

RAP PUBLICATION 2012/21



# AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

KEY TO FEEDING THE WORLD

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2012 World Food Day  
celebration report



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# AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

KEY TO FEEDING  
THE WORLD



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Bangkok, 2012



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World Food Day celebration  
16 October 2012  
Bangkok, Thailand

# Agricultural cooperatives – key to feeding the world

## World Food Day 2012 theme



Nearly one in seven people suffer from undernourishment, yet the world has the means to eliminate hunger and fuel sustainable development. There is broad agreement that smallholders will provide much of the extra food needed to feed more than nine billion people by 2050. One of the necessary steps to achieving food security is to support and invest in cooperatives, producer organizations and other rural institutions.

Numerous success stories around the world have shown that rural institutions like producer organizations and cooperatives contribute to food security by helping small farmers, fisher folk, livestock keepers, forest holders and other producers to access the information, tools and services they need. This allows them to increase food production, market their goods and create jobs, improving their own livelihoods and increasing food security in the world.

In 2007-2008, the price of maize soared by 74 percent, and rice prices climbed 166 percent. Many small producers were not in a position to respond by increasing their crop production, productivity and, ultimately, income. Why was that?

Most small producers in developing countries face numerous difficulties. They are often far removed from what happens on national and international markets. For them to benefit, higher food prices would need to be transmitted through the entire value chain all the way to the small producer.

Farmers also face difficulties accessing high-quality inputs. While the selling price for crops may be higher, farmers also have to factor in the variable cost



of buying seeds and fertilizer before deciding to expand their production. Access to loans to buy these inputs can also be a problem.

Even when all these conditions are favourable, many small producers face still other obstacles – such as lack of transport to bring their produce to local markets, or the absence of proper infrastructure in rural areas.

For all these reasons, higher prices on international markets did not translate into better income and well-being for small producers in developing countries.

There is good news, however.

Accumulated research and experience show that while small farmers acting alone did not benefit from higher food prices, those acting collectively in strong producer organizations and cooperatives were better able to take advantage of market opportunities and mitigate the negative effects of food and other crises.

### A range of services

Strong cooperatives and other producer organizations offer their members a variety of services ranging from access to natural resources, information, communication, input and output markets, technologies and training. They also facilitate participation in decision-making processes.



Through practices like group purchasing and marketing, farmers gain market power and get better prices on agricultural inputs and other necessities.

Some institutional arrangements, such as mediation committees, have improved smallholders' access to and management of natural resources by securing land rights. Other arrangements such as input shops (for collectively purchasing inputs) and warehouse receipt systems (for collective access to credit) have increased producers' access to markets and productive assets, while reducing high transaction costs.

Cooperatives and producer organizations are central in building small producers' skills, providing them with appropriate information and knowledge, helping them to innovate and adapt to changing markets. Some enable farmers to build their capacity to analyze their production systems, identify their problems, test possible solutions and eventually adopt the practices and technologies best suited to their farming systems.

Another powerful contribution of cooperatives and producer organizations is their ability to help small producers voice their concerns and interests – and ultimately increase their negotiating power and influence policy-making processes. “Multi-stakeholder platforms” and consultative fora are examples of where small producers discuss the design and implementation of public policies.

The United Nations Committee on World Food Security is an important intergovernmental body for reviewing and following up on policies concerning world food security. It brings together different stakeholders including national governments, regional and international producer organizations and other key stakeholders, under the auspices of the United

Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). A significant achievement of the Committee was the drafting and adoption of voluntary guidelines for land tenure and access to fisheries and forests, with producer organizations and cooperatives involved in the negotiations. The new voluntary guidelines will allow national governments to pass laws and set up policies on access and ownership rights for land, fisheries, and forest resources.

While benefiting from these services, small producers can secure their livelihoods and play a greater role in meeting the growing demand for food on local, national and international markets. Therefore, they contribute to poverty alleviation, food security, and the eradication of hunger.

## Cooperatives in the economy

Cooperatives are present in all countries and all sectors, including agriculture, food, finance, health care, marketing, insurance and credit.

It is estimated that one billion individuals are members of cooperatives worldwide, generating more than 100 million jobs around the world. In agriculture, forestry, fishing and livestock, members participate in production, profit-sharing, cost-saving, risk-sharing and income-generating activities, that lead to better bargaining power for members as buyers and sellers in the market place.

The International Year of Cooperatives in 2012 celebrates the unique role that this “business model with a social conscience” plays in our modern world.

World Food Day 2012 shines a light on agricultural cooperatives and their contribution to poverty and hunger reduction. After all, of the estimated





925 million hungry people in the world today, 70 percent live in rural areas where agriculture is the economic mainstay.

Agricultural and food cooperatives are already a major tool against poverty and hunger, but they could do much more. It is time to strengthen these organizations and facilitate their expansion while creating a favourable business, legal, policy and social climate in which they can thrive.

### A new social contract

In both developed and developing countries, there are examples of innovative producer organizations and cooperatives that have proven successful in helping small producers overcome different constraints. However, they too often remain limited in scale and scope. The main challenge is to build on these success stories, in order to achieve sustainable rural and agricultural development. For this, relevant stakeholders need to come together, with clear roles and responsibilities, to define the enabling environment where producer organizations can develop.

National governments, development agencies, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, and research and academic institutions all have a role to play in supporting the development of strong, efficient and equitable cooperatives and producer organizations.

Governments can provide favourable policies, transparent laws and regulations that are based on consultation with the producers. They can also provide the right business environment, and consultative fora. They can also support with the scaling up of successful and innovative cooperative models.

The donor community and NGOs can assist existing cooperatives, rather than create new organizations. Interestingly, experience has shown that it is better to support existing cooperatives than to create new organizations that may lack grassroots commitment.

Research institutions can improve understanding of cooperatives and assess their impact – by systematically documenting their activity and successes, and by collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data. The impact of cooperatives on employment generation, poverty alleviation and, ultimately, food security will be more clearly recognized as better quality data becomes available.

Arguably the most important need is a favourable environment in which cooperatives can form, develop, thrive and compete with mainstream business enterprises.

## The human spark

What is a cooperative? It starts when a group of people believe in themselves and get organized. From that spark a fire starts. On World Food Day 2012, let us resolve to give cooperatives a helping hand, enabling them to overcome constraints and play their full role in the drive to end hunger and poverty. World Food Day and the International Year of Cooperatives are bringing new understanding and attention to cooperatives. Now let's not let the fire go out.



# Address by the Guest of Honour Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn



I am pleased to address this 2012 Asia-Pacific World Food Day celebration. The theme of this year's World Food Day, Agricultural Cooperatives – Key to Feeding the World, is well chosen.

The theme is not only well chosen because 2012 is the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives. It is also because feeding the world is a great challenge in view of factors both on the demand side and on the supply side. Demand for food increases because of a still growing world population and changing diets for the many new middle class families who demand more meat and dairy products. On the supply side a wide range of production constraints exist such as limits to the amount of new land that can be allocated to food production; scarce supplies of water for agriculture; and rising prices of inputs – in particular inputs requiring fossil fuels. Climate change is also a challenge that requires major investments to mitigate against its negative impacts.

Against this background, how can we ensure that agricultural cooperatives can play the key role that is expected from them? The cooperative enterprise model exists in many economic sectors, including in agriculture and all along the food chain from the producers to the consumers, and including marketing and financial services.

Globally, agricultural cooperatives represent a significant portion of the cooperative sector in developed and developing countries. Thirty percent of the 300 largest cooperatives in the world are found in the agricultural sector



and a large proportion of the one billion cooperative members are active in agriculture.

The meaning of the word “cooperative” has different connotations for different people, although the basic principles formulated by the first cooperatives in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century emphasized the voluntary character of their membership and their democratic decision-making structure. Many countries in the region have realized strong cooperative movements in the food and agricultural sectors – such as India, Japan and the Republic of Korea, to name a few.

In other instances, key cooperative principles were not taken into account and, therefore, cooperatives have at times not reached the intended target groups. To overcome these negative perceptions, development experts are emphasizing the need to ensure an enabling environment and the autonomy of the institution.

In developing countries, where agriculture is practiced by millions of small farmers, both formal agricultural cooperatives and informal producer groups are key to increased productivity and thus key to feeding the world. Such groups are often the only way for small farmers to achieve economies of scale and to access information and services to make their farming operations competitive. Producer groups and cooperatives are crucial for knowledge transfer and training, as well as for cost effective procurement of inputs, marketing and transportation of their produce and for access to financial services.



