

HEPA – Eco-Farming Design & Principles Level A

Human Ecology Practical Area translates its interaction between human and ecosystem into levels of steps and principles. To aim for eco-farming practices, it needs to follow some basic guidelines:

- 1) Minimizing selfishness;
- 2) Nurturing traditional institution of behavior and values;
- 3) Maximizing possible cooperation between any elements within and between systems;
- 4) Following the unique diversity and systematic nature of the natural landscape;

The below steps & principles are draft for junior level. These have been taken during the K1A level course on “Teaching by Learning and Learning by Doing” in HEPA Farmer Field School – FFSs Network of SPERI:

Step 1. Holistic overview of ecological landscape and draft a cross-cutting landscape transect for mapping analysis;

Step 2. Careful finding the linkage between holistic and specific interaction;

Step 3. Identifying the edge sensibility and other diverse elements for interactional encouragement;

Step 4. Being accountable and open minded in the system including waste;

Step 5. Design show systematic, unique and interactional behavior among elements and indicate specific classification;

Step 6. Experiment, re-observation and diary;

Step 7. Record effect and impact indicators and lessons learned;

Step 8. Seminar, workshop and forum for debate involving different actors;

Step 9. Documentation to provide baseline data, practical pilots, DVD to official master planning & policy levels;

Step 10. Media dissemination to enrich social awareness on Eco-farming;

Step 11. K1A students divided into two functions: Teaching by Learning, Learning by Doing by field exchanging in their own farm. This aim to initiate internal dynamic challenges for share & cooperation;

Step 12. K1A student return their community to select new generation for next courses. This aim to encourage their psychology with their parent and people in their community;

Step 13. K1A students being 50% as continued K1A advanced learners, and 50% to role play as assistant teaching role for the new students. (Note taking will be practiced for both trainer and trainees in one farm site). This aim to strengthen their professional skill and confident in learning and teaching methodology;

Step 14. K1A students learn to be farm managers and/or household entrepreneurs in their own farm inside HEPA or community. This aim to reach YIELDS¹'s indicator for further leadership strategy;

Step 15. K1A students integrate in to MECO-ECOTRA's action research of the selected pilots on Local Knowledge in Natural Resource Management and Network Action under elder and senior researcher's supervise. This aim to nurture and enrich the ways of transfer of the local knowledge and wisdom for younger generation;

Step 16. K1A students learn how to be a mobile trainers in Eco-Farming and Local knowledge in Natural Resource Management. This aim to initiate a young social capital for YIELDS;

Step 17. K1A students inter learn to be independent speakers in regional level on Local practices in Eco-farming. This aim to deal with advocation and lobby for eco-farming and niche market for green production in order to reach MECO – ECOTRA;

Step 18. K1A students exchange with multi – identities student in ARI² (Asian Rural Institute). This aim to connect & increasing South – South exchange and cooperation in order to minimize Mekong Value change and Land desertification. (www.ari-edu.org)

¹ YIELDS = Young Indigenous Ethnic Leadership Development Strategy of MECO-ECOTRA

² ARI = Located in Northern Japan, the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) is an international training ground for grassroots rural leaders. Each year we conduct a nine-month Rural Leaders Training Program on Sustainable Agriculture, Community Development, and Leadership. Upon completion, program participants, return to their home villages and communities to work side by side with their people, pass on their learning, and promote development from within. To date, ARI has trained 1,130 rural leaders from 51 countries throughout Asia, Africa, and the Pacific.