

Asian Rural Institute

Rural Leaders Training Center



Class of 2024

Rural Leaders Training Program



Founded in 1973 and located in Tochigi, Japan, Asian Rural Institute (ARI) trains grassroots rural leaders who live and work in their native communities, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, or age. Our 9-month training program aims to build a more just and peaceful society by facilitating the self-development of rural people.

This year, we welcome 20 participants to the Rural Leaders Training Program and 1 graduate to the Advanced Training Course, representing 13 countries.



Namibia



**Jonas Pombili
Ndeuludila**

Namib Desert Environmental
Education Trust (NaDEET)

Operations Manager

Jonah

I value the natural environment and the preservation of the natural resources in my community. At NaDEET, I monitor and support the implementation of the program's gardening, water usage, electricity, and recycling systems. Climate change is a big challenge and risk for my community. In ARI I want to learn about sustainability and sustainable farming methods, like crop management, and to enhance my leadership skills.

Pakistan



Noyan Sohail

Samuel Memorial Foundation

Assistant Director

Nomi

I am responsible for maintenance and farm management at the Sanbhal Girls High School in Southern Punjab. I want to make projects for poverty alleviation a part of girls' education. Learning effective farming techniques and goat raising will enable me to add these skills to girls' education at our school.

Philippines



Ricky Otana Attaban

Wigan Settlers Multi-Purpose
Cooperative (WSMPC)

Credit Investigator

Ricky

As a credit investigator, I visit farmers at their home. I observe the progress of their farm work, listen to their problems, and if I have ideas, I share my ideas with the members. While at ARI, I hope to gain people skills and more advanced technical knowledge to help the farmers I serve.

Vietnam



La Thi Nguyen

Mekong Organics

Agriculture Volunteer

La

I am living a minimalist lifestyle that is self-sufficient and centered around natural farming. With 29 other households, my community cultivates 50 hectares of land. I am currently advising others who would like to begin agroforestry. With the skills learned in ARI I want to more effectively lead my community in growing our food sustainably.

India



Khatsulou Thopih

Chizami Baptist Church

Missionary

Khat’s

I am a missionary in my church. I travel to many communities, where I work to build a relationship with the local people. I am also teaching different life-saving skills which my people can quickly and easily use. When I go back I want to empower the people with new skills I learned at ARI.




Muzinulu

Chozuba Area Baptist Church Council

Associate Women Pastor

Azi

I am a pastor in a rural community, working with women and children to enhance their spiritual and economic growth through community work and leadership seminars. At ARI I want to develop my skills in leadership, self-reliance, and farming so I can create a demonstration farm upon my return.



Sushme Agitchak Marak

Harding Universal Trust

Assistant Professor in Economics

Sush

I am a teacher of economics at several schools while volunteering in bible study in my church. I value honesty and integrity in my work and I hope at ARI I will learn better sustainable agriculture techniques. When I return I hope to teach more effective courses on environmental sustainability that can provide practical, long-term positive outcomes.

Malawi



Simon Mtambo

Chingale Neno Recovery & Development Program

Project Officer

Simon

I live in a very diverse community in Chingale. Most of my community are farmers, but they have become dependent on expensive fertilizers which put them into debt. In ARI I want to learn how to produce and make use of organic fertilizer, and how to teach other farmers to help them.

Myanmar



Lwa Le Mu

Lay Shee Baptist Churches Committee

Advisor

Le Mu

I am a lecturer in theological education. I work with my sending body to help marginalized members of my community to provide them with spiritual and social welfare. My most important values are honesty and hard work. In ARI I want to learn about advanced and serving leadership and systematic organic agriculture.



Saw Eh Doh Soe

Shwe Gyin Karen Baptist Association

Program Coordinator

Riecoad

I am a program coordinator and serve my community for sustainable development. In my work, I serve and help my community members to improve their farming land and livestock systems. My community values trust, traditional ways, and helping each other. After ARI, I want to bring back knowledge and skills in leadership, organic farming and improve livestock for my community.

