

UGSAS-GU NEWS LETTER

The United Graduate School of Agricultural Science,
Gifu University 2025

ISSUE 14 January to December 2025

MESSAGE from DEAN

In fiscal year 2025, Gifu University is preparing to undergo the institutional accreditation review by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), as well as the fourth-year interim evaluation, which serves as a Preliminary assessment for the fourth medium-term plan period. The United Graduate School of Agricultural Science has previously incorporated social needs through the Industry Committee and received evaluations of its international education and research activities through IC-GU12. However, we have come to realize that evaluations conducted by external accreditation bodies and the government are far more rigorous and carry greater weight. While we sincerely accept external feedback and will make necessary improvements, some aspects do not fully align with the realities or ideals of the graduate school, which poses significant challenges.

The main issues identified are “Enrollment management”, “Completion rate within the standard period”, and “Employment rate after graduation”. Regarding enrollment, it was pointed out that the number of admitted students exceeds 1.5 times the official quota. This situation is partly due to temporary measures such as the priority allocation of government-funded students and support through the Spring Program. Since the number of applicants is expected to fluctuate in the future, adjusting the official quota is difficult. Consequently, we are compelled to aim for stricter admission procedures to manage enrollment. However, doctoral students are highly specialized, and ranking applicants from different fields is neither easy nor necessarily beneficial for science or society, which creates a dilemma.

Similarly, improving the completion rate within the standard period could be easily achieved by lowering requirements, but this would not be desirable from the perspective of student development and degree quality assurance. Therefore, the graduate school intends to focus on balancing quality and timeliness by strengthening student support and encouragement.

Although the school faces several challenges, our graduates have achieved remarkable results. Between September 2022 and September 2025, the number of papers published during their enrollment was as follows: First-author papers: 172, Published in top 10% journals (SCOPUS criteria): 19.2%, Published in Q1 journals: 65.1% (including top 10%), average per student: 2.23 first-author papers and 3.03 including co-authorship. These achievements demonstrate the high quality of our educational and research environment.

We sincerely ask for your continued understanding and support for the development of our graduate school and for student assistance. Finally, we wish you good health and every success.



Prof. Ken HIRAMATSU, Ph.D.

The United Graduate School of Agricultural
Science, Gifu University
Jan.-Dec.2025



IC-GU12 Roundtable Meeting 2025

November 10th, 2025

Faculty of Agriculture, Shizuoka University



On November 10th, 2025, the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Gifu University (UGSAS-GU) hosted the Roundtable Meeting 2025 for International Consortium of Universities in South and Southeast Asia for the Doctoral Education in Agricultural Science and Biotechnology (IC-GU12). For the first time, the meeting was held at the Faculty of Agriculture, Shizuoka University.

The consortium includes 21 universities from 9 countries across South and Southeast Asia, including Japan. A total of 31 participants, 27 in-person and 4 online joined the meeting. The event began with an opening speech by Prof. Ken Hiramatsu, Dean of UGSAS.



The central theme of this year's meeting was "Empowering the Next Generation: Collaborative Education in Data Science."

Participants discussed the growing importance of AI and data science in Agricultural Science and shared case studies from member universities. Key topics included the integration of AI into doctoral programs, challenges in faculty training, data quality, and ethics education. Several universities presented successful initiatives, such as mandatory AI courses, online consultation systems, and interdisciplinary approaches.

The meeting concluded with proposals to establish an IC-GU12 Data Science Education Network, develop joint curricula at the doctoral level, and strengthen collaboration through shared resources and ethics guidelines. Members also agreed to continue information exchange and explore joint research opportunities.



VI Asia Symposium on Quality Management in Postharvest Systems (ASQP2025)

The VI Asia Symposium on Quality Management in Postharvest Systems (ASQP2025) was held from November 11–13, 2025, at the Shizuoka Convention & Arts Center "GRANSHIP" in Shizuoka, Japan. Co-organized by ISHS, JSHS, Gifu University, and Shizuoka University, the event brought together experts and participants from 18 countries to share advances in postharvest quality management. The scientific program featured keynote lectures on recent advances in postharvest science and related fields.

