



JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants (JICA Development Studies Program)

General Information on Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-Net) JFY2026

**長期研修
「食料安全保障のための農学ネットワーク(2026年度)」**

This handout provides an overview of the “Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-Net)” program/course, which is one of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term). The program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between respective governments.

The objective of the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) is to offer opportunities to people from developing countries to study at higher educational institutions in Japan and to help them build their network of people. This is intended to assist in the human resource development plans of the governments of developing countries and Japan, and eventually to expand and strengthen bilateral ties between the developing countries and Japan.

0. Background

What is JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet revised the Development Cooperation Charter in June 2023, which stated, "In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field-oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together." JICA believes that this 'Knowledge Co-Creation Program' will serve as a foundation of mutual learning process.

What is JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

Japan is the very first country and still is one of the very few countries that has modernized from a non-Western background to establish a free, democratic, prosperous, and peace-loving nation based on the rule of law, without losing much of its tradition and identity. With such belief, JICA invites future leaders from partner countries to Japan under KCCP, and offers them opportunity to learn about Japan's unique modernization and development experiences. This special program is called, JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP).

JICA-DSP is provided to all participants of KCCP during their stay in Japan. JICA will offer participants various opportunities through which they can learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/dsp-chair/index.html>

1. Overview

Until now, JICA has provided training programs as a part of technical cooperation in various fields. In order to strengthen networks between the target countries in respective fields, JICA established a new long-term training program to foster young/middle-aged bureaucrats, academicians and leading human resources in various fields of target countries who are capable of influencing policy making processes in their countries or contributing to socioeconomic development in the near future.

The Agri-Net Program was established in JFY 2019 under the framework of JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) for the purpose of promoting cooperation of sustainable development in the world.

JICA has set JICA Global Agenda in 2022 to promote sustainable and inclusive agricultural and rural development and stimulating agriculture (including fisheries and the livestock industry) and related industries (such as processing and distribution). JICA aims to eradicate poverty in rural areas through increasing farmers' income and revitalizing rural economies, as well as to ensure food security through the stable production and supply of food setting the five prioritized clusters as follows:

- (1) Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP)
- (2) Strengthening Food Value Chains (FVC)
- (3) Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)
- (4) Promotion of Fisheries-centered Blue Economy
- (5) Sustainable Livestock Development toward One Health.

For more information on the five prioritized clusters, please refer to JICA's Global Agenda for No. 5: Agricultural and Rural Development (Sustainable Food Systems) at the link below.

[JICA's Global Agenda for No. 5: Agricultural and Rural Development \(Sustainable Food Systems\)](#)

The program/course will offer participants with special curriculums on Japanese developmental experience (JICA-DSP) and internships, if necessary, in addition to obtaining a Master's or PhD. degree.

2. Objectives

- (1) To develop high level human resources who are capable of contributing to appropriate policy decisions and its implementation for tackling political and developmental issues in respective fields.
- (2) To establish and maintain mid and long-term amicable relationships between target countries and Japan.

- (3) To develop human resources of public and private sectors under JICA Global Agenda related to Agriculture and Rural Development Sector.
- (4) To Strengthen a human network between partner countries and Japan in the above-mentioned field.

3. Course Outline

The course consists of the acceptance of participants from target countries to study at Japanese universities in the following fields.

- (1) (1) to (5) listed in "1. Overview" (to be prioritized during the selection process)
- (2) Others (System, Policy and Organizations on Agriculture and Rural Development Sector)

*Please see Appendix 6-Agri-Net Sub-program List for details.

The Appendix1-University Information provides information related to long-term courses including master's degree courses, Ph.D. courses. *JICA recommends the universities and graduate schools highlighted in yellow as "recommended" universities.

Applicants may select the university, to which he/she wishes to apply, from the universities which have concluded an agreement on accepting JICA participants on the condition that the candidate passes the entrance examination of the selected university.

In addition to curriculums of the master's and Ph.D. courses, activities such as short-term programs (e.g. Understanding the Japanese Development Experience¹), will be planned in order to enrich the participants' academic and personal experience of their courses of studies at the universities.

4. Duration

In principle, two (2) years for master's course and three (3) years for Ph.D. course (depending on the program offered by universities). The participants should arrive in Japan in September or October 2026 to start degree courses in principle.

Course Duration:

For master's degree: September or October 2026 –September 2028 (2years)

For doctor's degree: September or October 2026 – September 2029 (3years)

Note 1 (Conditional Acceptance / Research Student):

- As a result, if a certain university judges that a certain candidate is not readily acceptable (insufficient) as a proper student, that candidate may be accepted as a "research student" for a

¹ As part of JICA-DSP, this program is co-organized by GRIPS (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies), IUJ (International University of Japan) and JICA for JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Long Term Participants. The program offers participants with opportunities to gain a deep understanding of the Japanese development experience, and to draw lessons and gain insights that will support their development work at their home countries and internationally.

period of six (6) months at longest. This period is not counted as a part of regular course of Master's or Doctor's program. Research students are requested to stay in Japan and study intensively to utilize their time to prepare for the entrance examination.

- In case research students cannot pass the entrance exam within the six (6) months, they **MUST** return to their home countries without delay (Agri-Net Program scholarship will be terminated at that moment).
- Before application, the candidates should consider the possibility of additional period as research students and should be approved by belonging organization.
- Necessary living cost during the period as research students will be paid by JICA following JICA's regulation as described in Section 11-Expenses to be Borne by JICA.

Note 2 (Longer Duration):

- Some universities set more than three (3) years for doctor's course, please check admission information of the universities that you intend to apply to.
- If so, be sure to obtain permission from your belonging organization to leave in that period.

5. Number of Participants

36 participants in total from the target countries.

