

SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No. 19: Approaches and experiences of livelihood development and live improvement in Japan's rural area

A study tour in Japan was organized from April 5 to 27, 2012. A total of 12 cadres from commune, district and provincial department in Dien Bien province had participated in the study tour. The objectives of the study tour, among others, are to study on a method of livelihood development and life improvement in Japan's rural area and its possible application to pilot sites in Dien Bien province.

(1) Farmers' group for plum cultivation



(2) Women's group for processing plum juice and jam



(3) Sales point run by the city Government



Study visit in Tochigi prefecture

- (1) Farmers' group in Magami
- (2) Women's group at Nishikata agricultural processing factory
- (3) Nishikata sales point of agricultural and agricultural processed products

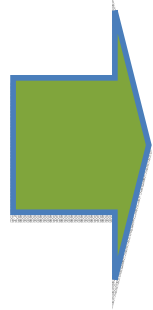
As part of the course work, participants learned the livelihood development and life improvement approach. Under the livelihood development and life improvement approach, physical (hard) resources are supposed to go hand in hand with non-physical (soft) resources (for instances capacities, ways of thinking, behavioral patterns of local people). In fact, livelihood development and life improvement will not be sustained without developing soft resources of villagers, whose livelihood and life need to be improved.

Physical (hard) resources:

Pigs, cows, fish, ponds, water supply facilities, schools, etc.

Soft resources:

Working capacities of local people, their ways of thinking and patterns of behaviors, etc.



Livelihood
development
and life
improvement



Participants are presenting their learned lesson and applied activities

Participants have identified several factors that have contributed to capacity development of the local people in Japan: group formation and management, training of qualified leaders, identification of local resources otherwise not being utilized, conscious efforts to start with activities that could be worked out even without any additional resources, etc. In the next stage, participants are going to apply what they have learnt in Japan for activities in Dien Bien province.



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