



Niru
Ms. Niranjala Manchanayake

Okidro Preschool
Teacher

2000 ARI Graduate

I am from the urbanizing Western region of Sri Lanka where I am concerned that modernization is distancing my people from nature. There is a great lack of motivation to farm in Sri Lanka and I want to share its joys with my people. I have returned to ARI to refine my knowledge of sustainable practices so that I can pass it on to my students and their families.

Advanced Training Course

Training Assistant (TA)

ARI Graduates who have worked in their countries for five or more years may apply to be a TA. These applicants, who have demonstrated leadership and accomplishment in their communities, are invited to come to ARI to assist in the training of current participants.



Makiko
Ms. Makiko Takei

2017 ARI Graduate

My goals are to further my knowledge and skills of organic farming, gain more understanding of myself through reflection, and improve my servant leadership skills. I am excited to start a GI experimental farm where I can try new agricultural techniques, reflect on the results and share with the community. The experimental farm will also show visitors the importance of biodiversity and allow a space for humans and nature to connect.

Advanced Training Course

Graduate Intern (GI)

A Japanese graduate of ARI is eligible to apply to be a GI. Graduate Interns focus on one section of the farm in which they wish 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.



Chigira
Ms. Chigira Hasumi

2017 ARI Graduate

As a GI, I would like to focus on putting theory into practice by spending more time in the Crops and Vegetable section. I hope to know the reality of organic farmers and to get a more complete understanding of the problems faced by Japanese farmers in society. Also, through raising my own non-castrated pig, I want to deepen my understanding about animal welfare.

Over a thousand graduates

After graduating from the ARI training program, many Rural Leaders focus on sustainable agriculture in order to revive their communities. But that's not all; Graduates also engage in a broad range of causes, such as conservation of the environment, education and microfinance. Others dedicate their lives to attain rights for women and tribal people, or organize aid for refugees. Responding thus to the needs of grassroots people as Servant Leaders, they spread ARI's spirit of "Living Together" across the world.