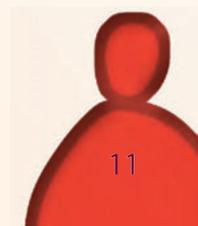
Producer groups and agricultural cooperatives should be encouraged, and one of the ways to do so is through an enabling legal and regulatory environment. Farmers should be able to decide the priorities that need to be addressed, whether this is inputs, or marketing, or finance.

It is interesting to note that in those developed countries where agricultural cooperatives have been most successful, often governments have concentrated on providing an enabling legal and regulatory environment. As cooperatives are primarily business entities, they are competing in the marketplace with other businesses. This means that they may or may not be successful, and if they are not successful then they should be allowed to merge with other cooperatives or business entities or even to close their operations.

The Kingdom of Thailand has always encouraged the formation of farmer production groups and cooperatives through the Cooperative Promotion Department and the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives. As a result, Thai farmers play an important role in feeding the world through large exports of food such as rice, sugar, cassava, seafood, poultry and others, including fresh produce. Thailand will continue to encourage farmers to organize themselves and to further increase their productivity to meet the global challenge of feeding the world.

I join you all in conveying the solidarity and support of the Thai people to FAO in its efforts towards enabling farmers and their cooperatives worldwide to increase production and towards addressing the challenges of ensuring food security for all.

Thank you.



# FAO Director-General's message

## José Graziano da Silva

The theme of this year's World Food Day is *Agricultural cooperatives: key to feeding the world*. This theme was chosen to highlight the many, concrete ways in which agricultural cooperatives and producer organizations help to provide food security, generate employment, and lift people out of poverty. For FAO and its partners, agricultural cooperatives are natural allies in the fight against hunger and extreme poverty. Their importance has also been acknowledged through the United Nations' declaration of 2012 as the *International Year of Cooperatives*.

Over the three decades of decline in national investments in agriculture and official development assistance, millions of small producers have struggled to respond and to cope with variability and crises in climate, markets, and prices. Since the food crisis of 2007-8 many countries have renewed their commitment to eradicating hunger in the world and improving livelihoods. But in some cases, concrete political, programme and financial support are lagging behind verbal commitments.

The opportunity that the food price spikes of 2007-2008 might have provided as a pathway out of poverty for small producers was not realized.

Every day, small producers around the world continue to face constraints that keep them from reaping the benefits of their labour and contributing to food security not only for themselves but for all through active participation in markets. However, poor infrastructure and limited access to services and information, productive assets and markets, as well as poor representation in decision making processes, mean that this potential is not realized.

Evidence shows that those strong cooperatives and producer organizations are able to overcome these constraints and to mitigate the negative effects of food and other crises. Strong producer organizations have helped to fill a void. They have been able to overcome market and policy constraints by providing their members' access to a range of assets and services. For instance, they can reduce costs to farmers by allowing them to purchase in groups and benefit from better retail prices of agricultural inputs. They also make it



possible for members to voice their concerns and interests – and to play a role in decision and policy making processes.

There are numerous examples of strong and inclusive organizations that foster collective action among people who depend on farming, fishing, forestry, livestock and related employment for their livelihoods. These organizations operate at the community, national or international level, working to combine the economic and social goals of their members.

It has been said repeatedly that we have the means to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. What is needed is the establishment of an enabling environment that allows small producers to take full advantage of available opportunities. Strong cooperatives and producer organizations are an essential part of that enabling environment.

FAO supports member governments in helping cooperatives and producer organizations to thrive, by developing adequate policies, legal frameworks, economic incentives, and forums for dialogue on policy making. In addition, FAO generates evidence, knowledge and good practice that supports the emergence of more self-reliant, inclusive, gender-equitable, and market-oriented producer organizations and cooperatives.

FAO, together with UN and other partners, including the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) and the Rome-based agencies, will continue to strengthen and support cooperatives, as key stakeholders, to open the door to new opportunities and to achieve our common goal of a more food secure and sustainable world.

# A Assistant Director-General's statement

**Hiroyuki Konuma**

**FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific**

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva, and on my own behalf, I have the honor to welcome all of you to the 2012 World Food Day Regional Observance.

We are especially honored by the presence of Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. On behalf of FAO staff, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Your Royal Highness for your gracious acceptance to preside over today's World Food Day celebration.

We are also privileged by the presence of Mr Hisao Azuma, former Vice Minister of Agriculture, Japan and former Senior Vice President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who has been invited as a keynote speaker and who will share with us today the story of Japanese agricultural cooperatives.

The theme of this year's World Food Day is "Agricultural cooperatives: key to feeding the world". The theme is especially relevant to Asia-Pacific because this region is home to many successful agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations. Moreover, recent trends in the agricultural cooperative movement originated in Asia, namely, from a remote village in Bangladesh several decades ago. Agricultural cooperatives now extend worldwide and serve as self-help and self-motivated farmer institutions or enterprises established by farmers themselves. In Asia and the Pacific, where 70 to 80 percent of the total number of farmers are small-scale farmers who produce most of the food in the region, agricultural cooperatives and farmer



organizations play a vital role in supporting individual small farmers and promoting food security in the region and beyond.

The role of agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations has become increasingly vital for farmers because the impacts of rapid globalization and trade liberalization have forced farmers to make critical choices – either to become more competitive to meet market demands and take advantage of opportunities for further growth, or fall behind. Indeed, if farmers opt to remain in farming, they have to adjust their production systems to respond to the needs of local and global markets. The rapid expansion of hypermarket and supermarket chains make small-scale farmers more vulnerable to competition. Standing alone, each small-scale farmer has few opportunities. Standing as a group, they have more opportunities to compete and succeed in a modern and competitive business climate – with stronger negotiating powers, access to credit facilities and better organized marketing, including opportunities for skills training to produce quality and safe products to meet market demands.

There are many good examples of cooperatives and farmer groups. In Thailand, the Swift Company Limited started contract farming in 1986 with farmers' groups to grow predetermined types and quantities of horticulture products such as asparagus. Swift set out to remove middlemen by guaranteeing a fair, fixed price to farmers, which was negotiated annually. Further, Swift provided training skills to farmers' groups to ensure the quality and safety of farm products to meet global standards such as EUROGAP, and



facilitated export of the products to overseas markets. Recently, the company extended its approach to farmers' groups in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in collaboration with FAO and IFAD.

On the occasion of World Food Day, I wish to reiterate once again the important role that agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations play in supporting small-scale farmers and promoting food security, and I look forward to their further expansion. I also wish to underline the importance of bottom up and participatory approaches to managing agricultural cooperatives in order to ensure that they represent the voices of farmers.

*The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012 (SOFI)*, jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) was released just last week. The publication presents new estimates of the number and proportion of undernourished, going back to the year 1990, based on improvements in data and methodology that incorporate the latest revisions of world population data, food supply, food losses, dietary energy requirements and others. I am pleased to announce that, based on the revised figures, the prevalence of undernourishment is now estimated at 870 million, lower than the previous estimate of 925 million. This is good news as the number is lower than previously thought, but it still means that one person in eight goes hungry. In addition, the proportion of hungry people in the world has declined from 18.6 percent in 1990–92 to 12.5 percent in 2010–12. For developing countries alone, it declined from 23.2 percent to 14.9 percent during the same period.

The revised figures for Thailand indicate a significant decline in the undernourishment rate of 7.3 percent in 2010–12, which is lower than that of Viet Nam (9 percent), Indonesia (8.6 percent) and China (11.5 percent). This means that Thailand has already achieved the MDG hunger target. We respectfully acknowledge Thailand's efforts in improving the nutritional status of its people.

For Asia and the Pacific region, the share of undernourished people remains the highest with 563 million in 2010–12, which constitutes 65 percent or two-thirds of the world's total. It declined from 23.7 percent to 13.9 percent during the period 1990–92 to 2010–12, largely because of socio-economic progress in many countries in the region. This gives us great encouragement and hope to attain the MDG 1 hunger target of 11.9 percent in this region by 2015, against the present level of 13.9 percent.

That said, it is totally unacceptable that in a world of plenty more than 100 million children below the age of five are underweight and that child malnutrition is the cause of death for more than 2.5 million children every

year. In addition, 30 percent of the world's total population (2.1 billion) suffers from micro-nutrient malnutrition, while overweight, obesity and associated non-communicable diseases such as diabetes affect more than 1.4 billion people worldwide. The world produces more or less sufficient food to meet the demands of every one. Yet, 870 million people go to bed hungry every day while 1.4 billion people are overweight largely due to excess food intake. In developed countries and advanced economies in Asia such as Thailand, 15–20 percent of foods are wasted after they reach the dining table.

