



GLOBAL PARTNERS FOR LOCAL ORGANIC FOODS

A US-Japan Exchange Project in Kansas and Saitama

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Global Partners for Local Organic Foods

is a project of the Kansas Rural Center (KRC) in cooperation with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - Japan (IFOAM - Japan).

Our project brings together two groups of diverse individuals, ten persons on each side, based in the Kansas River Valley, centered in Lawrence, Kansas (in the center of the US farm belt) and Saitama Prefecture (northwest of Tokyo, Japan) to explore ways to further interest in small-scale, organic farming and establish personal relationships between food producers and consumers in areas of our countries where rural communities once thrived but are now in decline. It emerges from our desire to act on scholarly studies about both the USA and Japan by economists and social scientists, who have been pondering the possibility of agriculture disappearing in these industrialized nations, evidenced by the decline of rural communities, the low rate of food self sufficiency, and other dire statistics. Our goal is to shed light on common problems, but more importantly, to suggest solutions applicable not only to these areas but others in the developed world. In particular, we will explore ways to further interest in smaller-scale, organic farming and establish closer personal relationships between food producers and consumers.

We aim to use cross-cultural dialogues between organic food industry professionals and other community members in our two agricultural heartlands to develop innovative pilot projects that will incorporate aspects of each other culture's approaches to spread interest in organic, locally produced foods in our respective communities.

Please contact one of our co-directors for further information or if you have interest in developing pilot projects with us.

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