

No. 002

**Study on the Livelihood Improvement Program
in Rural Japan
and the Prospects
for Japan's Rural Development Cooperation
3rd Year Report**

March 2004

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FOREWORD

In the post-World War II era, Japan's Livelihood Improvement Program (LIP) has played a major role in improving both the daily living skills of its citizens and the status of its rural women. With this in mind, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) commissioned the Association for International Cooperation of Agriculture and Forestry (AICAF) to conduct the "Study on the Livelihood Improvement Program in Rural Japan and the Prospects for Japan's Rural Development Cooperation". This study was intended to put the experience Japan has gained through the above-mentioned program to use in the rural development of developing countries, while at the same time contributing to poverty reduction and the improvement of women's status.

The Study included collection of know-how on livelihood improvement and extension skills from the persons involved in post-war extension work, and collection and organization of materials used in the work. It finally covered, in addition to the initially expected activities, research and development of know-how and materials that are applicable to rural development cooperation provided by Japan.

In 2001, a domestic survey that targeted all areas of Japan was carried out, as was an inquiry and evaluation of Japan's LIP.

In 2002, in addition to the domestic survey continued from the previous year, videotapes and a curriculum to be applied to training and other activities were prepared using the results of the survey. Then, while putting these items to trial use at cooperation project sites in developing countries, the Study communicated with other donors and agencies and exchanged opinions.

Then, in 2003, which is the final year of the Study, two seminars—the Tokyo International Seminar and the Yamaguchi Prefecture Seminar—were held for the purpose of sharing the results of the research conducted over the previous two years with those people involved in development cooperation and those having strong interests in this field. Furthermore a course entitled "Participatory Training on Rural Livelihood Improvement" was held at the Tsukuba International Centre of JICA, intended to verify the curriculum and other specific results of the research. This course was cosponsored by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO).

This Report is a compilation of the results of all these activities. I expect that it will prove useful to many people involved in this field.

Finally, I would like to mention that, in the course of conducting this Study, we received the

cooperation of a wide range of people and organizations. These include the members of the Investigative Committee chaired by Mr. Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, (Senior Researcher in the Development Research Centre of JETRO’s Institute of Developing Economies), the members of the Working Group, the people who so kindly assisted us in the domestic and overseas on-site surveys as well as the two seminars, the APO which actively cooperated in verification and training at Tsukuba, and all other people concerned. I wish to express my most heartfelt gratitude to all of these people.

March 2004

Motonobu Hiramatsu
Managing Director
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Development Study Department
Japan International Cooperation Agency

Study on the Livelihood Improvement Programme in Rural Japan and the Prospects for Japan's Rural Development Cooperation

Composition of the Study Committee

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Ando Kazuo | Associate Professor, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University |
| Fujii Chieko | Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture |
| Horike Kinko | Advisor, Rural Women Empowerment and Life Improvement Association |
| Ito Hideaki | Director, Agricultural Extension Division, Management Improvement Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) |
| Maki Yukiko | Economic Affairs Division, Higashi Village Office, Okinawa Prefecture |
| Mizuno Masami | Policy Research Coordinator, Policy Research Institute, MAFF |
| Mizuta Kayoko | Special Technical Advisor, JICA |
| Munakata Akira | Programme Officer (Community Development), Agriculture Department, Asian Productivity Organization |
| Nakamura Yasuhide | Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University |
| Nishigata Noriko | Former Assistant Director, Nishikanbara Agricultural Improvement and Extension Center, Niigata Prefecture |
| Nomura Fumiaki | Director, Women and Young Farmer's Division, Management Improvement Bureau, MAFF |
| Oguni Kazuko | Expert, Battambang Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Project |
| Ota Miho | Doctoral programme, The University of Reading, UK |
| Sato Hiroshi "Kan" * | Senior Researcher, Development Research Center, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO |
| Sato Jin | Associate Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo |
| Tabe Hiroko | Executive Director, Rural Women Empowerment and Life Improvement Association |
| Taniguchi Yoshiko | Professor, Department of Managerial Economics, Aomori Public College |
| Tomita Shonosuke | Senior Researcher, Rural Life Research Institute |
| Watari Junkichi | Technical Advisor, Secretariat of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, JICA |
| Yamada Yoko | Former Expert, JICA |
| Yamamoto Keiko | Senior Advisor, JICA |
| Yoshino Hideki | Associate Professor, Faculty of General Policy, Iwate Prefectural University |

*Arranged in alphabetical order by last name. * denotes chairperson.*

Foreword

Composition of the Study Committee

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1-1 Purpose and Objectives of the Study

Year after year, in the development of agriculture and rural communities in developing countries, there is an increasing need for the participatory development, the poverty reduction, and the consideration for society and gender.

On the other hand, in Japan, the extension programs on livelihood improvement implemented in rural areas following the end of World War II were focused primarily on rural women. These involved an approach by which farm households were encouraged to take the initiative for themselves in identifying problems in their own living conditions, defining objectives, formulating plans for living improvement, and implementing and monitoring these plans, which produced much success in the improvement of farming and rural life. Many of these efforts made for the livelihood improvement in rural villages in postwar Japan were essentially equivalent to those being made nowadays in developing countries for poverty reduction, rural development, and participatory development.

With a view of profiting from the experiences accumulated through these extension efforts for the improvement of livelihood in postwar Japan, particularly for the period of 25 years after the end of war, by applying them on the actual sites of international cooperation today, the study intends to make a survey *within the country to retrieve and systematize those activities for the extension of livelihood improvement*

Moreover, since many of those materials used and many of human resources employed in those activities for the extension of improvement of livelihood would still be able to be utilized and mobilized profitably for the development of agriculture and rural communities in developing countries today, the current study intends to collect and classify these materials before they are lost, to process and make them available in usable forms, by reprinting, photocopying, and translation into English, in accordance with the needs. As

for the human resources which could be mobilized in respective areas of cooperation, the study is to make a list of people which shall be as exhaustive as possible.

1-2 Project Content

1) Basic Policy

While continuing domestic studies that were carried out in FY2001 and FY2002 and trying to further deepen “the study on the livelihood improvement” and “the study on methodologies for the development of rural communities”, the study intends, based on such achievements, to prepare useful training materials to be offered to specific groups of users, and also to seek opportunities to apply such materials to actual cases of operations of JICA and other international cooperation organizations (training courses in Japan, and activities of overseas projects for enlightenment and extension, etc)

2) Study Items

- (1) Systematization of the experiences acquired through the extension activities of livelihood improvement Identification, classification, and storage of the information on materials used and human resources involved in those activities
- (2) The examination of the way to make use of the data and training materials which the study has so far collected, on sites of international cooperation (in various training courses and on sites of project activities).
- (3) Promotion of the enlightenment/extension of the achievements of extension activities for the livelihood improvement in Japan.

1-3 Promoting the Study (Steps of the study)

The study comprises the following seven steps.

- Study Group Meetings
- Study in Japan

- Discussion on how to prepare useful training materials
- Planning, Formulation and Implementation of Livelihood Improvement Seminars in Japan
- Study in Developing Countries
- Exchange of Opinions with Other Donors and Those Concerned with Development
- Training

Followings are the descriptions of study activities that were carried out according to the Study items mentioned above:

1-3-1 Study Committee meeting on the “Study on the Livelihood Improvement Program in Rural Japan and the Prospects for Japan’s Rural Development Cooperation”

As is shown below, meetings were held four times this fiscal year. The meetings were essentially held as open seminars so that many people with an interest in livelihood improvement extension could attend.

First meeting

Date: 2 00 PM to 5 00 P.M., Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Place GH meeting room, 11th floor, JICA

Topics:

- (1) Outline of the proposed action plan for the current fiscal year by Mr. Masahiro Yoneyama (Director of Operations Department, AICAF)
- (2) Presentation of a video, a useful training material, entitled “Water and Our Life”, that is a product of the activities conducted up to the last fiscal year by Mr. Hiroshi “Kan” Sato (Chairman of Committee)
- (3) Description of supplementary technical trainings for JOCV candidates by Mr. Junkichi Watari, (Member of Committee)
- (4) Sample activities of JICA
 - 1) The program of acceptance of C/P (Counterpart)s as trainees for Bolivia Medical Cooperation

- project by Ms. Miho Ota (Member of Committee)
- 2) The Study on Development for Enhancing Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Sabah, Malaysia by Mr. Yukinori Ito (Associate Expert, JICA)
 - 3) The Training Service Enhancement Project for Rural Life Improvement in the Philippines by Mr. Shonosuke Tomita (Member of Committee)

Second meeting

Date. 2:00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M., Tuesday, September 2, 2003

Place: ABCD meeting room, 11th floor, JICA

Topics

- (1) Review of an international seminar in Tokyo by Mr. Hiroshi “Kan” Sato (Chairman of Committee)
- (2) C/P trainings for the development study on The Study on Development for Enhancing Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Sabah, Malaysia
 - 1) Outline of C/P trainings by Mr Masafumi Ikeno (Researcher, KRI International Corp.)
 - 2) Report on the participation as observer in the training in Oita and Yamaguchi Prefectures by Ms Miho Ota (Member of Committee)
 - 3) “One Village, One Product” movement, livelihood improvement and the effect of training on those activities by Dr. Akira Munakata (Member of Committee)
- (3) Report on the field study in Hokkaido Prefecture, “The public health nurses for pioneers” by Dr Masami Mizuno (Member of Committee)
- (4) Seminar in Yamaguchi Prefecture
 - 1) Outline of plan by Mr. Masahiro Yoneyama (Director of Operations Department, AICAF)
 - 2) Common ground between the objectives of the Study Committee and the current policies for regional activation in Japan by Ms. Chieko Fujii (Member of Committee)

Third meeting

Date: 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M., Friday, October 17, 2003

Place: A meeting room, 7th Floor, Zenkoku Nogyo Kyosai Kaikan, Tokyo

Topics

- (1) “How should thinking farmers be nurtured? – on the assumption of probable activities in Malaysia” by Mr. Yukinori Ito (Associate Expert, JICA)
- (2) “One Village, One Product” movement and role of women by Ms. Sayoko Goto (Executive Director, Oita International Exchange Center)
- (3) Livelihood improvement shown in GHQ data by Dr. Jin Sato (Member of Committee)

Fourth meeting

Date: 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Place: ABCD meeting room, 11th Floor, JICA

Topics.

- (1) Report on the field study in Cambodia
 - 1) Overview by Mr. Hiroshi “Kan” Sato (Chairman of Committee)
 - 2) Outline by Ms. Tomoko Hattori (Expert for Livelihood Improvement Program, AICAF)
 - 3) Livelihood improvement by Ms. Etsuko Seimori (Chief, Yaeyama Agricultural Improvement Extension Center)
 - 4) Administration by Dr. Masami Mizuno (Member of Committee)
 - 5) Study and planning by Mr. Masao Watanabe (Staff, JICA)
- (2) Livelihood improvement shown in GHQ data by Dr. Jin Sato (Member of Committee)
- (3) Verification of participatory training course on rural livelihood improvement
 - 1) Overview by Dr. Akira Munakata (Member of Committee)
 - 2) Outline by Ms. Tomoko Hattori (Expert for Livelihood Improvement Program, AICAF)

1-3-2 Field Study in Japan

1) Study in Okinawa Prefecture

(1) Dates March 3 to 6, 2003 (4 days)

(2) Team members:

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Tomoko Hattori, Water Research Co.

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Masafumi Ikeno, Researcher, KRI International Corp.

Yukiko Maki, Member of Committee (Economic Affairs Division, Higashi Village Office, Okinawa Prefecture)

(3) Details:

The team cooperated in the training conducted in Okinawa Prefecture for C/Ps who visited Japan as C/P trainees from “Project for Strengthening Regional Health Network of Santa Cruz Prefecture, Bolivia” under the jurisdiction of Medical Cooperation Department, JICA. In cooperation with Okinawa Prefecture and Okinawa Nursing Association, the team held a seminar on “The livelihood improvement and the public health in community” In addition, the team conducted an interview survey with a leader of “*Seikatsu-Kaizen-Kenkyukai* (or Livelihood Improvement Study Group)”, the first livelihood extension worker in Ishigaki Island, and a woman entrepreneur who reclaimed the natural land to start a farm

2) Kyoto Prefecture seminar

(1) Date March 17, 2003 (one day)

(2) Team members:

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Noriko Nishigata, Member of Committee (Former Assistant Director, Nishikanbara Agricultural Improvement and Extension Center, Niigata Prefecture)

Kazuko Oguni, Member of Committee (Expert, Battambang Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Project)

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Akira Munakata, Member of Committee (Program Officer, Agriculture Department, Asian Productivity Organization)

Yuko Yamashita, Doctoral program, Graduate School, Kobe University

Yuko Ito, Doctoral program, Graduate School, Hiroshima University

Masamu Mizuno, Member of Committee (Policy Research Coordinator, Policy Research Institute, MAFF)

Kazuo Ando, Member of Committee (Associate Professor, The Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)

Makiko Ogasawara, Student, University of Tsukuba

(3) Details

The team cooperated in the seminar titled “Regional Characteristics in the Rural Development – Agricultural Extension, Local Administration and Life & Culture – “ held in Kyoto University.

