

Outline of the Green Asia Project

“Accelerating application of agricultural technologies which enhance production potentials and ensure sustainable food systems in the Asia-Monsoon region”

1. Background

The current global food systems are facing many challenges and the United Nations Food Systems Summit held in September 2021 showed that it is essential to transform to sustainable food systems. To promote the transformation of the global food systems, it is necessary to generate a wide range of innovations in all processes from production to consumption and disposal. From this perspective, efforts are being made in Japan to develop and implement the latest science, technology and innovations in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and food-related sectors, including smart agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, which can contribute to the transformation of food systems.

In May 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan launched the “Strategy MeaDRI (Measures for the achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation)”, as a national strategy to enhance the production potentials and ensure sustainability of the agriculture forestry and fisheries sectors towards achieving sustainable food systems transformation. Among the technologies and ideas developed to transform the food systems in Japan, there are technologies applicable to the Asia-Monsoon region, where we share similar features such as high temperature and humidity, paddy-rice based agriculture, and a high proportion of small and medium-sized farmers. To accelerate the activities building sustainable food systems by testing and disseminating technologies applicable to the region, MAFF assigned the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) to conduct the project “Accelerating application of agricultural technologies which enhance production potentials and ensure sustainable food systems in the Asia-Monsoon region” since April 2022. JIRCAS conducts this project under the name of “Green Asia”.

2. Purpose

In order to contribute to the transformation of food systems in Asia-Monsoon region, this project aims to accelerate the application of scalable agricultural technologies in the region through the development of an international collaboration system, dissemination of information, and joint research utilizing the network of JIRCAS and other national institutes.

3. Duration

FY 2022-2025 (Japanese fiscal year from April to March)

4. Target areas

Asia-Monsoon region

5. Activities

- 1) Building a system for international collaboration and disseminating information
 - i) Establishment of the International Scientific Advisory Board for Strategy "MeaDRI"
 - The advisory board will comprise of outstanding scientists and/or executive officials of leading agricultural research institutes/universities. The members will provide advice and comments on the reports and other outputs generated by the project.
 - ii) Establishment of the International Center for Strategy "MeaDRI"

- International Center for Strategy "MeaDRI" is established within JIRCAS and plays as a hub for collection, analysis, management, and dissemination of research results and outputs of the project.

iii) Sharing information on scalable agricultural technologies

- Under the advice of the International Scientific Advisory Board, the International Center for Strategy "MeaDRI" will analyze research results, identifies scalable agricultural technologies that can be applied in the Asia-Monsoon region, and disseminate them including through international fora and as reports. Expected outputs, such as reports are to be issued during project period.

2) Accelerating application of scalable agricultural technologies through joint research

- The scalable agricultural technologies will be tested through joint research. Reports or manuals will be published based on the research results.