Guide for Visiting

Agriculture harmonized with the rich natural environment in the Okhotsk region

Facilities and Test Fields

| Total area | 155.77 ha |
| Test fields | 78.30 ha |
| Area of buildings | 11.86 ha |
| Forests, etc. | 65.61 ha |

Facilities
- Main building
- Facilities
- Greenhouses
- Isolated fields for propagation of timothy and potato
- Test fields for forage grasses
- Front yard
- Houses
- Test field for forage grasses
- Rotation test fields for upland crops
- Test fields for research on fertilization, crop diseases, and pests
- Pasture
- Woods
- Test field for vegetables
- Main entrance

Pasture
- Test fields for research on fertilization, crop diseases, and pests
- Rotation test fields for upland crops
- Test fields for forage grasses

Research facilities
- Laboratory for biotechnology, greenhouses for research (wheat, potato, forage grass, vegetables, diseases and pests, and sugar beet), facilities for wheat quality tests and wheat vernalization treatment, warehouses (potato, onion, and crop seeds)

Climate

Average temperature (°C)

Precipitation (mm)

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**Overview of Research Groups**

**Wheat and Barley Group**

**Wheat Breeding Section**

Breeding of winter wheat and spring wheat varieties adaptable to the Hokkaido region is conducted in this section. The main breeding objectives of winter wheat varieties are high yield, pre-harvest sprouting resistance, disease resistance (to snow mold disease, yellow mosaic virus, and so on), with high processing qualities for Japanese noodle "udon" and Chinese noodle. Those of spring wheat varieties are high yield, high processing quality for bread, pre-harvest sprouting resistance, and disease resistance (to fusarium head blight and so on). In addition, tests of adaptability to the Okhotsk region are done using promising barley lines suitable for beer brewing.

**Field Management Section**

This section conducts management of test fields. It includes land preparation, spraying of agricultural chemicals, cultivation of green manure, and maintenance of agricultural machinery.

**Potato and Forage Grass Breeding Group**

**Potato Breeding Section**

Breeding of potato varieties adaptable to the Hokkaido region is conducted in this section. The main breeding objectives are high yield, disease resistance (to potato cyst nematode, resistance to some diseases such as potato scab, excellent traits of starch, and good processing qualities for chips and salad). In addition, promising lines developed in other breeding agencies and imported varieties of potato are tested for possible release in the Hokkaido region.

**Forage Grass Breeding Section**

Breeding of timothy varieties adaptable to the Hokkaido and Okhotsk regions is conducted in this section. The main breeding objectives are high yield, disease resistance to the Hokkaido region.

**General Affairs Section**

- Wheat and Barley Group
- Potato and Forage Grass Breeding Group
- Agricultural Environment Group
- Regional Agriculture Technology Group
- Soil and Plant Nutrition Section
- Field Crops and Vegetables Section
- Area Support Section

**Number of staff:** 42, of which 29 are research staff (as of April 2017)

**New varieties released**

- Spring wheat "Harukirari" (2007)
- Onion "Kitamikou 65" (2016), "Yumesenka" (2012)

**New technologies**

- Stable cultivation methods of hard winter wheat variety "Tsurukichi" (2017)
- Stable cultivation methods of high starch yielding potato variety "Konayutaka" (2017)
- Nitrogen fertilizer application methods of dent corn by means of soil diagnosis (2017)
- Effective spraying method of fungicides against cercospora leaf spot of beet (2017)
- Processing characteristics and stable cultivation methods of onion variety "Yumesenka" (2017)
- Nitrogen split dressing for stable cultivation of transplanted onion (2016)
- Effective control for onion gray-mold neck rot (2016)
- Improvement of field-scale soil sampling method for estimating potato cyst nematodes density (2016)
- Limits of sowing time in summer renovation of grass/legume mixed sown sward (2015)
- Control of onion downy mildew (2015)

**Regional Agriculture Technology Group**

**Field Crops and Vegetables Section**

Tests of characteristics of sugar beets, soybeans, azuki beans, and kidney beans are conducted in this section to select or evaluate breeding lines and varieties that are readily adaptable to the Okhotsk region.

Breeding of onion varieties is conducted for the objectives of high yield, disease resistance, and kidney beans are conducted in this section to select or evaluate breeding lines and varieties that are readily adaptable to the Okhotsk region. Low-cost onion cultivation methods such as direct seeding are also studied.

**Area Support Section**

Tests for dissemination of agricultural technologies are conducted in this section through the introduction of new technologies and application of existing technologies. For this purpose, this section organizes research teams along with other groups. In addition, this section takes part in the organization of regional agricultural technology support teams along with the Agricultural Technologies Dissemination Section to resolve regional problems.