

Class of 2012

Rural Leaders Training Program

That We May Live Together

① ARI Nickname
② Activities

BRAZIL



Ms. Joelma Gomez de Queiroz

Cooperativa Central da Reforma Agraria do Paraná
Agroecology Technician

① Joelma

② My grandfather taught me persistence, humility and fixed contact with the Earth; protecting the Earth is to protect all living beings. I give classes in agroecology to farmer groups and in local schools. In the future, I plan to work with women's and men's groups, teaching them organic food production.

EAST TIMOR



Mr. Juliao Nunes Jose

Rafaela East Timor Fund
Farmers' Group Leader

① Juliao

② East Timor is an agricultural nation and unless we can become self-sufficient in agriculture we cannot survive. Currently I organize projects with local farmers. The main things I want to learn at ARI are sustainable techniques for enriching the soil, proper cultivation of crops, and how to naturally raise livestock.



Mr. Armando Ximenes

Claretian Missionaries
Farmer

① Arman

② I teach solar panel and electricity installation to people in my community. In East Timor, the primary occupation is farming. Our coastal land is very fertile, however, most people only earn enough for survival. I will acquire stronger farming skills at ARI so I can transform the lives of my people.

The Asian Rural Institute (ARI) has been dedicated since 1973 to training grassroots rural leaders who are living and working in their communities in countries primarily in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

Located in Tochigi, Japan, ARI trains rural community leaders regardless of nationality, race, religious beliefs, gender or age. The aim of the training is to facilitate the self-development of rural people, in order to build a more just and peaceful society.

The training is practically-oriented. Participants learn through classroom lectures, discussions, and study tours and then put this learning into practice by managing their own fields and rice paddies, raising livestock, heading committees and organizing events. The ARI community is almost completely self-sufficient with more than 90 percent of the food we consume coming from our own campus.

ARI does not have an independent source of funds. We rely on the support of individuals, churches and funding organizations to operate the training program. Furthermore, since ARI actively seeks out people from the most marginalized areas of the world, who have few resources to support themselves for this training, we help them in connecting with potential supporters for scholarship assistance. ARI's training program is made possible by its supporters' generous contributions.

MALAYSIA



Ms. Veni Ester Daniel

Protestant Church of Sabah

Secretary

1 Ester

- Most of the people in my community depend on subsistence farming and handicraft production. These activities serve to strengthen the social and cultural identity of the indigenous people. I am very interested in learning about sustainable management of resources at ARI because this knowledge will benefit farmers in my area.

INDIA



Mr. Chonglise Sangtam

Better Life Foundation

Youth Volunteer Coordinator

1 Chongli

- My work is to promote youth volunteerism and the Small Tea Growers project. About 90% of our villagers are farmers. My community practices shifting cultivation, an age old system which is labour intensive, low-yielding and ecologically unsustainable. I am very interested in learning more about organic farming at ARI.



Mr. Adarsh Aralugowdana Chandraju

Coorg Organization for Rural Development (CORD)

Community Organizer

1 Adarsh

- Preserving resources and maintaining an ecological balance are the only ways to save the earth. In my community I focus on giving awareness about the climate change crisis and the importance of organic farming. Crops and vegetables give us income throughout the year, hence I prefer to do sustainable farming.

MALAWI



Rev. Fr. Tito Herbert Lezile

Anglican Diocese of Upper Shire

Priest

1 Tito

- As a youth chaplain and deputy farm manager, I believe in empowering young people by teaching them the importance of safeguarding natural resources so that they are not destroyed faster than they are replaced. By using sustainable agriculture, we can produce food for large populations and build a brighter future for our community.



Ms. Catherine Mtambo

Livingstonia Synod AIDS Programme

Field Officer

1 Catherine

- I live in a rural community where people earn their living by selling produce. Often they are unable to afford enough fertilizer for their land. To help them save money I encourage them to buy shares and invest in small-scale businesses. I want to improve farming practices in my community.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Pr. Joseph Kora

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor

1 Joseph

- I organize workshops on health, education and agriculture. My village, Klika, has neither electricity nor vehicle-accommodating roads. Vendors must carry their produce to market by hand, a trip which can take up to 4 hours. To help local farmers, I want to learn locally-appropriate methods of gardening and crop cultivation.