Asian Rural Institute Class of 2018

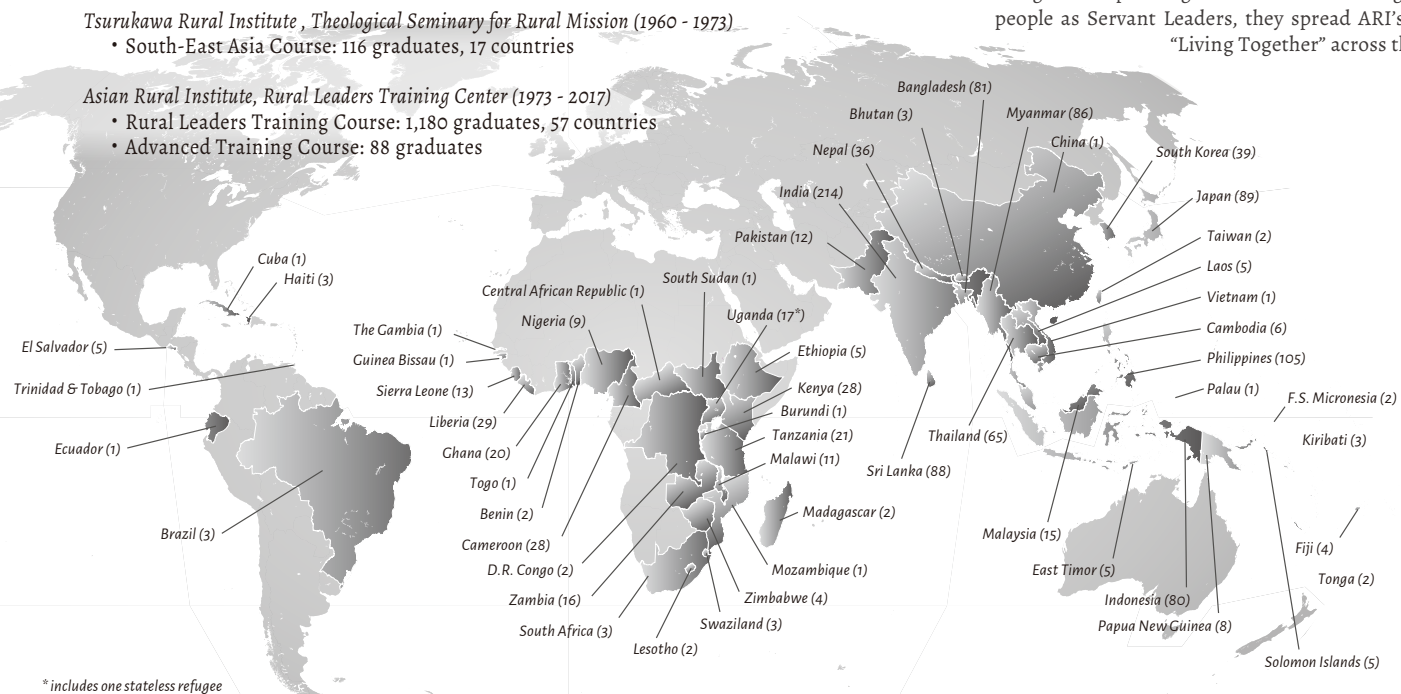
Rural Leaders Training Program

Located in Tochigi, Japan, **Asian Rural Institute (ARI)** trains grassroots rural leaders who live and work in their native communities, 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, then put this learning into practice by managing their own fields and rice paddies, raising livestock, leading committees, and organizing events.

The ARI community is almost completely self-sufficient, with more than 90 percent of the food consumed coming from its own campus.

ARI does not have an independent source of funds, but relies 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, ARI helps them to connect with potential supporters for scholarship assistance. Thus, ARI's Rural Leaders Training Program is made possible by supporters' generous contributions.



Would you like to invest in the future of Rural Leaders as a supporter?

The costs needed for Rural Leaders to participate in our training are mainly financed by donations. Tuition and board amount to US\$ 17,840, and the average airfare is US\$ 2,300. We are looking for supporters who will offer financial assistance for these leaders to take part. It is an investment in people who will bring about lasting community change. For detailed information, please visit our website or call our office.

USA

US citizens may make tax deductible gifts to ARI through the American Friends of ARI (AFARI). Make out your check to AFARI and send it to:

American Friends of ARI (AFARI)
c/o J.B. Hoover, Executive Director
1121 N 94th St.
Seattle, WA 98103-3305

or donate online through AFARI at
<http://friends-ari.org/>

Canada

Canadian citizens can make a tax deductible donation to the United Church of Canada to support ARI. Cheques payable to the UCC should be sent to:

United Church of Canada
Partners in Mission Unit
3250 Bloor St. W.
Etobicoke, ON M8X 2Y4
Attn: Pat Elson
(Please designate "ARI" on the cheque)

Japan

There are multiple ways of contributing if you reside in Japan. Please visit our website at (<http://www.ari-edu.org/en/support/>) to learn more.

EAST TIMOR



Beni
Mr. Benigno Simoes Estavao

Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Field Staff

I teach agricultural techniques to primary school students and grow food for the students on the Sister's farm. I also work with the local farmers, though my community's limited farming skills make it hard for them to escape poverty. I hope to acquire the skills necessary at ARI to further the cause of sustainable development in East Timor.

INDIA



Gab
Mr. Gabriel Gonmei

Rongmei Baptist Association
Coordinator

I work to serve and empower the people of the Peren District in Nagaland. The Rongmei people are not recognized as an indigenous tribe, and thus suffer negative economic and social consequences. I oversee natural resource management and agricultural programs. Currently, I am working to establish integrated farming in the community.



Khen
Past. Prokhen Phangcho

Amri Karbi Baptist Association
Pastor

My community is 80% animist and 20% Christian. Most suffer from poverty, tribal conflict with the government, and lack of education. My people are dependent on agriculture, but still practice old, inefficient farming techniques. At ARI, I hope to learn about community building and servant leadership so I can help people from all faiths living in my community.

INDONESIA



Chlaodhius
Past. Chlaodhius Budhianto

Christian Church From Northern Central Java (GKJTU)
Pastor

I come from a rural community consisting of farmers and cow breeders. I work to combat the socio-economic obstacles that keep my congregation in poverty through agricultural training on model farms. I hope to update my technical skills and become a more effective community leader through the training at ARI.



