

Asian Rural Institute

Rural Leaders Training Center



Our Class of 2023

Rural Leaders Training Program

This year, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we welcome 27 participants to the Rural Leaders Training Program and 3 graduates to the Advanced Training Course, representing 14 countries.

Nepal



Sangita Chaudhary

Sister Home Organization (SHO)

Assistant to Director and Secretary

(Sangita) After being confronted with the patriarchy in my community, I strive to empower young women and give the youth the opportunities in life they deserve. The 'Sister Home' provides education to orphan children and classes to women group to inform about the marginalization of women. At ARI, I want to hone my leadership and engage in many discussions.

Sierra Leone



Aminata Conteh

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone

Field Officer

(Ami) I am involved in a program teaching my community income saving and investment methods. Our aim is to make the church and families sustainable and build an opportunity for their kids to go to school. We also offer empowerment classes for women and extracurricular activities. At ARI, I want to enhance my management skills.

Cameroon



Veranso Benjamin Litika

Rural Transformation Center

Field Worker

(Ben) I want to improve the livelihoods of my community members. I work in the areas of beekeeping, natural medicine and sustainable agriculture, specifically teaching farmers on the merits of being free of agrochemicals. At ARI, I want to experience other cultures, religions, and to gain agricultural knowledge on disease control in crops and livestock.



Claris Suinyuy Buhven

Rural Women Development Center

Field Monitor, Assistant

(Claris) I want to increase women's self-sufficiency and financial stability. I provide administrative support in the area of preparing financial requests for my organization, represent my organization in meetings and help on the farm. At ARI, I look forward to increasing my knowledge in organic agriculture, mushroom cultivation, and plant propagation.

Ecuador



Joselin Carolina Coyago Tallana

Sociedad de Amigos Nino Ecuatoriano (SANE)

Project Coordinator & Field Technician

(Joselin) I help children and teachers build school gardens for lunch programming. I use this data to monitor compliance with state institutions. In my home garden, I sell fruit pulp and give agricultural advice. At ARI, I hope to learn how to lead rural equity projects, promote cultural exchange, and create sustainable business models.

India



Tamreichan Zimik

Community Educational Center Society

Counselor, Farm Manager

(Zimik) With my dual roles to students, I provide counseling and spiritual guidance, in addition to helping them plant, weed, and water the crops. I help my students manage their time, access agricultural technology, and deal with natural calamities. My goals at ARI include gaining time management, farming, and use of local resource skills.



Amorsing Basumatary

Boro Baptist Church Association

Progressive Farmer

(Amor) I want to motivate the people to adopt better methods of farming. I prepare the ground for seeding, weeding, and tilling along with making office visits to network with government officials. During my time at ARI, I would like to strengthen my farming methods, leadership skills, and engage my community.



Meidinlung Gangmei

Indigenous Women and Children Foundation

Case Worker

(Meidin) I strengthen my community through self-sustaining agriculture techniques to lessen dependency on imported products. Our vision is to create a just society where all enjoy human rights. Through ARI, I plan to learn more on food processing, capacity building, and how to build a healthy and peaceful world through the love of Christ.

Indonesia



Yohanes Ali

Bernadus Palus Church

Farm Coordinator

(Yohanes) I am responsible for cultivating plants, improving yields, and eliminating insect and environmental stressors. Plant propagation, cultivation, yields, nutritional value, and environmental stressors are priorities in my work. I would like to strengthen my farming leadership and community building skills while I am participating at ARI.



Angela Ratna Sari Bui

Sant Maria Immaculata Parish

Community Developer

(Angel) I collaborate with local farmers and youth to leverage innovative techniques mitigating climate change through organic farming. As a strong connection to my community, I strengthen relationships with those members. At ARI, I plan to expand my leadership and organic farming skills to help my community preserve its cultural heritage.



