



JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants (JICA Development Studies Program)

General Information
on

Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security

(Agri-Net)

JFY2023

長期研修

「食料安全保障のための農学ネットワーク（2023年度）」

This handout provides an overview of the “Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-Net)” program/course, which is one of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term). The program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between respective governments.

The objective of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) is to offer opportunities to people from developing countries to study at higher educational institutions in Japan and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to assist in the human resource development plans of the governments of developing countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the developing countries and Japan.

0. Background

What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet released the Development Cooperation Charter in February 2015, which stated, "In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field-oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together." JICA believes that this 'Knowledge Co-Creation Program' will serve as a foundation of mutual learning process.

What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

JICA-DSP is being carried out by JICA as part of official development assistance (ODA) by the government of Japan. JICA-DSP is offered for international scholars accepted as the participants of JICA's Human Resource Development Project who are enrolled in a degree program at a Japanese university.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/dsp-chair/english/dsp/overview/index.html>

What is Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-Net)

In 2019, JICA sets 20 cooperation strategies for global issues as JICA Global Agenda*. Under this agenda, JICA will comprehensively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 as well as realize Japan's Development Cooperation Charter which focus on "human security," "quality growth," and "addressing global challenges".

Regarding agriculture sector, the second goal of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) aims to "End hunger, Achieve food security and improved nutrition, and Promote sustainable agriculture". It will be required adequate agricultural policies and introductions of appropriate technologies for stable food production.

In this context, the Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-Net) Program aims to support the second goal of SDGs and two strategies in JICA's Global Agenda (No.5 Agriculture and Rural Development (Sustainable Food Systems) and No.17 Natural Environment Conservation) through JICA's Human Resource Development Projects in the field related to System, Policy and Organizations on Agriculture and Rural Development Sector; Sustainable Agriculture Production; Food Value Chain (FVC); Livestock Development and Animal Hygiene; Fisheries Development and Resources; and Nature Conservation.

*https://www.jica.go.jp/TICAD/en/overview/publications/global_agenda_20.html

1. Overview

Until now, JICA has provided training programs as a part of technical cooperation in various fields. In order to strengthen networks between the target countries in respective fields, JICA established a new long-term training program to foster young/middle-aged bureaucrats, academicians and leading human resources in various fields of target countries who are capable of influencing policy making processes in their countries or contributing to socioeconomic development in the near future.

The new program/course, "Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-Net)", was established in JFY 2019 under the framework of JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) for the purpose of promoting the cooperation of sustainable development in the world.

The program/course will offer participants with special curriculums on Japanese developmental experience (JICA-DSP) and internships, if necessary, in addition to obtaining a Master's or PhD. degree.

2. Objectives

- (1) To develop human resources of public and private sectors under JICA's Global Agenda in the six fields related to Agriculture and Rural Development Sector; Sustainable Agriculture Production; Food Value Chain (FVC); Livestock Development and Animal Hygiene; Fisheries Development and Resources; and Nature Conservation.
- (2) To Strengthen a human network between developing countries and Japan in the above-mentioned field.

3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of scholars from target countries to study at Japanese universities in 6 fields below.

1. System, Policy and Organizations on Agriculture and Rural Development Sector
2. Sustainable Agriculture Production
3. Food Value Chain (FVC)
4. Livestock Development and Animal Hygiene
5. Fisheries Development and Resources
6. Nature Conservation

4. Duration

In principle, 2 years for master's course and 3 years for Ph.D. course (depending on the program offered by universities).

Note 1 (Longer Duration):

- Some university set more than 3 years for doctor's course, please check admission information universities that you intend to apply.
- If so, be sure to obtain permission of your belonging organization to leave in that period.

Note 2 (Research Student):

- As a result of the matching, if the university judges the applicant that they need more time to take entrance examination, university may request an applicant to enter the university as a research student for a period of six (6) months at longest. This period is additional and not counted as a part of regular course of Master's or Doctor's program. Research students are requested to stay in Japan and study intensively to utilize their time to prepare for the entrance examination.
- Before application, the applicant should consider the possibility of additional period as research students and should be approved by the belonging organization.
- Necessary living cost during the period as research students will be paid by JICA following JICA's regulation.
- If failed in that exam, they MUST return to their home country without delay (Agri-Net program ends at that moment).

5. Number of Participants

50 participants in total from the target countries.

