

Asian Rural Institute

Rural Leaders Training Center

Class of 2009



Participants

CAMBODIA



Rev. Ven Ban
Cambodia Baptist Union
Pastor

Ven Ban

Education is difficult to attain in Cambodia since most people cannot afford to send their children to school. I struggled with this myself and experienced poverty in my family throughout my childhood, never having enough food at home. Now I am helping children whose families cannot afford formal education by providing a literacy program.

CHINA



Chun Xia Guo
Pesticide Eco Alternative
Extension Worker

Chun Xia

I work to raise awareness about the dangers of misuse of agro-chemicals. My organization carries out projects which aim to reduce pesticide use, by seeking out organic alternatives which are safe, sustainable, and cheaper for the farmers. I focus on reaching young people because they are an investment in the future.

INDONESIA



Rev. Hugo DeGroot Nababan
Huria Kristen Indonesia
Pastor

Hugo

The most joyful thing for me is when I work with the community, listening to them and discussing ways to overcome their problems. One problem we are working on is a local pulp factory. Since it started production our forests are being destroyed, the air is polluted, and many people have diseases.

LAOS



Houmphanh Sengchanthong
Japan International Volunteer Center
Project Coordinator

Phan

I work in 25 villages teaching natural farming techniques. My villages are remote, but these communities are close knit and help each other with things like rice transplanting, building houses, and funeral services. The community is rich in natural resources and villagers and forests depend on each other.

MYANMAR



San Doh
Kayah Hpu Baptist Association
Pastor

San Doh

I am a pastor who shares the gospel, preaches, and studies the bible. But I am also working in my field to grow corn. This is to support my ministry and the poor church members. My main target is the Kayah Tribe who was forced to move due to unstable political situation and is now facing problems with education.



Saw Shekina
Karen Baptist Association
Social Worker

Kina

I work in Karen State giving HIV/AIDS awareness and counseling. I also serve as a livestock manager and facilitator, traveling around 31 villages to improve the overall situation of livestock management, including animal health, water supply, and sanitation.

MYANMAR



Sheila

Lisu Baptist Convention
Community Development Worker

Sheila

I belong to the Lisu tribe which is a minority group in Myanmar. Due to changing circumstances we can no longer make a living through mining. As a superintendent of a women's organization my work centers on helping women in my community improve their economic status and have better access to education.



Naw Pathi Paw

Church of the Province of Myanmar
Teacher

Ruth

Since my childhood I have helped my family in cultivating, harvesting, and processing of rice, an essential food for us. I have also raised pigs and chickens to bring some extra money for the family. The Myanmar economy is based on agriculture and my target people are farmers from the diocese of Mandalay.

PHILIPPINES



Nazario Dulnuan Tuguinay

Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council

Agricultural Extension Worker

Nazy

I belong to the Tuwali tribe, which has a long tradition of being hardworking and independent. I work with the local government unit, where I am involved in organizing rural based organizations and assisting farmers with appropriate practices to improve their incomes by keeping their input and production costs low.

PHILIPPINES



Marie Lomino La-ao

Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Credit Union Motivator

Marie

My community is mostly small scale farmers producing rice, vegetables, and fruits. These crops are for our own needs rather than for sale, because roads leading to the market are closed in the rainy season. I raise poultry and livestock to provide eggs and meat to consumers at a low but competitive price.

THAILAND



Siwakorn Odochao

Institute for Sustainable Development Education and Promotion

Community Organizer

Swae

Farming is changing rapidly from subsistent to commercial and farmers have become dependant on chemical fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. However, I am practicing an organic approach to farming and have organized a youth group called "gloom khon khi keat" (the group of lazy people).



Khanuengnit Polkhayan

Alternative Agriculture Network

Field Staff

Jeanven

I organize meetings for the farmer members of my organization, that they may support each other through sharing and exchanging ideas. I also provide various types of training for these groups, including proper agricultural accounting management.

INDIA



Karunan Sudhakar

Association of Community Movements for Social Action

Project Coordinator

Sudha

As I belong to the Dalit community I have experienced being socially outcaste, economically impoverished, and politically powerless. My challenge is to bring unity among the Dalit people in our area by mobilizing grassroots organizations to become active in local governance to fight for our rights.



Mangvung Hechin Lheikhochin Haokip

Weaker Section's Development Council

Project Coordinator

Hechin

I am fiercely dedicated to working for the rights of poor tribal peoples and especially for women. Rural women are hard working, courageous, patient, loving, and caring. They bring harmony to the family and society and build the community through non-violent ways.

PAKISTAN



Mahnaz

Society for Community Development

Teacher

Mahnaz

Poverty is the main issue for the people in my remote area. I believe poverty can be overcome through education and technical training. The program I am engaged in has three main activities: maintaining a community grain storage facility, providing community water pumps, and a demonstration farm.

