



What is the effect?

ARI has trained more than 1,000 rural leaders – dedicated servants committed to working side by side with their people toward more sustainable, healthy, self-reliant communities.

Using the ARI training and experiences I have gained in my work, I have seen people transformed from hopeless people to people with hope.

Peter Chandi, Kenya, 1990

After my ARI training, I became a new person in my dealing with people, using a bottom-up approach, and a friendly attitude towards our environment, which gives a life support system to all living beings and preserves God's creation for the continuity of life.

Chozule Kikhi, Northeast India, 1994

After ARI training I changed my attitude toward leadership. I learned that servant leadership is the best way to change a society. I experienced this personally when I started to work with my people. ARI is the place where I found theology in action.

Fr. Laksiri Peiris, Sri Lanka, 1995

I learnt from many people in ARI, especially Takami sensei, who really taught me by action. The most important thing for me is how to practice what I observed in my daily life at ARI. Now, I practice it in my family, my organization, and my community.

Rev. Tigor Sihombing, Indonesia, 2003



We are investing in persons who will dedicate their whole life to sustain life for the future.

I think it's a valid investment, and a lasting investment, in persons who will work as leaders for the people.

Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami
Founder of ARI

We invite your financial participation in ARI

Annual expenses for each participant

Study Scholarship	\$16,140
Travel Scholarship	~\$2,000

American citizens living anywhere in the world may make tax deductible gifts through AFARI. Make out your check out to American Friends of ARI and send it to:

American Friends of ARI (AFARI)
c/o Steve Gerdes, Treasurer
11920 Burt St., Suite 145
Omaha, NE 68154-1574

Gifts can also be sent directly to ARI by Postal Money Order (yubin furikae). ARI has Tokutei Koueki Zoushin Houjin status making donations within Japan tax deductible.

Account number: 00340-8-8758
Account name: Ajia Gakuin

**Training One Rural Leader
Means Training a Whole Community**



That We May Live Together

Asian Rural Institute Rural Leaders Training Center

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The Mission of *the Asian Rural Institute*

The mission of the Asian Rural Institute is to build an environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful world in which each person can live to his or her fullest potential. This mission is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

To carry out this mission, we nurture and train rural leaders for a life of sharing. Leaders, both women and men, who live and work in grassroots rural communities primarily in Asia, Africa and the Pacific, form a community of learning each year together with staff and other residents.

Through community-based learning we study the best ways for rural people to share and enhance local resources and abilities for the common good. We present a challenge to ourselves and to the whole world in our approach to food and life.



What is ARI?

ARI is a training center for rural community leaders set on a 6 hectare farm in Northern Japan. Founded in 1973, we conduct a yearly **Rural Leaders Training Program** in which we nurture and train local grassroots leaders from communities throughout Asia, Africa, and the Pacific.

Who takes part?

ARI invites **rural leaders** who are living and working with people in their rural communities. We place emphasis on reaching the most marginalized, poor, and oppressed peoples, with particular attention placed on the recruitment of women leaders.

Christian in inspiration, ARI is ecumenical in practice. We welcome people of any faith, race, class, or profession as long as they share ARI's vision and pledge to return home straight away to work with their people. In the past we have trained church leaders, community and village leaders, NGO personnel, agricultural trainers, teachers, orphanage staff, and many more.

What do we teach?

All of God's people have within themselves and their communities the capabilities and resources to live a life that is healthy and dignified.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

We practice and teach integrated organic farming that incorporates techniques of enriching the soil, cultivating crops, and rearing livestock naturally. In all areas we promote the use of materials and technology that are available locally in our participants' communities, reducing dependency on outside resources and leading toward greater self-sufficiency in food production. Working together, participants, staff, and volunteers produce most of the food we eat.

LEADERSHIP

We show the importance of being a leader as one who serves, one who works at the level of the people and lives a life that is an example and an inspiration to empower all people to reach their highest potential.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Our training facilitates the discovery and utilization of the strengths and talents inherent in all people; organizing community through full participation in decision making, in contribution of abilities, and in access to resources.

How do we teach?

COMMUNITY-BASED TRAINING

Each year we invite about 30 women and men to take part in the 9-month program. Together we build a multicultural, multi-faith community in which everyone actively participates. Teaching, learning, and growing are experienced mutually as we share in our work and exchange our ideas, values, and life experiences.

'LEARNING BY DOING'

Practical training takes place through the daily labor of maintaining a self-sufficient farm. Participants keep their own fields where they can experiment with ideas they have learned in the classroom or observed during study trips. As they work and learn, they have the opportunity to exercise leadership, responsibility, self discipline, and initiative within the ARI community.

'FOODLIFE'

At the heart of our training is the concept of **'foodlife'** - holding significant value in human life and the food that sustains life. It is a joyful experience when community members produce food through their own labor and then gather around the table to share meals prepared from their own harvest. At every meal we experience the blessings of God and the heart of the community.

That We May Live Together