3) Kanagawa Prefecture study

(1) Dates April 24 and 27, 2003 (2 days)

(2) Team members

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Masafumi Ikeno, Researcher, KRI International Corp

Yuko Ito, Doctoral program, Graduate School, Hiroshima University

Naomi Seki, Ikebukuro Health Center, Tokyo

- (3) Details: The team conducted an interview survey about “the movement for a life without mosquitoes and flies”

4) Visit to Koibuchi College of Agriculture in Ibaraki Prefecture

- (1) Dates May 29 to 30, 2003 (2 days)

- (2) Team members.

Noriko Nishigata, Member of Committee (Former Assistant Director, Nishikanbara Agricultural Improvement and Extension Center, Niigata Prefecture)

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Yuko Ito, Doctoral program, Graduate School, Hiroshima University

- (3) Details

With the focus placed on the following three elements, the team gained information from interviewees at Koibuchi College of Agriculture, which has produced many efficient agricultural and livelihood improvement extension workers as well as JOCV agricultural volunteers, about its past and the present situation

- 1) Profile and 50-year history of Koibuchi College
- 2) The curriculum at Life Department from mid-1940's to mid-1960's
- 3) The background information about how it started acceptance of trainees from Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) as well as from overseas, and about actual training.

5) Training in Oita and Yamaguchi Prefectures

- (1) Dates June 29 to July 5, 2003 (7 days)

- (2) Team member

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

- (3) Details:

Ms. Ota suggested a training to be conducted for C/Ps in Japan when she visited Malaysia for study on

the development study project “The Study on Development for Enhancing Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Sabah” in FY2002. In response to this suggestion, three C/Ps of this project came to Japan to participate in training in Japan for about two weeks. She accompanied the trainees who visited Oita and Yamaguchi Prefectures. This study has examined how the training in Japan should be organized for those who come from overseas to learn about “livelihood improvement”. Additionally, while helping them to learn about “livelihood improvement in Japan”, she deepened the understanding of how the “livelihood improvement” has been put into practice in both Sabah and Japan.

6) Nagasaki Prefecture study

(1) Dates: July 26 to 27 and August 5 to 7, 2003 (5 days)

(2) Team members:

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Terumi Yamazaki, NHK International Department

Kazuyo Oishi, Nagasaki University

Kiyoko Nagaoka, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Yuko Yamashita, Kobe University

Keiko Yamamoto, Member of Committee (Senior Advisor, JICA)

(3) Details:

- 1) The team conducted a survey on the development of a livelihood improvement extension project in Nagasaki Prefecture.
- 2) The team identified activities and the way of extension that were performed by livelihood improvement extension workers and technical experts from mid-1940s to mid-1960s.
- 3) The team analyzed the activities that were carried out by a livelihood improvement group from

mid-1940s to mid-1960s, as well as the present evaluation of those activities

- 4) The team visited the small water-supply systems constructed from mid-1940s to mid-1960s, and learned about the background information on the construction from interviewees associated with it.

7) Hokkaido Prefecture survey

- (1) Dates: August 21 to 26, 2003 (6 days)

- (2) Team members:

Masami Mizuno, Member of Committee (Policy Research Coordinator, Policy Research Institute, MAFF)

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Masao Watanabe, Planning Division, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Development and Study Department, JICA

Yuko Yamashita, Doctoral program, Graduate School, Kobe University

- (3) Details

- 1) The team conducted an interview survey and collected data on the activities of the public health nurses for pioneers, and on the progresses of the health program, in Hokkaido.
- 2) The team also conducted interviews to learn about the efforts made in rural areas and by farming households to improve livelihood with the support of those public health nurses for pioneers.
- 3) The team held a presentation session on the cooperation for livelihood improvement, and exchanged opinions at the JICA Sapporo International Center.

8) Nagano Prefecture study

- (1) Dates: November 3 to 4, 2003 (2 days)

- (2) Team member.

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

- (3) Details

Ms Ota conducted an interview to learn about contents and the situation of training for an Indonesian trainee (NGO staff specialized in rural development), who was on the long-term training course for eight months at Nagano Agricultural Improvement Extension Center as a C/P of JOCV

1-3-3 Discussion on how to prepare useful training materials

1) Working group meeting

Date: 3.30 P.M to 5.00 P.M., Wednesday, August 13, 2003

Place: Meeting room at Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO

Participants:

Hiroshi "Kan" Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Yasuko Matsumi, WG member (AICAF)

Yuzo Kobayashi, Assistant Director, Operations Department, AICAF

Summary:

- (1) Components of seminar proceedings
- (2) Allocation of responsibilities for the preparation of seminar proceedings.
- (3) Discussion on proposed modules of C/P training kit

2) Components of useful training materials

- (1) Components of C/P training kit

Based on the following points presented by Dr Munakata, a member of Committee, as components of a proposed course module in last fiscal year, the group discussed the structure of the kit.

- 1) The administrative system for agriculture and rural areas and the outline of rural livelihood improvement in Japan
 - 2) Key concepts of livelihood improvement. Concepts of KAIZEN, “thinking farmers”, and “group thinking”
 - 3) The administrative system which supported the movement of rural livelihood improvement.
 - 4) Role of extension workers in livelihood improvement and its change
 - 5) Exemplar cases of livelihood improvement that found good internal leaders
 - 6) Introduction to livelihood improvement technology
 - 7) Introduction to the technology for extension of livelihood improvement
 - 8) What is the extension planning?
 - 9) Japan’s rural organization and the theory of community
 - 10) The techniques for identifying regional characteristics in livelihood improvement
- (2) Skeleton/Proposed table of contents
- 1) Foreword
 - 2) Concepts of livelihood improvement
 - 3) Attachment of PowerPoint document or diagram concerning the concepts
 - 4) Historical background and role of livelihood improvement (including chronology)
 - 5) Attachment of PowerPoint document or diagram concerning the historical background and role
 - 6) Examples of livelihood improvement projects (movements) in Japan (2 or 3 examples)
 - 7) Examples of adoption of Japan’s livelihood improvement technology overseas
 - 8) Examples of livelihood improvement technology (some ten techniques of improvement, including those for “*kamado*” (cooking stove), kitchen, and food processing, etc.)
 - 9) The role, examples, and explanation of extension planning
 - 10) Characteristics of Japan’s rural organizations
 - 11) The techniques for identifying regional characteristics/evaluation and mapping of environmental factors)

12) Review of livelihood improvement projects (movements) overseas

13) Ways of nurturing extension workers for livelihood improvement

14) Annex effect

- Presentation of livelihood improvement movements carried out in developing countries based on the results of the training in February, examples deemed applicable universally shall be selected out of Country Reports and introduced to trainees
- Livelihood improvement glossary (E/J and J/E)
- Fact sheets of JICA projects for livelihood improvement (one sheet per project)

1-3-4 Seminars on activities of livelihood improvement in Japan

1) JICA international seminar

First working group meeting

Dates: 1 00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Place Meeting room, 1st Floor, AICAF

Participants:

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Akira Munakata, Member of Committee (Program Officer, Agriculture Department, Asian Productivity Organization)

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Yasuko Matsumi, WG member (AICAF)

Yukinori Ito, Associate Expert, Planning Division, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Development Study Department, JICA

Toshio Sagawa, Executive Director, AICAF

Yuzo Kobayashi, Assistant Director, Operations Department, AICAF

Yuko Terayama, AICAF

Summary:

- 1) Date of a seminar (preliminary meeting on August 3, and seminar on August 4)
- 2) Reservation of venue (International Conference Hall, Institute for International Cooperation, JICA)
- 3) Composition of participants (2 participants invited from overseas, invited participants in Japan, other related institutions, general public, etc.)
- 4) Content (Consisted of two parts Part I – Videos shown, Part II - Lecture/panel discussion)
- 5) Others (Theme, objectives, target, style of convening, preparation of materials, information activities)

Second working group meeting

Date: 10.00 A.M to 11.30 A M., Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Place. Meeting room at Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO

Participants:

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Masafumi Ikeno, Researcher, KRI International Corp.

Yasuko Matsumi, WG member (AICAF)

Yukinori Ito, Associate Expert, Planning Division, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Development Study Department, JICA

Yuzo Kobayashi, Assistant Director, Operations Department, AICAF

Summary

- 1) Selection of panelists (Seven persons were selected, including Mr Sato as moderator)
- 2) Composition of participants (Those from related organizations were added)
- 3) Content: (Selection of videos to be shown, key-note lecturer, information, seating, invited

participants, leaflet, etc)

- 4) Others (Implementation of training for C/P of JICA development study)

Third working group meeting

Date: 2:30P.M. to 4 00 P.M., Tuesday July 29, 2003

Place: Meeting room at Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO

Participants:

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Yasuko Matsumi, WG member (AICAF)

Yuzo Kobayashi, Assistant Director, Operations Department, AICAF

Summary

- 1) Confirmation of materials to be distributed at the seminar
- 2) Confirmation of the preliminary meeting with key-note lecturers, etc. (August 3, videos, materials, etc.)
- 3) Others (Confirmation of accommodations and the allocation of jobs)

Fourth working group meeting

Dates: 2 00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. , Sunday, August 8, 2003

Place: Symphony Room, 5th Floor, Grand Arc Hanzomon

Participants.

Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Chairman of Committee (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Chieko Fujii, Member of Committee (Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture)

Norman T. Uphoff, Panelist (Professor, Cornell University)

Jan Johnson, Key-note Lecturer (Livelihood Support Program, FAO)

Sadao Tokuno, Panelist (Professor, Kumamoto University)

Miho Ota, Member of Committee (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

Yasuko Matsumi, WG member (AICAF)

Masahiro Yoneyama, Director of Operations Department, AICAF

Yuzo Kobayashi, Assistant Director, Operations Department, AICAF

Summary:

- 1) Confirmation of materials to be distributed at the seminar
- 2) Confirmation of the content of the lecture
- 3) Preview of videos to be shown
- 4) Arrangements for panel discussion

International seminar (See Chapter 3 for details)

Date: Monday, August 4, 2003/ Part I - 12:00A.M. to 1:50P.M. Part II 2:00 P.M. to 5.30 P.M.

Place International Conference Hall, Institute for International Cooperation, JICA

Participants 153 persons

Summary.

- 1) Part I/Videos and slides shown
 - “Water and Our Life”, Ministry of Health and Welfare, 1952
 - “Community Improvement by the Youth”, Okanaru-*shuraku* (hamlet), Ehime Prefecture, 1957
 - “People’s Efforts for Brighter Tomorrow” Takaono-*shuraku* (hamlet), Kagoshima Prefecture, 1957
 - “Life in Isshiki Hamlet”, Isshiki-*shuraku* (hamlet), Ehime Prefecture, 1954
- 2) Part II/International seminar
 - Key-note lecture 1, “Some Example for FAO’s experience with Livelihood Approaches” by Dr.

