

## Field Trip Report

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On June 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>, we visited Kinezuka organic farm in Fujieda, Shizuoka prefecture. The purpose of this trip was to learn about environment, natural resources, traditional life of organic tea plantation and rice through contacts with local people and actually experiencing agriculture such as rice planting or wheat harvesting. I was looking forward to visiting there because I have little contact with farmers or nature in rural areas. I was also looking forward to meeting new people with diverse backgrounds and skills including students of other department or other university.

### **【Visit the organic tea plantation】**

Unfortunately, it was raining when we visited Kinezuka family but we soon went to their organic tea plantation. Although it was still raining, the landscape from mountain which is the site of tea plantation was really beautiful. Then we heard a talk of Mr. Kinezuka. He talked about a big difficulty that many tea farmers in Shizuoka are facing on after the accident of nuclear plant in Fukushima. He said that low radioactivity substances are detected from inside of tea leaves and that makes huge decrease in tea sales. I was startled anew by the size of damages caused by the accident. I thought that it's time we pull together to preserve our important properties and more supports from the local community or government are also needed.

### **【Rice planting】**

In the morning 19<sup>th</sup>, we experienced rice planting. I really had been looking forward to do that, because I hadn't got experienced it. I was glad I did it, even though it was very tough work. Mrs. Ayumi, a daughter of Mr. Kinezuka said this after the rice planting. "In these days, few youngsters in Japan have seen fields of wheat, let alone wheat harvesting in spite of eating wheat almost every day. In near future rice may follow the same way as wheat if it keeps decreasing of rice paddies. I'm feeling tremendous insecurity about that" Her story was very striking for me. That made me think about a lot.



(Scenery of rice plantation)

### **【Group discussion】**

At the conclusion of this field trip, we made group discussion about why we need organic agriculture now. At the present day, there are a lot of environmental problems we are facing such as forest destruction, overpopulation, global warming, air pollution and so on. These issues are so much complicated and connected each other. But we reached this conclusion. That is organic agriculture can be one approach to solve these environmental problems and has a possibility to lead us to sustainable society. It's my guess that now is the time to pay more notice to organic agriculture.