MYANMAR



Ms. Act Ka Hti

Patheingyi Myaung Mya Association

Community Health Worker

1 Act Ka Hti

- In my community, people earn a living through agriculture, fishing, and livestock breeding. Some of their biggest obstacles to sustainability include limited knowledge and insufficient time to focus on future plans. I want to receive agricultural training so can I be a resource for farmers in my community.



Mr. Htun Lwin

Buddhist Youth Empowerment Program

Farmer

1 Lwin Lwin

- My goal is to help rural people to escape from poverty. I take part in environmental exhibitions, participate in planting trees, and facilitate environmental awareness training. My hope is that by teaching better rice cultivation practices I can address the water shortage problem in my community.



Rev. Sang Bik Cem

The Methodist Church Upper Myanmar

Pastor

1 A Bik

- In my community, farmers struggle daily to make a living. I want to do something for my village, to develop and promote my community. At ARI I plan to sharpen my knowledge and improve my work, specifically in areas like sustainable agricultural development technology and project management.

MYANMAR



Mr. Taung Si

Lisu Baptist Convention

Trainer

1 Taung

- The people I work with are poor farmers who are simple, kind, and hard-working. I teach microorganism cultivation, seeding, grafting, earthworm composting and kitchen gardening. In the future, I plan to set up a model farm for an agriculture training center to continue my work with sustainable living practices.

LIBERIA



Rev. Alexander Saturday Kerkula

Church Aid Incorporated

Pastor & Coordinator

1 Alex

- I grew up on a rubber plantation in Herbal. I am now a pastor and a coordinator of school garden projects throughout my service area. It is my great joy to see students learn about farming by generating their own food. I believe organic farming will improve my people's lives.



Rev. Comfort McCarthy

Concerned Christian Community

Pastor & Supervisor

1 Hanifa

- I engage in rural community development by teaching basic life skills training to 150 women in my community. I am interested in sustainable farming because my community depends on crops that are sold in our local market for their family. I want to learn more about food production and preservation.

SRI LANKA



Mr. Mannadhipathi
Pathirennehelage Niroshan
Hemantha Mannadhipati

Volunteer

Service Civil International
Sri Lanka

1 Niro

- I have an ambition to begin a model organic farm to train and teach people about sustainable farming, both as a practice and as a lifestyle. I want to demonstrate that farming can be a profitable occupation. In my community, I advocate resource conservation through reforestation and organic home-gardening projects.



Rev. Welideniyagedara
Nishantha Gunaratne

Methodist Church Sri Lanka

Superintendent Minister

1 Nishanta

- I am a minister living on an organic farm that cares for its parishioners and the earth. I want to use organic farming to heal wounds caused by years of ethnic violence. Agricultural programs can bring peace and stability to Sri Lanka by connecting farmers in the north and south.

HAITI



Ms. Nerlande Baptichon

Methodist Church Haiti

Microcredit Liaison

1 Nerlande

- I work in rural communities through banks, consequently, I understand the importance of effective farming practices. Haiti was once an agricultural country, but today almost all products come from outside. I want to learn and practice agricultural techniques to sustain the living soil and move towards production within Haiti.

CAMEROON



Mr. Joseph Banla
Bongajum

Action for Natural
Medicine, Bui

Field Coordinator

1 Joe

- I work with local farmers, instructing them on the subjects of natural medicine and nutrition. Food and health are inseparable. This is the message I seek to convey to people in my community. Organic farming and livestock production are areas that I am particularly interested in learning about.



Rev. Wilson Dicag Ignacio

Central Luzon District
Council of the
Assemblies of God

Pastor

1 Wilson

- My community's farming lifestyle has been greatly affected by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. Farms were ruined and covered by volcanic sand. I have 20 years of experience with organic farming. I want to develop my knowledge to its fullest extent to help my people gain respect through success in agriculture.

THE PHILIPPINES



Mr. Dolphe Tindaan Litawan

Nueva Vizcaya
Environmental &
Rural Development, Inc.

