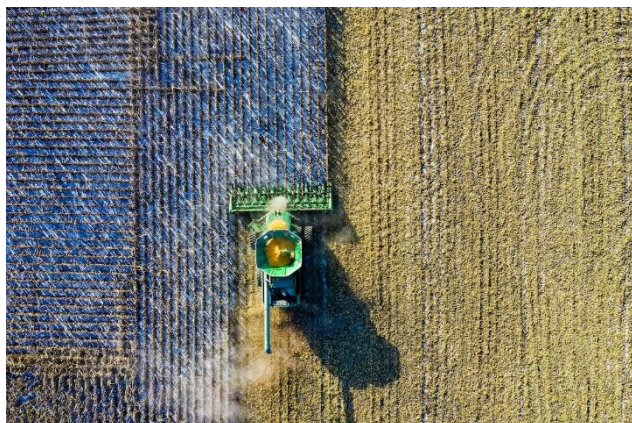


39th UNU GLOBAL SEMINAR

Sustainable agriculture and food production: the way forward to ensure food security

持続可能な農業と食料生産：食料安全保障の確保にむけて



Dates: 7-9 August 2023

Time: 13:00-17:00 JST on 7th and 8th Aug.

10:30-17:00 JST on 9th Aug.

*Consultation Time: 18.30-20.30 on 8th Aug.

Modality of the Seminar: **Online**

Language: **English**

Expected participants: **100**

Participant fee: **30,000 JPY**

Certificate: **Awarded upon the successful completion of the programme**

Contact: ias.pdt.event@unu.edu

Details: ias.unu.edu/en/

Description and Aim

Join us for a seminar on sustainable agriculture and food production! Sustainable agriculture is a way of producing food that is healthy for consumers and animals, does not harm the environment, is humane for workers, respects animals, provides fair wages to farmers, and supports and enhances rural communities. It takes many forms but at its core is the goal of producing enough healthy food for the growing world population while reducing food's negative social and environmental impacts.

The UNU Global Seminar 2023 will examine the importance of transforming our global food systems in meeting the largest challenges faced by humanity. Groupwork will be organised to discuss sustainable agriculture practices and explore how these practices can help ensure food security while reducing negative social and environmental impacts. Participant groups will also be tasked to propose innovative solutions for mainstreaming sustainable agriculture practices.

Learning Outcomes

- Engage with prominent leaders across fields and disciplines such as biodiversity, water, and education to learn about the contemporary global issues related to each area and understand the sustainable initiatives.
- Obtain skill how to tackle the global issues with multiple aspects by planned groupworks step-by-step applying the world café style.
- Enhance communication capability and skill in making a consensus among the team members through the preparation for the presentation for the innovative solution about the impact and solution of the effect of climate change.
- Make a network with other participants from different university and with diverse backgrounds through the world café style discussion and preparation for the presentations.

Who is eligible to participate?

- Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the universities located in Japan.
- Young professionals who are interested in the theme of the seminar are also welcome.

* Note: Faculty members and researchers of the university are not admissible.

Summary of the Programme

Sustainable agriculture takes many forms, but at its core is the shift-away from the industrial approach to food production developed during the 20th century. This system, with its reliance on monoculture, mechanisation, chemical pesticides and fertilizers, biotechnology, and government subsidies, has made food abundant and affordable. Food lies at the heart of healthy people, thriving societies and a sustainable planet. One of humanity's greatest challenges is how to produce enough healthy food for the growing world population while at the same time reducing food's negative social and environmental impacts. Transforming our global food systems is central to meeting the largest challenges faced by humanity, including climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity and risks to future pandemics. The global food system is the primary driver of biodiversity loss on the planet. According to researchers, the area given over to agriculture now accounts for around half of the planet's habitable land. With 7.7 billion mouths to feed, more and more land is being given over to food production, causing habitat loss around the world and stripping vast swathes of land of its biodiversity. Converting land to agriculture doesn't just destroy natural ecosystems such as prairies, grasslands and forest, it also deprives wildlife of the food sources and shelter they depend upon to survive. Beyond the destruction of ecosystems, the intensification of farming is also driving biodiversity loss. Agriculture isn't just one of the primary drivers behind rapidly accelerating biodiversity loss; it's also one of the areas of our lives that will be most impacted by it. [The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\) recently warned](#) that biodiversity loss is threatening the security of the world's food supply, as well as the livelihoods of millions of people who work in the industry.

Programme *Programme and lecturers are subject to change.

Day 1: Monday, 7 August 2023, 13:00-17:00 (JST)

- ✧ Welcome Address: *Prof. Yume Yamaguchi*, Director, UNU-IAS
- ✧ Keynote Speech 1: Yagi Nobuyuki, Professor, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo
- ✧ Concept Speech: TBD, UNU-IAS
- ✧ World Café and group forming

Day 2: Tuesday, 8 August 2023, 13:00-17:00 (JST)

- ✧ Keynote Speech 2: Prof. Atsushi Yokota, (Research Faculty of Agriculture, Division of Fundamental AgriScience Research, Research Group of Bioscience and Chemistry; Executive/Vice-President of Hokkaido University, Japan)
- ✧ Group Work Session

Day 3: Wednesday, 9 August 2023, 10:30-17:00 (JST)

- ✧ Group Presentations
- ✧ Keynote Speech 3: Gordana Kranjac-Berisavljevic, Professor, Department of Agricultural Mechanization and Irrigation Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Sciences, University for Development Studies, Ghana
- ✧ Ceremony of Certificate Awards

Consultation Day: Tuesday, 8 August 2023, 18:30-20:30 (JST)

- ✧ Instructors will be available online to answer your questions related to the group work

What is the UNU Global Seminar?

The UNU Global Seminars began in Japan in 1985.

The aim of the UNU Global Seminars is to enhance awareness about contemporary global issues and the role of the United Nations in addressing those issues. Students and young professionals are given the opportunity to interact with distinguished scholars and practitioners from Japan and abroad, and to explore a specific issue in depth through lectures and group discussions.

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(Logos to be added)