

Report for Fujieda Field Trip

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Introduction

On 12th June, we visited to the Fujieda that is a central part of Shizuoka prefecture. Shizuoka Prefecture produces about 45% of the tea in Japan and it rates the best on both quality and quantity. We got a chance to learn about the organic tea and rice cultivation. On 13th June, at about 15:00 pm we left from Fujieda and arrived to TUAT at about 20:00pm.

Organic tea plantation (On 12th June)

Organic tea farming is a system of crop production without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. They used compost of manure such as horse manure and poultry manure as a source of plant nutrients. Only when soil needs nutrients, they apply the compost of manure. Soil was black color and good texture. Although insecticides and pesticides were not used, severe damage of insects and pests could not be found. Only a few symptoms could be observed. It means that natural beneficial insects kill these harmful insects and natural ecosystem is maintained in balance condition. Moreover, there is no difference in yield between organic farming and conventional farming. Harvesting of the leaves was used to make three times in a year. The spring harvest begins in the middle of April to the end of May. They can get highest yield at the first harvesting time. Second harvest is in late June, and third harvest is from late September to early October. Second and third time harvest is lower than the first time due to insects and pests' damage. They installed the high fans to control the temperature. After 4 years, stems cutting were used to do. Organic farm should be at least about 2m apart from inorganic farming. Based upon these observations, organic tea farming is based upon scientific knowledge and organic farmers are real contributors of sustainable ecosystem.

Rice cultivation (On 13th June)

On 14th June, we climbed up the mountain and learned source of water and how to irrigate the paddy field. Water can be irrigated directly to the field. There is separate drainage and irrigation channel and it does not need to pass the water from one field to another field. This condition is favorable for organic rice cultivation. And then we did the rice transplanting.

Group Discussion

We made group discussion about how organic farming contribute to sustainable agriculture and if we do not use chemical in excessive amount and we use only a few amount of chemical and organic matter together, whether it can also contribute to sustainable agriculture or not. Group discussion was very interesting and we got an opportunity to share our knowledge each others. Moreover, Fujieda field trip is valuable and we can never forget.