

Greeting from Director



Prof. Hiroshi EHARA
Director
Applied Social System
Institute of Asia

The International Center for Research and Education in Agriculture (ICREA) was founded with the aim to educate and train people capable of offering practical solutions to issues related to the development of agricultural sciences. Since its foundation, ICREA has been encouraging basic research and overseas field research by creating an international network of researchers. Focus has also been placed on research and education activities aimed at educating and training individuals from both inside and outside the country to solve problems encountered at the actual sites of agricultural production. ICREA obtained its current name 18 years after its foundation, i.e. in April 2018. In the meantime, several new research departments were created, namely "Tropical Bioresources" and "Genetic Information for Bioresources" under the Research and Application Division, and "Practical Studies in Africa" and "Practical Studies in Asia" under the Rural Development Division. The Research and Application Division has the ultimate goal to promote sustainable growth through the development and utilization of local resources and the preservation of the environment that is key to securing such resources. In order to promote mission-oriented international research activities in agriculture and forestry and to focus our efforts on educational activities that are informed by findings from joint international research endeavors, the Research and Application Division has been actively engaged in research efforts to address climate change and rapidly changing social conditions, including the search for and characteristic evaluation of agricultural and forest resources in the tropics, genetic analysis of some useful traits found in biological resources, and research into sustainable agricultural/forest production and effective utilization of resources. The Rural Development Division, on the other hand, works on the development of sustainable and good agricultural/forest production practices in tropical regions of Asia and Africa as well as on the adaptation and dissemination of new resources and technologies, and is focused on research that specializes in the social implementation of research findings. The Global Collaboration Office established in recent years is responsible for creating an international network of researchers and for running various projects with the goal to promote an efficient implementation of projects.

In recent years, an increasing number of people in emerging countries have been seeking variety in food. In line with this, and as an approach to sustainable food production based on the principles of food security and environmental preservation, Field Science plays an increasingly important role in establishing a new technology by integrating the basic findings that have accumulated in developed countries and adapting it for use in emerging countries. We continue encouraging joint international research efforts in the field of international agricultural development. We appreciate your kind understanding and support for our activities, and we invite all aspiring individuals and organizations to join us in our endeavor.

01

Background

Many developing countries are still suffering from food shortages, poor agricultural production, poverty, environmental destruction, infectious diseases affecting domestic animals, and other agricultural problems, which are regarded today as serious global issues that need to be addressed. To solve these issues, we need to develop appropriate agricultural techniques by undertaking socio-economic impact assessment and ensuring effective use of natural resources and harmony with the natural environment. In addition, it is equally important to produce high-quality human resources. International cooperation is essential for this endeavor, and Japan is expected to take an active part in it.

This trend was especially strong in the 1990s, when the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture (equivalent to today's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) set up the Council for Understanding the Latest Forms of International Educational Collaboration. In its report published in June 1996, the Council presented new policies relating to international educational collaboration, highlighting the importance of actively responding to the increasing demand for international cooperation in education, clarifying the important roles played by universities and other related institutions in educational collaboration, and emphasizing the importance of not only promoting collaboration among businesses/institutions but also encouraging educational institutions to take voluntary and organized action to effectively promote educational collaboration.

In April 1999, as part of the governmental efforts to realize these policies, the ICREA (reorganized from the International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education (ICCAE) in April of 2018) was established at Nagoya University as a center that takes an initiative in training individuals to acquire the ability to find practical solutions to the developmental issues in the field of agriculture, under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture.

The ICREA has put together the expertise of agricultural universities and other related educational and research institutions in Japan and used integrated multidisciplinary approaches to contribute to the resolution of various agricultural issues in developing countries. Furthermore, the ICREA has been promoting international research and education activities based on the belief that human development efforts should be undertaken both inside and outside the country.

Graduate education

ICREA provides the graduate education in the Department of Plant Production Science of the Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, Nagoya University. Four faculties having lots of experiences abroad carry out researches standing on international viewpoints and make the best efforts for capacity development of graduate students seeking for various carrier path or track. Graduate students of ICREA can also study at the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS).