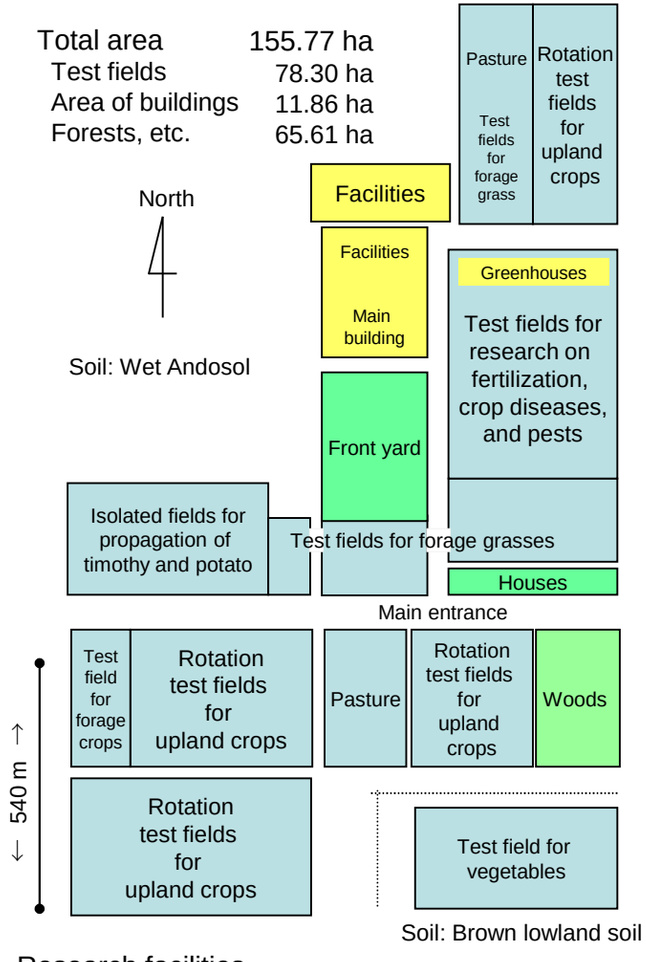
History

1907 Established as the Kitami branch of the Hokkaido Prefectural Agricultural Experiment Station at Notsukeushi Village (now Kitami City)
1959 Relocated to Kunneppu town
1964 Renamed the Hokkaido Prefectural Kitami Agricultural Experiment Station
1998 The Potato Breeding Section was transferred from the Konsen Agricultural Experiment Station
2007 The 100th Anniversary
2010 Restructured as a subordinate organization of the Local Independent Administrative Agency 'Hokkaido Research Organization'

Facilities and Test Fields

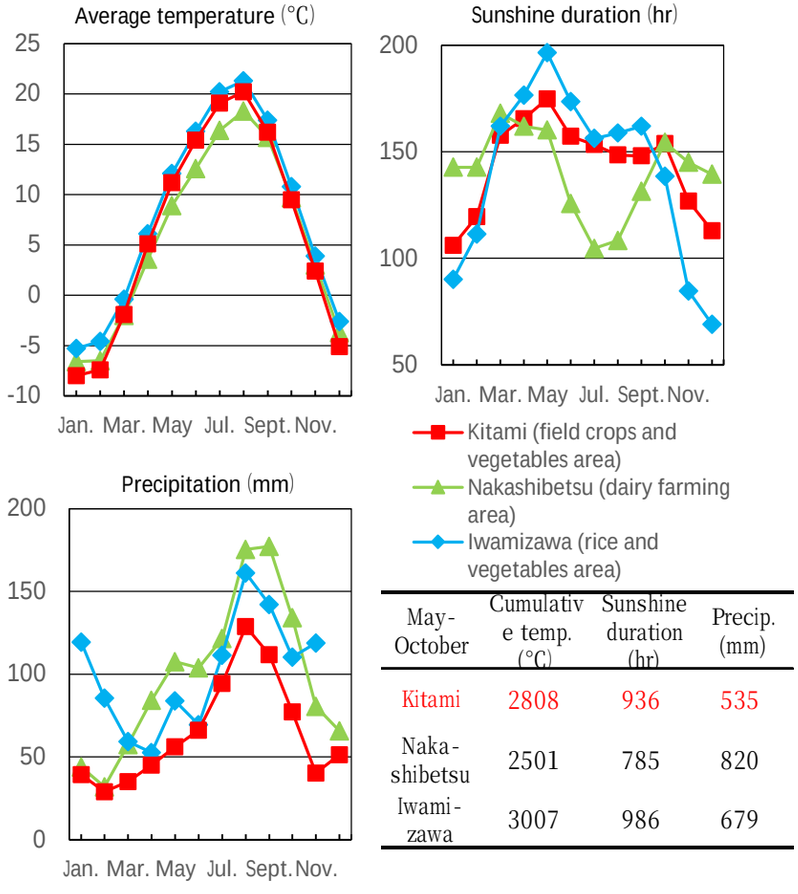
Total area	155.77 ha
Test fields	78.30 ha
Area of buildings	11.86 ha
Forests, etc.	65.61 ha



