

neering, and administrative support, and take advantage of them in designing their future lifestyles. It is hoped that the lecture they received at IDACA will lead to their re-evaluation of the role of agriculture and agricultural cooperatives in India and thereby contribute to rural development and revitalization of local communities.

All members joining hands and feeling a sense of accomplishment and unity!



Request:

To all ex-IDACA participants
Dear Mr. and Ms. IDACA Alumni:

IDACA wishes, above all, that its ties with you remain solid and long-lasting. So, why not keep us updated on your recent status and how we can reach you.
Please write us if your place of work, your position or your address have changed. There is no specific form that you have to follow in sending the information, but the following may serve as an example. We would appreciate it so much if you could mail (or e-mail) or fax it to IDACA, for the attention of Eiko Oshita.

Name (nationality):

Training course / Seminar

Changes

1) New address (home, telephone number and fax number):

2) New place of work (office, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address):

3) New position:

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IDACA news

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Greetings from the President

Toward the Establishment of Sustainable Agriculture

In recent years, large-scale natural disasters have continued to occur all over Japan. Last year, Japan sustained numerous damage due to heavy snow, heavy rainfall, typhoons, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to all the victims and pray for the earliest possible recovery and reconstruction.

Currently, the JA Group is working on thorough self-reform, positioning the fulfillment of the wishes of members in response to their diverse voices as its greatest mission, and this year will be a big turning point for the JA Group and agriculture in Japan.

The 28th JA National Congress was held on March 7 this year. The JA Group’s policy on initiatives for the next three years was finalized, and it was decided that the JA Group would



Toru Nakaya
President, IDACA
(President, JA-ZENCHU)

promote the “implementation of creative self-reform” and take on further challenges toward “increasing farmers’ income,” “expanding agricultural production,” and “revitalizing the local community.”

In addition, on September 30 this year, JA ZENCHU will be transferred to a general incorporated association, closing the 65-year history of its position under the Agricultural Cooperatives Act. Although the organiza-

tional structure will change, we will continue to demonstrate comprehensive coordination and representative functions and strive to steer the JA Group.

On the agricultural aspect, 20 years have passed since the Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas Basic Act was enacted, and discussions toward reviewing this law will be started. Amid

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a situation where the food self-sufficiency rate continues to be at the lowest level ever, we will once again discuss “food” together with the citizens and consumers and work on initiatives to ensure food security.

Meanwhile, the United Nations “Decade of Family Farming” will start this year, and it will be a year when global attention will be focused on family farming. About 80% of the world’s food is produced by family farming, so it is our understanding that the significance and importance of family farming has been highly rated once again. As is the case with corporate farming and large-scale agriculture, family farming and small-scale agriculture are equally indispensable for sustainable agriculture, and

the importance of family agriculture is also positioned in the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” which the United Nations is working on.

Since the establishment of IDACA in 1963, IDACA, which is a member of the JA Group, has contributed to fostering human resources who lead the cooperative movement in the world. The participants (of training courses) are from about 130 countries, but most of those countries primarily practice family farming. We will continue to collaborate with our partners of cooperatives in the world to contribute to the further development of cooperatives and international cooperation toward establishing sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDGs refer to 17 global goals related to the environment and development that the world should achieve by 2030, starting in 2016. It is an abbreviation for Sustainable Development Goals. It was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 under agreement by 193 countries in the world, as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which reached its achievement

deadline in 2015. These are goals common to not only governments, local governments, non-governmental organizations and non-profit organizations but also private companies and individuals of various countries in the world for attaining sustainable living and society, while giving due consideration to the global environment and climate change.

The Seventeen SDG Icons



REPORTS ON TRAINING COURSES

(1) FY2018 JICA “Development of Agricultural Cooperatives and Improvement of Management Capacity” Course

Four government administrators from four countries in the Asia-Pacific region and five government administrators from five African countries participated in this training program. Working out from IDACA from May 20 when they arrived in Japan until July 25 when they departed, the participants traveled to Miyagi Prefecture, Ehime Prefecture, and Nagano Prefecture in their field study visits.

In Miyagi Prefecture, while learning about the special experience of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred in 2011, the participants came to realize the strength of farmers (JA members) who support and promote local agriculture under the severe environment after the earthquake. At JA Kami Yotsuba, where they visited, the participants were able to learn about a wide range of activities including not only tilling/sowing and ani-

mal husbandry but also the processing of agricultural products.

In Ehime Prefecture, training was conducted with cooperation not only from JAs (JA Uma, JA Ehime Chuo, and JA Shuso) but also from the prefectural government, and the participants learned about the prefectural government’s comprehensive promotion of agriculture such as direct sales business, initiatives of women’s groups, practicing of sixth industrialization of agriculture, education, and research and development.