Farmer & Trainer

1 Dolph

- I contribute to my community's development by overseeing rituals, settling disputes, and attending community affairs meetings. Our Kalanguya people mostly practice traditional farming, so in the future I would like to establish a model organic farm. I want to teach people about the danger of chemicals and promote use of natural resources.

INDONESIA



Mr. Soniman Waruwu

Yayasan Holi'ana'a

Program Officer

1 Soni

- I organize projects involving pig husbandry and organic farming in my community. One of the greatest challenges faced by the people in Nias is the failure to utilize farmland effectively. To address this problem, I want to obtain a demo plot to teach environmentally friendly farming.



Rev. Margareth Marta
Sianipar

Huria Kristen Batak
Protestant Church
(HKBP)

Pastor

1 Marta

- I teach and supervise women farmers in raising pigs and growing vegetables. I am involved in rural work because 75% of Indonesian people live in rural areas and most of them are farmers. I want to see my congregation help themselves out of poverty by living together and working hand in hand.

D.R. CONGO



Ms. Kavira Kaniki Salome

Oneness Development
Institute

Counselor

1 Kaniki

- I work as an HIV and AIDS counselor among women, youth and children. The DRC has experienced decades of strife, civil war and ethnic conflict. 90% of the Congolese population are farmers but many do not know how to improve their agricultural work. ARI's farming techniques will benefit my community.

JAPAN



Mr. Kengo Ishida

1 Kengo

- Studying sociology and international development at university awoke my interest in poverty issues. Experiencing tomato cultivation further motivated me to learn agriculture at ARI. I will practice and learn sustainable organic farming with my own hands, mind and heart, and then contribute to the development of rural communities.



Mr. Yuta Takeno

1 Yuta

- I got to know ARI through the annual ARI Western Japan Study Tour where I was involved in the planning of a discussion. There I learned about the importance of food and thought that I should be able to produce my own food by myself. In the future, I hope to do international cooperation through agriculture in Asia and Africa.

UGANDA



Mr. Emmanuel Ssempiira

St. Patrick's Center for
Integral Development

Project Coordinator

1 Emma

- I coordinate a community of 200 Congolese refugees who lack food, water, and medicine. My responsibilities include managing supplies and conducting agriculture workshops. Knowledge in animal husbandry, integrated farming and food processing will help me serve the refugees better to improve their food security.

Training Assistant

ARI Graduates who have worked in their countries for five or more years may apply to be a TA (Training Assistant). Those applicants who have achieved good results in their communities are invited to come to ARI to assist in the training of the participants.

Graduate Intern

A Japanese graduate of ARI is eligible to apply to be a Graduate Intern (GI). The internship is twelve months long and must begin the following school year. The intern focuses on one section of the farm for which he/she wishes to gain deeper understanding and more extensive experience. The GI also takes part in all other aspects of ARI life as an actively contributing community member.

THE PHILIPPINES



Ms. Lourdes Augusto Sison

Cordillera Green Network

Scholarship Coordinator

① Des

② My main job is to disseminate information about our scholarships, interview applicants, and determine if these candidates are qualified. In the Cordillera, I have worked with projects involving education, reforestation, and sustainable agriculture. To protect and enhance the natural environment I will continue to advocate sustainable agriculture for local people for nutritious and safe food.

INDONESIA



Biv. Veny Julita

Huria Kristen Batak Protestant (HKBP)

Migrant Worker Organizer in Selangor, Malaysia

① Veny

② My major job responsibility is to organize a church in Malaysia for Indonesian migrant workers. Around 3.5 million Indonesian people come to Malaysia for work. Workers sometimes face injustice and I have to advocate for them to defend their rights. I want to organize Indonesian people, particularly the poor farmers.

JAPAN



Mr. Yasutomo Kido

① Yasu

② Last year, I was able to gain meaningful learnings as a participant, especially about what is necessary for "living together" with people of different cultures and values. This year my goal as a graduate intern is the realization of a self-sufficient society. I also want to encourage myself by learning through agriculture on the farm and by socializing with people.

Photos

Dr. Nobuhito Arakawa

ARI Graduates Map

1215 Graduates from 55 countries

