

That We May Live Together



2021 Annual Report

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022



Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center

That We May Live Together

2021 was the first year since ARI began that no participants from abroad were allowed to enter the country due to the new coronavirus; however, God blessed us with four participants from within Japan. They completed their training in December. Under the unexpected circumstances, we thought about and discussed our situation, mission, and what we should do, and we all worked together to carry out the program. It was a time of confusion and anxiety at times, but also a time of grace.

For example, this year, we welcomed a Guinean woman as a participant. She is applying for refugee status in Japan and hopes to gain skills and knowledge that will help her country develop in the future. Her participation allowed ARI to gain a first-hand understanding of the realities of refugees in Japan and the ever-increasing number of refugees around the world.

Since the coup d'état in Myanmar broke out last February, we have thought of ARI's more than ninety Myanmar graduates. We started a fundraising campaign in September and delivered approximately 800,000 yen in aid to graduates helping displaced people in dangerous situations. However, the circumstances that have created many refugees in Myanmar and neighboring countries have not changed. Learning this made us think deeply about refugees worldwide who risk their lives to move in search of a safe life. We will continue to think about how we in the ARI community can implement loving action for these 'sojourners' as God asks of us in the Bible.

In terms of training, many out-of-prefecture training programs were canceled or curtailed due to the coronavirus disaster, as was the case in 2020. It was also a challenging year for small-group farm management and community building. However, there were many advantages to having a small group of participants. The number of opportunities for each participant to play an active role inevitably increased, and the staff provided ample attention. The "constraints" were opportunities to create something new, and we were constantly tested to be flexible, creative, resilient, and tolerant. It was not easy, but we supported each other as a community.

Not being able to accept many visitors also provided a chance to look at the local community. This year, we established new relationships with people interested in creating health and happiness for people, especially children, through safe and delicious food. One is a group operating a children's cafeteria here in Nasushiobara City; another, producers and sellers of organic agricultural products; a third, with the local government. In addition, ARI has created a program called "Learn from Nature," and many local children and adults were able to experience ARI's campus using all five senses. Finally, 2021 provided an excellent opportunity to motivate us to work more vigorously to develop ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) programs that local schools can use.

The world is still in a pandemic. Nevertheless, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has remembered and supported ARI even under such circumstances and now report on the fiscal year 2021.



Masaoki Hoshino
Board Chair



Tomoko Arakawa
Director

Asian Rural Institute Rural Leaders Training Center

That We May Live Together
2021 Annual Report

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Nurturing Rural Leaders



Learning that Becomes the Backbone of Life

School Year 2021

Rural Leaders Training Program Report

As we began the training program for the year 2021, we added the sentence “Nevertheless, we will provide the best training” to the curriculum’s goals listed on the right. The global coronavirus outbreak since last year has brought many difficulties to ARI’s training program. The most significant impact was that none of the 27 overseas participants accepted into the program were able to come to Japan. We had been considering starting a second training phase in September if the government eased the entry restrictions, but in the end, even that did not happen. These restrictions were not only at ARI but at schools all over the country, and 74% of all international students could not enter Japan during the 2021 school year. Despite these circumstances, with the support of many people, three Japanese participants and one Guinean participant living in Japan completed the ARI training.

The impact of the coronavirus was not limited to entry restrictions but also occurred in many other situations around campus. For example, in the curriculum section, many off-campus lectures were shortened or canceled, and sometimes classes and other activities were canceled at the last minute. In addition, managing the farm section with a small number of people

was extremely difficult. Typically, we divide 25 to 30 participants into four groups, with each group responsible for livestock (goats, pigs, and chickens), fields, and cooking during morning and evening Foodlife Work. However, with only four participants, there was only one group this year. Despite this, the small number was an advantage for the participants.

Valuing Flexibility

Although ARI always places a cap on the number of participants to provide a small class setting, it is still difficult to grasp each participant’s level of understanding. With four participants, however, it was possible. We more easily understood their learning needs, progress, and comprehension level and took the time to follow up with them on areas or vocabulary they did not understand. We spent time with each participant individually for consultation and coaching. We even had three staff members in a class for four participants, which was, in my opinion, a more “luxurious” training than usual. Less than one-sixth of the usual participants came; therefore, opportunities for presentations and leadership were more frequent. One of the staff sympathetically remarked to a participant, “Because of the

The mission of the curriculum

The mission of the curriculum is to prepare and maintain a qualified training program for participants. Through this training, participants can learn and grow to be the best rural leaders.

The goal of the 2021 curriculum

Have meaningful/valuable training for participants

1. Seeking the best way with coronavirus countermeasures
2. Using online sessions effectively (orientation, special lectures, sharing sessions)
3. Flexible schedule



Yukiko Ôyanagi

Associate Director,
Curriculum Coordinator



Time management, relationships, and self-confidence were a challenging part of the training for me. School fellowships helped me to face the public.

Learning about nutrition during the regular classes was very necessary to protect the health of my community. *Bokashi* and indigenous microorganisms were the best topics in the Practical Field Study.

Fatoumata Diaraye Bah, participant



small number of participants this year, you have to take many turns speaking in the Morning Gathering.” The participant happily replied, “Yes, that’s right. Normally, we wouldn’t have been allowed to be the speaker this many times. We are lucky.”

Our staff kept several things in mind during training: being flexible, seeing everything as an opportunity to learn, and always having a positive attitude. Of course, we also tell our participants these things, but this year’s training brought them to the surface.

New attempts with small numbers

There were several ‘firsts.’ The Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration was held online for the first time. We connected virtually with overseas students who could not come to Japan for discussions and had graduates from Indonesia and Kenya do online classes. Of course, it would have been good if we could have done this face-to-face. But, easily connecting with people living anywhere (as long as they are aware of the time difference) and having classes and discussions with them was an exciting change for ARI, which has connections with people worldwide.

Once a month, we asked graduates to lead a Morning Gathering, and we heard from graduates from Indonesia, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Myanmar. We also held a new food and consumer behavior class and conducted a class to learn ‘what it means to be a rural leader’ from the activities of our graduates. The field trip program

At ARI, I wanted to get an experience that I had never had before, and to know how I would react to it and how it would change me.

At the Non-Electric Atelier, learned a lot from the special lecturer’s attitude of questioning the common sense that we take for granted and thinking about how to make things better.

Also, during the class on Natural Farming, I was able to learn that there are various forms and ways of thinking in organic farming.

Jun Matsui, participant



added three new organic farms in Tochigi Prefecture. We held sessions for participants with no educational background in agriculture to help them research and understand the meaning of terms related to agriculture and development. Since we welcomed a refugee applicant as a participant, we also held a workshop to discuss refugee issues. A small group of people could not complete the farm work; therefore, we held several community work sessions, including the staff. All of this added to the “usual” ARI training, and the participants were able to learn something new.

An invaluable learning experience
One of the participants stated at the end of

the training, “My participant life is coming to an end, but at the same time, I feel that it is the beginning of a new life. I have learned many valuable things at ARI and can’t begin to write about them in a report. I believe this can only be obtained through living at ARI, where one is always together with life and the world. I will continue to ask questions and live my life in my way, treasuring the learning that will become the backbone of my life. And even if I face challenges, I hope to live in the moment, look at myself, and enrich my life as I have throughout this past year.”

I trust and hope that this year’s training was ‘nevertheless, still the best training’ for each one of the participants.



2

1. Experimenting with various organic farming techniques
2. Practice in the field, livestock, and leadership
3. View of Minamata Bay from a hill growing tangerines



3

Program Highlights

April



Training begins with three Japanese participants.