In Nagano Prefecture, the processing of agricultural products and initiatives of women entrepreneurs were the highlights, and in particular, the participants visited Tanpopo, which is an example of entrepreneurship by rural women, and they received energy and smiles from the women working there.



Tour of the Great East Japan Earthquake Ruins “Sendai Arahama Elementary School” (Miyagi Prefecture)



The participants with Ms. Koike, president of “Tanpopo” and her staff

(2) FY2018 ICA-Japan Training Course on “Empowering Women in Business and Management of Agricultural Cooperatives”

Continuing from last year, the above-titled training program aimed at the capacity building of women leaders was held for two weeks from July 29. Seven motivated women involved in cooperatives arrived in Japan from India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam and deepened their understanding of such matters as Japanese

agricultural cooperatives, marketing, and human resource development through lectures and study visits. In the visit to Yamanashi Prefecture, the participants visited a fruits grading center of JA Minami-Alps City under the cooperation of fruit farmers and learned about the criteria and the mechanism for sorting fruits. In on-site observations, JA Kanagawa



With JA Kamiina officials and employees

Prefectural Union and JA Kamiina cooperated to introduce the roles and various business activities of JAs and women's associations. It was also an opportunity for interaction with the JA's women directors and members of the better living group, and the participants

could talk about Japanese culture as well as practical matters, making it a memorable visit for them. At the end of the training, the participants completed their action plans through trial and error and departed on August 11.



Interaction with members of better living group of JA Kamiina

(3) FY2018 Training Course on “Enhancing Food Value Chain Through Agricultural Cooperatives” under the Project for Supporting Capacity Building in Agricultural Sector in ASEAN Countries

In cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and JA ZENCHU, IDACA conducted the above-titled training course from August 19 to September 1, 2018. A total of 20 people from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in the training course. The theme of the training was as follows: (1) Roles of agricultural cooperatives (including federations) in agricultural product sales (flow of food value chains); (2) improvement in the quality of agricultural products, security and safety, and the role of farm guidance by agricultural cooperatives; and (3) mechanism of the market distribution system and management of the JA direct sales business and agricultural product direct sales shops.

Following a lectures on the overview of Japanese agricultural cooperatives, marketing business, farm guidance, and sales strategies, the participants visited Tama Seika Co., Ltd. and A-COOP Shiroyama store. They went to Ibaraki Prefecture for field study visits. In Ibaraki Prefecture, the participants visited many agricultural cooperatives according to the crops they handled and learned about food value chain practices, sales strategies, and export strategies. The agricultural cooperatives they visited were JA Kita Tsukuba, JA Joso

Hikari, JA Namegata, JA Ibaraki Asahimura, JA Shinhitachino, and JA Shiosai. In addition, they visited a farmer's restaurant at JA ZEN-NOH Ibaraki Headquarters and enjoyed lunch there, and also visited Pocket Farm Doki Doki (agricultural product direct sales shop), Pearl Rice milling plant, a farm equipment parts center, and VF Station. At the Ibaraki Prefectural Union, there was a briefing by the Prefectural Union and the Ibaraki Prefectural Government's Agricultural Policy Division on the marketing strategy for Ibaraki agricultural products. The training course was held during a period of continuous hot summer days, but the participants took the observations and lectures seriously, and individual participants drafted their own action plans. In addition,



At JA Joso Hikari Japanese pear sorting station

thanks to the kindness of JA Group Ibaraki, a social gathering was held between the participants and JA leaders, and being able to interact

with the JA people while enjoying the local delicacies of Ibaraki became an invaluable, memorable event for the participants.

(4) FY2018 JICA “Agricultural Policy (A)” Course

This training course, which was entrusted by JICA Tsukuba and conducted from August 22, 2018 to September 6, 2018, targeted semi-high-level officials belonging to government agencies in developing countries who are directly involved in the planning of agricultural policies. It is aimed at having the participants deepen their understanding of agricultural policy in Japan, its historical development, legal frameworks and systems related to Japanese agriculture, as well as the current state of agricultural policies in the participating countries, through lectures, observations, and discussions, and thereby having the participants draw up agricultural policy proposals for resolving the issues confronting the agricultural sectors in their countries.

This year, six people from Asian and African countries participated in the training course, through which they learned about such matters as the overview of Japan's agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, as well as the current agricultural policies and the policymaking process. In study visits to observe actual farming areas, the participants visited Saitama Prefecture, which is close to JICA Tsukuba, and with cooperation from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Saitama Prefecture Government and JA Saitama Prefectural Union, they learned

about the general condition of agriculture and agricultural cooperatives in the prefecture and the prefectural government's agricultural promotion measures. The participants visited the Saitama Prefectural Agricultural Technology Research Center (Tamai Experiment Station), JA Saitama Chuo, Tofu Kobo Watanabe (case example of the sixth industrialization of agriculture), Komatsuzawa Leisure Farm (case example of green tourism), etc. Although some participants became ill due to the record heat wave that hit the Japanese archipelago, eventually all the participants completed their agricultural policy proposals incorporating the knowledge they gained through the training course and returned safely to their countries.



