



## 《Greetings from the President》



**President of IDACA**  
**Toru NAKAYA**  
**(President of JA ZENCHU)**

First of all, let me express my deepest sympathies to the people who suffered severe damages throughout the countries by disasters and do hope for earliest recovery and reconstruction.

IDACA was established with the initiative of JA Zenchu in 1963 as an organization for development of agricultural cooperatives in the countries in Asia and other regions, which lead to improvement of income and development of regional farming communities.

Since its establishment, devoting ourselves in fostering human resource committing to the cooperative movement in the world, we have received more than 6,500 people from 130 countries for various training courses.

Through the activities we have learned that the countries in Asia, Africa, South America, etc. have shown strong interests and wishes in studying Japanese models for development of their farmers' organizations. IDACA, as a bridge between those countries and Japan, have introduced Japanese cases of organizational management, business activities and services of agricultural cooperatives in Japan, JA.

Implementing the training courses, we have taken up field study as very important element in designing the programs. However, the programs with field study have not been realized in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and 2022, two years in a row. The situation have given us the opportunities of conducting on-line programs utilizing pre-recorded video materials to introduce the outline of organization and business activities of JA.

Since 2021, IDACA has been strengthening its ties with the international community through collaboration with the World Farmers Organization (WFO) for those farmers organizations in the world and International Grains Council (IGC), intergovernmental organizations. Thereby we, recognizing the roles as JA group member organization, will further develop and promote our activities to contribute to the international community.

Last but not least we, officials and staff, kindly request for your understanding and cooperation on our activities.

## «Messages from the Advisors»



### **Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director of International Cooperative Alliance- Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP)**



On behalf of the International Cooperative Alliance and International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific, I would like to wish you all a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

It has been a privilege for us to be associated with IDACA over the past few decades in the training of agriculture cooperatives and farmers organizations from across Africa and Asia and the Pacific. The participants of the training program have benefited immensely from the knowledge received, the first-hand visits to Japanese cooperatives, and from the follow-up support for their projects.

The trainings are solid reflection of Principle 5 – education, training and information, and Principle 6 - cooperation among cooperatives! I would like to thank IDACA and JA-Zenchu for convincing the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, Government of Japan of the benefits of the training and securing their continued financial support!

We look forward to our continued association in the service of agriculture cooperatives and farmers organizations!

### **Ms. Arianna Giuliadori, Secretary General of World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)**



### **WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION**

On behalf of the World Farmers' Organisation, I wish you all a peaceful, healthy, and prosperous 2023.

Let me express my deep and humble gratitude to IDACA working with JA Zenchu for the opportunity to bring the voice of the farmers of the world. It is an honour to contribute to your relentless effort in building the capacity of farmers' organisations and agricultural cooperatives and supporting the development of organised agriculture, thus fostering farmers' economic, social and political inclusion.

Today more than ever, organised agriculture plays a crucial role in helping farmers address the global challenges they must face. From climate change to food security, from restoring and enhancing biodiversity to the threats of having access to inputs and technology, farmers are a key part of the solution, and their organisations are meant to catalyse their potential and unlock a sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

I look forward to continuing and strengthening our collaboration in the future, leveraging the momentum and enabling ambitious actions for all farmers of the world and their cooperatives.



# -IDACA NEWS-

## THE CLIMAKERS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION DIGITAL WORKSHOP on Sep. 20 and 29, 2022



On September 20 and 29, 2022, “The Climakers Asia and the Pacific Region Digital Workshop” which was held by agricultural organizations in the Asia-Pacific region to share examples of climate change initiatives and exchange information.

To identify and share examples of activities by agricultural organizations around the world in order to network their efforts to address climate change, this workshop has been held under the leadership of the World Farmers Organization (WFO) as the Climakers Project, with funding from the Norwegian government and other sources.



Continuing from last year, IDACA was entrusted with the task of collecting examples of climate change initiatives and organizing the workshops.

The workshop consisted of two sessions with nearly 200 participants from 48 countries. The presenters and the participants exchanged opinions while introducing case studies of agriculture and agricultural cooperative organizations from 11 countries in Asia and the Pacific, including Eastern Europe, that are making various efforts to address climate change.