June



A fourth participant joins the training program. She is from Guinea, living in Japan and applying for refugee status.

October



Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration is held online. This year's theme is "Moving Forward. With Gratitude."

December



Graduation

November



Western Japan Study Tour in Minamata and Hiroshima.

December



The phrase "Living together as equal human beings," makes an impression during the final presentation.

Classes

Leadership

Leadership	Tomoko Arakawa
Servant Leadership	Tomoko Arakawa, Yukiko Ôyanagi
ARI History and Mission	Tomoko Arakawa
Participatory Learning and Action	Tomoko Arakawa, Yukiko Ôyanagi
Independent Learner	Yukiko Ôyanagi
Time Management	Timothy B. Appau
Presentation Skills	Yukiko Ôyanagi
Presentation Skills 2	Steven Cutting
Facilitation Skills	Yukiko Ôyanagi
Religion and Rural Life	Jonathan McCurley, Timothy B. Appau
Report Guidance	Kathy Froede
Who is a Rural Leader?	Steven Cutting
Peace, Justice and Reconciliation	Akiko Ishihara* (Kumamoto University)
Dignity Workshop	Jeffrey Mensendiek* (J.F. Oberlin University)

Development Issues

Environment and Development	Masahisa Satô* (Tokyo City University)
Nutrition and Development	Ikumi Kanamori
Credit Union	Gilbert P. Hoggang
Localization	Yôji Kamata* (NPO Ancient Futures)
Gender Issues	Tomoko Arakawa
Ashio Copper Mine and Shôzô Tanaka	Tatsuo Sakahara* (NPO Tanaka Shôzô University)
Climate Change Education	Yoshiyuki Nagata* (University of the Sacred Heart)
Nasu Canal and Rural Development	Yukiko Ôyanagi
Japanese Organic Farming Movement	Yukiko Ôyanagi
SDGs and the ARI Curriculum	Manosi Abe (Chatterjee)
SDGs and Whole Campus Approach	Tomoko Arakawa
Working with Minority	Gilbert P. Hoggang
Environment and Waste Management	Ikkô Marutani* (NPO Kino Kankyô)
Vote with Your Fork	Manosi Abe (Chatterjee)
Homeless Issue in Japan	Yukiko Ôyanagi, Manosi Abe (Chatterjee)

Sustainable Agriculture /Technology

Organic Farming	Osamu Arakawa
Crops and Vegetables	Osamu Arakawa
Rice Cultivation	Osamu Arakawa
Livestock	Takashi Ôtani, Timothy B. Appau, Ryô Maki
Disease Control of Crops and Vegetables	Osamu Arakawa, Masanobu Sakurai
Disease Control of Livestock	Takashi Ôtani, Timothy B. Appau
Dangers of Chemical Farming	Masanobu Sakurai
Natural Farming in Tropical Areas	Shimpei Murakami*
Alternative Marketing Systems	Reina Tomatsu* (Kinôshi-Juku)
Organic Marketing	Lidia Naibaho* ('11 graduate, Indonesia)
Biogas Workshop	Mamoru Kuwabara* (NPO Fûdo)
Agricultural Technique	Osamu Arakawa, Masanobu Sakurai
Livestock Technique	Takashi Ôtani, Timothy B. Appau, Ryô Maki
Meat Processing	Takashi Ôtani, Hideo Koide* (Neu Frank Nasu)

Graduate Seminar

Organizational Sustainability	Wesly Lingga* ('93 graduate, '99 TA, Indonesia), Tabitha Waweru* ('96 graduate, Kenya)
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Organic Farming Training

Crops and Vegetables: *Bokashi* fertilizer making, compost making, collection and utilization of indigenous microorganisms, fermented plant juice, fish amino acid, water-soluble calcium, charcoal and wood vinegar making, rice husk charcoal, seed collection, seedling nursing using soil blocks, mushroom cultivation
Livestock: Pigs (artificial insemination, delivery, castration), chickens (brooding), fish farming, livestock disease control, feed formulation, fermented feed, animal raising with fermented floor
Meat processing: Sausage, ham

Field Management Activities

Group farm management (vegetable crop cultivation and livestock management)
Foodlife Work (farm work and food preparation for self-sufficiency)
Group leadership system

Other Training

Community work (rice transplanting, rice harvesting, etc.), activities to promote spiritual growth (Morning Gathering, consultation, reflection paper, reflection day), oral presentations, Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration, international fellowship programs, observation trips, Rural Community Study Tour, Western Japan Study Tour, etc.

Total Training Time: 1,864 hours

*Special lecturer

Training Partners

(honorific titles omitted, in no particular order)

Agriculture-related observation and trainings

Kinôshi-Juku, Yoshinori Kaneko/Muneo Kaneko, Ryûichi Tashita, Mamoru Kuwabara

Other observation and fellowship programs

Tochigi: Ashio Copper Mine Pollution Case Study (Matsuki Village Ruins, Ashio Copper Mine Smelter Ruins), Watarase Basin, Utsunomiya Kita High School, Nishinasuno Church, Nasushiobara Church, Home Church Zion, Ujiie Church, Oyama Church, Mashiko Church

Other prefectures: Anti-Ashio Copper Mine Pollution Ôta Association, Kiryû Tôbu Church

Rural Community Study Tour

Tochigi: Shinrin no Bokujô, Manmaru Farm, Don-Kame Compost Center, Non-Electric Atelier, Hamanaka Farm, Tsuki-Noco, Furuya Farm, Green Farm Mizuguchi, Tateno Farm

Western Japan Study Tour

Kumamoto: Nahoko Ôsawa, Karatachi, Minamata Disease History Museum, Minamata City Museum, Shinobu Sakamoto (witness)
Hiroshima: Hiroshima Peace Museum

Community Life under COVID-19

Are We Still ARI?

Rediscovering what it means to be the ARI Community in a time of crisis



Meredith Maki
Community Life

2021 was like no other year in ARI's history. We had just four participants: three Japanese and one Guinean already residing in Japan. Training Assistants, volunteers, and summer interns from overseas were also barred from entering Japan due to strict border policies. Only Japanese nationals from overseas could enter Japan.

The effects on the community were immense. Every section was understaffed and many jobs usually handled by teams had to be managed by one or two people. The record low in members living on campus created a major shift in the community dynamic. Participants and non-Japanese speakers became a minority. Christians were also a minority among volunteers and participants, with most being non-religious. Many times, I found myself questioning how an institute designed to train leaders from various countries could function without them when it is precisely their presence that gives life and meaning to our work.

Without overseas participants

Since its founding, ARI has prided itself on being a multicultural and multilingual community where people of different backgrounds, cultures, and faiths live and work together. Many, myself included, are attracted to ARI as a place to encounter such people. Participants bring with them a rich cultural heritage—everything from farming skills and building techniques to faith traditions and worship styles, dance, music, clothing, and recipes. All of this contributes to the life of sharing that we value so highly. The community's diversity also creates a healthy chaos in which people need to work out their differences in everyday life. Misunderstanding, miscommunication, conflicts, and disagreements are all essential parts of our training.

Now, in place of multiple English accents trying to understand each other, I hear multiple conversations going on in Japanese. I miss the days when I rode to church with a busload of participants dressed in style. Now we don't even have enough people to fill a car. Dorm rooms and dining tables sit empty as we wait, hoping for the border to reopen, and I wonder, how can ARI be ARI without overseas participants.

