FY2020 Inter-University Exchange Project Tokyo University of Agriculture

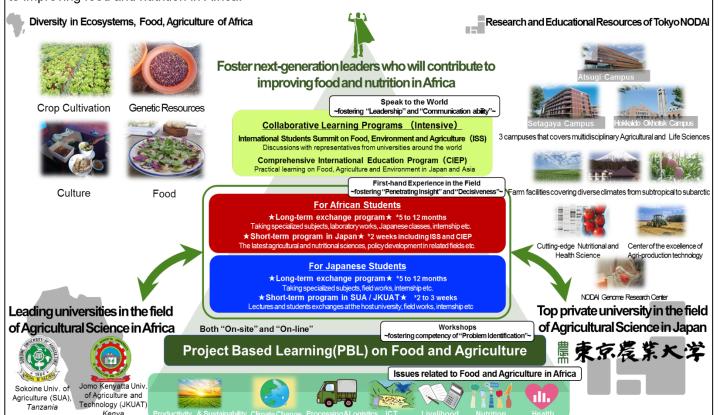
Support for the Formation of Collaborative Programs with African Universities

[Name of project] (Adopted year: FY2020, (Type A②))

Project-based collaborative education program focusing on nutrition improvement in Africa

[Summary of Inter-University Exchange Projects]

By strengthening cooperation between Tokyo NODAI and its African partner universities, and promoting bidirectional student exchanges which provide opportunities, on one hand to Japanese students for practical learning in African conditions, and on the other hand to African students to learn the latest agricultural and nutritional sciences in Japan as well as promoting interactions between students, this project aims to foster next-generation leaders who will contribute to improving food and nutrition in Africa.



【Summary of Exchange program】

For African Students: Long-term exchange program (5 to 12 months), Short-term program in Japan (2 to 3 weeks) For Japanese Students: Long-term exchange program (5 to 12 months), Short-term program in Kenya/Tanzania

[Global Human Resource on the project]

Japanese students are expected to strengthen their expertise rooted in field experience and will become experts of development projects or researchers in international research institutes such as International Institute of Tropical Agriculture(IITA), Bioversity, etc. African students are expected to learn advanced agricultural and nutritional science in Japan and will become the core human resources who tackle food and nutrition problems in the Africa.

[Feature on the project]

In order to solve food and nutrition problems in Africa, expertise not only in nutritional or health science, but also a wide range of academic fields such as agricultural science, social science and etc. are required. In this project, "International Student Summit on Food, Agriculture and the Environment (ISS)", which has been held annually since 2001, will continue being a framework where students share their experience and opinions with others representing prestigious universities in the field of Agricultural and Life science around the world.

[Exchange number]

| | | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Out bound | Students studying abroad | | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| | Students taking online international education and exchange programs in their home countries | 10 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| In bound | Students studying abroad | | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| | Students taking online international education and exchange programs in their home countries | 10 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 |

1. FY2020 Progress

Tokyo University of Agriculture

[Project-based Collaborative Education Program focusing on Nutrition Improvement in Africa] (Adopted year: FY2020, (Type A)

Exchange Programs







⟨African Café⟩ ⟨Online Exchange⟩

⟨Small Group Discussion⟩

Student-Mobility

O Outbound

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 infection, no program involving travel has been conducted. However, a variety of online programs, such as African Café and Online Exchange, were offered to Tokyo NODAI students. African Café was held three times and allowed the participating students to deepen their understandings of Africa by learning about the issues in Africa and also the beauty of its culture. Online Exchange was held once each with our partner universities in Africa, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Tanzania and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Kenya. In total 168 students participated in African Café, and 194 students (including 20 Tokyo NODAI students) participated in Online Exchange.

O Inbound

Special online programs were offered to students of SUA and JKUAT such as Information Sessions and Online Exchange. At the Information Session, the students had an opportunity to learn about the project via live presentations and Q&A sessions. At the Online Exchange, they were able to directly communicate with Tokyo NODAI students, get to know each other, and deepen cultural understandings. In total 72 students from SUA and over 102 students from JKUAT participated in these events. Over 300 students from each university registered for each event, reflecting their high level of interest in the project.

| | 2020 | | | | |
|----------|------|-------|---------|-------|--|
| | Plan | | Results | | |
| | SUA | JKUAT | SUA | JKUAT | |
| Outbound | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | |
| Inbound | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | |

■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

Since neither SUA nor JKUAT has the systems to transfer credits or accept credits earned at other universities, we have discussed the establishment of the system for them to accept credits earned by their students at Tokyo NODAI. After much consultation, JKUAT has decided to approve the completion of the long-term program at Tokyo NODAI as an internship which is a part of graduation requirements for the students. SUA has been continuing the internal discussions to provide the best situation possible for the students to participate in the program. Regarding the terms and conditions of in- and out-bound programs, Student Exchange Agreement with JKUAT was signed in March, and final arrangements are being made with SUA to conclude the agreement by July 2021.

Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

A list of courses and host-laboratories conducted in English at Tokyo NODAI was provided to both partner universities for their use in selecting students for the long-term program. The GPA calculation method of Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) was explained to both universities to convert their students' grades in order to select students who meet our acceptance criteria. The selection process for students who are scheduled to be dispatched from Tokyo NODAI in the fall semester in 2021 has also been completed, and 3 students (2 students for SUA, 1 student for JKUAT) were nominated for the long-term programs.

