

Country Name	Technical Cooperation Project on Development Planning of Agriculture Sector in Nghe An
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	

I. Project Outline

Background	<p>The Japan-Vietnam Agricultural Cooperation Dialogue, a framework between the Governments of Japan and Viet Nam, started in 2014. Through this dialogue, Nghe An Province was selected as one of the model areas, and it was agreed to promote the establishment of a Food Value Chain (FVC) in the province. In establishing the FVC, it was essential to ensure stable and continuous production of crops and livestock products based on the market needs. However, in Nghe An province, although some farmers had started contract farming with agricultural corporations, many other farmers relied on middlemen for sales with limited access to information on the market needs. Lack of information on the market needs, together with a lack of cultivation techniques, prevented them from producing items and quality that met market needs.</p>										
Objectives of the Project ¹	<p>This project aims to (i) establish a function of information collection of the market needs in the departments of the Nghe An Provincial People's Committee (PPC) concerned with agriculture development, (ii) to establish a distribution model of crops and livestock products within and outside Nghe An Province based on the market needs, (iii) to produce crops and livestock products based on the market needs, and (iv) to create an Action Plan (A/P) targeting after 2020 (the Master Plan (M/P) for agriculture development in Nghe An Province and the A/P to achieve the M/P) to promote crop and livestock industry based on the market needs in Nghe An Province, thereby contributing to the establishment of FVC of crop and livestock industry² in Nghe An Province.</p> <p>1. Expected Goals through the proposed plan³: FVC for the crop and livestock industry is established in Nghe An Province.</p>										
Activities of the Project	<p>1. Project Site: the whole area of Nghe An Province and major consumption areas such as Hanoi for marketing study.</p> <p>2. Main Activities: implementation of the basic studies (socio-economic and natural conditions, infrastructure for agriculture development, potential, producers, demand, and supply of agriculture products, production methods in agriculture, demand, and supply of local handicrafts and specialists, the necessity of funding, and implementation policy of contract farming., etc.), the establishment of a platform for gathering and sharing of the market needs, planning and implementation of pilot projects on contract farming based on the market needs, and the development of the M/P and the A/P reflecting the results of trial and error in the pilot activities.</p> <p>3. Inputs (to carry out above activities)</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Japanese Side</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Vietnamese Side</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1) Mission Members: 13 persons</td> <td>1) Staff Allocated: 16 persons (i.e., members of the Project Management Unit (PMU)⁵</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2) Long-term Experts⁴: 2 persons</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3) Trainees Received: 25 persons</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Japanese Side	Vietnamese Side	1) Mission Members: 13 persons	1) Staff Allocated: 16 persons (i.e., members of the Project Management Unit (PMU) ⁵	2) Long-term Experts ⁴ : 2 persons		3) Trainees Received: 25 persons	
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2) Long-term Experts ⁴ : 2 persons											
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Project Period	(ex-ante) March 2016-March 2019 (36 months) ⁶	Project Cost (Japanese only)	(ex-ante) 535 million yen, (actual) 510 million yen								
Implementing Agency	Nghe An Provincial People's Committee (PPC) including Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Department of Planning and Investment (DPI), Department of Industry and Trade (DOIT), Department of Transport (DOT), Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE), Department of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, Department of Health, Department of Science Technology, and Department of Finance; Nghe An Provincial Cooperative Alliance ⁷ .										
Cooperation Agency in Japan	NTC International Co., Ltd., Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd.										

¹ Objectives of the Project are described based on "Outputs" and "Expected Goal to be Achieved through the Proposed Plan after the Project Completion" in the Ex-ante Evaluation Sheet.

² An FVC connecting processes of seeds/seedlings/variety development, cultivation, collection and transportation, processing, sales and export was expected to be established according to the Ex-ante Evaluation Sheet.

³ The degree of achievement of expected goals is not to be assessed in principle at the time of ex-post evaluation, since it is defined as the medium-to-long-term goals which will be attained as a result of crystallizing the proposed plan ("output" of the project).

