

# Announcement

## Visitors

- 1. Aino-kai Study Tour Group** Dr. Yoshikuni Yatani, Mr. Yozo Naoki (Principle, Aino-High School) , Mr. Masamichi Ikeno (Chairman, Nagoya Aino Ryutsu Center) , Mr. Itsuki Yamashita (CEO, Osaka Aino Ryutsu Center) , Mrs. Chimako Yamashita, Mr. Takamaru Kazuhiko, Ms. Izumi Nakanishi, Mr. Kenya Takayama, Mrs. Yoko Takayama, Mr. Kiichi Takayama, Mr. Kazuhiko Takamaru (Organic farmer)
- 2. ASHA Study Tour Group** Dr. Kazuho Makino (Director, ASHA) , Ms. Sumire Shimamura, Mr. Kenta Abe, Rev. Eiji Seto, Ms. Ryoko Yoshida, Mr. Kenichiro Terada, Ms. Mayuka Ishimoto, Ms. Celina Daimon
- 3. JICA India Office** Mr. Shinya Ejima, (Director) Ms. Wakako Kugita (NGO Desk)
- 4. Masala Tours Gurgaon Office** Ms. Yuka Ozaki
- 5. Institute of Developing Economy, Japan** Mr. Kazuki Minato



## Recruitment

### Seminar on Integrated Rice and Duck Raising

MSCNE will organize the seminar inviting special lecturer, Dr. Takao Furuno from Japan, who is the practitioner and on-farm researcher of organic farming with duck-rice integrated farming which integrates the strengths of entire ecosystem in the farm.

**Course Period:** 20-24th September, 2013

**Subjects:** Lecture on integrated rice and duck farming, egg hatchery, field visit, Duck meat processing

**Fees:** Rs.1000 for SCSA graduates, Rs.2000 for other participants

**Contact us for inquiry and application!!**



### WANTED !!! MSCNE Interns & Volunteers

MSCNE is recruiting interns and volunteers from any parts of the world. The staff and students live together on campus, sharing life, learning and working. We need basic or special skills in English teaching, computer, farming, food processing, healthy cooking, handicraft-making, tailoring, design, survey, child education etc. **Please contact us!**

**Request for application form, visit our website <http://mscne.org> or Contact e-mail: [recruitment@ashaasia.org](mailto:recruitment@ashaasia.org) Tel/Fax: 0532-2684306**

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# HARVEST



No.34

June 2013



Organic Rice Culture Seminar at MSCNE with farmers of Allahabad Organic Agriculture Cooperative (AOAC)

### Let's Concern More Over the "Rural"

Teruo Miura, Dean

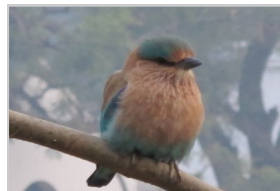
"I don't want to go to a village. I don't want to work in the 'rural'. It is shame to say that I am working for the 'rural'." How many times I heard these sentences in India. Although nearly 70% of Indian population lives in the rural area, it seems that many of young people do not want to engage in agricultural activities, degrading reputation of rural living standard physically and psychologically. Why does it happen? As we work for rural development field, it is necessary for us to understand and concern over this social phenomena.

At first, let us figure out what the "rural" can be proud of? Is it tradition and culture? Or, is it strong family tie? I agree that all these are important assets of rural India where they have been nurtured at first place in the history. But, I wonder how much people concern over those assets. At

Recently we conducted village survey for health project. It was surprising that socio-economic indicators such as illiteracy of rural women, infant mortality, maternity death, malnourished children have still kept in high rate compared with average India and other Asian countries. Moreover, farmers' arable land per capita has been getting smaller and smaller. As a result, it has been increasing in rural laborers and landless farmers, those who may put into more socio-economic periphery.

If it would continue like this, it could result in critical social unrest and conflict. It is, therefore, necessary for us to pay more attention to the "rural" to improve. There are so many barriers that we need to remove one by one in order to facilitate development efforts. It requires a lot of time with a lot of energy and labor. But, we do believe that God has given us His power to accomplish all these works. It is our pleasure that we are able to continue working along with your prayers and co-operation.