Research facilities

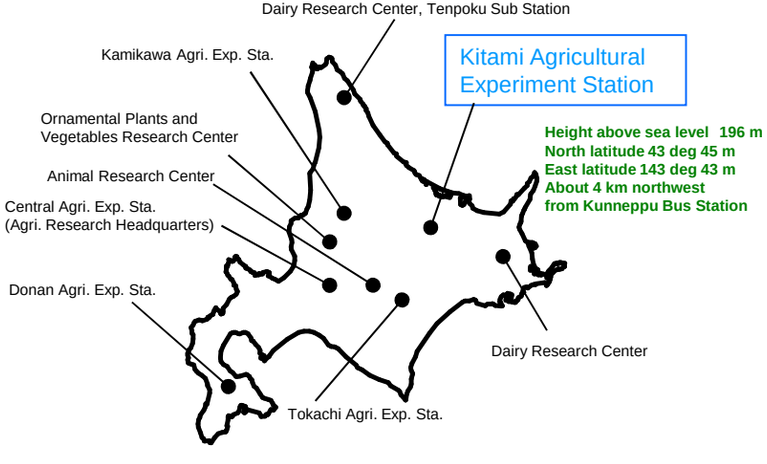
Laboratory for biotechnology, greenhouses for research (wheat, potato, forage grass, vegetables, diseases and pests, and sugar beet), facilities for wheat quality tests and wheat vernalization treatment, warehouses (potato, onion, and crop seeds)

Climate



May-October	Cumulative temp. (°C)	Sunshine duration (hr)	Precip. (mm)
Kitami	2808	936	535
Nakashibetsu	2501	785	820
Iwamizawa	3007	986	679

Location



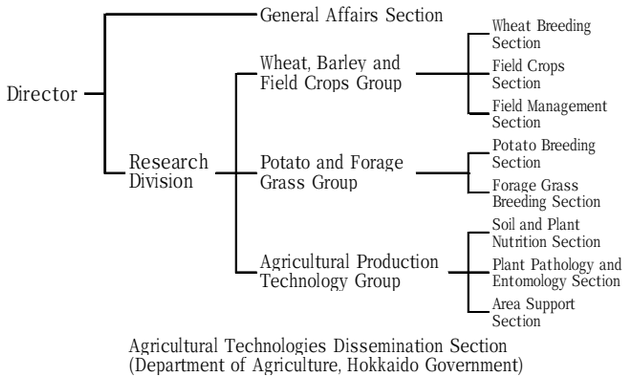
Guide for Visiting

Agriculture harmonized with the rich natural environment in the Okhotsk region

Local Independent Administrative Agency
Hokkaido Research Organization
Kitami Agricultural Experiment Station

