

Collaborative Research – A Way to Maximize Research Potentials

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Key message

- Face to face, hand-in-hand, long-lasting research collaboration is an effective way for capacity building, as well as for technology dissemination/adoption, in the long run.

Contents

- 1. Introduction of JIRCAS**
- 2. Characteristics of Collaborative Research**
- 3. Enhancement of Research Projects
- Experiences in Asia**
- 4. Trials in Africa**
- 5. Conclusion - Future Direction**

1. Introduction of JIRCAS



**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

Mission of JIRCAS

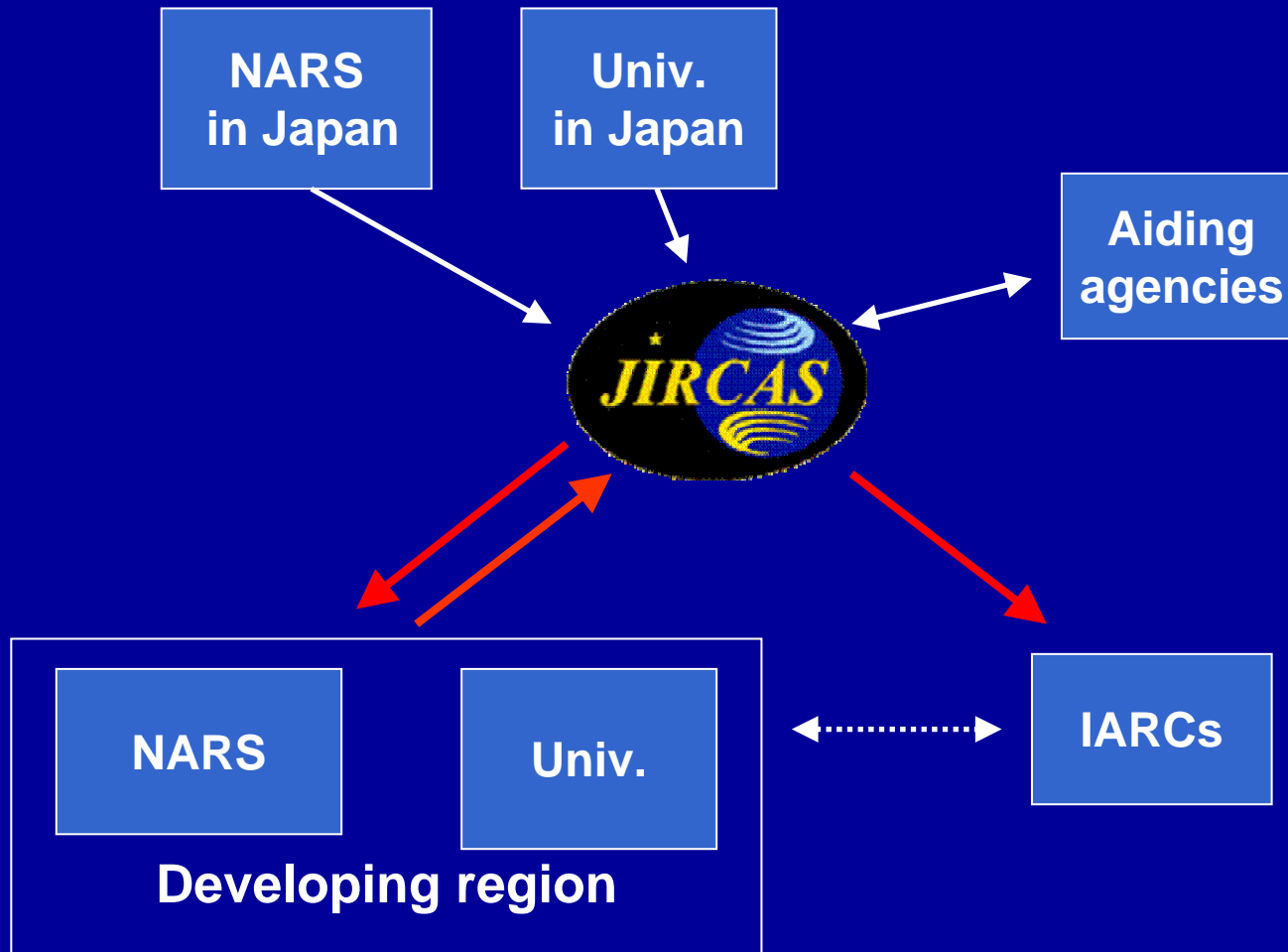


Contribute to address the difficulties related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries in tropical countries as well as other developing countries through research and development



