

JIRCAS

2021-2022

Japan International Research Center for
Agricultural Sciences

Together for our food and planetary health



Together for our food and planetary health

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences

JIRCAS, a National Research and Development Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, plays a core role in international collaborations in the field of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries research in Japan.

We will contribute to solving global food and environmental problems through effective and intensive implementation of research and development and by strengthening the functions of the center.



History

- 1970** ▶ Establishment of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center (TARC) by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- 1977** ▶ TARC Headquarters was transferred from Kita-ku, Tokyo, to Tsukuba City, Ibaraki
- 1993** ▶ Reorganization of TARC into Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
- 2001** ▶ Restructured as Incorporated Administrative Agency (IAA) [Formulation of the First Medium-Term Plan]
- 2006** ▶ [The Second Medium-Term Plan]
- 2011** ▶ [The Third Medium-Term Plan]
- 2015** ▶ Restructured as National Research and Development Agency (NRDA)
- 2016** ▶ [The Fourth Medium to Long-Term Plan]
- 2020** ▶ The 50th Founding Anniversary of JIRCAS
- 2021** ▶ [The Fifth Medium to Long-Term Plan]

Main Objectives

- 1** To undertake comprehensive experimental research for technological advancement of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and related industries in tropical and subtropical zones of developing regions;
- 2** To collect, analyze, and publish information of domestic and international researches which are relevant to agriculture, forestry, and fisheries as well as farming systems in developing areas;
- 3** To invest in and provide manpower and technical support to businesses that utilize the results of experimental research;
- 4** Through the above, to contribute solutions to global food and environmental problems as well as to the stable supply of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and resources.

Basic Principles

Solutions to global food and environmental problems

JIRCAS will propose optimum technologies for solving difficult global problems such as food insecurity, malnutrition, and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, by making full use of the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.

Center of excellence in the field of international agricultural research

JIRCAS, as the sole national research institute in the field of international agriculture, forestry, and fisheries representing Japan, will lead international scientific dialogues and contribute to national food security as well as to the prosperity and stability of international society.

Operation Policies

Maximization of the results of research and development

JIRCAS will always be aware of the outcomes and the actual utilization of research and study results, and work toward maximizing the results of research and development which can make a broad impact to the societies.

Strengthening of domestic and international collaboration and cooperation

JIRCAS will provide opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between domestic and foreign researchers, research institutes, administrative bodies, development agencies, farmers, and companies among others, and promote the creation of innovation in the area of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

Providing a pleasant and safe work environment

JIRCAS will provide a safe, pleasant, and rewarding work environment for all executives and employees, and continue to pursue efficient and high-quality activities.

Top Message

On to the Next Stage “Together for our food and planetary health”

The Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), a national research and development agency, started its new five-year Medium to Long-Term Plan in April 2021, the fifth plan since its transformation to an independent administrative agency. Its noble mission, redefined in its fifth Medium to Long-Term Target as mandated in March by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan, is stated as follows: “As a research institution representing Japan in the field of international agriculture, forestry and fisheries, JIRCAS aims to enhance agriculture, forestry and fisheries technology in the world including Japan and to contribute to the advancement of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, towards the accomplishment of the government policy on the Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas.” The target also specified two priority tasks: the effective and intensive implementation of research and development to contribute to solving global food and environmental issues, and the enhancement of function for collecting and analyzing multi-dimensional information related to the issues and for its broader dissemination.

To meet the target, JIRCAS selected its main research and development activities and organized them into two programs — “Environment” and “Food” — so that intensive implementation can be assured. Each program covers six research projects, and all of these projects aim to achieve better outcomes by providing solutions to global issues related to agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Also, activities that enhance its function as an information center on the complex and diverse global environment and food systems were gathered and classified into four projects under the “Information” program.

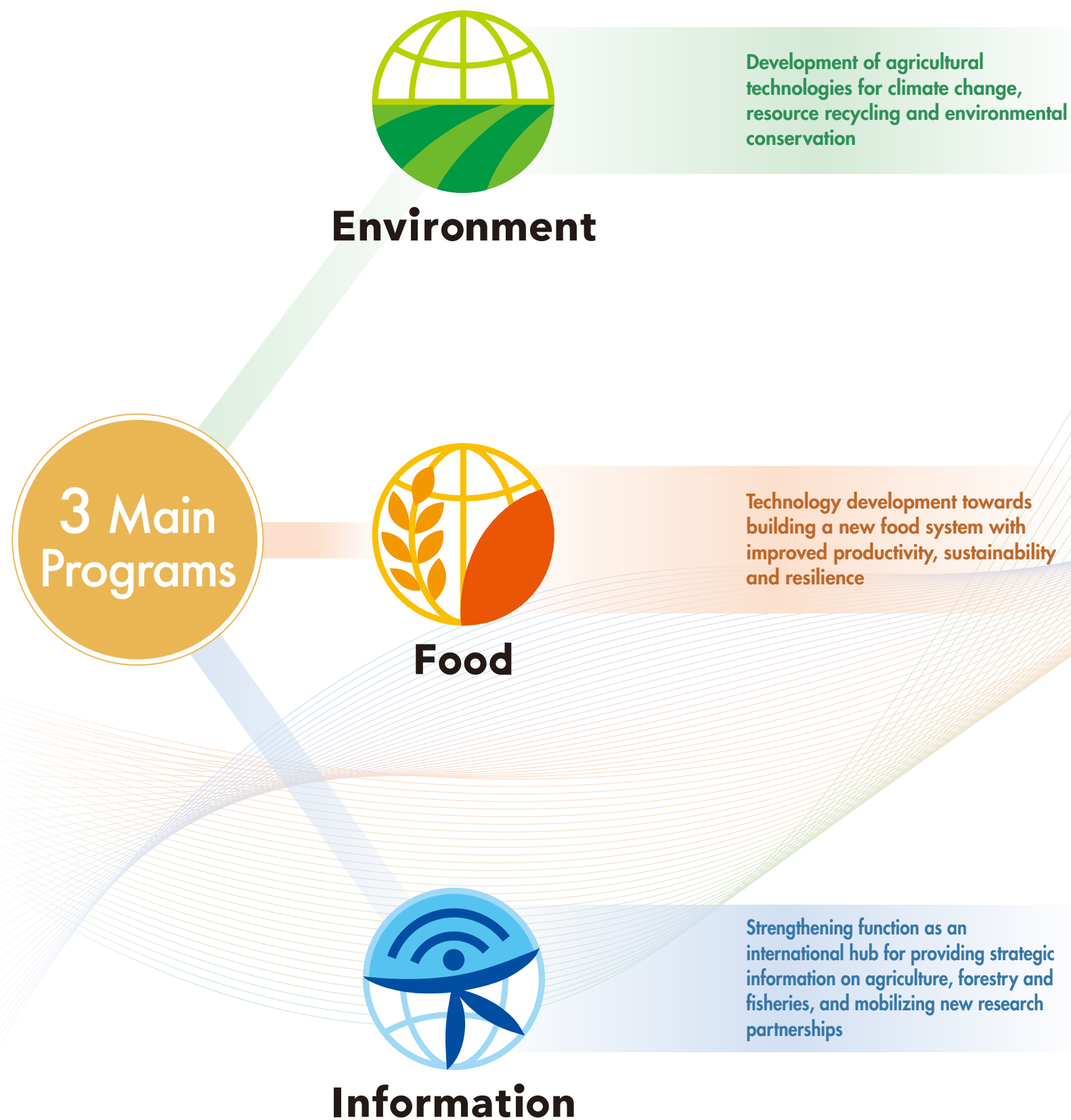
As JIRCAS pursues the above tasks, we will pay particular attention to providing a swift and flexible response to the changing situation in target regions and the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis etc., as well as cooperate with various domestic and international partners and promote public relations using various media and communication tools. In addition, using advanced digital technologies, we will also strive to further enhance productivity and efficiency, improve the quality of our outputs, and promote openness and transparency.



