

The National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences (NIAES) has endeavored to solve a wide range of environmental problems affecting agriculture, such as the contamination of agricultural crops by dioxins, radioactive substances, cadmium and other harmful chemical substances; the environmental impact of genetically modified food plants and exotic organisms; and the relationship between global environmental change and agriculture. There is increasing concern about the risks to human health and the environment, and researchers are being asked to offer solutions based on scientific findings.

The period of NIAES's phase II medium-term target, which started in April 2006, calls for emphasizing research on risks in the agricultural environment in order to ensure the environmental safety that underpins agricultural production. By means of exploratory and basic research on risk assessment and risk management, NIAES will develop risk mitigation technologies and pass the benefits of research on to society at large, as well as contributing to the policy measures of administrative authorities and international agencies.

NIAES has created the following Basic Philosophy, Code of Conduct, and Environmental Charter so that personnel will conduct themselves with a high sense of ethics and an awareness of their social responsibility, and undertake to conserve and improve the environment as they proceed with research under the new medium-term target and medium-term plan.

Basic Philosophy

NIAES conducts high-level research aiming at the harmony and coexistence of nature, society, and humans, thereby helping to overcome food and environmental problems throughout the world.

Code of Conduct

Philosophy of Conduct

To act with a strong sense of ethics and sound social judgment for the purposes of building a safe and worry-free society and preserving an agricultural environment to be passed on to the next generation. To pass the benefits of NIAES activities on to society at large.

Guidelines for Conduct

• Environmental Research

As a research institute in the forefront of agro-environmental research in Japan and abroad, NIAES actively conducts high-level research activities to solve environmental problems related to agricultural production.

• Legal Compliance

NIAES complies with the relevant laws and social norms to provide a sound and safe working

environment, and as a member of society undertakes its program activities ethically and with sound judgment. In particular, there must be no impropriety committed through research activities. Furthermore, NIAES works to partner with society, assures transparency by upholding openness, fairness, and neutrality, and so enhances its trustworthiness.

• Technology Transfer

To protect and apply the results originating from our research as intellectual property, NIAES creates the conditions for providing patents and other information and for domestic and foreign technology transfers.

• Public Communications and Information Disclosure

By publishing the results of studies and research and by actively disseminating and communicating such results through public lectures and other means, NIAES provides for the dissemination of research meant to assure the safety of food and the agricultural environment and also works to release information on program activities.

• Cooperation, Partnership, and International Contributions

By reinforcing partnerships and collaboration with industry, academia, and government, NIAES promotes joint research and research cooperation, and extensively shares the research results with society. NIAES works to benefit the agro-environmental policies of administrative authorities and international agencies.

Environmental Charter

Environmental Philosophy

To vigorously carry out research activities on agro-environmental problems and take positive action to contribute to conserving and improving the environment and to building a sustainable recycling society.

Environmental Action Guidelines

• Raising Environmental Consciousness

To create organizations and institutions for environmental management and to work to raise environmental consciousness.

• Concern for the Environment

To reduce the burden on the environment by being diligent in everyday activities such as energy conservation, reuse, recycling, and green procurement.

• Publicizing Activities

For the purpose of improving environmental conservation and safety and health in program activities, to broadly publicize the results of environmental conservation activities by means including preparing environmental reports and posting on the Web.

• Symbiosis with Society

As a member of the local community and international society, to build a cooperative and symbiotic relationship with society and actively conduct environmental conservation activities.