Food is a fundamental human right. Everyone has the right to an adequate and nutritionally balanced diet. Yet we have failed to support each other in meeting this essential human right. Instead, we live in a world of inequality, inequity and injustice, which negates our fundamental moral and ethical obligations as global citizens, and may even threaten social stability and world peace.

Finally, I wish to convey my gratitude once again for your presence this morning. On the occasion of World Food Day, I wish to express the importance of creating a sense of strong social solidarity and partnership at all levels to help each other, and to help those suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Thank you.



# **K**eynote address by **Senior Advisor from Japan Association for International Collaboration of Agriculture and Forestry (JAICAF) Hisao Azuma**



It is a great honor for me to be given a chance to present my remarks on agriculture in a growing economy and the role of agricultural cooperatives at the Asia-Pacific Regional Observance of this year's World Food Day. The World Food Summit in 1996, whose main theme was food security, resulted in the adoption of the Declaration and the Action Plan. The Action Plan calls for enhancement of domestic food production for food security. It further refers to poverty as a cause of food insecurity and concludes that 75 percent of people in poverty are found in rural areas. Most of them are smallholder farmers who work on small plots to produce staple food for their own subsistence. The World Food Summit set a target to reduce by half the number of chronically undernourished people by the year 2015 and it became the number one target of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In tackling the issue of food insecurity and rural poverty, we should first focus our efforts on increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers. Increased productivity will bring them the ability to provide enough food for their family members and to market the surplus. Moreover, farmers can utilize the surplus labour, which will have been gained through increased labour productivity on their limited acreage, in other areas of agricultural production, such as by producing fruits, vegetables or livestock products. This will provide them with an extra source of income and may also generate new marketing or processing industries within rural areas. Some farmers or their family members could be employed in those industries as part-time or full-time workers and



continue to live in the rural areas. Their increased income might stimulate economic activities in the rural areas – for example, retail, transportation and other service businesses for farm households – and farmers could take advantage of opportunities to engage in those businesses. It is also feasible for some enterprises to build factories in rural areas so as to have easy access to surplus labour. Through this process, the income of farmers and other rural people can be increased and the income gap between rural and urban households can be reduced.

This is the story of Japan's agricultural and rural development during its period of rapid economic growth. Agricultural cooperatives have been key players in this development. This is a good opportunity for me to talk about the role of agricultural cooperatives in Japan.

I rent a tiny farming plot from a farmer. He allocated 50 small plots for rent on his farm. One plot measures only 50 square meters. It can produce vegetables for the consumption of one family and it is called a "family vegetable garden". This year, I planted more than 20 varieties of vegetables. It is very troublesome to buy such a variety of seeds, small amounts of fertilizers and other materials. But an agricultural cooperative nearby provides and delivers them promptly. Moreover, it provides advice on the seeding and planting schedules, the planting space and the watering requirements. Without its support, I could not manage to maintain such a tiny vegetable garden. Unlike me, most farmers produce vegetables for marketing on a far greater scale with specific

varieties. They receive inputs and extension services from the cooperative in their area. And they market their produce through that cooperative. Farmers can also receive credit from that cooperative to purchase machines and other equipment.

Agricultural cooperatives in Japan provide four main comprehensive services. They are: financial services including insurance, input supplies, produce marketing and extension services. These services are available to any member regardless of farm size or remoteness. The network of cooperatives covers the whole of Japan and almost all farmers are members of a cooperative and enjoy the services it provides.

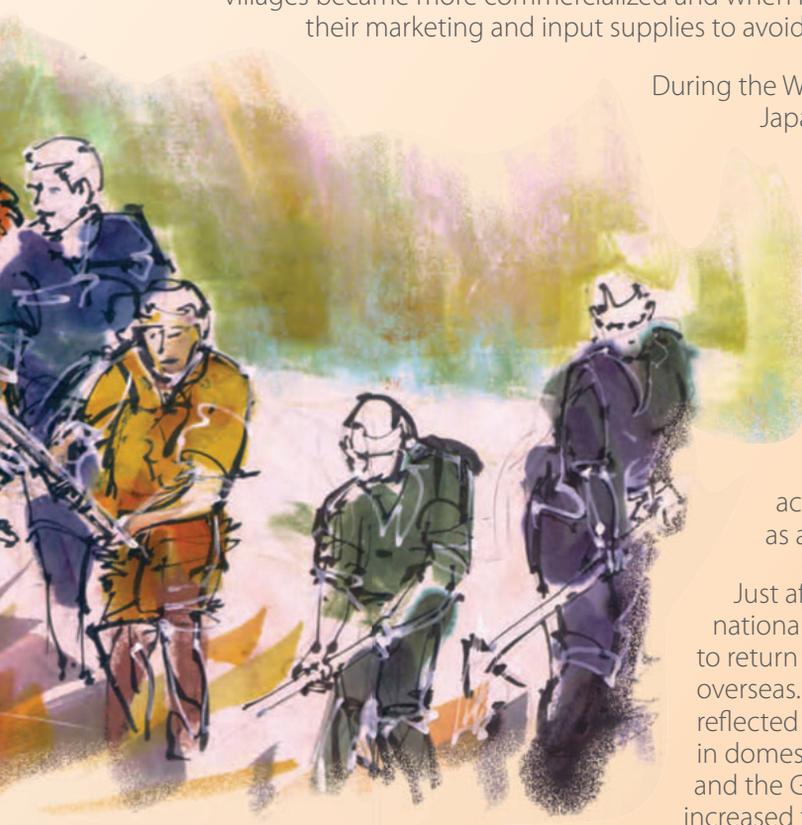
The cost of some services, such as extension and advisory services, exceeds their revenue, but those gaps can be made up by profits from other sources, mainly from the financial services. Therefore, “comprehensiveness” is the key to organizing agricultural cooperatives.

Now I would like to look back on the role of agricultural cooperatives in Japan’s agricultural development. Japan’s agriculture can be characterized as “small-scale farming”, mainly of rice in small paddy fields. Before mechanization started in agriculture, it was impossible to cultivate more than two hectares of paddy field for a farmer using only family labour. Even using animals, like cattle or horses, he could not extend his cultivation to more than



5 hectares. In 1946, immediately after the War, Japan's average acreage per farm household was 0.9 hectares and, even today, it is just 2 hectares. This farm size is very small compared to the average size of 187 hectares in the United States, 56 hectares in France and 46 hectares in Germany.

Even before the War, agricultural cooperatives were prevalent in Japan's rural areas. Almost all of the smallholder farmers lived in villages surrounded by their fields and relied on each other for mutual collaboration and support. This situation was conducive to the establishment of cooperatives when the villages became more commercialized and when farmers needed to organize their marketing and input supplies to avoid exploitation by traders.



During the War, the Government of Japan used agricultural cooperatives as a channel for its rationing system – distributing scarce inputs to farmers and gathering farm produce to supply needy people in urban areas. At that time, cooperatives obtained their monopolistic status and extended their role not only in agricultural activities but also in village life as a whole.

Just after the War, many Japanese nationals and soldiers were forced to return to their hometowns from overseas. This population influx was reflected in a dramatic increase in domestic food consumption, and the Government encouraged increased food production. To