⁴ Dispatching 2 experts (Project Advisor and Project Coordinator) was planned in the Record of Discussions (R/D). It was not included in "(3) Input" of the Ex-ante Evaluation Sheet; however, there is a description in "(4) Others" that "agricultural development advisor(s) for Nghe An Province will be dispatched after March 2016. The advisor will provide advisory support to the Communist Party of Nghe An Province, the People's Committee, and other senior officials regarding agricultural development, which is expected to be linked to this project".

⁵ Members of the PMU are described under "Implementing Agency".

⁶ The number of months stated in the Ex-ante Evaluation Sheet is calculated with one end putting.

⁷ These organizations were members of the PMU headed by Deputy Director of DARD. The "PMU Major Structure" consisted of DARD, DPI, and DOIT. Some of them (DARD, DPI, DOIT, DOT, and DONRE) were members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by Vice Chairman of Nghe An PPC. In addition to these organizations, International Cooperation Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) participated in the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) as member and Vietnam Academy of Social Science and Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development as observers.

II. Result of the Evaluation

< Special Perspectives Considered in the Ex-Post Evaluation >

- “A function of information collection of the market needs” in Output 1 was interpreted as “a platform for gathering and sharing information on market needs” based on the activities for Output 1 described in Appendix 2 of the R/D. The phrase “established based on the market needs” in Output 2 was interpreted as “established through pilot projects on contract farming” based on the activities for Output 2 described in Appendix 2 of the R/D. The phrase “produced based on the market needs” in Output 3 was interpreted as “produced under production contract through pilot projects on contract farming” based on the activities for Output 3 described in Appendix 2 of the R/D.
- As for Indicator 2 of Utilization Status of the Proposed Plan (2022: Organizational setting and budgetary measures are implemented to disseminate and expand FVC in the province), organizational setting and budgetary measures for the A/P was checked because the M/P had been developed for the FVC development in Nghe An Province and the A/P had been developed to achieve the M/P. “Organizational setting” was interpreted as “Implementation Systems” proposed in the A/P.
- Implementation status of the A/P was checked as Supplementary Information 1 (SI-1) and the continuation status of contract farming initiated under the pilot projects was checked as SI-2 for Utilization Status of the Proposed Plan.
- Utilization status of Output 1, Output 2, and Output 3 is covered by Indicator 1 (incorporation of the M/P and the A/P in the provincial Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP)) and SI-1 (implementation status of the A/P) because the results of Output 1, Output2, and Output 3 were incorporated in developing the M/P as planned at the time of ex-ante evaluation.

1 Relevance/Coherence

[Relevance]

<Consistency with the Development Policy of Viet Nam at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation >

The project was consistent with the development policy of Viet Nam at the time of ex-ante evaluation. The Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) (2011-2020) set forth “comprehensive development of agriculture towards the direction of modernity, effectiveness, and sustainability”, which included the close and harmonious connection of benefits among manufacturers, processors, and consumers.”

<Consistency with the Development Needs of Viet Nam at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation >

The project was consistent with the development needs of Viet Nam on the establishment of FVC in Nghe An Province at the time of ex-ante evaluation as described in <Background>.

<Appropriateness of Project Design/Approach>

The project design/approach was highly appropriate. The benefits of the project have been equally delivered to the vulnerable by including mountainous area with large ethnic minority populations in one of the promotion zones for FVC identified by the project, thereby enabling the development of production and distribution models and an Investment Plan specifically targeting the mountainous area based on the experiences of the pilot projects in the mountainous area. (Also see “Effectiveness/Impact”). The prominent approach of the project, which is market-oriented thinking, from the “product-out” concept of “selling what you produced” to the “market-in” concept of “grow to sell”, has helped producers to have the stable consumption market and to increase their income.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the relevance of the project is ③⁸.

[Coherence]

<Consistency with Japan’s ODA Policy at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation>

The project was consistent with Japan’s ODA policy to Viet Nam at the time of ex-ante evaluation. The Country Assistance Policy for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (December 2012) included “Response to Fragility” in one of the Priority Areas and the Rolling Plan for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (2013) set forth “promotion of high value-added agricultural and fishery productions” under “Response to Fragility”.