- 1970** Tropical Agriculture Research Center (TARC) was established under MAFF
- 1993** TARC was reorganized into the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (**JIRCAS**)
- 2001** JIRCAS became an Incorporated Administrative Agency (IAA) under MAFF

Main Activities of JIRCAS

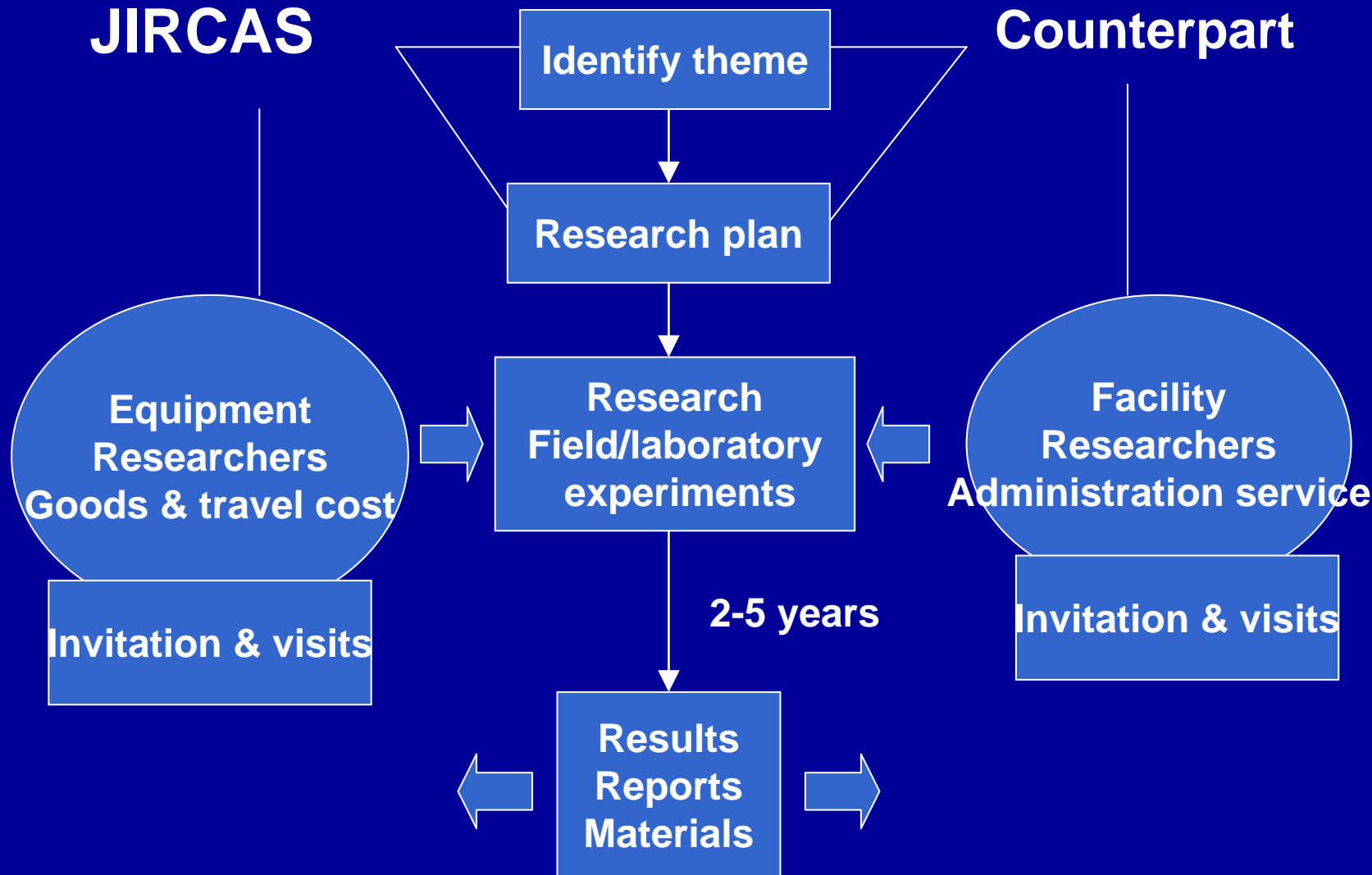


2. Characteristics of Research Collaboration

- The collaboration is made on an **equal-footing** partnership.
- The contents of research are determined by the reciprocal **needs/interests of participating institutes.**
- The collaboration is committed within **a long-term period** in general.

JIRCAS

Counterpart



Merits appear in the long run, because..

- It requires stronger and more **spontaneous commitment** on the part of counterparts than other programs.
- It would be able to elicit the **deeper involvement of local researchers** in the projects.
- Thus it should be more **effective in capacity-building**.

