



Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus)

General information on

Sustainable Food System Strategy for Local Industry Development

課題別研修「持続可能な食料システム戦略による地場産業振興」
JFY 2026

Course No.: 202515051J001

Course Period in Japan: From November 15, 2026 to December 9, 2026

This information pertains to one of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (Group & Region Focus) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both Governments.

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

The Japanese Cabinet released 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.

I. Concept

Background

In many developing countries, rapid urbanization and the expansion of the middle class are fundamentally transforming consumer lifestyles and purchasing behaviors. As consumers place increasing importance on convenience, quality, safety, and time-saving solutions, demand for food is shifting from traditional subsistence-oriented and price-driven consumption toward processed foods, food service, ready-to-eat meals, and modern retail channels. While retailers and service providers have responded quickly by adapting products and delivery formats, it is important to recognize that the underlying sources of demand have already undergone significant structural changes.

However, actors in the upstream segments of the agricultural and food value chain, including producers, processors, and distributors, often struggle to adapt adequately to these evolving demand patterns. As a result, despite growing market value and transaction volumes at the consumer end, upstream sectors frequently remain disconnected from broader industry growth, facing stagnant productivity, unstable market linkages, and missed opportunities for income generation. Furthermore, unless domestic industries strengthen their capacity to respond to changing market requirements, increasing dependence on imports and greater supply vulnerabilities may emerge, creating long-term risks to national food security.

Against this backdrop, enabling stakeholders in the agriculture and food sectors to understand changing market demands and develop the capabilities needed to respond effectively through production, distribution, and business practices is a critical prerequisite for enhancing local industry competitiveness, increasing incomes, and strengthening food security simultaneously.

Market transformation is already underway. To reposition these changes as opportunities rather than threats, stakeholders require a systematic learning platform that updates both their perspectives and practical approaches.

For what?

This program aims to establish a foundation that will enable domestic private-sector actors to proactively adapt to structural market changes, capture emerging growth opportunities, and contribute to the development of sustainable food systems.

For whom?

This program is offered to Central government and relevant ministries responsible for agriculture and food sector development including agriculture, industry, finance, and investment promotion, along with related agencies.

How?

Participants will analyze the situations in their respective countries and learn about Japan's Food Value Chain (FVC) through lectures and site visits to administrative

agencies and relevant institutions. They will then explore how these approaches can be applied in their own countries and develop concrete Action Plan demonstrating how public investment can serve as a catalyst for market entry and business expansion.

II. Description

1. Title (Course No.)

**Sustainable Food System Strategy for Local Industry Development
(202515051J001)**

2. Course Duration in Japan

November 15 to December 9, 2026

3. Target Regions or Countries

Azerbaijan, Barbados, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Peru, Republic of North Macedonia, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Vietnam.

4. Eligible / Target Organization

This program is designed for Central government and relevant ministries responsible for agriculture and food sector development including agriculture, industry, finance, and investment promotion, along with related agencies.

5. Capacity

13 participants

6. Language

English

7. Objective

Develop and implement regional development policies and modernize food value chain that support food system transformation in participants countries.

8. Overall Goal

The development of sustainable local industries is promoted in participating countries.

In participating countries, sustainable development of local agricultural and food industries is promoted to ensure that they can adapt to and take advantage of shifting consumer demand.

9. Output and Contents

This course consists of the following components. Details on each component are given below.

Expected Output	Subjects/Agendas	Methodology
Assess and understand the current status and level of development of their country's food system from global, national, and local perspectives.	(1) Inception report presentation	Exercise
	(2) Country Analysis	Lecture, Exercise
Gain an understanding of the institutional and	(1) Outline of Agriculture in Tokachi	Lecture

infrastructural foundations, as well as the activities of food value chain stakeholders, that support Japan's vision of a sustainable food system.	(2) Organization and the role of agricultural cooperatives (Obihiro)	Lecture
	(3) Case Studies of Public-Private Partnerships in Japan	Field visit and Exercise
Understand value chain strengthening initiatives of Japan across production, processing, distribution, and marketing, as well as the enabling environment—including policies, institutions, and infrastructure—and the roles of supporting food value chain stakeholders that contribute to sustainable food system development.	(1) Role and strategy of government agency (Tokyo, Sapporo)	Lecture Field visit
	(2) The flow of agricultural products value chain in Japan (production, processing, distribution, and marketing)	Lecture Field visit
Develop an action plan for the formulation and implementation of strategic and sustainable local industry development and support projects that contribute to building a sustainable food system, taking into account the current situation and challenges in participants country.	(1) Action plan development /presentation	Practice
	(2) Individual consultation	discussion

III. Eligibility and Procedures

1. Expectations to the Applying Organizations

- (1) This course is designed primarily for organizations that intend to address specific issues or problems identified in their operation. Applying organizations are expected to use the program for those specific purposes.
- (2) This course is enriched with contents and facilitation schemes specially developed in collaboration with relevant prominent organizations in Japan. These special features enable the course to meet specific requirements of applying organizations and effectively facilitate them toward solutions for the issues and problems.
- (3) Participating organizations are also expected to support in finalizing and implementing the Action Plan suggested by the participants of this program.

