

Asian Rural Institute

Rural Leaders Training Center




That We May Live Together

Our Class of 2022

Rural Leaders Training Program

This year, we were able to welcome many participants from overseas for the first time in two years. Thirty-two in the Rural Leaders Training Program and five in the Advanced Training Course are hard at work on their studies!



Guatemala



Ester Brito Raymundo

Guatemala Conference of Evangelical Churches (CIEDEG)

Agricultural Promoter

(**Ester**) I visit and orient the community families with agriculture and nutrition projects. We work with vegetable and herb seeds and plants. With the ARI training, I plan to improve the community's products' quality to sell with better prices by practicing organic farming, making natural fertilizer, and efficiently recycling water.



Marta Brito Brito

Guatemala Conference of Evangelical Churches (CIEDEG)

Agriculturist

(**Martita**) I organize daily agriculture and livestock work on the farm and in church schools. Agriculture work and community are an integral part of my life. After the ARI training, through workshops and working together in the fields, I plan to teach agricultural practices like making organic fertilizer, caring for farm animals, and the best practices to use water.

Rwanda



Grace Furaha

Free Methodist Church Rwanda

Coordinator and Agricultural Advisor

(**Grace**) I coordinate projects to help local residents create kitchen gardens, keep cows, and participate in savings and credit groups. I supervise farmers and stay informed about their daily lives. At ARI, I hope to learn new agricultural technical practices and gain more experience in how to work together effectively.

Nigeria



Onyekachi Samuel Abugu

Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC)

Associate Pastor, Farm Assistant

(**Samuel**) I was raised in a farm community and now work at Christ Holy Church International Farm working with small-scale farmers. At ARI, I want to learn farming methods to boost food production at a low cost. After ARI, I plan to train seminarians and local farmers on agricultural methods and how to raise their farm and earn a living with dignity.



Adetunji David Ajala

Methodist Church Nigeria

Archdiocesan Youth President, ONE Ambassador

(**David**) I work with communities to help solve social welfare problems, inform them of opportunities, and plan programs for youth empowerment. I am interested in sustainable agriculture and community engagement, most especially that which is anchored in ending poverty. I believe the training at ARI can help in food production and in becoming a gender advocate.

Vietnam



Dung Ngoc Vo

Dung Krong Nang Farm; Mekong Organics

Farmer, Trainer

(**Dung**) When I was young, I wondered why my family struggled in the market, although we were responsible for food production. I want to teach others why safe crops are important. At ARI, I want to learn more about farming, teaching, and building a community to spread knowledge. I have the ambition to spread organic farming throughout Vietnam.

Bangladesh



Satta Mree

Church of Bangladesh (CB)

Catechist

(**Satta**) I work to bring peace to the Garo tribal community through my teachings in church and by laboring in vegetable fields and animal farms. I also lead a seed banking project, distributing local seeds to families and teaching them to save harvested seeds, reducing their reliance on expensive imports. At ARI, I aim to learn organic agriculture to protect the health of my community.



Hlachingmong Issac Murrui

Basic Development Partners (BDP)

Vocational Education Manager

(**Dicko**) Our focus is child education and empowering women. I care for dropped-out children from mainstream education, providing life-based technical training. We have a long-running project to provide primary education for all school-aged children, especially girls. At ARI, I hope to learn servant leadership, livestock, farming, and stewardship for my community and nation.

Malaysia



Mohd Khuzairy Bin Hamid

Sri Lovely Integrated Organic Farm
Farm Manager

(Jai) Sharing and doing what is best for the community is very important to me. I work in the rice fields, train students in organic rice-growing methods, and explain the health and other benefits of avoiding chemicals. At ARI, I hope to learn about sustainable agriculture, natural farming in tropical areas, alternative marketing, and servant leadership.

India



Ngamshel Ronglo

Weaker Sections Development Council (WSDC)
Volunteer Community Mobilizer and Trainer

(Ngamshel) I help conduct workshops on growing crops in scientific ways, growing oyster mushrooms, and raising poultry birds. I also help the organization in relief works. At ARI, I want to learn how to mainstream organic farming and sustainably enhance the living standard of farmers, be a good leader, and learn to be self-sufficient.



Kannan Ravichandran

Sristi Foundation
Farm Trainer

(Kannan) At my organization, we provide education and life-skills training (focused on agriculture) to children and adults with disabilities. I help manage our nine-acre, integrated training farm and teach community members about organic farming. At ARI, I seek to improve my teaching and leadership skills and organic agriculture knowledge.

India



Zhopovelu Lohe

Grace Home Khutsokhuno
Assistant Director and Cofounder

(Apolu) We have a holistic approach toward children's education to build servant leaders in the village and church. I oversee all the activities of 24 children: helping with their homework, teaching reading and writing, providing spiritual nourishment, and teaching sanitation, health, and nature. At ARI, I want to learn more about agriculture and leadership to help my villagers and the surrounding community.