(Maximum 10 participants allowed for Ph.D. courses)

*Please note that for the Agri-Net Program, which aims to develop human resources in the public and private sectors based on JICA's Global Agenda, JICA may prioritize applicants whose research interests are strongly related to the five fields mentioned above, those who have participated JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programs and those who are related JICA's technical cooperation projects.

6. Language to be used in this Program

English

7. Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) Current Duties: young or middle-career government officials, prospective academics, who are expected to contribute policy formulation or its implementation for tackling sustainable developmental issues in respective fields.

* In principle, candidates without affiliations are not eligible for acceptance.

*Applicants from private sector must be from the field related to System, Policy and Organizations on Agriculture and Rural Development Sector; Sustainable Agriculture Production; Food Value Chain (FVC); Livestock Development and Animal Hygiene; Fisheries Development and Resources.

- (2) Nationality:

Citizens of the target countries for Agri-Net program JFY2026 (see Appendix 4)

(3) Working experiences/ status:

- to have working experiences more than five (5) years in total.
- to have more than six (6) months working experience at their current belonging organization.
- to obtain permission for application from their current belonging organizations.
- to secure reinstatement from their current belonging organizations.

(4) Age:

for master's programs, thirty-five (35) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1st, 2026). However, should there be certain circumstances deemed to be considered, applicants over the age of 35 may become accepted. Please contact our JICA overseas office for more information

for Ph.D. programs, forty (40) years of age or under in principle (As of April 1st, 2026). However, should there be certain circumstances deemed to be considered, applicants over the age of 40 may become accepted. Please contact our JICA overseas office for more information.

(5) Educational Background:

for master's programs, a Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree holder

for Ph.D. programs, a Master's Degree holder

(6) Language: adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete master's and/or Ph.D. courses with skills equivalent or exceeding the following.

TOEFL iBT: 90, IELTS: 6.5, CEFR: B2, DET (Duolingo English Test) : 120

* Applicants to Agri-Net program are required to demonstrate official results of the English language proficiency test (such as TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC and Duolingo) at the moment of the application.

*JICA will NOT cover the costs necessary to obtain such a score. However, there is one exception: Fees for English proficiency can be reimbursed within the same Japanese fiscal year (from April 1 to March 31 of the following year) for **those who pass the first selection by JICA Headquarters and take the entrance examination.**

(7) Physical Presence: must physically come to Japan to carry out research activities to complete this program.

(8) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: **JICA seeks more female applicants due to the past records of fewer applications from women. JICA is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and provides equal opportunities for all applicants regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.** See Appendix7- Encourage Women to Joint the Course.

8. Admissions

Candidates must be selected as JICA's official candidate through JICA's internal selection

procedure and must pass the entrance examination² of the university they have applied to, including examinations to enter the candidates' desired master's degree or Ph.D. degree course.

9. Application Guidelines

Applicants must apply through the procedures as described below, which are necessary requirements by both applicant's Government and the Government of Japan for the Official Development Assistance.

(1) Procedures and Required Documents for Application:

Each applicant is required to submit the "Application Documents"³ listed in (2) below to JICA overseas office in charge of the applicants' countries. ALL application documents are required at the moment of the application.

(2) Application Documents

1) Application Form (see Appendix 2 and 3)

- Confirmation by the head of the relevant department
- Personal Information
- Educational Background
- Present Organization and Nomination
- Work Experience
- Declaration (Terms and Conditions needed to be agreed by applicants)
- Research Plan (Annex 2)
- Career Plan (Annex 2)

2) Graduation certificate.

- * Officially certified copies of the original
- * Written in English or accompanied with official translation

3) Academic transcript

- * Must contain all the grades earned at the university attended by the applicant
- * Officially certified copies of the original transcript
- * Written in English or accompanied with official translation in English

4) Photocopy of certificate of English Test*

- i. **ALL** applicants to Agri-Net Program are required to demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting official results of TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS (International English Language Testing System) or Duolingo. However, some universities do not acknowledge / accept all these tests, applicants are requested to confirm with the university they apply to.
 - * As mentioned at (6) Language, 7. Eligibility on page six, applicants who pass the

² The results of JICA's screening procedure and University's entrance examination will not accept any inquiry.

³ Submitted documents will not be returned.

first selection by JICA Headquarters and take the entrance examination, photocopy of certificate of English Test is not an absolute requirement. However, JICA Headquarters highly recommends that applicants obtain the certificate as early as possible. JICA Headquarters values the certificate in the first selection process. This is because the certificate score is closely connected to the research performance of former and current Agri-Net participants, based on past experience.

ii. Exemption from English proficiency test

The following applicants are exempt from the English proficiency test requirement in the first selection mentioned in "10. Schedule" by JICA Headquarters:

- ✓ have completed or are completing their Bachelor's or Master's program that are taught entirely in English in one of the following countries*
- ✓ have been working for full-time in a professional or academic environment where English is used at least three years in one of the following countries*

*Countries: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, UK

5) A copy of Passport or ID with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth).

* A certified English translation must be attached if the ID is written in a language other than English, French, Portuguese, or Spanish.

6) Two ID photos (4cm × 3cm) pasted on application form (Original and copy).

*Health certificate and Medical History are not required at the time of the above-mentioned documents' submission. Only applicants who have passed the graduate school entrance exam and become final candidates must submit these two documents to JICA. JICA will then make a final decision on their eligibility.

Health certificate (must be taken at the time of application for entrance examination or within 6 months before coming to Japan, whichever is later, and submitted with Medical History at a later date.⁴

Please kindly note that universities may reject the candidate's application when the required documents, or the submitted research plan is not accepted by the universities.

Candidates must follow each university's application procedure after the screening.

(3) Procedures in General

Based on the above documents, applicants are nominated and approved by their country's government. Applicants consult with the supervisors of their chosen university listed unless the graduate school doesn't accept the prior consultation from applicants as "No" in "Column

⁴ If the candidate applicant passes the university entrance examination, a health certificate of JICA format will be required. Without the certificate, admission may become rejected.