The three 'pillars' as the answer

The answer comes to me in the form of ARI's three pillars: Foodlife, Servant Leadership, and Community of Learning. The pandemic has not stopped us from continuing these practices that set ARI apart as a community. We are still working the soil and raising livestock to produce our daily food. We still plant and harvest, cook, and eat together. Having a smaller community means that everyone must work harder and more creatively, reminding us that each person's presence is indispensable. More than ever, we have opportunities to practice Servant Leadership: making sacrifices for each other, working together across sections more often, and doing our best to protect one another. We are proud to say that we have remained COVID-free for the second year in a row!





Community Make-Up



44 persons

2021
total number

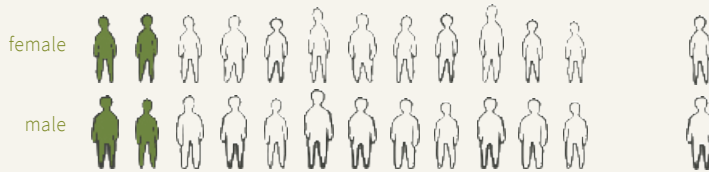


70 persons

2015-19
average number

Participants: 4 vs. 24 persons

TA/GI: 0 vs. 2



Staff: 23 vs. 24 persons



Long-term volunteers: 17 vs. 13 persons



As for Community of Learning, the combination of members is unique to each year, creating bountiful learning opportunities that cannot be orchestrated ahead of time, and this year was no exception. The majority Japanese community made us think more deeply about identity, language, culture, and how we define ourselves. For example, one woman was of European ancestry but born and raised in Japan and another woman was ethnically Japanese but born and raised abroad. So, who was more Japanese? Native English speakers got a taste of what it feels like to be a minority. Japanese-speaking staff had to recognize that, without realizing it, they were excluding and alienating others just by speaking Japanese! Many non-religious volunteers ended up joining church and Bible studies, and our one Muslim member gave us much food for thought.

We certainly miss our overseas participants and are eagerly awaiting their arrival.* But we are waiting with hope and determination as we continue in the ARI mission—That We May Live Together!

*Since April 2022, participants from abroad have been receiving visas and arriving at ARI for the 2022 Rural Leaders Training Program.

Community Members

Staff

Tomoko Arakawa	Director
Osamu Arakawa	Associate Director, Education Director, Farm Manager (Foodlife)
Yukiko Ôyanagi	Associate Director, Curriculum Coordinator
Kaori Sakuma-Vero	General Manager (General Affairs)
Manosi Abe (Chatterjee)	Curriculum (Admissions)
Steven Cutting	Curriculum (Graduate Outreach)
Junko Tanaka	Curriculum (Library)
Timothy B. Appau	Chaplain, Curriculum (Community Life), Foodlife (Livestock)
Jonathan McCurley	Chaplain, Curriculum (Community Life)
Meredith Hoffman	Curriculum (Community Life)
Satomi McCurley	Curriculum (Community Life)
Masanobu Sakurai	Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)
Takashi Ôtani	Foodlife (Livestock)
Ryô Maki	Foodlife (Livestock)
Ikumi Kanamori	Foodlife (FEAST)
Ramon Labial	Foodlife (FEAST)
Nico Jinno (April-August)	Foodlife (FEAST)
Raku Izawa	General Affairs
Mitsue Kimijima (~March)	General Affairs (Accounting)
Yuka Sugisaki (Jan~)	General Affairs (Accounting)
Kaori Andô	General Affairs
Kathy Froede	Ecumenical Relations
Takashi Yamashita	Fundraising & Domestic Programs (External Programs & Nasu Seminar House Manager)
Ruyipa Vero	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Nasu Seminar House Caretaker)
Noriko Nakayama	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (PR, External Programs)
Hiromi Satô	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Sales, PR)
Masayo Fukushima	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Food Processing)
Yûko Emura	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Supporters' Support, PR)

Outsourcing Staff

Thomas Itsuo Fujishima	Branding, ID System Designer, Media Designer
Jun Yagisawa	Media Designer, Editor

Volunteers

Commuting Volunteers

Foodlife (Farm): Izumi Chaen, Tetsu Hayashi
 Foodlife (Farm): Chihiro Azuma, Yûko Kimura, Yumi Suzuki, Kyôko Takamura, Kanako Murayama
 Fundraising & Domestic Programs (Sales): Mie Inomata, Shigeyuki Kashiwaya, Mayuko Sugita, Norie Horiuchi, Takashi Miyake, Christy Appau
 General Affairs (Maintenance): Masuo Shimizu, Takashi Fushimi, Yukio Ide
 General Affairs (Administration): Takayuki Hayasaka

Becquerel Center

Takashi Akutsu (~Dec), Yukio Takashima (~Dec), Mineki Nishikawa, Shôhei Fujimoto (& Sales)

Long-Term Volunteers

Curriculum (Admissions): Maria Abigail Hernandez
 Curriculum (Community Life): Yu-Rong Wang (& FEAST, Admissions)
 Foodlife (Farm): Ken Aratani, Kaito Ikeya, Shûya Inoue, Miki Kanai, Rina Tanaka (& Graduate Outreach), Chihiro Suzuki (& Sales), Haruka Yamaguchi (& FEAST), Yû Araya (& Graduate Outreach)
 Foodlife (FEAST): Nao Inomata, Manami Igari (& Farm), Kanami Takemoto (& Farm), Yûichirô Kubo (& Farm)
 Ecumenical Relations: Emily Bowdle (& Admissions), John Lichten (& Farm)
 Fundraising & Domestic Programs (Sales): Rebecca Namiki (& FEAST, GA)

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Vice Chair

Hôichi Endô (~ May) Former Staff, Asian Rural Institute
 Toshimasa Yamamoto Former Professor, Kwansai Gakuin University (June ~)

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 Rev. Masaoki Hoshino Pastor, UCCJ Aikawa Mission
 Ikkô Marutani (June~) Representative Director, NPO Kino Kankyô
 Takashi Yamashita (June~) Staff, Asian Rural Institute
 Kazue Yamaguchi (~May) Former Representative, National Tomo no Kai
 Masahiko Yamane Former Managing Director, Kagawa Education Institute of Nutrition
 Michiru Yoneda (~May) Superior General, The Sisters of the Visitation
 Sarajejan Rossitto NGO/NPO Consultant



English Farm for Families



Online Curry Workshop



Organic Farming Lecture

Open Learning for Everyone

Learning Together about Food and Farming

Open Learning Programs Report



Takashi Yamashita
Fundraising & Domestic Programs (External Programs, Nasu Seminar House Manager)

In 2020, many situations changed due to the pandemic, and we met people with new concerns and worries. Therefore, in the school year 2021, we started with the theme of “empathizing with people, healing people, and giving hope to people.” We planned programs based on a renewed awareness of ARI’s role where people can touch the soil, talk directly with each other, and share a meal. We were fully booked, but due to the declaration of a state of emergency and measures to prevent the spread of the virus, it became impossible to accept visitors. As a result, the number of visitors was even lower than in 2020. We hoped the situation would improve over the previous year, so we were very disappointed. However, we decided that we could try something else to make people feel ARI’s presence. We tried many things with ‘online’ and ‘local’ as our targets.

Online in action

The online programs included camps, workshops, and campus tours. A curry workshop was a great success and suggested more possibilities. Each participant in this workshop made spicy curry, and ARI’s Indian staff gave online instructions. Everyone used ARI’s agricultural products (pork, vegetables, and rice) that we mailed to the participants’ homes in advance. Even through the screen, we could share the importance of life and food.

