

*Seikatsu KAIZEN*  
( **Livelihood Improvement Program** )  
**in Post-war Japan**

~ **A Treasury of Lessons**  
**for Rural Development Today ~**

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# Japanese experience from the end of war(1945) to rapid economic growth(1960-70s)



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# Agricultural Extension Office

## Agricultural Extension Center (Kashiwa, Chiba)



(APDA “Agricultural & Rural Development and Population in Japan”)

- Agricultural Extension Workers (Farm Advisors) & Livelihood Extension Workers (Home Advisors)



(APDA “Agricultural & Rural Development and Population in Japan”)

# Livelihoods KAIZEN Approach

## Listening to rural women's voices



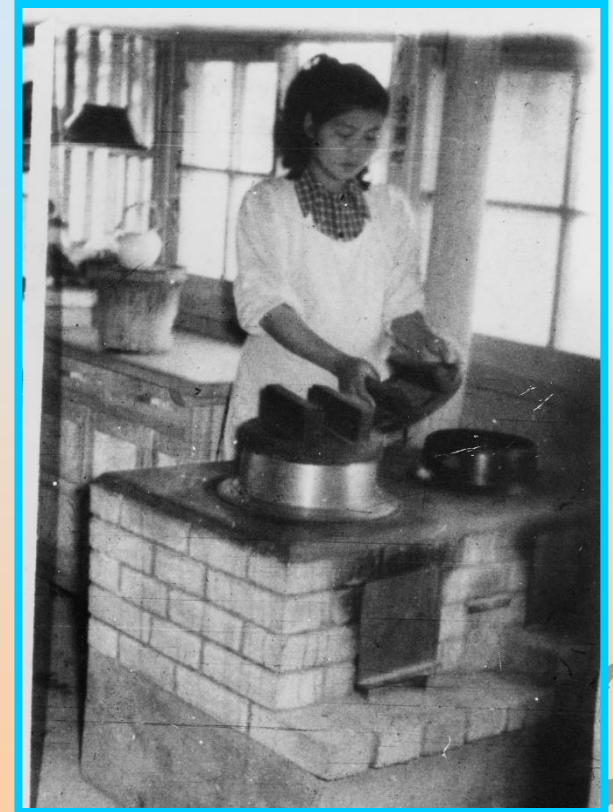
(“A Day in the Life of a Livelihood Extension Worker”)

# Example

## Kitchen Improvement



“A Day in the Life of  
a Livelihood Extension Worker”)



From Ms Takaoka, Ehime

## Example

# Communal Cooking, Communal Nursery

Step 2: Advising, arranging solutions in participatory way



(Both photos from “A Day in the Life of a  
Livelihood Extension Worker”)

# Spirit of “*KAIZEN*”

## (improvement)

	<i>Conventional Development Approach</i>	<i>KAIZEN Approach</i>
<i>The purpose is</i>	<i>Betterment of life</i>	<i>Betterment of life</i>
<i>Starting from</i>	<i>What we don't have</i>	<i>What we have in hands</i>
<i>Main strategy is</i>	<i>Transplant, Import</i>	<i>Create, <b>Domesticate</b></i>
<i>Important tools are</i>	<i>Technology, Money</i>	<i>Information, <b>Mutual help</b> (Social Capital)</i>
<i>Driven by</i>	<i>The outsiders, specialists</i>	<i>The local leaders</i>
<i>Events are</i>	<i>Sporadic</i>	<i>Connected one after another</i>
<i>Central issue is</i>	<i>Productivity , Income</i>	<i>Comfort, Safety, Saving</i>
<i>Main concern is</i>	<i>As much as possible</i>	<i>As long as possible</i>
<i>How to finance the process</i>	<i>Grant from outsiders</i>	<i>Credit from local government, People by themselves</i>

# Livelihood KAIZEN

(LIP= Livelihood Improvement Programme)

▲ A forgotten Japanese social development experience

▲ Taking off from absolute poverty

▲ A prototype of participatory development

