

ASIA Region: Lao P.D.R

Background:

AAI staff participated in “The Study on Agricultural and Rural Development Program Along the Mekong River in the Lao PDR” carried out during 1998 through 2000. Various discussions were carried out on the establishment of farmers supporting system and the formulation procedure of development plans based on participatory approach in this study. A friendship with the staff of Participatory Development Training Center (PADETC) was established during such discussions. Although PADETC originally aimed at the rural development through sustainable agriculture, emphasis is given in these days to the practical training as a capacity building for relevant personnel. The major contents of the training for young generation include food production, resource management, income generation, improvement of training materials/methods and sustainable development. Various activities under Muscat Fund are going to be initiated by participating in the joint field training activities based on the collaboration with PADETC.

Activities:

2002 April

In order to investigate the future possibilities and directions, a field survey was carried out by discussing with the staff of PADETC and counterpart personnel of the past development study. Following four alternatives are so far conceived.

- Implementation of the project proposed under the development study: It is to contribute to the establishment of farmers supporting system by the Government at the model village already selected in the development study.
- Small and medium scale enterprise promotion project: It is to contribute to the promotion of small and medium scale enterprise that can encourage processing and marketing of surplus and perishable food products.
- Assistance to the existing organic farm: Organic farm investigated under the current field survey needs technical support in organic culture, dyeing, tea manufacturing and food processing. Technical assistance to such organic farm may promote the eco-tourism in the area and an indirect effect will be expected in the field of environmental education.
- Farm Operation: It is to perform an ideal organic farming at the farm to be purchased in an appropriate site and to involve the surrounding farmers in future.



Mulberry field in Organic Farm



Mulberry tea preparation



Organic Lunch at Organic Farm