

A Report on the Field Trip in Fukushima: Life and Agriculture after Tohoku Earthquake and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster

In 17th and 18th December we had a field trip in Fukushima prefecture which was arranged by FOLENS. We started this trip with visiting Nihonmatsu city and talk about the disaster with Mr Masatoshi Muto. In the same day after lunch we visited some research sites of TUAT. We stayed the night in the farmer's guest house, spending the time with family members and also try to feel the major problems they faced after the disaster. In the next day morning, we headed to Minosoma city. In the way we saw Iate village which was known as most beautiful village in Japan but now a restricted zone. After arriving Minamisouma city we went to Mirai Center (Everyone Future Center). There we talked with Ms. Mikako, Mr. Takeuchi and Mr. Masami Yoshizawa about the life of local community's after earthquake and nuclear disaster. By finishing this discussion we ate our lunch, then visited Farm sanctuary for a very short time and headed back to tsunami affected area Odaka.

For arranging this trip, I want to give thanks to FOLENS organizer. In case of me, I gather a lot of knowledge from this trip. I heard the experience of local people about the massive earth quake and nuclear disaster. They said that instantly after the earthquake and nuclear disaster, the whole area was affected with high radiation. For this, shops, stores and everything were closed. The drinking water was unstable and also shortage of pure drinking water. None come out from their house due to the fear of radiation. Finally the whole area was become polluted and government evacuated and sealed the house urgently. The major three components of the environment water, air and soil were polluted with high radiation. The plants, trees and animals are also affected with radiation in that area. The area was evacuated very quickly that's why in the dairy farm the cattle were tied with rope and died due to lack of food. These problems are arising just after the earth quake in the radioactive area. In addition with this the long term impact of this disaster is much more. Many lands are now useless because of the presence of high amount of radiation and salt. In the mountain radiation percentage is higher. So wood and fruits cultivated in the mountains area were restricted to use and eat. That's why a limited number of cultivable lands are now available. The price of the

Fukushima product is also reduced drastically. Due to the fear of radioactivity people do not want to buy the product of Fukushima. The whole situation changes the economical condition of the farmers. Secondly this massive earthquake and nuclear disaster greatly influence social structure on affected area. The people of the affected area lost their home, natural environment and neighbors. Now a day, they try to settling themselves in new areas which also influence their daily life style. Some people of the affected area want to go back to their home town but they have not enough money to build a new house and banks are not interested to give them loan. I also heard that old aged people are interested to go back to their own home but the young generations are not agreed with them. Now this is one of the major problems in the affected area. A lot of researchers try to do some research to help the local people. It is already identified that farming in green house has a very low radiation effect. For this reason the traditional farming is converted into green house farming. Some people already adopt green house farming but it is not so easy. It requires a big investment and knowledge also. Massive earth quake with nuclear disaster done a lot of damage and arise a lot of problems for the local community. But with these problems we also see some new hopes and new leaders. They fight against government and risking their life for the local people. Personally I also influenced by this leader. I try my best to give the Fukushima people some better technology with my study which will improve their economic condition.

Now a day, a lot of people think that nuclear energy is a clean efficient energy. Without using this energy source economic development is impossible. But after visiting the affected area I realize the real situation. Before we take any decision about energy resource we should think about nuclear power plant again and again. I think this nuclear disaster is a trailer which happens for leakage in the reactor but if any one reactor will blast then what happens? This is essential to find out some alternative energy source to protect the future of our existence in the earth. If we are not improve our technology and do not concern about this now, so may be in future the whole earth is renamed as dead zone.