



Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus)

GENERAL INFORMATION ON

Strengthening Safety Management System of Agricultural Products

課題別研修「農産物の安全管理体制強化」

JFY 2019

NO. 201984682-J002

Course Period in Japan: From January 19th, 2020 to February 15th, 2020

This information pertains to one of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which shall be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both Governments.

'JICA Knowledge Co-Creation (KCC) Program' as a New Start

In the Development Cooperation Charter which is released from the Japanese Cabinet in February 2015, it is clearly pointed out that *"In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field-oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together."* We believe that this 'Knowledge Co-Creation Program' will serve as a center of mutual learning process.

I. Concept

Background

In developing countries, interest in agricultural products safety has been increasing along with their economic development; however, their agricultural products safety is inadequate due to insufficient production and processing techniques, insufficient distribution infrastructure, and insufficient inspection systems. Since the agricultural products safety is not managed well, consumers do not have trust in the products with little value addition. As a result, the products are sold at a cheap price, and these facts make producers and processors less enthusiastic. Since the agricultural products safety management leads to the promotion of the agricultural sector, it is necessary to improve safety management systems at each stage of food value chain.

In Japan, safety of agricultural products is strictly monitored by a severe regulatory and administrative framework. By observing and understanding Japanese safety management systems of agricultural products, this program offers an opportunity to find possible solutions for improving safety management systems in developing countries.

For what?

This program's aims are to encourage participant's comprehension of Japanese safety management systems of agricultural products and to enhance the participant's capacity for improving safety management systems of agricultural products in their countries.

For whom?

This program is offered to administrative agencies of central or local government that engage in planning and supervising safety management of agricultural products.

How?

Participants shall have opportunities to learn Japan's safety management systems of agricultural products through site visits and lectures by Japanese government officials, farmers, distributors and processors. Participants will also share and discuss each country's issues on safety management systems of agricultural products. Through findings from Japanese systems and discussion among participants, possible solutions for improving safety management systems will be determined.

II. Description

1. Title (J-No.): Strengthening Safety Management System of Agricultural Products (201984682-J002)

2. Course Period in JAPAN

January 19, 2020 to February 15, 2020

3. Target Regions or Countries

Viet Nam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Argentina, Azerbaijan

4. Eligible / Target Organization

This program is designed for the administrative agencies of central or local government that engage in planning and supervising safety management of agricultural products.

5. Course Capacity (Upper limit of Participants)

14 participants

6. Language to be used in this program: English

7. Course Objective:

Administrative officers in charge of safety management of agricultural products are able to grasp the issues on safety management systems of agricultural products, and formulate the Course Report for improving safety management systems in order to solve the issues.

8. Overall Goal

Safety Management Systems of Agricultural Products in a participant's country are improved.

9. Expected Module Output and Contents:

This program consists of the following components. Details on each component are given below and are subject to minor changes:

Expected Module Output	Subjects/Agendas	Methodology
(1) Issues of safety management systems on agricultural products in participants' countries are clarified and explained.	(1) Formulation an Inception Report about current issues and measures on safety management systems of agricultural products (2) Presentation and discussion of the report	Report writing, Presentation and Discussion
(2) Japanese Governmental efforts to administer safety management of agricultural products are comprehended and explained.	(1) Safety management systems of food and agricultural products by the government (2) Traceability of agricultural products (3) Labeling and standardization (4) Organic food certification (5) measures on agricultural chemicals (6) Customer movement for food safety	Lectures and Site visits
(3) Japanese farmers' efforts on safety management of agricultural products are comprehended and utilization possibility in participants' countries is determined.	(1) GAP and its extension (2) Traceability (3) Farm visit, Organic farming (4) 6 th industry and Hygiene (5) Agricultural cooperatives	Lectures and Site visits
(4) Processors / Distributors / Retailers' efforts to secure agro products safety are comprehended and utilization possibility in participants' countries is determined.	(1) Systems and efforts of each actor for agro products safety in Food value chain (2) Processing, packing and labeling of agro products (3) Food safety management systems in a wholesale market (4) Food safety management systems in retailers	Lectures and Site visits
(5) Course Report for improving safety management systems of agricultural products is formulated.	(1) Formulation of a report on findings from the course and possible utilization in a participant's country (2) Presentation and discussion of the report (3) Participants are expected to present the report in their organization after returning to their countries.	Report writing, Presentation and Discussion

III. Conditions and Procedures for Application

1. Expectations from the Participating Organizations:

- (1) This project is designed primarily for organizations that intend to address specific issues or problems identified in their operations. Applying organizations are expected to use the Program for those specific purposes.
- (2) In this connection, applying organizations are expected to nominate the most qualified candidates to address the said issues or problems, carefully referring to the qualifications described in section III-2 below.
- (3) Applying organizations are also expected to be prepared to make use of knowledge acquired by the nominees for the said purpose.

