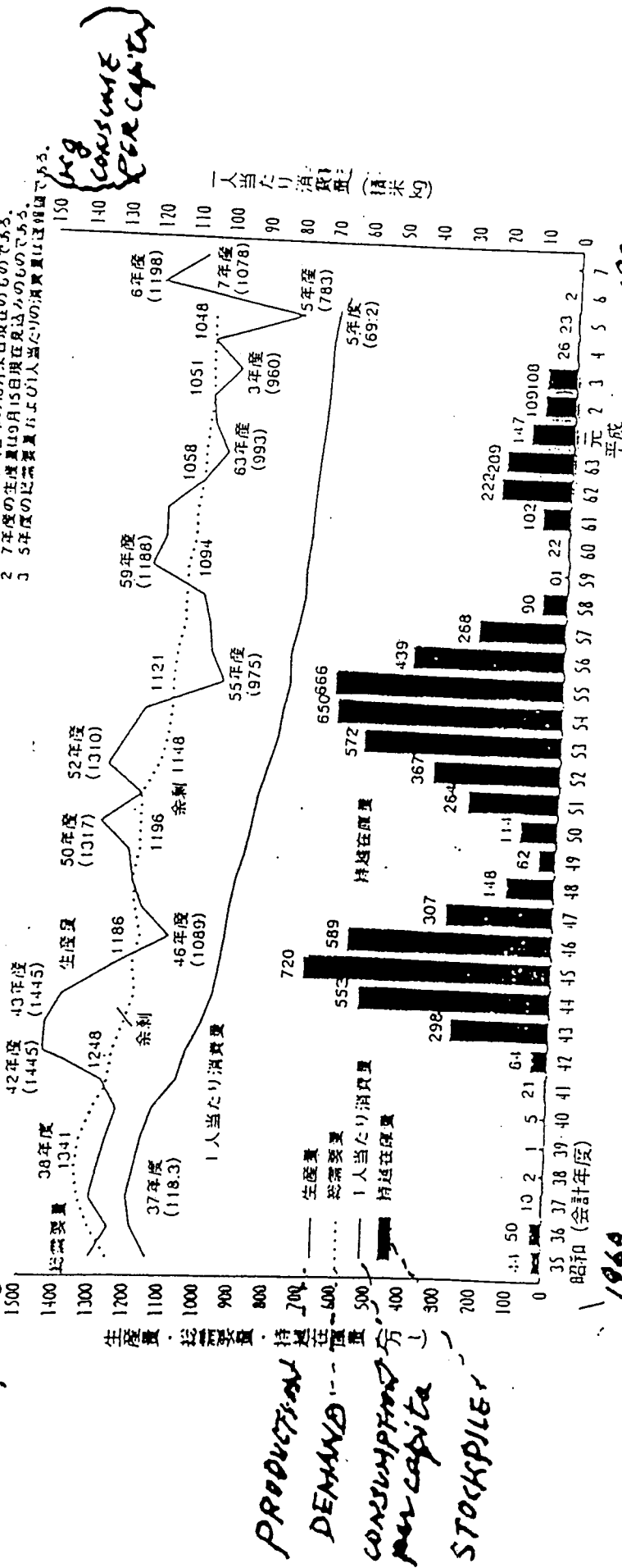
Suspension at any time in case Central Union violate important provisions(95(1)(2))	ditto	ditto
Nullification of resolutions, elections or election returns (96)	ditto	ditto

** Note:Competent Minister is Minister of Agriculture.

In case Primary Coops and Federations dealing credit
business, both Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Finance.

RICE DEMAND & SUPPLY

1 米需給の推移
(10,000t)



