In this second year of COVID-19, three Japanese participants started the Rural Leaders Training Program this April, and one Guinean joined them later in June. They are all striving to make the best of their learning at ARI.

**Japan**

**Eri Okada**

(Eri) After graduating from university, I began volunteering at ARI in the FEAST (kitchen) and livestock (pig) section. Through experiencing the entire process where life is transformed to food, I thought deeply about what "life" itself is. Now, I would like to think about a society where this life is valued through organic farming.

**Keisuke Katō**

(Keisuke) My International Studies in university caused me to have doubts about a society that does not utilize people’s potential. At ARI, I would like to reconsider my approach to development. I want to learn from participants and be proactive in our life together to prepare to build a better society.

**Jun Matsui**

(Jun) I have been working as a social worker in the medical and welfare field, and there I felt the need for social change. At ARI, I will deepen my study of community development and other topics that will lead to a sustainable society, with the aim of realizing a society where “no one is left behind.”

**Guinea**

**Fatoumata Diarye Bah**

(Fatima) I studied business law in university. I have been an asylum seeker in Japan for several years. I am thankful to have an opportunity to study farming. After ARI, I would like to work in the agriculture sector in Guinea. It is my way to contribute to the reduction of unemployment and poverty in my country.
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.

Leaders who have undergone our training work in a wide range of fields in their own countries. Some graduates are involved in rural development centered on agriculture, environmental protection, education, and micro-finance, while others support the rights of women, indigenous peoples, and refugees. As servant leaders, graduates promote our ideals of "living together" according to the needs of their communities across the globe.

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 www.ari-edu.org/en/donate/ to find out how to contribute!