3. Enhancement of Research Projects - Experiences in Asia

The way of implementing the collaborative research has been altered according to the methodological development and to the local conditions.

- **Field-oriented activities**
- **Comprehensive projects**
- **Participatory approaches**



(1) Field-oriented, problem-solving activities

- **identify specific technological problems which local farmers face**

Pro: Provides visible solutions to the local beneficiaries

Con: Scope of research is limited to the technological aspects

(2) Comprehensive projects

- consists of multiple research themes.
includes socio-economic analyses and multidisciplinary approaches.

Pro: It involves many local people.
Multidisciplinary teams can exert influence on each other.

Con: Management of projects is not an easy task.

(3) Participatory approaches

- **Research themes are selected and the results were evaluated through discussion among farmers**

Pro: welcome by direct users and it reminds researchers about the original role of researches

Con: often requires a substantial effort. The obtained results may not be applicable in a different situation.

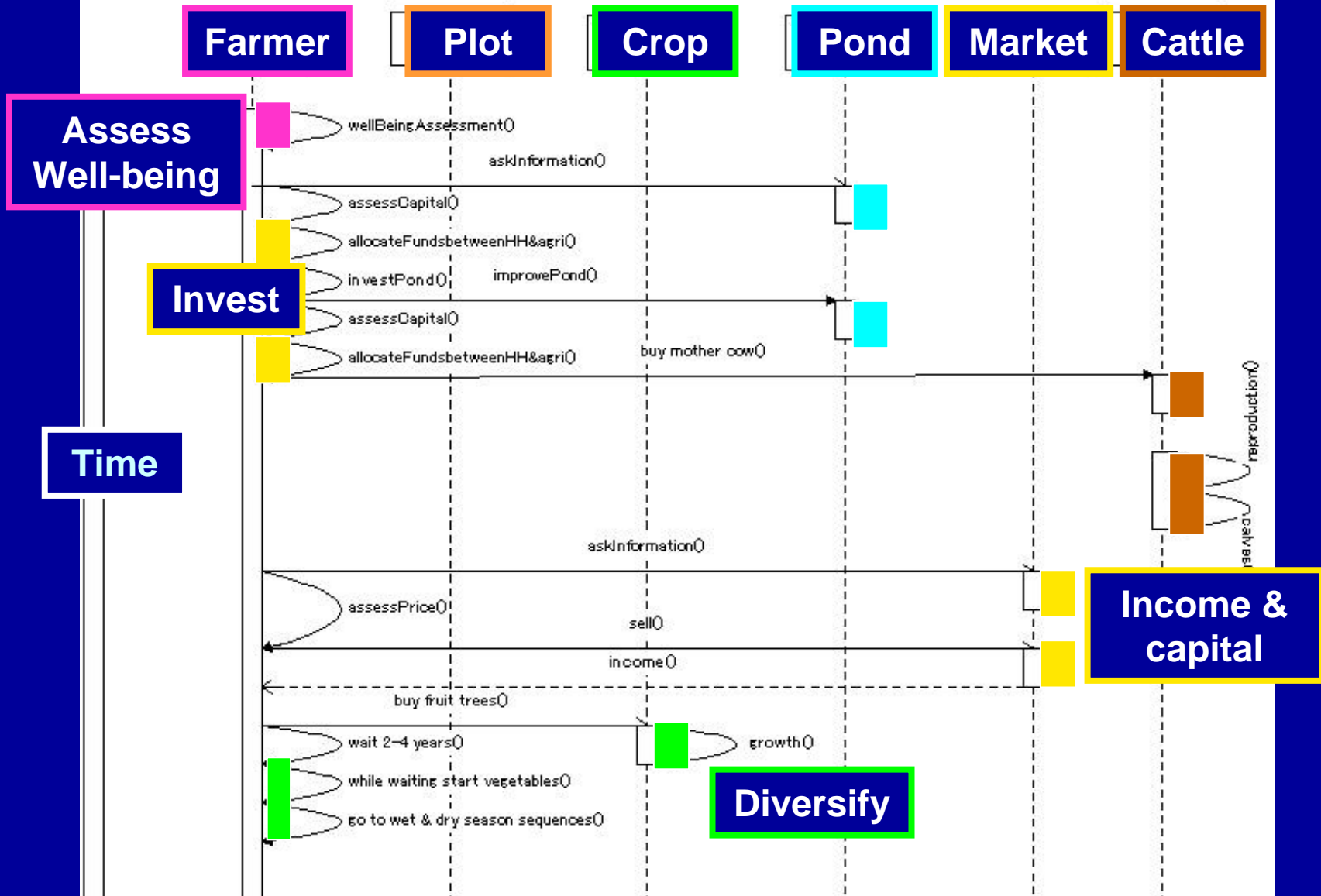
**Farmer Choice &
Change in
Technology Options**



