

## Fujieda tea farm

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Early morning of June 18 we started our field trip to organic tea farm in Shizuoka prefecture. This is not the first time that FOLENS organized this trip for this rural area. This year's trip aimed not only to introduce the organic practices of tea farm but also to participate in the rice cultivation activity.

In the first day we visited the tea farm which located on a mountain and surrounded by forest, this view stopped me for a while, as an agricultural engineer for what I learned it is difficult to maintain a farm in the middle of nature. But this farmer was able to achieve this under organic aspects. As he built his farming in harmony with nature. This idea also got the attention of the ecology scientists in and out of Japan, as many researchers interested to study the balance between what we believed once that these two systems can't exist very close to each other.



In the next day we experienced planting rice, everyone looked excited and happy, after hard work we had our lunch with interesting discussions.

In the end of our trip we headed to go back. But with different feelings and impressions than once I had when I first entered this small rural area. At first it looked like a typical local place with farming activity. But the truth was that it hid a very deep philosophy, which kept a farmer for 30 years doing what everyone believed was impossible. And a man to give up in a young age a wealth and a lifestyle many people dream of.

This small place was able to provide happiness for all residents, they were lucky to realize where they can find their happiness, which is relatively different from one to another.