

**Comments on Ongoing Research Projects except for those
subject to Mid-term or Final Evaluation**

Project Year	FR1	
Project Title	An Interdisciplinary Study toward Clean Air, Public Health and Sustainable Agriculture: The Case of Crop Residue Burning in North India	
Abbreviated Title	Aakash Project	
Project Leader	HAYASHIDA Sachiko	
Project Period	5 years Full Research	
Affiliated Program	Research Program 1 : Societal Transformation under Environmental Change	

General advice and comments of the EREC:

The Committee noted that the Aakash Project had been impacted in major ways by the COVID-19 pandemic just as it was about to start its activities at full throttle. The pandemic made international travel impossible and constrained local fieldwork. The project team, however, responded well and adapted to the situation by working with Indian partner organizations for some of the fieldwork. Furthermore, it took advantage of the unexpected “experimental” situation of reduced pollutant emissions in India due to pandemic countermeasures by actively studying this phenomenon. Thus, in spite of the setbacks due to the pandemic, the project has been very active and is making good progress.