JIRCAS celebrated its 50th anniversary last year and entered a new stage with the slogan “Together for our food and planetary health.” Guided by long-term principles such as the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs) and the new policy “Measures for Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation” of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, we will unite ourselves and work together to uphold and create new values based on our common humanity. The new Medium to Long-Term Plan of JIRCAS provides the most appropriate framework for us to fulfill our mission.

KOYAMA Osamu
President

FY 2021
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2025



P8 ▶▶ P11

- Development of comprehensive agricultural technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Monsoon Asia
- Development of carbon recycling technologies to address global issues caused by agricultural waste
- Development of planet-friendly agricultural production systems using biological nitrification inhibition (BNI) technology
- Evaluation of genetic resources for strengthening productivity and adaptability of tropical forests
- Development and evaluation of environmental conservation technologies for tropical islands through an approach emphasizing Yama-Sato-Umi (Ridge-to-reef agroecosystem) connectivity
- Development of sustainable land management technologies under extreme weather conditions in drylands

P12 ▶▶ P15

- Development of resilient crops and production technologies
- Design of crop breeding and food processing of indigenous resources to create new and diversified demands
- Development of environment-friendly management systems against transboundary plant pests based on ecological characteristics
- Development and dissemination of sustainable aquaculture technologies in the tropical area based on the eco-system approach
- Development of sustainable rice cultivation and food production systems in Africa
- Technology development towards supporting farmers' decision-making to boost sustainable upland farming systems in Africa

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- Strategic information hub for international agricultural research
- Practical application of global research results and establishment of a model platform for promoting private-sector research collaboration and creating new business ventures
- Towards the development of digital agriculture technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Advancement of tropical crop genetic resources utilization through the development of database technologies and research networking



Program A

Environment



Development of agricultural technologies for climate change, resource recycling and environmental conservation

In October 2020, the so-called “carbon neutral” challenge began in Japan when it announced its aim to achieve zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and realize a decarbonized society. In May 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries formulated the strategy for Sustainable Food Systems (MeaDRI) to actively contribute to this effort. To achieve carbon neutrality, it is important to reduce GHG emissions from agricultural production.

Accelerated GHG emissions through crop cultivation, livestock production, and extractive forest resource use can amplify the burden on people's lives and society. Many farmers in developing regions that rely heavily on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are small-scale farmers; thus, reduced production due to floods and droughts can threaten their daily livelihoods. Clearly, the increase in atmospheric concentrations of GHGs can directly and indirectly hurt people's lives. We need a carbon-neutral society in order to realize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The Environment Program of JIRCAS aims to achieve the twin goals of ensuring sustainability in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors and establishing appropriate resource management by maximizing resource use efficiency in developing regions that are heavily dependent on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. To achieve these goals, we will work with national agricultural research institutes and other organizations in such countries, through cooperation, to develop technologies needed by small-scale farmers who are exposed to the effects of climate change, and for each country to achieve its own nationally determined contribution (NDC) target to reduce its GHG emissions. In addition, as part of the “MeaDRI,” which is the culmination of Japan's science and technology innovation and a model for initiatives in the Asian monsoon region, we are promoting international joint research with countries in the region.

In developing regions that rely heavily on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, we will address the ongoing climate change on a global scale and maximize the efficiency of resource use so that the environment does not exceed a critical point, thereby achieving both sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries and appropriate resource management.

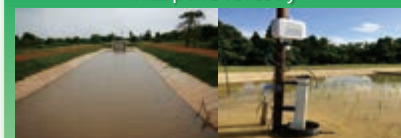


Accelerate research through domestic and international collaboration, and actively disseminate information to international networks

Development of carbon-neutral and sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries technologies that promote climate change mitigation and adaptation

Climate change measures

Climate change measures in Monsoon Asia
Adaptive forestry



Wide area water management,
ICT utilization (Vietnam etc.)



Environmental adaptation model, growth
prediction model (Indonesia, etc.)

Resource recycling

Carbon recycling
BNI-system



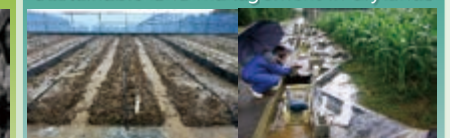
Microbial saccharification and gasification
(Malaysia, Thailand)



BNI fortified wheat, development of
cultivation technology (India, Colombia etc.)

Environmental conservation

Yama-Sato-Umi agroecosystem connectivity
Sustainable land management in drylands



Soil erosion, soil runoff reduction
(Philippines, Ishigaki)



Fallowing of arable land
(Burkina Faso)

Low-cost SLM
(India)

Climate Change Measures in Monsoon Asia Project

This project aims for social implementation and dissemination of technologies, for example, mitigation measures, among them GHG emissions reduction from paddy fields and livestock, soil carbon storage, and adaptation measures such as water-saving cultivation and improvement of water management, related to climate change measures technologies applicable to small-scale farmers in the Asian monsoon region. We plan to accumulate evidence that these technologies are easy for local farmers to accept and can lead to various co-benefits, and we will make policy recommendations to the governments of partner countries.