Jan Johnson, Livelihood Support Program, FAO

- Key-note lecture 2, “Livelihood Improvement Program (LIP) as Livelihood Approach” by Mr. Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO
- Panelist report 1, “Roles of Farmer Groups in Poverty Alleviation – Comparisons with the Japanese Livelihood Improvement Experience” by Dr. Norman T Uphoff, Professor, Cornell University
- Panelist report 2, “Livelihood Improvement Program (LIP) in post-war rural development in Japan” by Dr Masami Mizuno, Policy Research Coordinator, Policy Research Institute, MAFF
- Panelist report 3, “Experience as a Livelihood Extension Worker in Japan and Assistance to Developing Countries” by Ms. Chieko Fujii, Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture
- Panelist report 4, “Rural development experience in Japan” by Dr Sadao Tokuno, Professor, Kumamoto University
- Panelist report 5, “LIP study and JICA’s rural development strategy” by Mr. Ryuzo Nishimaki, Senior Researcher, JICA
- Panel discussion and Q & A

2) JICA seminar in Yamaguchi Prefecture

First working group meeting

Date: 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M , Thursday, April 24, 2003

Place: Meeting room. 9th Floor, Yamaguchi Prefectural Government Office

Participants:

Toyoko Isomura, Councilor, Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture (in charge of rural women and “*muraokoshi* (or economic development project)

Masaru Yamabe, Director, Management Extension Division, Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Kazuko Yoshitake, Assistant Director, Management Extension Division, Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Chieko Fujii, Member of Committee (Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture)

Masahiro Yoneyama, Director of Operations Department, AICAF

Yuzo Kobayashi, Assistant Director, Operations Department, AICAF

Yuko Ito, WG member, Doctoral first semester program, Graduate School of International Cooperation Study, Hiroshima University

Summary:

- 1) Date and schedule of seminar (It is desirable to hold a seminar after mid-July in order not to fall on a period when the Prefectural Assembly is in session)
- 2) Arrangement of venue (Although it depends on the timing and schedule, the group basically does not have to worry about the venue)
- 3) Composition of participants (JICA, Study Committee, Secretariat, staff of Yamaguchi Prefecture and other neighboring Prefectures, extension workers, general public/NGO, panelists, livelihood improvement experts, rural guides, farm households that have accepted JICA's C/P trainees for home-stay, those related to Yamaguchi University)
- 4) Content (Theme of seminar, report of findings of the Study Committee, roles played by Yamaguchi Prefecture, emphasis to be placed on the aspect of "livelihood", use of livelihood improvement extension workers who are in service now, time allocation, whether the seminar is held along with or supported by Yamaguchi Prefecture, setting up of Seminar Executive Committee (tentative name) with Ms. Fujii playing a central part. etc.)
- 5) Others (Selection of a contact on the Yamaguchi Prefecture side, selection of panelist candidates. etc.)

Second working group meeting

Date: 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Place: Meeting room, Yamaguchi Prefectural Government Office

Participants:

Toyoko Isomura, Councilor, Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture (in charge of rural women and “*muraokoshi* (or economic development project)

Kazuko Yoshitake, Assistant Director, Management Extension Division, Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Yoko Fukushima, Chief of Technology and Information Promotion Office, Management Extension Division, Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Chieko Fujii, Member of Committee (Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture)

Toshio Sagawa, Executive Director, AICAF

Yuzo Kobayashi, Assistant Director, Operations Department, AICAF

Summary:

- 1) Program (The seminar will be “supported by” Yamaguchi Prefecture.)
- 2) Composition of participants: (Staff at related organizations and groups, improvement extension workers, farm livelihood improvement experts in Yamaguchi Prefecture, members of livelihood improvement group)
- 3) Opening addresses at the morning session (Address by Managing Director of Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Study Department, JICA, representing the sponsor, and by General Director of Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture, representing the prefecture)
- 4) Key-note lecture (Reexamination of candidates, etc)
- 5) “Presentation of Examples” at the afternoon session (time allocated to presenters, title, selection of presenters, etc)
- 6) Break (The duration was changed from 20 minutes to 10 minutes)
- 7) Panelists (Reexamination of key-note lecturer)
- 8) Titles of resource persons on the part of Yamaguchi Prefecture (Nobuko Kunimoto – Farm Life

Improvement Expert, Chieko Fujii - Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department,
Yamaguchi Prefecture

- 9) Arrangements (Lunch, the way of application, the way to collect the fees, etc)
- 10) *Publicity on the seminar and invitation and identification of potential participants (Yamaguchi Prefecture side assumes these tasks of publicity and invitation, targeting members of livelihood improvement groups and municipal offices, while AICAF takes care of those other than the above, including those related to Yamaguchi University. AICAF will send a letter to bodies supporting NGOs that informs about the seminar Pamphlets on the seminar have to be prepared.)*
- 11) Requesting scripts of texts
- 12) Others (The next meeting will be held at 4:30 P.M , Tuesday, November 4, when some of members will visit Yamaguchi Prefecture for other purposes.)

Third working group meeting

Date: 4 30 P.M. – 5 30 P.M., Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Place: Sunroute Kokusai Hotel Yamaguchi

Participants:

Kazuko Yoshitake, Assistant Director, Management Extension Division, Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Yoko Fukushima, Chief of Technology and Information Promotion Office, Management Extension Division, Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Chieko Fujii, Member of Committee (Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture)

Yuzo Kobayashi, Assistant Director, Operations Department. AICAF

Summary:

- 1) Final confirmation of seminar program
- 2) Confirmation of venue arrangement, information, implementation & operation, and the allocation of

secretariat jobs for the seminar day

JICA seminar in Yamaguchi (See Chapter 4 for details)

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 Morning session - 10.30A.M to 12:30 P.M

Afternoon session - 1.30 P.M. to 4 00 P.M

Place: Multi-purpose Hall, PALULU Plaza Yamaguchi

Participants 97 persons

Summary

1) Morning session

- Key-note lecture, “Inter-regional International Exchange and ODA” by Mr. Yoshitiko Kawano, Advisor, Japan Bank for International Cooperation
- Report, “Aims of ‘Study on the Livelihood Improvement Program in Rural Japan and the Prospects for Japan’s Rural Development Cooperation’ project and its Progress” by Mr. Hiroshi “Kan” Sato, Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO
- Videos shown (During lunch break, shown were videos of “Water and Our Life”, “Community Improvement by the Youth” and “People’s Efforts for Brighter Tomorrow”)

2) Afternoon session

- First example of activities presented “My Involvement in Livelihood Improvement and a Japanese Language School” by Ms Nobuko Kunimoto – Farm Life Improvement Expert
- Second example of activities presented: “Experience in Participating in Cooperation in Livelihood Improvement in the Philippines and Laos” by Ms. Yoko Yamada, Former Expert, The Training Services Enhancement Project for Rural Life Improvement in Philippines, JICA
- Third example of activities presented: “Life in Bangladesh and Example of Rural Development Cooperation” by Mr. Hisashi Takamitsu, Chief, Planning and Promotion Office, Tabuse Agriculture and Forestry Office, Yamaguchi Prefecture
- Panel discussion: Poverty Elimination and Livelihood Improvement Cooperation in Rural Areas –

Roles of Japan -

Panelists: · Hiroshi “Kan” Sato (Moderator), Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO

Chieko Fujii, Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Nobuko Kunimoto – Farm Life Improvement Expert

Kinko Horike, Advisor, Rural Women Empowerment and Life Improvement Association

Yoshihiko Kawano, Advisor, Japan Bank for International Cooperation

Hisashi Takamitsu, Chief, Planning and Promotion Office, Tabuse Agriculture and Forestry Office, Yamaguchi Prefecture

1-3-5 Overseas study

1) Cambodia

(1) Background

In Japan, the extension programs on livelihood improvement implemented in rural areas following the end of World War II were focused primarily on rural women. These involved an approach by which women were encouraged to take the initiative for themselves in identifying problems in their own living conditions, defining objectives, formulating plans for living improvement, and implementing and monitoring these plans. This approach not only helped raise the social standing of women, but also led to much improvement in farming and rural life.

With this in mind, the study team has conducted the “Study on the Livelihood Improvement Program in Rural Japan and the Prospects for Japan’s Rural Development Cooperation” since FY2001. This study was intended to put the experience Japan has gained through the above-mentioned program to use in the agricultural and rural development of developing countries, while at the same time

contributing to poverty reduction and the improvement of women's status. The team has conducted studies in Japan, and worked to classify and systematize the experiences and results of livelihood improvement extension activities carried out in Japan. In addition, the team has attempted to collect and classify materials that were used to extend those activities. This includes reprinting, copying and translating into English when necessary. Last fiscal year, the team also performed the study in Laos and Malaysia, which showed the feasibility of putting those experiences and results to use in the agricultural and rural development in developing countries

(2) Objectives

Based on the experiences gained through the study conducted in Laos and Malaysia last fiscal year, the team will verify that the findings of the Study will be applicable on the sites of international cooperation. Additionally, the team will perform verification of practicality of useful training materials that the Study Committee prepared.

At the same time, through field surveys, workshops, and seminars, suggestions about the project activities and tips on rural development in Cambodia shall be offered. This will include introduction of livelihood improvement activities that were carried out in Japan and demonstration of the extension method (facilitation method)

(3) Team members.

Hiroshi "Kan" Sato, in charge of colligation (Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO)

Etsuko Seimori, in charge of livelihood improvement (Chief, Yaeyama Agricultural Improvement Extension Center, Yaeyama Office, Okinawa Prefecture)

Masami Mizuno, in charge of administration (Policy Research Coordinator, Policy Research Institute, MAFF)

Tomoko Hattori, in charge of coordination, (Former Expert, JICA)

Masao Watanabe, in charge of study planning, (Planning Division, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Development Study Department, JICA)

Miho Ota, observer, (Doctoral program, The University of Reading, UK)

(4) Schedule.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| December 1 (Mon) | Narita at 10:55 A.M. by JL717→Bangkok at 3.55 P.M. Bangkok at 5:30P.M by TG698→Phnom Penh at 6:45 P.M |
| December 2 (Tue) | Morning: Visit to JICA Cambodia Office Phnom Penh→Battambang Evening. Meeting with those related to Battambang project |
| December 3 (Wed) | Survey at Battambang |
| December 4 (Thurs) | Survey at Battambang |
| December 5 (Fri) | Workshop at Battambang |
| December 6 (Sat) | Battambang→Phnom Penh |
| December 7 (Sun) | Collection of data |
| December 8 (Mon) | Preparation for seminar |
| December 9 (Tue) | Seminar at Phnom Penh |
| December 10 (Wed) | Report to JICA Cambodia Office and Japanese Embassy in Cambodia Phnom Penh at 8:25 P.M. by TG699→Bangkok at 9:30 P.M. Bangkok at 10 55 P.M. by JL704→ |
| December 11 (Thurs) | →Narita at 6:35 A.M. |

*Except Mr Sato who will move to Indonesia for other purposes.

(5) Summary:

1) Field surveys: The team will conduct interviews and focus group discussions with farmers (mainly

women) at the villages where the project has been implemented to know their current situation

- 2) **Workshop:** Farmers who participate in the workshop will be divided into some groups of from six to ten persons. The workshop will be conducted by group, and each group will be asked to list problems concerning individual livelihood or those at the village to work together to analyze those problems and to explore what can be done to solve those problems at present, with the help of members of the team and the project.
- 3) **Seminar** The seminar will be held mainly for Cambodian policymakers and donors. The team will introduce the livelihood improvement activities carried out in postwar Japan, that are considered to contain many lessons for the exploration of approaches to the rural and area development in developing countries today. Through opinions exchange with Cambodian policymakers and donors, the team will endeavor to share problems with many people concerned with agricultural and rural development in the country.

2) U.S. and Canada

(1) Background and purpose

The team will transmit the information on Japan's development experiences to the world including those concerned with international cooperation and assistance in the U.S. and Canada, based on the results of this Study. This will include opinions exchange with the other donors and those concerned with development, and the results will be fed back to the Study.

(2) Team member

Hiroshi "Kan" Sato, Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO

(3) Schedule

| | |
|---------------|--|
| March 2 (Tue) | Narita at 10 10 A.M. by NH2→Washington D.C. at 9:40 A.M. Afternoon: Courtesy visit to JICA Washington D.C. Office/DC Forum (presentation) |
| March 3 (Wed) | Morning: Courtesy visit to World Bank/Collection of information Afternoon – Courtesy visit to USAID/Collection of information |

March 4 (Thurs) Archives of United States Department of Agriculture /Collection of information

March 5 (Fri) Washington D C. at 8:30 A.M. by UA7857→Syracuse at 9.56 A M.
 Morning Meeting with the staff of Cornell University
 Afternoon: Presentation

March 6 (Sat) Syracuse at 10:15 A M. →Boston at 11:44 A.M.
 Afternoon Meeting with researchers of Harvard University

March 7 (Sun) Boston at 4.50 P.M. by AC663→Ottawa at 6:06 P.M.

March 8 (Mon) Morning: Courtesy visit to CIDA/Meeting/Presentation
 Ottawa at 6 50 P.M. by AC139→Vancouver at 9.10 P.M.

