



Report from Harvesting Event at JICA Tsukuba Center

We would like to introduce an event held at Tsukuba to show an example of various fascinating opportunities provided by the respective JICA Domestic Offices in your area.

JICA Tsukuba Center is one of JICA Domestic Offices located in Ibaraki Prefecture where Participants from both short-term and long-term training courses learn and live. This center is unique for its specialization in agriculture with three acres of rice field.

On September 16, Tsukuba Center held a harvesting event where Participants and citizens from neighboring area harvested rice grown in the plots. Approximately twenty families around the city came to the center to attend the event and JICA Participants were there to instruct, assist, and have fun with those who joined the day.



JICA Tsukuba center has three acres of rice field in and outside of the center



JICA Participant teaches children from neighboring cities how to tie rice plants

The rice planted by JICA Participants in May this year had grown well. Though it was the very first experience for most of the attendees, they carefully cut the rice one bunch at a time with the assistance of JICA Participants. The process of stringing the harvested rice into bundles of about three bundles was a bit difficult, and the JICA Participants were seen helping with this task as well.

In addition to the rice harvesting experience, JICA Participants and citizens enjoyed tasting ethnic cuisines made with NERICA's rice, a variety developed by JICA for rice farming in Africa.

At the end of the meeting, JICA Participants had the opportunity to enjoy an exchange through songs and dances with the styles of Participants' respective home country, giving the Japanese local community a firsthand experience of Japan's international cooperation activities.



JICA Participants and children from the neighborhood gather after the event

Interviews from JICA Participants of the event

You're here as instructors today. How was it teaching and interacting with Japanese participants?

Gibril san: Extraordinary. Since we came to Japan, we haven't had an opportunity where we share ideas with Japanese people. Seeing this event today is extraordinary because we believe we are accepted and appreciated.

Samuel san: I was in the rice field to teach. I appreciate this opportunity because communicating with Japanese people is sometimes difficult because they are a bit shy. I appreciated being together and working with them.

Why are you very good at teaching kids?

Gibril san: We have kids in our own countries. Interacting with these little ones gives me memories of being with my kids. It's a big pleasure to have them around us.

Samuel san: It's a very good experience for me teaching them how to harvest rice. Harvesting rice is very important because it gives the kids the idea of future.

Do you have any ceremonies for harvesting like this?

Gibril san: Yes, we do. We have something called Sisin. From November to December, some farmers have similar event to today's event. The ceremony depends on the capability of farmers.

Samuel san: We do have activities but it's not community-based. It's a farmer-based event. It's smaller than today's event. It includes me, my wife, my close family. When it comes to harvesting, maybe I would invite someone who plays drums and sings for my family and me.



**Mr. Gibril Santigie Sesay
(Sierra Leone)**
*Short time training course for Improvement
of Rice Cultivation Techniques*



**Mr. Samuel S. Tornkollie
(Liberia)**
*Short time training course for Improvement
of Rice Cultivation Techniques*

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