

Trip to Fujieda

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This is my first trip to visit organic farmer. Before I went to this trip, I have thought that organic farming is expensive and difficult way. But I did not feel so strict when I listened how the *Kinezuka* farmer cultivate tea and saw tea plantation at first of the trip. It seemed that they harmonized the agricultural product with natural creatures. In general, farmers hate eating of insects the agricultural product, so they avoid it with an agricultural chemical. In contrast, they reduce insects with making use of a food chain, and they dare to make the insects called *unka* eat the tea leaves when they produce black tea because this way makes the black tea good taste. Although the black tea is made from fermentation of tea leaves originally, tea leaves being under the stress of *unka* eaten make enzymes which catalyzes fermentation efficiently. Ironically, it is key method for making good taste that seemed harmful things. If good agricultural products can be cultivated with no using manmade chemical like such the *Kinezuka* farmer, more farmer should follow the organic farming method. But the market occupied by mass-produced agricultural products which may be difficult to applied with these method. Which cheap and low quality product or a little expensive but superior and safety one should buy depends on consumer's sense of values.



Although the *Kinezuka* farmer cultivated safety and superior tea, the trouble of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant caused by the large earthquake of eastern Japan at 3.11 has crashed the motto of being safety. They detected cesium on their tea leaves whose quantity was less than one fifth of limit value yet. Nevertheless, they have publicized the fact for keeping reliance of consumers. It is very regrettable that the great effort to make safety which the farmer spent many years was broken easily by the man-made disaster. It is too slow to deal with the accident after occurred. There are fragile things which cannot be recovered. We are only able to regret or to improve. If we obey only usual ways, it causes accidents again. It should time to reconsider general ways and improve for the future.

The next, in the afternoon of first day, we listened to the speech of *Kosaka Masaru* who proposed slow life. His suggestion is that making much money causes unhappy. Many people work hard for making much money, and buy expensive things. But these things require spending more costs for maintenance and tend not to be used because the user need to work hard for making money for these costs. He said that making much money than need causes wasteful spending and increasing work time, so it usually makes people feel unhappy. In contrast, the lifestyle may lead to happy that make money minimum for own life and farm for own foods in rest time. This theory is called the Half Agriculture and Half X which means half of the life is spent to farm work and rest the half is spent favorite works. In his case, the half is spent to manage to his own bar. In recent years, many people leave from the agriculture and urban areas are supported by agricultural products sending from local areas. Basically, Japan much depends on import from abroad about agricultural products. In such a condition, when the distribution is separated from the condition of such as the 3.11 earthquake, buying up of goods occurs in the urban areas. In contrast, in local areas where farms own

foods do not so damage. In short, having own farmland can live richly. I think that this theory is ideal for live enjoy and feel happy. People following this theory will not suffer from lack of foods. But all people especially young will not always refer to this theory because they want to take part of big business or realize their dreams even if they work very hard and spend much time. People who want to retire the hard work or feel happy or free should consider following this theory. Because this theory is very reasonable in current Japan, it should be more promoted all over the Japan.

The second day of the trip, we discussed about some topic of agriculture. Our topic is about industrialization of agriculture. Recently, some farmer adopted automation with harvesting machine. It looks to waste the cost and electricity. So we consider which the agriculture really needs to adopt industrialization or not. Some consumer would want to buy the agricultural products which are safety and suitable for natural features. But some farmers cannot gain income without the mass-production with a greenhouse. So there contains social aspects. As the scientists cannot stop research and development, some technology will be applied to agriculture. But in basically, the society may be good condition when low technologies utilized. In fact, the sense of values has changed from unilateral progress of technology to being sustainable in recent years. The researchers should be sensitivity to the society and perform meaningful actives.



This trip made me consider about various topics, and I had precious experience. The most impressive experience is that slaughtered a chicken in the evening on the first day of trip. I had never killed the living thing bigger than a mouse. The body temperature of a chicken and smell of blood made me feel fresh and real. I felt thanks really in a chicken and I will felt thanks in the living things which give me their lives from now on.

At the end, I acknowledge a favor of the FOLENS staffs, *Kinezuka* farmer and everyone who related to this trip.