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Brazil Researcher Get Govt Posting

A Brazilian researcher specializing in mites and gold beetles has been hired as the first non-Japanese civil servant for the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, it was announced Monday.

A 1982 graduate of Brazil's national university system, Walter Leal, 37, came to Japan in 1984 to attain a master's at Mie University.



The following year he specialized in mite research to earn a doctorate from Tsukuba University in Ibaraki-ken.

His appointment to the ministry's Central Agricultural Experiment Station on Sericulture and Insects is the seventh posting of a non-Japanese person to a regular government research position since a 1986 law was enacted to promote scientific exchanges with other countries.

Since March 1990 Leal had been working as a research fellow at the ministry's experiment station. At the station he studied pheromones—glandular excretions used to induce actions in the opposite sex—produced by gold beetles.