2. Nominee Qualifications

Applying organizations are expected to select nominees who meet the following qualifications.

【Remarks】

Gender: Each Organizations is requested to strongly encourage female candidates to apply for the course to accelerate the realization of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Disabilities: Persons with disabilities who meet the required qualifications also have an opportunity to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be considered for participants with disabilities. Some programs of the course might have difficulty for persons with disabilities to participate due to environmental and other conditions. "Reasonable accommodation" means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case.

(1) Essential Qualifications

- 1) Current Duties: Chief officer (assistant manager and subsection chief) or higher engaged in policy design regarding distribution of agricultural products in the related ministries / agencies
- 2) Experience in the Relevant Field: have more than 5 years' experience in the above-mentioned field in principle
- 3) Educational Background: be a graduate of university
- 4) Language Proficiency: have a competent command of spoken and written English proficiency equivalent to TOEFL iBT 100 or above (This workshop includes active participation in discussions, which requires high competence in English. Please attach an official certificate for English ability such as TOEFL, TOEIC etc, if possible)
- 5) Health: must be in good health to participate in the program in Japan. Participant's health and safety should be most respected. Pre-existing

conditions and pregnancy may lead to health problems that were not present prior to arriving in Japan due to stress from international travel, changes in climate, and a new living environment. In recent years, regrettable cases have occurred, including the exacerbation of symptoms after arrival and, in the case of pregnancy, stillbirth. Some participants have also incurred substantial out-of-pocket medical costs. If any of the conditions below may apply, please take a moment to consider whether to participate, and continue after confirming your agreement to the points below.

① Questionnaire

(“QUESTIONNAIRE ON MEDICAL STATUS AND RESTRICTION”)

If any of the following apply, you must state them accurately in the questionnaire, even if they do not affect your current work or daily life.

- a. Chronic diseases (e.g., hypertension, diabetes)
- b. Conditions currently under treatment
- c. Past illnesses that have resolved (including serious conditions affecting the heart, liver, or brain; tuberculosis, etc.)
- d. Pregnancy (for female applicants)

② Medical certificate

Please submit a medical certificate issued by a doctor that your condition is stable and that, from a medical standpoint, there is no problem with your participation in KCCP in Japan.

Applicable cases:

- a. Chronic diseases (e.g., hypertension, diabetes)
- b. Conditions currently under treatment
- c. Past illnesses that have resolved (including serious conditions affecting the heart, liver, or brain; tuberculosis, etc.)

③ Reporting changes

If pregnancy or any health issues are identified after submitting the form, please report them to JICA promptly.

④ Insurance coverage

Medical and additional living expenses related to pregnancy and pre-existing conditions are NOT covered by insurance arranged by JICA. Such costs must be borne entirely by the participant; JICA assumes no liability.

* Please understand that insurance coverage applies only to sudden illness or injury occurring during your stay in Japan.

* Medical expenses in Japan could be a significant financial burden when not covered by insurance.

(2) Recommended Qualifications

- 1) Expectations for the Participants
- 2) Age: between the ages of twenty-five (25) and fifty (50) years
- 3) 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.

3. Required Documents for Application

(1) Application Form: The Application Form is available at **the JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan)**

* If you have any difficulties/disabilities which require assistance, please specify necessary assistances in the QUESTIONNAIRE ON MEDICAL STATUS RESTRICTION (1-(c)) of the application form. Information will be reviewed and used for reasonable accommodation.

(2) Photocopy of Passport: You should submit it with the application form if you possess your passport which you will carry when entering Japan for this program. If not, you are requested to submit its photocopy as soon as you obtain it.

*The following information should be included in the photocopy:

Name, Date of Birth, Nationality, Sex, Passport Number and Expiry Date

*It is recommended that your passport be valid for more than 6 months after the last day of the program.

(3) English Score Sheet: to be submitted with the application form, if the nominees have any official English examination scores. (e.g., TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS)

4. Procedures for Application and Selection

(1) Submission of the Application Documents

Closing date for applications: **Please confirm the local deadline with the JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan).**

(All required material must arrive at **JICA Center in Japan** by **October 2, 2026**)

(2) Selection

Primary screening is conducted at the JICA overseas office (or the embassy of Japan) after receiving official documents from your government. JICA Center will consult with concerned organizations in Japan in the process of final selection. Applying organizations with the best intentions to utilize the opportunity will be highly valued.