<Collaboration/Coordination with JICA’s other interventions>

The collaboration/coordination between this project and JICA’s “Project for Improvement of Reliability of Safe Crop Production in the Northern Region” (2016-2021), “Project for Livelihood Diversification through Heritage Tourism in Remote Agricultural and Fishery Villages” (2016-2019), “North Nghe An Irrigation System Upgrading Project” (2013-2023), “Feasibility Survey for Constructing of Value-Chain for Garlic (Crops) in Nghe An Province in Vietnam” (2017-2018), and “Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for the Extension of Cultivation Technologies of Safe Agricultural Products with Safe and Secure Farming System (IC-MOCS) in Vietnam” (2016-2019) was planned during the project period and was implemented as planned, and the positive effects expected were confirmed at the time of ex-post evaluation as shown in footnote 9.

<Cooperation with other institutions/ Coordination with international framework>

Any cooperation/coordination with other institutions/internal frameworks was not clearly planned at the time of ex-ante evaluation and during the project period.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the coherence of the project is ③.

[Evaluation Result of Relevance/Coherence]

In the light above, the relevance/coherence of the project is ③.

2 Effectiveness/Impact

<Status of Achievement for the Objectives at the Time of Project Completion>

The Objectives were mostly achieved as planned at the time of project completion. In 2016, the Agriculture Market Platform (AMPF) was formally established as a special unit under the PMU of this project headed by Deputy Director of DARD through the Decision of the PPC, with a function of information collection of the market needs. The AMPF consisted of 8 officers (4 from DARD and 4 others from the related departments). In 2018, the PPC approved that the AMPF would be formally organized within DARD from 2019 (after the project

⁸ ④ : very high, ③ : high, ② : moderately low, ① : low.

completion) and the final JCC agreed that the AMPF would consist of 7-8 members not only from DARD but also from DOIT and DPI (Output 1). The project has classified the province into 4 promotion zones (PZs) for FVC: PZs for production of (i) safe vegetables (for sub-urban area), (ii) raw materials and exporting products (for coastal plain area), (iii) high-value products (for hilly area), and (iv) minor and specific products (for mountainous area). Through verification in the pilot projects on contract farming, the project developed production and distribution models based on the market needs for (i) safe vegetables targeting local retail shops, hotels, and restaurants, (ii) raw material targeting domestic and overseas processing companies, (iii) high-value products targeting outside of the province, and (iv) high-demand minor and specific products targeting domestic and overseas markets (Output 2). At the end of the pilot projects, crops and livestock products were produced under contract in 14 cases in 4 PZs (Output 3). Based on the lessons learned through the various pilot activities, the M/P (2021-2025) was formulated for the development of FVC in the province, which was expected to enhance the value of the production, distribution, processing and sales based on the introduction of the concept of contract farming⁹, and the A/P (2021-2030) to achieve the M/P was developed, which described the activities to be carried out for the creation of FVC of the major and feasible products in the province. The A/P consisted of the Investment Plans (IPs) and Capacity Development Plans (CDPs). The A/P also contained a table showing the priorities of the A/P. The A/P pointed out that, as the project costs for the A/P related to Public-Private Partnership (PPP) highly depended on the investment intention of private companies, budget limitations might occur during the implementation stage of the A/P and recommended to refer to the priorities identified in the table in such a case (Output 4). The PPC officially received the Final Report of this project, including the proposed plan, and distributed the Final Report to its related departments.

<Utilization Status of the Proposed Plan at the Time of Ex-post Evaluation>

The proposed plan has been mostly utilized as expected by the time of ex-post evaluation.