W" of Appendix 1. If the applicant obtained the unofficial consent from the potential supervisor, check the checkbox on the Application Form (AF). The information is referred in the 1st selection in JICA Headquarters. Applicants who pass the first selection process conducted by JICA will apply to the university, take the entrance examination according to the university's instructions and screening will be conducted at the universities chosen by the applicant. After these procedures, candidates (*Change the name of those who have passed the first selection process at the JICA headquarters from "Applicant" to "Candidate.") who have been accepted to the universities must be finally approved by JICA.⁵

(4) Points to be Noted regarding Procedures

The English language proficiency test fee is refundable only once and only within the same Japanese fiscal year (April 1 to March 31 of the following year) in which the general entrance exam was taken as a Agri-Net candidate. Details of the reimbursement vary by each area and should be consulted with the nearest JICA overseas office of each candidate.

JICA shall determine whether the candidate is eligible to participate in training in Japan. JICA shall make a decision on acceptance or rejection based on several factors such as entrance examination results, planned number of participants, medical examination results and others. The reason for the decision will not be disclosed.

10. Schedule

For Fall 2026 enrollment, the application process for Agri-Net long-term participants is as follows:

(1) Schedule

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|--|--|
| <p>From the end of July to mid-November of 2025.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants are nominated by their respective organizations in the target countries. The responsible organization in the target countries will select the applicants. 2. Applicants applying for Fall 2026 enrollment, must read Appendix1 (University Information) carefully. Applicants are highly encouraged to consult with their university supervisors whose research interests align with those of the applicants independently and acquire unofficial consent for acceptance. For the first contact to the supervisor, applicant must clearly indicate that he/she is applying under the Agri-Net Program by using the Preliminary Consultation Form (Appendix 5.2). Please refer to Pre-Consultation Guide (Appendix 5.1) for details on important considerations. |
|--|--|

⁵ The Government of Japan will examine candidates who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan.

| | |
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| | <p>3. Applicants must submit their application forms to the JICA overseas office responsible for their country by the designated date by JICA. Applications without unofficial consent for acceptance will still be accepted. However, applicants who have obtained this confirmation may be given higher priority during the AF review by JICA. This does not apply to supervisors who do not accept pre-consultation (see "column W" of Appendix 1).</p> <p>Note: Since JICA and university rules may not always align, please contact your desired university in advance to confirm important matters, such as the timing of inviting your family to Japan.</p> |
| December 2025 – January 2026 | Selection process by JICA Headquarters (1 st Selection) |
| End of January 2026 | The results of the selection process will be notified to each applicant through the JICA overseas office. *Change the name of those who have passed the selection process at the JICA headquarters from "Applicant" to "Candidate." |
| February - June(approximately) 2026 | Candidates will apply for admission to take university's entrance examination. |
| February - June(approximately) 2026 | <p>Selection process by university (2nd Selection: Entrance Examination)</p> <p>*Candidates should adhere to the entrance exam schedule established by each university.</p> |
| June - July 2026 | Arrival of results of entrance examination from the university |
| June - July 2026 | Finalization of candidates at JICA Headquarters (3rd Selection) |
| | Submission of a health certificate and medical history to JICA overseas office. (must be within 6 months prior to entering Japan) |
| July - August 2026 | JICA sends a "Letter of Acceptance" to final candidates as the official result of the approval. Preparation for study in Japan if candidate is determined as a KCCP (Long-term) participant |
| September-October 2026 | Orientation by JICA overseas office before departure |
| September -October 2026 | <p>Orientation by JICA domestic office</p> <p>Beginning of Fall Semester in Japan</p> |

*Schedule for the application period for the general entrance examination depends on each university.

*Schedule and program contents might be adjusted appropriately due to unforeseen circumstances.

(2) Selection process

There are mainly following three selection processes:

(A) The first selection is conducted by JICA Headquarters (December 2025 to January 2026).

(B) The second selection by Japanese universities is through candidates' applications and entrance examinations (February to June of 2026).

(C) The third selection by JICA Headquarters (July 2026).

*There are no fees to be charged directly by JICA at the selection process.

*The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT BE DISCLOSED.

(A) The first selection: Selection by JICA Headquarters is based on application forms (AFs) from JICA overseas offices.

[Necessary Actions for Applicants for this selection]

Applicants are highly encouraged to consult with the supervisors of their chosen university and submit their application to JICA after receiving UNOFFICIAL CONSENT FOR ACCEPTANCE from the supervisors.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Period | Late July to mid-November of 2025. Please confirm the local deadline with the JICA overseas office. |
| Contents | (1) Screening of submitted Application Documents by JICA overseas office (2) Interview of applicants by JICA overseas office in applicants' country (3) Consultation with the supervisors at the university of applicants' choice for unofficial consent for acceptance. (4) Screening of submitted Application Documents by JICA Headquarters. |
| Objectives | To review qualifications and requirements of each applicant. To confirm applicants' understanding of the program's objectives To confirm if the applicant has obtained an unofficial consent for acceptance from his or her supervisor. To review working experiences/educational background in the context of the "Eligible Participants" (shown in the section 7. "Eligibility"). This confirms applicants' ability to contribute to achieving the course objectives and addressing their country's development challenges after the program. |
| Result | Applicants who pass this selection can proceed to the second Selection. |

(B) The second selection: Selection (Entrance Examination) by Japanese universities

[Necessary Actions for Applicants for this selection]

- Each candidate may only apply to one (1) university, which is indicated by JICA, for the entrance examination. (See Appendix 1.)

Each candidate needs to check the necessary application documents set by the university where he/she applies to. He/she then needs to submit the university's application documents directly to the university by the deadline set by the university. It is ALL the candidate's responsibility to duly submit required documents to the university by its deadline. JICA will NOT intervene in this process. Some universities require sending hard copies of documents to Japan. Those who are required to enter as research students also need to check necessary application procedure as research student set by

each university. JICA will NOT cover the cost of postage.