March 9 (Tue) Vancouver at 11:20 A.M. by JL1→

March 10 (Wed) →Narita at 2:20 P.M.

(4) Summary

I conducted seminar-style presentation in English at USAID, Cornell University in the U. S., and at CIDA in Canada as well as presentation in Japanese at DC Forum in Washington and at “*Kaihatsu-no-Kai*” of Cornell University by using data prepared with PowerPoint.

Besides, I had an opportunity to have discussion with Mr. Michael McGirr, who was in charge of the extension activities at USDA, and Prof. Michael Reich, Director of Harvard School of Public Health at Harvard University to obtain valuable information. At the Archives of USDA in Washington D.C and National Agricultural Library in Maryland, I found valuable documents regarding the history of “livelihood improvement extension workers” and leaflets distributed in 1950’s and 1960’s when USAID carried out overseas “livelihood improvement extension” activities. In addition, the valuable documents on home economics in the U.S., which I found in the library of Cornell University, should help us to enrich the information on “the history of livelihood improvement extension workers” before they were introduced into Japan. The documents included four papers written by Ms. Mary Collings,

who stayed in Japan and exerted a great influence upon Ms. Matsuyo Yamamoto and other Japanese, and those by Ms. Dora Lewis who visited Japan, and by others. I have found out that the “20th Century Library” of Maryland Branch of the National Archives at College Park housed papers issued by GHQ (the military government unit of Allied Powers in occupied Japan), which I had no time to visit this time. Future opportunities for studying at the library are hoped for.

In general, presentations that I made during this trip received favorable responses, which proved their keen interest in the experiences that Japan gained through its social development. At the same time, I found an interesting document to show what sort of standing the U S itself, which introduced the livelihood improvement to Japan, had given to their own extension workers in livelihood improvement programs

At the end of the 19th century, livelihood improvement extension workers, who were then called home maker, home demonstration agent, or home economist, appeared in the U.S. After their activities reached the peak during the first half of the 20th century, in the 1940s, apparently some people already started insisting that livelihood improvement extension workers were useless. To defend the program against such arguments, considerable efforts seem to have been made to prove how beneficial the activities for livelihood improvement are. Under these circumstances, there seems to have come about a movement after the World War II to redeploy overseas the extension workers of livelihood improvement, who were active in their home country and willingly assumed the new assignments abroad. In other words, there could have been a general perception in the U. S. then that, although the extension workers had become obsolete there, they would be still useful in developing countries. USAID’s 1964 “Home Economist around the world” describes comparable examples in Pakistan, India, Chile, the Philippines, Japan and other countries, accompanied with pictures. An example reported from Japan is that of “*tenpi tank*” (solar water heater).

Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) is now in charge of the extension project at USDA, and Mr. Mike McGirr is Director of International Program at CSREE, which is located at the USDA (800, 9th Street SW, corner of 9th and Main Avenue) The floor immediately above the office of CSREES is occupied by the National Headquarters of 4H Clubs. The emblems of four-leaf clover were hung on the walls conspicuously, giving the impression that the spirit of 4H Club still remained.

For the establishment of the extension system, important elements were the First and the Second Land Grant University Acts that were enacted in 1862 and 1890 respectively. The law was introduced to ensure that farmers' children, who worked for their parents, could receive higher education. In 1914, the implementation of Smith-Lieber Act signed by William Woodrow Willson, then President, institutionalized the "cooperative extension," where the federal, state, and county governments helped each other. The extension system that was introduced to Japan after World War II was called "kyodo-fukyu" which means cooperative extension in English. The name could have originated from this institutionalized cooperative extension. In Japan, on the other hand, labor costs accruing from the employment of extension workers are shared equally by both national and prefectural governments, which is different from the way the system works in the U. S., a sign indicating that the system had to be adapted to indigenous conditions for acceptance in Japan. In the U S., extension workers are said to be assigned to extension centers on the county level, and all of them are staff of state universities. The circumstances are interesting for they suggest an inevitable process of modification of the system taking place when it was first introduced to Japan, which an old adage describes as "replace bones and extract womb". In Okinawa Prefecture, the U S. system was applied without any adaptation, and teaching staff of University of Ryukyus served also as extension workers (together with staff of Department of Agriculture and Forestry) until its return to Japan.

According to "Introductory History of GHQ Occupation in Japan" (published by Nihon Tosho Center),

many American people, who came to Japan while it was under the occupation, were young and less experienced, but talented in their own fields, and were later promoted to higher positions. An aged professor, whom I saw at Cornell University during this trip, told me that he stayed in Japan as “*chuzai-kan*” (resident officer). In that sense, the General Headquarters of Allied Forces might have a certain recruitment system of under which promising personnel may be assigned to Japan.

Pictures of the seminar held at DC Forum, Washington D.C are available at <http://www.developmentforum.org/>.

1-3-6 Training

In order to verify the validity of the achievements obtained through the current study over the past three years, JICA and AICAF conducted a training course entitled “Participatory Training Course on Community Development with the Rural Life Improvement Strategy” together with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO). The overview of this training course is as follows (See Chapter 6 for details):

1) Outline of the course

- (1) Name of the course Participatory Training Course on Community Development with the Rural Life Improvement Strategy
- (2) Dates: February 2 (Mon) to 16 (Mon) (15 days)
- (3) Number of participants: less than 15
Asia-Pacific Countries (For example, ESCAP-eligible countries and regions), APO members (Bangladesh, Taiwan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongol, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thai and Viet Nam)
- (4) Conducted by: Asian Productivity Organization (APO)
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Association for International Cooperation of Agriculture and Forestry (AICAF)

2) Objectives

The course is organized to provide opportunities for extension workers of rural and agricultural development in developing countries, those in charge of their training, and the personnel of central and local governments responsible for rural and agricultural policy, firstly to learn about Japan's postwar experiences in livelihood improvement as an example, and secondly to exchange views on the present situation of each country. Through the course, the participants are expected to learn about the policy framework for strengthening the future programs on assistance and extension of rural and agricultural development, particularly on assistance and extension of the improvement of rural livelihood. They are also expected to learn about the role of extension workers and acquire knowledge, technology, and attitudes, necessary for such programs.

Furthermore, the participants are expected to compare, by taking as the base of reference the experiences accumulated by Japan in its livelihood improvement, the cases of other countries with the existing situation of rural development of their own countries, to identify the strong points and the points needing improvement.

The participants will then produce Policy Recommendations for the rural development in their own countries and Action Plans for the KAIZEN of their workplaces through the reevaluation of their own experiences under the light of objective analyses thus made possible.

This training course is also intended to verify the results of the "Study on the Livelihood Improvement Program in Rural Japan and the Prospects for Japan's Rural Development Cooperation," that has been conducted since 2001 by JICA, through the implementation of a training course

3) Goals

Through this course, participants can:

- (1) acquire sufficient knowledge of Japan's postwar livelihood improvement, study actual examples

- from various angles, and identify the cases of success,
- (2) make meaningful comparisons between Japan's postwar livelihood improvement and their own countries' rural and agricultural development,
 - (3) make proposals for methods to incorporate Japan's success factors in the formulation and the implementation of the policies for rural and agricultural development in their own countries (production of Policy Recommendations).
 - (4) prepare and execute "Workplace KAIZEN Action Plan" which can be applied to and achieved in their own work environments.

4) Background and rationality

In recent years, many developing countries have seen relatively satisfactory economic development. But this has mainly taken place in the industrial sector in urban areas, and the benefits tend to be enjoyed uniquely by limited regions, sectors, and strata. In many developing countries poverty is still a major problem, centering on rural areas, and as a result of rapid economic development there have appeared economic gaps between the cities and the countryside – gaps that have expanded – so that narrowing of these gaps through rural development has become one of the major policy issues

Hence many developing countries have adopted a strategy of achieving rural development and improvement of the standard of living and welfare of inhabitants through the development and the improvement of productivity of agriculture which is the main industry in local areas. Particularly as a result of the "Green Revolution" in and after the 1960s, a certain degree of success has been achieved in the domains of agricultural development and improvement of agricultural productivity. But since the development and the improvement of productivity have been realized mainly in regions where conditions are favorable and there are relatively prosperous farming populations, they have not necessarily brought about the improvement of the standard of living and welfare for the rural areas as a whole in developing countries. Consequently, in later rural development great efforts have been directed toward small-scale

infrastructure, rural finance, technological training, job creation, education, and health services, etc , to improve various aspects associated with the running of farms and the living of rural population. Yet in reality in most developing countries, these efforts for rural development have still not attained the goals aimed at initially.

In retrospect, in Japan's postwar rural development, agricultural extension and rural life improvement projects filled an important role. Agricultural extension was carried out mainly by extension workers and men who carried bore the burden of the agriculture that was the villages' main industry, contributing greatly to the agricultural development and the improvement of productivity. On the other hand, rural life improvement projects were firstly promoted by improvement extension workers, while rural women as principal actors explored and identified everyday problems in their localities which they endeavored untiringly to solve on their own. Thus in rural areas of Japan in postwar era, the development progressed with both the program of extension of agricultural improvement and the program of improvement of life working in tandem. And it can be said that, as a result of those programs, a sound rural society supporting the subsequent economic development was established, and the standard of living rose substantially.

It can be reasonably assumed that the way the programs of rural life improvement were implemented and the role played by extension workers in life improvement in the rural development of postwar Japan contain useful suggestions when one tries to envision the rural and regional development and the system of extension for that purpose in developing countries today. Moreover, the addition of the viewpoint of comparison with other countries will provide a convenient opportunity, on the one hand, to look back objectively the programs of the extension of agricultural improvement and the programs of rural life improvement, both implemented 50 years ago in Japan, and, on the other hand, to consider how to apply usefully those Japanese experiences in the programs of rural life improvement, in the formulation of future policies and methodologies for the development assistance to developing countries.

5) Participants

Upper-level extension officers, training officers, in charge of the life improvement or the agricultural and rural development, in developing countries, those officers of central and local governments responsible for the policies for the agricultural and rural development Or, NGO staff with similar qualifications, and researchers whose principal area of study concerns either the life improvement or both the rural development and life improvement.

6) Qualifications for participants described in the General Information (G.I.)

- (1) Upper-level extension officers specialized in livelihood improvement and agricultural / rural development extension, and extension training specialists who plan and formulate proposals for training and education programs for specialized organizations that nurture extension workers
- (2) General managers of extension centers and equivalent persons whose main work is livelihood improvement and agricultural / rural development
- (3) Central government section chiefs, local government senior section chiefs and persons deemed as of equivalent rank or above, involved in agricultural and rural development planning and operations
- (4) Persons with careers of five or more years in agricultural and rural development
- (5) Age 30 - 45
- (6) University graduate or equivalent educational background
- (7) Ability to discuss and prepare documents in English
- (8) NGO staff and researchers who meet or exceed the above qualifications

7) Training subjects

- (1) Overview of Japan's postwar livelihood improvement
- (2) Administrative system for implementing livelihood improvement (legal system, organization, personnel assignment, budgeting, others)
- (3) Role and technology of extension workers who expedite livelihood improvement (extension plans and

technology, daily living technology)

- (4) Ways of ascertaining distinctive regional characteristics for implementation of livelihood improvement
- (5) Study of methods of producing “Policy Recommendations” for rural area development in their countries and “KAIZEN Action Plan” for their workplace based on the knowledge and technology learned from the training subjects above.

Chapter 2 Summary

2-1 Colligation

In the current fiscal year, the third year of this commissioned Study, the activities of the Study comprise three broadly divided components, namely 1) the research and collection of information on the experiences of activities in livelihood improvement, which has constituted the principal activity of the Study from the beginning, 2) the transmission of information on experiences in livelihood improvement, targeting international consumption, and 3) the preliminary work for the preparation of training curricula dealing with the livelihood improvement, on which the Study laid the emphasis of activities in the final fiscal year.