By 2020, the M/P had been incorporated into the provincial SEDP (2021-2025). The IPs and CDPs of the A/P were not clearly listed in the provincial SEDP and Agriculture and Rural Development Plan (ARDP) (2021-2025) attached to the former because, in principle, the SEDP and ARDP only give directions and set overall goals and concrete objectives to be achieved in the target period. However, the IPs and the CDPs had been incorporated into the provincial SEDP and ARDP through integrating the outputs and activities of the A/P into the relevant objectives of the SEDP/ARDP (Indicator 1). In June 2019, the PPC officially established the AMPF under DARD to assist DARD in advising the PPC on the contents of connecting supply and demand of agricultural products and building FVC. The PPC also assigned all the related departments listed in the Implementation System proposed in the A/P (DARD, AMPF, DOIT, DPI, DOST, and District People's Committees (DPCs)) to promote the implementation of the A/P. Based on the organizational setting arranged by the PPC, government implementing agencies proposed in an individual A/P (IP or CDP) have been arranged. By 2022, implementing agencies and budgetary measures have been arranged for 7 IPs and 6 CDPs (including a CDP for the capacity development of the AMPF) out of the 12 IPs and 8 CDPs of the A/P, and the status remains unchanged at the time of ex-post evaluation. The implementing agencies and budgetary measures have not been arranged for the remaining 5 IPs mainly due to budget limitations associated with PPP that were pointed out in the A/P. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has seriously affected the business activities and financial systems of private enterprises and this has made it difficult for enterprises to invest in less attractive projects. Under such a difficult situation, the provincial government has managed to implement the budgetary measures for 7 out of 12 IPs because the implementation of these plans is in line with the central and provincial government's current directions and policies of agriculture development and will contribute to the promotion of FVC in the province. It is noted that these IPs have been selected for implementation with reference to the priorities identified in the A/P as per the above-stated recommendation of the A/P. As capacity development/ human resource development is one of the priorities of the Government of Viet Nam in the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Strategies (2021-2030), the provincial government has arranged the implementing agencies and budgetary measures for 6 out of 8 CDPs. One of the remaining 2 CDPs is found unnecessary and not urgent for the time being because similar activities are being conducted by DOST. Prospect for implementation largely depends on the results of review of the outcome of the DOST's activities. As for the other CDP, DONRE, the department in charge of the functions and in-depth expertise of the related field, is not included in the Implementation System proposed in the A/P, and therefore not included in the organizational setting arranged by the PPC. The PPC plans to rearrange the organizational setting with the addition of DONRE to the implementing agencies of this CDP. So, implementing agencies and budgetary measures will be arranged in the future (Indicator 2).

Of the 12 IPs and 8 CDPs in the A/P, 7 IPs and 6 CDPs with the established government implementation systems and allocated provincial budgets have been implemented. All of them are being implemented as scheduled due to the appropriate implementation systems and budget allocation as well as the private investment promoted by policies and efforts of the provincial government agencies to attract investment in agricultural development (SI-1). Among 14 cases that were in the contract/undertaking stage at the end of the pilot projects, 7 cases have been continued based on the contracts developed under the pilot projects in 4 PZs. In 2 of the 7 discontinued cases, the farmer groups had to negotiate with their buyers to modify the contracts because the disruptions of supply chain caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in increases in production input costs, logistics/transportation costs, and commodity prices were increased; however, they could not reach agreements with the buyers. It is assumed that these 2 cases would have been continued without the COVID-19 pandemic. The other 5 cases have not been continued due to various reasons, including an outbreak of diseases of the target product. It is worthwhile mentioning that, in 2 of the 16 cases that did not reach the contract stage at the end of the pilot projects due to many reasons, the farmer groups have continued applying the cultivation techniques introduced by the project, have been supported by the AMPF to connect with the buyer and have started contract farming¹⁰ (SI-2).