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Current Duties:

young or middle-career government officials, prospective academics, or personnel from private institutions who are expected to contribute policy formulation or its implementation for tackling sustainable developmental issues in respective fields.

*Applicants from private sector should be from the field related to System, Policy and Organizations on Agriculture and Rural Development Sector; Sustainable Agriculture Production; Food Value Chain (FVC); Livestock Development and Animal Hygiene; Fisheries Development and Resources; Nature Conservation.

(2) Nationality:

citizen of the above countries eligible for Japan's ODA

(3) Age:

➤ for master's programs, thirty five (35) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1st, 2023). However, under certain circumstances deemed to be considered, applicants over the age of 35 may become accepted. Please contact our JICA office for more information.

- for Ph.D. programs, forty (40) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1st, 2023). However, under certain circumstances deemed to be considered, applicants over the age of 40 may become accepted. Please contact our JICA office for more information.
- (4) Educational Background:
 - for master's programs, a bachelor's degree or master's degree holder
 - for Ph.D. programs, a master's degree holder
- (5) Language:

adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete master's and/or Ph.D. courses with skills equivalent or exceeding the following;

TOEFL iBT: 80, IELTS: 6.5, CEFR B2

 - * Applicants to Agri-Net program are required to demonstrate official results of the English language proficiency test.
 - * JICA will NOT bear the cost necessary for obtaining such score.
- (6) Physical Presence:

must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.
- (7) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

Women are encouraged to apply to the program. JICA makes a commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, providing equal opportunity to all applicants regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- (8) Others:

must not be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarship during the program.

8. Admissions

The selection will be conducted following steps:

- (1) Applicants must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection procedure.
- (2) Candidates must pass the general entrance examination of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the applicants' desired master's degree or Ph.D. degree course¹.
- (3) JICA will select successful candidates from those who passed the university's exam.

9. Application Guidelines

Applicants must apply through the procedures as described below, which are necessary requirements by both applicant's Government and the Government of Japan for the Official Development Assistance.

- (1) Procedures and Required Documents for Application:

Each applicant is required to submit ALL the "Application Documents²" listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' country.

¹ Any inquiry about the results of JICA's screening procedure and University's general entrance examination will not accepted.

² Submitted documents will not be returned. And JICA will NOT cover the cost of postage.

(2) Application Documents

1) Letter or Note Verbale from your government

* If it is difficult to obtain it, JICA request to fill and sign for the confirmation by the responsible organization in charge of ODA in "Official Application Form"

2) Application Form for Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-Net) Program FY 2023

consists of:

- Official Application Form

*to be completed by your organization (and by the responsible organization in charge of ODA, if necessary)

- Part A

*to be completed by applicant's belonging organization

- Part B

*to be completed by applicants

- Part C

*to be completed by applicants

3) Graduation certificate.

* Officially certified copies of the original

* Written in English or accompanied with official translation

3) Academic transcript

* Must contain all the grades earned at the university attended by the applicant

* Officially certified copies of the original transcript

* Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English

4) Photocopy of certificate of English Test

i. Applicants to Agri-Net are required to demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting official results of TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS (International English Language Testing System) or Duolingo.

ii. Adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete master's and/or Ph.D. courses with skills equivalent or exceeding the following;

TOEFL iBT: 80, IELTS: 6.5, CEFR B2

iii. JICA will NOT bear the cost necessary for obtaining such score.

iv. English Test Exemption

The English language test requirement is waived for applicants who meet one of the following criteria:

✓ have completed or are completing their Bachelor's or Master's program that are taught entirely in English in one of the following countries*

✓ have been working for full-time in a professional or academic environment where English is used at least three years in one of the following countries*

*Countries: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, UK

5) A copy of Valid ID or Passport with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth).

* Certified English translation must be attached if ID is not written in English, French,

Portuguese, or Spanish.

6) 2 ID photos (4cm × 3cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy)

7) Health certificate (To be submitted later³)

10. Schedule and selection process

(1) Schedule

Universities With Pre-matching Application Process	
October, 2022	Nomination of candidate applicants in respective organizations
	Selection of candidate applicants by responsible organization in each country
	"Application Documents" must be submitted to JICA overseas office in charge of the country of applicants.
November, 2022	Screening by JICA
December 2022- January, 2023	matching Application Process by university
By the end of January, 2023	Notification of the results of matching Application Process from each university through JICA overseas office
February - June (approximately), 2023	Application to take University's general entrance examination by the applicant
June - July, 2023	University's application procedure
	*General entrance examination schedule is followed by each university
June - August, 2023	Arrival of results of general entrance examination from the university
	Determination of JICA KCCP (Long-term) participants
August-October, 2023	Preparation for study in Japan if candidate applicant is determined as a KCCP (Long-term) participant
	Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure
	Arrival in Japan
	Orientation by JICA Domestic Offices
	Beginning of Fall 2023 Term

*Schedule for the application and examination depends on each university (some university courses start from April).

