



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Cooperation Among Farmers and Cooperatives

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Cooperation among farmers and cooperatives

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Cooperation for realization of food security

As one of the agricultural cooperatives, we, JA-Group, believe “Cooperation with others” – farmers, consumers, cooperatives, and companies in local region – is vital for food security. Based on this point of view, we have implemented various activities. I would like to introduce some example cases.

Reference

What's JA?
“JA” stands for “Japan Agricultural cooperatives” and JA Zenchu, or the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives is the umbrella body at the national level that represents 710 primary agricultural cooperatives, their federations at prefectural and national level and 4.8 million member farmers all over Japan.

Our Platform (abstract)

- We promote sustainable agriculture at the local level and conserve food, nature and water of our nation.
- We build comfortable and reliable rural communities through contribution to the local environment, culture and welfare.
- We work for our mission through positive participation to and solidarity with cooperative movement.
- We look for our own *raison d'être* through learning and practicing the co-operative principles.

Business Partnership with foreign agricultural cooperatives

- Agricultural cooperatives share the same ideal, which is, to protect and enhance their farmer member's production activities.
- We, as a agricultural cooperative, have continued stable business relationship with foreign agricultural cooperatives; import corns, soy beans and other feed to realize "sustainable livestock farming management" for Japanese livestock farmers.

JA-Group's Global Network with agricultural cooperatives

Business partnership with

- CHS, the biggest agricultural association in the US
- CBH, agricultural cooperative in Western Australia (for 41 years)

Map labels:

- Australia:** Barley, wheat, etc. (CBH)
- U.S.:** Soy bean, corn, milo, etc. (CHS)
- Argentina:** Corn, milo, etc. (ACA)

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Cooperation with APEC member economies

- Most of the EPAs that Japan has so far concluded with APEC economies, contain a chapter on "Cooperation" as well as tariff reduction.
- In order to contribute to foreign farmers and cooperatives through utilization of our experiences, JA Group takes some roles in the activities conducted by the government.

Example: Capacity building of Asian farmers through dispatch of Japanese short term expert

- Lectures**
(Photo : Lecture for farmers and agricultural cooperatives on bookkeeping and accounting in Cambodia)
- On-site advice**
(Photo: On-site advice for agricultural cooperatives on crop preservation in Thailand)
- On-site training**
(Photo: Training on comparative analysis of crop nutrition to farm technicians in Philippines)

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Co-existence with Asian farmers and cooperatives

- We have participated in FAO “Tele Food Project”(fundraising) since 1997 and supported some projects such as school lunch in regions suffering from lack of nutrition, food processing business of women farmers groups.
- Since 2005, we have started a project named “Fundraising for Coexistence with Asia” to further contribute to improvement of income, productivity and living standards of Asian farmers.

Example : The micro projects by “Fundraising for Coexistence with Asia”

Production of biomass energy and soil fertilization (Indonesia)



Promotion of participation in cooperatives and education (Philippines)



Project for familiarization of crops for bio-fuel (Thailand)



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Cooperation in times of disaster

- Asia-Oceania region is frequently suffered from natural disasters.
- The Great East Japan Earthquake caused a tremendous damage on the center of Japanese agricultural production. After the disaster, we received heartfelt support from farmers from all over the world for recovery.
- Meanwhile, JA Group supported Thailand cooperatives for recovery from the flood which happened in the same year.

a. Great East Japan Earthquake 2011



Assistance from cooperatives in foreign economies

[Donation for Recovery and Restoration]
from Agricultural Cooperatives / organizations from South Korea, Paraguay, Philippines, Chinese Taipei and Thailand
: Approx. 2 million USD in total

[Letters of sympathy]
From government of / cooperatives in Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, China, Chinese Taipei, India, New Zealand, United States, EU, Italy, France, Norway, Turkey, Paraguay, Switzerland and Canada

b. Flood in Thailand 2011



Assistance from JA Group

JA Group donated to CPD (Cooperative Promotion Department) and CLT for Recovery and Restoration from the flood disaster : 0.45 million USD in total

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Exchange of experience

- We have shared our experience with farmers and other cooperative members from all over the world at various opportunities such as assemblies of ICA(International Co-operative Alliance), AFGC (Asian Farmers' Group for Cooperation) ,and WFO (World Farmers' Organisation)

An example of shared best practice: Relationships between farmers and consumers (in case of Japan)
 We have built strong relationship with consumers based on mutual trust in Japan, which is mutually beneficial.

Food safety


- Traceability system from production to distribution stage
- Risk communication (providing information to consumers)

Food and agriculture education

- Deepening local citizens' understanding on food and agriculture through education.

Dialogue and joint activities with consumers' groups

- Exchange of views and promotion of mutual understanding
- Joint action on issues of mutual concerns such as agriculture, food safety, the environment and trade policies




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Conclusion

- Regarding food security, we face many challenges not only at local level, but also national and international levels.
- To address these challenges, further accumulation and sharing of know-how are needed.
- As a cooperative consists of farmers, we will actively promote various activities represented by ones introduced in this presentation.

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Annex

An Example of Specific PPFS Activities (PPFS Action Plan proposed by the MC)

- ▶ Corporate and Farmer Cooperation

(Specific PPFS Activities)

- ▶ Partnership with consumers
 - Traceability system from production to distribution stage
 - Risk communication (providing information to consumers)
 - Food and agriculture education by women/young farmers
- ▶ Cooperation among farmers in APEC region
 - Dispatch of short-term experts (cultivation technique, services of agricultural cooperatives)
 - Support micro projects to expand food production and to improve people's lives in rural communities through the fundraising
 - Periodic meeting on the agricultural policy for example through AFGC (Asian Farmers Group for Cooperation)

Reference: Japan Proposal on PPFS for 2013

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Short-Term Goals

- ◆ Enhancing traceability system
- ◆ Deepening local citizens' understanding on food and agriculture
- ◆ Sharing best practices of APEC region

Long-Term Goals

- ◆ Building trust between farmers and consumers
- ◆ Reviewing business practices & enhancing partnership management skills

Reference: Japan Proposal on PPFS for 2013

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