

Developing Sustainable Agriculture : Our “Mini-Farm” Experience

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Introduction

In recent years

Serious problem!!

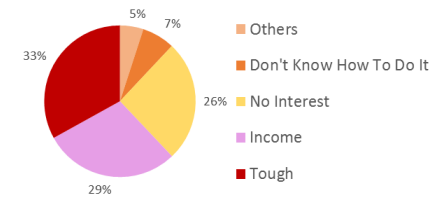
we have an issue with Japanese agriculture. Particularly, there is a lack of new farmers.

Why does Japan have such a problem like this ?

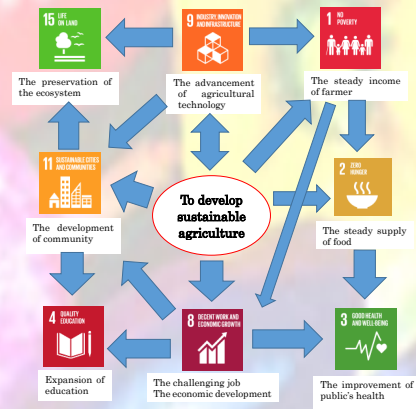
We think many people feel the job is demanding, dirty and so on.



The Reasons Not To Work In Agriculture



We examined the opinions about agriculture from about 500 people



Methods and Results

① Interview

With Kitakyushu City Hall

We visited the Kitakyushu City Hall to learn about the Agriculture Employment Support Systems.

But . . .

Only one person enter the agricultural business every three years!!

→Agriculture is very difficult!!

② Interview

With Ms. Tsukamoto About Her Farm



We conducted an interview with a professional farmer who is training promising farmers.

She said agriculture has two problems .

- The income is very low .
- The equipment of farming is very expensive.

→Higher income would increase new farmers.

③ Carrying Out Our “Mini-Farm”

We set up a “mini-farm” on our campus and experienced farming for ourselves.

Actually, we harvested them with local children. The children looked like they were having fun!!



We grew edamame and sweet potatoes!!

We were able to experience not only the dirty and tough side, but also the joy and a sense of excitement for the harvest.

Doing agriculture is very healthy because we can move our body a lot.

→It is reported that our physical and mental health improve by doing that.

Conclusion

Based on our findings, we propose that “ agriculture fitting one’s lifestyle “ is the solution to increasing the number of new farmers. Why do we propose the definition, “agriculture fitting one’s lifestyle”?

Because modern people tend to look down on agriculture.

We experienced many feelings, both tough and fun!!→Even students can run a farm.

Through our experience . . . we suggest



- learning about a new method of farming by using AI.
- establishing a new system of work-life balance.
(Saturday and Sunday are days off in Perth)
- passing on our mini-farm experiences to juniors.

Japan should introduce the system like Australia!!

By doing that, we can make good relations with the local people. In addition , the number of people who want to take part in farming for a living would increase.