Furthermore, we will develop GHG mitigation technologies from both enteric fermentation and manure management through utilization of locally available resources. We will aim for social implementation and disseminate the technologies developed under this project. These technologies will be evaluated using GHG Life Cycle Assessment and improved through action research to make them more applicable to farmers.



Providing technologies applicable to farmers with the aim of reducing GHG emissions from paddy fields and livestock

Carbon Recycling Project

This project develops a microbial saccharification-gasification bioreactor to generate methane, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen from agricultural waste with high efficiency. In addition, we will work on the development of nutritional pigments and fuel production technologies using the various gases generated, and the development of production technologies for producing high value-added substances such as bioplastics. On the other hand, understanding agricultural waste's global environmental impact on recycling is crucial. Therefore, we will propose utilization and management methods for agricultural waste by promoting GHG data conversion and crop impact assessment generated when agricultural waste is abandoned on agricultural land. Furthermore, we will promote the spread of carbon recycling technologies jointly with private companies, government agencies, local governments, and agricultural cooperatives, with the aim of facilitating social implementation.

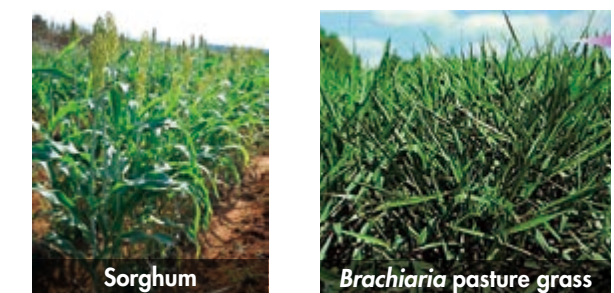


Development of carbon recycling technology by microbial saccharification

BNI-system Project

JIRCAS revealed biological nitrification inhibition (BNI), that certain plant species controlling nitrification in natural ecosystems to maintain high productivity while reducing environmental burden resulting from nitrogen fertilization, which has already far exceeded the planetary boundary. We had formed a BNI international consortium with institutions globally and are working to develop BNI technologies to enhance potentials for production and ensure sustainability.

This project is currently focusing on four crops, i.e., wheat, maize, sorghum, and *Brachiaria* pasture. We have developed BNI-enabled elite-wheat lines, that has a potential for world second largest crop, and the lines are presently undergoing field-evaluations for possible deployment in major wheat-growing regions such as the IGP (Indo-Gangetic Plain), a major wheat-producing area in India, where there is a growing demand for wheat. BNI research for maize, the most widely grown crop, had been initiated, and BNI compounds are being elucidated. We are further utilizing this clue to establish a maize production system with BNI.



BNI research by JIRCAS is currently focused on the above crops.

Adaptive Forestry Project

To promote effective forest restoration, this project conducts the following research activities on native tree species in Southeast Asia: (1) Evaluation of the growth and properties of wood, as well as their adaptability to environmental changes such as higher temperature and drought, to propose tree species and land suitable for planting, (2) Application of genomic selection to the breeding of teak in Thailand and dipterocarps in Malaysia and Indonesia to significantly shorten the breeding cycle,



Teak seed orchard

(3) Development of silvicultural techniques with growth prediction based on the evaluation of the physiological characteristics of tree species in order to plant an appropriate combination of tree species and strains that can adapt to the environment of the planting area, (4) Evaluation of the impact of tree planting on ecosystem functions and the proposal of operational guidelines for recovering these functions, and (5) Promotion of international networks to share the obtained information on tropical forest genetic resources.

Yama-Sato-Umi Agroecosystem Connectivity Project

In this project, aiming for sustainable development in tropical islands, we will develop technologies to reduce environmental load through appropriate resource circulation from Montane to the coastal ecosystem (Yama-Sato-Umi Agroecosystem). In mountain areas, we will develop a rural livelihood system that improves water-soil conservation function and rural livelihood inspired by the Japanese Satoyama management. In the village, we will work on the development of sustainable technology which consists of underground irrigation system, organic matter application, and improved fertilizer application, as well as the development of sugarcane cultivation system and potential breeding lines. Furthermore, we will focus on mangroves and macro- and microalgae in the hydrosphere environment to develop a water quality conservation system based on their biological functions. To make it sustainable to apply the JIRCAS technologies and see them widely utilized in the areas, we will also assess the environmental impact and clarify the applicable conditions for the introduction of our technologies.

Sustainable Land Management in Drylands Project

Desertification, which is soil degradation in drylands, is one of the global environmental problems. Especially in the drylands of Africa and Asia where desertification has progressed due to soil degradation, extreme weather events such as drought and heavy rain have risen markedly in recent years, threatening food and nutrition security. To achieve sustainable agriculture and food and nutritional security, this project develops a sustainable land management (SLM) strategy that conserves soil resources while maximizing the efficiency of soil and water resource utilization. In West Africa where soil erosion and drought are major problems, we will improve soil conservation technologies, create soil conservation standards, and develop technologies to maximize soil resource utilization. Furthermore, we will develop an effective dissemination method for these soil conservation technologies.

On the other hand, in northern India where salinization and heavy rain are major problems, we will develop low-cost technologies that mitigate salinization and maximize water resource utilization. Furthermore, we will evaluate the local applicability and dissemination potential of the technologies.



Dipterocarp seedlings (left), Mangrove forest (right)



Construction of technology and material cycle to reduce the environmental load of mountains, villages, and the sea



Improvement and dissemination of soil erosion countermeasures (left), Development of a low-cost sustainable land management method (right)



Technology development towards building a new food system with improved productivity, sustainability and resilience

The global food system has been facing problems due to the effects of population growth and climate change, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic revealing a vulnerability in this food system and exacerbating the situation. It is therefore essential to strengthen the resilience of the food system in order to deal with not only pandemics but also various problems that are occurring or may occur in the future.