Reaching local communities

Other activities were exchange programs with local people. For example, ARI held four one-day sessions called the “Organic Farming Course.” We also held a campus tour for parents and children. In addition, we increased the yearly used book market to four times, and many people from the local community visited the market. In the past, we were more conscious of communicating the value of ARI to the world at large. However, the pandemic has allowed us to look at our hometown again and get involved with the local community. As a result of our continued efforts, we recovered our income from domestic programs (ARI programs) in FY 2021 to a level close to FY 2019.

FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019
\$40,020	\$19,760	\$41,300

Although it is still challenging to predict the future of our society due to the pandemic and other factors, we will continue to plan projects in the 2022 school year that will make visitors to ARI feel safe, comfortable, natural, excited, and eager to return.





Chai Chat



Used Book Fair



Study Camp

“Even though we were in different locations, we were able to share at the same time, the same ingredients, and the same food. I felt ‘life’ with all five senses and had a meaningful time.”

Comment from a curry workshop participant



Study Camp groups

Nippon Photography Institute, Kyoai Gakuen Senior High School; JELA; Student Christian Fellowship; Doshisha University International Residency Study Group; Theological Seminary for Rural Mission; Tokyo Union Church; Kōsei Gakuen Girls' Senior High School; Senior High School at Sakado, University of Tsukuba; Permaculture Seminar Kyoto Seika University

Online

ICU High School; ICU Religious Affairs Department; Meiji Gakuin University; University of the Sacred Heart

Day trip

Shigeta Seminar, Utsunomiya University; Rikkyo University, YMCA

Foodlife at ARI

The Way of Coexistence and Co-Prosperity

Crops & Vegetables Report



Masanobu Sakurai
Foodlife
(Crops & Vegetables)

“Can we produce enough food with only four participants?” Despite ARI’s rich diversity that enhances its functionality, this big question swirled in my mind while sowing the seeds for the vegetables we would eat when, in April 2021, it became clear we would not receive participants from abroad. The fact that there would be fewer workers than usual was a major disadvantage for the work to proceed. Moreover, all four participants were inexperienced farmers.

To obtain the maximum effect with the least amount of labor, we made some innovations in tomato cultivation. We introduced varieties that can be grown in the open field and drastically eliminated the need to prune away the shoots. We pruned tomato seedlings up to the third leaf above the ground, but the shoots from the fourth leaf were left to grow. As a result, stems growing in

all directions bore many fruits at each end. Although building a bamboo arch to prevent the plants from breaking under the weight of the fruit was time-consuming, the medium-sized tomatoes withstood the long rains in June without a protective plastic roof. They grew well enough, even when grown entirely in the open air. As a result, we harvested 214.4 kg from 75 seedlings.

In addition to tomatoes, we actively cultivated summer vegetables such as cucumbers, bitter gourds, purple and green eggplants, and other vegetables, producing harvests as in previous years. This achievement was mainly due to the participants’ and volunteers’ work. They took pride in the fact that they were supporting our dining table and were willing to work hard and sweat, although several were farming for the first time.



Harvest Yield

Crops & Vegetables



7,388 kg
Rice



3,031 kg
Wheat



1,208 kg
Potato

Vegetables and crops with a production of 100 kg or more

850.7 kg	Onion
441.0 kg	Sweet potato
342.7 kg	Cucumber
254.4 kg	Daikon radish
214.4 kg	Matina tomato
207.3 kg	Leaf onion
187.5kg	Chayote
184.3 kg	Eggplant (purple, green)
162.9 kg	Tomato (small)
146.0 kg	Turnip
145.7 kg	Chinese cabbage
136.9 kg	Lettuce
117.7 kg	Butternut squash
100.0 kg	Garlic

Livestock

55.5 kg (7 heads) Goat meat
247 heads Chicken meat
7 kg Goat intestines



119,689
Eggs

54
Pigs

705.8 l
Goat milk

Every ARI community member spent more time doing ‘community work’ in the fields. The work began with planting rice, followed by harvesting potatoes, weeding the soybean fields, sowing and harvesting carrots, weeding and harvesting sweet potatoes, planting sesame seedlings, and harvesting rice. Finally, after early morning work, we would watch the sunrise over the soybean and sweet potato fields. Participants, staff, and volunteers all worked together to grow vegetables, harvested, and ate, sharing the joy of self-sufficiency.

However, there were a few points for reflection. We did not manage weeds in time, and sweet potato yields were not as high as expected. Similarly, the pumpkin yield was not satisfactory. We may not have had enough time and people, but if we had

planned our work a little more carefully, the results might have been different.

Nowadays, it is becoming difficult to recognize the diversity of food culture, as the same ingredients and similar cooking methods are used no matter where you eat. But, at ARI, we eat what we harvest ourselves. We grow more than seventy varieties of vegetables alone—not to mention rice—and produce pork, chicken, eggs, and ducks.

ARI seeks a path of coexistence and co-prosperity, recognizing that humans, as just one of many living organisms, are beings kept alive by the interdependence of biodiversity. ‘Agriculture’ is rooted in the mutual relationship between humans and nature and is an activity that enables both parties to live.



Improving the Livestock Environment

Livestock Report



Ryô Maki
Foodlife (Livestock)

Fewer people in the community necessitated greater cooperation among the various livestock sections. During morning and evening Foodlife Work, we encouraged communication between sections and complemented each other's staffing needs. In addition, we had a strong desire to overcome the coronavirus disaster together.

Poultry Farming

The poultry section was able to raise 206 broilers this past August, and we challenged ourselves to raise them without any vaccines or antibiotics, using only ARI grains, garlic water, and music. The feed used for broiler rearing was bran, a byproduct of wheat flour production. The results were interesting, with a very low mortality rate of two out of 206 birds.

Pig Farming

To raise healthy pigs that do not get sick, the pig section has been striving to improve (1) the intestinal environment of pigs and (2) the fermentation floors where pigs live, focusing on microorganisms common to both environments.

(1) It is said that caring for the intestines prevents all diseases. We felt that it was essential to increase the number of microorganisms in the pigs' intestines and maintain an equilibrium in their intestinal environment. Therefore, we reduced antibiotics given to pigs as they may kill the intestinal microorganisms and make them more susceptible to disease. Since participants from overseas may have difficulties obtaining medicines, we focused on using naturally derived medicines that do not rely on antibiotics. Some pigs recovered from their illnesses by receiving homemade remedies made by adding ginger, garlic, and other ingredients to *shôchû* (distilled spirits).

(2) For the fermented floors to function well, sawdust and pig manure used as bedding must be well mixed, and fermentation must occur in the process of decomposition. We started by introducing microorganisms, which are decomposers. Then it was necessary to create a microor-



ganism-friendly environment in terms of temperature, moisture, and nutrients. By doing these things, the number of sick pigs has been gradually decreasing, and healthy pigs have increased.

Goat and Beekeeping

The goat and beekeeping section made the best use of the resources available on campus without relying on external resources and strived to establish an entire cycle within ARI.

In the "Goat Forest" project, we produced mulberry and loquat seedlings from cuttings and planted them in the goat pasture. We used the leaves not only as fodder for goats but also as herbal medicine, the berries for food, and the remaining branches and leaves were crushed and used as mulch. In addition to the trees providing shade from the intense summer sun, their roots help retain soil, and the flowers give pollen for bees. Goat manure and milk are also used as organic materials to support growth, and the community consumes all the meat and milk from the goats raised. All parts play a role at ARI.

We increased cooperation between departments by cutting the weeds in the fields, which are a nuisance for the crops and vegetable section and feeding them to

the goats. In addition, introducing an electric fence using solar panels has allowed goats to graze bamboo thickets on slopes that were previously difficult to use as fodder. As a result, we raised the rate of feed self-sufficiency to 84%.