Yeni Eria Togatorop

Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP)

Secretary on Gender Justice

(Yeyen) My passion is to serve my community to ensure everyone's strengths are shared. As a Gender Justice Team Member, I work to empower women by organizing workshops on gender and equality issues. While at ARI, I plan to expand knowledge in organic farming to help under-privileged children sustain themselves and their families.

Indonesia



Jakob Siringoringo

The Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago

Communication and Social-Economic Organizer

(Jakob) I maintain my organization's web and social media sites to promote farmers' land rights and income-producing strategies. My passion is to promote the development of indigenous traditional farming skills. In my ARI participation, I want to learn best practices in organic farming and leadership development in order to strengthen my community members, leaving no one behind.



Jontra Martua Purba

Gereja Kristen Protestan Indonesia (GKPI)

Pastor & Farming Assistant

(Jon) I lead Bible studies, manage church finances, lead worship services, and make home visits to youth, elderly, and sick members along with managing a catfish farm. During my participation at ARI, I hope to expand my skills in organic farming, community development, livestock management, and seed saving.

Haiti



Louis-Taire Pierre

Haiti-no-kai (Association Haiti)

Agricultural Coordinator

(Pierre) "An effective leader understands and responds to the needs of the community." As a teacher since 2018, I impart knowledge on poultry farming, coordinate farm activities and livestock management. At ARI, I want to increase my agriculture proficiencies, leadership skills, understand more about effective communication and the value of respecting others.

Liberia



Darkpon Dolokelen

Restoration of Educational Advancement Programs

Agricultural Promoter

(Dee) My community needs to build a system where young people are empowered to self actualize. I do this as their teacher, by giving my students skills in agricultural theory and vocational practice in running the school's farm. During my participation at ARI, I plan to learn organic farming techniques, grow diverse crops, and enhance soil quality.



Helena Koko Ben

Voinjama Free Pentecostal Church Health Center

Agriculture Project Manager, Health Center Volunteer

(Heley) "Unless we work to become self-supporting, it is practically impossible for us to gain self-hood." I play a role in self-sufficiency by working with the community to grow four acres of cassava. At ARI, I am interested in servant leadership, how to use local resources without chemicals, and interact with different races, colors, and religions.



Mary S. Ylatun

United Methodist Rural and Agricultural Development Program

Field Supervisor

(Mary) I am responsible for planning and supervising all farming activities within the challenges of my community. Those challenges involve shortage of schools, roads, and medical resources. At ARI I want to be educated in organic fertilizers, pest management, plant diseases, servant leadership, rural development, and sustainable agriculture.

Zambia



Geoffrey Mbewe

Ecumenical Development Foundation

Program Manager & Mechanic

(Geoffrey) My passion is to help develop my community in technical aspects of farming. I help local farmers maintain their machinery and operate their farms efficiently. In addition, I have trained formerly incarcerated women to develop incomes in agriculture. At ARI I plan to learn techniques to maximize efficiency and self-sufficiency in raising livestock.



Kaliyat Bilkisu David

Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) Women Fellowship

Teacher

(Kally) It is my passion and luckily my job to inspire and teach younger generations about the importance of sustainable farming. Besides my occupation I also engage in poultry farming, managing resources. I hope to deepen my knowledge through the ARI training program, focusing on cultivation methods and organic fertilizers/pesticides.



Pwadadi Raymond

Catholic Church Women Fellowship Group

Assistant Women Leader

(Ray) I work with families and orphans. My responsibilities are resource management, including tooltries, organizing workshops on the importance of women's education, and liaising with experts to train women on using farming implements. That is why I would like to improve my resource management and look for creative problem resolutions.

Myanmar



Gu Tar Hu

Waing Maw Lisu Baptist Association (WLBA)

Director of Development, Minister

(Gu Tar) I am a minister working to improve the lives of those in my farming community through development projects and emergency relief efforts. I hope to learn more about nature-positive agriculture, environmental conservation, and community leadership and bring new ideas back to my home in Myanmar.