India



Tekhewe Khutsoh

Zapami Baptist Church

Pastor

Tekhewe

I am a pastor in a Baptist church. A big value in my life is the relationship to my community and at work. I like to communicate with every person individually. When I return, I want to manage a bigger farm, cultivate vegetables, and teach my community self-reliance.

Indonesia



Deo Runtunuwu

Wanua Cintalink Semesta (WCS)

Secretary

Deo

In my community, farming has been industrialized. I am training farmers in my community and the surrounding villages so the next generation can grow sustainable food. In ARI I want to learn how to build just, peaceful rural communities. I want to build a community learning center to teach future generations.



Kadek Agus Mahadipa


Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA)

Community Organizer

Dipa

My community was forcibly repatriated from East Timor to Bali, which led to challenges like space management. I want to maintain the principles and values of agrarian reform and side with the oppressed. I am a community organizer and try to help my community by visiting peasants and participatory mapping.

Liberia



Alfred Damaco Lamie

Voinjama Evangelical Church of Liberia

Pastor

Fredee

My objectives are to empower the livelihood of my community through agricultural initiatives and resolve long-standing land disputes and tribal conflicts. I look forward to learning agricultural techniques, education and peace building methods at ARI so I can share my knowledge with my community when I return.



Johnson Korvah Harris

Liberia Integrated Crop and Pest Management Agricultural Program (LICPMAP)

Farm Manager

Johnson

I have been farming since childhood, and it is my passion. I work to assist my community by training and motivating them in sustainable agriculture to improve productivity and their livelihoods. At ARI, I hope to learn leadership and improve my skills, so I can improve the skills of others.



William Fallah Farmah

Pentecostal Mission Unlimited (PMU)

Agriculturist

Fallah

I believe that fostering strong relationships within organizations and communities is crucial for institutional growth. My work as an agriculture technician includes enhancing farmers’ skills and improving rural living conditions through various agricultural projects aimed at boosting food security and supporting vulnerable groups.

Uganda



Nelson Ishengoma


Familia Moja Support Initiative (FMSI), Kenya

Farm Manager

Nelk

In Kiambu County in Kenya, the people suffer from limited manpower and an inadequate food supply, so I moved there from my home in Uganda to help FMSI support the farmers in the community. Even if my organization still lacks the space and budget to do this work, I am growing food for the children in my community.

Ghana



Prince Yeboah

Peace and Love Vegetable Growers Association

Assistant Administrative Secretary

Prince

I work for a vibrant vegetable growers association, collecting data from farmers and conducting workshops. At ARI I want to increase my knowledge of organic farming and livestock keeping, and improve my leadership communication skills so I can educate the youth in my community, encouraging them to consider a farming career.

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Don Bachibonge

Peace and Conflict Resolution (PCR) Foundation

Rural Mobilizer in Ecobomic Programs

Don

I strive to empower communities to survive regional struggles, including homelessness, lack of safe drinking water, loss of harvest, and displacement caused by volcanic activity and civil violence. I hope to help break the cycle of poverty and conflict at the grassroots level.

Japan



Momoko Iwamoto

Momoko

I began to question my consumer lifestyle and to think about how I could better support the next generation. I would like to enhance my knowledge through gaining practical skills in organic farming and animal husbandry, and also explore ways to “live together” by being exposed to different values. After graduation from ARI, I would like to create a program teaching concepts of taking life for making food.

Advanced Training Course

Training Assistant (TA):

ARI invites graduates who have demonstrated at least five years of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in their communities to return to ARI for a year of advanced studies.



Myanmar



Thi Thi Win

Community Development Coordinator/ Technical Support

Thi Thi

Since I graduated from ARI in 2014, I have taken care of a self-help group. Starting in 2022, I worked as a community development coordinator. I focus on youth, teaching community development courses, planning, organizing, and monitoring training. At ARI I want to learn about the many aspects of quality food production, like food safety.

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.'

Servant
Leadership

Community
of Learning

Foodlife

Graduates around the world



1,425 graduates from 62 countries

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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 <https://ari.ac.jp/en/donate/> to find out how to contribute!

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