



*Connecting people, agriculture and the environment through appropriate technologies*

**Appropriate  
Agriculture  
International  
Co., Ltd.**

1-2-3-403 Haramachida, Machida,  
Tokyo, JAPAN 194-0013  
TEL: +81-42-725-6250  
FAX: +81-42-785-4332  
E-mail: [aai@koushu.co.jp](mailto:aai@koushu.co.jp)  
Website: <https://www.koushu.co.jp>

## JICA President's Award

In October 2020, AAI received the JICA President's Award for its 20-year contribution to the JICA Tsukuba training course and its contribution to overseas projects. It is a great honor for us to be appreciated for our achievements such as implementation of training courses in Japan and our overseas projects.

The operation of our training courses has been supported by the cooperation of many people. The lectures were conducted with the cooperation of researchers from research institutes, universities, and related organizations, and study trips were conducted with the cooperation of agricultural organizations and farmers inside and outside Ibaraki Prefecture. When we conduct field practice, field staff of JICA Tsukuba from "Kawakami farm Co., Ltd." supported us. Since some of them were part-time farmers in the Tsukuba area, we often received advice on vegetable and upland rice cultivation technology based on their local farming experience. This was an important contribution to develop the cultivation system in JICA Tsukuba. The successive technical advisors of JICA Tsukuba always gave us advice on their specialized fields, but also gave technical advice related to the overall training. We also received support from successive JICA staff members, the director of the training section, and directors in general. In addition, the instructors of other courses working in the same office were also very helpful. We would like to thank these people who took care of us and the trainees who have taken the training seriously so far and who share our joy.

JICA Tsukuba celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2020. When we started implementation of a training course 20 years ago, there was already a long-standing accumulation of experience of so-called JICA 'directly managed training' in JICA Tsukuba. We have learned from that experience and have tried to emphasize field

practice and provide attentive guidance responding to the needs of participants. At the same time, we aimed to balance domestic training projects and overseas technical cooperation projects, and to utilize domestic experience overseas and use our overseas experience domestically. For this reason, most staff who are usually in charge of overseas projects have also been involved in the training at lectures, field practice, presentations, etc., and have endeavored to share their experiences with the trainees. In addition, trainees who have returned to their home countries may become counterparts to JICA projects in each country. In such cases, project activities will proceed smoothly because they understand Japanese culture, customs, and techniques. This is also an example of utilizing the outputs of training in Japan in overseas technical cooperation and is one of the rippling effects we expect.

The three perspectives that AAI values, "thinking from the field," "dialogue and joint action," and "promotion of collaboration," are important not only for our overseas operations but also for training at JICA Tsukuba. We aim to understanding the issues of the trainee's working area, discussing these, and seek solutions, and we also aim to trigger future collaboration by linking various lectures, experiments, field practice and study trips ensuring all these things become a medium for problem solving. Currently, JICA is seeking a new implementation system for training in Japan that can deal with the challenges thrown up by Covid-19. We



Receiving the award at JICA Tsukuba.

would like to make use of our experience accumulated so far, to strive to implement better training, and utilize the results in overseas projects.