Saw Hser Moo

Rev. Dr. R. L. Pokey Memorial Theological School

Farm Manager, Teacher

(Hser) I would like to improve the health systems and agricultural techniques of low-lying rural areas. Serving in our school, I can teach students how to serve our human society as a holistic mission. At ARI, I want to learn more about livestock and integrated farming to conduct practical vocational training for students to lead their communities.



Pa Maung Lia

Community Association for Rural Development (CARD)

Livelihood and Training Coordinator, Pastor

(Pa Maung) As a pastor and farmer, I understand the problems of my area, one struggling to make a living from the soil. I manage emergency relief and recovery, teach agricultural techniques, and environmental awareness. At ARI, I want to discover strategies for women's empowerment, hone my leadership skills, and acquire innovative agricultural techniques to boost community development.

Myanmar



Fung Kyaw Set

Naga Public Organization (NPO)

Farmer and Church Studio Sound Engineer

(Fung) I engage mainly in experimental damson farming, trying new cultivation methods to increase our yield and widen our customer range. Besides selling to local wineries, we pickle our products. At ARI, I want to learn about seed saving and broaden my spectrum on food processing, as well as agricultural methods.

Uganda



Aron Nebin Otim

St. Jude Children's Home

Farming Assistant & Health Coordinator

(Otim) At St. Jude's farm, my responsibility is to assist with planting crops, feeding animals and other farm work. At the Home, I help children with hygiene, feeding, motivating, and teaching nutrition classes. Other projects are reforestation and coordinating first aid operations. At ARI, I seek to enhance my leadership and communication skills.



Richard Tumwesigye

St. Patrick's Center for Integral Development (SPACID)

Project Manager

(Richard) I work with refugees from neighboring countries, sharing their sorrows. Together, we engage in animal husbandry, firstly to educate and give a solid platform for their rehabilitation. I want to improve my management related to farmwork, and communication skills to make our program more accessible.

Bangladesh



Mithun Boiragee

Somaj Kollan Jubo Songho (SKJS) (Social Welfare Youth Association)

Secretary, Coordinator of Youth

(Mithun) I consult with local farmers to aim for cost-effective and sustainable agriculture. We also offer free classes to develop entrepreneurship and identify the roots of problems. At ARI, I seek to find a deeper understanding of what it means to live together and share my knowledge more fruitfully.

Advanced Training Course (TA)

Training Assistant (TA):

ARI invites graduates who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and accomplishment in their communities to a year of advanced studies.

India



Mario John Paul Rebelo

Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, Society of Pilar

Priest & Farm Manager

(Mario, 2014) I am involved in my local church leading charity events and youth programming. In my farming responsibilities, I teach organic techniques to promote ecological diversity, green manure, and integrated pest management. At ARI, I hope to expand my knowledge in livestock reproduction and sustainable agriculture techniques.

Advanced Training Course (GI)

Graduate Interns (GI):

After their first training year, Japanese graduates are eligible to continue their studies to gain more experience in an area of their choice.



Ayu Suda

(Ayu, 2022) I majored in international relations and pedagogy and found a disconnection between food and youth. ARI campus and training give me the resources to investigate and create a program to bring these together. Through organic farming, I want to make space for local youth to have dialogs with others to understand more about healthy living.



Nozomi Nakashima

(Nozomi, 2022) I wanted to learn more about creating a sustainable environment to live in peace. Every moment at ARI was a learning experience. Food and life are connected in our human life. At ARI for a second year, I want to improve goat management and myself as a leader, increasing my self-confidence and decision-making ability.



Rural Leaders Training Program

ARI provides powerful leadership training for grassroots community leaders: the annual Rural Leaders Training Program.



Our Rural Leaders Training Center empowers some of the most marginalized communities on earth, so that they can enjoy and share the wealth of food, land, and community.



