

Education and research for rehabilitation of agriculture against harmful rumors in nuclear disaster areas

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Since the eastern Japan earthquake of 2011, various universities are carrying out educational programs that take students to the field and let the students recognize the importance of picking up on-site needs from the real field. This session convener also went to Iitate Village in Fukushima Prefecture three months after the nuclear accident, developed a unique agricultural land decontamination method in cooperation with NPO corporations and farmers, and has been experimentally cultivating crops. Also, since 2012, we have held students' field tours and have witnessed changes in student's awareness before and after the local visit. Through these experiences, we have come to the idea that it is necessary to nurture young people who will challenge the creation of a new Japanese type agriculture in Fukushima. "Educational research program for revitalizing agriculture and elimination of bad rumor in Iitate village" is being carried out at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's "Fukushima Innovation Coast Concept Promotion Project. In this session, members of the Japanese Society of Soil Physics will report changes in student's consciousness observed through on-site education and field research, and discuss social value of university.

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