Gretherson Cheran Momin

Harding Theological College,
Harding Universal Trust
Campus Supervisor

(Grether) I supervise farmers, such as in cultivating guava and banana trees; raising chicks, fish, and pigs; and coordinating training programs. At ARI, I am interested in learning more effective training and leadership skills to equip future Garo leaders better. Also, I want to improve leading worship services by deepening my faith and understanding of religion and culture within a diverse community.



Lungaithui Malangmei

Chingthur Foundation, Rongmei Baptist Church Association
Project Manager

(Lungai) I work with several communities in the Northeast Region of India, with farmers helping to improve their yields, growing mushrooms, and find markets for crops and handicrafts. I came to ARI to learn more about servant leadership, organic farming, livestock, and bee keeping. We will begin a new demonstration farm when I return home.

Ethiopia



Degaga Wakshuma Geleta

(Degaga) I studied building construction at a technical college. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to study servant leadership. The three main goals of ARI's training—servant leadership, sustainable agriculture, and community building—are the keys for me and my country. After ARI, I would like to encourage the development and growth of others.



Demissie Solomon Dufera

(Solomon) I completed a post-graduation in agriculture in Ethiopia. At ARI, I want to learn about sustainable agriculture and living in a community. I am motivated to help my community learn how to live sustainably and keep health in mind. Therefore, I would like to work in the agriculture sector in Ethiopia. It is my way of contributing to reducing climate change and poverty.



Alex Kwamla Afeli

Asogli State Council
Teacher,
Volunteer Technical Advisor

(Alex) When the people around you are economically empowered, you can sleep in peace. I train youth, produce livestock and poultry, and use manure as fertilizer to grow vegetables without chemicals. I will share my ARI skills with other farmers and help establish an agricultural center that trains unemployed youth in sustainable agriculture.

Uganda



Timothy Sentamu

Kasenge Riverford Organic Agricultural Centre LTD,
GirlNow Foundation
Chairperson of Youth Project

(Tim) I am passionate about solving social issues in Uganda, starting from reclaiming youth to agriculture, hence, focusing on training youth and women in organic farming. We also train adolescent girls in menstrual hygiene, education, and skills enhancement. ARI is a place to widen my knowledge in organic farming, servant leadership and community development.



Hossa Khamis Jefwa

Institute of Participatory Development (IPD)
Community Coordinator

(Hossa) I am a Muslim woman working with women's and youth groups of all faiths. We have empowerment programs on women in leadership, land ownership and inheritance, girls' education, and value addition in farm produce. I would like to learn how to improve the soil for increased farm production and my leadership ability to help my entire community.



Jacklyne Anyango Owang

Nomiya Holy Revelation Church
Team Leader,
Women Farming Project

(Jacky) We participate in organic farming, fish growing, and poultry raising. Our goal is to lift our community from poverty to self-sustainability in food production and to embrace gender equality in the community. After ARI, as a trainer, I will be able to guide farmers more effectively than by theory done without practice.

Indonesia



Berman Maeda Situmorang

Gereja Kristen Protestan Indonesia (GKPI)

Pastor

(Maeda) My congregations are mostly farmers and weavers, and we exchange ideas to develop their farms better. I try to come up with solutions that the church can provide, so the church and the congregations are really related and complementary to each other. I want to learn from people all over the world about improving rural life, and then share that with the GKPI leaders and the rural villages.



Tabita Pricillia Rahawarin

Abdi Pusaka Indonesia Foundation

Field Manager, Missionary Staff

(Tabita) Our foundation started as an orphanage and then opened schools in Nias Island. I am responsible for overseeing the day-to-day coaching of children spiritually and physically. I want to learn more about farm leadership, and how a community can produce results that positively impact all the community, starting from the kids in the rural area.



Dian Krista Sitepu

Gereja Batak Karo Protestan (GBKP)

Pastor

(Dian) I want to help my congregations with spiritual and livelihood needs. At ARI, I want to improve my leadership, time management, and gain practical skills. Farmers think that organic farming is not easy, so I will show them how to keep people, land, and the environment healthy.

Indonesia



Muntilan Hasiholan Nababan

Petrasa Foundation

Marketing and Development Head

(Muntilan) I work with my fellow farmers to practice efficient organic farming in raising livestock. At ARI, I hope to improve my teaching skills; however, I have experienced that even true knowledge cannot be imparted without healthy relationships. Therefore, I want to learn how to bond with people from completely different backgrounds.



