

Sub-Program	3. Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development as well as Natural Environment Conservation
Component	3-1. Agriculture and Rural Development
Target Organizations:	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Ministry of Industry and Commerce Ministry of Education and Sports <i>* Vientiane Capital and Provincial level department can apply</i>
Accepting University (Number of Scholars)	Kyushu University (2) Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences International Graduate Program - Master of Science
Expected Research Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Food Value Chain - Food Security - Plant Techniques - Development of Local Industry - Improvement of Livelihoods of Local Residents -Improvement of Basic Facilities and Living Environment in Rural Inhabitants
Purpose of the Study (Background and Needs):	
<p>People in rural areas in Laos usually dedicate in self-sufficient agriculture and forestry, but their yields vary according to the weather. Also, they have limited access to agricultural techniques and market information. In addition, they have difficulties in selling their products due to an inadequate basic infrastructure and this expands the disparities among people in rural areas, cities and Mekong River watershed plains. The government of Laos is to focusing on improvement of productivity/spread of producing commercial crops.</p> <p>JDS Fellows are expected to contribute to improve the ability of related government agencies regarding policy making and institution building in relation to improvement of agricultural facilities, residential environment and livelihoods in rural areas, spreading the commercial crops/cultivation techniques/ improvement of productivity, development of local industries including business on agriculture commodities, and agricultural and forest preservation.</p>	