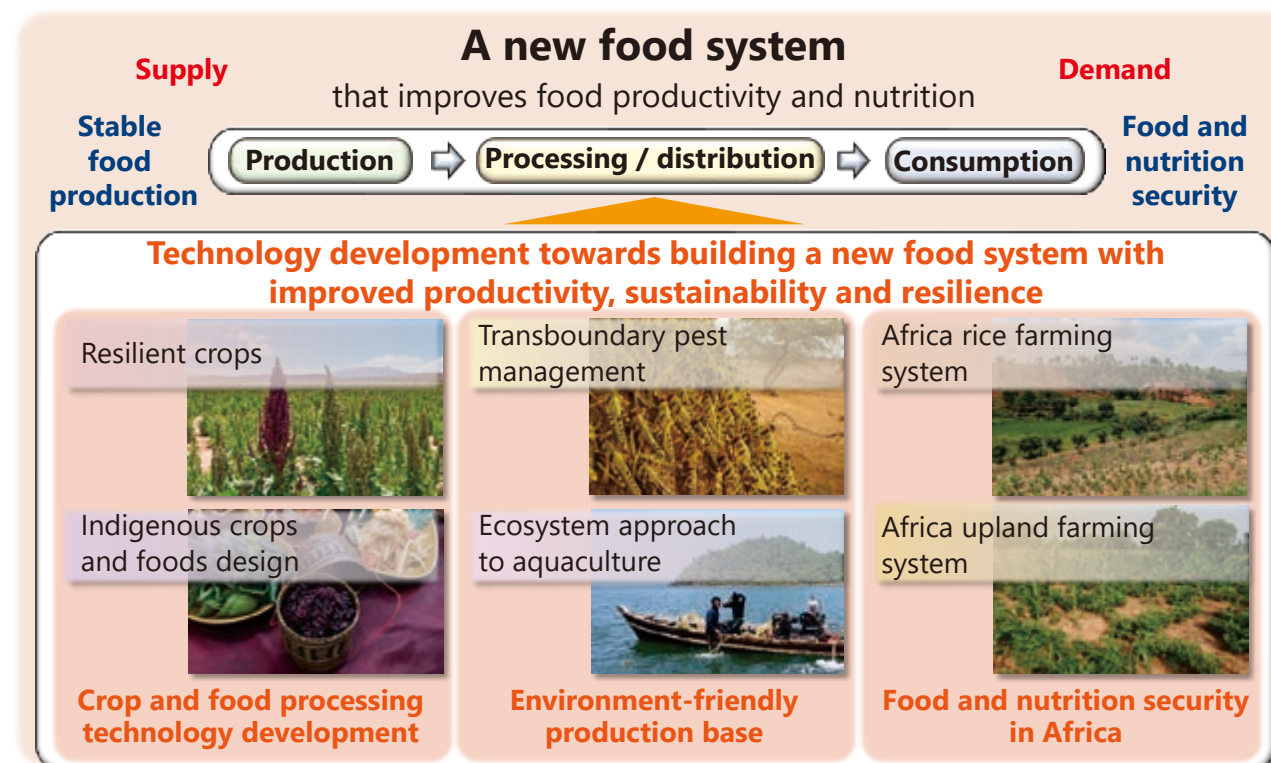
To increase the resilience of food systems in developing regions, it is necessary to address the diverse needs (i.e., social, economic, and biosphere needs) related to food systems. “Social needs” include quantitative and qualitative nutritional improvement and realization of health through food. “Economic needs” include labor reduction / productivity improvement, maximum utilization of local resources, or promotion of agriculture that is resilient to risks such as climate change. “Biosphere needs” include reduction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and

conservation and regeneration of biodiversity. In order to solve these needs, we expect to utilize advanced technologies such as ICT, IoT, and biotechnology.

In this program, through technological development and utilization in response to such diverse needs related to food systems, we will build a “new food system that achieves improved food productivity and improved nutrition” to contribute to stable food production in the target area, international food supply and demand, and food and nutrition security. For this purpose, we will promote six projects for improving productivity, sustainability, and resilience. These projects are classified into “Crop and food processing technology development,” “Environment-friendly production base,” and “Food and nutrition security in Africa.”

They all contribute primarily to Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through technology development and utilization in response to the diverse needs related to food systems, we will build a “new food system” to contribute to stable food production in the target area, international food supply and demand, and food and nutrition security.



Resilient Crops Project

Frequent extreme weather caused by global climate change, environmental degradation due to rapid population growth, and crop production in low areas have disrupted crop production and threatened world food and nutrition security. Global warming and rapid population growth are exacerbating global challenges, making it difficult to respond to conventional breeding strategies.

This project aims to contribute to reducing global hunger and malnutrition and strengthening food and nutrition security on a global scale by enabling resilient crop production, even in adverse environmental regions around the world. To this end, we will utilize cutting-edge technologies to develop breeding materials and production technologies that contribute to strengthening resilience to external disturbances such as environmental stresses of the main crops (rice and soybean) and the low-use crop (quinoa).



Rice (left) and Soybean (center) as the main crops and Quinoa (right) as the low-use crop

Indigenous Crops and Foods Design Project

The environment surrounding “food” and “agriculture” in the world is changing due to climate change, globalization, and infectious diseases. The way food is produced, distributed, and consumed is entering a period of change. Improvement of nutrition in developing regions can be achieved through cross-disciplinary research activities on the quality of indigenous crops and traditional foods. Currently, technological innovations observed in IoT-related fields and next-generation sequencers have made it possible to comprehensively analyze the functionality and processing characteristics of indigenous crops and traditional foods at the molecular level.

This project clarifies the functionality and processing characteristics of indigenous genetic resources (rice, ginger, yam, etc.) and traditional foods (fermented foods, etc.) in Laos, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Japan with advanced technology for the development of production technologies, breeding materials, and food processing techniques that contribute to solving the global challenges of food and nutrition.



Black rice



Yam



Fermented food

Various native crop genetic resources and traditional foods

Transboundary Pest Management Project

This project aims to contribute to the stable supply of food and nutrients with low environmental impact, which is the SDGs’ target, by contributing to the establishment of an international management system for transboundary plant pests whose damage is expanding. To this end, we will collaborate with organizations including international organizations on efficient and environmentally friendly control technologies against desert locust, rice planthoppers, and fall armyworm, which are global problems. In addition, we will present an economic evaluation model that will guide the development of a comprehensive control technology efficiently when a new transboundary plant pest problem becomes apparent.



Desert locust



Rice planthoppers



Fall armyworm

Transboundary plant pests causing widespread damage

Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture Project

For fishing villages and agricultural and mountain villages in Southeast Asia, aquatic products are an important source of income and a vital source of nutrients such as proteins, minerals, and other sources. However, the socio-economic background of local communities, including micro fisheries farmers, is complicated. To develop and spread the practical aquaculture technologies, an ecosystem approach that comprehensively discusses the local needs and how to use aquaculture farms with relevant parties in advance is helpful.



