

COMPLETION REPORT

Organic Agriculture Development: The Relevant Experience from Japan to Vietnam

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Since organic agriculture is a production management system that aims to create integrated human, environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural production, promoting organic agriculture is considered as the effective way to deal with the environmental threat and food safety problems that caused by the intensive agriculture with the focus on maximizing yields and to be heavily dependent on external inputs, especially chemical fertilizers and pesticide. While organic agriculture in Japan has initiated in 1970s and achieved significant development, the organic agriculture has just practiced in Vietnam since 1990s and still faced many constraints. This study is therefore designed to find out what Vietnam could learn from Japanese experience for developing its sound organic agriculture. The specific objectives of the study include: (1) to provide history of organic agriculture development in Japan and Vietnam; (2) to make the comparative analysis of legislative regulations, institutional arrangements and specific measures for promoting organic agriculture between Japan and Vietnam, and (3) to draw the relevant experience on the development of organic agriculture from Japan to Vietnam.

The study results show that in Japan, the organic farming movement started in the early 1970s with the establishment of Japan Organic Agriculture Association (JOAA) and various supportive activities implemented by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF). The number of certified business entities reached up to 5,842 in 2010, the domestic production rose up drastically from 33,734 tons to 56,415 tons between 2001 and 2010 and the value of organic products was estimated at US\$500 million in 1994 and increased to approximately US\$1.8 billion in early 2010s. The success of the organic agriculture in Japan are thanks to (1) to establish and familiarize the technical system of the farming, and to strengthen support measures for efforts in the farming as well as enhance application of these measures in order to facilitate the farming; (2) make bridges between organic farmers, farm organizations, distributors, dealers, and consumers in order to help farmers and related personnel to engage actively on the production, distribution and sales of organic farm products, especially the performance of "teikei" system between farmers and consumers; (3) promote information on production, distribution, sales and consumption of the products and the proper labeling of organic products to help consumers access the products easily; and (4) Promote interaction between organic farmers, related people and consumers through food education and activities which further local consumption of local food, farm studies and exchanges between urban and rural areas.

In Vietnam, development of organic agriculture is recently considered an indispensable step for stable agriculture that can produce clean food for consumers. Organic agriculture in Vietnam has just put been paid more attention since 2010s with the issuance of decision No. 01/2012/QĐ-TTg to support good agricultural practices included organic agriculture practice, and the establishment of Vietnam Organic Association. However, the area of organic agriculture is still small and the development of OA has been facing with many difficulties such as limited awareness of farmers on OA, quality assurance problems; consumers' distrusts (and low price); low yields and high risk due to pest and diseases attacks.

The lessons learned from Japan for organic agriculture development in Vietnam include technology system development; strengthening extension service; enhancing consumers' understanding on organic agriculture; developing the quality assurance systems for organic agriculture; and implementing supportive policies for organic agriculture development.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)
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