



What is the effect?

Over 1,000 graduates of ARI are now working alongside their people in grassroots rural communities. That means over 1,000 rural communities have been reached through ARI. Here is what our graduates have to say:

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

MR. 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."

MS. 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, 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, 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."

**ARI FOUNDER,
REV. DR. TOSHIHIRO TAKAMI**

We invite your financial participation in ARI

Annual expenses for each Participant

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

In the USA, and for American citizens living anywhere in the world, tax deductible gifts may be made by sending a check to:

American Friends of ARI (AFARI)

Don Tarr, Treasurer
905 Ivanhoe Dr.
Northfield, MN 55057-3215
Phone: 507-645-8993
Email: datarr@stolaf.edu

Canadians may send tax-deductible gifts to:

United Church of Canada

(memo: Super Gift for ARI)
Division of World Outreach
3250 Bloor St. W, Etobicoke, ON M8X2Y4

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 ARI

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.



Colored areas show the countries ARI graduates are from



What is ARI?

ARI is a training center for rural community leaders set on a 6 hectare farm in Northern Japan. The focus of our training program is to create an educational environment in which these leaders can discover within themselves and within their people a more desirable image of human community. They learn how to observe situations, identify local resources, and discover ways to use and enhance those resources. At the heart of our program is the concept of 'foodlife' - holding significant value in human life and the food that sustains life.

Who takes part?

We invite **rural leaders**, such as clergy, teachers, farmers, agricultural trainers and others devoted to serving their communities. We place emphasis on reaching the poorest and most marginalized peoples. Furthermore, we extend great effort on recruiting and training women to enable them to participate fully and equally in the life of society.

Christian in inspiration, ARI is ecumenical in practice. We welcome people of all faiths, races, classes, and professions as long as they share ARI's vision and pledge to return home straight away to work side by side with their people.

Since 1973 ARI has trained over 1,000 women and men from more than 50 countries throughout Asia and Africa.

What do we teach?

ARI works according to the precept that all have within themselves and their communities the capabilities and resources (both human and material) to live a life that is healthy and dignified. To discover these resources and realize these capabilities our curriculum focuses on:

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

We demonstrate methods of integrated organic farming that incorporate techniques of enriching the soil and cultivating crops naturally, and promote the use of materials and technology that are available locally in our graduates' communities; thus reducing dependency on outside resources and leading to

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

We facilitate discovery and utilization of the strengths and talents that lie within people; organizing community through full participation of all of its members, in decision making, in contribution of abilities, and in access to resources.

How do we teach?

Each year from April to December, ARI conducts the Rural Leaders Training Program. A group of about 30 women and men come to live and learn at ARI through:

COMMUNITY-BASED TRAINING

Throughout the nine months of training we develop a multicultural, multi-religious community, in which all are encouraged to actively participate. We grow together as a community through the sharing of work and the exchange of ideas and life experiences.

'LEARNING BY DOING'

Participants put theory into practice through the daily labor required to maintain a self-sufficient farm. They keep their own fields where they can experiment with ideas they have learned in classroom lectures or observed during off-campus study trips. As they work and learn, they have the opportunity to exercise leadership, responsibility, self discipline, and initiative within the ARI community.

'FOODLIFE'

Foodlife is a special word coined at ARI to show the inseparable connection between *food* and *life*. It is a joyful experience when community members produce food through their own labor and then gather together at the round tables of the dining room to share meals prepared from their own harvest. At every meal we can experience the blessings of God and the heart of the community.