

MEXT-Funded

**Inter - University Exchange Project
(December 2020 to March 2025)**



**Project- Based Collaborative education
Program on Nutrition Improvement in Africa**

**Achievement Report
Brochure**

**Tokyo University of
Agriculture(Tokyo NODAI)**

Project Overview

GREETINGS FROM THE PROJECT MANAGER

In FY2020, our university's proposal, "A Collaborative Education Program on Nutrition Improvement in Africa," was selected for MEXT's "Project for Enhancing Global Development through Inter-University Exchange with Africa." Out of 31 applications, only seven were accepted, with our university being the sole private institution. Over the five-year period (2020–2024), we have advanced research projects focused on nutrition improvement, strengthened partnerships with agricultural universities, and nurtured future leaders dedicated to addressing food and nutrition challenges in Africa. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we successfully dispatched 57 students to African partner universities and hosted 38 students from those institutions.

Following the conclusion of this project, exchange programs with our African partner universities will continue as part of our university's ongoing initiatives.

Overview of the exchange program

Outbound

Long-term programs (six months to one year, including internships) and short-term programs (two to three weeks) are offered by Tokyo NODAI to two partner universities in Africa, along with the online course.

Inbound

Long-term (six months to one year) and short-term (two to three weeks) placements at Tokyo NODAI for students from two African partner universities, along with online courses.



Prof. Dr. Machito Mihara

Director, Center for Global Initiatives
Department of Bioproduction and Environment Engineering
Inter-University Exchange Program

Our university has actively engaged in research and student exchanges with universities and research institutions in Africa. Through this project, we strengthened collaboration with African partner institutions by introducing exchange programs, hosting events that facilitated discussions between Japanese and African students, and incorporating online lectures and interactive sessions. Participants gained a deeper understanding of both Africa and Japan while honing their problem-solving skills. Many have since pursued graduate studies, participated in JICA's Volunteer Programs(JOCV), or contributed to socially impactful companies. We hope that our efforts will continue to foster mutual understanding across regions and address global challenges. We sincerely thank all stakeholders for their invaluable support.

Messages from the project coordinators of the African partner universities.



Dr. Justus Vincent Nsenga

Research Fellow

College of Social Sciences and Humanities
Sokoine University of Agriculture
Tanzania

Population growth and climate change are intensifying food and nutritional security concerns, globally. Thanks to our “Project based Collaborative Education Program focusing on Nutrition Improvement in Africa” is instilling innovative ideas to the youth to become the future leaders in addressing these challenges. Similarly, many of our students (SUA) have participated to different project’s Exchange programs, Online Courses and events, the International Students Summit (ISS), and the Comprehensive International Education Program (CIEP) gaining valuable international learning experiences. We extend our sincere gratitude to Tokyo NODAI for their cooperation and look forward to strengthen further our collaborative initiatives.

The Tenkai Program has been a highly impactful and enriching exchange initiative for me and students from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). Each activity has been distinct, contributing significantly to enhancing participants' professional and interpersonal skills, empowering them to become nutrition and food security ambassadors. Despite the challenges, we embraced the learning curve and achieved remarkable growth. Today, I see the fruits of our efforts: immense success, fulfilled aspirations, and stronger ties between JKUAT and Tokyo University of Agriculture. The program has made Tokyo NODAI well-known among JKUAT staff and students. The experiences I cherish most include the short-term visits, such as ISS, CIEP, and Tokyo NODAI’s visits to Kenya. JKUAT appreciates this fruitful collaboration and look forward to more exchanges and growth.