<Status of Achievement for Expected Goals through the Proposed Plan at the Time of Ex-post Evaluation>

The expected goals through the proposed plan have not been achieved at the time of ex-post evaluation as it is only the 3rd year of the 10-year A/P. However, progress has been already observed towards the establishment of FVC for the food and crop industry in Nghe An Province. As stated earlier, 13 out of 20 IPs/CDPs of the A/P are being implemented. For example, under the CDP on capacity

⁹ Through the collaboration/coordination with the 5 JICA projects stated in [Consistency], the following items were incorporated in the M/P: promotion of safety crop; coordination with tourism sector; promotion of irrigated agriculture; promotion of garlic and other crops production in mountainous areas; and promotion of safe agriculture products.

¹⁰ Further, based on the result of one case, a new project was formulated and is being implemented by other farmer group in Viet Nam with the partnership of a cooperative in Japan under the Japanese Enterprises Proposing Program of JICA, namely "SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Development of Value-Chain for Sanuki-Garlic in Nghe An Province in Vietnam" (2023-2026).

development of the AMPF, supported by a JICA expert (“Advisor for Development of FVC on Agricultural Sector in Nghe An”) dispatched from January 2021 to January 2023, some FVC models such as new rice varieties application model, model of organic orange cultivation applying bioproducts were newly developed. Besides, the M/P and A/P helped Nghe An provincial government have an overall orientation/direction to develop the crop and livestock industry along with FVC, including attracting the private businesses to invest and participate in FVCs. Accordingly, the PPC has developed and is implementing the program on safe agricultural, forestry and fishery food supply chains in the province for the period of 2021-2025. The AMPF, through collaboration with JICA’s “Data Collection Survey on Food Value Chain Development in with/post-COVID-19 Society in the South-East Asian Region” (2021-2022), has developed a database on agricultural cooperatives and various sales channels for Nghe An Province, especially an online/e-commerce platform, to promote matching between producers and buyers and increase the resilience of FVCs in with/post COVID-19 society. DARD confirmed that the implementation of all above-mentioned projects/ programs has contributed to the development of FVC in the province.

<Other Impacts at the Time of Ex-post Evaluation>

Negative impacts have not been observed. Meanwhile, various positive impacts have been observed. By focusing on points such as securing sales channels and understanding market needs rather than providing guidance on agricultural production and cultivation techniques, the project has already contributed to an increase in incentives of farmers in 7 continued pilot projects and 6 ongoing IPs to produce appropriate crops and products. As expected at the time of ex-ante evaluation, the project has brought benefits to farmers throughout the province, including farmers in the mountainous area with a large ethnic minority population. The project has contributed to increasing the income of farmers involved in the pilot projects and the ongoing IPs across the province, including the mountainous area, by supporting them in cultivating, harvesting, pre-processing, and preserving the agricultural products, finding the consumption markets for their products, and creating jobs, thereby partly contributing to poverty reduction and economic development in the whole province, in particular, the mountainous area. This has also contributed to narrowing gaps among ethnic groups in the province. DARD has introduced/shared information on the AMPF model with stakeholders, some concerning provinces and organizations including the National Agricultural Extension Center/ MARD¹¹. There were synergetic effects with JICA’s other project/scheme as stated in <Status of Achievement for Expected Goals through the Proposed Plan at the Time of Ex-post Evaluation>.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the effectiveness/impact of the project is ③.

Status of Achievement of Utilization Status of the Proposed Plan and Expected Goals through the Proposed Plan

Aim	Indicators	Results	Source
(Utilization Status of the Proposed Plan) N/A.	Indicator 1: 2020: The M/P and the A/P are incorporated into Nghe An Province SEDP (2021-2025)	Status of Utilization: Mostly utilized as planned (Ex-post Evaluation) >2020: The M/P and the A/P developed under the project were incorporated into the provincial SEDP (2021-2025) as well as the provincial ARDP (2021-2025) attached to the SEDP.	DARD
	Indicator 2: 2022: Organizational setting and budgetary measures are implemented to disseminate and expand FVC in the province.	Status of Utilization: Mostly utilized as planned (Ex-post Evaluation) >2022: Organizational setting proposed in the A/P, including the formally established AMPF was arranged by the PPC, based on which implementing agencies proposed for IPs and CDPs of the A/P were arranged. Implementing agencies and budgetary measures were implemented for 7 out of 12 IPs and 6 out of 8CDPs of the A/P. >After 2022: The status remains unchanged.	DARD
(Expected Goals through the Proposed Plan) FVC for the crop and livestock industry is established in Nghe An Province.		Status of Achievement: Not achieved. (Ex-post Evaluation) -It is noted that progress has been already observed through the implementation of 13 out of 20 IPs/CDPs of the A/P and the development and implementation of the program on safe agricultural, forestry and fishery food supply chains in the province for the period of 2021-2025 by the initiative of the PPC based on the M/P and the A/P, etc.	DARD