During this selection process, each candidate may be interviewed (e.g. by using Zoom) depending on the university's selection process.

Fee for entrance examinations is paid directly to each university by JICA.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Period | February 2026 – June 2026 (approximately) |
| Contents | Screening of submitted university application documents and interviews by Japanese universities |
| Objectives | Entrance examination by Japanese universities |
| Venue | If necessary, using Zoom or other means for interviews |
| Selection | Universities will screen the candidates based on the documents they submit, as well as on interviews etc. |
| Result | The candidates who pass this selection will proceed to the third screening by JICA Headquarters. |

(C) The third selection: Determination of the Final Candidate by JICA Headquarters

JICA makes a decision for the third selection processes.

Even if some candidates pass the second selection, they may NOT be selected as successful program candidates.

Note:

- **Withdrawal of the Application:** If applicants or candidates encounter the situation that needs to withdraw the application by force majeure during the selection process, they need to inform JICA overseas office about the situation as soon as possible. The letter from belonging organization is required.
- **Research Student:** When candidates are accepted as only research students, the candidates need to attend an additional six-month course to prepare for the entrance examination of the university. If the candidate fails the entrance exam, he/she must return to the home country without delay by the flight designated by JICA (Agri-Net Program scholarship will be terminated at that moment).

11. Expenses to Be Borne By JICA

Under the JICA KCCP Long-term Trainee Allowance standards, JICA will cover expenses and allowance to participants accepted to the program/course. See the table below for further details. Note that the payments (e.g., for tuition, research support expenses, school support expenses) will not be paid to the accepted participants themselves, but directly to the university or other relevant institutions.

| Expense category | Payment amount | Payment frequency |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Tuition (examination fees, entrance | Actual costs | According to the request |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| fees, course fees) | | from universities |
| Living Allowance | JPY 117,000–148,000 per month* | Every month via university |
| Airfare | Actual costs | Upon arrival in Japan and upon returning home |
| Outfit Allowance** | JPY100,000 | Once (upon arrival in Japan) |
| Moving Allowance*** | Up to JPY164,000-224,000 | Once (during the training period)** |
| Research Support Expenses**** | Actual costs (up to JPY360,000 per year) | |
| Medical care for participants who become ill after arriving in Japan (the costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment are NOT included). | In accordance with the provisions of the medical insurance | |

*Varies according to living area in Japan, type of accommodation, etc.

**Once, after opening bank account in Japan. *As it takes several weeks to have the bank account opened, it is strongly recommended to bring cash for personal expenses during the period.*

***Depending on the accommodation facility. Consultation with the university is required.

****Research Support Expenses are allowed to be provided via the university and be disbursed with the consultation and approval of the applicant's supervisor.

12. Expenses Not to Be Borne by JICA

JICA will not bear costs other than the allowances described above. JICA is not responsible for the following expenses:

- (1) Passport fees (for re-issuance and extensions, etc.)
- (2) Visa fees of a transit country and transportation expenses to obtain Visa
- (3) Transportation expenses to obtain Japanese Visa
- (4) Domestic travel expenses in the applicant's home country
- (5) Departure tax
- (6) Airport tax/airport facility charges outside of Japan, including third countries
- (7) Customs duty
- (8) Excess baggage charges
- (9) Compensation for lost and/or damaged baggage
- (10) "No show charge" to the transit airport hotel (non-refundable)
- (11) Lost - ticket fee
- (12) Accommodation fee for day-use hotel in return flight
- (13) Transportation expenses other than official programs

- (14) Telephone bill or mini-bar tab at accommodation
- (15) Medical costs related to pre-existing illness, pregnancy, or dental treatment
- (16) Medical cost related to the same illness over 180days
- (17) National Health Insurance fee

Note: If participant / accepted applicant does not follow the regulation of JICA, the participant may have to bear such other costs of necessary expenses.

13. Conditions for Participation

The applicants/participants of KCCP are required,

- (1) to understand that participants must physically come to Japan to participate in this program at the date designated by JICA,
- (2) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants on their own,
- (3) not to change course subjects or extend the course period,
- (4) to understand that inviting participant's family members is not recommended before their stay in Japan has passed more than 6 months,
- (5) to return to their home country on the designated flight by JICA, when they finish the program/course or when it is deemed impossible to finish the program within the program period, or when the participant is not successful on the regular course examination,
- (6) to carry out such instructions and abide by such conditions as may be stipulated by both the nominating Government and the Japanese Government in respect of the course,
- (7) to enroll and complete JICA-DSP online courses, when you receive JICA's instructions to do so,
- (8) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments, ("Plagiarism" especially is taken severely by enrolling university, regardless of whether it is direct plagiarism or self-plagiarism and participants may be subjected to disciplinary action such as suspension),
- (9) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (10) to agree to be discontinued of the program, should the participant (a)violate Japanese laws, JICA's regulations, or University's regulations, (b)commit illegal or any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment, (c)become critically ill or seriously injured after arrival in Japan,
- (11) to be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care expenses described in the table of "11. Expenses To be borne by JICA,"
- (12) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (13) not to drive a car or motorbike in Japan, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (14) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation,