May God be with us and guide us all.



*Nurturing rural youth for sustainable agriculture and development*

**Sustainable Agriculture is “Future-Oriented”**

Teruo Miura



Morning farm work. Most of SCSA students are spontaneously working. This year we had more female students than male one.

Sustainable agriculture is “future-oriented.” The more agriculture does, the more happiness comes. And we want to hand over to next generation. Do you think there is such agriculture on this earth? Is it possible? If it could be impossible, there will be no future in agriculture as well as human society. The world would be miserable.

In world-wide phenomena, status of agriculture has pushed into periphery. Many rural youth have hard time to gain good news from agriculture fields. Merely huge agro-transnational companies advocate new technologies but they have been many points of controversy whether it can bring about betterment for our earth. Even though it is highly advanced-technologies, it is not necessarily bringing about happiness of farmers.



Classroom session. Mr. Saw Nay Blute, a student of SCSA presented village stay report to entire staff members and students at MSCNE.

MSCNE has challenged to find out the way of the possibility in Special Course in Sustainable Agriculture (10 month-training pro-

gram at MSCNE). The course includes classroom sessions, practical farm work as well as food processing, mushroom spore culture, alternative marketing, rural management, computers, development issues, and leadership, etc.. A wide-range of all these things is integrated into sustainable agriculture activities in order to enhance happiness of rural residents and improvement of quality of rural life.



Mushroom spore culture. Santosh Kumar, a farm manager, demonstrate how to make mushroom spore to students.

On 12<sup>th</sup> of April, we conducted commencement service on Special Course in Sustainable Agriculture in multi-purpose hall of Makino School. 8 students successfully completed the course. All of them showed their happiness and joy of their completion even though most of them had hard time to adjust themselves in cross-cultural community.

According to their final reflection on the course, many are expressed that they will continue doing farming activities in their home or working places upon their returning home. I wish and hope that they will be good news messengers of sustainable agriculture.



All students presented special song at their commencement service at MSCNE Multi-Purpose Hall

Makino School of Continuing and Non-formal Education is implementing various range of project such as Special Course in Sustainable Agriculture, Rural development project, Rural health project and Rural education project in Allahabad villages.



**Short Course in Food Processing**  
11 rural women were sent by PESCH for basic food processing training in December.



**MSCNE Christmas Program**  
MSCNE celebrated Christmas with 100 extended community members on 14 Dec.



**Tailoring Teachers Training**  
Tailoring teachers learned new design and pants-making techniques for 7 days in Jan.



**Short Course in SA**  
18 participants from NGOs learned basic sustainable agriculture for 10 days in Feb.



**Harvest Thanksgiving Cerebration**  
On 23 Feb, MSCNE and rural communities gave thanks to God for the achievements.



**Sports Day**  
Asha School children powerfully played many games at Sports Day on 3 March.



**Village Stay and Rural Survey**  
SCSA students stayed at Maida village interacting and learning rural lives in March.



**New Village Health Assistants**  
Rural women were recruited from Shankargar and Jasra Blocks and trained in March.



**SCSA Graduation Ceremony**  
8 students completed SCSA on 12 Apr, and went back their communities to serve the people.

**Trip to Meghalaya**

MSCNE Dean, Dr. Miura, Dean, and several staff visited Meghalaya for a week in April. The purpose of visit was to share the experiences with Bethany Society, Shilong, that has sent several participants to SCSA and Short Course Program of our school for developing human resources in sustainable agriculture. Mr. Ricky, the Short Course graduate ('06), is the program coordi-



nator and leading the technical and socio-economic development projects. He, Mr. Erias, Mr. Bandranus, (SCSA

'11) and Mr. Ekmenroy, the SCSAD candidate for 2013 guided us to the composting-floor-pig pens managed by rural youth. The raising method encouraged them, and increased pork supplies to the village people as well as the markets. Dr. Miura lectured at the seminar on “Prospect of organic farming” on 22 April at Bethany Society. It became good opportunity to interact with local organizations.

