

Office of Agricultural Economics and Japan International Cooperation Agency

ASEAD News

Project on Agricultural Statistics and Economic Analysis Development/ 農業統計及び経済分析開発計画

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On February 8-10, 2005 in Pattalung province, the 9th Regional Office of Agricultural Economics (the 9th ROAE) and Center for Agricultural Information (CAI) conducted the training course on pilot survey of yield per rai by Crop Cutting of Major Rice in Crop year 2004/05 by the staff of CAI and the 9th ROAE. The 53 participants consisted of 2 JICA experts, 34 staff of OAE and the 9th ROAE and 17 Sorgortors.

The training was completed successfully with participant's cooperation.

(by Mr.Amorn Sangprohm, Field Crop Information Division, CAI)

Secretary General Ms. Anchalee met Mr. Konishi



Mr. Kozo Konishi, Director-General of Statistics Department, Minister's Secretariat, MAFF, paid courtesy visit to Ms. Anchalee Ooraikul on 27 January, 2005 at the secretary general's room in OAE.

The following issues were discussed between them.

1. Coordination with EAERR.
2. AFSIS in the near future and further.
3. Supporting neighboring countries.
4. Statistical improvement in Thailand.
5. Continuing Director-General Meeting.

After this discussion, Mr. Konishi observed AFSIT Center guided by Mr. Porntep.

Onion Crop Cutting in Crop Year 2004/05

(by Mr. Kasem Praphabkul, Division of Horticultural Crop Information)



Center for Agricultural Information (CAI) and ASEAD Project conducted Onion Crop Cutting in Crop Year 2004/05. The objective of this crop cutting is to estimate onion's production by using on-farm survey. This methodology uses an area measurement and production under guidance by JICA experts in term of technical and questionnaire including pretest in planted area in Chiangmai.

CAI and the 1st Regional Office of Agricultural Economics (the 1st ROAE) hold this crop cutting in Chiangmai where more than 90% of onion in market is produce. Following the harvesting period, the first survey was conducted in Mawang and Sunpatong districts from 25 February to 1 March 2005. The second survey will take place from 10 to 17 March 2005 in Phang district. The result will be reported in March 2005.



Three Weeks with JICA Course

(By Ms. Pornpun Hensawang, Policy and Analyst 8)

In spite of some problems in Thailand due to budget and other matters of my three colleagues, finally, I was here in Japan. I came here by JICA's budget under ASEAD Project while my three colleagues supported by OAE's budget.

Before I came to Japan, I got some guide books, tickets and an easy Japanese language handbook



guide with a cassette tape (but never opened it up). When I arrived at Narita International Airport, I followed the instruction on the guide book to get to the JICA's counter. There I met someone who put me in a cab to take me to JICA Tsukuba (TBIC). I arrived here on Sunday and there is nothing to do except waiting for my 3 colleagues from Thailand to join. During that day, I decided to survey around so I walked to the front counter to encounter a Thai

group by accident. They were actually asking about Thai People staying here which is me, so I talked to them and joined the group to spend the day. My three colleagues came in on Monday and the first orientation in Japan began. In Tuesday morning, we had to move to Tokyo by guiding of one Japanese officer who hosted us along the trip.

At the train station of Tsukuba, I got confused with the 'entry and exit' system of the elevator. However, after several days experience I got used to it

After we checked in for accommodation around Suidobashi, we went to MAFF for a courtesy call with the Director of Statistic Department. Wednesday and Thursday were lecture days on Agricultural Statistics, Survey on Income and Expense of Agricultural Households as well as the System of Data Collection for Input Output Table. Our accommodation is a hotel nearby JR train station and a subway train station; therefore, when we go to MAFF we go by subway train which we could directly get off at MAFF. On Friday, Monday and Tuesday, we took class at JICA Institute for International Cooperation in Ichigaya. The class was about I-O Table and its application to economic analysis being lectured by Dr. Shimpo from Keio University.



On Saturday of the first week in Japan, Mr. Kawasaki, a JICA ASEAD expert who is on vacation took us to Asakusa Temple by subway train then cruising along the river and got off by the pier close to

Tokyo Tower then to catch a bus to get to Tokyo Tower. Later on, we took the subway train to Harajuku. We got back to the hotel almost 9 pm. at night.