(注)
 1 持越在庫量は、5年の10月末現在のものである。
 2 7年度の生産量は9月15日現在見込みのものである。
 3 5年度の総需要量は、50万人当たりの消費量は速報値である。

kg CONSUME PER CAPITA

1995

1960

PRODUCTION
 DEMAND
 CONSUMPTION
 PER CAPITA
 STOCKPILE

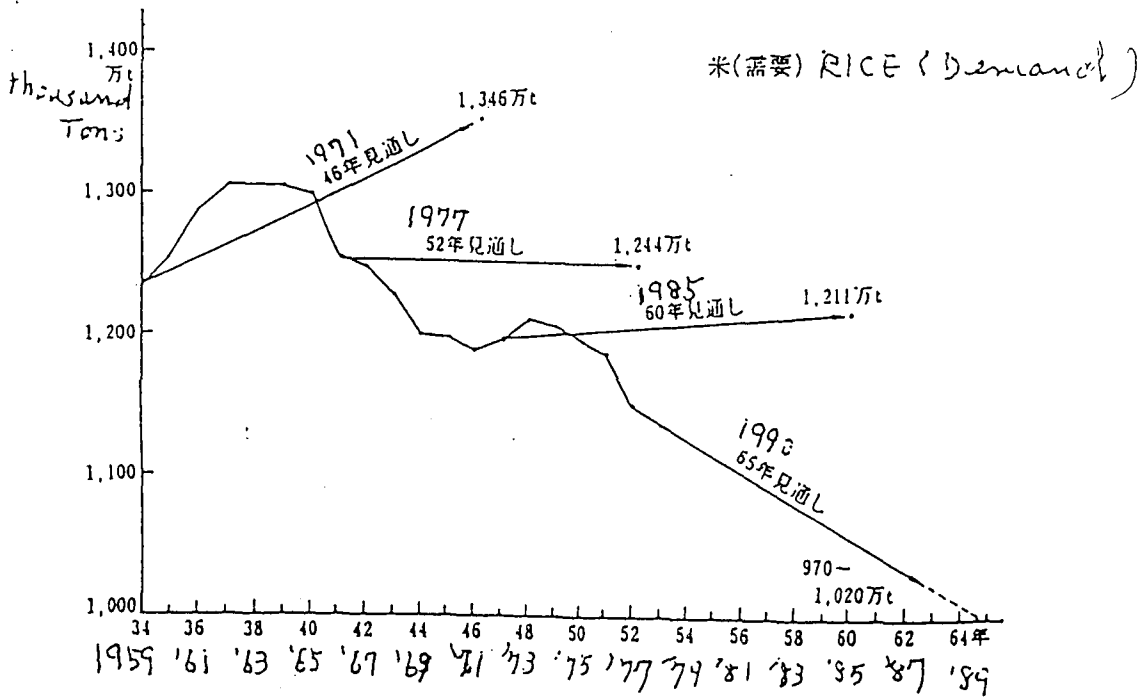
(Estimated) PROJECTION of Supply & Demand

(Each 5 years)