## Ms. Mariko Tsurumi MSCNE intern (Japan)

Ms. Mariko Tsurumi, who worked as an intern in Makino School of Continuing & Non-Formal Education (MSCNE) from April 2012, has returned home to Japan in March 2013 with intern experience of approximately one year. We interviewed Ms. Mariko about memories in MSCNE.

Ms. Mariko worked in administrative and accounting assistant in MSCNE, including corresponding to several visitors in MSCNE. "I was supposed to work as an intern in India openly, but the first two months, it was very hard to manage my health condition and get used to such different climate, environment and eating habits, and I suffered from asthma of chronic disease." Ms. Mariko speaks while remembering those early days at MSCNE. "I was not good at English and I don't understand Hindi much. It took me a lot of time even to get used to work in MSCNE, while running into language barriers and overcoming the obstacles. However, I spent one year here in MSCNE with lots of memories. Especially, I really enjoyed teaching Cake and Jam recipes for short course program participants and giving cooking guidance to the Village Health Volunteers of Mothers and Child Health Care Project was the most memorable" says Ms. Mariko with the smile on her face. She added, "while being involved with the development NGO officials and local Indian people this intern experience made me realized the concept of international cooperation." Ms. Mariko said, "by having worked

as an intern for a year in MSCNE, now I understand in my own way the role and work of international cooperation NGOs, in which I have been interested for a long period. And that was my most largest learning." Ms. Mariko emphasized at the end, "the importance of building a system that people who are involved in projects cooperate, the initiative of being the first to move for projects, and the flexibility for working directly with the people and rural - I now feel that these are important factors for NGOs."

"It is also by a fate that I was able to work here and have such a valuable experience in MSCNE. I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all who have supported me. Thank you." We asked again Ms. Mariko who speaks with deep emotion about her future life planning. "I'm still thinking about it, but after all, I want to pursue for working for international cooperation. I also want to improve my English", she said. "Wherever I go from now on, I will keep in my mind the idea I cultivated here in MSCNE, that international cooperation is rather than dependent and support, but aims at self-reliance." We will pray for Ms. Mariko's new life both in Japan and India.



Ms. Mariko (middle) surrounded by SCSA students and interns



**We interviewed two interns from Nagaland who also have left our community. They are our former SCSAD students having spent two years in MSCNE.**

**Ms. Chungpui Kamei (left), SCSA Assistant Coordinator  
Ms. Lungchang P.H. (right), AOAC & food processing assistant**

It was a very meaningful experience to spend 2 years in MSCNE. Having spent the first one year as a SCSA student, the second one year working as an intern was lots different from the first year. When I was assigned as SCSA assistant coordinator, my feeling was a mix of excitement and tension. Indeed, as I have never done a job such as SCSA assistant coordinator, I was faced with many difficulties. However, by working as an assistant coordinator, I became more responsible for what I said and learnt how to control myself and how to be patient too. If possible, I would love to work in the field of rural development in the future.

I got very interested in SCSA after having heard about the course and MSCNE from my uncle who also a graduate of SCSA and later became SCSA coordinator. When I was a student of SCSA, I interacted only with SCSA students and learnt about organic farming, food processing, etc. But, when I was an intern, I learnt the importance of communication skills. In MSCNE there are so many different people in terms of background, values, culture and religion. In order for them to work together cooperatively, I found it very important to understand and communicate well each other.



## Short Course Programmes

**Food Processing (Dec) & Sustainable Agriculture and Development (Feb)**

In December 2012, a program coordinator of empowerment project in People's Endeavor for Social Change/PESCH and 10 women who are members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) attended short course program for food processing at MSCNE. PESCH works with the community at the grassroots level in the field of income generation activities, organic farming and natural resource management for minority tribes in North East India. In order for all SHG members to earn and maintain their income, the leaders of some SHGs attended the short course program in the field of food processing. Mainly, they learnt methods of making processed foods and did wrapping, bottling for preservation and labeling for the product name and price.

All participants are the leaders of SHGs from Assam, Nagaland and Manipur in North East India. They all participated in each session under the important mission which they train other SHG members with the newly learnt skills and knowledge back home after the completion of the short course program.