This project will strategically revitalize the tropical fisheries sector by developing and disseminating sustainable aquaculture technologies through an ecosystem approach to the aquaculture industry, and by socio-economic analysis of the community. Furthermore, we aim to contribute to the formation of a healthy community by improving the nutritional status of the residents. To this end, we will revitalize the fishery industry and improve nutrition by continuously developing aquaculture technologies and disseminating them through a community-based approach, based on the management of aquaculture grounds that maintain the ecosystem.



Community-based aquaculture ground management that maintains ecosystem functions

Africa Rice Farming System Project

In sub-Saharan Africa, where food security is the most lagging in the world, one in four people suffer from chronic hunger. In order to secure stable food in the region and eradicate hunger as listed in the SDGs, food production technologies that can adapt to the destabilizing cultivation environment and effectively utilize limited resources, such as water and nutrients, are required.

This project creates new technologies and knowledge that will lead to increased production of rice, which is the key crop of the region, and improvement of people’s nutrition, and aims to build a sustainable food production system centered on rice cultivation.



Construction of a sustainable food production system centered on rice cultivation for Africa

Africa Upland Farming System Project

In Africa, small-scale farmers make up the majority of the rural population. To support small-scale farmers and achieve agricultural revitalization, activities that improve agricultural productivity and resilience as well as commercialization are necessary. In particular, in order to activate upland farming, it is essential not only to improve productivity but also to utilize technologies that could lead to balanced profitability and sustainability, such as the introduction of high-value-added crops and soil conservation technologies.

This project develops and promotes technologies to improve productivity, profitability, and sustainability of small-scale upland crops and livestock production in a well-balanced manner. In addition, we will contribute to enhancing the small-scale upland farming system in Africa by ensuring farmers’ access to the information needed to make the right decision on their best-bet combination of crops and production technologies.



Supporting food and nutrition security for the African people



Program C

Information



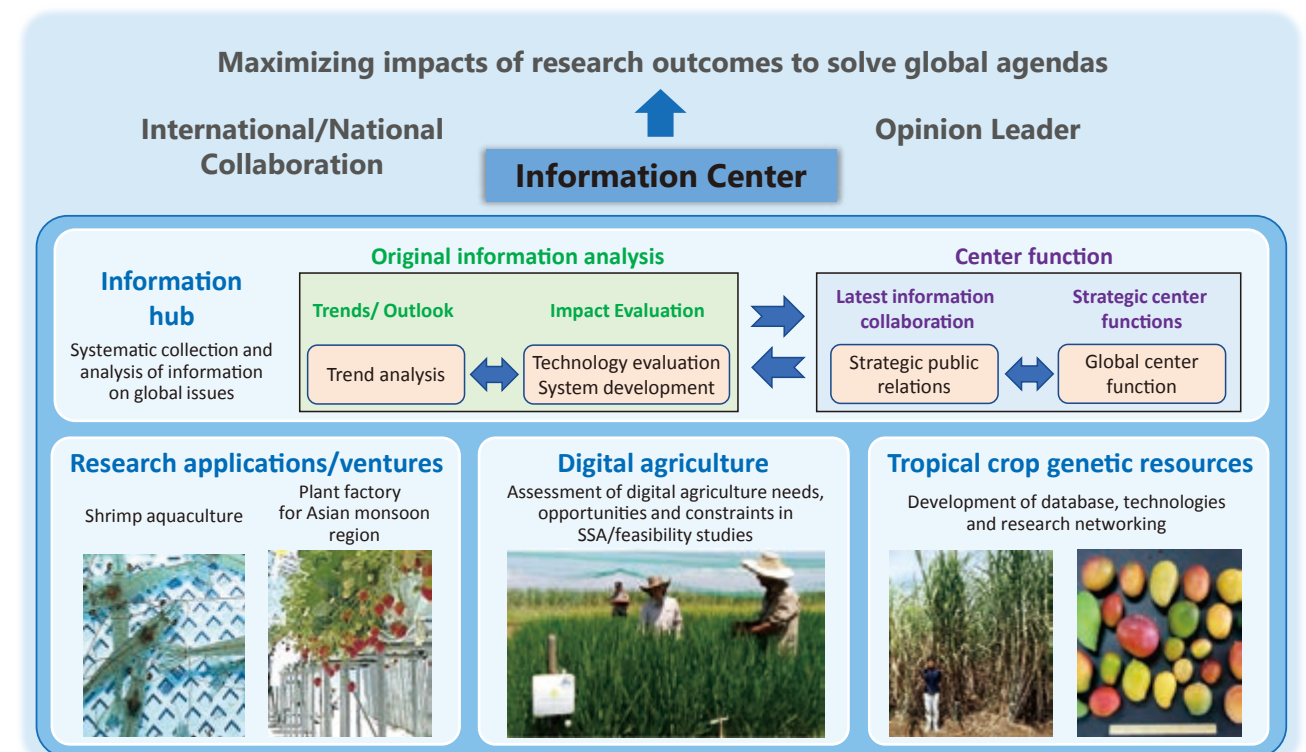
Strengthening function as an international hub for providing strategic information on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and mobilizing new research partnerships

Today, global food systems are exposed to multiple challenges including climate change, the presence of transboundary pests and diseases, and pandemic outbreaks. Risks inherent in imbalances in the demand and supply of globally traded agricultural commodities can be instantly transmitted through global food systems, adversely impacting the economic performance of importing countries and regions, and worsening inequality through disproportionately affected socio-economically vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the projected acceleration of changes in food demand, both in quantity and quality, with population growth and urbanization prospects in some developing countries, can bring about disruptive impacts on all stages of global food systems from production, distribution, and consumption. This could potentially threaten global food security if the global communities remain uninformed and unprepared.

It is therefore essential for policy makers to access the latest, systematically compiled information on global food system development and trajectories based on scientific knowledge, so as to participate in opportunities to set global agendas. Similarly, it has become increasingly important for scientists to access the latest information on the challenges and drivers affecting global food systems, in order to identify opportunities for science, technology, and innovation to play a role in providing solutions.