*Schedule and program contents might be adjusted appropriately due to unforeseen circumstances.

(2) Selection process

There are mainly following three selection processes: (A) Selection by JICA in each country and Headquarters, (B) Matching with Japanese universities, and (C) Selection by Japanese universities (entrance examination).

³ If the applicant passes the university entrance examination, a health certificate of JICA format will be required. Without the certificate, admission may become rejected.

*There are no fees to be charged directly by JICA at the selection process.

*The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT BE DISCLOSED.

(A) 1st Selection: Selection by JICA in each country

[Necessary Actions for Applicants for this selection]

Each applicant needs to submit JICA's Application Documents by the deadline set by JICA office in the applicants' country.

Period	Please confirm the local deadline with the JICA overseas office. (All required material must arrive at JICA HQ in Japan by November 11, 2022)
Contents	Screening of submitted JICA's Application Documents Applicant may be requested to be interviewed.
Objectives	To check qualifications and requirements of each applicant. To check applicants' understanding of the program objectives and working experiences/educational background in the context of the "Eligible Participants" (shown in the section 7). To check applicants' capability of contributing to the achievement of the course objectives addressing his/her country's development challenges after the program.
Result	Applicants who pass this selection can proceed to the 2 nd Selection.

(B) 2nd Selection: Matching with Japanese universities

Period	December 2022- January 2023 (approximately)
Contents	Document screening, interview (if necessary) by Japanese universities (mainly "Research Plan" of the JICA's Application Documents, the Undergraduate degree graduation certificate, and Academic transcript)
Objectives	To match applicants with university courses/supervisors
Selection	JICA will send JICA's Application Documents to the applicants' desired universities. Universities will examine the documents to check if the applicant's field of study and research plan are matched with the courses/supervisors. During this process, universities may contact the applicants for their judgement. University may conduct remote interview during process.
Result	Only those applicants who are accepted by the Japanese universities' matching can proceed to the 3 rd Selection. JICA will inform of these applicants of the name of university where the applicant can apply for 3 rd selection. The applicants need to check and prepare university's application documents and submit them directly to the university. Each applicant applies only one

(1) university indicated by JICA for the entrance examination.

JICA will also inform these applicants contact of his/her supervisor (professor). The applicants are then required to contact with the supervisor to receive their instructions. The applicants are required to maintain good communication via mail/Zoom with their supervisors to gather information on the course or their study subjects. Some supervisors may request to improve applicants' research sheet during this period before entrance examination.

(C) 3rd Selection: Selection (Entrance Examination) by Japanese universities

[Necessary Actions for Applicants for this selection]

Each applicant needs to check necessary application documents set by the university where he/she applies. Then, he/she needs to submit university's application documents directly to the university by the deadline set by the university. It is ALL the applicant's responsibility to duly submit required documents to the university by its deadline. JICA will NOT intervene in this process. Some universities require sending hard copies of documents to Japan.

Those who are required to enter as research student also need to check necessary application procedure as research student set by each university. JICA will NOT cover the cost of postage.

During this selection process, each applicant may be interviewed (ex. by using Zoom) depending on university's selection process.

Fee for entrance examinations is paid directly to each university by JICA.

Period	February – June 2023 (approximately)
Contents	Screening of submitted university's application documents and interviews by Japanese universities
Objectives	To select the final candidates for universities
Venue	If necessary, using Zoom or other means for interviews
Selection	Universities will screen the applicants through submitted university's application documents and interviews etc.
Result	The applicants who pass this selection will be selected as successful candidates of the program after JICA HQ's screening.

Note:

As JICA makes a final decision for these processes, some of the applicants who even pass the 3rd Selection may NOT be selected as successful candidates of the program.

Withdrawal of the Application: If applicants encounter the situation that needs to withdraw the application by force majeure during the selection process, the applicants need to contact with JICA office and explain the situation as soon as possible.