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

(3) Notice of Acceptance

The JICA overseas office (or the Embassy of Japan) will notify the results **not later than October 15 2026.**

5. Conditions for Participation

The participants of KCCP are required

- (1) to strictly observe the course schedule,
- (2) not to change the air ticket (and flight class and flight schedule arranged by JICA) and lodging by the participants themselves,
- (3) to understand that leaving Japan during the course period (to return to home country, etc.) is not allowed (except for programs longer than one year),
- (4) not to bring or invite any family members (except for programs longer than one year),
- (5) 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,
- (6) to observe the rules and regulations of the program implementing partners to provide the program or establishments,
- (7) not to engage in political activities, or any form of employment for profit,
- (8) to discontinue the program, should the participants violate the Japanese laws or JICA's regulations, or the participants commit illegal or any type of immoral conduct including sexual harassment, or get critical illness or serious injury and be considered unable to continue the course. The participants shall be responsible for paying any cost for treatment of the said health conditions except for the medical care stipulated in (3) of "5. Expenses", "IV. Administrative Arrangements",
- (9) to return the total amount or a part of the expenditure for the KCCP depending on the severity of such violation, should the participants violate the laws and ordinances,
- (10) not to drive a car or motorbike, regardless of an international driving license possessed,
- (11) to observe the rules and regulations at the place of the participants' accommodation, and
- (12) to refund allowances or other benefits paid by JICA in the case of a change in schedule.
- (13) to promptly notify JICA in the case that there are any changes in the health status since the time of application (such as changes requiring medical attention due to illness or discovery of pregnancy).

IV. Administrative Arrangements

1. Organizer (JICA Center in Japan)

(1) **Center:** JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro) (JICA Obihiro)

(2) **Program Officer:** Mr. SUZUKI Yutaro (obic_kccp@jica.go.jp)

2. Implementing Partner

(1) **Name:** Tokachi Regional Activation Support Organization

(2) <https://tokachi.biz/>

3. Travel to Japan

(1) **Air Ticket:** In principle, JICA will arrange an economy-class round-trip ticket between an international airport designated by JICA and Japan.

(2) **Travel Insurance:** Coverage is from time of arrival up to departure in Japan. Thus, traveling time outside Japan (include damaged baggage during the arrival flight to Japan) will not be covered.

4. Accommodation in Japan

Basically, JICA will arrange the following accommodation(s) for the participants in Japan:

JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro) (JICA Obihiro)

Address: 1-2, Minami 6, Nishi 20, Obihiro-city, Hokkaido, 080-2470, Japan

TEL: +81-155-35-2001 FAX: +81-155-35-2213

(where “81” is the country code for Japan, and “155” is the local area code)

If there is no vacancy at JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro), JICA will arrange alternative accommodation(s) for the participants.

5. Expenses

The following expenses in Japan will be provided by JICA

(1) Allowances for meals, living expenses, and stopover.

(2) Expenses for study tours (basically in the form of train tickets).

(3) 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).

(4) Expenses for program implementation, including materials.

(5) For more details, please see “III. ALLOWANCES” of “KENSHU-IN GUIDEBOOK,” (English/French/Spanish/Russian).

*Link to the Website:

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/tech_pro/acceptance_training/orparticipants.html or

<https://jica-van-cms.jica.go.jp/custom/kccp/kccp01.html>

6. Pre-departure Orientation

A pre-departure orientation will be held at respective country's JICA office (or the Japanese Embassy), to provide Participants with details on travel to Japan, conditions of the course, and other matters.

*YouTube of "Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan" and "Introduction of JICA Center" are viewable from the link below.

Image videos of 'Introduction of JICA Center (YouTube)' show the following information of JICA Centers: Location, Building, Entrance, Reception (Front desk), Lobby, Office, Accommodation (Room), Amenities (Hand dryer), Bathroom (Shower and Toilet), Toiletries, Restaurant, Laundry Room (Washing machine, Iron), ICT Room (Computer for participants), Clinic, Cash dispenser, Gym, Neighborhood

Part I: Knowledge Co-Creation Program and Life in Japan	
English ver.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLurfKugrEw
Part II: Introduction of JICA Centers in Japan	
JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro)	▪ Introduction of JICA Obihiro ▪ https://www.jica.go.jp/obihiro/english/office/index.html

V. Other Information

1. Certificate

Participants who have successfully completed the program will be awarded a certificate by JICA.