Shizuoka Convention and Arts Center Granship
November 11th to 13th, 2025



Students from UGSAS-GU actively participated, presenting their research in oral and poster sessions. Ms. Nahar Ashrafun, a second-year student in the Science of Biological Production, received the ISHS Young Minds Award for the Best Oral Presentation.

The symposium concluded by emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and regional cooperation to strengthen postharvest systems across Asia.

UGSAS-GU Poster Presentation on Agricultural Sciences 2025

Faculty of Agriculture, Shizuoka University

November 10th, 2025



● AWARD WINNERS ●

Best Presentation Award

SONG YUJIE : D2
ZHANG HANGHANG : D1
Kieu Thi Hoang Yen: D3
Abdi: D3
Nahar Ashrafun: D2

On the afternoon of November 10, UGSAS-GU hosted the UGSAS-GU Poster Presentation on Agricultural Sciences 2025 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Shizuoka University.

A total of 44 UGSAS-GU students-29 from Gifu University and 15 from Shizuoka University presented their research through detailed posters. Participants engaged in lively discussions with faculty, students, and other attendees, fostering an interactive environment for idea exchange and constructive feedback. The event offered students an excellent platform to showcase their research, explore emerging trends, and gain valuable insights to advance their studies.

Following the presentations, a voting session selected the top presenters. Five students were honored with the Best Presentation Award in recognition of their outstanding work and achievements.



UGSAS Career Development Seminar

July 14th, 2025



On July 14, UGSAS-GU hosted a career seminar featuring Dr. Ryosuke Nishimura, Research Fellow at the Mechanobiology Institute, National University of Singapore.

He shared his experience as an overseas postdoctoral researcher and gave practical advice on securing fellowships, choosing research labs abroad, and understanding differences in research life between Japan and Singapore.

The seminar included a lively Q&A session, where students discussed career paths after a Ph.D., the advantages of overseas postdocs, and how international experience can benefit academic careers.

With 31 participants, the event offered valuable insights for students considering global research opportunities.

Research Internship Presentation May 28th, 2025

On May 28, 2025, the 14th UGSAS Research Internship Presentation was held, featuring three doctoral students who shared their internship experiences at institutions in Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Japan.

The students reported on their research themes, the skills they acquired, and the ways in which the internships contributed to their academic growth and career development. 17 faculty members and students from Gifu University attended the session, both in person and online.

Active discussions followed each presentation, underscoring the value of international research experience and encouraging students to incorporate internship opportunities into their doctoral training.

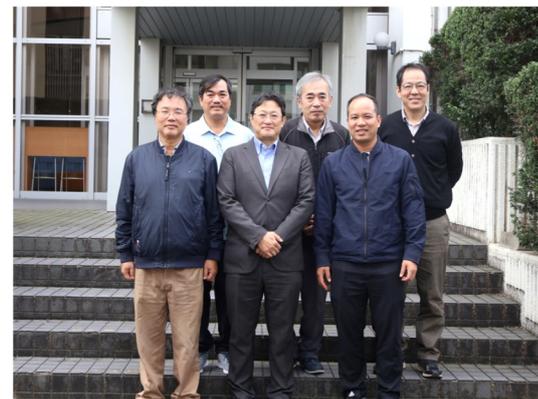


Thuyloi University Visit to UGSAS-GU

November 6th, 2025

On November 6, UGSAS-GU welcomed three representatives from Thuyloi University, Vietnam: Vice President Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Canh Thai; Dr. Le Quang Tuan; and Dr. Bui Quang Cuong. The visit was coordinated by our former Dean, Emer. Prof. Masateru Senge.

During the meeting, both institutions engaged in meaningful discussions aimed at strengthening academic collaboration. This visit marked an important step toward deepening the partnership between UGSAS-GU and Thuyloi University, reaffirming our shared commitment to advancing agricultural science and education through international cooperation.