Joe
Past. Joe Charis Ginting

Gereja Batak Karo Protestan (GBKP)
Pastor

I come from a community where 99% of the residents engage in farming. Recent neighboring volcanic activity has dramatically hurt the crop yield and the livelihood of the community. I am the faith leader of the community, and have come to ARI to learn better ways to help my people through new and innovative farming practices.

PHILIPPINES



Connie
Ms. Concepcion Sotero

Tublay Organic Farming Practitioner's Association, Inc.
Internal control system manager

It is my joy to both help farmers obtain organic certification and plan educational agricultural activities for my community. I am motivated by my desire to help the local farmers attain stronger voices within their communities. As a practicing farmer, I want to share my knowledge of natural pest management and agricultural record-keeping.

GHANA



Eric
Mr. Eric Ofosu Annoah

Methodist Church of Ghana, Winneba Diocese
Society Steward and Youth Officer

My community consists mainly of subsistence or peasant farmers who produce staple foods such as maize, cassava, and plantains. I work with the church youth, mainly getting them engaged in agriculture. I specialize in apiculture, and want to grow my beekeeping business from 20 to 100 hives in three years.



Kwabena
Mr. Kwabena Frempong Fening

Methodist Church of Ghana, Koforidua Diocese
Agric Project Director

I work to improve the livelihood of my local community, which is mostly composed of peasant farmers. Our area suffers from extreme rains, as well as terrible droughts. I have been the guiding force behind several projects, including the establishment of a piggery, apiary, and plantations for mangoes, maize, and mushrooms.



John
Mr. John Yeboah

Peace Love Vegetable Growers Association (PLVGA)
Chairman of Farmers' Association

I established my organization to help develop rural communities where there are high illiteracy rates and deforestation due to bushfires. I strive to empower the marginalized in these communities, especially women, through programs such as the Functional Literacy Project, and a Micro Financing Project.

MYANMAR



Lar
Rev. Lar Dar Wi

Shweli Shan Baptist Mission Convention, Myanmar Baptist Convention
Project Director

I come from a diverse community that suffers from a lack of knowledge, which prevents the full utilization of local resources. I have led programs to promote understanding between faith groups through awareness training, prayer meetings, and shared celebrations. My focus at ARI will be to study group-learning techniques which I can apply to my own multi-faith, multi-cultural community.



Thet Paing
Mr. Thet Paing Aung

Pwo Karen Baptist Conference, Myanmar Baptist Convention
Project Coordinator, Church and Community Mobilization Program

My goal is to foster a positive social environment amongst my people. I hope to accomplish this through the introduction of appropriate farming technologies and a fair marketplace. I have led projects on rice bank creation, as well as established successful piggery. At ARI, I hope to increase my knowledge of micro-finance and tube well subjects, as these are both important for my community's development.

SRI LANKA



Nilani
Ms. Nilani Weragoda Vidanelage

Siddhartha Child Development Foundation
Founder, Director

I have devoted my life to helping the children of Sri Lanka. In addition to offering education opportunities and empowerment workshops to children, I am constantly looking for ways to improve the community. At ARI, I want to learn more about organic agriculture so I can offer both children and their parents an alternative to the use of agro-chemicals.

GHANA



Josephine
Ms. Josephine Antwi

Grassroots Socio Economic Empowerment (GSEE)
Women's Leader

I am from a remote village, 12 km away from the closest school and health center. As a woman leader, I mentor farmers and work to empower the women in my community through counseling and workshops. At ARI, I hope to enhance my knowledge of agriculture, servant leadership and community building.

SIERRA LEONE



Sannoh
Mr. Mambu Alpha Sannoh

Friends of the Earth Sierra Leone
Secretary, Field Officer

My community is surrounded by forest land and is composed of farmers and miners (coal, stone, and diamonds). My organization is mainly focused on deforestation. I give agricultural training to farmers, work with adults and schools to educate children on the negative impacts of deforestation, and campaign for a healthier community.