2. Nominee Qualifications:

Applying Organizations are expected to select nominees who meet the following qualifications.

(1) Essential Qualifications

- 1) **Current Duties:** Officer at national or local government assigned to planning and supervising safety management systems of agricultural products.
- 2) **Experience in the relevant field:** have more than 3 years' experience in relevant field.
- 3) **Educational Background:** be a graduate of university or have an equivalent academic background.
- 4) **Language:** have a competent command of spoken and written English which is equal to TOEFL iBT 100 or more (This program includes active participation in discussions, which requires high competence of English ability. Please attach an official certificate for English ability such as TOEFL, TOEIC etc, if possible)
- 5) **Health:** must be in good health, both physically and mentally, to participate in the Program in Japan. Pregnant applicants are not recommended to apply due to the potential risk of health and life issues of mother and fetus.

(2) Recommendable Qualifications

- 1) Age: be no more than 50 years old
- 2) Gender Consideration: JICA is promoting Gender equality. Women are encouraged to apply for the program.
- 3) Computer Operation: have sufficient PC skills to operate MS Word, Excel and Power Point

3. Required Documents for Application

(1) **Application Form:** The Application Form is available at **the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan)**.

(2) **Photocopy of passport:** to be submitted with the application form, if you possess your passport which you will carry when entering Japan for this program. If not, you are requested to submit its photocopy as soon as you obtain it.

*Photocopy should include the followings:

Name, Date of birth, Nationality, Sex, Passport number and Expire date.

(3) **Nominee's English Score Sheet:** to be submitted with the application form, if you have any official documentation of English ability. (e.g., TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS)

4. Procedures for Application and Selection :

(1) Submission of the Application Documents:

Closing date for applications: **Please inquire to the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan)**.

(After receiving applications, the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan) will send them to **the JICA Center in JAPAN** by **November 25, 2019**

(2) Selection:

After receiving the documents through proper channels from your government, the JICA office (or the embassy of Japan) will conduct screenings, and then forward the documents to the JICA Center in Japan. Selection will be made by the JICA Center in consultation with concerned organizations in Japan. *The applying organization with the best intention to utilize the opportunity of this program will be highly valued in the selection.* Qualifications of applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military will be examined by the Government of Japan on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan, taking into consideration their duties, positions in the organization, and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner.

(3) Notice of Acceptance

Notification of results will be made by the JICA office (or the Embassy of Japan) **not later than December 6, 2019**.

5. Document(s) to be submitted by accepted candidates:

Inception Report -- to be submitted by January 6, 2020:

Before coming to Japan, only accepted candidates are required to prepare an Inception Report (detailed information will be provided at the time of sending Notice of Acceptance.) The Inception Report should be sent to JICA by January 6, 2020 by e-mail to tbicctp@jica.go.jp

6. Conditions for Attendance:

1. to strictly adhere to the program schedule.
2. not to change the program topics.
3. not to extend the period of stay in Japan.
4. not to be accompanied by family members during the program.
5. to return to home countries at the end of the program in accordance with the travel schedule designated by JICA.
6. to refrain from engaging in any political activities, or any form of employment for profit or gain.
7. to observe Japanese laws and ordinances. If there is any violation of said laws and ordinances, participants may be required to return part or all of the training expenditure depending on the severity of said violation.
8. to observe the rules and regulations of the accommodation and not to change the accommodation designated by JICA.

IV. Administrative Arrangements

1. Organizer:

(1) **Name:** JICA Tsukuba

(2) **Contact:** Ms. Sachie MCGOEY (tbictp@jica.go.jp)

2. Implementing Partner:

(1) Overseas Agricultural Development Association (OADA)

3. Travel to Japan

(1) **Air Ticket:** The cost of a round-trip ticket between an international airport designated by JICA and Japan will be borne by JICA.

(2) **Travel Insurance:** Coverage is from time of arrival up to departure in Japan. Thus traveling time outside Japan will not be covered.

