

Date City × Chembe Village International Symposium 2025

Learning from Local Innovator Actions

◆ Contents

The core keyword of this symposium is "Networking". We will illuminate the process by which diverse sectors and human networks are emerging from and being created by agriculture. We welcome innovators engaging in unique, agriculture-centered activities in Date City and Malawi. Through three main sessions, we will introduce the process where new networks start in agriculture, transform, and ultimately change the region.

Session 1 will feature individuals who develop two distinct, cutting-edge agricultural approaches—natural farming and mechanized farming—to illuminate the appeal of their practices and the new human networks they create. Session 2 will demonstrate the diversity of sales channels and collaborative networks emerging from various forms of agriculture, showing how new initiatives rooted in regional challenges are born. Session 3 will focus on those who have played a crucial role in forging new connections, inviting them to reflect on their experiences and share insights on deepening and expanding human networks.

In the Roundtable Discussion on the second afternoon, we will collectively reflect on the sessions and think together on the importance of agricultural diversity and the human networks it creates. We hope that this entire symposium will serve as a catalyst for building a sustainable future of well-being Date City.

◆ Dates & Venue

Dates:

Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM (JST)

Sunday, October 26, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 4:40 PM (JST)

Venue:

Hybrid format,

the Civic Activities Center Multipurpose Hall 1-3 (20-1 Kashimacho, Date City, Hokkaido, Japan, 052-0024) and Zoom.

Zoom URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86499580457?pwd=IbxYubIWS4qsw0FjIzzLGdszuc0Dy2.I>

◆ Dress Code: Casual

◆ Language: The sessions will proceed with consecutive interpretation between Japanese and English.

◆ Admission fee

Participation Fee: Free

Reception (Networking event) Fee: Approximately ¥6,000 per person

◆ Application

Please apply using the QR code to the right
(Deadline: October 17, 2025)



◆ Organizer

This symposium is organized by the research project "Date Pro." supported by Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI), Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program (SIP), the 3rd period of SIP (Funding agency: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)).

◆ Program

Day 1: Saturday, October 25

14:00-14:10 Opening Remarks:

S. Yamanaka, Muroran Institute of Technology, Japan

Session 1 Development and Action of Two Cutting-Edge Agricultural Technologies

14:15-14:55 Networking Farmers and Consumers via a Local Supply Chain Rooted in Natural Farming and Direct Sales

D. Tateyama, Tateyama Farm, Japan

14:55-15:20 Networking with Diverse People through Eco-Friendly Farming Practices Incorporating Recycling

N. S. Chanza, Sustainable Cape Maclear, Malawi

15:20-15:45 The Potential for Emergent Community Formation Driven by the Cutting-Edge Agricultural Project Development

Y. Asai, Asai Nursery, Japan

15:45-16:00 Break

Session 2 The Diversity of Agriculture: Supporting and Being Supported by Networks

16:05-16:30 Exploring a Way of Life and Collective Actions with People through Half-Farmer, Half-Freelance Sales

S. Katamoto, Farm & Firm Katamoto, Japan

16:30-16:55 Connecting People Drives Attractive Product Development and Sixth-Sector Industrialization

K. Umezu, Update, Japan

16:55-17:20 Collective Actions and Learning at a Community Garden Emerged During the Crisis

J. B. Matewere, Sustainable Cape Maclear, Malawi

17:20-17:45 Challenging the Production of Specialty Produce and Collaborating with the Social Welfare Sector

N. Yano, Yano Farm, Japan

17:45-17:55 Day 1 Closing Remarks

S. Yamanaka, Muroran Institute of Technology, Japan

18:30-20:00 Networking event with Date vegetables at DATTEL.

※DATTEL is just a 10-minute walk from the venue

Day 2: Sunday, October 26, 2025

Session 3 People Who Build Networks

13:05-13:30 Building Networks through "Ettama" Cultivation and Agricultural-Welfare-Tourism Collaboration

M. Kaneta, Noka no Tetsudai Nekono Te Chokotto, Japan

13:30-13:55 The Potential of Specialty Produce to Increase Pride and Affection: The "Ettama" Case Study

H. Ishibashi, Muroran Institute of Technology, Muroran, Japan

M. Kaneta, Noka no Tetsudai Nekono Te Chokotto, Japan

13:55-14:20 The Cape Maclear Story: Networking Farmers and Tourism Starting with Local Restaurant

Y. Kusakari, SATREPS IntNRMS Project, Malawi

J. B. Matewere, Sustainable Cape Maclear, Malawi

14:20-14:30 Break

14:30-15:30 Roundtable discussion

Participants can freely join any of the three-themed roundtables with the speakers.

Roundtable 1:

Development and Action of Two Cutting-Edge Agricultural Technologies

Roundtable 2:

The Diversity of Agriculture: Supporting and Being Supported by Networks

Roundtable 3:

People Who Build Networks

15:45-16:30 Workshop:

Tables will be integrated for a combined discussion.

Theme: Thinking Together for a Sustainable Future and Well-being of Date City

Facilitator T. Sato, Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan

16:30-16:40 Closing remarks

S. Yamanaka, Muroran Institute of Technology, Japan