

Report on Field Trip to Fujieda

On 12 -13th June there was a field trip to Fujieda under the guidance of professor Takashi Gomi and professor Kimura Sonoko Dorothea. On 12, June , the bus left the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology around 8 am and arrived at Fujieda (Kinezuka family) around 1 pm .

After lunch, we visited the organic tea plantation guided by Ms. Ayumi. During her speech, she describe the tea production culture technique. Usually, about 80-90 percent of the tea product fall into the first harvest during April and early March, so this means that the first harvest constitutes the main income for the tea production. Moreover, Ms. Ayumi also talked about the difficulty and the advantages of the organic production. According to her speech, changing from chemical agriculture to organic agriculture was a struggling because of long time practising of the chemical agriculture. But, she said that organic agriculture need no pesticide, which helps the saving of money on pesticide and also caused no impacts on health. Related to the price of the tea, she said that the price of the tea product, especially non-organic one, mostly limited by brokers, which leads to the discouragement for farmers because of the low price of their product. But, the organic tea product is usaully sold directly to the comsumers so farmers can set the price for their product. After the visit of the tea plantation, there was a group discussion session to get to know each other and to exchange each member`s knowledge and ideas about agriculture. However, due to the time and tiredness after long visit to tea plantation, we decided to hold the discuss for tomorrow.

In the morning, after having finished breakfast, we started the rice transplation of the organic paddy rice field. About 1 hour a half , we finished the transpantion. After a short break, we continued the group discussion. According to the group discussion results, I learned that market is one of the problems. Most of farmers complaint about the price of their products set by the brokers. What`s more, they describe about the lack of human resources in agriculture. The reason was that the older generations who already experienced the hard time in agriculture work did not want their children to work in agriculture field but the next generations after their children had to turn back to agriculture field due to the difficulty in finding job in the city. So, the transfer the agriculture experience from generation to generation has become a main problem.

Following the field trip , I could understand a lot about the organic practice and some problems related to the agriculture which is very important to be considered for the development of the agriculture field.