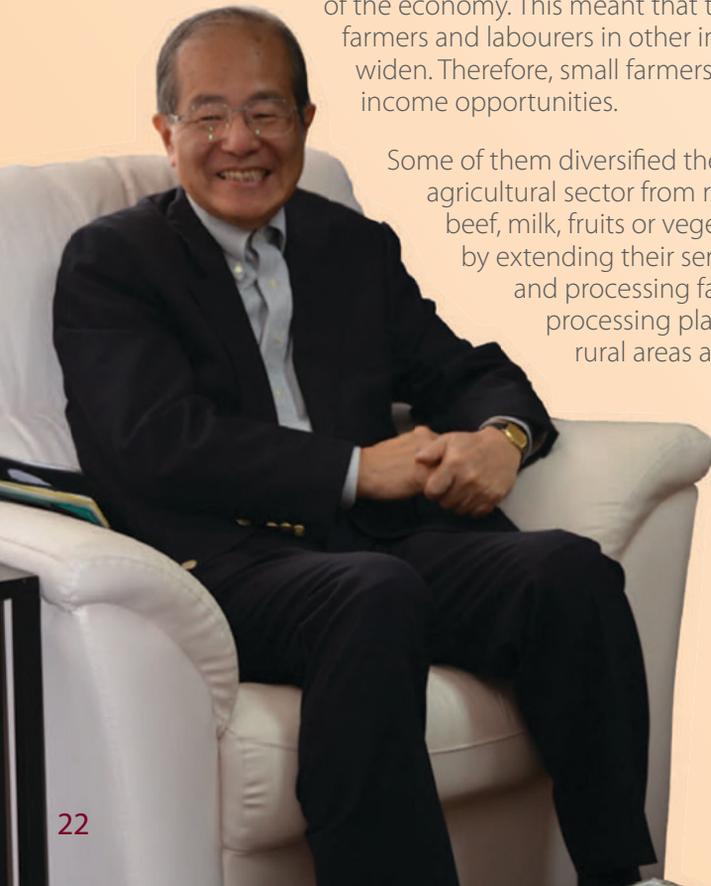
increase productivity per acreage, the Government implemented a policy of land reform. Landowners who rented out their land were forced to sell ownership of their land to the Government. The Government, in turn, sold it to farmers at a rather low price. It was expected that the transfer of land ownership to tenants would increase the productivity of the land by encouraging tenants to apply more fertilizers. During this process of land reform, agricultural cooperatives were expected to provide financial assistance to tenants, and their financial function was ingrained in rural society thereafter.

During the immediate post-war period the agricultural sector was able to maintain a pace of growth equivalent to that of other industries. Japan's economy returned to pre-war levels in 1955, and then began its rapid growth. Economic growth was mainly achieved through productivity increases in the capital intensive industries, while the agricultural sector, which was labour intensive, was gradually left behind.

During the period of rapid economic growth, one of the most difficult political issues in Japan was how to integrate the agricultural sector into the overall economic development process. In tackling this issue, the Government started promoting large-scale and mechanized cultivation on improved arable land with modern drainage and road systems. However, in Japan it was difficult for farmers to increase the size of their farms because most families did not want to lose ownership of their ancestral plots.

Most farmers were unable to follow the Government's policy of increasing the size of their farms, but instead continued to farm with modern technology on their own small plots. Responding to farmers' needs, agricultural cooperatives introduced small farm machines that could be used on small plots. Thus, during the 1960s the productivity increase of the agriculture sector was around 2 percent per year, compared with the average productivity increase of more than 10 percent for the national economy as a whole. It was acknowledged that it would be very difficult for the agricultural sector to accomplish productivity improvements similar to the other sectors of the economy. This meant that the income gap between farmers and labourers in other industries would continue to widen. Therefore, small farmers started looking for other income opportunities.

Some of them diversified their production within the agricultural sector from rice or grain to pork, poultry, beef, milk, fruits or vegetables. Cooperatives responded by extending their services to provide marketing and processing facilities for the farmers. The processing plants brought new jobs to rural areas and some of the farmers were employed there. Other farmers tried to get off-farm jobs outside of their villages. In the beginning, they often went to work in big cities as seasonal labourers, while leaving their families behind in the villages to continue farming the fields.





In the 1960s the Government was faced with the problem of population density in industrial areas and introduced the “New Industrial City Plan” which called for better infrastructure and for enterprises to relocate their factories to local core cities. As a result, it became easier for farmers to find jobs in industries located in nearby cities and thus to become part-time farmers. Moreover, the increase in farmers’ income stimulated the rural economy and this also provided new jobs.

The trend towards non-farm employment to complement agricultural incomes has increased the total income of farm households. While the average income of a farm household was about 75 percent of a non-farm household in 1961, in recent years it is almost even with that of non-farm households, with about 75 percent of it coming from non-farm activities.

Agricultural developments in Japan have eliminated poverty in rural areas and have resulted in alleviation of the income gap between rural and urban areas. This has brought about a well-balanced development of the country as well. Today, the rural population exceeds 42 million, equivalent to about one-third of the total population, which has remained at about the same level since 1961. One-fourth of the factories in Japan are located in rural areas and the rural areas generate about 20 percent of its total GDP.

In short, agricultural cooperatives have received the strong support of the Japanese Government and have played a critical role in the country’s rural development. But they have created some problems as well.

In the 1960s, when the productivity of the agricultural sector lagged behind and the income gap between farmers and other industries was widening, the cooperatives put political pressure on the Government and managed to get the purchasing price of rice raised. The high price of rice resulted in overproduction of rice in 1969 and the Government had to repeal the rice marketing price system. Nowadays, the price of rice is determined by the domestic market which is protected by import restrictions. This is because, after the repeal of the rice marketing price system, the target of the political movement of agricultural cooperatives shifted from the government purchasing price to international trade agreements, such as GATT, WTO, FTA or TPP. Today, agricultural cooperatives are in a difficult position to lead this movement owing to rapid globalization.

The second problem is how to reconcile the needs of full-time farmers with those of part-time farmers. Full-time farmers tend to have large farms, but cooperatives have to treat full-time farmers and part-time farmers equally. This may not satisfy full-time farmers and they tend to use alternative service channels.

The third issue is how to provide new services at the village level. Japan is an ageing society with a declining population. This trend is strongest in rural areas. Even though the total population in rural areas is not decreasing significantly, in remote villages the younger generation tends to move to nearby towns and cities, leaving their parents behind. The farm households run by the elderly should be supported by cooperatives, not only in farming but also in all other aspects of daily life. It is a heavy burden for the agricultural cooperatives to provide services such as medical or elderly care.

Japanese agricultural cooperatives are struggling with these issues as they are expected to remain the main supporters of rural development.

In Asia, as in Japan, the agriculture sector can be characterized as “small-scale farming”. Asian countries are struggling to integrate the agricultural sector with their rapidly growing economies and to achieve balanced development between urban and rural areas. By increasing productivity in the agriculture sector, most Asian countries have succeeded in reaching the MDG target of reducing malnutrition and poverty in rural areas. But the productivity increases have coincided with population outflows from rural to urban areas. If proper marketing or processing industries were available, the surplus agricultural labour could be utilized to produce alternative agricultural products, and people could be employed by those industries while still living in their villages. If governments made it a policy to provide incentives for enterprises to locate factories in rural areas, this would create employment for the surplus labour and people could continue to live in their hometowns. Then, they would become part-time farmers and the “collaboration” among the inhabitants in each of the villages would be the key factor in supporting them. Cooperatives would be expected to be the main actors in this collaboration, and cooperatives would be the main players to promote this pathway to rural development.

Again, I would like to stress that collaboration among village inhabitants could be the key to their prosperity and cooperatives could play the role of the main actor.

Thank you for your kind attention.

# Model farmers Awards for outstanding achievements



# Misripah Marjan

## A model frozen food producer from Malaysia

When Misripah Marjan finished secondary school in Selangor, Malaysia, she longed to go to university. But her farmer parents did not have the money to send her. Misripah may have lacked means, but she did not lack spirit. An entrepreneur at heart, she saved her money until she could buy a small plot of land, far from her family home, where her husband Kasbolah bin Kordi could farm bananas and palm oil. Misripah, meanwhile, turned her attention to business.

She began cooking tempeh, a delicacy made from fermented soybeans, and selling them at a local market. She baked 100 at first, but before she knew it, she was churning out 3 000 tempeh patties a day, had hired six workers and was selling them at the local wholesale market.

With what she saved, she was able to buy land back in Selangor and moved her family back near her parents' farm. Having gained some experience in the food business, she began baking a variety of traditional Malaysian frozen cakes. All her ingredients came from the family farm: sweet potatoes, bananas, and other fruits and vegetables. She had never read a textbook with the term, but her business was "vertically integrated".

Once again, she started small, but quickly expanded as demand for her cakes grew. She received help in the form of small loans from Ministry of Agriculture and the Rural Development Agency to buy modern equipment and machinery. "Learning to use modern machinery without losing the authentic home-made quality of our recipes was a challenge," she says. She received





technical assistance from FAO and government agencies so that her production processes all abide by the strictest standards for food safety. A cooperative spirit was one cornerstone of her success.

Having received help, she also extended help to the people in her village by creating jobs for them with her small company *Cik Tipah Frozen Food*. Misripah instilled in them an entrepreneurial spirit and the knowledge of how to run a business using what they harvest from their farms. She has shown them how to add value to what they produce, expanding their horizons. Because of her the community is stronger.

Misripah's business may be relatively small – she produces 4 000 cakes a day – but it has a big reputation. Travelers from as far north as Penang have visited her shop after hearing about her delicious cakes.