52 Yayoi, Kunneppu-cho, Tokoro-gun, Hokkaido 099-1496
Tel.+81-157-47-2146 Fax.+81-157-47-2774
http://www.hro.or.jp/list/agricultural/research/kitami/index.html

Organization



Number of staff: 42, of which 30 are research staff (as of May 2020)

New varieties and technologies

■ New varieties released

・Spring wheat “Harukirari” (2007)
・Winter wheat “Kitahonami R” (2020),
“Kitami 95” (2020),
“Tsurukichi” (2012)
・Potato “Yumeikoro” (2021),
“Sarayuki” (2019),
“Hello Moon” (2018),
“Konayutaka” (2014),
“Rirachip” (2013), “Okhotsk Chip” (2004),
“Snow March” (2004)
・Timothy “Yumemiruhi”(2024) ,“Senryoku” (2020), “Sempu” (2018),
“Natsupirika” (2014), “Natsuchikara” (2010)
・Onion “Surarippu” (2016), “Yumesenka” (2012)

■New technologies

・Labor-saving pest control for Cercospora leaf spot on super-strong resistant variety of sugar beet (2024)
・Sugar beet new varieties, “Proteus”, “Kawe8K839K” (2023)
・Control of white potato cyst nematode, Globodera pallida by cultivation of wild tomato, Solanum peruvianum (2022)
・In-furrow application for control of solanum flea beetle and foxglove aphid of potato (2022)
・High-quality and high-yielding cultivation technology for spring wheat "Haru Yo Koi" using a plant growth regulator (2021)
・Fertilization management techniques of using efficiency-control fertilizer for transplanted onion (2021)
・Technology for early harvesting onions for early shipment (2020)
・Strategies for controlling against Aphanomyces root rot in direct sowing of sugar beet (2020)
・Expand application of soil freezing depth control technology and systematization (2019)

Overview of Research Groups

Wheat, Barley and Field Crops Group

Wheat Breeding Section

Breeding of winter and spring wheat varieties adaptable to the Hokkaido region is conducted. Primarily breeding objectives of winter wheat varieties are high yield and resistance to pre-harvest sprouting, snow mold disease and Wheat yellow mosaic virus, with high processing qualities for Japanese noodle “udon” or bread. Those of spring wheat varieties are high yield and resistance to pre-harvest sprouting and fusarium head blight, with high processing qualities for bread. In addition, we are evaluating beer brewing barley adaptability to the Okhotsk region.

Field Crops Section

Performance and specific character tests for adaptability to Okhotsk region on sugar beets, soybeans, azuki beans, and kidney beans are conducted to select or evaluate breeding lines and varieties.

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.

Agricultural Production Technology Group

Soil and Plant Nutrition Section

In order to sustainably produce high-quality agricultural products for major field crops, vegetables, and forage crops in the Okhotsk region, soil and fertilizer management technology that considers the environmental impact has been developed. We are also working on the practical use of new fertilizers and soil improvement materials, and soil surveys for infrastructure development.

Plant Pathology and Entomology Section

This section researches disease and pest damage on major crops in the Okhotsk region. The main aims are developing efficient and effective forecasts and reducing the damage on the basis of ecologies of pathogens and pests, for sustainable agriculture. In addition, we diagnose various diseases and pests including the newfound and sudden outbreaks, and conduct application tests of new agricultural chemicals.

Area Support Section

Works on dissemination of agricultural technologies are conducted in this section through the introduction of new technologies and application of existing technologies. This section responds to these activities together with other research 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.

Potato and Forage Grass Breeding Group

Forage Grass Breeding Section

Breeding of timothy varieties adaptable to the Hokkaido regions is conducted in this section. The main breeding objectives are high yield and nutritive value, lodging resistance, persistence of growth, and disease resistance. In addition, promising lines developed in other breeding agencies and imported varieties of forage crops are tested for possible release in the Hokkaido region.

Potato Breeding Section

Breeding of potato varieties adaptable to the Hokkaido region is conducted in this section. The main breeding objectives are high yield, 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.