Andalas University Visit to UGSAS-GU

December 18th, 2025



On December 18, UGSAS-GU welcomed four faculty members from the Faculty of Agriculture at Andalas University, Indonesia: Dean, Prof. Indra Dwipa; Prof. Melinda Noer; Assoc. Prof. Yuerlita; and Assoc. Prof. Khandra Fahmy.

During the visit, both institutions engaged in productive discussions on recent developments in the Double PhD Degree Program and shared perspectives on its future direction. The meeting also explored new initiatives aimed at enhancing support for doctoral students and expanding collaborative research opportunities.

This exchange reaffirmed the strong commitment of UGSAS-GU and Andalas University to deepening academic cooperation and fostering innovative partnerships in agricultural science.

IC-GU12 Joint Seminar Series 2025

March 21st, 2025



On March 21, IC-GU12 hosted the Joint Lecture Series 2025 on “Diverse Relationship Between Humans and Animals: Production, Conservation, and One Health.” The event was held in person at Gifu University and also streamed online. Three UGSAS alumni delivered lectures:

✳ Dr. Satoru Hoshino:

“Feeding Management of Zoo-Kept Folivores with Insight into Their Digestive Physiology”

✳ Dr. Yuli Yanti (Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia):

“Issue and Perspective of Livestock Feeding in a Tropic Country: Using Food and Agriculture Byproducts as Ruminant Feed”

✳ Prof. Boniface Kayang (University of Ghana, Ghana):

“Genomics-Driven Poultry Resilience: Enhancing Resistance to Newcastle Disease and Heat Stress in Chickens for a food-Secure Africa”

IC-GU12 will continue to be committed to promoting global collaboration and advancing research.

UGSAS-GU Open Lecture Series

December 3 – UGSAS hosted an open lecture for the public on the theme “Exploring Environmental Science through Insects,” attracting 25 participants. The program aimed to share academic knowledge and resources with the community, promote lifelong learning, and strengthen ties between the university and society. The lectures were conducted by three professors:

- Prof. Koji Tsuchida (Gifu University)
- Assoc. Prof. Chihiro Himuro (Gifu University)
- Assoc. Prof. Atsushi Kasai (Shizuoka University)

The event offered fascinating perspectives on environmental science through insects, covering topics such as biodiversity, pest control, and innovation. Participants actively engaged with the speakers, showing great curiosity and asking numerous questions about insect ecology and its role in our environment.

December 3rd, 2025

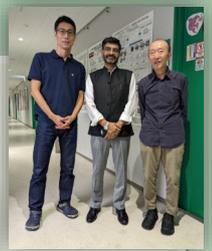


Special Lecture on Agriculture/Interdisciplinary Science/Engineering III

Two guest lecturers were invited to provide our students with a broader academic perspective, fostering global outlooks and promoting interdisciplinary approaches in agricultural science.

Prof. Piyush Pandey from Assam University, India delivered a lecture on October 2 titled: *“Exploring Endophytic Microbiomes for Sustainable Agriculture: The Black Rice Experience.”*

Prof. Sanjib Kumar Panda from Central University of Rajasthan, India, gave a lecture on November 13 titled: *“Understanding and Developing Abiotic Stress Resilience in Crops.”*



The lectures introduced the latest insights on achieving sustainable agriculture and enhancing environmental resilience in crops. Students had the opportunity to explore global research trends and learned the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing these challenges. Following the lectures, an active Q&A session took place, deepening students' understanding and further inspiring their enthusiasm for research.

August 25th-27th, 2025

Integrated Agricultural Seminar 2025

Award Winners
Best Presentation Award
 Takumi Taguchi: DI
Presentation Award
 Saki Sugihara: DI
 ARSELIN JEANNE: DI
 Kazuyoshi Miyazaki: DI
 DAHAL SAMIKSHYA: DI



Integrated Agricultural Seminar was held from August 25–27, 2025, at Center for education and research in field sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Shizuoka University. The program featured special lectures by Assoc. Prof. Onwona-Agyeman Siaw (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology) and Asst. Prof. Hiroyuki Hattori (Tohoku University), who shared practical advice on academic careers and international research.