4. Accommodation in Japan:

JICA will arrange the following accommodations for the participants in Japan:

JICA Tsukuba Center (JICA TSUKUBA)

Address: 3-6 Koyadai, Tsukuba, IBARAKI 305-0074, JAPAN

TEL: +81-29-838-1111 FAX: +81-29-838-1119

(where “81” is the country code for Japan, and “29” is the local area code)

Please refer to facility information of JICA Tsukuba at its URL;

<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/contact/domestic/information.pdf>

If there is no vacancy at JICA TSUKUBA, JICA will arrange alternative accommodations for the participants.

5. Expenses:

The following expenses will be provided for the participants by JICA:

(1) Allowances for accommodation, meals, living expenses, outfit, and shipping

(2) Expenses for study tours (basically in the form of train tickets.)

(3) Free medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment are not included)

(4) Expenses for program implementation, including materials
For more details, please see “III. ALLOWANCES” of the brochure for participants titled “KENSU-IN GUIDE BOOK,” which will be given before departure for Japan.

6. Pre-departure Orientation:

A pre-departure orientation will be held at the respective country’s JICA office (or Japanese Embassy), to provide participants with details on travel to Japan, conditions of the program, and other matters.

V. Other Information

1. Certificate:

Participants who have successfully completed the program will be awarded certificates by JICA.

2. Computer:

The participants are requested to bring own laptop computers for workshop and communication by e-mail during the program.

3. Allowance:

Allowances, such as accommodation, living, clothing, and shipping allowances, will be deposited to participants' temporary bank account in Japan after 2 to 5 days after their arrival in Japan. It is advisable that participants bring some cash and exchange it at the airport in order to cover necessary expenses for the first few days.

4. Weather in Japan:

It will be the winter season during this program. Participants are highly recommended to prepare warm clothes such as jacket, sweater, knit cap, socks and gloves.

5. More information about JICA Tsukuba

You can check our location, facility and services on our website and social media.

- ✧ JICA Tsukuba website [<https://www.jica.go.jp/tsukuba/english/office/index.html>]
- ✧ JICA Tsukuba Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/jicatsukuba/>]

You can find posts about on-going KCCPs and stories of ex-participants on our Facebook page.



For Your Reference

JICA and Capacity Development

The key concept underpinning JICA operations since its establishment in 1974 has been the conviction that “capacity development” is central to the socioeconomic development of any country, regardless of the specific operational scheme one may be undertaking, i.e. expert assignments, development projects, development study projects, training programs, JOCV programs, etc.

Within this wide range of programs, Training Programs have long occupied an important place in JICA operations. Conducted in Japan, they provide partner countries with opportunities to acquire practical knowledge accumulated in Japanese society. Participants dispatched by partner countries might find useful knowledge and re-create their own knowledge for enhancement of their own capacity or that of the organization and society to which they belong.

About 460 pre-organized programs cover a wide range of professional fields, ranging from education, health, infrastructure, energy, trade and finance, to agriculture, rural development, gender mainstreaming, and environmental protection. A variety of programs are being customized to address the specific needs of different target organizations, such as policy-making organizations, service provision organizations, as well as research and academic institutions. Some programs are organized to target a certain group of countries with similar developmental challenges.

Japanese Development Experience

Japan was the first non-Western country to successfully modernize its society and industrialize its economy. At the core of this process, which started more than 140 years ago, was the “*adopt and adapt*” concept by which a wide range of appropriate skills and knowledge have been imported from developed countries; these skills and knowledge have been adapted and/or improved using local skills, knowledge and initiatives. They finally became internalized in Japanese society to suit its local needs and conditions.

From engineering technology to production management methods, most of the know-how that has enabled Japan to become what it is today has emanated from this “*adoption and adaptation*” process, which, of course, has been accompanied by countless failures and errors behind the success stories. We presume that such experiences, both successful and unsuccessful, will be useful to our partners who are trying to address the challenges currently faced by developing countries.

However, it is rather challenging to share with our partners this whole body of Japan’s developmental experience. This difficulty has to do, in part, with the challenge of explaining a body of “tacit knowledge,” a type of knowledge that cannot fully be expressed in words or numbers. Adding to this difficulty are the social and cultural systems of Japan that vastly differ from those of other Western industrialized countries, and hence still remain unfamiliar to many partner countries. Simply stated, coming to Japan might be one way of overcoming such a cultural gap.

JICA, therefore, would like to invite as many leaders of partner countries as possible to come and visit us, to mingle with the Japanese people, and witness the advantages as well as the disadvantages of Japanese systems, so that integration of their findings might help them reach their developmental objectives.



CORRESPONDENCE

For enquiries and further information, please contact the JICA office or the Embassy of Japan. Further, address correspondence to:

JICA Tsukuba Center (JICA TSUKUBA)

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