- (15) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule,
- (16) to accept that the Government of Japan will examine applicants who belong to the military or other military-related organizations and/or who are enlisted in the military, taking into consideration of their duties, positions in the organization and other relevant information in a comprehensive manner to be consistent with the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan,
- (17) to submit a Health Certificate in JICA format at the participant's expense, within 6 months before arrival in Japan, whichever is later,
- (18) to accept to submit a second Health Certificate in JICA format if deemed necessary by JICA. The cost of acquiring the Health Certificate will be borne by JICA unless it is required due to the candidates' fault,
- (19) to promptly resubmit your medical history, if there are changes in your health condition, such as pregnancy or a pre-existing disease,
- (20) to be in good health to participate in the program. In order to reduce the risk of worsening symptoms associated with respiratory tract infection, please be honest when consulting the doctor for your Health Certificate,
- (21) not to be receiving nor plan to receive other scholarships from the Japanese government, such as Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), The Japan Foundation (JF) during the program,
- (22) to understand not to make other applications for different JICA training courses at the same time,
- (23) to understand that the maximum duration of "Overseas research" and "Temporary Leave (leaving Japan for private purpose)" is 60 days, in principle.
- (24) to accept to take tuberculosis related inspections organized by JICA after arriving in Japan and to submit the results to JICA and university.
- (25) to approve the following conditions on summary of my thesis;
 - ① Summary of the thesis shall be kept at JICA.
 - ② Summary of the thesis can be read by anyone who made a request to JICA .
 - ③ Summary of the thesis can be used for publication by JICA or JICA website.
 - ④ Taking Photocopy of the thesis shall be allowed by anyone with JICA's permission.
- (26) to acknowledge that a leave of absence from school is not permitted in principle,
- (27) to understand that the maximum duration of research student is 6 months for both master's and doctor's courses, and duration of acceptance as a regular student is based on the course years determined by the university,
- (28) To indicate all educational background, including currently enrolled university, if any.
- (29) To understand that the use of Generative AI such as Chat GPT to create Application

Forms including Research Plans, and your research papers may not be acceptable and may result in rejection of your application or termination of training if discovered, according to each university policy.

Appendixes:

- 1. University Information (Excel)**
- 2. Application Form (Excel)**
- 3. Additional Application Form for the Agri-Net Program (Word)**
- 4. List of the Target Countries for Agri-Net JFY2026 (Word)**
- 5.1 Pre-Consultation Guide (PDF)**
- 5.2 Preliminary Consultation Form for Matching Progress by JICA Applicant (related to research plan) (Excel)**
- 6. Agri-Net Sub-program List (PDF)**
- 7. "Encourage Women to Joint the Course" (PDF)**



CORRESPONDENCE

For enquiries and further information, please contact your nearest JICA overseas office.



Japan International Cooperation Agency

CONFIDENTIAL

Knowledge Co-Creation Program under Technical Cooperation with the Government of Japan

Additional Application form for Agri-Net FY2026

1. Your Name and country:

| |
|----------|
| Name: |
| Country: |

2. Please choose the most relevant cluster of JICA Global Agenda in agriculture sector for your field of study:

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP)</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fisheries-centered Blue Economy in island countries</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Building a Food Value Chain (FVC) in Southeast Asia</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Promotion of the "One Health" concept through strengthening of livestock hygiene.</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)</u> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others () | |

3. Expectation on the applied Agri-Net program

1) Personal Goal: Describe what you intend to achieve in the applied Agri-Net program.

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2) Relevant Experience: Describe your previous vocational experiences which are highly relevant in the themes of the Agri-Net program.

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3) Area of Interest: Describe your subject of particular interest with reference to the contents of the Agri-Net program

| |
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Japan International Cooperation Agency

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLARATION (to be signed by the Applicant)

I hereby declare all the above statement and information are true and correct.

By Applicant

Date

Name and
Title/Position

Signature

Guide for Preliminary-Consultation Inquiry with a Desired Graduate School and Supervisor

Ver1.0

University Partnership
Division,
Domestic Strategy and
Partnership Department

tatuc_supportunit@jica.go.jp

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1. Points to Note

1.1 Purpose of Preliminary Consultation:

The preliminary consultation (Pre-Consultation) is specifically designed to ensure that your research plan and theme are well-aligned with your desired graduate schools and potential supervisors. Using the 'University Information' and the 'Preliminary Consultation Inquiry Sheet', you can reach out to your desired graduate schools in a proper and effective manner.

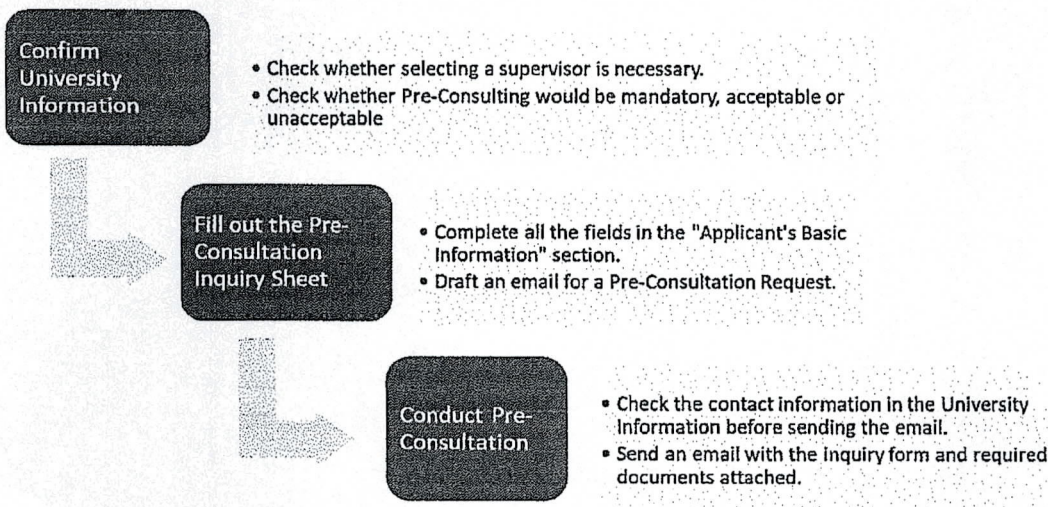
1.2 Duration:

The Pre-Consultation period shall be from August 1 to Middle of November 2025. Please ensure you can conduct the preliminary consultation before the submission of Application Form.