In the reflection session at the end of the program, there was a participant saying that she would spread and infiltrate knowledge learnt firstly to the small groups of people such as her own family, neighbors and SHG members and secondly to a rather big community such as village and society. Furthermore, organization of the program is not only about food processing sessions but ranges from morning farm work, Allahabad city tour, participating in Christmas party and attending a wedding ceremony. This short course program seemed to become unforgettable experiences for the participants since it was like an intercultural exchange through befriending with SCSA students and interacting with MSCNE staffs.

After the New Year, short course program on sustainable agriculture & development was also offered from 11th to 21st February. 18 people par-



Making Neridoko

icipated in the program and they were all staffs from several NGOs including Bethany Society in Meghalaya. The 10 days program focused on and consisted of three pillars of sustainable agriculture & development; production, processing and marketing, which MSCNE has promoted.

The program started with the lecture by Dr. Miura on sustainable agriculture & development, and also contained field practice on making healthy soil and organic fertilizers. While learning basic knowledge and methods of organic farming and actually undergoing it, the participants kept it in mind how they can apply and make the best use of the knowledge and skills learnt from Allahabad back in their own home, North East India.

During the program, there was Food Fair organized by Allahabad Organic Agriculture Cooperative (AOAC) at the MSCNE campus, and participants divided into 4 groups also joined food processing activities



Promoting our AOAC processed foods

Food Fair, all groups of the participants advertised Food Fair and promoted AOAC's processed foods to our university students. The posters and flyers prepared beforehand contain many pictures of AOAC products and variety of colors, so that the visual sense of consumers is attracted by these images and colors. After the actual experience from Food Fair, our MSCNE staff Mrs. Kawaguchi delivered the lecture on marketing which focused on the effective marketing methods for the organic products to be purchased by as many as consumers. Especially, while reflecting on the participants' experiences doing discussion on this topic was very meaningful.



Participants performed Traditional Naga Dance at Christmas Party

## The New Project Has Begun

~What we discovered from recruiting new Village Health volunteers~

Mrs. Takako Miura (Nurse Midwife)

Mother and Child Health Care Project has initiated 5 years JICA Partners Project, with the fresh mood since January this year. The project area is categorized into



Mrs. Takako Miura (second from right) explains about the project at Introduction Meeting in a new project area, Dhara

two; one project area is remote rural area in Jasra Block (resided 200 thousand people) which is much further away from Allahabad city than any other villages we had previously implemented our activities; another project area is Shankargarh Block (resided 180 thousand people) extended up to the state boundary of Madhya Pradesh. For the new project Asian Sustainable Holistic Approach (ASHA) shall develop the project together with Makino School of Continuing & Non-Formal Education (MSCNE), Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences (SHIATS).

At the end of January, we paid the courtesy visit to the superintendent of Community Health Centre (CHC) in both Jasra and Shankargarh Block, and promised our future cooperation. It was impressive that we were welcomed in a much friendly way compared to the last visit for the survey in the autumn 2012. Early in February, out of already existed Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) and Village Health Assistants (VHAs) who had been nurtured through our previous projects in Jasra Block, 17 appropriate VHVs/VHAs were selected as core members for the new project, by deciding from several aspects including written examinations on breastfeeding, nutrition and kitchen garden, essay, graph making for growth monitoring and weight measurement techniques and attitude towards village people.

So far, VHVs have worked in the villages including their own village. From the new project, however, they will go much far distance and cooperate together with responsible government health workers in each new project area. Furthermore, it will be VHVs' duty to recruit and nurture new VHVs and VHAs out of the village women in the new project area. 10 VHVs with whom we did not make a contract will not

get honorarium. Even so, experienced VHVs continue staying in their village, and it means that women who used to work for Mothers & Child Health Care (MCHC) exist in the village. While they have and raise a baby and offering some information on MCHC to other women, the experience will be useful and beneficial to other women and villagers. Explaining those benefits which will be given to their villages, we thanked for their hard-work and bid them farewell.