Ade Puji Hartati

PIDO Company

Community Development Field Staff & Data Administration

(Ade) I work with farmers who tap sap from coconut and *arenga* (palms) to make sugar. I assist with quality control and organic certification such as Control Union and Fair Trade. Our challenge is changing farmers from chemical to organic production. I am passionate about deepening my learning in sustainable organic farming through the cultural diversity in ARI.



Yan Petric Rajagukguk

Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP)

Youth Chairman and Media Tech

(Petric) I help farmers solve problems in raising and selling their products. I also use my IT training to communicate with young farmers to promote organic farming through online instructional videos and to find and analyze markets. At ARI, I want to strengthen my skills in organic farming and small-animal husbandry and make a deeper commitment to servant leadership.

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Mordekay Mirindi Jonas

Peace and Conflict Resolution Foundation

Rural Field Economist

(Mordekay) I mobilize young people and plan field programs with farmers, distribute seeds, and work together in the fields. I also facilitate rural community meetings and training. At ARI, I want to build my leadership skills, learn from others, share my experience with others, and learn about Foodlife because our people are dying due to a lack of food.



Shukuru Munigwa Seraphin

Community of Pentecostal Churches in Central Africa, Funu Nuru Agricultural Commission for Youth Development

(Shukuru) My daily tasks include managing farms, advising young farmers, and organizing new projects to improve safety, efficiency, and agricultural productivity. Our youth groups have projects to increase poultry production and integrate beans with a pig fattening program. At ARI, I want to increase my knowledge of organic farming, livestock, and leadership.



Tomoya Furujo

(Tomoya) I studied agriculture at university. After graduation, I reflected on my life and realized I was interested in international cooperation, agriculture, and environmental issues. That is why I decided to study at ARI as a participant. At ARI, I want to find what I can do for international cooperation, agriculture, and environmental issues.

Japan



Ayu Suda

(Ayu) I majored in international relations and pedagogy. Because of COVID-19, I had many opportunities to think about myself. Therefore, I became interested in life that emphasizes “healthy living.” Through practical learning, community life, and dialogues, I would like to think about how people can build a healthy relationship with nature.



Nozomi Nakashima

(Nozomi) After a short stay in ARI, I was fascinated by the environment, which accepts each other despite differences. I would like to contribute to society by practicing a self-sufficient agricultural lifestyle. I also want to seek what I can do by sharing life with people of various nationalities, values, and religions so that “we may live together.”



Takumi Tokumaru

(Takumi) I learned about ARI through the book *Letters from Allahabad* by Yukiko Makino. I was impressed by servant leadership, doing something “together” rather than “from above” so people can stand on their own feet to live. I want to learn this servant leadership and the relationship between food and life at ARI.

Advanced Training Course

Training Assistant (TA): ARI invites graduates who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and accomplishment in their communities to a year of advanced studies.

Graduate Intern (GI): After their first training year, Japanese graduates are eligible to continue their studies to gain more experience in an area of their choice.



Indonesia



Margareth Marta Roida Sianipar

Elim Orphanage, Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP)

Pastor, Orphanage Staff

(Marta, 2012) After ARI, I taught organic farming and had a small organic restaurant. Currently, I am a housemother and care for 60 children encouraging them to study hard, dream big, pray, and continue their education. We also work together by changing the garbage station into a small garden, growing groundnut and lemongrass, and raising chickens. I came back to ARI to become a more effective servant leader.

Nepal



Bhim Bahadur Khaling Rai

National Development Organization (NDO)

Pastor, Teacher, Community Life Manager

(Bhim, 2015) I teach the dangers of chemical farming through a bottom-up servant leadership approach to help communities work together when they are religiously, linguistically, and culturally different. It was challenging, so it has taken several years for staff and community members to understand the power of servant leadership. As a TA, I aim to deepen my learning of ARI core values to strengthen the ties between farmers.

Japan



Eri Okada

(Eri, 2021) I am motivated to learn the true meaning of international cooperation by solving problems together and encouraging mutual growth. I believe servant leadership and sustainable farming are essential to international cooperation, so I want to learn about working together, especially through rice cultivation. After ARI, I want to intern at a refugee empowerment NGO run by an ARI graduate.



Keisuke Katô

(Keisuke, 2021) Last year, I learned why we need to practice organic farming. It is for healthy food, and for building healthy human relationships surrounded by rich nature with biodiversity through working together. After ARI, I want to join the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and gain practical experience in the field of education in an environment that lacks educational opportunities.



Hiroka Komatsubara

(Hiroka, 2020) Through living together with my classmates, I realized that no matter how different we are, we are all the same as humans. This year I am learning about local learning programs because I want to cherish encounters and connections with people. I would like to create a comfortable place and memories for people inside and outside of ARI.

Rural Leaders Training Program

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



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.'

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.



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>>> 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!

Asian Rural Institute

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