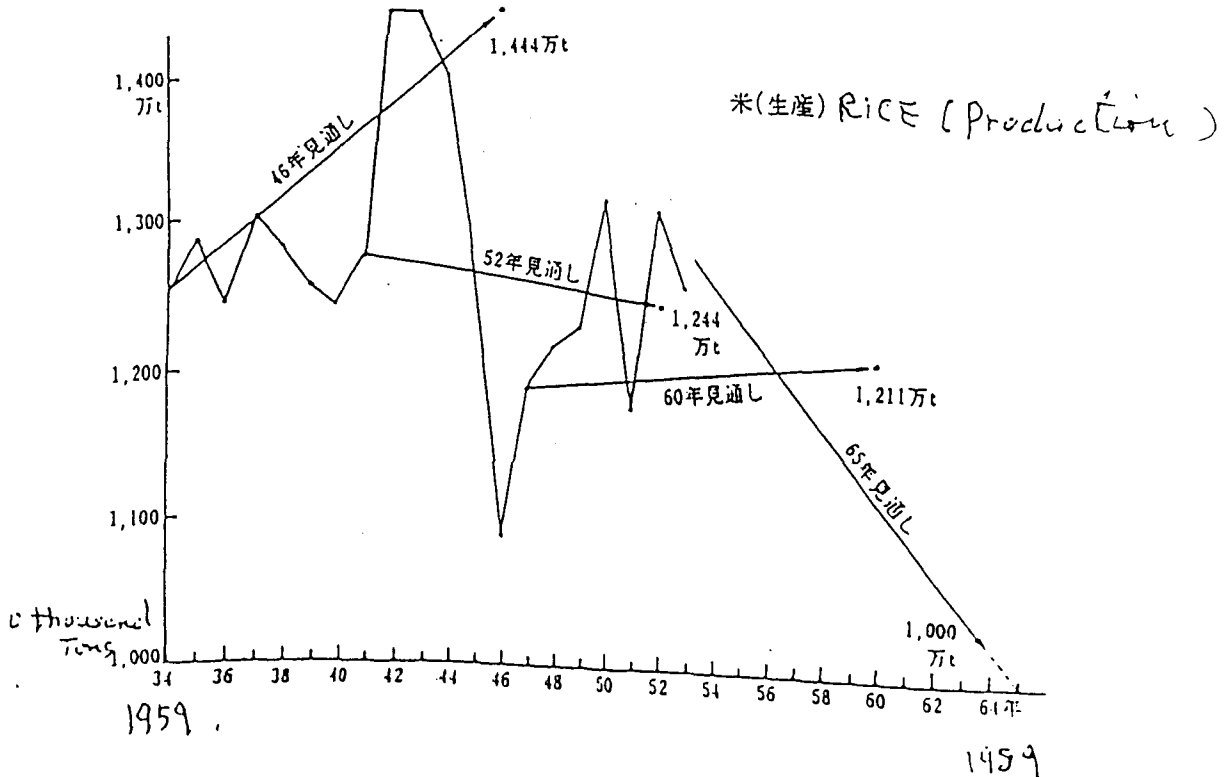
第1-1表 農産物の需要と生産の長期見通し策定の経過

	目標年次	策定・公表	額	要
第1次見通し	昭和46年	昭和37年5月	基準年次 昭和34年	
第2次見通し	52	43. 11	〃 41	
試案	57	47. 10	〃 45	「農産物需給の展望と生産目標の試案」
第3次見通し	60	50. 5	〃 47	
今回見通し	65	55. 11	〃 53	

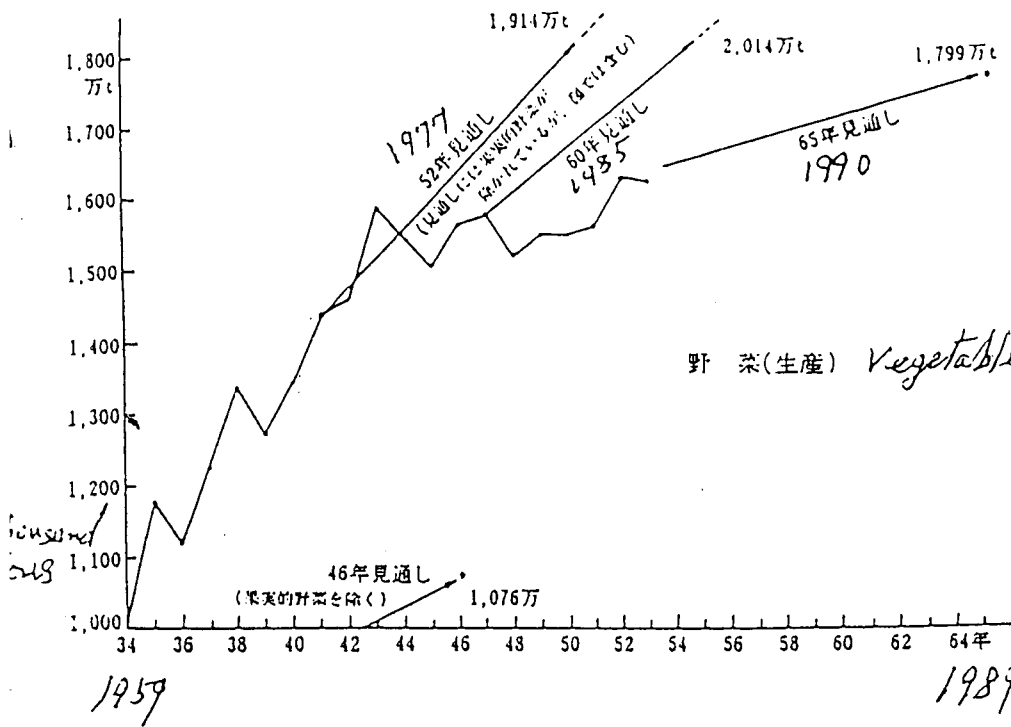
<第1-1①図>



<第1-1②図>



<第1-1⑤図>



<第1-1⑥図>

