

Impression for Field Trip

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On 12th and 13th of June, we spent 2 days with Kinezuka family who has run the farm which has adopted organic practices for about thirty five years in Fujieda, Shizuoka. It took about 4 hours by expressway from Tokyo. When I got off the bus, I breathed in deeply. I felt that the air in the farm was clear, so I wondered if the air had the taste.

At the start, we went to the Kinezuka's tea plantation which was located in the space bounded by mountain. Green tea is the one of the local specialty of Shizuoka, there were some tidy tea plantation compartments, and the view was very beautiful from the slope of the mountain. Mr. Kinezuka said, "We do not use the pesticide chemicals in my plantation". I happened to question; if we do not use the pesticide chemicals, harmful insects will arise and destroy their crops, so why Mr. Kinezuka would not use the pesticide chemicals? He continued, "With enriching the ecological system in the tea plantation, beneficial insects will arise and prey on the harmful insects. As a result, harmful insects decrease. Additionally, in fact, the stress from insects makes tea more delicious, this is because the stress can encourage the hormone. This is irony".



Fig. Kinezuka's tea plantation

However, he gravely said, "We measured the contents of radio activity matters inside of this plants several times, unfortunately, two types of the cesium were detected. We- the tea farmers- are very angry about the Fukushima nuclear power plant's accident because that destroyed everything we have done. The value is under the level of harmful level, and we are going to disclose the all of data, we do not think it is safe. However the farmer need to keep going explain the situation openly, and also hope that consumer accept the situation." We listened to farmer's practical concept. I cannot imagine the damage scale to agriculture by the nuclear power plant's accident. There is a need the solution, restitution for agriculture, and I hope farmer to continue the agriculture.

After that, in the evening, we had barbecue with local people. We roasted fresh vegetables and meat, got a drink, and talked with them. I gave a one question to a local woman who was from Shizuoka, "you made some objections against the construction of golf field, nuclear power plant and so on, but you have accepted the enterprise or industrial region – many enterprises and industrial region located in Shizuoka prefecture-, so please tell me the reason why you accepted them". Then she answered, "I think that there were two choices to develop the regional towns and cities, one was to accept the industries, and the other is to do nuclear power plant. We took the employment which former need." Don't the facilities pollute environment? Are the gases or water exhausted from facilities clean? I think that the researchers have to quantify the degree of risk not only the nuclear power plant but also the facilities, and provide the explanation to the local people patiently. I think that is one of our roles, because we learn the technology, policy and environment.