NEPAL



Bishwa Raj Gurung

Nepal Institute of Development Studies

Project Coordinator

Bishwa

My community is called Fusre Khola and is located in Western Nepal. Due to the feudal caste system in our village the land is not equally distributed and the literacy level is low. One of my jobs is to raise awareness about the adverse and long term effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and explore markets for organic products in nearby towns.



Roshani Kunwar

Chitapol Village Community Committee Development Fund

Social Worker

Roshani

My people have difficulty in organizing themselves because of the discriminatory caste system and sometimes there is lack of cooperation between ethnic groups. My work is to listen to the people's needs and provide them appropriate training and materials to improve their living standard.



Nir Maya Rana

Sustainable Agriculture Promotion Center

Social Worker

Nir Maya

Most of my people are farmers from different ethnic groups, but now they are sharing the same land. I would like to learn more about sustainable agriculture, including alternatives to chemical farming. I plan to start a small integrated demo farm in my local community.

SRI LANKA



Hewage Thushara Nilmini Hewage

Women's Development Federation

Field Staff

Thushara

My community consists mostly of farmers growing vegetables and fruits for their living. After changing to the modern technologies of the green revolution they started to face problems. For example the improper use of chemicals has led to a polluted environment. That is why I want to build their prosperity through organic farming.

CAMEROON



Ajong Christina Fonge

Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society

Project Coordinator

Christy

I am working as a project officer advising farmers. In my childhood we processed different types of food stuffs out of cassava. I loved this experience and to this day I am still interested in integrated farming and food processing. With a little help, farmers in rural communities can always improve productivity.

GHANA



Kingsley Namka Nurokina

Maata-N-Tudu Association

Project Coordinator

Kingsley

I work as a project officer in the Yunyoo District where I organize women's groups for peer learning. A major challenge for my community is the shortage of food caused by poor agricultural output. With only four months in the rainy season and a lack of tools and training, we still have a long way to go for self sufficiency.

KENYA



Kisimbiri Francisco Singoro

FAITH Kenya

Teacher

Kisi

In my community in Western Kenya, we grow mostly corn, beans, potatoes, and cassava. My main responsibility is to offer training in agriculture, monitor the farmers' progress, and assist when necessary. Since we lack capital, old and young people alike take part in small scale farming projects.



Emmanuel Karisa Baya

Institute for Participatory Development

Community Mobilizer

Pikolo

I am a farmer and I work with my fellow farmers to discover local resources and use them to solve our problems. I mobilize young people to get involved in agriculture and have faith that they can make a good living through farming. We form farmer groups based on common interests and work together to improve our situations.

SIERRA LEONE



Josephine Memuna Sharka

Caritas Freetown and Bo

Community Development Worker

Josephine

I work in one of the rural communities in the Bo district called Bumpo Ngao. My main work is to render extension services to the farmers in this community. I teach farming practices, introduce new and improved varieties of crops, and organize workshops. I also I create training modules for future projects.

TOGO



Rev. Edo Agbodo

The Methodist Church of Togo

Pastor

Edo

My organization has a rural development program in which we are serving primarily women living in the rural areas, training them in farming to help improve their food security. Our church has land which we want to put to use to give young people opportunities to learn about self-sufficiency in agriculture.

ZAMBIA



Rev. Lilly Kudzai Phiri

The United Church of Zambia

Pastor

Kudzy

Most women usually do not take up leadership roles even if given that chance, due to some negative traditional beliefs. I strongly hold that women have a vital role in shaping community and family life. Women mold the lives of every child in a community and so have the crucial role of assuming that responsibility.

JAPAN

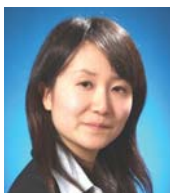


Tatsuya Higashijima

Higashi

At ARI, I would like to broaden my views and learn to accept others so that I can serve people better. I hope to sow a seed of spiritual richness and happiness in myself as well as learn about organic farming and leadership. After ARI training, I want to engage in farming and also work for rural development abroad.

JAPAN



Maiko Horiike

Maiko

I plan to join JOCV or an NGO and work for agricultural development in Africa. Also I am interested in promoting environmental and agricultural education for children in Japan. At ARI I would like to learn about sustainable agriculture and international cooperation.



Erika Saito

Erika

After ARI training I would like to join JOCV or an NGO and work for rural development. At the same time, I am concerned about agriculture in Japan. At ARI I want to learn how we do farming according to the cycles of nature. I am also eager to strengthen myself spiritually through living with participants from all over the world.



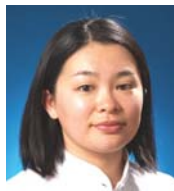
Moe Takenoshita

Moe

In my college days, I had opportunities to meet with people from social/ethnic minorities in Japan and abroad. I learned the importance of listening to the "real voice" of people. I would like to learn farming and leadership at ARI. My dream is to live in a community where farming and food are valued and all people appreciated.