1.3 Target for Pre-Consultation:

The Pre-Consultation is intended for universities (graduate schools) to which applicants wish to apply through the Pre-Application Matching process.

1.4 Outline of Pre-Consultation Inquiry Process



2. Confirm the Acceptability of Pre-Consultation of Each Graduate School

2.1 Pre-Consultation Availability Check (Important!)

Please make sure to check whether Pre-Consultations from candidates are accepted. You may only conduct Pre-Consultations with graduate schools marked as 'Yes (Mandatory)' or 'Yes (Acceptable)' at Column W (the acceptability of Pre-Consultation). If it is marked as 'Yes,' please be sure to fill out all the required information on the Pre-Consultation Inquiry Sheet and submit it to the Contact Information at Column X and Y. If Column W is marked as 'No,' you must not conduct the Pre-Consultation.

Specifically, the Pre-Consultation acceptability at the Column W (the Acceptability of Pre-Consultation: 'Whether or not consultation with university before Pre-application matching from candidates is acceptable') is as follows:

Yes (Mandatory): You MUST conduct a Pre-Consultation with the graduate school you are applying to or the supervisor you wish to work with.

Yes (Acceptable): You MAY conduct a Pre-Consultation with the desired graduate school and supervisor.

No: Pre-Consultation is NOT accepted. Please do not send a Pre-Consultation sheet to the graduate school.

| Column S | Column U | Column W | Column X | Column Y |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p>(2) 出願前マッチング時の指導教官の選択要否 及び 大学への「出願前マッチング」実施前の事前相談 (2) Supervisor needed to be chosen at the time of "Pre-application matching" and Consultation with university before "Pre-application matching"</p> | | | | |
| 修士 Master | 博士 Ph.D | 候補者からの事前相談のための連絡先 (出願前マッチング実施前) Contact Information for consultation with university before "Pre-application matching" | | |
| <p>修士課程候補者が出願前マッチング依頼時点で希望する指導教官を選択することが必要かどうか</p> <p>Whether it is mandatory for Master's candidates to select their preferred professor at the time of "Pre-application matching".</p> | <p>修士課程候補者が指導を希望することができ、教員一覧の参照先 URL、資料</p> <p>URL or documents to refer to a list of professors with whom candidates may apply</p> | <p>博士課程候補者が出願前マッチング依頼時点で希望する指導教官を選択することが必要かどうか</p> <p>Whether it is mandatory for PhD candidates to select their preferred professor at the time of "Pre-application matching".</p> | <p>博士課程候補者が指導を希望することができ、教員一覧の参照先 URL、資料</p> <p>URL or documents to refer to a list of professors with whom candidates may apply</p> | <p>候補者からの事前相談可否</p> <p>Whether or not consultation with university before Pre-application matching from candidates is acceptable</p> |
| <p>事前相談可能な場合、照会先の教員名または担当窓口部署名</p> <p>If prior consultation is available or mandatory, please input the name of the professor or the name of the faculty in charge.</p> | <p>事前相談可能な場合、事前相談元メールアドレス</p> <p>If prior consultation is available or mandatory, please input an e-mail address for consultation from candidates.</p> | | | |
| Select | Input (URL) | Select | Input (URL) | Select |

1. Please check if it is necessary to choose a supervisor at Column S and Column U.

2. Please check if Pre-Consulting would be acceptable.

3. How to Fill Out the Preliminary Consultation Inquiry Sheet

3.1 Preliminary Consultation Inquiry Sheet Sample

Below is a sample of the Preliminary Consultation Inquiry Sheet, which you can use to reach out to a potential supervisor with your inquiry.

Refer to '3.2 Confirmation Points'

Refer to '3.3 Basic Information of Applicant'

Refer to '3.4 Inquires to the University'

JICA Preliminary Consultation for Matching Program by JICA Applicant
(related to research plan)

大学に送る書類 (To University)

- 本書は、これを提出する者がJICA国際研究の候補者かつ留学への志願を希望するものであることを証します。
- 募集要項は提出者が提出する研究テーマ等が採選可能なものかどうかを確認するものであり、要項を決定するものではありません。可能な範囲で候補者の研究に関する事項の明記をお願いします。
- 候補者は募集要項の録画も送る。出願のマッチング (12月-1月予定) 及び最終出願の希望大学を決定します。
- 入選合格をいただいたため、最終的な入選はJICAが決定いたします。 (募集7月頃)

To Applicant

Completing this form for preliminary consultation does not guarantee admission to the university.
Please do not send a blank email in both the subject and body of the e-mail.

Fill: Email Sample (2016.10.10)

☐ In the subject of the e-mail, did you put "JICA Applicant Preliminary Consultation"?

☐ In the body of the e-mail, did you clearly state your name, country, and program?

☐ In the body of the e-mail, did you clearly state your research plan?

Filed by Applicant: * Please complete the following sections.

| Basic Information of Applicant | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Graduate School Code | |
| Name of Desired University | |
| Name of Desired Graduate School | |
| Name of Desired Course | |
| Name of Preferred Supervisor | |
| JICA Program Selection (by dropdown) | |
| Name of Applicant | |
| E-mail Address | |
| Country | |
| Current Organization Name | |
| Final Academic Background | |
| Field of Study (FoS) | |
| Specific Research Field (SRF) | |
| Research Theme | |
| Research Theme (if applicable) | |

Inquires to the University
Inquiries must be related your research plan

Attached Document 1 to:

3.2 Confirmation Points

The top of this Inquiry Sheet includes the following notes as confirmation points for both the university ('To University') and the applicant ('To Applicant').