The Information Program aims at collecting, analyzing, and providing strategic and evidence-based information on the challenges affecting the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors and global food systems in increasingly more complicated and multi-faceted societies, and to disseminate this information widely, and serving as an opinion leader, to guide and mobilize collective actions to solve global issues.

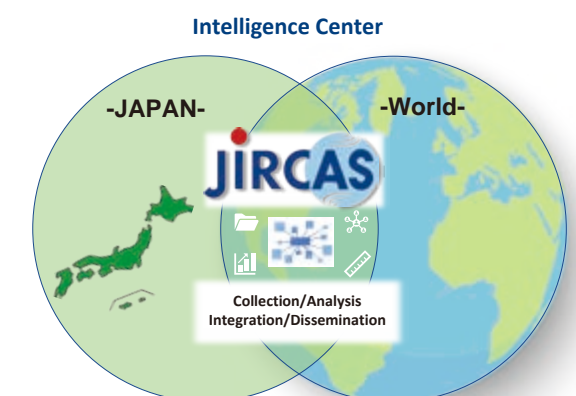
Collect, analyze and provide strategic and evidence-based information on challenges affecting the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector and global food systems in increasingly more complicated and multi-faceted societies, as an opinion leader.



Information Hub Project

In recent years, with the acceleration of the speed at which new developments in science, technology, and innovation are transforming our societies, the readiness of interdisciplinary collaboration to adopt advanced technologies defines the competitiveness of a country. Information collection and analysis of global megatrends affecting food and nutrition security will play an important role in the transformation of global food systems into a sustainable one for both human and planetary health.

This project is engaged in the systematic collection and analysis of information on new developments in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, in order to derive recommendations over the role of science, technology, and innovation in the transformation of global food systems.



Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on trends in the global food system

Research Applications/Ventures Project

Much of JIRCAS's output in its 50-plus years of experience in conducting research in developing regions has been disseminated through its joint research project counterparts (i.e., national agricultural research institutions and/or government agencies); thus, until the present, there have been few examples of research results being widely applied in the private sector and the relevant markets.

This project specifically aims at scaling up JIRCAS's research outputs through the establishment of new business models that will enable us to tailor and optimize technologies in both a local and international context through collaboration with the private sector in Japan as well as in developing countries.

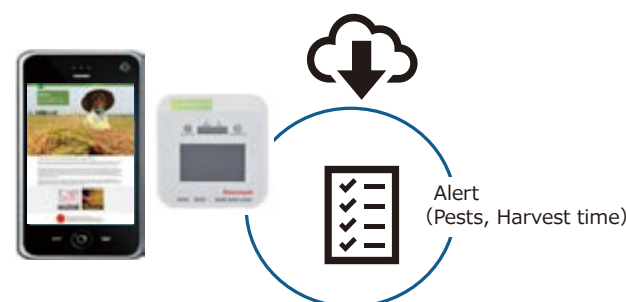


Indoor Shrimp Production System (top), Asian Monsoon Model Plant Factory (bottom)

Digital Agriculture Project

These days, there has been an increased expectation for digital agriculture to solve the compounded challenges affecting food security in developing countries, including climate change and agricultural labor constraints, by improving efficiency in resource use. However, the lack of critical information on enabling vs. constraining conditions for the application of digital agriculture in locally specific contexts has hindered the realization of its potentials.

This project collects and analyzes evidence-based information on the opportunities and constraints of the application of digital agriculture in the sub-Saharan Africa region, in order to assess potentials and barriers and subsequently formulate strategies to promote its development.



Understanding the needs of agricultural digitization technology and assessing its adaptability

Tropical Crop Genetic Resources Project

JIRCAS possesses diverse collection of tropical crop genetic resources, including sugarcane, indica type of rice, tropical fruits, and *Brachiaria* (tropical grass for forage). With the increasing threats posed by global climate change, it is imperative to ensure sustainable production of such tropical crops, which can contribute to the stable production of food and biomass crops and promote food diversification and nutrition both in developing countries and in Japan.

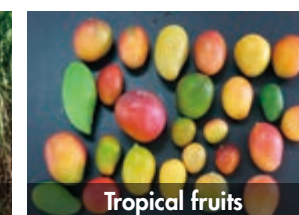
This project aims at advancing the management and utilization of diverse tropical crop genetic resources through development of databases, technologies, and research networks with domestic as well as international partners so as to contribute to sustainable production and utilization under adverse agricultural environments in tropical and sub-tropical areas including Japan.



Indica type of rice



Sugarcane



Tropical fruits

Various tropical crop genetic resources possessed by JIRCAS

Southeast Asia Liaison Office

The Southeast Asia Liaison Office was established in 1972 in Bangkok, Thailand, as a base for JIRCAS's activities in the region. It is currently located in the Department of Agriculture, Thailand, adjacent to Kasetsart University. It conducts surveys to monitor trends in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries research, collects local information, and disseminates JIRCAS's research results by providing information through the Thailand Science and Technology Fair and through seminars organized by JIRCAS. In addition, it provides support to JIRCAS's joint research activities, such as ensuring compliance with registration procedures for varieties bred jointly with research institutions in Southeast Asian countries.



Meeting with officials of the Department of Agriculture, Thailand, in the conference room of the Southeast Asia Liaison Office

Tropical Agriculture Research Front (TARF)

● Location

Ishigaki Island (24°1-35' N, 124°5-20' E), where the Tropical Agricultural Research Front (TARF) is located, is a subtropical island with a diverse ecosystem spread from Mt. Omoto (526 m above sea level) to the coral-rich seas. The island is about 2,100 km southwest of Tokyo and 270 km northeast of Taipei. It has an area of 221 km² and is surrounded by coral reefs. It has a humid subtropical climate with an annual average temperature of 24.5°C. Although annual average precipitation is high (as much as 2,095.5 mm), droughts caused by high temperatures during the summer are not uncommon. Several typhoons every year bring not only blessed rain on the island but also severe wind and salinity damage due to strong sea breezes.

● Roles

TARF conducts research and development of agricultural production technologies that can be applied to developing regions and island regions in the tropics and subtropics, taking advantage of the area's climatic and geographical conditions. It implements basic and fundamental experiments that are difficult to perform at project sites overseas using its 21-hectare experimental field and various greenhouses as well as the open laboratory facilities (lysimeters). As the only national agricultural research organization located in the subtropics, TARF is thus entrusted with an important mission.