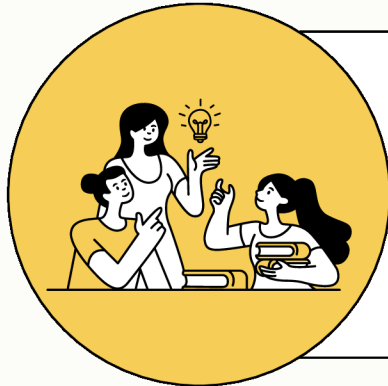


Dr. Naomi Chelimo Ketter

Exchange Program Coordinator and Lecturer,
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture
and Technology
Kenya

Global Agri-Nutrition Leaders Program

Program Flow



01. Introduction

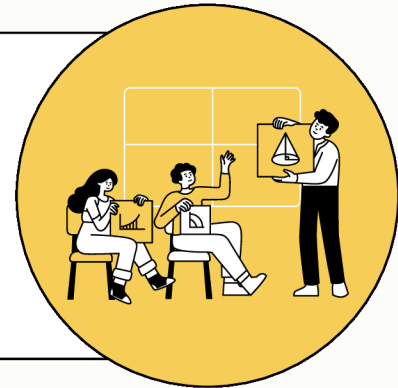
Deepening Understanding of Africa and Japan

- African Café
- International Studies 1
- Online Exchange

02. Preparatory learning

Developing the Capacity to Address Africa's Food and Agriculture Challenges

- Problem-Solving Skills Workshops
- Online Course



03. Outbound • Inbound

Study programs in Africa and Japan

- Short-Term and Long-Term Outbound
- Short-Term and Long-Term Inbound

04. Sharing & Reflection

Make use of the knowledge and experience gained, and share it with the world.

- Comprehensive International Education Program (CIEP)
- International Students Summit on Food, Agriculture and Environment (ISS)



This program trained participants to contribute as human resources to international NGOs, collaborate with researchers from international research institutions, engage as industrial human resources, and serve as a bridge between Africa and Japan



Outcome

Project's Exchange Achievements

	Programs	Plan	Achievements
Outbound	Long Term	6	9
	Short Term	60	48
	Online	146	167
	Total Outbound	212	224
Inbound	Long Term	16	16
	Short Term	28	22
	Online	98	161*
	Total Inbound	142	199*

No actual travel in 2020 and 2021 due to the spread of coronavirus infections
 * Projected figures

The project conducts pre- and post-study abroad questionnaires to evaluate the program's impact. The following summarizes the results from participants in a short-term study program in Kenya. A graph illustrates changes in students' global mindset—their readiness to engage actively in a global society. The findings indicate that after studying abroad, students experienced increased clarity and confidence in addressing global challenges, along with reduced anxiety. Notably, students gave high ratings in the post-study questionnaire as follows:

- Enhanced awareness of living harmoniously with people from diverse cultural backgrounds (4.78)
- Greater motivation to collaborate with people in Africa to solve problems (4.62)

These results suggest that participants developed a deeper understanding of diverse cultures and values, as well as an increased sense of their role in the global community

Increased student exchanges with Tanzania and Kenya

The actual number of exchange students in the three years prior to the start of the project (2017–2019)

Total outbound : 29

Total inbound : 14**



Outcomes during the project period (2022-2024)

Total outbound : 57

2 times

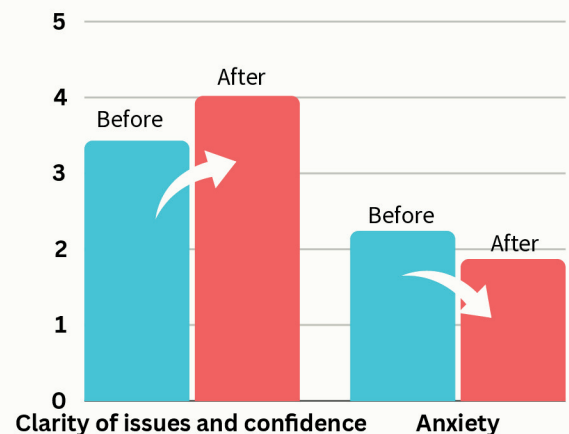
Total inbound : 51**

3.6 times

(where project's total : 38)

** Includes Tokyo NODAI's scholarships for special international students.

Increased clarity and confidence in addressing global challenges, along with reduced anxiety



Global Mind Scale 5-point scale, N=45

List of companies, organizations, positions and further study destinations for inbound students who participated in this project:

Agventure Limited, CutOff Recycle Limited, Foodex Company Limited, Grazers Barn, Healthy U Company Ltd, Ketha AgriTech, Kili Holland VC, NewCore IoT Limited, Tanzania Cotton Board, Youth Café (NGO), Agripreneurs, Digital Marketing Officers, Nutritionists, Technical Field Officers, University's Tutorial Assistants and Research assistants, University's Graduate School Students, etc.

