

Kyusei Nature Farming

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Nature Farming Spreading all over the World

The idea of Nature Farming, born out from a corner of Japan during the nineteen thirties, has made a rapid spread under the leadership of Mokichi Okada the founder. After Okada's passing away, however, there had been ups and downs pertaining to the Nature Farming method, up until its encounter with EM, developed by Professor Higa. EM has revived Nature Farming, making it to develop as we see it today. Amid a recent global call on the pollution issue, Nature Farming has widely been adopted by countries of the world. In 1989 the First International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming was held in Thailand, and since then on, both Nature Farming and EM technology have made steady spread in the countries of the world. At present, the number of countries practicing Nature Farming runs up to eighty-three (83), many countries which are going to introduce the method, and the number is likely to increase year after year. What Nature Farming is today owes much to Professor Higa's untiring effort and leadership by visiting different countries, as many countries as possible, together with your sustaining support. The same credit goes to the staff of the APNAN Office. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Founder's Wish

Incidentally, Nature Farming carries with it a profound wish and a dream. It wishes to see the people on this earth "to be healthy, peaceful and plenty," as much as possible. In short, it wishes to see the people on earth become happy. In this context, Mokichi Okada, founder of Nature Farming, has, out of his wish to see the people to be healthy, plenty and peaceful, elaborated on the principle method, means and conceptional mentality needed in becoming to be healthy, plenty and peaceful.

Nature Farming's Five Conditions

Based on the founder's wish and idea, we have set forth five conditions to be cleared by "Nature Farming Method." The following are the five conditions, and we are doing our utmost to make our Nature Farming to meet these conditions.

1. To produce foods which can sustain and promote human health.
2. To be beneficial economically and mentally to both the producers and consumers.
3. To be practicable by anyone, with durability.
4. To be responsible for an environmental integrity, paying respect to nature.
5. To be responsible for the production and supply of provisions in such a manner to meet the growth of population.

Now let me dwell on each condition in more detail, making it easier for every one to understand what "Nature Farming" actually is.

(1) On the “production of food for sustaining man’s health”: It is to produce tasty, quality foodstuff good for human health, free of chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals harmful to human body and environment. It is well known that foodstuffs free of chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals are tasty and good for human health. Mokich Okada, founder of Nature Farming, had in the nineteen thirties pointed out the harmfulness of agricultural chemicals and chemical fertilizers. He had appealed to the need of a breaking down of “medicinal, fertilizer superstition.” He also warned, saying: “there will be an age in which man cannot eat food at ease, although a large quantity of food will be piled up before him.” He stated the said superstition hampers man to become happy. But he foresaw the advent of such an age. He was very eager in appealing to the harm of agricultural chemicals and chemical fertilizers, thereby promoting the spread of Nature Farming to protect human health. This one condition is very important to the “Nature Farming Method.”

(2) On the merits in item two, the founder said: “Nature Farming can be likened to a “heaven-like farming.” As a matter of fact the practioner of Nature Farming finds it enjoyable and time-labor-saving, thus enabling him to take rest of 3 to 4 days a week. This is a real picture of Nature Farming.

Nature Farming worthy of its name must be a farming method that to produce payable low-cost produce, thereby making it possible for the consumers to buy them cheap with joy; it must be a farming method to make the farming families rich.

In Japan there are some Nature Farming farmers for over thirty years, and all they have to do is to bed out young rice plants in the paddy fields and then reap them when the plants become ripe. They really enjoy heaven-like farming. Thus, it makes the producers feel that their farming is “the most splendid, wonderful one,” giving them a mental delight. The consumers also feel grateful and joyous to eat health-proof, tasty agricultural produce. In other words, both the producers and consumers can share mental benefit that leads them to be men of “health, rich and harmony.” Nature Farming is the only farming method that enables man to be healthy, plenty and harmonious in deed.