2-1-1 Interview survey on livelihood improvement experiences

Interview surveys conducted this fiscal year comprised the second Okinawa study (March, 2003), the survey related to the “movement to exterminate mosquitoes and flies” (April, 2003), the Nagasaki study (July to August, 2003), and the Hokkaido study (August, 2003). We believe that adequate surveys were performed, covering a sufficiently large number of areas for finalizing the activities of interviews extending over the last three years. In this fiscal year, not only tracing the activities promoted by the then Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, we endeavored to cover the efforts toward the livelihood improvement undertaken by other sectors (Ministries of Health and Welfare ‘then’ and Education, Science, Sports, and Culture ‘then’, etc). As a result, we accumulated a lot of information on activities of “public health nurses” (Okinawa), “movement to exterminate mosquitoes and flies”, and “public nurses for pioneers (mainly in Hokkaido)”. Those examples indicated the “multi-sector partnership” in the postwar Japan’s rural development, and it was clearly shown that this sort of partnership was very instructive to development cooperation in developing countries.

In Okinawa Prefecture, the team conducted interview surveys at three places. The first one was an

interview with a livelihood improvement group which had received a national award for its housekeeping book activities in Yomitan village, located in the central part of the main island. Team members were deeply impressed by the mutual relationship of exchange between livelihood improvement extension workers and members of the group that has lasted since then, and collected a lot of valuable data held by a leader of the group. The second one was an interview with an entrepreneur about her business of “processing agricultural products by women” at the center of Ishigaki city, Ishigaki Island. Like “One Village, One Product” movement in Oita Prefecture, this is a concrete example of “the present state of livelihood improvement groups”. It is, of course, needless to say that, behind the background of such a state, there has been a long history of activities of the groups of livelihood improvement which had started shortly after the end of the war. Such entrepreneuring of “lively moms” is enabled only where there exists the support system consisting of livelihood improvement workers and extension centers which provide assistance for guidance on processing technologies and for the development of products and for the opening up of their markets. The third one was an interview survey about activity experiences at a village which was under development, located in the north of Ishigaki Island. Like reclaimed land in Hokkaido Prefecture, this is an example of a fight with poverty under very tough conditions. It has been confirmed definitely that livelihood improvement extension workers and public nurses have also played a very important role in eliminating poverty in those villages.

In Nagasaki, the team, first of all, conducted an interview with a former livelihood improvement extension worker at the Prefectural Government Office. It was said that Nagasaki clearly gave high priority to agriculture, with an attitude of “life is not viable without agriculture”, and somewhat fell behind Kumamoto and Kagoshima Prefectures in efforts in livelihood improvement. In early days, most of extension workers were widows and former teachers, which caused a great gap in terms of experiences between them and those newly employed afterwards. However, it was said that newly employed workers, who started with the state of “knowing nothing about agriculture”, asked people around them for support by taking advantage of the very fact of “knowing nothing”, and realized the “livelihood improvement on a town-wide

basis, including an agricultural cooperative, municipal office and mayor” Although the use of existing actors like those in this case can be seen in other areas, there is an impression that especially in Kyushu the subject matter specialists of social education contributed more significantly to the program than in other areas This will be our issues to be studied in the future.

Next, the team had an interview with a former leader of a livelihood improvement group, which had received Mainichi Agriculture Award, of an upland area growing citrus in Nagayo-cho, Nishisonogi-gun, a northern suburban area of Nagasaki City. This group is famous for its diverse collective activities such as the running of a joint kitchen during the “*mikan* (Japanese mandarin oranges)” harvest season. Those activities were said to have been reported in a TV program. The group also carried out the program of house improvement, by the loan of livelihood improvement funds, such as the improvement of kitchens and toilets, and the construction of “a room for husband and wife”.

With respect to the interview survey in Goto Islands, as the team made the approach through a channel other than that of livelihood improvement extension workers, the information collected contained viewpoints slightly different from those encountered previously. At Ojika Island in Kami-goto, the team learned mainly about activities of a women’s club The women’s club carried out vigorous activities including the proposal for the installation of small water-supply system, and the construction of “*aijo-doro*” (“road of love”) for children to go safely to the elementary school. In spite of the accusation against its activities from men saying “How dare women be so bold as to do such a thing?”, the club raised funds by showing “*Onna-Kabuki* (Kabuki dramas performed by women)”, to sailors on the fishing boats touching the nearby port. This example is noteworthy in that members of the club worked together in harmony for the sake of their own life and children even without any involvement of livelihood improvement extension workers

At Fukue Island in Shimo-goto, two public health nurses, that the team met, told about tuberculosis examinations and healthcare activities for mothers and their children shortly after the war. What they told

showed that the circumstances of activity then on Goto Islands were similar to those in the developing countries at present. Medical examination tours on board a ship named "*Hato-maru*" owned by the prefectural government were very hard work extending for two weeks in a row. They said that it was a demanding task to visit individual households for the examination of mothers and infants in areas where the conveniences for transportation were lacking. According to them, in isolated islands in particular, public health nurses were not able to conduct the examination of pregnant women, unless those familiar with local circumstances cooperated with them, and hence they were accompanied by welfare commissioners on such occasions. It seems that the existence of those collaborators is one of the very instructive elements among postwar Japan's experiences.

In Hokkaido Prefecture, the interviewees were mainly former public health nurses for pioneers. Like livelihood improvement extension workers, public health nurses for pioneers were under the jurisdiction of the then Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Generally, extension workers were in charge of the services for established villages while the nurses were responsible for the affairs in villages which were under development. Therefore, the nurses for pioneers performed both categories of services, namely, those which were rendered normally by public health centers and health nurses of villages, and those normally provided by extension workers for livelihood improvement. Most of public health nurses for pioneers lived themselves in villages which were under development and devoted "24 hours a day, 7 days a week" to their tasks. In this sense, they could be considered to be the most hard-working development workers. The other nurses, who lived in towns and commuted to villages for work were said to have tried, in consideration of poverty of pioneers of whom they took care, to approach the pioneers as close as possible by wearing worn-out pants when they visited the village. In the course of activities, they also sometimes "exchanged" their "*onigiri* (rice ball)", that they brought for their lunch, with "*suiton* (soup with dumplings)" to enable pioneers to taste steamed rice or gave pioneers candies in return for something. The former nurse, whom the team met, recalled that she never wanted to do something like giving things "in charity".

As for group activities, public nurses for pioneers followed the example of an efficient way of extension that experienced extension workers for livelihood improvement were adopting. Extension workers set a date for the monthly meeting of an improvement extension group consisting of established farm households, and visited the village on that date. A lot of nurses endeavored to establish a women's club after they got familiar with a community to some extent.

In reality, there were a certain number of cases where both established farm households and new ones of pioneers lived in the same village. In such cases, extension workers and nurses for pioneers worked together to approach their same target groups of housewives. A case was introduced to the study team, in which, on the occasion of a gathering, extension workers held a seminar to teach how to bake bread while nurses for pioneers offered a health counseling service. For housewives of farm households, the opportunity to go to such gatherings would have been valuable one. It must have been very helpful for them to participate in a cooking seminar --- a campaign to use flying pans for the use of cooking oil was also carried out, and a seminar to teach how to prepare preserved foods for the busiest agriculture season was popular among housewives --- and at the same time to gain knowledge about health as well as to consult with nurses about what they were concerned with. For the areas where there were some distances between households, they had to visit individual households. It seemed that extension workers and nurses for pioneers sometimes visited such households together. In that case, extension workers conducted activities of livelihood improvement while nurses carried out activities of sanitary education (contraception). According to former nurses the team met, although they repeatedly stressed the importance of family planning, it was difficult to make the farmers put it into practice. Anyway, these examples in Hokkaido also confirmed the need of multi-sector approaches.

For farmers who gained limited information from the outside of their community, public health nurses for pioneers and livelihood improvement extension workers played other roles such as a counselor regarding personal problems, go-between for young couples --- pharmacists at Toyama Prefecture are said to have

sometimes helped their arrangements---, and mediator for adoptions ---it seems that, since nurses attended the labor and delivery, they were often asked to intervene in such mediation. In early days of reclamation, pioneers came to a village in hopes of better life, and the situations against their expectations often caused quarrels between husbands and wives. The comment that a public health nurse for pioneers, who happened to visit such families, was able to provide an opportunity for husbands and wives to resume the conversation between them shows the importance of the role that nurses played to support pioneers mentally. At that time, subject matter specialist of social education at municipalities also exerted their efforts in livelihood improvement in various ways. It is said that the collaboration with those specialists was also important for the nurses for pioneers. Around the early 1960s, there appeared farmers who decided to quit farming on account of disappointment with the results of their farming efforts, or due to the expanded employment opportunities in non-agricultural sectors in parallel with the rapid economic growth of the nation. Since 1963, the funding of 300,000 yen started as a subsidy for farmers who considered quitting agriculture and met certain requirements. Public health nurses for pioneers helped farmers to apply for this subsidy as well as made the evaluation of farmers' eligibility, too.

There was another interesting comment regarding the correspondence between the government and residents. One of the significant functions of public health nurses for pioneers was the identification of various demands from women's groups at reclaimed lands and the transmission of those demands to village or "*shicho* (district)" offices --- in Hokkaido Prefecture, the administration has been conducted on a "*shicho* (district)" basis. Although in those days the reclamation section of Hokkaido Prefecture had at its disposal a relatively large budget as well as political power, it was not easy for it to meet those demands immediately. According to the interviewees the team met, the officials of prefectural government suggested to the nurses for pioneers that they should promote a movement rising from the lowest level of the constituency, in order to secure the budget allocation, because the movement rising from the bottom (direct action of the people) could influence decisions of the upper echelon of the administration

Acting on such suggestions, the nurses resorted to the tactic to encourage women and villagers to start lobbying and certain projects on their own initiatives, in order to apply pressure to the government, armed with such actual accomplishments. A former public health nurse for pioneers at Tsurui town said, “Once residents moved into action, the government allocated a fund to them” Conversely, in the case of the project of establishing “Model community of the movement to exterminate flies and mosquitoes” which was initially promoted by the government, the nurses who knew through their everyday activities the voice of housewives “I wish I could take a siesta without flies bothering me” took advantage of the project and succeeded in producing the self-motivated activities of the people, by firstly asking the administration to designate a village as the model community.

For the public health nurses for pioneers who usually worked alone, it was important to get together. The team heard the recollection that they talked each other about what they were concerned about everyday, cheered up each other, and became energized. The similar comments were heard from livelihood improvement extension workers in other prefectures, and we believe that this confirms the importance of backup and mental support by the government to development workers who conduct activities on site.

In respect of the “movement to exterminate mosquitoes and flies” implemented through the administrative structure of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the team conducted an interview with a person who was involved in measures against parasites and worked for the Department of Medical Entomology, National Institute of Health (now Department of Medical Entomology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases) from 1955 to 1965, then moved to Environmental Biology Department of Japan Environmental Sanitation Center in 1965 when the center was established. An interesting point about his comments was that the “movement to exterminate mosquitoes and flies” on a community basis heated up when there was “a person who was very enthusiastic about the movement like *kichigai* (a crazy person)”^{*} on the side of either

* The interviewee used this word just to stress the meaning of “a person who was so enthusiastic”, and had no other intention (remarks by editorial staff)

the government or the public. When an effort is made to apply Japanese experiences to developing countries, when a project on the environmental sanitation is envisioned in future, for example, one of the important questions would be how to find the persons possessed with such a keen interest in the new project, and when such persons are not found, how to approach the target population.

2-1-2 Study for the evaluation of training curriculums

A study related to the preparation of training curriculums on livelihood improvement was also vigorously conducted, which came to fruition as the verification training at Tsukuba International Centre of JICA held at the end of the fiscal year.

First, the team performed an interview survey at the Koibuchi College of Agriculture in May of 2003, that has played an important role in the livelihood improvement extension project by nurturing many livelihood improvement extension workers in postwar Japan. After ascertaining the history and educational policies of the college, the team performed an interview to learn about the present situation of supplementary technical training for JOCV candidates and about track records of acceptance of overseas trainees. All of those training courses were mainly on the agricultural technology, and the extension technology was not a major training module for them. Then, the study in Oita and Yamaguchi Prefectures was conducted in June and July of 2003, exploiting the opportunity of the training of counterparts from the rural development project implemented in Sabah, Malaysia as a JICA development study. Two members of this Study Committee accompanied the trainees for the observation visits to actual sites Oita Prefecture, which is famous for its "One Village, One Product" movement, has accepted trainees from all over the world and developed adequate audio visual training materials in English. In Yamaguchi Prefecture, an elaborate and eventful visit schedule had been prepared for the trainees with the cooperation of a former livelihood improvement extension worker who visited Sabah to participate in the development study last fiscal year as well as with that of the prefectural officers in charge of this training. This study confirmed that it was important for this type of training by short-term visits for onsite observation that 1) trainees fully

understood beforehand “the reason why this site was chosen for the visit, and what should be observed”, 2) interpreters, if any, understood concepts of livelihood improvement and were fluent in the use of technical terms, 3) the trainees recognized the significance of what they learned through post-visit “feedback discussion” with Japanese who understood the site the trainees had visited. When training of this type is conducted in future, it is desirable for those concerned to reach a consensus about those elements.