Feedback from Participants



Victor Agagi
JKUAT, Kenya
Long-term Exchange
Student at Tokyo NODAI

I am Victor Agagi from Kenya, a long-term exchange student in the Tenkai program (March 2023–February 2024) as part of my master's research at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Hosted at Tokyo NODAI's Laboratory of Plants and Arboriculture under Professor Suzuki Kojiro, I participated in lab and CGI activities, including restoring the Hayano Umegaya conservation area and serving as ISS General Chairperson. These experiences deepened my commitment to nature stewardship, inspiring me to lead restoration efforts in Nairobi, Kenya. Currently, I am refining my thesis and aim to complete my studies while exploring opportunities to pursue a PhD.



Restoring nature in
Nairobi



Ayumi Uchida
Tokyo NODAI, Japan
Long-term Exchange
Student at SUA, Tanzania

My interest in fair trade inspired me to work with developing countries, leading to a long-term study abroad in Africa. My goals were to study agricultural economics in a thriving agricultural region and to expand my perspective by engaging with diverse ideas. Despite challenges with lectures, practical training, and daily use of English and Swahili, I had a fulfilling year, supported by classmates. I explored interests in marketing and crop science, gaining valuable insights through discussions and presentations. Upon returning, I applied this experience to my undergraduate thesis. Now, as a master's student, I am researching grain distribution and trade in East Africa, continuing my commitment to global agricultural development.



Fieldwork site with
friends at SUA



**Ruth Nyambura
Maru**
JKUAT, Kenya
Long-term Exchange
Student at Tokyo NODAI

I recently completed my master's degree and will graduate on November 29, 2024. Currently, I work as a research assistant at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. During my second year, I participated in a long-term exchange program (March 2023–February 2024) at Tokyo University of Agriculture, gaining valuable skills in communication, problem-solving, and leadership. I learned Japanese, engaged with diverse cultures, and analyzed challenges in food and agriculture, contributing to sustainable solutions. Through programs such as the International Students Summit, I honed leadership skills, focusing on sustainable development in Kenya. I aspire to pursue a doctorate in Japan, further enhancing my academic and social skills to make a greater impact.



Participated as
Chairperson at the ISS



**Sospeter Mkombo
Notker**
SUA, Tanzania
Long-term Exchange
Student at Tokyo NODAI
Online Course, 2023

I am Mkombo Sospeter Notker, a BSc. Forestry student at Sokoine University of Agriculture. From September 2023 to August 2024, I participated in an exchange program and Tenkai online course at Tokyo NODAI under Prof. Sato's supervision. This experience, supported by Center for Global Initiatives, enhanced my skills in time management, leadership, and problem-solving while deepening my knowledge of innovation, cultural preservation, and environmental conservation. I applied these insights to tackle urban nutrition challenges, promote healthy lifestyles, and support wildfire detection efforts. Despite challenges, I remain committed to advancing wildfire monitoring techniques and addressing nutrition-related obesity. My future goals include research in wildfire detection and creating community projects to reduce unemployment in my community.



Cultural Exchange event
at the elementary school



Miki Yoneya
Tokyo NODAI, Japan.
Short-term Exchange
Student to Kenya,
Long-term Exchange
Student at JKUAT

I participated in a short-term program in Kenya and the International Students Summit on Food, Agriculture and Environment (ISS), which inspired my current long-term study abroad at JKUAT's Department of Horticulture. During high school, the COVID-19 pandemic limited opportunities, but in the university, I actively joined events that matched my interests. The short-term program revealed the joy and importance of learning about Kenyan agriculture firsthand and motivated me to study alongside Kenyan students for a longer period. While my current experience is more challenging than anticipated, the support of friends helps me enjoy my journey. In the future, I aim to gain more hands-on agricultural experience in Kenya and work in agriculture across Africa, contributing actively to the field.