(3) On the third condition of practicability and durability, the founder said: “Nature Farming helps the soil display its potential power. Soil itself is the essence of compost. Repeat of one-crop succession makes soil to be dexterous, so to speak, to produce more yield.” It carries with it simplicity and durability. Nature Farming makes continuous cropping possible. Nature Farming technology turns soil “to be healthy and alive,” leading it to be a field of self-preservation and self-perfecting. This is how Nature Farming makes a continuous cropping possible. The term “soil of health and living” means a soil containing plenty of organic matter, soil organisms and microorganisms. Soil containing plenty organic matter and soil organisms turns out to be soil with a firm buffering capacity, well-developed aggregate structure and with an outstanding physical, chemical, and biological nature. Such is a “soil of health,” in our term. A crop planted in a healthy soil is to grow healthy, as a matter of course. Generation of disease, pest and weed stems from the fact that soil and crops themselves are not healthy. For this reason, Nature Farming needs neither herbicides nor agricultural chemicals. As soil becomes healthy and fertile, it can provide balanced nutrients to help build aggregate

structure needed in the formation of the root systems of crops. Such a soil is less affected by weeds and disease. Weed could be utilized as organic material.

(4) The fourth condition “on the environmental integrity” is to point out a self-contradictory, self-inconsistent nature of the conventional farming relying on chemical fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and big tools. Too much application of chemical fertilizers deprives soil of its potential capacity. Soil deprived of its capacity fails to produce good yield, thus requiring more chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals, falling into a vicious circle. As a result, earth becomes polluted, making an environmental conditions still worse. In fact, the conventional farming inevitably accumulates misfortune, thereby invoking a social issue as we see it today.

To deal with such a social problem, a huge budget is required. This is the biggest self-contradiction of the current farming. In this context, Nature Farming pays steady respect to nature, taking responsibility for an environmental integrity.

(5) On the fifth condition of “responsibility for supply of provisions,” the founder said: “God, the creator of man, has provided him with food for his living. No matter how big population grows, food necessary for it can surely be produced. The key to enough supply of food is integrated in the kingdom of nature.” By utilizing effectively the hidden key, we can foster soil to become a fertile field, so as to promote soil’s productive capacity. There are some Nature Farming families who enjoy more productivity than those of conventional farming. Nature Farming proves to be a farming to meet the demand arising from population increase of the world.

These are the five conditions to be cleared by Nature Farming. As for a practical knowledge on Nature Farming technology, please see the reference materials which will be available to you during the conference.

Nature Farming Accomplishment

You have seen a video tape featuring outstanding achievements in Japan. We also have some posters illustrating achievements. Nature Farming has achieved much in such fields as rice culture, upland cropping, cultivation of fruit trees and tea, livestock industry and environment. Healthy soil grows healthy crops of better quality with higher yields. It is less affected by the harm of weeds, disease and pests. Nature Farming is such an ideal farming to be sure. The outstanding achievements in Japan as you saw in the video tape have actually proven the idealistic nature of Nature Farming as a whole. In the beginning, Nature Farming’s catch phrase was to catch up to the conventional farming in terms of its productivity. But the phrase is no longer need, for today’s Nature Farming is surpassing its conventional counterpart in terms of productivity, cost-effectiveness, taste and contribution to the health of man. In addition, it gives joy of working to the farmers.

The Starting of JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standards) Organic Certification Activities

Beginning the year 2000, Japan has established its JAS organic certification program, in accordance with a global standard. Our organization, the International Nature Farming Research Center has been designated as a registered certification organization to issue the JAS certification, since August, 2000, being allowed to start its activities. Many of Nature Farming farmers have filed their applications for the JAS certification to our organization, winning our approval. Applications for our approval keeps coming into our center, making the staff members in charge busy.

Indications are that the number of farmers seeking the certification is on the rise rapidly. I am sure that “the 21st century will be an age for Nature Farming.” We must hand in hand keep the only one earth we have intact from environmental pollution, and our responsibilities must be handing over healthy and safe natural environment and agriculture to our posterity.

I invite you to join me in making further endeavors for the promotion of Nature Farming research and adoption.

In an earnest prayer for your further cooperation and successful activities, I now close my words of speech.

Thank you for your kind attention.