**Farmer
Assessment &
Choice of Sites**



Transition Model to Diversification



4. Trials in Africa

Initial collaboration with IARCs

ILRI (1980-), IITA(1990-95), ICIPE (1994-2004), WARDA (1997-)

- Commitment of Japan (TICAD)

Current projects

- NERICA related project (WARDA, IRAG)
- Fertility improvement of sandy soils (ICRISAT)

A Collaborative Research Project with WARDA (1998-2003)

Improving Food Security in West Africa
through Increased Productivity in Rainfed Rice Systems



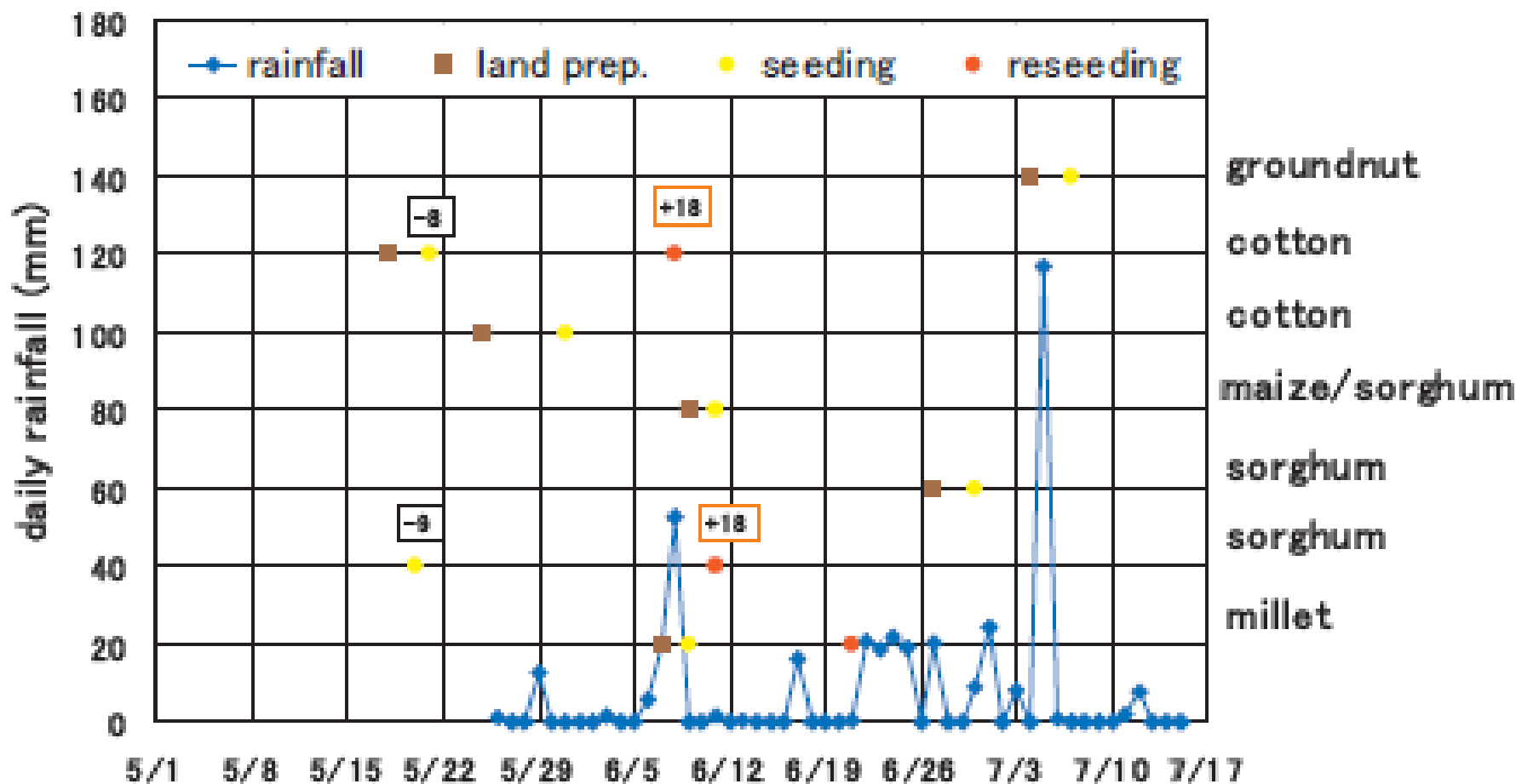
Development of Rice
Cultivars Suitable for the
Region