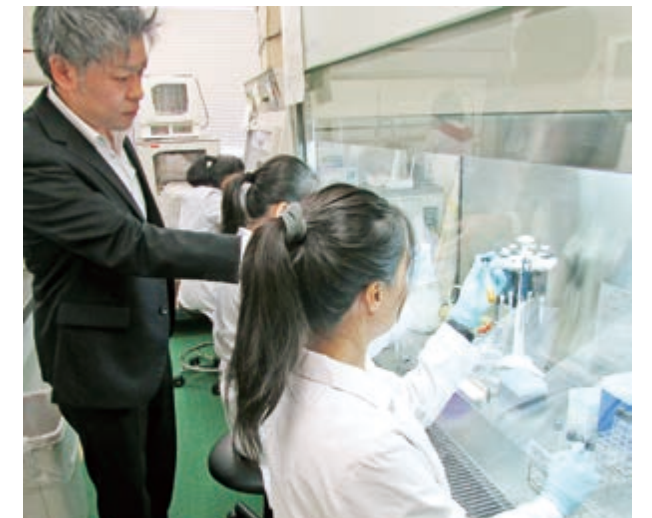


Research Exchange Programs

Every year, JIRCAS invites around 70 researchers and research administrators from collaborative research organizations to conduct joint research projects (Collaborative Research Projects). JIRCAS also invites some 5 researchers from developing countries to stay for one year and perform collaborative experiments in the laboratories of Tsukuba Headquarters, in the Tropical Agriculture Research Front, or other JIRCAS project sites to support the ongoing research activities and improve their research capabilities (JIRCAS Visiting Research Fellowship Program).

For young Japanese researchers who will take future roles in international researches, JIRCAS has a practical education program, which dispatches postdoctoral researchers and graduate students to the project sites and collaborative organizations in developing regions.

Furthermore, JIRCAS together with MAFF hosts an annual commendation ceremony to recognize three young researchers from overseas who show outstanding performance and research achievements. This award was initiated in 2007 to increase motivation among young researchers who are actively contributing to research and development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related industries in developing countries (Japan International Award for Young Agricultural Researchers).



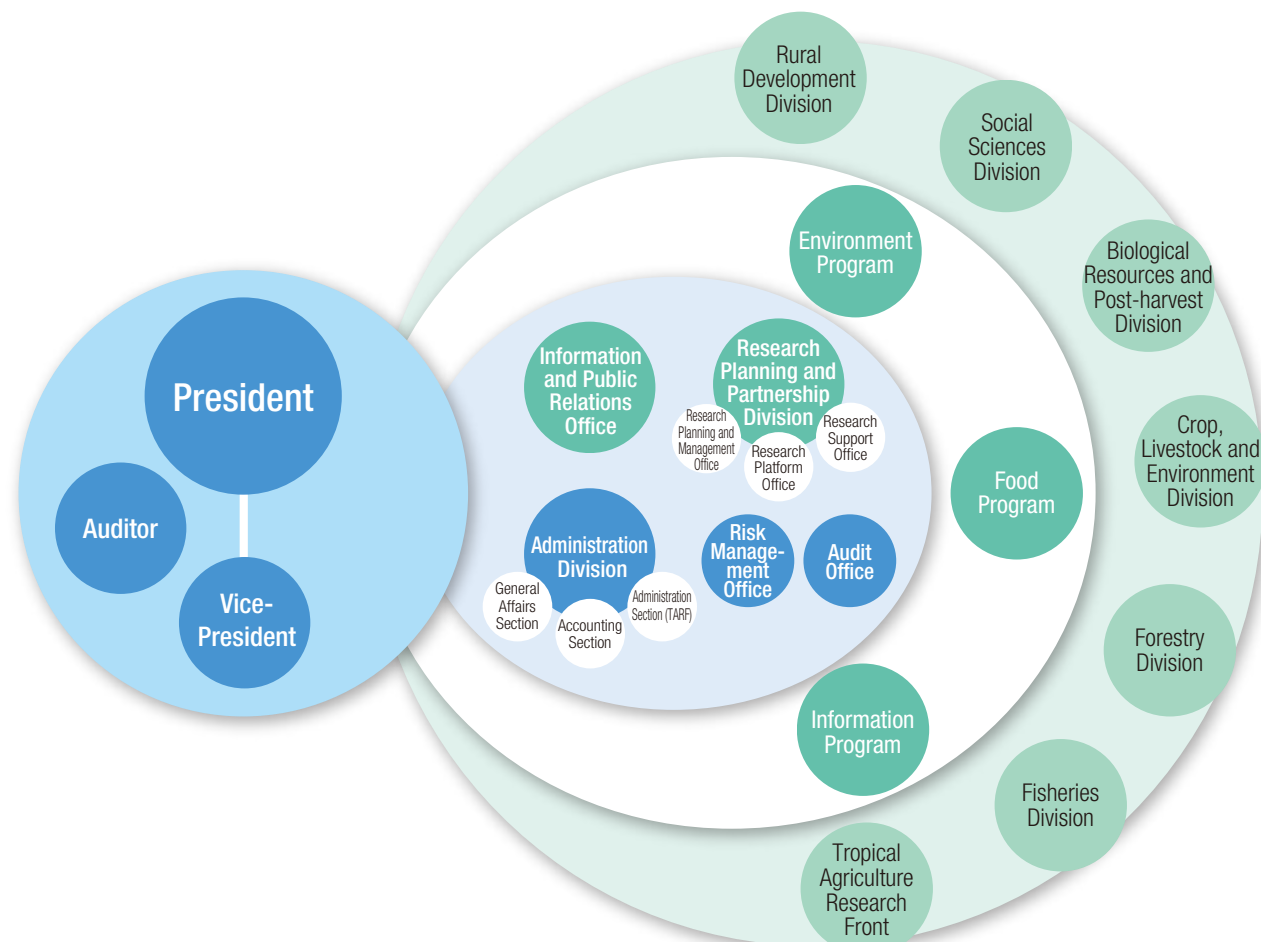
International Symposium and Workshops

JIRCAS organizes international symposium which are based around themes of central importance to international research. Symposium presentations and discussions deal with research topics aimed at solving problems in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and related industries towards sustainable development in developing countries.

