

Organic Farming at Fujieda, Shizuoka Prefecture (12 – 13 June 2009)



(Organic Tea Plantation)

Young farmers who are practising organic farming face a lot of challenges. Just like conventional farmers, they experience low profits due to the monopoly of farmers' cooperatives. At the beginning, they also received little support from the local community as the community is resistant to changes. In addition, landowners are reluctant for the young generation to work on the land and technical advices are hard to get.

During the group discussion, a young farmer mentioned that it is his dream to educate those who wish to venture into agriculture. Education and good communication between the farmers and local community are very important elements towards successful organic agriculture. However, the obstacle of receiving low prices for their produce remains unsolved. In the meantime, the farmers can gain some side income from agro-tourism. They can organize house-stays for a certain fee; serving meals from the fresh produce, bringing the tourists around the farmland and inviting the tourists to participate in the everyday activities.

All in all, the young farmers are enthusiastic and kind enough to share their experience and knowledge. This enthusiasm will ensure their success in their venture into organic farming.