On Tuesday evening, we moved to Tokyu Stay Kamata nearby Haneda Airport. The next morning, we caught the plane to Fukuoka for a study tour on statistic data collection of Prefecture¹ at Fukuoka Statistics Information Center which is an organization similar to ROAE



In the evening, there was a welcome party for four of us and the staffs who joined were about 30 persons. It was a very impressive party for us because everyone tried to have a conversation with us even some of them can't speak English well. Among four of us, three had some Japanese classes before came here, but found the classes were almost useless because we only could say just hello and introduced ourselves in Japanese, but we could impress them, anyway.

The most impressive person was Uji-san who spoke Thai to us. We asked him where he learned Thai, he said he did not learn from anywhere but as soon as he knew that there will be a Thai group to come in, he search for Thai words on the internet and tried to imitate the pronunciation through the internet program. Due to technology and internet, the world is getting so small!

On the next day, they took us to the Housewife Association. With the fancy office building, they utilize their office as a small supermarket for selling fresh produces, processing products, handmade products and also other products from different Associations. At the beginning, we were curious why they brought us here, but after the briefing we found out that it was not easy to set up Housewife Association due to Japanese social structure. Only a limited number of Japanese females work in public. They become fulltime housewives after marriage. The housewife who gave the presentation mentioned that in former time housewives possess nothing, not even a bank account, since they had to ask money from their husbands. She said that after she joined the Association she could have her own saving that big enough to buy an automobile. Our next stop was Fukuoka Prefecture Office which is responsible for Prefecture IO Table and analysis.



On the next day, we went to the International Center for the Study of East-Asian Development which involves Economic Research and Study. All the researchers were Ph.D holders (Japanese and

¹ Zone ruling with 47 Prefectures throughout the country

International but excluding Thais!). Financial supports are from private sectors in the relevant cities. Research topics were Economic Models for the Study of the International Economic Relationships including a study on Thailand Economy.

Back to Tokyo, I moved to stay at TIC which is a JICA dormitory. My three colleagues stayed at a nearby hotel. At the dormitory, I met many Thais including the group that I met at TBIC. I was happy while staying at TIC because I got friends to talk to and to play sports. At TIC, there is a gymnasium where I can join all kinds of sport activities except futsal and aikido. On the weekend, my three colleagues went to Tokyo Disneyland. I did not join them because I was there before and not because of my over-age, so I went out with other Thais for shopping (as usual!).

Weekend was over, the program started with lectures on Agricultural Census, Market Channel and Market Share of Agricultural Products, Set up of Commodity Model. We also went to the Ministry of



Economics and Trade Affairs to attend briefing on I-O Table in Japan and National Account Construction. Finally, we went to the Institute of Developing Economics to attend briefing on I-O Table and Macro-Economic Model issues. Cooperation between the IDE and the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board is taken place every year with study tour and training of officers. NESDB website is now posting on ASEAN International Input

Output Table.

We also visited the library which subscribes to all journals, newspapers from many ASIAN countries, for example, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. Subscription is both English and local. Huge collection of books are available in different languages, for example, English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Arabic, Vietnamese, etc. Data collection in microfilm is also available. There are modern book shelves while lighting is on a sensor system. Since labor is very costly in Japan, modern technology application is utilized wherever possible. Thai book collection is available from many sources, for example,



NSO, BOT, NESDB, Thammasart University Economic Journal. Big surprise was on the collection of old issues of OAE agricultural statistic book, which can not be found in our library!

Training course of this nature, at a glance, may not be a good learning process comparing with class room courses. My three colleagues mentioned that they understood more of the I-O Table much better now.

However, learning without practicing may not lead to a thorough understanding anyway. What we learned from the trip was out of class-room experience.

Japan is a highly modernized country with exceptional network system of transportation. Shinjuku Station is an example with complicated numbers of platforms that one can get lost very easily. Transit of millions of passengers is taken place every day, and for the Thai like myself, terrible headache!

Cost of living is considerably high, and food is expensive. However, income earned by Japanese is matchable that they can afford to buy expensive high technology goods easily.