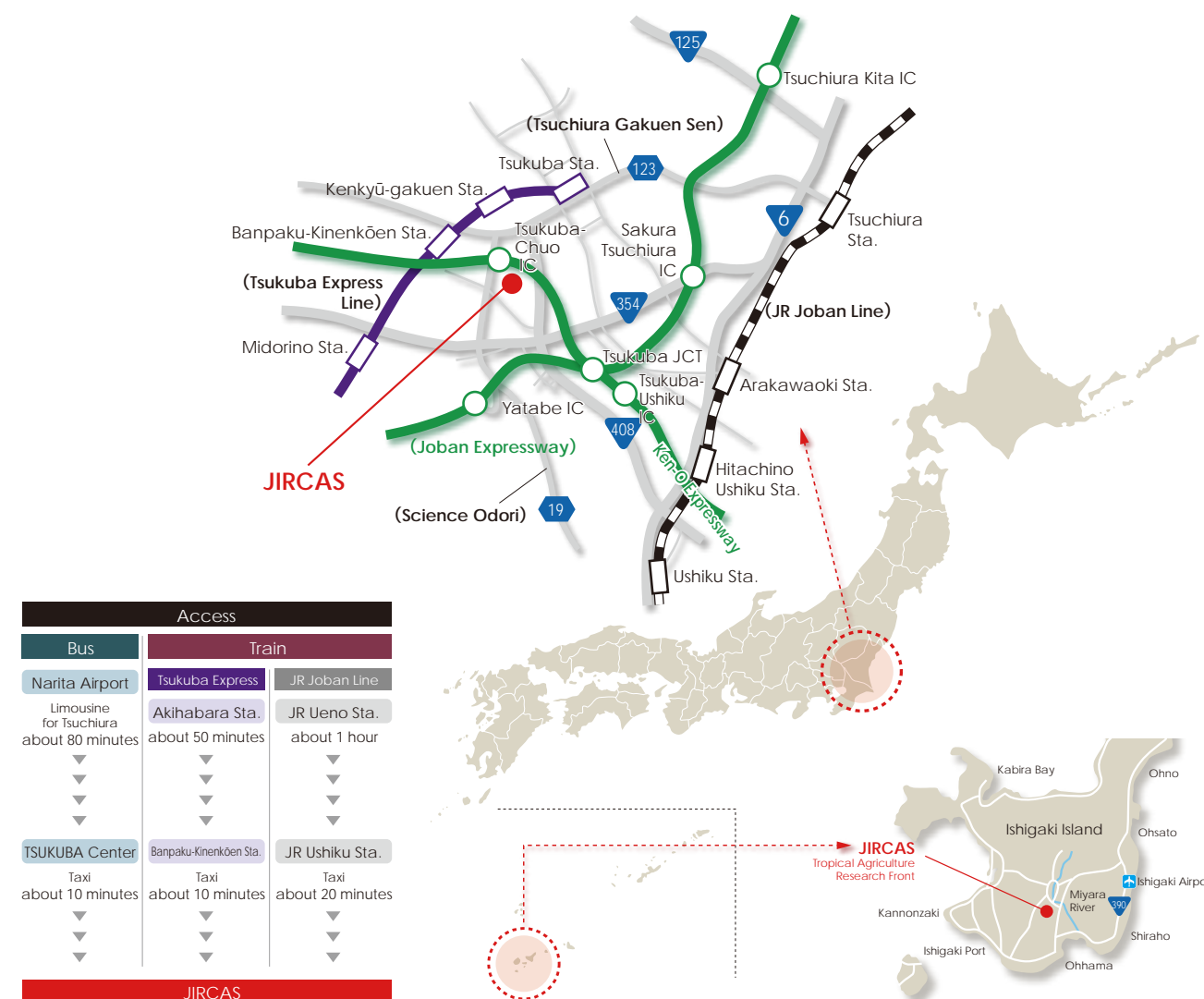
JIRCAS also presents workshops and seminars, in Japan as well as in overseas research sites, on issues affecting global agriculture, food, and the environment. The most recent trends in research are reported and introduced by the world's leading researchers and then discussed.



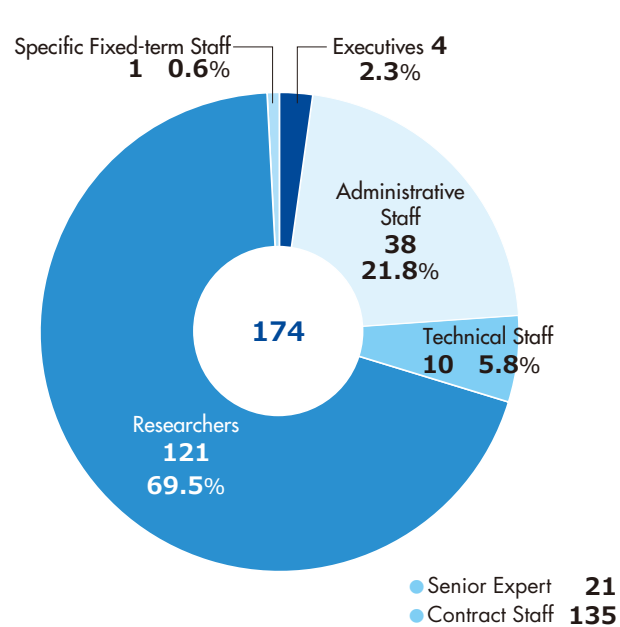
Organization



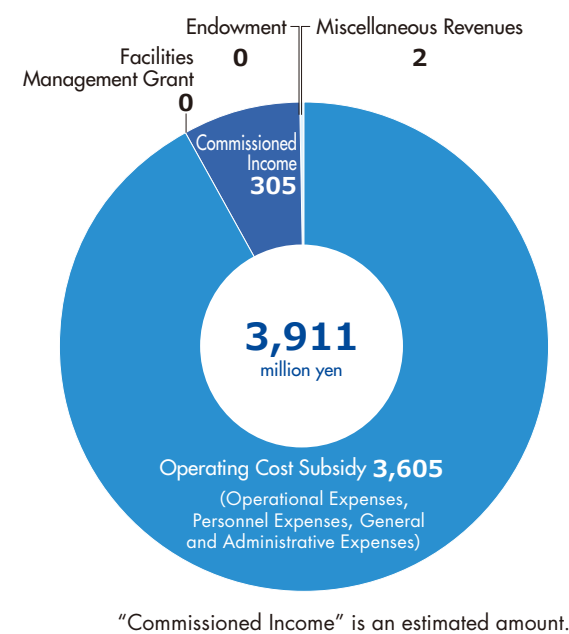
Transportation Guide



Personnel (As of April 1, 2021)



Budget (FY2021)





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