

NATIONAL

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS GOAL

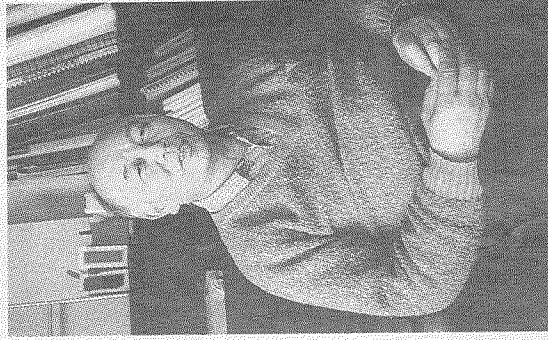
Center helps raise lot of rural poor

Eleventh in a series

By YOKO HANI
Staff writer

Some 30 years ago when the country was expanding rapidly economically and it paid little attention to its neighbors, a Japanese group started a training program for future farm leaders from Asia's developing states.

Today, Asian Rural Institute, which was originally affiliated with a theological school in Tokyo, provides a nine-month training course for up to 40 people each year.



Hajime Kikuchi

School, which propagated Christianity in rural areas, began the course the next year at the school in Nasu.

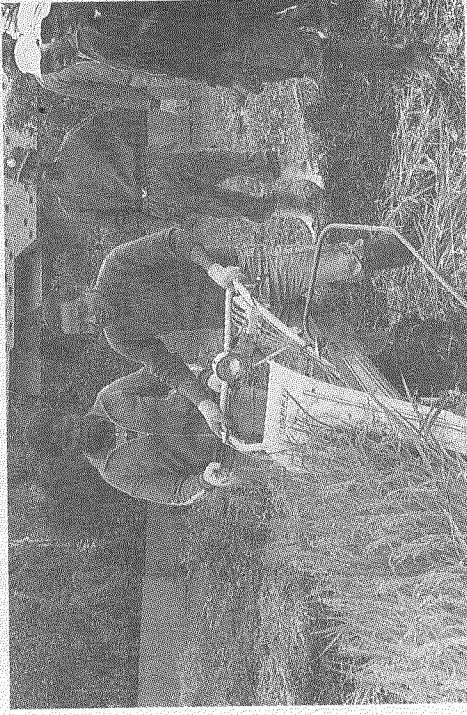
Kikuchi said the people at the time felt obligated to compensate Asians for the damage and suffering Japan had inflicted on them during the war.

About 12 years later the institute was formed and has

The training is held in a 6-hectare field and nearby woods in Nishinasuno, Tochigi Prefecture.

Principal Hajime Kikuchi says the project was started to teach Asians advanced agricultural techniques, the request coming at the inaugural meeting of the East Asian Christian Conference in 1959.

The Japanese schoolmaster of Noson Dendo Theological



TRAINEES AT ASIAN RURAL INSTITUTE harvest rice plants.

The trainees find living in Japan an eye-opener. They see both good and bad.

To Zimik Mingthingla from India, Japan is "a very safe, secure and equal country. Its people are wonderful."

However, she felt the Japanese tend to be preoccupied with concerns that people in India more or less ignore.

"In a sense, we are satisfied with what we are and what we have," she said.

"But Japanese people seem to have anxiety problems even though they live in a rich country."

matters are affected by political and economic trends worldwide.

The institute's long-range goal is to help people become self-sufficient.

Kikuchi, whose specialty is dairy farming, recalled a flight he made some time ago on Pakistani International Airlines to Kenya.

On plane, he noticed butter from Denmark and the Netherlands served with the meals. He wondered why Pakistan, a developing country, had to turn to a developed

Saved Shoriffdeen Alavi on