To University:

- This document certifies that the person submitting it is a candidate for the JICA long-term training and wishes to apply to your esteemed institution.
- The preliminary consultation is intended to confirm whether the research theme and other aspects desired by the candidate can be supervised, and it does not imply a preliminary acceptance. Please respond to the candidate's preliminary consultation regarding their research to the extent possible.
- After passing the entrance examination, the final decision regarding acceptance will be made by JICA, around July of the following year.

To Applicant:

- ✓ Even if the candidate receives a response from the university indicating that their research aligns with the university's interests through this preliminary consultation form, it does not guarantee admission to the university. All candidates must undergo subsequent pre-application matching assessments and formal admission evaluations to be granted admission.
- ✓ Please do not send a blank email in both the subject and body of the e-mail. You can refer to the 'E-mail Sample' when sending inquiry sheet to a university.

E-mail Sample

| | |
|---|--|
| Subject | Inquiry from a JICA Applicant: Pre-Consultation Request |
| The body of the email (Sample) | <p>Dear Professor XXX</p> <p>I hope this message finds you well. My name is XXX, and I am a JICA candidate from "Country," participating in the "Program Name (ABE, SDG's Global Leader, etc.)." I am currently employed at XXX (your organization) .</p> <p>I am very interested in studying in your laboratory of "XXX (name of course) " at XXX (Name of Graduate School Name) because ---- (brief reason why you are interested in) .</p> <p>Attached to this email is a pre-consultation form. I would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to review my inquiry and provide your feedback.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> |

Pre-Consultation Inquiry Sheet

Pre-consultation Guide

E-mail Sample

Please be sure to check when sending an Inquiry Sheet via Email

- Did you put "Inquiry from a JICA Applicant: Pre-Consultation Request" in the email subject line?
- In the body of the e-mail, did you clearly state your name, country, and program in which you are participating? (Refer to E-mail Sample)
- Is the Graduate School you are going to email one that allows or requires Pre-Consultations?

3.3 Basic Information of Applicant

Please fill in all the fields highlighted in yellow in the "Basic Information of Applicant" section.

Filled in by Applicant * Please complete all the yellow sections. Inquiry Date (YYYY/MM/DD))

| Basic Information of Applicant | |
|---|---|
| Name of Desired University | Refer to "Column E" in the University Information. |
| Name of Desired Graduate School | Refer to "Column F" in the University Information. |
| Graduate School Code | Refer to "Column B." ex) 3701A |
| Name of Course | Refer to "Column G and H." |
| Name of Preferred Supervisor | Refer to Column I. Even if you find a different supervisor's name at the URL in Column T or Column V, you should select the name from Column I as the potential supervisor. |
| JICA Program (Select from dropdown list) | Please select your program, such as ABE Initiative, (Africa) SDGs GL etc. |
| Name of Applicant | Your Name |
| E-mail Address | Your contact e-mail address |
| Country | Country of Residence |
| Current Organization Name | Please fill out the name of the organization you are currently working for. |
| Final Academic Background | The degree you have obtained |
| Field of Study (FS) / Specific Research Field (SRF) | Please specify the field of study or major you have completed. |
| Research Theme Title (tentative theme is acceptable) | Please specify the research theme/ title. |

3.4 Inquires to the University

Please check the 'SHOULD NOT' and 'SHOULD' sections below carefully and draft the body of the preliminary consultation accordingly.

Points to note for the "Inquires to the University" section:

****SHOULD NOT:**** ☹️

- Attaching only the research plan or thesis without any questions, leaving the section blank.
- Attaching only the research plan or thesis and asking, "Which laboratory matches my research?"
- Asking questions without checking the potential supervisor or desired laboratory's website to understand what research the professor or laboratory is conducting.

****SHOULD:**** 😊

- Thoroughly review the research content of the desired laboratory and potential supervisor on the university's website. Formulate your questions based on this information. This step is crucial, so please ensure you complete it.
- To check more details about the desired graduate school and supervisor information, please refer to the **University Information** in Column J (Website for the graduate school), Column P (Messages for Candidates), Column T and V (URL or documents to refer to a list of professors with whom candidates may apply) in addition to the university's official website.

| University Information | | | | | Column J | Column P | Column T | Column V |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|----------|
| r KCCP 2026 | | | | | | | | |
| (1) 大学・研究科情報 (1) Information on course/university | | | | | (2) 出願前マッチング欄の指導教員の選択画面 及び 大学へ (2) Supervisor needed to be chosen at the time of "Pre-application" before "Pre-application" | | | |
| 基礎情報 (英) Basic information on course/university(English) | | | | | 候補者へのメッセージ・ アピールポイント等 Messages for candidates | | | |
| 大学名 (英/漢) | 大学院 (英/漢) | 研究科・コース (英/漢) | 研究室 (英/漢) | 研究科ウェブサイト (英/漢) | 候補者へのメッセージ・ アピールポイント等 (英/漢) | 指導教員 Master | 博士 Ph.D. | |
| Name of University (English) | Name of Graduate School (English) | Name of Course/Major (English) | Name of Laboratory (English) | Website for the graduate school (English) | Messages for Candidates (Eng) (English) | Whether it is mandatory for Master's candidates to select their superior professor at the time of "Pre- application" | Whether it is mandatory for Ph.D. candidates to select their superior professor at the time of "Pre- application" | |
| Website for the graduate school | | | | | Messages for Candidates | | URL or documents to refer to a list of professors with whom candidates may apply. | |

Caution!
Even if you find a different supervisor's name at the URL in Column T or Column V, the name listed in Column I is the appropriate potential supervisor.