Besides, we told selected VHVs that their work is not permanently guaranteed, and emphasized that regarding persons who will work in the new project area which is much far distance, if nurturing newly recruited VHAs keeps up satisfactorily, each time we will consider selecting appropriate VHVs in the new project area. It has been 5 years since fostering VHVs started. In the examination, there was essay writing section, and we asked them to write their purpose for the new project. In the beginning, they held back to go to even neighbor villages. However, no one wrote the hesitation such as they do not want to work in the new project. Rather, many of them mentioned that they want to spread their knowledge to the village women in the new project area.

In February, we conducted introduction meeting in the following five villages; Chamu, Raipura and Geenj all located in Jasra block, and Zorvat and Dhara in Shankargarh block. At the same time, we also recruited new VHVs/VHAs. ASHA School has already been established as one of MSCNE's activities. In Zorvat and Dhara, there are a huge number of stone-cutting labours.

Our Village Health Supervisors and Leaders spoke to Pradhan (village chief), responsible Basic Health Workers (BHW), ANM, ASHA and AWW and pitched a tent at the vacant plot of land where village people likely get together, and introduced Mother and Child Health Care Project and MSCNE. We also made mention of survey results of Mother & Child Health Care which was implemented from summer to autumn last year. VHVs contrived to explain to village people the following things more specifically and simply; characteristics of each village; what will improve when the project



Pasting a poster for recruiting new VHA in Zorvat before Introduction Meeting

starts; and what kind of benefits will be brought out to village people, especially women, mothers and children. Besides, however low health status it is, we paid attention to avoided evaluative phrases such as "bad" and "not good" when they talk to village people. As preparation for Introduction Meeting, VHVs had also pasted a poster for VHA recruitment on the wall of several houses in the villages. Furthermore, they spoke to the women who had attended Health Gathering.

As a result, we received 29 applications from 5 villages which are more than what we had expected. On 21<sup>st</sup> March, 18 women (including 2 pregnant women) plus 6 children, 1 nurse maid and 1 husband. The husband following his wife was anxious about the place to which she was going. He was worried whether she really would go to the school.

The first day of the training began with lecture on breastfeeding, lecture and test on basic nutrition, essay writing test and math test, reading test in which the new VHA candidates read a few passage of simple explanation written on the back of a picture-story show. In morning of the second day, we encouraged all candidates to participate in Laughter Yoga Club. With their tension eased, we hoped that all candidates would have a friendly feeling toward MSCNE even though they could not be selected as a



Introduction Meeting in Raipura



Giving a speech to all VHA candidates at MSCNE

VHA.

On the second day, candidates attended the lecture on the importance of weight measuring program and practiced measuring. From afternoon, current VHVs helped candidates one-to-one, and told them how to draw a growth line. In Indian villages, people hardly measure the weight of their children or keep it in a record. There is a graph for drawing a growth

line inside vaccination record for the children. However, mothers do not take a record and the graph page is always empty.

By cooperating with government health

workers who are able to apply vaccination (Basic Health Worker, ANM, ASHA) or who provide foods for children (AWW), VHVs can measure the weight and keep a record. As a result, mothers will be able to have a growth record for their children. We will be able to improve the statistical figure that 42% of children below 3 years of age suffer from malnutrition in Uttar Pradesh (2008 Government of India). Besides, when children are undernourished and sick, the growth line will be helpful in acknowledging the status of recovery from the illness. However, it is necessary to read those weighted values correctly, and keep the record accurately. From those reasons, out of 18 candidates 11 VHAs remained who received most high marks combining all tests' marks. On the third day, the newly selected VHAs attended April Monthly Planning with current VHVs. We still are recruiting VHAs from Geenj and Raipura. Even though the former had had 6 applicants in the beginning, no one did attend the training, and from the latter village, there was only one candidate was selected as a VHA. We are also trying to find out the reasons.

After the training, the newly selected VHAs have started activities. The picture below captured Health Gathering in March at Zorvat in Shankargarh block. Our Health Gathering aims not only to avoid falling ill but also to be healthier, and participants of Health Gathering sing Health Song with VHVs, listen to health-related story, cope with solving a quiz and finish the Gathering with Laughter Yoga, with immune system strengthened.



Learning how to read the scale of weighing machine (at MSCNE)



Health Gathering closes with Laughter Yoga (Zorvat)