Internationalization of the university, Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

- 1. Tokyo NODAI Inter-University Exchange Project website
 - http://tenkai.nodai.ac.jp (available in Japanese and English)
- 2. Twitter is updated by Center for Global Initiatives to promote events.
 - https://twitter.com/ForNodai
- 3. Digital Pamphlet
 - http://tenkai.nodai.ac.jp/application/files/8016/1837/6857/PDF .pdf (Japanese ver.)
 - http://tenkai.nodai.ac.jp/application/files/2016/1837/6846/PDF .pdf (English ver.)

Good Practices

Although it cannot be counted toward the achievement record, the kick-off symposium was attended by a total of 179 people (the number of registrants were 84 from Tokyo NODAI; 73 from SUA; and 54 from JKUAT), and Online Exchange was attended by 194 people (Tokyo NODAI: 20, SUA:72, JKUAT: 102). It is a great achievement that we were able to obtain the huge turnout by taking advantage of the online system that allows participation from anywhere.



2. FY2021 Progress

[Tokyo University of Agriculture]

[Project-based Collaborative Education Program focusing on Nutrition Improvement in Africa] (Adopted year: FY2020, (Type A)

Exchange Programs



(International Students Summit)



(Presentation at the Problem-solving Workshop)



⟨Project Cycle Management Training⟩

Student-Mobility

O Outbound

Although we were not able to dispatch students to Africa, we held the "International Students Summit on Food, Agriculture and Environment (ISS) online in September 2021. 22 students from Tokyo NODAI participated as presenters and/or chairpersons and engaged in discussions with students with diverse backgrounds from all over the world. In addition, with the aim of deepening students' understanding of various issues in Africa and equipping them with the ability to solve them, the "Problem-solving Workshop" and the "Project Cycle Management Training" were held. The Problem-solving Workshop using business frameworks consisting of 5 sessions in Japanese took place from May to July, and 23 students participated. In March, "Project Cycle Management Training" using a logical framework was held, consisting of a planning section and a monitoring/evaluation section, each lasting three days. Both sections were conducted in English, and in total of 35 students participated in this training. In January 2022, an online course "Overview and Organization of Japan Agriculture" was held. In this course, 17 students from Tokyo NODAI, together with students from partner universities in Africa, learned about Japan's climate and natural environment, its impact on agriculture, and agricultural cooperative organizations.

O Inbound

Although we were not able to welcome international students on campus, <u>5</u> students from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and 6 students from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) participated in the ISS. In addition, <u>17 students from SUA and 12 students from JKUAT</u> participated in an online course "Overview and Organization of Japan Agriculture" and deepened their understandings of the related topics through the real-time discussions with Tokyo NODAI students and faculty.

■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

Continuing from the previous academic year, the terms and conditions for inbound and outbound students were discussed with SUA, and a <u>Student Exchange Agreement was concluded</u> in September (in March 2021 with JKUAT). A <u>Joint Annual Meeting was held in March</u>, attended by the directors and coordinators from all three participating universities, to confirm the results of the FY2021 and the plan for FY2022, and to exchange opinions. The issues identified during the implementation of the project over the past year were also shared and discussed. By providing an opportunity to meet and share our understandings of the project, it is expected that the progress of the project will be facilitated in the future.

| | 2021 | | |
|----------|------|---------|--|
| | Plan | Results | |
| Outbound | 51 | 41 | |
| Inbound | 33 | 43 | |



(Online Exchange Program with SUA and JKUAT)

■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

African Café, online events aiming to stimulate Tokyo NODAI students' interests in African countries were held three times (April, June, November), and Online Exchange Program with students from SUA and JKUAT were held three times (May, June, July). In total of 81 students participated in African Café, and 174 students (NODAI:41, SUA:26, JKUAT:80) participated in the Online Exchange Program. As many SUA and JKUAT students expressed their interests in studying in Japan during the activities in the past, we offered an on-demand beginner's Japanese lessons with an estimated total workload of 80 hours, for selected students from each university. 8 students have completed and got certificate.

■ Internationalization of the university, Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

- 1. An online public symposium "Tokyo NODAI as the Center of Excellence for Research and Education on Food, Agriculture and Environment in Africa" was held in February. Tokyo NODAI's achievements in collaboration with African countries were presented, and future prospects were discussed at the symposium. 119 people from 24 countries and regions, including 5 African countries, participated in the symposium.
- 2. Pamphlet (Swahili version was created in addition to Japanese and English versions.)
 - http://tenkai.nodai.ac.jp/application/files/8016/1837/6857/PDF_.pdf (Japanese ver.)
 - http://tenkai.nodai.ac.jp/application/files/2016/1837/6846/PDF .pdf (English ver.)
 - https://www.nodai.ac.jp/application/files/1216/5544/9046/Swahili version to browse.pdf (Swahili ver.)

Good Practices

The ISS was conducted completely online using an e-learning platform and other online tools, and it became the largest ISS ever held with 55 presenters from 26 universities in 24 countries and regions, and a total of 1123 viewers from around the world. In March 2022, the "Collaboration Agreement on International Contribution through World Agricultural Heritage" was concluded with Ishikawa Prefecture in order to establish an internship program to provide practical knowledge and know-how on the promotion of agriculture and tourism in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture, which was recognized as a World Agricultural Heritage site by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for the first time in Japan. Preparations are underway in cooperation with Ishikawa Prefecture to hold the internship in September 2022.