University's Club
Activities at Karura
Forest

Feedback from Participants



Gladness E. Kaaya
SUA, Tanzania
Short-term Exchange
Student to Japan

I am Gladness Elibariki Kaaya, a Forest Garden Assistant Field Officer intern, dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture. In 2023, I participated in the 22nd International Student Summit at Tokyo NODAI, where global discussions on food, agriculture, and environmental sustainability deepened my understanding of sustainable practices. This experience inspired me to assist Tanzanian farmers in adopting eco-friendly methods through the Forest Garden project, boosting productivity while conserving ecosystems. Passionate about empowering communities, I focus on practical strategies that enhance food security, encourage organic farming, and support environmental stewardship.



Participated as a presenter at the ISS



Masashi Saito
Tokyo NODAI, Japan.
Short-term Exchange
Student to Kenya

The goals of my study abroad experience were to deepen my understanding of Kenyan agriculture and to broaden my perspective through cultural exchange with local students. Activities such as farm stays, visits to coffee factories, and tours to the organic farms provided valuable insights into Kenya's agricultural practices. The farm stay, in particular, allowed me to experience local lifestyles and understand family-based farming practices. I also recognized the untapped potential for agricultural development in Kenya, which I hadn't imagined before. Engaging with Kenyan culture exposed me to diverse values and inspired me to connect with more countries and people, further expanding my worldview and fostering a greater interest in international agriculture.



Farm stay in Eldoret



Faith Wangui Esika
JKUAT, Kenya
Short-term Exchange
Student to Japan
Online Course, 2023

I am Faith Esika from Kenya, an alumna of the 23rd International Students Summit, CIEP 2024, and the Tenkai Online Course. These programs enhanced my understanding of global food, environmental, and agricultural challenges while sharpening my research, presentation skills, and global networks. Inspired by the "think globally, act locally" ethos, I now focus on eco-education in my community. My initiatives include helping schools adopt sustainable farming, empowering teenage mothers through black soldier fly farming, and promoting nature-based climate solutions. Looking ahead, I aim to build a movement uniting communities, youth, children, and policymakers to create resilient, sustainable communities and a livable planet.



Daikon (radish) dance during the ISS



Sota Amano
Tokyo NODAI, Japan
Short-term Exchange
Student to Kenya

I applied for the short-term dispatch program to broaden my interests and chose the Kenya program for its potential to connect new experiences with my knowledge and future goals. The activities exceeded my expectations, offering daily opportunities to learn and grow. Interacting with cheerful and kind local students provided insights into agriculture, Kenya's political issues, and student concerns. This experience also deepened my appreciation for the importance of the people around me. The program inspired me to pursue a future in international agriculture, where I aim to apply the knowledge and experiences gained during my time in Kenya to make a meaningful contribution.



Visit at Nairobi National Museum



Rodgers Stephano Kingazi
SUA, Tanzania
Online Course, 2022

I am Rodgers Stephano Kingazi, a BSc. student pursuing Agriculture Investment and Banking at Sokoine University of Agriculture. From December 2022 to March 2023, I participated in a Tokyo University of Agriculture online course on enhancing agri-biodiversity and nutrition in Africa, deepening my understanding of Africa's nutritional challenges and solutions using local resources and ICTs. I am applying this knowledge by promoting food security and good dietary practices in my community. My future goals include training smallholder farmers and university students to address agricultural challenges sustainably. Aspiring to become a leading agricultural expert and economist, I aim to leverage my knowledge, ICT, and photography skills to bridge the urban-rural gap and support sustainable, profitable farming practices.



Field training in Morogoro

2020~2025



Yenkai Project
Africa