Graduate Interns

JAPAN



Makiko Uchida
Okazaki Wanpaku Terakoya
Coordinator

Makiko

I am engaged in a grass-roots program in my community which focuses on nurturing children to make a positive shift in our society. Through farming with people from around the world, I am learning about their real lives and culture. I want to share this with the people in my community.



Tomoyo Doi

Moyo

The center of our lives is food, which is closely connected to our life and spiritual growth. There is potential to change society and the environment for the better through sustainable agriculture. I want to find an alternative way of connecting with people to build a healthy community in the future.



Ayako Ishida

Aya

My dream is to build peace through agriculture. Even after nine months of training in 2008 I felt I needed to understand the practices and philosophies of organic farming more deeply. I want to learn many more things this year.

Training Assistants

INDIA



Zacivolu Rhakho
Oriental Theological Seminary
Missionary

Acivo

After my training I went back to my former sending body and got involved in rural economic development. The last three years I was in Cambodia as a missionary and this year I am in ARI as a TA. When I go back to my Nagaland home, I have a dream to start an integrated organic model farm with a dormitory project for school children.

NEPAL



Shanta Chaudhary
Backward Society Education
Supervisor

Shanta

After my training in 1998 I was given more responsibility in my work, especially in the organic farming section. I started flora-culture, goat rearing, banana farming, and set up 240 fish ponds. As a TA I want to learn a lot more and widen my perspectives to help my people in better ways. Specifically, I intend to work on women's empowerment through small scale farming.

MYANMAR

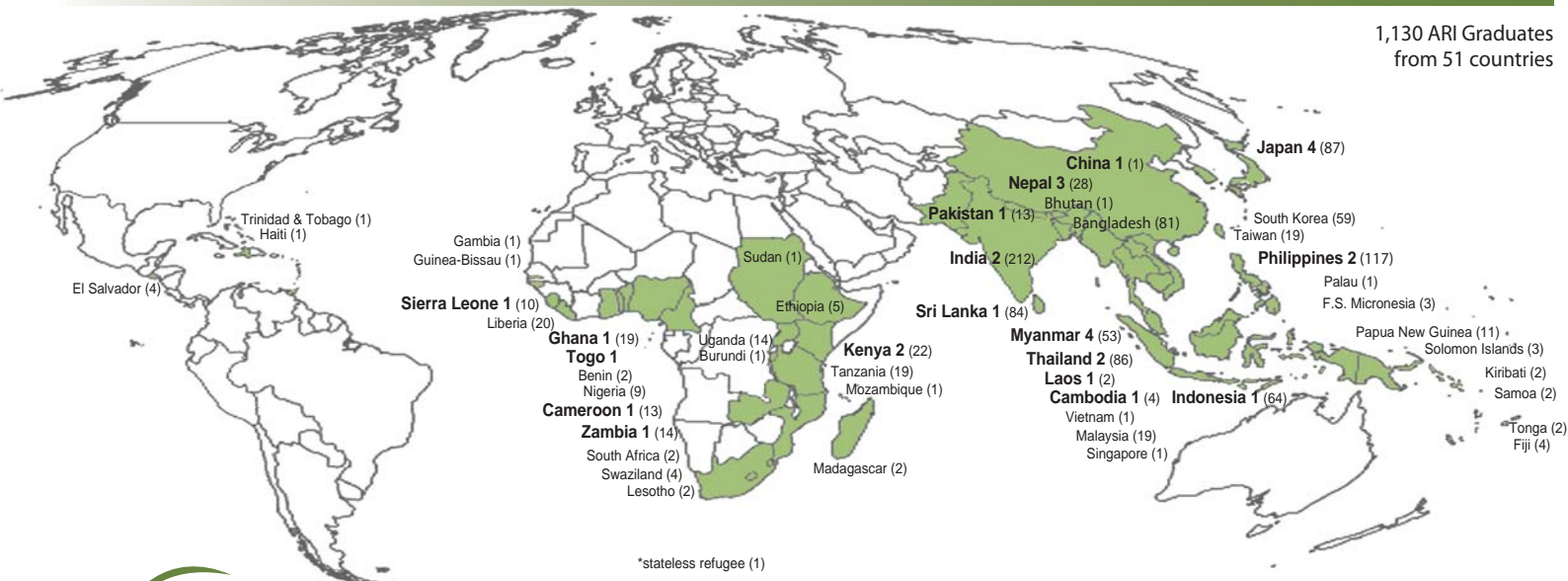


Saw Jackson
Nay Pyi Taw YMCA
General Secretary

Jackson

I returned to ARI to further develop my leadership skills and increase my knowledge of integrated organic farming methods to improve the living standard of my rural community. I have great interest in rural development activities. I wish to "learn through sharing" and "learn by doing."

ARI Graduate Map / 2009 Participants in BOLD / Total Graduates in ()



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