

## **Study Tour of Organic Farm**

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On 18 June, we went on a field trip to the central part of Shizuoka prefecture, Japan. The trip took about 2 days and we travelled there by bus. The purpose of this field trip is to learn about environment, natural resources and organic tea and rice production. Now a day, organic production is more and more popular and get customers preference because of the quality of healthy food. Organic production means producing a crop (or other agricultural product such as livestock) without using synthetic pesticides or chemical fertilizers or growth regulators. In Shizuoka Prefecture, many farmers adopted and practiced organic production 35 years ago. The area of organic tea production that we studied was 2.5 ha. Farmers used organic fertilizer such as plant residue, animal manure, compost and others. Because of free from chemicals in organic field, the soil become healthy and healthy it make more productive of quality crop. It promotes a healthy balance between pests and natural enemies and increase diversity having more types of organisms and more types of places for them to live. This made the plant healthy and produce strong crop under organic production.

My favourite part of this trip was village environment and effective use of natural resources. We observed the upper part of river to understand how to get irrigation water for organic rice field. Because of irrigation and drainage channel are located separately for the rice field, they can manage their field as organic. And topography is also favourable to produce organic rice. Irrigation management is the most important system for organic farm because irrigation water carries chemical fertilizers from the neighbouring field. We transplanted the rice seedlings in the organic farm with many local peoples joyfully. It was valuable and unforgettable memory that we participated in organic rice production in our life. From now on, we need to study more and more concerning with organic production to get healthy food and to save our environment.

All in all, this study tour made me broaden my knowledge and widen the experience about local environment and organic production.