









# STUDY VISIT TO JA ICHIKAWA AND JAPAN WORKERS' **COOPERATIVE UNION**



## **ITINERARY**

8:30	LEAVE MIYAKO CITY TOKYO TAKANAWA
9:30	ARRIVE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF JA ICHIKAWA
	<ul> <li>Meeting with Mr. Hiroyuki Konno, president of JA Ichikawa, briefing about the JA</li> </ul>
	• Visiting offices/facilities of the headquarters (credit, mutual insurance, farm guidance, etc.)
10:30	VISITING FARMS & AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
	<ul> <li>Visiting rice paddy farms and/or pear orchards, meeting with member farmers</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Visiting agricultural facilities (rice milling &amp; packaging, fruit sorting/grading, etc.)</li> </ul>
	LUNCH BREAK
14:00	VISIT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF
	JAPAN WORKERS' COOPERATIVE UNION (JWCU) IN IKEBUKURO
15.30	I FAVE IKERLIKUPO FOR THE HOTEI

#### 15:30 LEAVE IKEBUKUKO FOR THE HOTEL

#### 16:30 **ARRIVE AT MIYAKO CITY TOKYO TAKANAWA**

### **JA ICHIKAWA**

JA Ichikawa covers suburban city area near Tokyo such as Ichikawa, Funabashi and Urayasu, and successfully conducting various business especially financial service (credit and mutual insurance). Ichikawa area is also known for producing fresh fruits and vegetables including Japanese specialty pear (Ko-sui, Ho-sui), carrot, turnip, and tomato. JA Ichikawa has 4,500 farm members and 21,500 non-farm members (local residents). It employs 297 workers, registering 1.6 bn JPY of annual agricultural sales. It has savings for 378 bn JPY and long-term mutual insurance contracts for 662 bn JPY.

## **JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES (JA)**

Japanese primary agricultural cooperatives are "multi-purpose" and "multi-functional", which conduct various business such as marketing farm products, supplying farm inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, credit, mutual insurance, farm guidance, nursing care, medical care, meaning everything for farmers.

## **JAPAN WORKERS' COOPERATIVE UNION (JWCU)**

Japan Workers' Cooperative Union (JWCU) is a national federation of worker cooperatives in Japan that was established in 1979. It has 45 member organizations (19 full members and 26 associates), about 450 business centers and 17,000 workers throughout Japan. Its annual turnover reaches 37 billion Yen. The member organizations (worker cooperatives) are engaged in various businesses such as childcare, elderly care, care for people with disabilities, operation of public facilities (community centers, etc.), cleaning service, logistic service, etc. JWCU is a member of ICA, CICOPA and JCA.