The Interest in Food and the Challenges

FEAST Report



Ikumi Kanamori
Foodlife (FEAST)

In 2021, in addition to the daily meal preparation duty, participants and volunteers were often seen in the kitchen preparing something in their free time. Their creativity allowed us to celebrate our bounty through shared eating, with various delicacies made with ingredients unique to ARI.

We drank fresh goat milk, delivered every morning and evening, and used it in soups and stews, expanding the variety of dishes. During the high milking season, we even made yogurt and cottage cheese, which we enjoyed with homemade bread and jam.

In the summer, many tomatoes came to our kitchen almost daily. Tomatoes are an essential ingredient in the cuisine of many different countries and a vegetable used throughout the year. But they are only harvested for about four months at ARI and cannot be stored fresh for long. The extra tomatoes are frozen or processed into a puree, salsa, and ketchup, which are then bottled and stored at room temperature for a long time.

Participants also learned food processing in class. A few community members started a pork processing project making bacon by experimenting with spice blends and salting methods. As a challenge, they used things on hand around the ARI campus to build a small smoker. We enjoyed how delicious ARI's pork tastes differently from the usual fare.

Recipes and tips for baking bread with fermented natural yeast have been passed down among the volunteers, and in a corner of the kitchen, there is always someone taking care of the fermented bread starter. Even if the members change, there is never a shortage of bread bakers. In addition, we also made fermented foods such as kimchi, *takuan* (pickled radish), and *nattô* (fermented soybeans). Many have requested new books on fermentation and cooking from the library, and we feel that interest in fermentation is growing throughout the community.

Due to the community's small size, the overall food consumption was much lower than we had anticipated. To value every-

one's labor and the life given for the food, the FEAST section strives to make as accurate a projection as possible of the amount needed for all food items. We consider the capacity of the storage space, suggest how much is needed for a self-sufficient lifestyle, and continually seek ways to make effective use of our food without wasting it. As a result, the FEAST section is now being called upon even more than before. To this end, I reaffirmed that clear communication with other sections, including crops & vegetables, livestock, and sales, is an important task that cannot be curtailed, even during days when we are often pressed for time and staffing.

No matter how many or how few people are involved, we will continue to pursue the mission of the FEAST* name so that ARI's kitchen and dining hall will continue to be places where the community can come together and share the life given for the food.

* The acronym of our food service section means Food Education and Sustainable Table.



Together with Supporters



Close Relations Despite Closed Borders

Ecumenical Relations Report

We met our overseas friends, supporters, and volunteers more than ever in 2021! Although we could not meet in person, phone and video calls abounded as we reached out to pass on updates and see how you were doing. This year, with the virus continuing and Japan's borders closed, we came up with new ways of doing things that I believe will continue after travel resumes. So, instead of thinking about what we could not do, we brainstormed about what we could.

We collaborated with American Friends of ARI to bring ARI to America with two webinars: 'Fireside Chat' and 'Sustainable Thanksgiving.' Staff, volunteers, and graduates talked about their contexts, opportunities, and encouragement. Attendees expressed their happiness at being connected to ARI through the years and looked forward to mutual visits.

Our donors blessed us by responding to our changing needs. One supporter said, "We are committed to walking together, working with you in the context you are in and that you know best." Funds were reallocated

from their designation, for example, travel funds for visiting farmers and cooperatives in other prefectures went to the curriculum to enable us to have lecturers throughout Japan teach online. Scholarship funds went to general expenses and will be held until participants arrive next year. We received virus mitigation funds for the costly PCR tests. Another grant allowed us to improve our WiFi system and online presence, therefore we expect fewer struggles when hosting many online attendees.

We reformatted our English newsletter, *Take My Hand*, for easier reading and went from twelve pages two times per year to four pages two to three times per year, introducing a theme in each issue. In 2021 our themes were 'Transformation' and 'Peace and Reconciliation.'

Volunteers and interns are a vital part of ARI, and four from overseas enriched our community from two months to two years. Unfortunately, they all returned home in 2021, and while the desire of candidates to come to ARI remains high, we still await an open border to welcome new community members.

The mission of the ecumenical relations section

Work to deepen and broaden ARI's relationship with its community of overseas supporters and partners and to strengthen the overall fund-raising program.

In addition, play a key role in implementing ARI's overseas communication strategy to reach diverse audiences and build awareness of ARI's mission and impact.



Kathy Froede
Ecumenical Relations



I have never visited ARI but have known of its existence since 1996.

First, I lived in Japan, and became friends with Susan Adams, a UCC missionary at ARI. Then in November 2016, I got to know Bev Abma (AFARI board member). Bev talked about ARI, and in January 2019, I visited Kenya with Bev and Tomoko Arakawa, ARI Director. We met with ARI graduates and visited their projects. To see how these graduates took their ARI training and were in various ways empowering and changing their communities was inspiring.

So why do I support ARI? Because it is impacting the lives of individuals and communities. The training does not 'do' for the participants but allows them to learn and practice skills that they can use to transform their home communities.

Martha Bessac, supporter

Friends Who Together Build ARI

Supporters Care Report

In 2021 we had few opportunities to meet directly with you, the supporters, and we had no participants from abroad. Therefore, we feared that in 2021 society had become accustomed to the COVID-19 pandemic and that our supporters' feelings toward ARI would fade away. However, our total domestic donations reached the same level as in FY 2020. In addition to monetary donations, some people supported ARI with donations of postcards, stamps, and other goods; schools and churches wished to be connected online; people sent messages of support, and many others prayed for ARI in unseen ways. With the support of every one of these people, we conducted a fulfilling training program this year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

"ARI's ongoing activities personally empower me." Whenever I hear such words from supporters, it warms my heart to know that ARI is not alone and that the thoughts and prayers of people all over the world keep us alive. The thought of making the utmost use of everyone's heartfelt support infused me with new motivation.

Taking advantage of the long time I spent on campus last year, I tried to reach out to each of our first-time supporters by calling or writing personally to ask them how they came to support us. We also sent newsletters to those we had not been in touch with for a while to let them know about the current situation at ARI. We were able to reconnect with them and hope to continue to revive our connections with more and more people.

From our graduates, we learned of the severe impact of the coup d'état in Myanmar. We asked churches and Christian schools to pray for them and collected donations for Myanmar. It has been meaningful to pursue the mission of ARI with you as we reflect on the current situation and the work of our graduates.

The supporters are our friends with whom we build ARI together. We hope that you will continue to feel closer to ARI and that together we can joyfully realize a society where we can "live together."



Yûko Emura
Fundraising & Domestic
Programs (Supporters Care)

In 2021, despite people being restricted from freely going out and interacting with each other as in previous years, the sales section exceeded its goal. We achieved record sales by working with many people to change our thinking and seek new perspectives.

Due to government restrictions, many restaurant partners using our eggs and pork were forced to close for a while. Nevertheless, we kept in close contact with customers both inside and outside ARI. When the restaurants were able to open even for a few days, they contacted us for products. Sales also communicated closely with the farm and livestock staff to know the production schedule for products to sell. This took more time and effort than usual, but in retrospect, it resulted in a rich accumulation of communication and provided an opportunity to deepen our relationship of trust.

For about eight months each year, ARI participates in the semi-monthly local organic market, Ôhinata Marché. We increased our participation in various operations of the *marché* since it is now run as a

Turning Difficulties into Opportunities

Sales Report

workers' collective*. Although this was a new initiative for all participants, it strengthened the bonds among the members and provided an opportunity to put the philosophy of servant leadership into concrete practice. In the end, sales at the *marché* were 1.5 times higher than in previous years. Moreover, it was meaningful to share the experience of overcoming difficulties even in a constrained social environment.

