



# Clean Agriculture Newsletter No.12

## Clean Agriculture Development Project

Published in February 2021

This is a technical cooperation project over five years (2017-2022) funded by JICA, targeting four Pilot Provinces (Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang, Sayabouly, and Xieng Khouang). It aims at promoting clean agriculture, namely Organic Agriculture and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), based on market needs in the Pilot Provinces.

### Project activities update

#### 1. Soil disease and pest control : On-the-Job Training (OJT) on “Solar thermal soil disinfection and direct soil fermentation”

An OJT for “Solar thermal soil disinfection and direct soil fermentation” was conducted in the premises of the Clean Agriculture Standard Center (CASC) on 11 February 2021 (Thursday). About 10 staff of CASC participated in the lectures during morning and practice in the afternoon. Since the project promotes ‘organic agriculture’ the introduction of soil disinfectants such as Chloropicrin and Di-Trapex is not permitted. Therefore, the ‘solar thermal soil disinfection’ technique, that has less impact on the environment of the agricultural fields was selected and introduced. In addition, the “direct soil fermentation” technique, using rice bran, which has been published in the well-known Japanese agriculture journal “Gendai Nogyo”, was introduced at the same time. This technique not only contributes to the increase of effective organisms, such as a lactic acid bacterium and yeast fungus, but also stimulates earthworm population, which promote aggregation of the soil.



CASC staff introduces 'rice bran' after applying basal fertilizer

The project is expected to improve CASC staff’s knowledge of the introduced farming techniques, through OJT and the preparation of technical manuals. Subsequently, the CASC staff who has gained on-site experiences is expected to disseminate those techniques to the farmers through OJT by utilizing the manuals. Both CASC

staff and the Japanese expert work jointly together to achieve best results.



CASC staff applies vinyl coating after tillage, ridging and watering

#### 2. Organizing 3rd JCC (Joint Coordination Committee)

The 3rd JCC meeting was organized at the ‘Landmark Riverside Hotel’ in Vientiane Capital on 17 February 2021 (Wed). Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the JCC has been postponed from May 2020. The last JCC meeting was held 2 years ago in February 2019. The JICA headquarters in Japan participated online in the JCC meeting. The meeting has been organized and implemented smoothly without any major problems.

During the meeting the revised Project Design Matrix (PDM) was presented and explained by the project, and subsequently approved by the participants. Besides, the overall project progress during the past 2 years was reported and outline of project activities have been shared with the participants. The project activities outlines are summarized and shown on the next page.



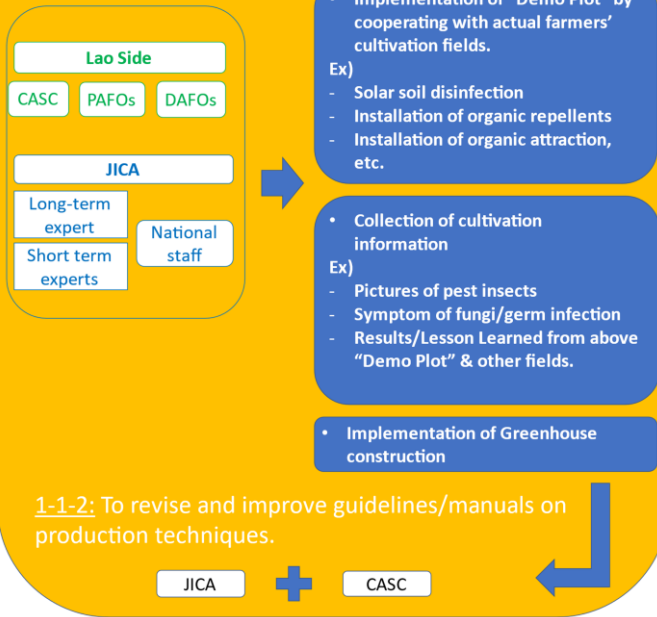
Group photo of participants of the 3rd JCC

### Image of Activity on Output 1

#### Activity 1-1:

Improvement of production techniques and their dissemination

1-1-1: To improve production techniques (soil management, cultivation, IPM, post harvesting, etc.)



### Image of Activity on Output 2

#### 2-1: Diversification and expansion of sales channel

- 1) To identify farmer groups, distributors, retailers, etc. for model supply chain/FVC
- 2) To assist in match-making activities.
- 3) To enlighten distributors and retailers, etc. on CA products.



#### 2-2: Strengthening OA markets

- 1) To identify the situation of the OA markets.
- 2) To improve location, number, operation hours, sales method, etc.

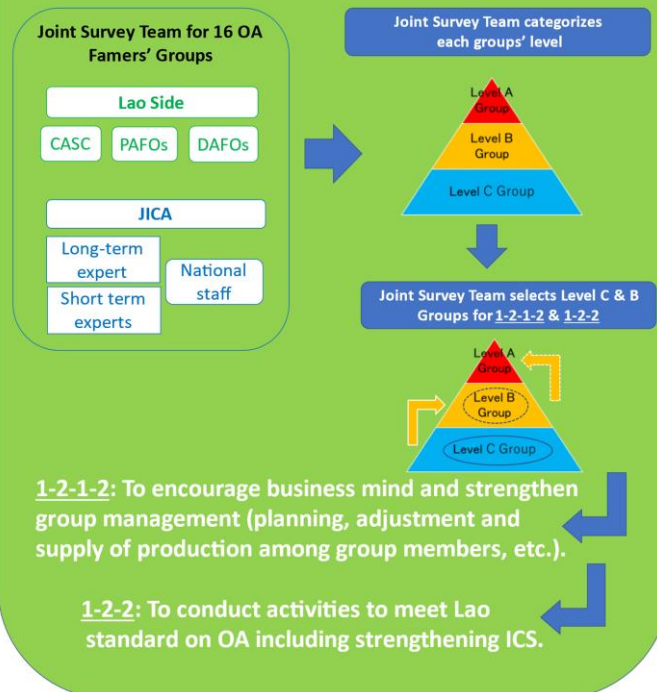
To create functions for promoting CA in addition to sales of OA products.



#### Activity 1-2:

Improvement of organizational structure and management of farmers group

1-2-1-1: To select target farmer groups.



#### 2-3: Stimulation of demand for CA products

- 1) To conduct activities for enlightening consumers on CA products
- 2) To promote participation in events