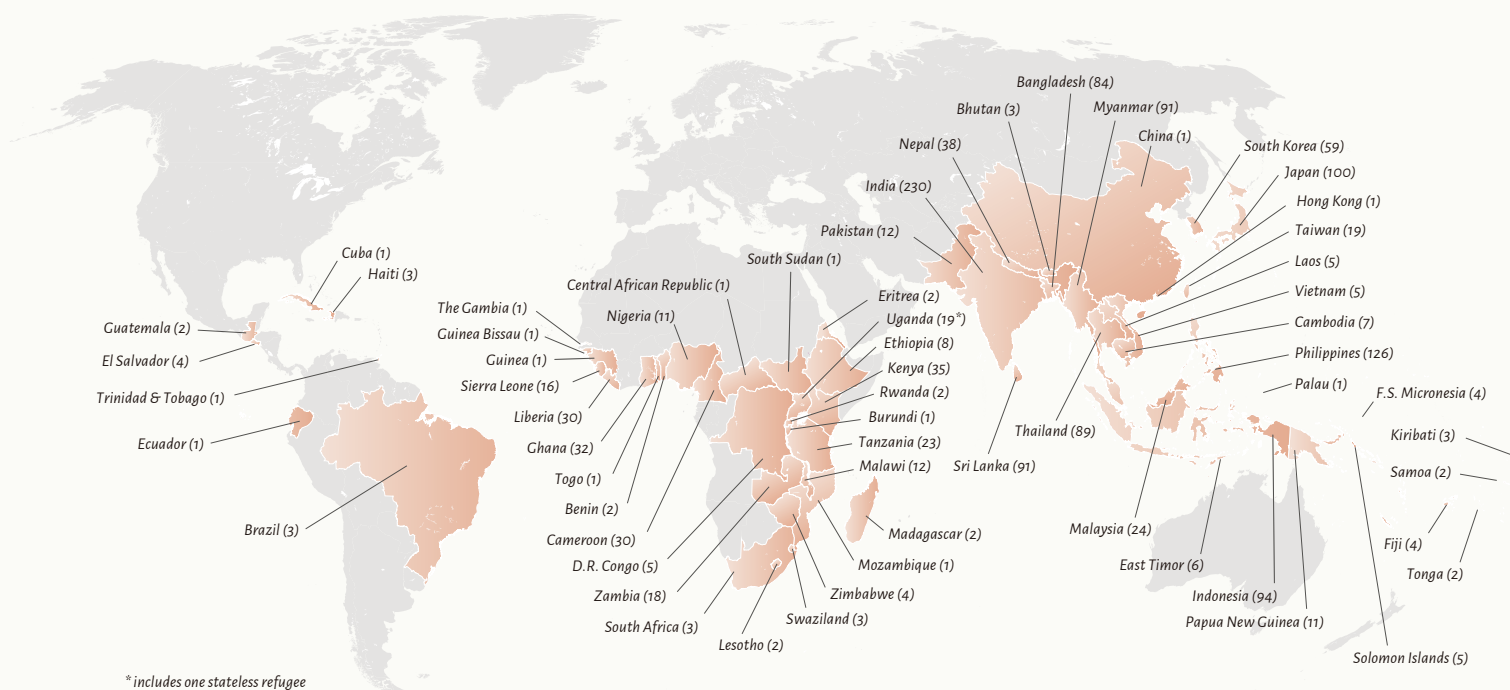
Every year, we invite rural community leaders from grassroots organizations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific to our campus in Japan. The 9-month training is guided by our motto, 'That We May Live Together.'

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Foodlife

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Donate today!

>>> It's Time to Invest in Rural Community Leadership!

The costs needed for Rural Leaders to participate in our training are mainly financed by donations. Tuition and board amount to US\$ 17,850, and the average airfare is around US\$ 2,500. We provide 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.

Visit ari.ac.jp/en/donate/ to find out how to contribute!

*ARI's domain name has been changed from ari-edu.org to ari.ac.jp

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