3 Efficiency

The project cost was within the plan (the ratio against the plan: 95%) and the project period slightly exceeded the plan (the ratio against the plan: 103%). The project cost was within the plan because the cost for a contract with the Japanese consultant team was saved by competitive bidding. The project period slightly exceeded the plan due to the combined factors. Outputs were produced as planned. In the light above, the efficiency of the project is ③.

	Project Cost (Japanese side only, yen)	Project Period (months)
Plan (ex-ante)	535 million	36
Actual	510 million	37
Ratio (%)	95	103

4 Sustainability

<Policy Aspect>

The Government of Viet Nam and Nghe An Province have issued various policies/plans to promote linkages in production and consumption, and private investment in agriculture. For example, in 2018, the Prime Minister issued a Decree regarding incentive policy for development of linkages in production and consumption of agricultural products. The SEDS (2021-2030) sets forth vigorous attraction of private investment to rural areas for the formation of value-chain-based link. The Nghe An Master Plan (2021-2030), which is integrated into the National Master Plan (2021-2030), sets forth the promotion of linkage in the value chain to improve productivity and quality,

¹¹ It is planned that Nghe An Province will continue sharing the experience relating to the AMPF to other stakeholders not only in Viet Nam but also in other ASEAN countries within the framework of the up-coming project “ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project” funded by JICA (tentatively 2023-2026).

efficiency, the added value of products and competitiveness in the market in the agricultural sector. In addition to the provincial SEDP and ARDP (2021-2025) stated in “Effectiveness/Impact” setting forth the promotion of linkages in production and consumption, and private investment in the agricultural sector, the Nghe An Provincial People’s Council has issued a Resolution to stipulate incentive policies for agriculture and rural development for the period of 2022-2025. The policy support is likely to be continued in the future.

< Institutional/Organizational Aspect>

The PPC has formally established the AMPF under DARD, and has assigned the related departments such as DARD, DOIT, DPI, DOST, and DPCs to promote the implementation of the A/P. To implement the A/P, the necessary staff has been assigned as the AMPF members. Initially, 8 members were assigned to the AMPF as per the agreement in the final JCC, which has later been increased to 13 (1 each from the PPC, DOIT, and DPI, and 10 from DARD). DPI assigned 6 more officials to support activities for agriculture and rural development, including the A/P. The PPC confirmed that the AMPF would be sustained to assist DARD in advising the PPC on the contents of connecting supply and demand of agricultural products and building FVC, and DARD, DOIT, and DPI confirmed that the organizational structure and necessary number of staff would be sustained to promote the A/P. DARD is the focal point to coordinate with stakeholders (the related departments and DPCs, and private companies) for the implementation of the A/P and there are no challenges in sustaining the existing coordination for ongoing IPs and CDPs as well as establishing coordination for the remaining IPs and CDPs.

<Technical Aspect>

The relevant officials of the AMPF/DARD, DOIT, and DPI have a university degree or above and have sustained the necessary skills and knowledge to implement or support the implementation of the A/P through carrying out professional work and participating in training in the country and/or abroad, including some courses organized by JICA¹². DARD, DOIT, and DPI confirmed that the relevant skills and knowledge are likely to be sustained or further improved in a similar way in the future. DARD has still utilized the Guideline for Contract Farming (including contract forms for production and transport) developed under the project. It has distributed the Guideline to its agricultural extension centers/stations (which take the responsibility to be the main facilitator of contract farming) to disseminate to farmers, cooperatives, and stakeholders of production linkage models/projects in the province.