JA Saitama Chuo Inaho Terrace (Higashimatsuyama Farmers' Market)



Observing agricultural drones at Tamai Agricultural Experiment Station as an example of smart agriculture promoted by the prefectural government

(5) FY2018 ICA-Japan Training Course on “Fostering Agricultural Cooperatives for Food Value Chain”

Targeting semi-developed countries of Southeast Asia and South Asian countries where the organization of agricultural cooperatives has relatively progressed, this training course is aimed at contributing to the development of cooperatives and improvement of the livelihood of the members in those countries by having participants learn the marketing business of Japanese agricultural cooperatives and methods of diversified management development and thereby strengthening the business in their own countries.

Continuing from the previous fiscal year under the same theme, the training course was held as the second in this series from September 27, 2018 to October 18, 2018. Seven people from six countries such as India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, and Vietnam participated in the training course. They were

able to learn about a wide range of case examples such as the management of agricultural processing facilities and direct sales shops tailored to consumer needs, as well as the latest Japanese fruit sorting facilities and cold chain systems such as low temperature storage, by visiting Nagano Prefecture and Gunma Prefecture and gaining the opportunity for observation and training on how the players such as producers and agricultural cooperatives engage in activities to give added value to agricultural products during various phases in the series of processes from the production of agricultural products until they reach the hands of consumers. Many of the participants said that they were able to acquire so many ideas that they would be unable to incorporate all of them into their action plans.



Using *kamishibai* (storytelling using sets of illustrated boards) to tell a story about the hardships that a dairy farmer went through in opening a gelato (ice cream) shop (participants at Nature School Terrakoya in Gunma Prefecture)



Tour of “Ota Wholesale Market,” Japan’s No. 1 market for fruits and vegetables; learning about fair and highly transparent transactions.

VOICES OF FORMER PARTICIPANTS

Report by a Former Participant from Nigeria



Mr. Sanusi Yakubu Misa
Subject Matter Specialist (Crops),
Agricultural Technical Services,
Taraba Agricultural Development Program, Nigeria

I would like to express our appreciation and thankfulness for the knowledge we gained during our training on agribusiness promotion for small-scale farmers in African countries.

I must confess that I learned a lot from the training provided by IDACA. Initially, we in (TARABA STATE) Nigeria have been practicing agriculture, but the resources and knowl-

edge gained from you at IDACA have helped us improve the livelihood of our small-scale farmers ranging from individual farming to cooperative farming, especially rice production. Using false bottom technology on rice

processing and millings has also been helpful. Below are the three clusters/groups engaged in activities to promote agribusiness in Gassol Local Government area of Taraba State, Nigeria.

s/n	Cluster/Group Name	Community Town/Village	L.G.A
1.	BEHRAMU RICE PRODUCTION AND MILLINGS	MUTUM BIYU TOWN	GASSOL
2.	ALHERI RICE FARMERS	MUTUM BIYU TOWN	GASSOL
3.	WIDOW RICE PRODUCTION	MUTUM BIYU TOWN	GASSOL



With Some of the Trainees in My Office



Parboiling and Milling of Paddy Rice



Marketing of Parboiled Rice in the Village

ACHIEVEMENTS

So far, we have achieved the following objectives:
Cooperative farming
Good agronomy practice has been impacting our farming activities
The false-bottom technique is also encouraging, as it has reached the adoption level (rice processing/parboiling)
Branding of the clusters’ products is in order.

CHALLENGES

We lack farm implements and machines to support the activities such as seedling transplanters, rice polishers and destoners.

Sir, I hope we will be receiving your support and literatures on good agricultural practices and agribusiness that will help boost the livelihood of my people at the rural level.

Thank you very much, IDACA Ambassador in TARABA STATE, NIGERIA.

REPORT ON VISITORS TO IDACA

Group of University Students from India Attend a Lecture at IDACA

At the request of Technology Forum for the Future Asia, IDACA accepted 15 university students attending a university in the regional city of Maharashtra state in India on Wednesday, September 19, 2018. The students received a lecture at IDACA on Japanese agricultural cooperatives. The purpose of this training course is to learn about such matters as Japanese culture, ways of working, utilization of unique Japanese ideas and new technologies in such fields as agriculture, construction, and civil engi-



Learning the importance of cooperation through participatory group work