In Japan they operated a more functional system concerning technical issues and statistics when compared with Thai. Specification and allocation of mandate, coordination and integration among agencies are exceptional with good central/clearing house to take charge as coordinator. Collection of data over 50 years pays the price now. Quite high importance is placed on data collection, including publication of the data by books. An example: Four to five years ago, CAI attempted to create economic models under JICA cooperation. But we found out that the past data and information were lacking, so that we had to request a Japanese institution to send the historical data concerning Thailand in order to complete our model.

ASEAD Project is an attempt of the CAI to improve information technology, data collection, economic analysis and human resource development. Achievement of the Project is not possible without the enthusiastic participation in the Project by all parties concerned.

Counterpart Training in Japan

(by Ms. Unchana, Director of Division of Livestock and Fisheries Information)



42 days in Japan under the training course in “Agricultural statistics Course for Senior Statistical Officers”

It was a great opportunity for me to have a chance to attend in “Agricultural Statistics Course for Senior Statistical Officers” between 10 August to 20 September, 2004 in Japan, supported by ASEAD Project. This training had 8 participants from 8 countries, which are Haiti, Kenya, Laos, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Timor Leste and Tonga.

MAFF was the supporter for the training, whose contents included the following:

1. Economy, society, culture and population of Japan
2. System of Agricultural Statistics in Japan and in 8 countries
3. Data of Agricultural Census in Japan and trial operation
4. Field trip; for example, wholesale market for agricultural products, NTT Data company, RESTEC company, PASCO trial operation company. I had a chance to join in major rice crop cutting at Kanazawa and also studied in a laboratory operation involved with threshing, gleaning, weighing, sorting and counting grains.

Beside the idea related to the subject, I also had experiences in a exchange cultural and idea exchanged with the participants from 8 countries who joined the training. During the training period, I had kind hospitality by MAFF officers, Mr. Hosaka and Mrs. Arai from JICA. Thank you very much.

AFSIS Project held the Meeting in Myanmar

(by Ms. Busaya Pinsuwan, Field Crop Information Division, CAI)



The ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project held the Meeting for Directors-General (DG) of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN + 3 Countries, back-to-back with the Third Focal Point Meeting (FPM) of AFSIS Project in 22-28 January 2005 at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar

Top executives of organizations involved in agricultural statistics and information in

ASEAN+3 countries will have the opportunity to : (1) find ways and means to achieve methodologies needed to improve current situation, (2) set goal for future project implementation, (3) explore recent problems and implementation guidelines of AFSIS Project, and (4) Consider the work plan in year 2005

Participants were Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN + 3 Countries, Focal Points of AFSIS Project Representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, Representatives from FAO, JICA, EAERR, WFP another related organizations and Quest Speaker.



Short Term Expert Mr. SASAJIMA

Sawasdee khrap!

I am Tatsuo SASAJIMA, a short term expert visiting OAE from 5th of February to 5th of March. In Japan, I am in charge of the management statistics in Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery.

My work in OAE is to prepare a list frame of farmers used for the sampling of agricultural statistics survey such as crop cutting, etc. In addition, I am expected to share my sampling frame technique to CAI counterparts. For this purpose, I use agricultural census data in Chiang Mai Province borrowed from

Thailand National Statistics Office. Although I am afraid that PC might take a long time to process the tremendous amount of census data.

I will do my best to make useful survey frame list and related systems.

Thank you for your cooperation.

JOINT COORDINATION COMMITTEE will held

The second Joint Coordination Committee of ASEAD Project will be held at OAE conference room on 9, March, 2005.

Ms. Anchalee Oorikul, Secretary-General, will attend the committee as a project advisor. 20 Thai members and 10 Japanese members will be assembled.

The 2nd JCC will monitor ASEAD project activities and output for the past 1 year period, identify the problems, discuss possible solution. It will also discuss the project action plan for coming 1 year period. The plan will be amended, if necessary, and approved by the JCC.

Voice of Counterpart

(by Mr. Cosit Virogpet, Chief of Agricultural Information Group, 2nd ROAE)



ASEAD Project and the Office of Agricultural Economics have developed the fast and accurate data. The 2nd Regional Office of Agricultural Economics uses Crop Cutting which is applied scientific and statistic method in term of measuring area and yield. The Project provides materials used in field. OAE has conducted the training course to develop staff ability to work in field and field network staff to get yield data more accurately.

ASEAD Project issues newsletter to make better communication between Project and the person concerned. We are planning to issue timely news.
Please access to our HP "<http://www.asead.org>"

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