

**YAMAGATA TOUR**  
**LESSON FOR A PARTICIPANT**

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**Introduction**

Traveling makes some one fresh and inspired some ideas. Because of this traveling condition, we can compare our comparative advantages in some sectors (agricultural production, tourism, infrastructure, forestry, fishery, plantation, etc.) for a district with other districts and provinces. These empirical experiences usually give inspiration and motivation for someone to drive excellent progress and effort to implement for his district and provinces.

This paper focuses on two fascinating objects based on a personal participant impression relating with Yamagata Prefecture, which had been carried out field tour from August 21 until August 23, 2006.

**First**

**Recycling Garbage to be fertilizer**

This model of recycling garbage requires “a collaborative management” among stakeholders. The real portrait of Nagai city Recycling waste garbage has approved this true story. The role of NGOs and local community as actors has been approving a part of collaborative management.

The Rainbow as NGOs that actively involved in hard campaign to invite local community (farmers, consumers, households, etc) in Nagai district is very significant. Besides, participation majority households unit to collect rough garbage in certain pool and eventually taken twice a week by truck drivers to the final factory of recycling. On the other hand, the role of local government Nagai City in constructing Recycling infrastructure and annually allocates budget for spending this recycling program is so significant.

Rainbow's slogan approves us that "waste garbage must be return again for agricultural production". This idea which has done by Rainbow shows us the significant meaning on interaction values in this surrounding nature besides and in front of us. How Rainbow understands well true philosophy of sustainable Recycling garbage. Certainly, the fertilizer which has been produced by this factory and eventually sells by Rainbow to farmers which lower price approves us that among parties there is "trust" each other. In contrast, Rainbow makes facilities for selling farmer agricultural production to consumer. This facility manages by independent ' a cooperative sector' that finally accountable for financial report annually to the members of farmers and local government.

Apparently, this fascinating model on Recycling garbage which actively involves many stakeholders (NGOs, farmers, households, local government, etc.) has been attracted foreign countries to exchange ideas and implement this model. As registered in the Rainbow report, Mayor city from Thailand and NGOs has been studied as a comparative model to be implemented in Thailand. I think in the upcoming Indonesia also wish to

study this model of Recycling Garbage from Nagai City.

## **Second**

### **Organic Farming in Takahata Area**

Nowadays, agricultural products from organic farming system finally selected by consumers. There are two rationales for this reason. Firstly, the majority of consumers think accurately that organic farming is more healthy for consumption than ordinary farming which use pesticides. Secondly, the government policy tends to implement organic farming for agricultural products, especially Japan which more emphasizes healthy products.

Watanabe's family with his community in Takahata's rice field area in implementing 'Organic Farming' as valuable lesson for his spirit, creativity and dedication. Initially, Watanabe studied "Organic Farming" from the training held by Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry in Tokyo. While Professor from university who masters in practicing "Organic Farming", he eventually attracts his motivation to develop this program in his rice field.

Watanabe says, if compared Organic with ordinary farming shows that ordinary has comparative advantages from viewpoints such as, intensive of labor, use modern machine as sufficiency, higher production, high quantity in production, and shorter in harvesting. But, organic farming also has advantages from the angles of price higher, more income for farmers,

safety of food, consumers prefer to use, family based for maintaining canal, road, other infrastructure, etc.

Currently, the model of implementation “Organic Farming” in Takahata area attracted many students, trainees, scientists from domestic as well foreigners as a comparative study. Because the mechanism of this system is totally different from initially stages such as cultivating land, labor, plantation of seed (the width area), use ducks for erasing weeds, not used modern machine, harvesting etc., than ordinary farming. It seems to me that Watanabe gets satisfaction from the implementation of “Organic Farming” model in his rice field and other local community, because this safety agricultural production and positive response from cosmopolitans consumers as well as district in Takahata. But, he and his wife frankly say, rather worry from the “successor” point of view, because relatively their ages increased for almost 65 years old. As he mentioned, among three children, especially his son reluctant to be farmer, as he currently works as post office officer.

The critical question is, are there among Visiting Research Fellows from IDE-JETRO to be a volunteer as a successor for Watanabe family on implementing a sustainable ‘Organic Farming’ management in Takahata area, as frankly told by Mochizuka.

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