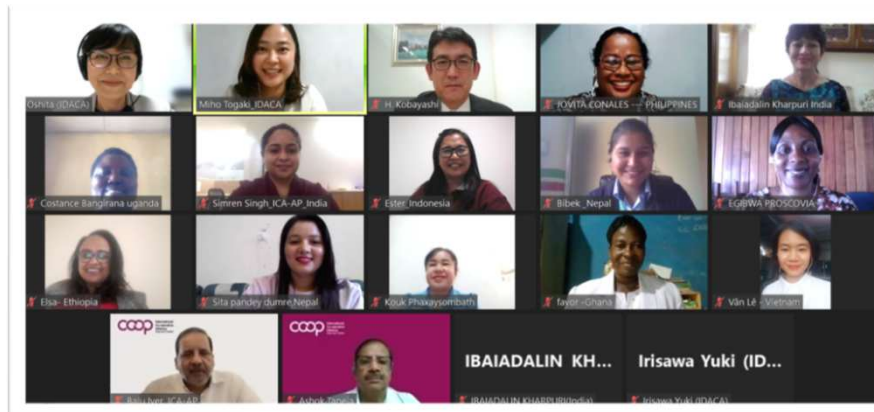
This year, simultaneous Japanese-English interpreters (on September 29 only) were used to facilitate the participation of Japanese agriculture and food professionals in the workshop.



# Reports on Training Courses

## The ICA Training Course on "Empowerment of Rural Women for Improvement of their Leadership and Business Management" FY2022

Commissioned by the International Cooperative Alliance – Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), the 3rd ICA Women's Training Course for female leaders was held from August 22 to September 15, 2022, in an online training format.



Thirteen female leaders from Asia and Africa participated, and enjoyed not only online lectures, question-and-answer sessions, and group discussions, but also information exchanges and cultural exchanges in various fields.

One of the important purposes of this training is to create an action plan and implement it in

their own countries. This time as well, Ms. Horaguchi, President of National Council of JA Women's Associations, participated in the event and introduced the efforts and activity examples of the JA Women's Association. In addition, during the discussion session with President Horaguchi, many participants commented that it was a very useful time for them, as she gave them very helpful advice for creating action plans based on her own experience. In addition, continuing from last year, online lectures by overseas lecturers such as a university professor who was introduced by the Co-operative Institute of Malaysia (CIM), and the secretary general of the World Farmer's Organization (WFO) provided an opportunity to learn about the issues common to all countries, such as gender issues and the impact of climate change on agriculture.

In addition, the participants received a lot of information, including examples of entrepreneurial activities and agricultural processing by rural women in Nagano Prefecture, and SDGs initiatives by Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU). All participants completed their action plans by the end of the training, and pledged to implement them in their home countries amidst both anxiety and anticipation.

### What is the action plan for ICA training?

1. All participants are required to create a "job report" regarding their organization and their work prior to participating in the training. In this process, the participants identify issues and problems of their organization and analyze the current situation.
2. Based on the various information and knowledge obtained during the training period, the participants create draft action plans to improve their problems and other issues.
3. These plans are to be revised and added more information and ideas as many times as necessary during the training period to complete it.
4. The completed draft action plans are to be further revised after consultation with resource persons of IDACA for the training course.
5. At the end of the training, the completed draft action plans are presented to all the participants, resource persons of IDACA, and ICA-AP, and further revisions may be made upon the comments and advice provided.
6. After completing the training (or after returning home country), the participants implement their action plans with the consent of their organization's supervisor and cooperative members.

# Reports on Training Courses

## 2022 JICA Training Course on "Establishment and Development of Farmers' Organizations"

This training program was commissioned by JICA (Tsukuba Center). After three years of implementation until last year, the program was reviewed, and due to strong demand for training, a new three-year schedule was decided to begin this year. The objective of the program is "To contribute to the promotion of the establishment of agricultural cooperatives and the strengthening of their organizational capacity by organizing farmers at the farmer community level in rural villages and agricultural estates, targeting countries in the early stages of establishing agricultural cooperatives".

Five participants from Madagascar, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, including government officials in charge of farmers' organizations and cooperative promotion organizations, participated in the online learning program under the COVID-19 pandemic. Akita Prefectural Union of Agricultural Cooperatives and JA Akita-Shirakami in Akita Prefecture and Miyazaki Prefectural Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (including the Education Center) and JA Hyuga in Miyazaki Prefecture provided support for making video materials introducing local case studies and for the Q&A session after all participants had viewed the video materials.

