

Lectures at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

AAI often lectures at universities and government offices in Japan, conveying knowledge and experience in technical cooperation activities overseas especially in dryland areas. We are also talk about developing careers as development consultants for students and public. In recent years, the author has been giving lectures regularly at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (OUAVM) and Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University. The invited lecture at OUAVM, in particular, has been held unbroken since the first lecture in 2013, and this year marks its 10th anniversary.

The lecture series at OUAVM is titled 'International Agriculture and Animal Husbandry' (until 2019 it was titled 'International Animal Husbandry'). The programme is co-organized by the University and the JICA Obihiro Center. The lectures introduce the status of agriculture and livestock production in various countries, and are given to second-year undergraduate students majoring in livestock science and veterinary science. The lecture series consists of 12 lectures in the first or second semester delivered relay style by several lecturers taking turns. AAI is in charge of one lecture in which we showcase our field activities related to livestock feed resources from technical cooperation projects conducted in Mongolia, Palestine and Sudan. In addition, we explain to students our position as a private development consultancy involved in ODA (JICA) projects, and the significance and the rewards of being an implementor of technical cooperation activities in developing countries.

Briefly touching on the content of our lecture, in the case of Palestine, there was a strong need for finding a way to utilize local resources, considering the various constraints imposed by Israel's occupancy policy which impedes favourable farming conditions. We explained about the process of developing appropriate technologies for 'Resource Recycling' such as silage and compost production to promote the use of agricultural residues and manure. In the case of Mongolia, we focused on the importance of securing and maintaining water sources in winter and summer camps for livestock and introduced ways to manage

'Unused/Underused' grassland as well as how to encourage the optimal nomadic movement of pastoralists. Lastly in the case from Sudan, we explained the process of selecting and introducing the technology of 'Water Harvesting (WH)' for sorghum production for livestock feed, targeting poor pastoralists on the eastern bank of the Atbara River. We also explained the danger of unilateral service provision from the project side, and the need for requesting beneficiaries to bear a certain cost.

In the lectures, students submit a short report, choosing one from the three themes above. They can either just review the lecture content, researching on their own, or they can find actual relevant practices conducted in the Tokachi area in Hokkaido. The table below shows the results of theme selection which indicate the direction of students' awareness and interests. We found it noteworthy to see the number of students who are interested in WH techniques for dryland areas.

It is encouraging to see students' reports that show their interest in international cooperation exhibiting thoughtful analysis and enthusiasm for specialization even though some may be shy when it comes to vocally expressing opinions in the public lecture. Enabling them to express their feelings in writing offers a useful alternative method of communicating motives and interests. In the past, several students who attended the lecture subsequently joined AAI as interns. We are looking forward to having the yearly lecture in Hokkaido again, and hope that some of the students with whom we will interacting will become development consultants or NGO workers who can take a leading role in agriculture assistance in Japan and overseas in the future.

Year	Resource Recycling	Unused/Underused	WH	Subtotal/Total
2022	36 (65.5)	19 (34.5)	-	55 (100)
2021	23 (59.0)	16 (41.0)	-	39 (100)
2020	45 (61.6)	28 (38.4)	-	73 (100)
2019	56 (59.6)	14 (14.9)	24 (25.5)	94 (100)
2018	21 (46.7)	13 (28.9)	11 (24.4)	45 (100)
2017	23 (45.1)	15 (29.4)	24 (25.5)	51 (100)
2016	23 (54.8)	8 (19.0)	11 (24.4)	42 (100)
2015	28 (47.5)	14 (23.7)	13 (25.5)	59 (100)
2014	33 (50.0)	14 (21.2)	11 (26.2)	66 (100)
2013	42 (49.4)	20 (23.5)	17 (28.8)	85 (100)
Subtotal/Total	330 (54.2)	161 (26.4)	19 (28.8)	609 (100)

Selection of the theme by year