

AINOU

(Love for Agriculture)

(Building 1000 years' sustainable village)



BRIEF HISTORY

Ainou-kai is an agricultural organization that has 60 years' history

In 1945, when Japan was in chaos with hunger and confusion in the aftermath of World War II, Ainou-kai was established by our founder Mr. Junichi Kotani. At the time Mr. Kotani was teaching in a teachers' school. After the war Kotani realized the mistake that Japan had committed and that he had also participated in it (with or

without being aware of it). His strong determination that we never ever commit the same mistake again and great repentance towards the war led him to start Ainou-Juku (Juku means private school) where his objective was to call a farmers' movement for their independence. Ainou-kai was established the next year in 1946. Since then, people felt sympathy with the two prayers of Ainou, and the spirit of "Love for god" "Love for Humans" "Love for Soil" have spread all over Japan. In 1955, Ainou-kai was officially registered as non-profit corporate body and has been active for achieving independence and self-reliance for rural communities and a society that is prevailed with peace and brightness.



A TIMELINE

- 1945 Predecessor of Ainou-kai, Ainou-Juku was established.
- 1946 Ainou Kai was established.
- 1954 Ainou Konpon Dojo (1 year training course for farming. The next year, the participants underwent another 1 year's training in a farmer's house).
- 1964 Ainou-gakuen Agricultural High School was established.
- 1968 Receiving Invitation from Switzerland East Asia Mission, Ainou kai began to send out trainees to Swiss farms. This program continued until 1991.
- 1972 Doctor Giryō Yanase gave a lecture on the theme of "Harm brought by

- Agrochemicals". With this as turning point, Ainou-kai switched to Organic farming.
- 1972 Bangladesh was hit by a big, devastating flood. "Ainou Bangladesh servant team" was formed and sent to Bangladesh.
- 1974 Through Norway Mission, Ainou kai started to send out trainees to farms in Norway. This program had continued until 1991.
- 1975 The first visit to Korea. Lecture by Junichi Kotani.
 "Noah's ark" (Distribution body for organic products) was established. Its named Noah's ark was kept with the wish to help people avoid/escape poisoned food).
- 1976 Seinou-kai was established in Korea (The second visit to Korea by Kotani).
- 1977 Distribution Council for Ainou Farm products was established (Later on, it was renamed Ainou Network).
- 1983 "India Project" which focuses on organic farming started in India. Ainou-kai had sent its staff to support the project until 1990. (Post that, Ainou-kai has been economically supporting the project)
- 1992 Visit to California Certified Organic Farmers to see the current condition of organic certification in U.S.A.
- 1992 Ainou-Network started its operation.
 Ainou-kai started its organic certification service.
- 1995 Korea-Japan exchange workshops commenced. Since then it has been held every year.
- 2000 Ainou-kai became an official certifying body for "JAS" Japan Agricultural Food Standard (JAS law "JAS Organic labeling requirements" has been revised and enforced).
- 2001 Ainou-net Honbu corporation (Center for the Ainou Network of Organic Products) was established. The aim was to promote distribution of organic farm produce and organic input.



AIM

The March 2011 earthquake in Tohoku triggered Ainou to rethink its way of life, economy and production of food and energy. The tendency is always to blame 'natural disasters' on nature, as if human beings have nothing to do with. Ainou realized what a crucial role we human beings play in maintaining and disturbing the balance and harmony in nature that causes these disasters. Thus the need to review the structure and manner in which society exists from its very roots and foundation. In that vein, we wish to support and nurture the networks and friends who practice and research this way of sustainable living and farming. From these ideas we created a mission to practice 1000 years sustainable village building. Small but meaningful steps towards the same cause can make a big contribution to building a better, healthier and more sustainable world.

MEMBERSHIP

Ainou Kai is able to practice its activities with the support of people who agree with its ideas and mission. Ainou wishes to involve all its members in its activities and sends updates on events, courses and seminars through a monthly newsletter. Members also enjoy the right of 1 vote in the Ainou General Assembly where issues such as the closing budget etc are discussed. Ainou believes in maintaining completing transparency and disclosure in all its pursuit and activities. In addition to this, Ainou members enjoy a considerable deduction in participation fees to take part in the farming course, the JAS organic certification course, price of organic fertilizers, etc.



Ainou provides 3 kinds of membership:

Personal- 15000 yen per year (**monthly** newsletter)

Family- 25000 yen per year (**fortnightly** newsletter)

Organization- 25000 yen (**fortnightly** newsletter)

There are 2 other categories of involvement with Ainou through which one can receive the Ainou newsletter only.

Supporter Member- 10,000 yen (**monthly** newsletter)

Subscriber of Newsletter- 6400 yen (monthly newsletter)



2 PRAYERS and AINOU SPIRIT

Prayers

May God help us to never again commit the error of waging war and to establish a world in which peace prevails

May God help us to establish shining agricultural communities with the spirit of autonomy and independence that will be bound together by bonds of love and cooperation.

The spirit of Ainou is best encapsulated in its dedication and commitment to

World peace

Village building

3 love spirit: Love for God, Love for Humans and Love for Soil

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Education: To nurture the people who protect soil and lives

1. To support Ainou Agricultural High School. Ainou Kai established Ainou High School in 1964 as an educational organization to raise the successors of farmers and carry forward the Ainou movement
2. Ainou Daigaku Koza, a 9 days' residential intensive farming course including lectures and farm work. Introduction to agricultural techniques, sustainable way of life, alternative sources of energy, nutritional health, cooking. Ideal for all those interested in organic farming and green living
3. Ainou Kids' Nature School, for elementary school students, grade 4 to 6. Provides a chance to touch nature and organic farming and learn to be more friendly towards nature



Ainou also organizes and conducts seminars on agricultural techniques, importance and necessity of organic farming and agriculture business management. We hold

workshops on food processing, how to build a traditional rice cooker, stone oven, etc. We also conduct cooking classes using these devices and traditional methods that preserve nutrition and energy.



JAS organic certification: Officially acknowledged by the Ministry as an organic certification body. We check farmers' produce, vegetable, rice or processed foods to deliver this.



International Cooperation: Ainou has several partnerships with foreign farmers and Farming Organizations, such as Exchange program with SeiNouKai, Korean Organic Farmers' Organisation. We also support Indian Organic Agricultural Project in Allahabad. We are a member of AFA, or the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, a huge and diverse network of Farmers' Organizations in Asia.

Consultation: Ainou did a survey on organic farms that can support young budding and prospective farmers and where they accept trainees to provide such training. A database was built and Ainou often consults with these farms, providing well researched advice and additional support.