In Nagano Prefecture (JOCV counterpart training, November, 2003), a member of Study Committee visited a training site of a counterpart of a JOCV volunteer who had been dispatched as a rural development extension worker to South Sulawesi, Indonesia. His counterpart was undergoing a training program for one year in Nagano, the situation of which made the subject of the Study. At this site, there came up three different kinds of problems for three parties; namely, for the trainee, what the trainee wished to learn, for the JOCV volunteer, what he or she had expected the trainee to learn, and for the side who accepted the trainee, the lack of know-how about long-term individual trainings. It seems that this is not the special case, and similar problems should be seen in other training sites. However, the absence of common understanding, between many of those concerned starting with JICA itself about what the training focused on the “extension” should be, is considered to be the fundamental cause of the frequent occurrence of those problems. In the background of the problems, there lies a reality that, those responsible for planning and coordinating the training programs of counterparts have first to face the problem of finding with a great difficulty those individuals or organizations willing or at least agreeing somehow to accept trainees. For the program of long-term training of the type of individual acceptance, it will be necessary to consider a system in which persons with a qualification of “tutor”, who understand the intent of the program, the background of trainees, and the essence of livelihood improvement, visit the site about once a month to meet trainees for support.

In addition, the member of the Study Committee delivered a one- or half-day lecture on “livelihood improvement” to JICA group trainees from foreign countries like Viet Nam, Cambodia and South Africa,

based on the achievements of the Study Committee.

As the culmination of those studies for preparation of training curriculums on livelihood improvement, we finally realized the 17-day verification training for the invited trainees from 12 Asian countries in February, 2004 (organized by APO, JICA and AICAF). This course was comprised of lectures and an on-site observation. In respect of lectures, we put emphasis on basic concepts of livelihood improvement, and tried to make them interesting and relevant by inviting four former livelihood improvement extension workers to talk about their experiences in various topics. For an on-site observation, the trainees visited Daigo-machi, Ibaraki Prefecture. We believe that the training program concluded with certain success as a whole. On the other hand, some matters needing further study were identified, including, how the know-how and sentiment of former livelihood improvement extension workers, who delivered their lectures in Japanese, should be accurately translated by interpreters, and how trainees should integrate what they learned from on-site observations into the activities in their countries. The experience of this verification training is reflected on the preparation of a "livelihood improvement training kit".

As for training for JOCV volunteers/candidates, Ms. Ota, a member of the Study Committee, has been serving as an instructor since FY2003 for the five-day "supplementary technical training" that is conducted mainly for rural development extension worker candidates before their dispatch. Noteworthy, among others, is the cooperation in the training of rural development extension workers already on duty in Central America. This training took the form of a workshop, entitled "The workshop on improvement of *kamado* (cooking stove)", held in Panama in December, 2003, in which JOCV members from countries around Panama participated. The Study Committee provided cooperation in planning and implementation of the workshop. Unfortunately, however, this workshop, in which "*kamado*" technology was somewhat centered in the agenda, did not develop into the scope of rural development with using "*kamado*" as an entry point. This was due to the lack of a unified view among the JOCV secretariat, the accepting entity in Panama, participants, and lecturers dispatched from Japan, on the position of "*kamado*" in the rural

development. “*Kamado*” used to be an important entry point for “livelihood improvement” activities in Japan. In the future, it will be necessary to conduct the training in “*kamado*” technology, by making the trainees recognize its significance as the entry point in the activities of livelihood improvement, giving it a suitable position in the entire picture of the livelihood improvement.

2-1-3 Transmission of livelihood improvement experiences

Through transmission of the study results to a developing country (Cambodia: December, 2003) following the last fiscal year, as well as through that to developed countries (U.S. and Canada: March, 2004) and cities in Japan (Tokyo: August, 2003, and Yamaguchi: November, 2003), we showed widely under diverse circumstances the features of the livelihood improvement approaches to rural development and poverty elimination.

For the Cambodia study, a livelihood improvement extension worker who is in active service now, Ms. Etsuko Seimori (Okinawa Prefecture) joined the team and observed rural areas in Cambodia from the viewpoint of a Japanese extension worker. Like the cases in Laos and Malaysia (Sabah) last fiscal year, the team was able to confirm the professional ability of an extension worker to observe the life in rural areas in details and then identify problems in spite of the difference in culture and climate. In this study, the team took an approach from the aspect of “sanitation around the kitchen” Okinawa’s pickled fruits, which Ms Seimori showed during a feedback seminar at a rural area, attracted keen interest from people there. This resulted in a cooking seminar held impromptu at the village in the afternoon of that day. Other team members were much impressed with her skills to tactfully provide the two-hour seminar without any preparation in advance. In Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, the team gave a presentation on “Japan’s livelihood improvement experiences and their meanings in South East Asian countries” to those concerned with the agricultural development, including expatriates working there, receiving positive reaction from a wide spectrum of people. Livelihood improvement, however, does not take root in the society only through efforts on site, and requires a system that is established at the policy

level. In this sense, regarding the extension system, it is indispensable to make approaches to governmental officials. For the purpose of transmitting the results of the Study, it would be necessary to hold the seminars targeted at those officials.

Transmission activities in the North America were carried out targeting USAID, CIDA of Canada and other operational bodies as well as Cornell and Harvard Universities and other research institutions. While audience at operational bodies listened to those presentations with great interest, they tended to ask concrete questions like "Is it possible for us to implement a joint project with Japan by using this livelihood improvement approach?" We, without any ability and authority to offer a prompt reply to such questions in the first place, believe that "patched" approaches should not be taken. "Patched" approaches mean that a part of Japan's experiences, which is considered as a "technique" like "improved *kamado* (cooking stove)", is taken up separately, and "patched" into a development project. Audience at universities, on the contrary, understood the essential elements of a livelihood improvement approach such as "participatory", "correspondence between the government and residents", and "concepts of KAIZEN", and many of them expressed opinions or views related to positioning of these elements in the current development and/or assistance/interference theories. Implementation of an international joint study from the point of view like those would enable the construction of a theory which ultimately feeds back to development projects in the future.

In Washington D.C., the chairman of the Study Committee visited the Archives of USDA and other places to ascertain the history of the extension system in the U.S. --- originated from Land Grant University Act, etc.---, and the background to the spread of the system to developing countries --- such movement existed before World War II and was activated after the war. It became evident that the example of Japan could be positioned in this development. Livelihood improvement extension workers were called "home economists or home economic demonstrators" in the U.S. A Malaysian trainee visiting Japan from Sabah for a counterpart training told that a home economics demonstrator had been assigned also in Malaysia since 1960. U.S probably tried to extend this system across Asia. Later development differed according

to countries, and the example of Japan, which evolved in a unique way, would be the most successful one. It would also be necessary to conduct a study from a cross-cultural and historical view point in the future.

As a transmission activity in Japan, we held an international seminar, inviting Dr. Jan Johnson, FAO, and Dr. Norman T. Uphoff, Professor of Cornell University, in Tokyo in summer of 2003 and transmitted the results of the Study to a large audience. For the purpose of invoking a renewed recognition of the meaning of livelihood improvement experiences and calling for cooperation in training, etc. in prefectures other than Tokyo, we, for the first time, held a seminar in Yamaguchi Prefecture, receiving high evaluation from those concerned.

Based on a series of the Study's results accumulated, Mr. Sato, chairman of the Study Committee, has started a serialized article entitled "Wisdom of Japan as a developing country" in "Cross Road", JICA's magazine for volunteers (from April 2003 issue). This is a part of our attempts to feed back the results of the Study commissioned by JICA to the sites of cooperation in developing countries.

2-2 Results of this Study and Future Tasks

In this section, we will overview the results of the study over three years and point out some future tasks.

2-2-1 Interview survey

In the past three years, we conducted interview surveys in prefectures of Ehime, Niigata, Yamaguchi, Iwate, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, Yamagata, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Okinawa, Nagasaki, Hokkaido, Oita, Tokushima, Ibaraki and Nagano. The results of those surveys are shown in each year's Report on the Study in the form of "proceedings". It will be our pleasure if those valuable data will be used by those concerned and will serve them as a reference for an interview survey at areas that have not yet been covered.

2-2-2 Study Committee meetings

We held twelve public Study Committee meetings over the past three years, and actively discussed the applicability of the livelihood improvement approach to rural development cooperation, with those who had broad knowledge about livelihood improvement experiences. Reports on those meetings and what was discussed there are described in each year's Report in the form of "records of meetings". It is our hope that those records will be used as valuable data in studies on the livelihood improvement approach

2-2-3 Collection and classification of information

Along with interview surveys, we have visited related facilities (Training Institute for Rural Life Improvement, Library of Rural Culture Association, Library of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, etc.), to collect and classify documents, pamphlets, and records for producing the lists of those materials. Those lists are included in each year's Report in the form of "list of materials". It is our hope that those lists serve many people as an "infrastructure" of studies in the future

We also collected slides which were used for the activities in the mid-1940's and mid-1950's as well as films which recorded activities and other scenes of those days to reclassify them in the form of copied slides and videos. Those which are very useful were translated into English and/or digitalized, to make them available for the utilization at sites of development assistance projects as well as for the utilization as study materials. All of those slides and videos collected were delivered to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Development Study Department, JICA, which was integrated into Rural Development Department, JICA, in April, 2004

2-2-4 Transmission of information (in Japan)

As a part of information transmission activities in Japan, JICA held an international seminar with APO at JICA – Institute for International Cooperation first in April of 2002, and then in August of 2003. Both seminars attracted a large audience and contributed to arousing the interest in the livelihood improvement

approach not only within JICA but also in the domain of Japan's ODA.

In addition, JICA in collaboration with the Institute of Developing Economies conducted a two-day joint public seminar entitled "Japan's Experience in Poverty Elimination" at JICA – Institute for International Cooperation in October of 2003, based on the results of this Study.

As an information transmission activity in a prefecture other than Tokyo, a seminar was held at PALULU Plaza Yamaguchi, which is located in front of the Yamaguchi station in November, 2003

Those transmission and enlightenment activities have resulted in the increase in graduate students who study about livelihood improvement and in the number of reports presented at related academic conferences or societies. For your reference, followings are reports concerning "livelihood improvement" that were presented for past two years at Japan Society for International Development. Most of them were presented by members of this Study Committee or Working Group. It is expected that the base of the study in this field will expand further in the future.

◆Japan Society for International Development, Third Special Study Meeting (at Nagoya University June 29, 2002)

- "Participatory development shown in the postwar Japan's livelihood improvement movement" by Dr Masami Mizuno, Ms. Tomoko Hattori and Ms Yuko Yashiki
- "Present situation and potentiality of international cooperation by local governments – the case of Meiho village" by Ms. Kaori Ito
- Observations on Japan's ODA method shown in 'One Village, One Product' movement in Thai – The case of Phayao in the north/Focusing on the relation between the local administration and the residents' participation" by Ms. Ayano Kawamura

◆Japan Society for International Development, 12th National Assembly (at Sophia University December 1, 2002)

- "Roles of livelihood improvement extension workers in the postwar Japan's livelihood improvement movement" by Ms. Tomoko Hattori
- "Evolution process of extension method – How Japan's paradigm shift happened" by Ms. Miho Ota
- "Local health care activities for mothers and children in 1950's to 1960's Japan – Through an activity example of "Health Center for Mothers and Children" in the northern Hyogo Prefecture" by Ms Yuko Yamashita
- "Small water-supply system and rural livelihood improvement movement – Analysis of Japan's experiences in residents-participatory approach for applying them to the assistance to developing countries" by Ms. Keiko Yamamoto

◆Japan Society for International Development, Fourth Spring Assembly (at JBIC June 14, 2003)

- "Social development and facilitators – The case of livelihood improvement movement in postwar Hiroshima Prefecture" by Ms. Yuko Ito
- "Can Japan's livelihood improvement experiences be passed on?" by Ms Miho Ota
- "Involvement of specialists in residents-participatory development – Based on the actor analysis in postwar Japan's 'life without mosquitoes and flies' movement" by Ms. Naomi Seki

◆Japan Society for International Development, 14th National Assembly (at Nihon Fukushi University November 30, 2003)

- "Postwar Japan and rural development in developing countries – Something that can be passed on from *kamado* (cooking stove)" by Ms Yuko Ito
- "What is technology of facilitators? – What to be learned from livelihood improvement extension workers" by Ms. Miho Ota
- "Change in facilitators in regional development in rural and mountainous areas and diversification of actors" by Ms. Kaori Ito
- "Long-term effects of postwar Japan's rural livelihood improvement – Focused on 40-year activities of Group T in Ehime Prefecture" by Dr. Masami Mizuno

2-2-5 Transmission of information (Overseas)

Information transmission in English in foreign countries has been positioned as one of the key elements of the activity by this Study Committee, and has been carried out at various opportunities

To enumerate activities over the last two years, we held a “livelihood improvement seminar” with FAO in Vientiane, Laos in October of 2002, introducing a livelihood improvement approach to audience including officials of Laotian government and overseas aid agencies

In December of 2002, we conducted a series of seminars on the livelihood improvement approach, with the cooperation of JICA U.K. Office, at London, Sussex, Swansea and Manchester, offering information to researchers and graduate students. Those seminars were followed by the one mainly targeting the staff of departments and divisions related to sustainable livelihood at FAO Headquarters in Rome, leading to a more in-depth discussion on similarities and differences between the livelihood improvement approach and the livelihood approach.