Socio-economic Studies
on the Factors Affecting
New Technology Adoption



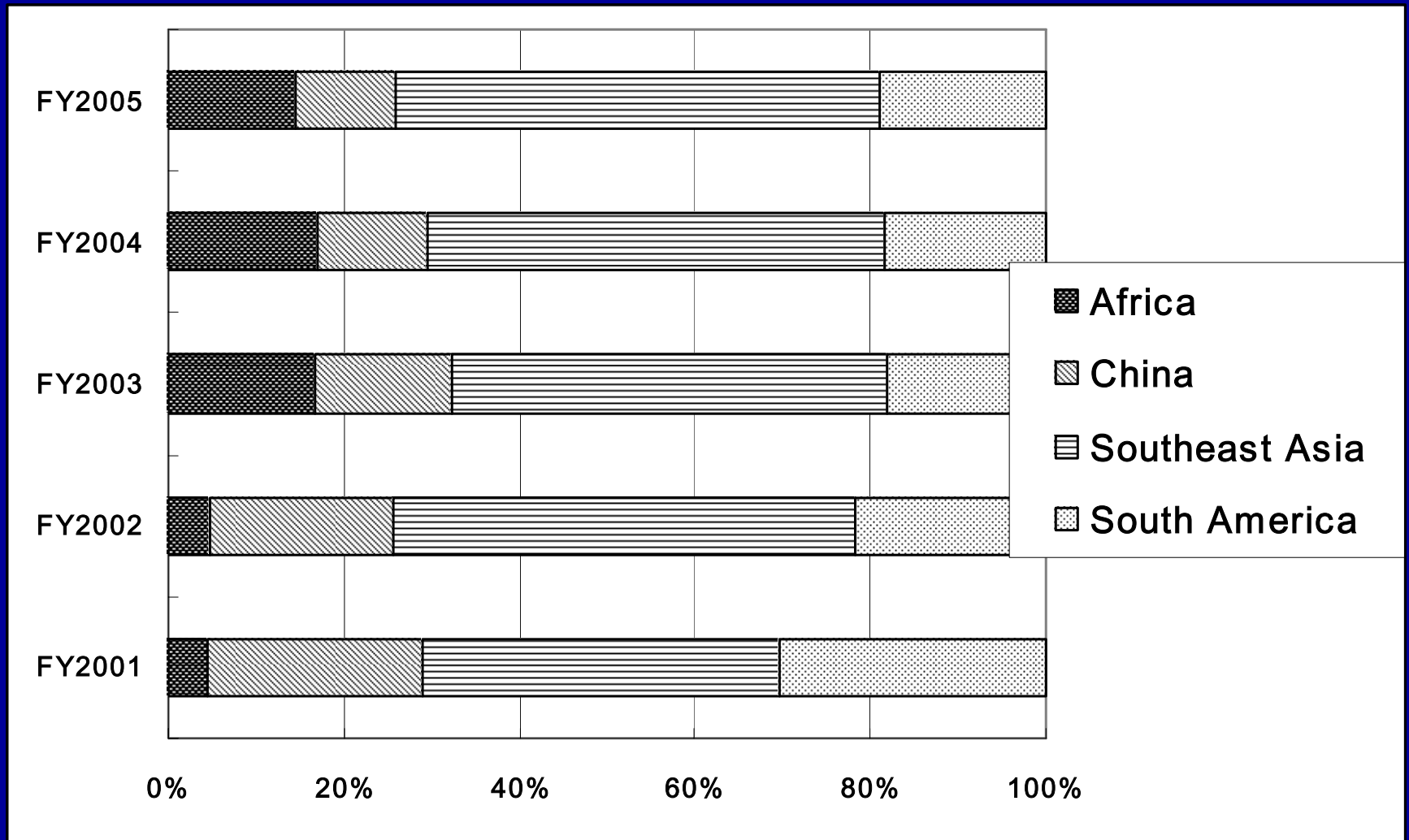
A decision-support system “Farmers’ rainfall and cropping calendars” in Mali



5. Conclusion – Future Direction

- Political commitment of Japanese government for African development (TICAD, G8Summit, WSSD....)
- JIRCAS will continue to make its tiny efforts... in a sustainable manner

Budget allocation of JIRCAS by region



International Symposia and Workshops by JIRCAS



Warning message a century ago

Tokiyoshi Yokoi (agronomist, 1860-1927)

- *Agricultural research flourishes, and agriculture itself gets ruined.*
- *Listen to the rice about rice. Listen to the farmers about agriculture.*