The STI for SDGs Award recognizes excellent initiatives to find solutions to issues facing local societies utilizing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

The program aims to promote further advancement of initiatives and horizontal application to other areas with similar social issues and thereby make contributions to achieving the SDGs.

**MEXT Minister Award**

**Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)**

Cutting-edge plant dyeing aimed at detoxifying dye wastewater

Raised the level of natural dye performance to chemical dyes. Built a local co-creation framework and realized natural dyeing processes for yuzen (a traditional Japanese dyeing technique) and dresses.

**JST President Award**

**Minna-denryoku, Inc.**

“Visible Power” that links renewable energy producers and consumers through “support” and blockchain

Linked power generation plants and consumers with blockchain and realized visualization of electric power and choice freedom. Contributed to local area advancement too.

**Excellent Practice Awards**

**The National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO)**

Initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by farming and realize stable food production utilizing technology that addresses climate change

Solidified technology to reduce methane emissions from paddy fields. Successfully developed a rice breed for hot weather and offering it as a brand.

**Kochi University, Natural Sciences Cluster Agriculture Unit**

Kochi-led initiative to improve the sustainability of sewage treatment

New technology development by industry, government, and academia for nationwide application

Developed new technology for sewage treatment with industry, government, and academia cooperation. Lowered costs and enhanced sustainability of sewage treatment by local cities.

**i-Compology Corporation**

Promotion of SDGs utilizing bioplastic composite materials

Manufactures plastic alternatives with biomass from thinned wood and other mountainous area resources and brings them to market.

**Smileyearth Co.**

Leading local industry in the “birthplace of Japanese towels” into the future with a cyclical stress-free towel production process

Solved river pollution caused by reliance on chemicals in towel production, a local industry, using STI.

**Next Generation Award**

**Kumamoto Prefectural Amakusa High School, Science Team**

How many centimeters in your area? - Initiative to estimate the amount of increase in sea level due to global warming led by high school students

Estimated future sea levels by area using sediment deposit analysis and temperature forecasts. Actively promoting collaboration too.

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