Misripah's frozen food company is now so successful that she can afford to give her daughter Emi what she could not obtain for herself so many years ago – a higher education. Emi is now studying culinary arts at university and is planning to pursue a master's degree in gastronomy.

"I never imagined we would be so successful when we started. It's like a dream," Misripah says. Having fulfilled her dreams, she does not rest. Her ambition remains strong. Misripah is still cooking up plans to scale up further. In doing so, she believes she can share with the members of her community in Malaysia the ways they can scale up their own dreams, and their own success.

## Bold Jigjid

### A model poultry farmer from Mongolia

Growing up in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Baataar, Bold Jigjid never dreamed of becoming a farmer. His parents were workers in a garment factory, and as a boy he imagined piloting aircraft or competing as a professional swimmer. When he came of age, his parents sent him to university to study economics and business administration. After he graduated, he landed a job as a loan officer in a local bank.

It was good work. Bold Jigjid extended loans to people wanting to start or expand small businesses. "I liked helping people succeed," he says.

Although he grew up in a city, Bold married a girl from a farming family. This proved to be a perfect match, both in love and, surprisingly, in business.

In the early 1990s, Mongolia began a difficult transition from a command to a market economy. One sector that suffered was farming. All farms had been cooperatives.

Now, in this new era of competition, the cooperatives were all bankrupt. Consequently, food security was weak and many basic food items had to be imported.

One of those items was eggs, and that gave Bold Jigjid an idea. With his business savvy and the knowledge his wife and her parents possessed about farming, he decided to buy part of bankrupt poultry cooperative on the outskirts of the capital in 2004.

"I saw an opportunity," says Bold, who was still working at the bank at the time, and so he took it.





They used their savings to invest in 20 000 laying hens, and began producing 17 000 eggs a day. But, there was one problem: because of the high price of feed and other supplies, their eggs were still more expensive than the imported eggs from China. Fate, however, intervened.

Not long after Bold and his family founded their farm, an epidemic of Avian Influenza swept across China, and so the government of Mongolia banned imported eggs. The epidemic was eventually brought under control, but not before the Mongolian government realized it would better serve the interests of the country's economy and food security if the ban was maintained and local farmers were allowed to grow their businesses.

Bold and his family did exactly that. With greater opportunity, they expanded to 80 employees and now produce 130 000 fresh eggs every day – a full 20 percent of the eggs produced in Mongolia. With help from FAO and other UN agencies, Bold says, he learned how to improve production methods and maintain food safety standards. Within the next three years, he believes his company, named Tumen Shuvuut, will be producing 50 million eggs a year.

Although Mongolia's cooperatives may not have survived, the spirit behind cooperatives lives on. Bold is now selling chicks to other farmers, essentially at cost, so that they too can thrive and help feed the country. You might say it's a bold endeavour from a man who likes helping others succeed.

## Pathiraja Wijekoon Bandara

### A model organic farmer from Sri Lanka

Pathiraja Wijekoon Bandara, a 58-year-old from Kandy district in Sri Lanka is a farmer by profession. But he's a warrior in spirit.

Starting about two decades ago, tens of thousands of people in Sri Lanka have been falling ill and dying from kidney disease. In Kandy district alone, Pathiraja says, 45 000 people were suffering from kidney ailments. Although public health officials were divided over the cause, some attributed the deaths and illnesses to fertilizers and pesticides used in agriculture. Pathiraja did not have any doubt that they were correct. "These chemicals are poisons," he says.

While health officials debated, Pathiraja took action. He knew there were alternatives to using chemical fertilizers and pesticides because of the Mahaweli Ganga Development Programme, a government-run integrated rural development effort. In the past, he thought organic farming was an interesting idea. As the kidney disease toll mounted, he realized it could be a life saver.

A former village headman before retiring to concentrate on farming, Pathiraja used his leadership experience to organize those who work the land. With just a few people to start, he founded the Lanka Farmers Forum. Its purpose was to advocate for an end to the use of chemicals in farming, spread knowledge about and promote organic agriculture and to create better opportunities and living standards for farmers.

From a few hundred farmers in one district in 2001, the Lanka Farmers Forum now has 9 000 members in nine districts. And it is still growing. Its members harvest 24 varieties of



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organically grown traditional Sri Lankan paddy that are brimming with nutritional and medicinal properties.

With technical assistance from FAO's Telefood programme, the Forum taught women members to parboil rice, adding to its value, and skills for cottage industries. A micro-credit programme has also been established. Had the farmers not been organized, the chances of receiving that kind of aid and technical assistance would have been remote.

Asked why he decided to step forward and fight for his fellow farmers, Pathiraja says simply, "it is who I am."

But his fight is far from over. Pathiraja says he won't rest until he can expand the Lanka Farmer's Forum to include all of Sri Lanka's 6.5 million farmers.

And he says he won't rest until chemical fertilizers and pesticides are banned in Sri Lanka. "The government must listen to the voices of farmers," he says. So far, he admits, the authorities have been unresponsive to his call for a ban. But, he says, he will keep fighting for it.

In the meantime, he continues to spread knowledge about organic farming to new districts and more people, because the more farmers that are on his side, the easier the fight will be. It's a fight to protect their health, their environment and a path to a better life. And in the forum's cooperative spirit, it can only be won together.

## Sumalee Thongteera

### A model organic farmer from Thailand

Ask Sumalee Thongteera a question about the farming cooperative she manages in Korat province in northeastern Thailand, and she takes out her iPad. Miss Sumalee admits that sometimes she likes to browse the latest fashion and music websites. But mostly, she likes to search for information that can help the 2 000 farming families in Lam Pra Pleong cooperative produce more top-quality organic rice, fruits and vegetables.

Sumalee has a passion for learning. And for sharing knowledge. After earning a degree in public administration from Ramkhamhaeng University she wanted to be a teacher, but there were no openings at the time. So she returned to Korat and began working on her family's farm.

Sumalee was troubled that so many farmers were in debt. They had to pay high prices for seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and other materials, but received low prices for their crops. Even after being appointed manager of the cooperative, she wasn't sure how to free Thai farmers from this cycle of indebtedness.

Then, in 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture sent her on a study trip to Japan. Sumalee was impressed by what she saw. Many Japanese farmers grew crops organically. Without



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having to pay for chemicals, they were better off financially than farmers in Thailand. And the food they produced was safer and healthier.

Sumalee proposed that her cooperative adopt organic farming. Only about 100 families agreed to try it, and 50 quickly dropped out. But after one year, those that farmed organically were earning more money as they sold what they grew to resorts and restaurants where the clientele cared more about healthy food and were willing to pay for it. That convinced others in the cooperative to adopt organic farming.

She set up a learning center for the farming families in her cooperative where they discovered how to produce and use organic fertilizers and pest control methods, how to grow organic rice and vegetables, and how to produce biogas for alternative energy and reduce waste. Before long, earning more money wasn't the only motivation among the cooperative's farmers to change. The learning center instilled in them knowledge and concern about health, environment and biosecurity issues.

But earning a living does matter, and so Sumalee and her cooperative established a farmers' market where consumers could buy directly from the growers and also get information about organic farming and produce. "I love raising awareness and helping people, and that's why I really love my job," Sumalee says. Although she notes that the job has no security, by introducing new ideas and strengthening the bonds within her cooperative, Sumalee has improved security for her fellow farmers and for the people of Thailand.



# Annexes

# List of guests

The following is a list of selected guests who attended the regional observance of the 32<sup>nd</sup> World Food Day at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 15 October 2012.

