

Greeting from the Director



Director of ICCAE
Akira Yamauchi

The International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education (ICCAE) was founded at Nagoya University in April 1999. The ICCAE serves as a national center that promotes international cooperation in the area of education and human resources development in agricultural science and other related academic fields. We have collaborated not only with the university and the various research units within it (including the Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences and the Bioscience and Biotechnology Center) but also with other universities and affiliated institutions to promote research and educational activities. The goal of these collaborative endeavors is to achieve meaningful results through the enhancement of basic research and overseas field survey so as to contribute to the resolution of problems encountered at the actual sites of agricultural production.

These agricultural sites, on the other side, are replete with 'research seeds' that can reveal agricultural issues of a global scale and generate new academic knowledge. We can, for example, test the identified solutions and basic research findings at these sites. Most importantly, these sites give us the opportunity to not only try out the innovative approaches that have been developed through the integration of various agricultural disciplines, but also educate and train personnel to handle such innovations. With focus on the important roles played by such agricultural sites in education and research, we are committed to accumulating and disseminating our knowledge and experience in training young researchers and engineers. Through this commitment, we will provide new insights into the field of agricultural science.

We appreciate your kind understanding and support for our activities, and we invite all aspiring individuals and organizations to join us in our endeavor.

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 ICCAE 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 ICCAE 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 ICCAE 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

ICCAE provides the graduate education as a part of the Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, Nagoya University. It composes Division of International Cooperation in Agricultural Sciences by two sub-divisions, Project Development and Network Development. With a rich experience abroad, the course instructor encourages students to take a global perspective in conducting research or pursuing their career path. The graduate students attending this course can also study at the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) where they receive guidance on research activities.