Mambud
Past. Mambud Kestine Samai

Single Leg Amputee Sports Association (SLASA)
Program Coordinator, Pastor

In Sierra Leone, many youths live with amputations in the wake of the civil war. Using the sport of soccer, I work to empower these young adults and give them hope. I also offer classes on computers, financing, agri-science, nutrition, and food security. At ARI, I hope to learn more on agriculture, and to grow my network of supporters.

SRI LANKA



Madu
Ms. Nisansala Maduwanthi Hetti Arachi

Asia Lanka Social Development Corporation (ALSDC)
Field Officer

I work to promote better farming techniques and lead projects in rural communities to alleviate poverty. My first-hand knowledge of Sri Lanka's rural communities allows me to tailor programs to their needs. Recently, I led a home gardening program in a community that was experiencing urban infringement.



Adiam
Ms. Adiam Rezene Berhe

Ministry of Agriculture the State of Eritrea
Agronomist

I spread new agricultural knowledge and materials (such as seeds) to indigenous communities. I am a strong believer in the importance of harmonizing indigenous and scientific knowledge. At ARI, I hope to learn different information sharing techniques and how to integrate local, indigenous knowledge with modern technologies.



Berhane
Mr. Berhane Ethiopia Hagos

Ministry of Agriculture the State of Eritrea
Agriculture Extension Manager

My community consists of subsistence farmers, small scale irrigation practitioners, and bee keepers. I specialize in horticulture, apiculture, and environmental development. I hope the training at ARI will develop my Rural Leadership Skills, and I can share this with my community back home.

ZAMBIA



Esther
Sr. Esther Miti

Good Shepherd Sisters
Parish Sister

I am involved in pastoral work and am responsible for coordinating the teaching of catechism, guilds, and visiting the sick and disadvantaged people. My community consists of subsistence farmers from mixed cultures found in Zambia. The Sisters also support themselves by farming. At ARI, I am eager to learn more agricultural and leadership skills that I can use on the parish farm and share when I visit people in my parish.



Priscilla
Sr. Priscilla Ngandwe Mbewe

Good Shepherd Sisters
Secretary General

I ensure the congregation's operations are running smoothly by coordinating meetings, traveling for the sisters, and overseeing programs. I am involved in food processing at "Apollo Farm", which grows food with the sister's support. At ARI, I hope to learn more about organic agriculture, so I can offer my community an alternative to the use of agrochemicals.



Peter
Rev. Peter Mukasa Bakaluba

Mukono Diocese, Anglican Communion of Uganda
Rural Development Officer, Priest

I seek to empower my community of fishermen, rural peasant farmers, and cattle keepers who use rudimentary farming techniques. I am working to achieve this through sensitization workshops, development seminars, and hands on assistance in their daily lives. I am eager to learn organic farming and biogas production techniques at ARI, as well as develop my servant leadership skills.

MALAWI



Stella
Sr. Stella Ephraim Notice

Mary Consoler of the Afflicted
Sister, Project Manager

My calling is to work among the very poor of society, to console them and help them with their challenges, both man-made and natural. Currently, I work in a farming community where most live in poverty. Due to increasingly irregular rain patterns, people are going hungry. At ARI, I hope to gain agricultural, community building, and leadership knowledge.



Veh
Ms. Venitta Kaduya

Maziko Radio Station
Radio Presenter, Program Producer

I use the power of radio to get information to the people and host programs to promote empowerment of women and local farmers. Topics include childhood nutritional needs, maternal health, women empowerment programs, and women's rights. I also conduct interviews of my community members, so farmers and mothers can learn from each other.

KENYA



Caroline
Ms. Caroline Nyamache

Lake Victoria Permaculture Group (LVPG)
Project Manager

My community suffers from poverty, environmental degradation, and health problems caused by population pressure, climate change, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. I work to address these challenges, many of which are felt most by the rural women. I am responsible for project design, resource mobilization, and personnel management.

JAPAN



Kaoru
Ms. Kaoru Kobayashi

Before ARI, I worked both with struggling immigrants and for a Japanese confectionary as a product developer. My decision to come to ARI was based on the disconnection I witnessed between food producers and consumers, as well as the marginalization of immigrants. I hope to gain skills to empower immigrants and the producers, who are often struggling rural farmers.