While mailing orders for ARI products, we split back issues of *Ajia no Tsuchi*, our Japanese newsletter, into individual articles. We attached these to more than 2,000 items, such as eggs, cookies, rice, and carrot juice, giving those who purchased our products more opportunities to learn about ARI's activities.

Completing all the detailed work during

difficulties is not something one person can do alone. Therefore, I am grateful to all those involved in this project. We realized that collaboration and sharing results is the power that keeps us going and leads to success.



Hiromi Satô
Fundraising & Domestic
Programs (Sales, PR)

*Workers collective: individual participating organizations share equally in the overall management of the project and responsibilities.

Our Overseas Supporters and Partners

Individuals

Bev Abma
Pamela C. Anders
Marie Bade
Verlyn L. Barker
Bill Beck
Martha Bessac
Gordon & Janet Blake
Linda Bloom
Dan and Barbara Bohi
Nathan and Imogene Bolls
Stephen Brown
in honor of Rebecca Namiki
Lawrence and Cora Brown
Patricia Budiman
Robbie Buller and Chou Ly
Kathy Burton-Lewis
Diana Chapel
Fred G. Clark
Shannon Clarkson
Barbara Coates
Mary Anne and Ephraim Cohen
Cynthia Cosper
Margaret Crawl
Elizabeth Cutting
Richard & Alice Dailey
Kenneth Dale
Sherry DeLeon
Lois Dickason
Ruth Dyck
in memory of Evelyn Kroehler
Naarah Eichenauer
Marie Ferrarin
Carolyn Francis
Dean and Elsie Freudenberger
Kathy Froede
Ben and Carol Fujita
Bob and Laura Fukada
Joan Fumetti
Martha Gale and Bob Carpenter
Bruce and Karen Garver
Jo and Ken Gelhaus
Jack and Rosalyn Gillisse
Donald and Melinda Goodick
James and Noriko Goto
in honor of J.B. Hoover
Daniel and Hiroko Goto
Marcia Hampton
Margaret Hardenbergh and Carl Wies
in honor of Margret Hofmeister
Pam and Souk Hasegawa
Jacqueline Haslett
Paul Hastings and Debbie Wissel
Tom and Carol Hastings
Nelima Hazra
Lorna and Will Henkel
Carl and Mary Henry
Christy Hewitt
in memory of Frank and Marion Taylor
John E. Hill and Jeannette Dejong
David and Sandra Hirano
George Hirose
Charity Hoffman
Rev. Margret Hofmeister and Linda Erlanger

Theresa Hofmeister
William and Eleanor Honaman
J.B. and Adeline Hoover
Cheri Howe
Christina Hutton
Arthur and Gloria Imagire
Nancy and Thomas Inui
Joan Ishibashi
Kyoko and Hatsuhiko Kageyama
Gabriele Kasper
Eunice Kaymen
Douglas and Marjorie Kinsey
Yuliya Kokoshinskiy
Mary Jo Kremer
LaVerne Kroehler
Ronald and Elizabeth Kutscher
Martin and Barbara Lang
Dot Larkin
Rev. James Latimer
Jim and Gretchen Lewis
Margaret Logan
Rebecca Lopez
George and Joyce Magee
Julia Manners
Ellen and Jim Marsey
Dominic Massetti
Kathleen Matsushima
Ken and Diane Matsuura
Patrick and Eunice McArdle
Barbara Mensendiek
Marvin Miller
Eleanor Moore
Elizabeth Mooy
Michiko and Tom Morgan
Rosalind Morris
Jack Moss
in honor of Jeff Roeser, Carolyn Moss
and Malcolm Foster, Ashley Erickson,
Patricia Roeser, Allison Roeser
Barbara L. Mueller
Mary Nakamura
Bud and Shirley Nelson
Emily Nelson
Roxane Netzler
Amy Ochi
Stan and LoAnne Olson
Kevin O'Toole
Bill Pallett
Albert Papp
Howard and Martha Parker
Margaret and Jeff Pasquale
in honor of Evelyn and Armin Kroehler
Donald Patenaude
Alison Pease and Jeff Staniels
Nate Petersen
Marti Peterson
Christina Purdy
Dave Ransom
Bob and Joyce Ray
Dr. Stefan Reiff
Patricia and Randy Roeser
Ken and Connie Sansome
Mariellen Sawada-Yoshino
Lisa Schaechter
The Rev. Donald Seely
Joy and Gerald Sekimura

Kay Shanks
Takeshi Shimizu
Janet Shoger
Anna and Pete Speiser
Mid and Carol Squier
Kenneth Stanford
Barb Stapleton
Phil and Valerie Stichter
Keitha and Jim Swaim
Lee and Dotty Swan
Mark Swanson
Evelyn and Donald Sweetser
Shane Taber
Sachi Taketa
Norma Taplin
Don and Majorie Tarr Charitable Donor
Advised Fund

Stephen Tarr
Elizabeth Teague
Katherine Tegtmeyer Pak
Robert and Hazel Terhune
Kathryn and Jim Treece
Glenn Van Haitzma
Harold Velasquez
Jacob Waybright
Ellen Webster
Millicent M. Wetrich
Ben and Carolyn Whitehill
Janet and Gene Witt
Angie Xiong
Roy and Frances Yamaki
Lawrence and Jean Young
Don Ziegler

Overseas Volunteer and Intern Sending Bodies

Brethren Volunteer Service (U.S.)
United Methodist Church, Global Ministries (U.S.)
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ) (U.S.)
Wellesley College (U.S.)

Organizations

Almaden Hills United Methodist Church
Amazon Smile
American Friends of the Asian Rural Institute (AFARI)
Countryside Community Church, Omaha, NE
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
First Congregational Church in Amherst - UCC, Amherst, MA
Friendship Church, Byron Center, MI
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ)
Global Ministries - The United Methodist Church
Grace United Methodist Church, Fergus Falls, MN
Harris United Methodist Church, Honolulu, HI
Javan and Neva Corl Family Foundation
Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church, East Hanover, NJ
Pearl City Community Church, Pearl City, HI
Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, Sacramento, CA
Saint Alban's Anglican Episcopal Church, Tokyo, Japan
San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church, San Luis Obispo, CA
Sebastian United Methodist Church, Sebastian, FL
Shalom United Church of Christ, New Haven, CT
Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Church, York, PA
Takami and Friends Fund
The United Church of Canada
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
Vanguard
Wells Fargo
Wesley United Methodist Church, San Jose, CA

We express our gratitude to the many donors.

A list of individuals, congregations and other organizations in Japan who donated toward ARI during FY 2021 can be found in the Japanese version of the 2021 Annual Report and *Ajia no Tsuchi*, our Japanese language newsletter.

Graduates at Work



Myanmar

Graduates Caught up in Myanmar's Civil War



Steven Cutting
Graduate Outreach

On the first of February 2021, Myanmar's military staged a coup d'état and took control of the nation's democratically elected government. In response, the people peacefully took to the streets, demanding the return of their fledgling democracy that had taken root in the last ten years. Their calls were met with guns, tanks, and mass arrests. In the months that followed the violence only escalated. Ethnic groups and other opponents of the military government once again took up arms and the army commenced with bombings and ever-larger military operations. The country is now in a state of civil war. As always, civilians are caught in the middle and thousands have fled their homes to hide in the jungles, becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs), or to seek safety in neighboring countries.