### Guest of Honour

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

### Guest speaker

Dr Hisao Azuma, former Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Japan and the former Senior Vice President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and now Senior Advisor, Japan Association for International Collaboration of Agriculture and Forestry (JAICAF)

### Model farmers

Misripah Marjan, model frozen food producer, Malaysia  
Bold Jigjid, model poultry farmer, Mongolia  
Pathiraja Wijekoon Bandara, model organic farmer, Sri Lanka  
Sumalee Thongteera, model organic farmer, Thailand

### Office of the Privy Councillors

H.E. Ampol Senanarong, Privy Councillor (for Royal Agricultural Project)

### Embassies

Brazil	H.E. Paulo Cesar Meira de Vasconcellos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Canada	Surin Thanalertkul, Trade Commissioner
Holy See	Rev. Fr. Carlo Velardo, Local Attaché
Iran	Mahammad Ali Zarie Zare, First Counsellor (Deputy Head of Mission)
Japan	Masatoshi Sato, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP
Korea, DPR	Kim Chol Su, Counsellor and Permanent Representative to ESCAP Jong Song Gap, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP

Malaysia	Tajul Aman Mohammad, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission
Mongolia	Suvdaa Badarch, Counsellor
Sri Lanka	H.E. General (Retd) Suwanda Hennadige Shantha Kottegoda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Timor-Leste	H.E. Joao Freitas de Camara, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Viet Nam	H.E. Ngo Duc Thang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

## Royal Thai Government

### Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

H. E. Theera Wongsamut, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives  
 Chalit Damrongsak, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Secretary-General,  
 National FAO Committee  
 Niwat Sutemechaikul, Deputy Permanent Secretary  
 Olan Pituck, Deputy Permanent Secretary  
 Jirawan Yamprayoon, Inspector-General  
 Yukol Limlamthong, Advisor to Ministry  
 Kasem Prasutsangchan, Advisor to the Ministry  
 Narumol Sanguanvong, Director, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs and  
 Assistant Secretary-General, National FAO Committee  
 Wanwipa Suwannarak, Senior Food Technologist  
 Siriporn Thanarachataphum, Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of Foreign  
 Agricultural Affairs  
 Sugritta Pongsaparn, Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of Foreign  
 Agricultural Affairs  
 Pornnapas Agwongnang, Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of Foreign  
 Agricultural Affairs  
 Supavadee Potisat, International Affairs Officer, Bureau of Foreign  
 Agricultural Affairs  
 Yupadee Hemarat, International Affairs Officer, Bureau of Foreign  
 Agricultural Affairs  
 Saranyu Poollarp, Office of the Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives  
 Panpimon Chanyanawat, Director-General, Department of Agricultural  
 Extension  
 Lawan Jeerapong, Director, Pest Management Control Division,  
 Department of Agricultural Extension  
 Orasa Dissataporn, Expert, Vegetable, Flower and Herbal Crop Promotion  
 and Management, Department of Agricultural Extension  
 Sunisa Boonyapatipak, Foreign Relation Sub-Division, Planning Division,  
 Department of Agricultural Extension

Panee Boonyaguakul, Department of Agricultural Extension  
Winai Kasirak, Deputy Director-General, Cooperative Promotion  
Department  
Opat Klanbut, Deputy Director-General, Cooperative Promotion  
Department  
Wanaporn Bunditpuwanont, Cooperative Technical Officer, Cooperative  
Promotion Department  
Chanchai Nimitmongkol, Cooperative Promotion Department  
Pichest Wiriyapaha, Cooperative Promotion Department  
Rungthip Daenrak, Cooperative Promotion Department  
Sarinna Onbut, Cooperative Promotion Department  
Wimol Jantrarotai, Director-General, Department of Fisheries  
Chongkolnee Chamchang, Fisheries Biologist, Department of Fisheries  
Wimolporn Thitisak, Deputy Director-General, Department of Livestock  
Development  
Viboon Yiengvisavakul, Senior Veterinary Officer, Bureau of Biotechnology  
and Animal Production, Department of Livestock Development  
Nachai Sarataphan, Senior Veterinary Officer, Bureau of Biotechnology and  
Animal Production, Department of Livestock Development  
Saijai Cheunsuk, Veterinary Officer, Bureau of Biotechnology and Animal  
Production, Department of Livestock Development  
Somphit Choosangchan, Scientist, Department of Livestock Development  
Saksit Sriwichai, Department of Rice  
Chulanee Kiriratana, Department of Sericulture  
Prantip Chaisripirom, Department of Sericulture  
Kanjana Dangrungraj, Office of Agricultural Economics  
Suttapak Panpapai, Office of Agricultural Economics  
Chatprapa Srisawasdi, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Phahon Lucksumruad, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Surakrai Wisetsilp, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Suvarat Hongyantarachai, Assistant Director, Dairy Farming Promotion  
Organization of Thailand  
Oranoj Jirawattananuruk, Assistant Marketing Manager, Dairy Farming  
Promotion Organization of Thailand  
Sunan Thawornwong, Marketing Communication Division Manager, Dairy  
Farming Promotion Organization of Thailand  
Thunyalucks Charoenpru, Deputy Director (Administration), Marketing  
Organization for Farmers

#### Other ministries

Narumon Palawat, Governor of Mae Hong Son Province  
Duriya Amatavitat, Director, Bureau of International Cooperation, Ministry  
of Education  
Wilailak Padungkittimal, Foreign Relations Officer, International  
Organizations Cooperation Unit, Bureau of International Cooperation,  
Ministry of Education

H. E. Pithaya Pookaman, Vice Minister for Natural Resources and Environment  
Surapol Pattanee, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Sumrit Chusanathas, Deputy Director-General, Department of Groundwater Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Sommai Techawan, Geological Resources Management Adviser, Department of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Watana Sakchoowong, Director of the Center for Conservation, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Suchat Kalyawongsa, Senior Forest Officer, Royal Forestry Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Wunnaporn Punyawai, Geologist, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Boonchai Somboonsook, Secretary-General, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health  
Suttanit Hounthasarn, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health  
Arkapong Srisubat, Chief, Foreign Affairs Coordination Group, Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
Alisara Krungchit, Social Worker, Foreign Affairs Co-ordination Group, Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
Pathompong Pongburanakit, Social Development Worker, Foreign Affairs Co-ordination Group, Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
Chalermkwun Chiemprachanakorn, Director, Statistical Forecasting Bureau, National Statistical Office  
Busba Vrakornvorawut, Committee on Human Rights, Rights and Liberties and Consumer Protection, The Senate of Thailand

## Universities and research institutions

Said Irandoust, President, Asian Institute of Technology  
Tanaboon Sajjaanantakul, Dean, Faculty of Agro-Industry, Kasetsart University  
Somsakdi Tabtimthong, Director, International Affairs Division, Kasetsart University  
Chulaluck Charunuch, Institute of Food Research and Product Development, Kasetsart University  
Rujira Pongjetsupan, International Affairs Officer, Kasetsart University

Kampanad Bhaktikul, Dean, Faculty of Environment and Resources Studies,  
Mahidol University

Kraisid Tontisirin, Senior Adviser, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University

Anun Rungporntavawat, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological  
Research

## Other organizations, non-governmental organizations and associations

Aphichart Assakul, Agence Française de Développement

Direk Sangkhachan, Vice Chairman, The Agricultural Co-operatives  
Federation of Thailand, Limited

Kraisit Rojanakasethchai, General Manager, The Agricultural Co-operatives  
Federation of Thailand, Limited

Juejan Tangtermthong, Executive Director, Association of Food Marketing  
Institutions in Asia and the Pacific

Sumet Tantivejakul, Secretary-General, Chaipattana Foundation

Kazuhiro Yoneda, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation  
Agency Thailand Office

Ayumi Yuasa, Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Thailand Office

Pote Chumsri, Secretary General, Farmers' Federation Association for  
Development, Thailand

Supatana Arthornpatai, President, The National Council of Women of  
Thailand

Simon Wilkinson, Programme Coordinator, Network of Aquaculture Centres  
in Asia and Pacific

Wolfgang Frank, Senior Advisor, Population and Community Development  
Association

Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General, Southeast Asian Fisheries  
Development Center

Suthiporn Chirapanda, Senior Advisor, Thai Tapioca Development Institute

Carrie Thompson, Deputy Mission Director, U.S. Agency for International  
Development, Regional Development Mission in Asia

Norifumi Okita, CSR Manager, CSR Department, Ajinomoto Co., Inc.

Natsuko Terauchi, CSR Department, Ajinomoto Co., Inc.