Appendix 4 List of Target Countries for Agri-Net JFY2026

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <p>Countries</p> | <p>・ 東南アジア (7ヶ国) : インドネシア、マレーシア、フィリピン、タイ、カンボジア、ラオス、東ティモール Southeast Asia (7 countries): Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Timor-Leste</p> <p>・ 大洋州 (7ヶ国) : フィジー、サモア、バヌアツ、パプアニューギニア、ソロモン諸島、パラオ、ミクロネシア Oceania (7 countries): Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, Palau, Micronesia</p> <p>・ 東・中央アジア (7ヶ国) : モンゴル、キルギス、アゼルバイジャン、ジョージア、アルメニア、タジキスタン、ウズベキスタン East and Central Asia (7 countries): Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan</p> <p>・ 南アジア (5ヶ国) : バングラデシュ、ネパール、スリランカ、モルディブ、インド South Asia (5 countries): Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, India</p> <p>・ 中南米 (15ヶ国) : グアテマラ、ニカラグア、ボリビア、ブラジル、パラグアイ、セントルシア、エクアドル、ドミニカ共和国、エルサルバドル、ジャマイカ、アルゼンチン、ペルー、キューバ、コロンビア、パナマ Latin America (15 countries): Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Argentina, Peru, Cuba, Colombia, Panama</p> <p>・ 中東・欧州 (13ヶ国) : イラク、パレスチナ、ヨルダン、エジプト、チュニジア、トルコ、モルドバ、ウクライナ、北マケドニア、モンテネグロ、アルバニア、コソボ、ボスニア・ヘルツェゴヴィナ Middle East and Europe (13 countries): Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>・ アフリカ (42ヶ国) : エチオピア、ガーナ、ケニア、マラウイ、南アフリカ、ウガンダ、ザンビア、ブルキナファソ、カメルーン、コートジボワール、マダガスカル、モザンビーク、ルワンダ、ナイジェリア、ガボン、チャド、ボツワナ、モーリタニア、セネガル、スーダン、コンゴ民主共和国、南スーダン、ナミビア、ベナン、コンゴ共和国、ブルンジ、アンゴラ、レソト、ギニア、ガンビア、リベリア、シエラレオネ、中央アフリカ、トーゴ、ギニアビサウ、ジンバブエ、エリトリア、タンザニア、マリ、カーボベルデ、赤道ギニア、モーリシャス Africa (42 countries): Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Nigeria, Gabon, Chad, Botswana, Mauritania, Senegal, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Namibia, Benin, Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Angola, Lesotho, Guinea, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Central Africa, Togo, Guinea-Bissau, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Tanzania, Mali, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius</p> |
|-------------------------|--|

Appendix6 Agri-Net Sub-program List

| No | Title of Sub-program | Ccontents |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | System, Policy and Organizations on Agriculture and Rural Development Sector | Agricultural Policy, Agricultural Price Policy, Policy on Agricultural Structure Improvement, Livelihood improvement, Food and Nutrition Policy, Farmers Organization, Agricultural Cooperative, Agricultural Extension, Seed, Genetic Resources Policy, GHGs Reduction Policy in Agriculture, Climate Risk Analysis on Agriculture and Policy on Climate Smart Agriculture |
| 2 | Sustainable Agriculture Production | Rice Production (Breeding,Seed Production, Cultivation Management, Pest and Disease Control, Soil Management,Genetic Resources Management) |
| | | Production of other food crops (Breeding,Seed Production, Cultivation Management, Pest and Disease Control, and Soil Management, Genetic Resources Management) |
| | | Irrigation Development and Agricultural Mechanization (Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Mechanics, Precision Agriculture, Smart Farming, Participatory Irrigation Management and Water-saving Irrigation) |
| 3 | Food Value Chain(FVC) | Food Safety, Plant Protection/Quarantine and Food Hygiene (Technics on Post-Harvest, Residual Pesticide Inspection, Pest/Disease Inspection, and Pathogenic Microbe Inspection) |
| | | Food Processing (Nutrition, Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Physiology) |
| | | Food Value Chain and Agri-business (Food Industry/Economics, Agricultural Products Marketing, and Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)) |
| 4 | Livestock Development and Animal Hygiene | Livestock Development and Animal Hygiene (Breeding, Feeding Management, Fodder Production, Grassland/Pasture Management, Animal Diseases, and Zoonosis) |
| 5 | Fisheries Development and Resources | Fisheries Resources Management (Co-Management, IUU Fishing Countermeasures, Stock Assessment), Sustainable Aquaculture (Seed Production, Breed Improvement, Feed, Fish Diseases, Recirculating Aquaculture Systems), Fish Value Chain (Cold Chain, Quality Assurance, Value Added Product, Marketing) |

Encourage Women to Join the Course !

**The role of women in agriculture contributes significantly to
improving the world's food supply**

**As a stakeholder in global
agricultural production and food
security**

**More than half of the world's
people engaged in agriculture are
women, and in most developing
countries, women produce two-
thirds of all food.**

**However, rural women have very
limited opportunities for education,
social participation, technology
diffusion, and access to various
inputs and services such as
agricultural machinery, seeds, and
fertilizers.**

Land ownership

Land owned by women
Less than 20%...



Developing countries 10%...

World Economic Forum: 2020 Gender Gap Report 2020

Access to agricultural extension services

Agricultural extension services
available to women farmers ...
Only 5%...



FAO: 2019 "Women, agriculture and food security"

**Knowledge Co-Creation
Program (Group and Region
Focus)**

**Capacity Development for
Empowerment of Rural Women**

**JICA introduces the Japanese
rural development process and
livelihood approaches and rural
women's entrepreneurial
activities and gender equality
initiatives to policy makers and
extension advisors involved in
supporting women in developing
countries.**

**The United Nations General
Assembly has declared 2026
as the International Year of the
Woman Farmer. (May 2024)**

What will you do ?

- JICA recognizes women as
important stakeholders in driving
economic growth.**
- The door is open for applications.
We at JICA encourage women to
participate!**

**The initiative recognizes the
essential role of women in
agriculture and food security,
while addressing gender
disparities in land
ownership, market access,
credit, and technology.**



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



**JICA Global Agenda
Agricultural and Rural Development**