

2010 Field Trip to Fujieda

Date: June 12th -13th, 2010

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Venue: Fujieda, Shizuoka Prefecture

Event: Visit Organic Tea Plantation, Organic rice Plantation, Group Discussion and Exchange Information with local young farmers.

Purpose of the Event: Learn about environment, natural resources and recent development of resource utilization.

Activities: Understanding about Organic Tea Plantation and Group Discussion

We have spent two days with Kinezuka Family, the first family that started doing organic farming in this area, about 34 years ago. For the first day, we went to see the organic tea plantation of Ayumi san, she explained about constraints of organic farming and specialities of organic farming in term of environmental conservation. Compost, animal manure and weed are the best natural fertilizer for organic farming, and it can improve the soil fertility. We could identify the differences between organic farming and pesticide farming by observing the wildlife animal activities. In this regard, we could find the foot-print of the wild-pig only in organic farming areas which is different from pesticide farming.

There are three times of tea harvesting. The first harvesting season starts from the end of April to early May, about 80% to 100% of the total income. It, therefore, is the best season for farmer to get huge profit. The second harvesting starts from the end of June to July, and the last harvesting time is in autumn, September to early October. The price of the organic tea farming and non-organic tea are not so differences. The way of selling tea products, however, is different. Organic farmers need to find their own market. Most of organic tea products is sold to customers directly.

The second day of the trip, we have done group discussion about how we can do for sustainable agricultural development. There are various ideas of sustainable agricultural development in term of governmental policy, self-motivation, agricultural education, technical assistant, and customer perspective. Based on the discussion, change the perspective of customer is very important point to get agricultural sustainable development because customer has strong power which can encourage organic farmers to continue their work.