## UN and affiliated agencies

IOM/CO                      Varaporn Naisanguansri, Project Assistant - Counter Trafficking

UNAIDS/RST                Steven J Kraus, Regional Director

UNCCD                        Yang Youlin, Officer-in-Charge

UNDP APRC	Iori Kato, Regional Coordinator Specialist
UNESCAP	Shun-Ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary
UNESCO	Abdul Hakeem, Appeal Coordinator
UNFPA	Nobuko Horibe, Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific
UN-HABITAT	Mariko Sato, Chief, UN-HABITAT Bangkok
UNICEF	Bijaya Rajbhandari, Representative, UNICEF Office for Thailand
UNRC	Luc Stevens, UN Resident Coordinator
WFP	Kenro Oshidari, Regional Director

### Officers accompanying the model farmers

Kasbolah Kordi, Malaysia  
 Emi Rozaida Kasbolah, Malaysia  
 Sanath Bandara, Sri Lanka  
 Rapheephan Veeraphod, Thailand  
 Chakkree Karanyaprasit, Thailand  
 Samart Songsil, Thailand  
 Bun Yutsungnern, Thailand  
 Lek Chamnankit, Thailand  
 Praves Ruttanaopas, Thailand  
 Kanjana Yodwichit, Thailand  
 Wipa Wongsanoi, Thailand  
 Watcharapong Plokratok, Thailand  
 Nattapol Meechai, Thailand  
 Onuma Meechai, Thailand  
 Somaeiat Yattakhu, Thailand  
 Lamaid Thongteera, Thailand  
 Weerachat Thongteera, Thailand  
 Watchara Thongteera, Thailand  
 Wanida Thongteera, Thailand  
 Yupadee Thongteera, Thailand  
 Pensri Thongteera, Thailand

### Former FAO staff

Narong Chomchallow  
 P. A. Hicks  
 W. Hulscher  
 Pitiwan Nitirach  
 Chainarong Palaprasert  
 Apinya Petcharat

# M media coverage

## Annex 2



เวลา 08.53 น. สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินไปยังอาคารเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ หรือ FAO ประจำภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก ทรงเปิดงานวันอาหารโลก ปี 2555 การเกษตรเป็นกุญแจหล่อเลี้ยงชาวโลก" เพื่อย้ำถึงวิธีที่สหกรณ์การเกษตร และองค์กรผู้ผลิตอาหารสามารถด้านอาหาร การจ้างงาน และยกระดับความเป็นอยู่ของประชาชน ให้หลุดพ้นจากความอดอยาก ยากไร้ โดยกำหนดให้ปีนี้จะมีสาธิตแห่งสหกรณ์ด้วย ซึ่ง FAO สนับสนุนให้รัฐบาลประเทศสมาชิกช่วยเหลือสหกรณ์ และเจริญก้าวหน้า ทั้งยังเผยแพร่ความรู้ แสดงตัวอย่างความสำเร็จ อันจะช่วยสร้างความเข้มแข็งแก่สหกรณ์ และช่วยเหลือตนเองได้ เพื่อผลิตอาหารให้เพียงพอ และยั่งยืน ในถาวรนี้ พระราชทานรางวัลแก่เกษตรกรด้วยอา

### มติชน

วันพฤหัสบดีที่ 18 ตุลาคม พุทธศักราช 2555 • หน้า 25

ด้วยองค์การอาหารและการเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ หรือ เอฟโอไอ กำหนดให้วันที่ 16 ตุลาคม ของทุกปี เป็น "วันอาหารโลก" โดยมีนี้ได้สังเกตเห็นความสำคัญของสหกรณ์การเกษตร จึงมีคำขวัญในวันอาหารโลกประจำปี 2555 ว่า "สหกรณ์การเกษตร เป็นกุญแจหล่อเลี้ยงชาวโลก" ในถาวรนี้ สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราช



### สมเด็จพระเทพฯรับสั่ง

#### 'สหกรณ์'ทางแก้ขาดแคลนอาหารโลก

กุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินไปยังองค์การอาหารและการเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ สำนักร่วมประชุมภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก ถนนพระอาทิตย์ ทรงเปิดงานวันอาหารโลก ปี 2555 หรือทั้งพระราชทานรางวัลแก่เกษตรกรด้วยจากภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก ประกอบด้วย นางมิสริบา มาร์จัน เกษตรกรจากมาเลเซีย นายโบลด์ จิจิด เกษตรกรผู้เลี้ยงไก่ตัวอย่างจากมองโกเลีย นางมาทริชญา วิจิฐูณ บันดารา เกษตรกรด้านเกษตรอินทรีย์ตัวอย่างและผู้ก่อตั้งกลุ่มสังคา ทาร์มเมอร์ ฟอรัม และ นางสุมาลี ทองช๊ะ เกษตรกรด้านเกษตรอินทรีย์ตัวอย่างจากไทย

อาหารปลอดภัย และจะส่งเสริมให้มีการรวมตัวก่อตั้งกลุ่มสหกรณ์เพิ่มขึ้นด้วย

นายอิริยูกิ โคนูมา ผู้แทนเอฟโอไอประจำภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก เปิดเผยว่า ทุกปีจะมี 2555 จะมีการมอบรางวัลแก่เกษตรกรตัวอย่างจากภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิกที่มีความรู้ความสามารถซึ่งมีมอบให้กับเกษตรกรที่ทำงานเกี่ยวกับสหกรณ์การเกษตร เพราะเอฟโอไอต้องการที่จะสนับสนุนให้รัฐบาลประเทศสมาชิกช่วยเหลือสหกรณ์และองค์กรผู้ผลิตต่างๆ ให้เจริญก้าวหน้าเพื่อประสิทธิภาพในการผลิตอาหารมีอยู่ยั่งยืนคนโลก

ด้านผู้หญิงไทยเพียงคนเดียวที่ได้รับรางวัลในปีนี้มีนางสุมาลีเพียงคนเดียวที่ทำงานในฐานะผู้จัดสรรสหกรณ์การเกษตรด้วยพลังใจที่กล้าหาญอย่างจริงจัง



สุมาลี ทองช๊ะ

สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี มีพระราชดำริว่า กิจกรรมสหกรณ์เป็นทางแก้ไขปัญหาการขาดแคลนอาหารของโลก สืบเนื่องจากการขาดแคลนอาหารเพิ่มมากขึ้น ขณะนี้ทั้งด้านการผลิตอาหารมีข้อจำกัดเกิดขึ้นหลายอย่าง ซึ่งกิจกรรมสหกรณ์สามารถเพิ่มประสิทธิภาพการผลิต ซึ่ง

## บ้านเมือง

เข้มขัน คนเครียด เรื่องข่าว [www.banmuang.co.th](http://www.banmuang.co.th)

### คอลัมน์: แวดวงทรัพยากรธรรมชาติ

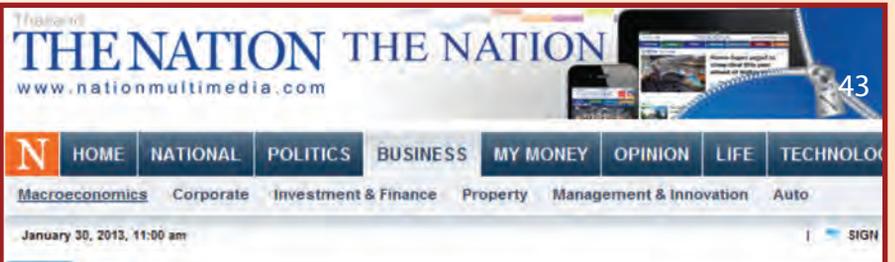
ข่าวทั่วไป หนังสือพิมพ์บ้านเมือง -- พุธที่ 18 ตุลาคม 2555 00:00:25 น.  
ประเสริฐ ณะระสาน Prasert\_tarasan@yahoo.com

เกาะติดความเคลื่อนไหวแวดวงเกษตรทรัพยากรธรรมชาติและสิ่งแวดล้อมทั่วไทย... นสพ.บ้านเมือง ประจำวัน พุธที่ 18 ตุลาคม 2555 ... ชาวแรก...สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินไปยังสำนักงานองค์การอาหารและการเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ ประจำภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก ทรงเปิดงานวันอาหารโลก ประจำปี 2555 โดยได้จัดขึ้นในหัวข้อ "สหกรณ์การเกษตรเป็นกุญแจหล่อเลี้ยงชาวโลก" อันเป็นคำขวัญประจำปีนี้ ในถาวรนี้ได้พระราชทานรางวัลแก่เกษตรกรตัวอย่างจากภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก ประจำปี 2555 แก่ นาง Misripah Marjan เกษตรกรจากมาเลเซีย นาย Bold Jigjid เกษตรกรจากมองโกเลีย นางสุมาลี ทองช๊ะ เกษตรกรจากประเทศไทย และ นาย Pathiraja Wijekoon Bandara เกษตรกรจากศรีลังกา รวมทั้งพระราชทานเหรียญที่ระลึกวันอาหารโลกแก่ นายอิชิฮาโอ อะซุมา ที่ปรึกษาอาวุโส Japan Association for International Collaboration of Agriculture and Forestry (JAICAF) ผู้บรรยายพิเศษเรื่อง "ภาคเกษตรกรรมท่ามกลางภาวะการเติบโตทางเศรษฐกิจและบทบาทของสหกรณ์ : กรณีศึกษาประเทศญี่ปุ่น"... เรื่องนี้...นายธีระ วงศ์สมุทร รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงเกษตรและสหกรณ์ เปิดเผยภายหลังลงพื้นที่ตรวจสอบสถานการณ์พื้นที่ลุ่มน้ำเจ้าพระยาตอนล่าง พื้นที่สำนั



### ข่าวในพระราชสำนัก ตุลาคม พุทธศักราช

ข่าวในพระราชสำนัก พระบรมมหาราชวัง พระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี งานวันอาหารโลก ปี 2555 ในหัวข้อ และการเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ



# BUSINESS

Home » Business » Boost farming cooperatives to ease hunger, nations urged

## Boost farming cooperatives to ease hunger, nations urged

Petchanet Pratuangkrai  
The Nation October 16, 2012 1:00 am

Participants at a UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) meeting in Bangkok yesterday shared the view that hunger could be alleviated by encouraging farmers to combine their bargaining power through strengthened agricultural cooperatives.