2. Notes for belongings

(1) Necessary to bring

- Laptop computer and Conversion plug for Japan

It will be necessary for making reports and presentations. It is highly recommendable for the participants to bring their own private computer (Please install anti-virus software and periodically check your computer and any memory media with it.)

(2) Advisable to bring

Regular household medicine such as headache and gastrointestinal medicine.

3. Currency Exchange

Participants are advised to exchange local currency to Japanese currency on your arrival at Narita (or Haneda) Airport if it is needed, since there is not enough time for currency exchange during the program.

4. For Your Health

It is advisable for participants to bring household medicine. Especially in case you have or have had malaria, you are requested to bring the medicine for malaria with you because it is quite difficult to obtain it in Japan.

5. Climate

The climate conditions in Obihiro, Sapporo, and Tokyo are given below. Participants are advised to prepare appropriate clothes.

Obihiro (Hokkaido)

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Day	Night	Day	Night
+6°	+1°	0°	-4°
 757 mmHg		 756 mmHg	
 2.8 m/s		 3.0 m/s	
 70 %		 68 %	

Sapporo

NOVEMBER	
Day	Night
+7°	+4°
 759 mmHg	
 3.3 m/s	
 71 %	

DECEMBER	
Day	Night
+1°	-1°
 758 mmHg	
 3.9 m/s	
 69 %	

Tokyo

NOVEMBER	
Day	Night
+16°	+12°
 760 mmHg	
 3.8 m/s	
 62 %	

DECEMBER	
Day	Night
+12°	+8°
 759 mmHg	
 3.9 m/s	
 59 %	

World Weather

Weather in Obihiro (Hokkaidō) in 2025: temperature, wind speed, humidity

Japan Meteorological Agency

<https://www.data.jma.go.jp/stats/data/en/smp/index.html>

6. Study trips

Study trip to Tokyo, Sapporo, for several days are tentatively scheduled (to be confirmed).

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For Your Reference

JICA and Capacity Development

Technical cooperation is people-to-people cooperation that supports partner countries in enhancing their comprehensive capacities to address development challenges by their own efforts. Instead of applying Japanese technology per se to partner countries, JICA's technical cooperation provides solutions that best fit their needs by working with people living there. In the process, consideration is given to factors such as their regional characteristics, historical background, and languages. JICA does not limit its technical cooperation to human resources development; it offers multi-tiered assistance that also involves organizational strengthening, policy formulation, and institution building.

Implementation methods of JICA's technical cooperation can be divided into two approaches. One is overseas cooperation by dispatching experts and volunteers in various development sectors to partner countries; the other is domestic cooperation by inviting participants from developing countries to Japan. The latter method is the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, formerly called Training Program, and it is one of the core programs carried out in Japan. By inviting officials from partner countries and with cooperation from domestic partners, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program provides technical knowledge and practical solutions for development issues in participating countries.

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus) has long occupied an important place in JICA operations. About 400 pre-organized courses cover a wide range of professional fields, ranging from education, health, infrastructure, energy, trade and finance, to agriculture, rural development, gender mainstreaming, and environmental protection. A variety of programs is being customized by the different target organizations to address the specific needs, such as policy-making organizations, service provision organizations, as well as research and academic institutions. Some programs are organized to target a certain group of countries with similar developmental challenges.

Japanese Development Experience

Japan, as the first non-Western nation to become a developed country, built itself into a country that is free, peaceful, prosperous and democratic while preserving its tradition. Japan will serve as one of the best examples for our partner countries to follow in their own development.

From engineering technology to production management methods, most of the know-how that has enabled Japan to become what it is today has emanated from a process of adoption and adaptation, of course, has been accompanied by countless failures and errors behind the success stories.

Through Japan's progressive adaptation and application of systems, methods and technologies from the West in a way that is suited to its own circumstances, Japan has

developed a storehouse of knowledge not found elsewhere from unique systems of organization, administration and personnel management to such social systems as the livelihood improvement approach and governmental organization. It is not easy to apply such experiences to other countries where the circumstances differ, but the experiences can provide ideas and clues useful when devising measures to solve problems.

JICA, therefore, would like to invite as many leaders of partner countries as possible to come and visit us, to mingle with the Japanese people, and witness the advantages as well as the disadvantages of Japanese systems, so that integration of their findings might help them reach their developmental objectives.



Contact Information for Inquiries

For inquiries and further information, please contact the JICA overseas office or the Embassy of Japan. Further, address correspondence to:

JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro) (JICA Obihiro)

**Address: 1-2, Minami 6-chome, Nishi 20-jo, Obihiro-city, Hokkaido 080-2470,
Japan**

TEL: +81-155-35-1210 FAX: +81-155-35-1250

Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/obihiro/english/office/index.html>

E-mail: obic_kccp@jica.go.jp