<Financial Aspect>

Based on proposals of the relevant departments, the PPC considers and allocates the provincial annual budget to its departments, in combination with the central government budget through the National Target Programs (NTPs) on New Rural Development and Sustainable Poverty Reduction (2021-2025) and on Socio-Economic Development of Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas (2021-2030), to perform the proposed plans/projects within their mandates, which include the implementation/support of the relevant parts of the IPs and CDPs of the A/P as well as the implementation of the AMPF’s activities. However, due to the provincial budget limitation, AMPF/DARD, DOIT, and DPI have secured the necessary budget only for the IPs with higher priority, the CDPs, and the AMPF’s activities. Therefore, the PPC and its departments have been making efforts to attract private investment into the province’s agriculture sector, including the investment for the implementation of the IPs, through the organization of investment promotion conferences and matching events to connect supply and demand, participate in fairs and exhibitions to find opportunities for investment cooperation. The PPC as well as DARD, DOIT, and DPI confirmed that the necessary budget is likely to be secured to implement the IPs and CDP as proposed in the A/P as well as the AMPF’s activities in the future, because the PPC will continue to manage allocating the provincial budget in combination with the central government budget through the abovementioned NTPs, and the PPC and its departments will continue their efforts to attract investments for the remaining IPs.

<Environmental and Social Aspect>

No issue on environmental and social aspects has been observed, and it has not been necessary to take any countermeasures.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, slight problems have been observed in terms of the financial aspects of the implementing agency. Therefore, the sustainability of the project effects is ③.

5 Summary of the Evaluation

The project established a function of information collection of the market needs in the departments of Nghe An PPC concerned with agriculture development, established distribution models of crops and livestock products within and outside Nghe An Province based on the market needs, produced crops and livestock products based on the market needs, and created the M/P for agriculture development in Nghe An Province and the A/P to achieve the M/P. Regarding Coherence, the collaboration/coordination between this project and other JICA’s projects was planned during the project period and was implemented as planned, and the positive effects expected were confirmed. After the project completion, the proposed plan has been mostly utilized as expected. The M/P and the A/P have been incorporated into Nghe An Province SEDP (2021-2025) and organizational setting and budgetary measures have been implemented to conduct the A/P. As for Sustainability, no problem has been observed in terms of the policy, institutional/organizational, technical, and environmental and social aspects. A slight problem has been observed in terms of the financial aspect, but the prospect for improvement is high. Considering all of the above points, this project is evaluated to be highly satisfactory.

III. Non-score Items

Adaption and Contribution:

-N/A

Additionality and Creative Values:

-Organizing the matching events for FVC stakeholders/actors to connect buyers and sellers, providing a guideline for contract farming, and signing contracts between producers and buyers, which were implemented based on Japan’s experiences and knowledge, resulted in the conclusion of transactions/contracts by producers and buyers in contract farming guided by the project.

IV. Recommendations & Lessons Learned

Recommendations for Implementing Agency:

¹² “Branding and Marketing of Products Utilizing Local Resources” (online training program in 2021) and “Agricultural and Rural Development (Agricultural Diversification)” (in Japan program, in 2022).

-It is recommended that Nghe An DARD continue transferring achievements of the project in developing and promoting FVC in Nghe An Province, especially the AMPF model, to other provinces in northern Viet Nam, through activities such as organizing experiences sharing workshops and training guidance by Nghe An provincial officers, including AMPF members, as well as through activities of relating projects, creating a synergy impact, contributing to the development of FVC in Viet Nam.

Lessons Learned for JICA:

-Upon the project formulation, during and after the project period, it is necessary for JICA, the detailed planning survey team, and the project team to carefully consider and expedite the collaboration/interlinkage between the project with JICA's other projects and cooperation schemes to have the synergetic and positive effects and achieve the greater impact and effectiveness, including enhancing the counterpart's self-autonomy, as well as the project's sustainability.