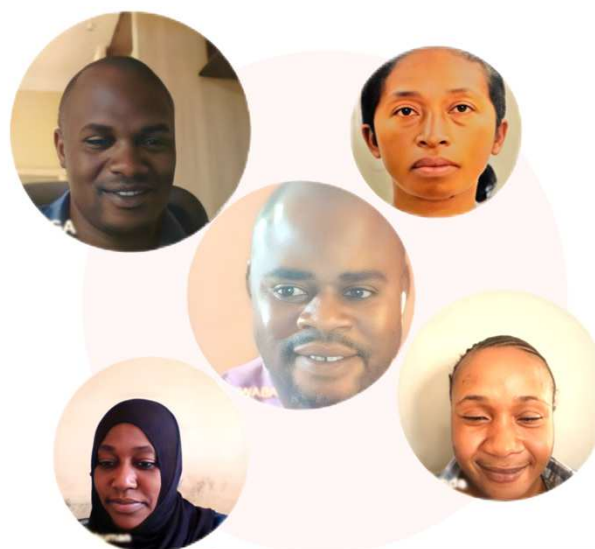
All the lectures were conducted on live, in cooperation with JA Group organizations such as JA Hadano, JA Kanagawa Seisho, Nagano Agricultural Cooperative Institute for Research and Development, JA Tourism & Communication Associations, Norinchukin Research Institute Co., Ltd, JA Zenchu, and Nokyo Ryutsu Kenkyujo (Nokyo Research Institute of Agricultural Products Distribution) as well as from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. In addition, we invited an advisory board member of IDACA, Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director of International Cooperative Alliance- Asia and Pacific as a lecturer, he introduced the role and activities of cooperatives from an Asian and global perspective.

In making the action plans, participants (two from Asia and Africa) who attended in the 2019 training program participated and had the opportunity to present implementation status of the action plans as a result of the training, and how they are using what they learned in the training. In preparing the action plans, we asked a development consultant to conduct the PCM method-based lectures and exercises aimed at analyzing the current situation and finding the directions of response to challenges.

The participants commented such as, "I would like to visit officials of JAs which have conducted good management for many years. I would like to know how responsible leadership of cooperatives has been handed down over the years. I would like to observe rural tourism, wedding sites, and processing businesses such as jams and beverages conducted by JA women's associations, and to share my know-how with women in my country." "I would like to have a direct dialogue with JA staff and visit farms."

Although the training could not be conducted in Japan due to COVID-19, the participants showed a keen interest in not only the traditional training in Japan but also had the online lecture beforehand and then had training in Japan.

It provided a good opportunity to review how the training should be conducted in the future. The participants have started working on their action plans after the training and will submit their progress reports in February.



Participants from Africa

# Reports on Training Courses

## 2022 JICA Country-wise Training Course for Ethiopia "Value Chain Development in Agricultural Processing Complex Area"



JA Kanazawa Sweet Potato  
Harvest Experience



JA Kanazawa Agricultural Machinery  
Center

The training course was commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Hokuriku Center for the participants from Ethiopia who came to Japan. In the first week, they presented inception reports and attended lectures on value chains at JICA Tokyo.

After that, the participants moved to Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture to have lectures on production area development, branding, and sales strategies at the administrative agencies based there. They visited Ishikawa Agricultural Center, JA Kanazawa City, Hakui City, Hakui Machizukuri Corporation (on case studies of 6th industrialization), Tedorikawa-shichika Water Supply Land Improvement District, Nagano Karasawa Agricultural Machinery Service Corporation, AI Plaza Kanazawa (supermarket), Ishikawa Central Fruit and Vegetable Corporation, and Kanazawa Daichi Corporation (on the subjects of organic produce export and 6th industrialization).



Visit to a small hydroelectric power plant of Tedorikawa-shichika  
Water Supply Land Improvement District





# Report on Overseas Activity

## FY2022 Dispatch of Experts

### Establishment of Business Oriented Agricultural Cooperative Models (Development of Agricultural Cooperative System) in Georgia



Blueberry orchard, a candidate of  
a model agricultural cooperative



Honey factory for a candidate of  
a model agricultural cooperative

Commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Terunuma, staff of IDACA was dispatched to Georgia twice, in March and May, 2022. In the first dispatch, selection criteria were set in advance to identify five candidates for model agricultural cooperatives and five semi-model agricultural cooperatives from approximately 1,000 agricultural cooperatives with counterpart organizations. Seminars on Japanese agricultural cooperatives were held for the 10 selected agricultural cooperatives.

In the second dispatch, interviews and detailed surveys were conducted at five selected model agricultural cooperatives. The detailed survey examined the family structure of the members, their membership status in agricultural cooperatives, their income from farming and dual employment, and the actual conditions of ownership of agricultural machinery, automobiles, and motorcycles. The survey also introduced the efforts of agricultural cooperatives and producers in Japan according to the crops handled by each cooperative (wine, cheese, honey, blueberries, and apples).

Exports of blueberries, honey and wine produced by candidates for model agricultural cooperatives have already started.



Cheese Processing Plant and for the members  
for a model agricultural cooperative



Meeting with the candidate and winery  
officers for a model agricultural cooperative