Experts are convinced participation in stronger cooperatives will give farmers improved negotiating power, resulting in higher incomes as well as productivity development.

At the main local event celebrating the 32nd World Food Day, keynote speakers said greater efforts through agricultural cooperatives to promote stronger small farmers would be a critical factor in solving the problems of food and malnutrition.

...over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

...the Asia-Pacific region, which grows more than half of the world's food regional population remains underfed, to strengthening their farming

...the world presented a great challenge on both the demand and supply

...plies are challenged by climate change. Agricultural cooperatives production, she said.

...at farming cooperatives should be encouraged, as they would help marketing and finance, which would in turn strengthen farming percent of the 300 largest cooperatives in the world are in promoted continuously, she added.

...ay, which also marked the 67th anniversary of the FAO, was ng the world".

...al of the FAO and regional representative for Asia and the farmer organisations had become more important

**เดลินิวส์**  
รางวัลเกษตรกรตัวอย่าง  
นางสาวสนธิ์ ทองธีระ ผู้จัดการสหกรณ์การเกษตรสหภาพแห่ง จากัด เป็นตัวแทนเกษตรกร...  
วันที่ 15 ตุลาคม 2555...  
นางสาวสนธิ์ ทองธีระ ผู้จัดการสหกรณ์การเกษตรสหภาพแห่ง จากัด เป็นตัวแทนเกษตรกร...  
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วันที่ 15 ตุลาคม 2555...

**ไทยโพสต์**  
รางวัลเกษตรกรดีเด่น  
ข่าวทั่วไป นนทบุรี 16 ตุลาคม 2555 08:00:59 น.  
นางสาวสนธิ์ ทองธีระ ผู้จัดการสหกรณ์การเกษตรสหภาพแห่ง จากัด เป็นตัวแทนเกษตรกรจากประเทศไทย เข้ารับรางวัลสหกรณ์การเกษตรดีเด่นของโลกประจำปี 2555 จากสมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี ในงานวันอาหารโลก ประจำปี 2555  
พิธีนี้เมื่อวันที่ 15 ตุลาคม 2555 สำนักเกษตรอาหารและเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ ประจำภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก ได้จัดงานวันอาหารโลก ประจำปี 2555 ซึ่งสมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินทรงเปิดงาน โดยทรงรับรางวัลเกษตรกรดีเด่นของโลกประจำปี 2555 เพื่อเป็นการประกาศเกียรติคุณและยกย่องเกษตรกรตัวอย่างในภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิกที่มีผลงานดีเด่นในด้านต่างๆ ตลอดจนเพื่อส่งเสริมให้ประชาชนได้ใส่ใจในสิ่งแวดล้อมและการขาดแคลนอาหาร  
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รางวัลเกษตรกรดีเด่น ประจำปี 2555 มอบให้แก่นางสาวสนธิ์ ทองธีระ ผู้จัดการสหกรณ์การเกษตรสหภาพแห่ง จากัด

... OF THAILAND  
... พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัวฯ ทรงพระกรุณาโปรดเกล้าฯ แต่งตั้งให้ พลเรือเอก ชาติชาย ศรีวรขาน เป็นประธานคณะกรรมการจัดงานวันอาหารโลก ประจำปี 2555 ภาค 20.00 น.  
... วันจันทร์ที่ 15 ตุลาคม พุทธศักราช 2555 วันนี้ เวลา 08.46 น. สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินโดยรถยนต์พระที่นั่ง จากวังสระปทุม ไปทรงเปิดงานวันอาหารโลก ประจำปี 2555 ซึ่งสมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินทรงเปิดงาน โดยทรงรับรางวัลเกษตรกรดีเด่นของโลกประจำปี 2555 เพื่อเป็นการประกาศเกียรติคุณและยกย่องเกษตรกรตัวอย่างในภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิกที่มีผลงานดีเด่นในด้านต่างๆ ตลอดจนเพื่อส่งเสริมให้ประชาชนได้ใส่ใจในสิ่งแวดล้อมและการขาดแคลนอาหาร  
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**ฐานเศรษฐกิจ**  
สมเด็จพระเทพฯ เสด็จพระราชดำเนินทรงเปิดงานวันอาหารโลก ประจำปี 2555  
เมื่อวันที่ 15 ตุลาคม พ.ศ. 2555 เวลา 09:00 น. สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินไปทรงเปิดงานวันอาหารโลก ประจำปี 2555 ซึ่งสมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินทรงเปิดงาน โดยทรงรับรางวัลเกษตรกรดีเด่นของโลกประจำปี 2555 เพื่อเป็นการประกาศเกียรติคุณและยกย่องเกษตรกรตัวอย่างในภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิกที่มีผลงานดีเด่นในด้านต่างๆ ตลอดจนเพื่อส่งเสริมให้ประชาชนได้ใส่ใจในสิ่งแวดล้อมและการขาดแคลนอาหาร  
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รางวัลเกษตรกรดีเด่น ประจำปี 2555 มอบให้แก่นางสาวสนธิ์ ทองธีระ ผู้จัดการสหกรณ์การเกษตรสหภาพแห่ง จากัด



# rganizing secretariat

## *Steering committee*

Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative  
(Chairperson)

Man Ho So, Deputy Regional Representative

Adnan Quereshi, Senior Administrative Officer

Ralph Houtman, Marketing and Rural Finance Officer

Tarina Ayazi, Meetings and Publications Officer / Secretary Ad Interim

## *Organizing committees*

### *Invitations, reception and protocol*

#### **Man Ho So (Chairperson)**

Tarina Ayazi

Supajit Tienpati

Kanokporn Chansomritkul

Alisa Wacharasetkul

(Master of Ceremony)

Malcolm Hazelman

(Citations of farmers)

#### **Kanjerat Boonyamanop**

Monpilai Youyen

#### **Vishnu Songkitti**

Parijat Chuntaketta

Kallaya Meechantra

Ornusa Petchkul

Yupaporn Simuang-ngam

Thapanee Tayanuwattana

Suvinita Malakul Na Ayudhaya

Chananut Auisui

Thanawat Tiensin

Chanrit Uawongkun

#### **Chutarat Damrongrisakul**

Sunee Hormjunya

Navaporn Liangchevasuntorn

Saikwan Thoedkiatisak

Pawadee ChokOonKit

Thansita Thanapatrujira

#### **Bongkoch Prasannakarn**

Kanyarat Singhaphan

Ratchadaporn Sommaneewan

Sansiri Visarutwongse

Chatchai Intachai

Sucharat Tong-On

### Liaison with model farmers

Tarina Ayazi (Chairperson Ad Interim)  
Nomindelger Bayasgalanbat and  
Chongguang Liao – Mongolia  
Seevalingum Ramasawmy and  
Appanah Simmathiri – Malaysia  
Praneet Gunatiloke – Sri Lanka  
Nawarat Chalernpao – Thailand

### Liaison with Thai government

Man Ho So (Chairperson)  
Nawarat Chalernpao  
Parijat Chuntaketta  
Somchai Udomsrirungruang  
Surawishaya Paralokanon

### Logistics and catering

Adnan Quereshi (Chairperson)  
Kevin McKeen  
Phavinee Tithipan  
Cristina Sriratana  
Suthep Charoenbutr  
Pensri Yujang  
Prasert Huatsawat  
Sri Limpichati (consultant)

### Media, publications and photographs

John Riddle (Chairperson Ad Interim)  
Kanokporn Chansomritkul  
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