There are 93 ARI graduates from Myanmar, spread across towns and villages in

every corner of the country. Through social media, ARI is in direct contact with them. "The situation is getting worse," one graduate wrote. "We are moving backward, not forward. I feel like we are living in a nightmare."

Without making names public, here are more accounts. They speak of hope and perseverance in dark times; of graduates still serving others, even when they themselves have lost everything.

Kayah State is referred to as a "black area" where fighting is intense. One graduate writes: "We have been facing civil war for several months. I lost my home and my farm, too. There are hundreds of thousands of refugees in our region now. I am with them. Last month, I invited a medical team to give medical care. There were twenty-two members in that group, including doctors, nurses, and volunteers. I am a rural leader



2



3

so I must spend my life with the people to overcome the darkness.”

One ARI graduate is the general secretary of a YMCA branch: “By the grace of God, we are staying safe in my place, though we are always anxious about the coup, civil war, and COVID-19. We are trying to help needy people from poor communities. We give health care services free of charge and contribute basic food supplies to their families. Last month we provided medicine to a camp for IDPs.”

Thantlang Town in Chin State—another black area—had a population of over 10,000. It now stands empty as the army systematically destroyed houses, churches, and stores. An ARI graduate and his family were forced to flee to India: “Thank you very much for your concern and prayers for me and our Chin people. We are living in one of the boundary villages of Mizoram, India. There

are over 800 families, Chin refugees, here. The military burned my house and my parents’ house, but we are stronger than before. We hope and trust God to return home, and to rebuild a new house. Now, my colleagues and I are preparing a counselling program for refugees. The church members and all of the IDPs and refugees need not only physical help but also emotional support.”

Another graduate writes: “I moved to Kachin State, in northern Myanmar, six months ago. Here it is quite silent, but some places are very terrible. Our seminary is closed, so I am trying to start a new organic garden here. I am also continuing my seed garden project and have built a small mud house as a seed bank.”

Finally, a message from ARIGAM, the ARI Graduate Association of Myanmar. They are a group of graduates who have formed a network for communication and mutual

support. Once a year they meet to share information, eat, and laugh together, much like a family reunion. Prior to the coup, they were planning to build an ARIGAM farm and training center. Now those plans are on hold, but despite all that has happened they are still keeping their dream: “Our ARIGAM training center, surely, we are going to found it for our future generation.”

Other Stories

ERITREA

2018 graduate Adiam Rezene (Ministry of Agriculture) provided training on organic farming to 125 agricultural experts in all six regions of the country. Sessions included harvesting indigenous microorganisms and making *bokashi* and fish amino acid. With her team, she also started bio-fertilizer experiments using seaweed which is plentiful on their beaches.

BANGLADESH

Clara Biswas, 1987 graduate from Bangladesh, completed her service as a missionary for the United Methodist Church in Cambodia. For over 21 years, she served as director of Street Children Ministries in Phnom Penh, extending the love of Christ to the children as their teacher, mother, nurse, and big sister.

ONLINE

On February 17, ARI’s Graduate Outreach desk piloted an online round-table discussion for graduates. The topic was “Coffee – Growing, Marketing, and Community Engagement” and seven graduates from five countries gathered to share their experiences. More round-table discussions are in the works to extend the community of learning beyond the campus.

Photos

1. Despite the civil war, agricultural training continues at the Sustainable Development Training Center established by ARI graduates in 2019 (Chin State).
2. Food assistance for internally displaced persons at a local YMCA. Led by two generations of ARI graduates, the YMCA has been providing free medical services for more than thirty years.
3. The home of a graduate and the graduate’s parents burned by the military. The church and other houses were later also burned to the ground (Chin State).

Migration Realities and Rural Development

José Resol, 1990 graduate

Photo: Joefel (third from left) and a family group of OFWs on the land that is going to be an agroforestry training center.



Every day, thousands of Filipinos leave their country to become so-called overseas foreign workers (OFWs) in other lands. Many of the twelve million Filipino OFWs work as servants, nurses, doctors, and seamen, and send about thirty billion US dollars home every year. However, a majority of those who return home have experienced maltreatment, abuse, or rape, and some even lose their lives.

When José “Joefel” Resol participated in ARI’s training program in 1990, he was already aware that the Philippines was exporting not only bananas and shrimp to Japan, but also migrant workers for factories and the entertainment industry as well as brides for Japanese men. “During my training,” he writes, “I had a chance to meet some of them, including girls as young as fifteen working in night clubs and factory workers who were not receiving their pay. This was where my advocacy work on behalf of overseas foreign workers began.”

Currently, Joefel works in Western Visayas as the regional program coordinator of ATHIKA Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives, Inc. Recognizing that there are positive and negative impacts of migration, the organization seeks to maximize the good and minimize the bad. They arrange pre-departure orientation seminars and family and income management trainings. Since OFWs often come home with little savings, already old and sick, and, in the worst cases, to broken families, they offer reintegration counselling and planning, skills training, and social entrepreneurship training. In Western Visayas, they have

already reached out to 2,500 OFWs and their families. Joefel also assists those who face distress in their host countries by helping them return to the Philippines or fight for their rights against abusive employers and agencies.

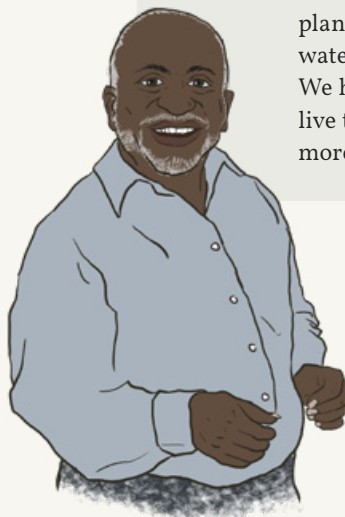
Most OFWs are from farming communities that face difficulties such as the high costs of farm inputs, the low prices of farm products, and global warming impact. In this respect, ARI’s agricultural training continues to be relevant to Joefel as he provides education on organic farming systems to free farmers from accumulating debts. If there can be stability at home, the OFW

members in the families can return for good.

Joefel is now developing thirty hectares of government land into an agroforestry training center as part of ATHIKA’s reintegration program. They have already organized local OFWs and their families, and provided training on organic vegetable production. Soon they will plant other crops without using the herbicides that are common in the area and degrade the soil.

“The sacrifices and suffering of OFWs and their families inspire and strengthen me continuously to respond to their needs,” says Joefel. “I pray that these minimal efforts would give a flicker of hope to our people.”

ARI really nurtured me. I have come to understand my environment and its people. You opened my ears and eyes.



Takami Sensei, one time in class, said that plants are our brothers and sisters, they need water, food, warmth, and space, just like us. We have to live in harmony, so ‘that we may live together.’ It takes one to learn more and more to understand this concept.