In March of 2003, we dispatched a livelihood improvement extension worker who was in active service in Yamaguchi Prefecture, a former extension worker, and two members of this Study Committee to rural areas of Sabah, Malaysia where an element of livelihood improvement had been adopted and a development verification study had been implemented. The team conducted on-site observations of the rural areas and a seminar there.

Additionally in March of 2003, members of this Study Committee participated in a seminar, which was planned by FAO and APO and held in Laos, and provided a presentation on the possibility of a concrete effort in livelihood improvement there

Based on several transmission activities in developing countries, in the last fiscal year of the Study we

planned “verification study” in South East Asia from the viewpoint of exploring possibilities of using a livelihood improvement approach in a JICA project under way. After examining some candidate projects on rural development for this study, we chose “Battambang Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Project”. In December of 2003, we dispatched a study team composed of six persons concerned with this Study Committee. The team conducted an on-site observation, feedback and cooking seminars at Battambang as well as another seminar in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, and offered some suggestions for the way to incorporate the viewpoint of livelihood improvement approach into the project activity.

In concluding this three-year Study, we offered a presentation on the livelihood improvement approach in U.S. (USAID, Cornell and Harvard Universities) and Canada (CIDA) in March, 2004.

Those overseas transmission activities proved that both those concerned with agricultural development in developing countries and aid agencies in developed countries were greatly interested in Japan’s development experiences and were ready to receive information on the experiences if they were appropriately transmitted. It will be necessary for us to continue our efforts to make Japan’s development experiences appropriately recognized at sites of international development while identifying and showing the similarities and differences between one of the approaches that have entered into the mainstream in the current rural development (for example, livelihood approach, participatory development, empowerment, etc) and the livelihood improvement approach.

2-2-6 Preparation of training curriculum

Considering that the very important elements of this Study are the introduction of Japan’s livelihood improvement approach to those concerned with rural development in developing countries, and the promotion of understanding as basic knowledge by Japanese development workers about the past experiences of Japan, we have deepened the discussion on how to conduct a seminar for those purposes.

The discussion resulted in the preparation of drafts of 1) the curriculum for a training course on the assumption that we will invite trainees from developing countries to Japan to provide trainings in subjects consisting of the essence of livelihood improvement and 2) the curriculum for a training course on the assumption that we will offer trainings to JOCV candidates before their dispatch to teach them the concept of livelihood improvement and its concrete examples (see last fiscal year's Report).

Along with the preparation of those drafts of curriculums, we provided individual lectures to trainees on various opportunities. Among others, we conducted a training in Okinawa for a counterpart of a medical project in Bolivia, a training in special courses (South Africa and Viet Nam) at JICA Tsukuba International Center, a training for general trainees at JICA Sapporo International Center, and a training as a part of JICA Youth Invitation Program (Cambodia)

As the culmination of those training activities, in February of 2004 a verification training was held by JICA, APO and AICAF, inviting 15 trainees from Asian countries (at JICA Tsukuba International Center/from February 2 – 16, 2004).

Immediate institutionalization of those training projects in JICA is not yet in sight. However, it would remain significant to bring to light the postwar Japan's experiences centered on "livelihood improvement" and to transmit those experiences as a development approach originating from Japan. We consider that efforts should be continued to improve training curriculums and put them into practical use, by exploiting the Japan's experiences of livelihood improvement and rural and social development.

Chapter 3 International Seminar

In postwar Japan, each Ministry and Agency of the government worked to raise the standard of living in rural areas. Especially, agricultural improvement centers, which was under the umbrella of the then Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, carried out activities focused principally on both “increase in production” and “improvement in livelihood”. While agricultural improvement extension workers provided instructions on the improvement in technology and on the increase in productivity, livelihood improvement extension workers promoted improvement in people’s livelihood. Livelihood improvement extension workers employed the method of uncovering daily problems that farm households had, and resolving the problems starting with those that farm households could deal with by self-help endeavors. This method was adapted to other sectors, and developed into the “livelihood improvement movement” beyond the framework of an agricultural improvement extension project. This livelihood improvement movement and roles of livelihood improvement extension workers as facilitators in postwar Japan would be considered as a successful example of pioneering participatory agricultural development, with a lot of important lessons for the agricultural and rural development approach in today’s developing countries.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has implemented the “Study on the Livelihood Improvement Program in Rural Japan and the Prospects for Japan’s Rural Development Cooperation” since FY2001, focusing on experiences of those livelihood improvement activities. With the aim of presenting the results of this Study to those concerned with assistance and aid both in Japan and overseas as well as of sharing experiences and information with foreign donors, JICA held “International Seminar on Livelihood Approaches and Postwar Japanese Experiences in Rural Development” as follows

1) Date:

Monday, August 4, 2003 Part I - 12:00A.M. to 1:50P.M. Part II - 2:00P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

2) Place:

International Conference Room, JICA International Training Center

3) Participants: 153 persons

4) Summary:

Part I/Videos and Slides shown

(1) “Water and Our Life”, Ministry of Health and Welfare, 1952. This video, which was found by Ms. Keiko Yamamoto, a member of the Study Committee and Senior Advisor of JICA, shows that installation of simple water-supply system which is necessary to protect the health of local residents, requires those residents, who are recipients of the benefit from this system, to offer their money and labor, and this is not useless investment by any means. This activity brought about the rapid increase in the number of small water-supply system installed in 1950’s. It is said that the number increased tenfold in ten years. We edited the video by inserting captions in English correspondent to narration in Japanese.

(2) “ Life in Isshiki Hamlet”, Isshiki-*shuraku*, Ehime Prefecture, 1954. This slide was originally in black and white and edited to put it into colored one as a part of this project. We distributed the slides which were translated into English.

(3) “ People’s Efforts for Brighter Tomorrow”, Takaono-*shuraku*, Kagoshima Prefecture, 1957. This video, depicting a small activity of housewives developing into an area activity, sends a message of the local government that it intends to improve the livelihood in the village to make it a better place to live. The script of this video was newly produced, and its copies, translated into English, were distributed

(4) “Community Improvement by the Youth”, Okanaru-*shuraku*, Ehime Prefecture, 1957: This video introduces activities of young farmers in Okanaru-*shuraku*, Ehime Prefecture. This was originally a slide

in black and white. We edited it to convert into a video, and inserted narration in English, for the use as a convenient training material. At the venue of the seminar, scripts in Japanese were distributed as reference.

Part II/International seminar

(1) Key-note lecture 1 “Some Example for FAO’s experience with Livelihood Approaches”

Dr Jan Johnson/Livelihood Support Program, FAO

FAO, although it is not necessarily equipped with a definite methodology for development which could be claimed as its own, has been involved in the evolution of a lot of development methods over the last 50 years. Sustainable livelihood in rural areas makes a very important goal for FAO. This is one of major reasons why it places emphasis on this approach.

A project using the method of sustainable livelihood enables the participants in the target community to establish one “entry point”, which is important for them, and from which they can start the process of development. For example, a joint project in Honduras has been implemented among FAO, UNDP and Government of Netherlands and has achieved a great success. The entry point of this project was the improvement of technology for cultivation in hilly areas. Then, the project advanced to collaboration with other bodies in Honduras and overseas. Those bodies assume the responsibility for the cooperation with the local community in terms of water-saving, sand erosion control, education, health care, road infrastructure and local administration.

We can launch a livelihood project also as a broader “comprehensive” one. For example, FAO and UNDP conducted a joint pilot project in a community in Yemen, which brought about a surprising success in elimination of poverty and increase in employment. In parallel with this project, they worked in close collaboration with other bodies which played active roles in diverse areas, including, the establishment of a community development organization, management and occupational training, credit lending and technical

training, health care, education, and infrastructure

Thirdly, there is a way to start at the levels of both the bottom and the middle. This method has been employed by FAO and U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) in “The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Program” in 25 West African countries. The Program, still in the initial stage, provides assistance to the establishment of National Coordinating Units for fisheries livelihoods in which a lot of stakeholders will participate in all 25 countries, as well as performs experiments starting from a wide range of “entry points” at the rural community level. The purpose of the Program is the realization of the livelihoods methods suited to fisheries communities in West Africa through the development of effective tools, approaches, and means. While in these communities in future, other development agencies (both technical assistance agencies and financial assistance ones) are expected to form partnerships to implement the community-based sustainable livelihoods projects, the process is already operational in reality in some countries.

Similarities and differences exist among those FAO’s field projects, and they offer many interesting lessons which are currently under study. One of the fundamental lessons is that the future of sustainable livelihoods approaches (SLA) evidently depends on the effective inter-sectoral and inter-organizational partnerships.

(2) Key-note lecture 2 “Livelihood Improvement Program (LIP) as Livelihood Approach”

Hiroshi “Kan”Sato, Senior Researcher

Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO

I have worked to review postwar Japan’s movement of livelihood improvement in the context of “social development” and “rural problem” for these years. From mid-1940’s to mid-1950’s after the defeat in World War II, all the rural community residents in Japan aspired to “escape from the poverty”. Livelihood improvement extension workers, public health nurses, and other “development workers”, who

were government officials in direct contact with the public, patiently walked around and visited farm households. Women in rural communities also endeavored to accomplish “livelihood improvement” for themselves, their families and communities by racking their brains. In the activities of “social development” in those days, a variety of devices, strategies, and theories were actually developed and put to use. We have worked to interview women in their 70s to 90s as “witnesses” of those activities. In fact, this work brings endless surprises from the viewpoint of those who have seen or learned about the sites of “participatory development” in developing countries. In those days a method was already used that is a perfect duplicate of current PRA and PLA although there was not a word of “participatory development”. Under the slogan of “both life and production are integral”, due consideration was also given to the balance between economic development and social one. This is a concept that has something in common underneath with the “livelihood approach” which is attracting attention on the stage of assistance to developing countries in recent years.

On the opportunity of this seminar, I would like to put postwar Japan’s livelihood improvement and livelihood approach on the common ground for attempting to transmit information for the future “agricultural development”, “social development” and eventually “poverty elimination”.