During the seminar, all 31 first-year doctoral students delivered oral presentations about their research in English, providing an opportunity to present their research and strengthen scientific communication skills. One student received the Best Presentation Award and four students received the Presentation Award.

Feedback from students highlighted the clarity of the special lectures and the helpful tips on publishing and presenting. Many appreciated the chance to network and noted that presenting in English boosted their confidence for future international conferences.

Researcher Ethics, Professional Ethics

Mental Health, Physical Health

On August 21–22, UGSAS-GU held two seminars at Gifu University for 31 doctoral students: “Researcher Ethics, Professional Ethics,” delivered by Emer. Prof. Hideharu Ishida (Gifu University), and “Mental Health, Physical Health,” presented by Prof. Hiroyuki Yamamoto (Shizuoka University).

In the “Researcher Ethics, Professional Ethics”, students explored topics such as research ethics, data management, and responsible research practices. Through discussions, they exchanged views on real-world cases of misconduct. Feedback included comments like: “The explanations were clear and practical,” and “I gained a deeper understanding of ethics.”

The “Mental Health, Physical Health” seminar combined lectures with hands-on training in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED use. The aim was to emphasize the importance of maintaining mental and physical well-being. Participants reported increased confidence in emergency response skills and greater awareness of healthy habits such as stress management and adequate sleep.

These seminars highlighted that ethical conduct and personal well-being are essential foundations for high-quality research.

August 21st-22nd, 2025



Presentations at International Conferences Supported by UGSAS



UGSAS-GU provided research grants to students for oral presentations at international conferences, reinforcing its commitment to global academic engagement and collaboration in agricultural sciences.

- August 5: Ms. Manalo Gianne Bianca Pirote (D3) delivered an oral presentation at the *58th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)*, held in Utrecht, the Netherlands.
- August 25: Ms. Kieu Thi Hoang Yen (D2) delivered an oral presentation at the *32nd International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products and the 12th International Congress on Biodiversity (ISCNP-32 & ICB-12)*, held in Sydney, Australia.
- December 17: Ms. Yimatsa Nada (D2) delivered an oral presentation at the *British Ecological Society Annual Meeting 2025 (BES2025)*, held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

ENTRANCE CEREMONY

Held on April 7 & October 10

Numbers of New Students in Academic Year 2025: 29

April: 18 (5 international students included)

October: 11 (10 international students included)

COMPLETION CEREMONY

Numbers of Students Received Diploma from January to December in 2025: 25

March: 15 (8 international students included)

June: 2 (2 international students included)

September: 8 (7 international students included)



【AWARD WINNERS 2025】

- **Zhiwei Deng**, Gang Ma, Lancui Zhang, Nichapat Keawmanee, Fumitaka Takishita, Keisuke Nonaka, Masaya Kato (2024). Polyethylene bag mitigates juice sacs granulation of 'Harumi' fruit by inhibiting carotenoid degradation and lignin accumulation during storage. The 21st National Postharvest Technology Conference. Outstanding oral presentation "Good" award.
- **Toshiki Mori**, Koichiro M Hirosawa, Rinshi S Kasai, Tomohiko Taguchi, Yasunari Yokota, Kenichi G.N Suzuki (2024). Unraveling the regulation mechanisms of signal transduction in the inner leaflet of plasma membrane by super-resolution microscopy. The 76th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Cell Biology, Best Student Poster Presentation Award.
- **Dicky Aldian**, Laila Dini Harisa, Ke Tian, Shuichi Ito, Shigeo Takashima, Atsushi Iwasawa, Masato Yayota (2024). Diverse native forage promotes ruminal fermentation, lipid metabolism, and antioxidants in goats. The 132nd Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Animal Science. English Presentation Award.