Research Student: If applicants will be accepted as research student, the applicants need to attend additional six months course to prepare for the entrance examination of the university. If

failed the entrance exam, they must return to their home country without delay (Agri-Net program ends at that moment).

11. Expenses to Be Borne By JICA

Under the JICA Long-term Trainee Allowance standards, JICA will cover expenses and allowance to participants accepted to the program/course. See the table below for further details. Note that the payments (e.g. for tuition, research support expenses, school support expenses) will not be paid to the accepted participants themselves, but directly to the university or other relevant institutions.

Expense category	Payment amount	Payment frequency
Tuition (official examination fees, entrance fees, course fees)	Actual costs	According to the request from universities
Living Allowance*	JPY 117,000–148,000 per month*	Every month via university
Airfare	Actual costs	Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home
Outfit Allowance**	JPY103,750—106,000	Once (upon arrival in Japan)
Moving Allowance***	Up to JPY164,000-224,000	Once (during the training period)**
Research Support Expenses****	Actual costs (up to JPY360,000 per year)	
Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan	In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance	

*Varies according to living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.

**Once, after opening bank account in Japan. As it takes several weeks to have the bank account opened, it is strongly recommended to bring cash for personal expenses during the period.

***Depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.

****Research Support Expenses are allowed to be provided via the university and be disbursed with the consultation and approval of the applicant's supervisor.

12. Expenses Not to Be Borne By JICA

JICA will not bear costs other than the allowances described above. JICA is not responsible for the following expenses especially:

- (1) Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions, etc.)
- (2) Visa fees of a transit country and transportation expenses to obtain Visa
- (3) Transportation expenses to obtain Japanese Visa

- (4) Domestic travel expenses at the applicant's home country
- (5) Departure tax
- (6) Airport tax/airport facility charges outside of Japan, including third countries
- (7) Customs duty
- (8) Excess baggage charges
- (9) Compensation for lost and/or damaged baggage
- (10) "No show charge" to the transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
- (11) Lost - ticket fee
- (12) Accommodation fee for day-use hotel in return flight
- (13) Transportation expenses other than official programs
- (14) Telephone bill or mini-bar tab at accommodation
- (15) Medical costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, and dental treatment
- (16) Medical cost related to the same illness over 180 days
- (17) "National Health Insurance" fee
- (18) Cost of postage
- (19) Cost for obtaining such English score

Note: If participant/accepted applicant does not follow the regulation of JICA, the participant may have to bear such other cost of necessary expenses.

13. Conditions for Participation

The accepted applicants/participants of KCCP are required:

- (1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program at the date designated by JICA,
- (2) to be in good health to participate in the program,
- (3) not to change course subjects or extend the course period,
- (4) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants on their own,
- (5) to accept that the Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan,
- (6) to submit a Health Certificate in JICA format at the participant's expense. The certificate must be the results of health check-up at the time the participant applied to the entrance examinations (within 6 months before arrival in Japan),
- (7) to accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA format if the participant will not be able to arrive within 6 months from the date of his/her first medical examination. The cost of the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA only if the delay is not due to the participant's personal reasons,
- (8) to return to their home country on the designated flight by JICA, when they finish the

program/course or when it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, or when the participant is not successful on the regular course examination,

- (9) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule,
- (10) to understand that inviting participant's family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months,
- (11) to carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by both the nominating Government and the Japanese Government in respect of the course,
- (12) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments ("Plagiarism" especially is taken severely by enrolling university, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism and participants may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension),
- (13) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,
- (14) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (15) not to drive a car or motorbike, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (16) to discontinue the program, should the participant violate Japanese laws or JICA's regulations, or commit illegal or immoral conduct, or become critically ill or seriously injured or poor academic performance and be considered unable to continue the course. The participants shall be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care expenses described in the table of "11. Expenses To be borne by JICA,"
- (17) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (18) not to be receiving nor plan to receive another scholarship during the program,
- (19) to understand not to make other applications for different JICA KCCP (long-term) at the same time,
- (20) to understand that the maximum duration of "Overseas research" and "Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)" is 60 days, in principle, and
- (21) to enroll and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when you receive JICA's instructions to do so.
- (22) to attend additional six months course to prepare for the entrance examination of the university if you will be accepted as a research student. And if you failed the entrance exam, you must return to their home country without delay (Agri-Net program ends at that moment).

END

Appendixes

1. University List
2. Application Form for Agri-Net 2022
Annex1 Application database file