(3) Panelist report 1 “Role of farmer groups in Poverty Alleviation Comparisons with the Japanese Livelihood Improvement Experience”

Dr. Norman T. Uphoff, Professor, Cornell University

Livelihood strategy: “Livelihood strategy” is a fundamental concept for theory and practice of development. This concept, usually meaning two main elements of “income creation” and “quality-of-life improvement”, involves “fostering of community residents’ self-management capabilities” as the third element. It would be no surprise that attention has been focused on roles of farmers’ organization in the poverty alleviation

Significance of social organization: A social organization is a foundation of economic and other activities and is indispensable to any efforts in development. Development requires not only individual commitments but also group actions. Competition can be said to be the most productive within the frameworks of cooperation. Otherwise, achieved will be a negative result. Group actions have functions of “decision making”, “exploitation and management of resources”, “communication and coordination”, and “dispute settlement”

Exploitation of “social capital”: “*Kumi*” (village faction, organized group) can be cited as a typical example of social units in Japan. Characteristically, “*kumi*” made each one of its members understand to the fullest extent his or her role, rules, precedents, and procedures in the cooperation for development. Those community’s capabilities were formulated and established in the course of some thousands years. The livelihood improvement in Japan is a concept which is based on an enhanced version of “*kumi*”. Many developing countries do not have those “social capitals”. However, it is possible to introduce them on purpose and build upon them. An “entry point” strategy is required that starts with “recognizable needs” such as water, fire prevention and increased income. One of those examples is an irrigation project in Gal Oya, Sri Lanka

To foster capabilities toward livelihood improvement: When community’s capabilities to manage some specific projects, including irrigation, health care and agricultural improvement, are fostered and improved, those capabilities can be used for other purposes to satisfy other needs. As many examples indicate such as Japan’s livelihood improvement movement, Gal Oya of Sri Lanka, forestry management in Nepal, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) and Orange Pilot Project in Pakistan, livelihood improvement depends on capabilities of that community

“Learning process” approach: For fostering community’s capabilities, a “blueprint” method should not be adopted that is rigid and wasteful. Cultural values, norms, precedents as well as conditions and

changeability of a community should be taken into consideration. It is necessary to accumulate knowledge as much as possible if you would like to devise a plan in details and in a satisfactory manner for an involvement through a program. Even if this is done, the plan will be obsolete shortly because situations there constantly change. Therefore, it can be said that a livelihood approach is beneficial that fosters capabilities of a community in a flexible manner.

(4) Panelist report 2 “Livelihood Improvement Program (LIP) in post-war rural development in Japan”

Dr. Masami Mizuno, Policy Research Coordinator, Policy Research Institute, MAFF

Now in the 21st century, rural development in developing countries is at a turning point. This is evident in the fact that, for example, rural development has changed from agricultural-production-oriented into what we call “post agricultural-production-oriented” as we have entered a post “Green Revolution” period. That means emphasis is being put on the life quality improvement in rural areas and on the improvement in farm households’ sustenance, that is to say, “livelihood”. Improvement in livelihood in rural areas requires rural development as development which encompasses multiple sectors, including agriculture. With respect to rural development in developing countries, the common approaches which used to be called for to address poverty problems in rural areas included, for example, the increase of agricultural production and the expansion of production activities. The primary importance of livelihood improvement in such development is based on a lesson learned from the past development experiences, a lesson which indicates that those efforts alone were not able to provide the adequate means to solve the problem. Hence arose the general thinking that the establishment of sustainable livelihoods in rural areas of developing countries is the most important problem to be solved. What should be concerned there are contents of livelihood improvement in rural areas and the way to realize it. Postwar Japan’s livelihood improvement movement as its development experiences is considered to have a great significance for the improvement of rural life and the formation of entities of life. Especially livelihood improvement activities in Japan’s rural areas, which were promoted during the period from the postwar reconstruction era until when its rapid economic growth began to affect rural areas, would be extremely valuable. Under the policy to democratize rural

areas, the improvement in not only agricultural production but also other various aspects of farm households' livelihood was brought about in Japan's rural areas of those days as a part of national or local governmental projects concerned. Farmers, for which those projects were implemented, showed more than a little effort to pile those individual projects together, rather than just to consider them as a series of individual project, for leading to improvement in livelihood. Those were exactly the efforts which were made as a comprehensive movement to improve livelihood in rural areas. As implications for rural development in developing countries, I would like to point out the followings:

- Rural area development essentially requires long-term endeavor and multi-sectoral approach. Those requirements have not been adequately met by existing rural development projects, which are generally implemented within limited activities at the limited areas for limited period
- Relationship between livelihood improvement and poverty problems in rural areas. Development projects for developing countries have been conducted in this century by many international development organizations, focusing on the resolution of poverty problems. Then, the question arises as to the effectiveness of livelihood improvement to resolve poverty problems in rural areas. Japan's experiences indicate that various livelihood improvement efforts were piled up in Japan in order to bring rural community residents out of poverty and confusion during the postwar reconstruction period. The synergy accruing from the attainment of concrete objectives of livelihood improvement and the improvement in agriculture (increased income) has enabled sustainable development of residents' livelihood in rural areas and agriculture.

(5) Panelist report 3 "Experience as a Livelihood Extension Worker in Japan and Development Assistance"

Ms. Chieko Fujii, Former Counselor of Agriculture and Forestry Department,

Yamaguchi Prefecture

Livelihood improvement is an activity to look at livelihood as it is and to make it better. In postwar Japan, this activity started with improvement of "*kamado* or cooking stove" with the aim of raising the social standing of women in rural areas and promoting public welfare. Then, it was gradually spread outward to

the activities such as the collective rice planting and the running of a communal cooking, which progressively contributed to strengthening community agriculture and to strengthening the whole village itself, in the end enabling the women to participate in building the community and the village. In other words, it represents the history in which the domain of women's activities has evolved from "an individual household" to "the society".

With the constant changes of the times, people's senses of value and livelihood problems greatly differ age to age. As long as we live, there is no such a thing as the situation where we need no more improvement in livelihood.

Livelihood improvement is a universal and timeless concept of improving livelihood into better one.

A livelihood improvement group provides a stage to better ourselves. This includes acquiring of know-how and skills to improve ourselves such as those required for expressing our opinions in front of people. Members, who share the same feeling, are able to work together for better livelihood in rural areas and cheer up each other. This would be the same in developing countries.

Each of us lives with a connection to somebody else. Living a better life requires changes in an environment surrounding us, community where we live, and our family. In rural Japan, there were women who began the first but powerful steps. They led the movement to boost the village economy and persuaded other women to participate in it while exploring "their ways to live", that is, the way to live and take root in their community.

In rural areas, women have shared the concept of "livelihood improvement" and sixty-year of its practice. Every one of them has learned something from daily life, grown with livelihood improvement taken as a lifelong goal, and endeavored to establish their own selves.

“Improvement” means living better life. Its activities provide an arena to learn about livelihood and also a stage to dare to live in our own way of life. Currently in Japan, it is urgently being called for to renovate agriculture and revitalize villages, based on the kind of life unavailable in cities which should be realized by the efforts using “hands and legs” and “mind and heart”. In this respect, the situation of Japan is the same with that of developing countries, even though the themes to be adopted may differ from each other.

(6) Panelist report 4 “Rural development experiences in Japan”

Dr. Sadao Tokuno, Professor, Kumamoto University

Call it Japan or developing countries, it is dominant to view agricultural development in terms of “increased production and income”. Livelihood improvement was a concept to try to view agricultural development mainly in terms of a livelihood. This, however, was not a mainstream concept even in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, present Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. It is a problem that even livelihood tends to be viewed in terms of “technology” because in Japan the faculties of agriculture in universities don’t have any curriculum to teach “livelihood”. Technology-oriented organizations are inclined to hold onto hardware even if the social and economic conditions surrounding them have changed. Today, it is no more relevant to look at agricultural development mainly in terms of agricultural production in any countries, although it would have been so in the days when agriculture was the only industry there. In this regard, farm households are more adaptable to reality than those who plan rural development. An obvious example of this is the response of a farmer that he has become part time farmer because he gives a higher priority to the life of the family. This is not the case only in Japan. For example, rural areas in the Philippines heavily depend on money sent from community residents working in urban areas or overseas. In view of those circumstances, there could be agronomy to study “how farmers can survive” instead of the one as a science of agricultural production. As for a movement to boost development in rural community such as “*michi-no-eki* (a roadside station)”, emphasis tends to be placed only on its aspects of “production” and “marketing” as typified by “One Village, One Product” movement. Media also likes to take up the movement under the title like “entrepreneur in rural community”. On the

other hand, women, who carry the burden of those activities in Japan's rural areas, look at the future and the situations ten years from now when their spouses get older and their children leave them. We should not misread the fact that morning market activities are often intended to "form a group to protect livelihood". In respect of an attempt to apply Japan's experiences to developing countries, it is needed to note that the Philippines, for example, has no community with the function to promote a development project while Japan has a village which serves as a "functional community". The Philippines does have communities based on the locality and the kinship which can provide mutual assistance for daily needs only. We have to note that the adoption of Japanese system would not achieve the purpose adequately, unless there exists a social structure to function as a receiving mechanism.

(7) Panelist report 5 "Livelihood Improvement Program (LIP) Study and JICA's Rural Development Strategy"

Mr. Ryuzo Nishimaki, Senior Researcher, JICA

One of the greatest objectives of JICA's international cooperation is elimination of poverty in developing countries. More than 70 % of poverty in developing countries is in rural areas. Many needy people in urban areas are those who came from rural areas. In that sense, agricultural and rural development currently makes the most important goal in the efforts to eliminate the poverty.

Needy farm households mainly in Asia and Africa are characterized by being small in area of land which they own and in scale of operation. It is extremely difficult to make their farming viable. Western-style agricultural and rural development models for large-scale operations, which might be suited to monoculture-oriented estate management, are ill-suited to self-sustaining development of those farm households in developing countries at present. If there is a model for those households, it is a history of agricultural and rural development in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and other Asian developed countries and regions which achieved economic growth while land owners with less than 1 ha constituted the large majority of their farm households.

A livelihood improvement movement in Japan and Semauro movement in Korea in particular, would be very suggestive for agricultural and rural development in today's Asian and African countries in that the rural development is considered as activities to improve livelihood of residents in rural communities in terms of quality, not just as agricultural development for business

Japan's livelihood improvement movement, without any modification, is not applicable to current agricultural and rural development in developing countries. Nevertheless, many rural areas in Asia and Africa have a lot of similarities to ones in Japan just after World War II. It is highly significant to transmit Japan's experiences to the leaders who are actually working to promote agricultural development in rural areas.

JICA has transmitted the essence of livelihood improvement to rural areas through dispatch of experts and JOCV volunteers as well as training with accepting trainees in Japan. Now, I would like to introduce an example of a development study that we are conducting at an oasis area in Mauritania.

This project was launched at Adrar and Tagant in April, 2001. They have a combined area of 300,000 km², almost the same as Japan, with 123 oases and a population of 80,000 people. We have been conducting a pilot project at six oases in order to validate a master plan for oasis development in those areas that we produced. The key elements of this project are water-saving and irrigation, increase in agricultural productivity, and improvement in livelihood. In respect of livelihood improvement, activities are centered on providing instructions to women's groups on the poultry and tomato growing for increase in income, use of solar cooking for improvement in cooking, and installation of toilets for improvement in sanitation. All of those activities were discussed and decided to be conducted by each women's group

Everyday, the women measure the weight of water and feed they consume and the weight of eggs and tomatoes they produce. All those amounts are recorded by the leaders of the groups. By doing this, they

seem to be acquiring the habit of thinking scientifically and acting for themselves.

JICA commissioned a Japanese consultant to conduct this development study, in which Ms. Noriko Nishigata participates as an advisor. Ms Nishigata is a member of the Study Committee of the “Study on the Livelihood Improvement Program in Rural Japan and the Prospects for Japan’s Rural Development Cooperation” and a former livelihood improvement extension worker.

Mauritanian government has asked Japanese government for continuation of the project which puts emphasis on nurturing of women’s groups in oasis areas. This would prove that the importance of livelihood improvement is recognized by Mauritanian government.

I believe that this development study will provide a new suggestion on how people can establish a better life in an environment with very scarce natural resources such as an oasis

(8) Panel discussion and Q & A

In response to key-note lectures and reports by lecturers and panelists above-mentioned, opinions and views were actively exchanged. In particular, the discussions were focused on the subjects of existing capacity and receiving mechanism. In responding to a question whether social capabilities may be controlled by outsiders, Dr. Tokuno pointed out that what is referred to as “*mura*” (village) in Japan has existed for some thousands years, and can not be developed easily. On the other hand, Dr. Uphoff and Dr. Johnson expressed their opinions that existing capacity can be improved

Mr. Sato, moderator of this discussion, reminded that methods once employed by livelihood improvement extension workers had something in common underneath with the current ones. He also said, “Their attitudes good listeners toward those to whom they provided cooperation, originated from their sense of mission as extension workers of livelihood improvement. Former extension workers reminiscently told us

that extension activities had made them professionals. As commonly described in statements on participatory development, the development is a process of reciprocal actions which changes both parties ”