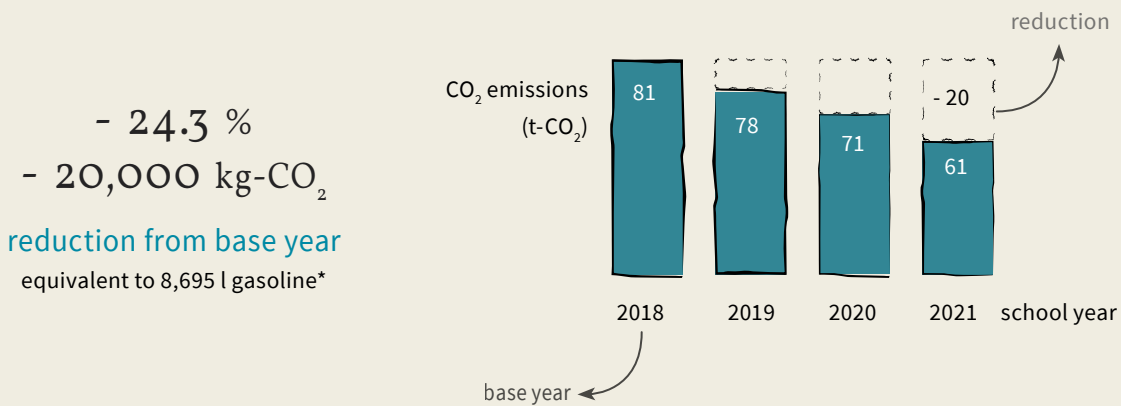
Paul Samba, 2004 graduate, Zambia

currently working as Dean of Student Affairs and Registrar at the United Church of Zambia University in Kitwe, Zambia

Energy and Resource Use at ARI

With 2018 as the base year, ARI is committed to carbon reduction and in 2021, we were even more proactive than before and committed to sustainable energy use. We will continue to focus our efforts on sustainable energy use.

⚡ CO₂ Reduction from Solar Energy Production



*Gasoline emissions calculations are based on data from Natural Resources Canada. (One liter of gasoline is equivalent to about 2.3 kg-CO₂)
https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/oeo/pdf/transportation/fuel-efficient-technologies/autosmart_factsheet_6_e.pdf

💧 Energy Usage in 2021 (electricity, kerosene, petroleum gas)



61,000 kg-CO₂
 carbon dioxide emissions
 equivalent to 26,522 l gasoline

kerosene
 4,495 l

gasoline
 4,369 l

diesel
 4,348 l

natural gas
 1,117 m³

⚡ Energy Production in 2021



18,675 kWh
 Cumulative power
 generation

↓ equals

- 8,413 kg-CO₂
 CO₂ emissions
 reduction



equivalent to 601 trees / 3,658 l gasoline
 cumulative equivalent in yen: 392,182 yen

Finances

Balance Sheet

Assets	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2022
Current assets	536,428	447,104
Fixed assets	6,687,477	6,312,386
Property	6,241,533	5,944,515
Specified assets	442,691	364,617
Other fixed assets	3,253	3,253
Total Assets	7,223,904	6,759,490
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	345,821	261,257
Fixed liabilities	1,287,615	1,248,833
Total liabilities	1,633,436	1,510,091
Endowment		
Total Endowment	9,902,742	9,933,274
Net Assets		
Balance carried forward	-4,311,691	-4,683,874
Total net assets	5,590,469	5,249,399
Total liabilities and net assets	7,223,683	6,759,490

Original numbers are in Japanese yen. The exchange rate to US\$ is .0082

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure

Operating Revenue	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Educational activities revenue		
Scholarships and fees	264,202	57,610
Fees for issuing certificate	262	374
Donations	646,866	680,942
Subsidies for ordinary expenses	0	820
Sales and special services (FuRa)	153,201	191,604
Miscellaneous revenue	45,330	46,881
Total educational activities revenue	1,109,861	978,231
Total non-educational activities revenue	246	131
Total operating revenue	1,110,107	978,362
Operating Expenses		
Educational activities expenses		
Personnel	681,129	679,957
Education and research	221,351	113,507
Administration	542,067	520,120
Total educational activities expenses	1,444,547	1,313,583
Total non-educational activities expenses	8,036	5,366
Special expenses	0	482
Depreciation	342,722	352,323
Total operating expenses	1,452,583	1,319,431
Incorporation into designated fund		\$30,500
Net operating gain(loss; includes depreciation)		\$371,600

Cash Flow Statement

Balance carried over from previous year	481,848
Balance carried forward to next year	399,857

Auditors' Statement

The above duly audited financial statements have been prepared by the Fujinuma Tax and Accounting Service, Inc, and approved by the ARI auditors, Mr. Ôkubo and Mr. Murata. All the documents were properly kept and there were no irregularities.

May 11, 2022
Asian Rural Institute

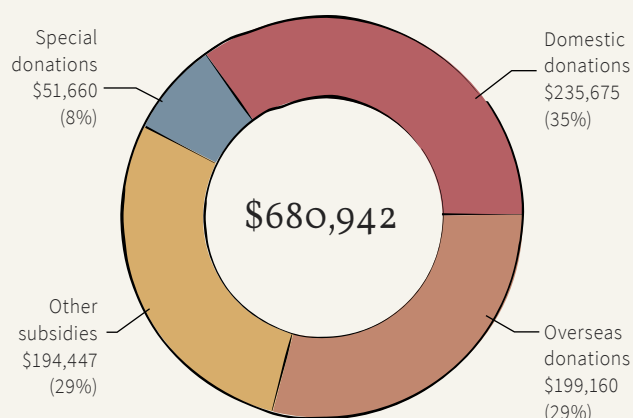
大久保知宏

Tomohiro Ôkubo

村田 榮

Sakae Murata

Donations by Category



Balance Sheet

Assets at the end of FY 2021 were approximately \$6,800,000, a decrease of \$464,000 from FY 2020. In FY 2021, a total reserve of around \$45,000 was maintained, including \$24,600 for retirement benefits and \$20,000 for maintenance of facilities and equipment. Total liabilities decreased by \$123,000 to \$1,500,000.

Cash Flow Statement

At the end of FY 2021, funds carried forward to FY 2022 totaled \$400,000, a decrease of approximately \$82,000 from FY 2020. This was due to the maintenance of facilities and equipment required for COVID-19 control and training (approx. \$55,700) and the redemption of school bonds (3 bonds, \$20,500).

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Revenue	FY 2020 US\$	FY 2021 US\$
Scholarships	188,000	57,600
Donations	628,000	680,000
Sales and special services (FuRa)	153,000	191,600
Operating Expenses	1,384,000	1,319,431

Scholarships

Due to COVID-19, no overseas participants could come to Japan, and tuition/scholarship income was only for four participants who enrolled from Japan. With the donors' permission, scholarships from four organizations (totaling \$112,300) were reallocated to unrestricted donations, \$23,800 was carried over to 2022, and \$70,000 was canceled.

Donations

Both domestic and overseas donations exceeded the previous year's results and budget. The amount of donations was higher than budgeted due in part to COVID-19-related donations.

Sales and Special Services (FuRa)

Although there were restrictions under COVID-19, we generated the same level of revenue as in FY 2019. This resulted from our positive efforts and ingenuity in the face of difficulties. Sales were at an all-time high, and income from online camps, curry workshops, used book fairs, and the collection of canceled post-cards and stamps also increased.

Operating Expenses

We curbed approximately \$72,000 from the previous year and approximately \$132,000 from the budget. The main reason for lower expenses is the unused and reduced education and research expenses due to a decrease in the number of participants. We reduced student travel, scholarship, and welfare expenses, scaled back out-of-prefecture study trips, and introduced online classes. Canceling overseas business trips and activities also significantly impacted the decrease in expenses.

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The 2021 Graduates

Rural Leaders Training Program

Guinea
Japan

1. Fatoumata Diaraye Bah
2. Keisuke Katô
3. Jun Matsui
4. Eri Okada

Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center



That We May Live Together

address Tochigi, Nasushiobara.
Tsukinukizawa 442-1
329-2703 JAPAN

email info@ari-edu.org
tel 0287-36-3111
fax 0287-37-5833

website www.ari-edu.org
Facebook Asian Rural Institute
Instagram @asian_rural_institute