

Kyusei Nature Farming - The concept and development

Setsunori Shinoda

Chairman, Board of Directors, INFRC, Atami, Japan

- Introduction** The world faces a crisis. Food is demanded in greater volumes, especially in the poorer regions of the world. Increased inputs, especially of chemical origin are used in greater quantities to drive soils to greater productivity. The end result is degradation. It is in this context that the concept of nature farming, especially that of Kyusei Nature farming is presented.
- The problems of the modern world** What is happening to our home, the planet earth? I will mention some of the problems that I see happening around us. We may have different viewpoints about these issues, but I am sure we can all agree that they are serious. Secondly, I would like to present the origin and fundamentals of Kyusei Nature Farming, and especially about the founder of this farming method, Mokichi Okada.
- What is happening to our earth? Yuri Gagarin was the first person to see the earth from space in 1961. He said, "The earth is so green." Will it stay so green? Six billion people are living on this planet now. The six billionth person was just recently born in Bosnia. The earth has been called a miracle planet, but a terrifying, and quite regrettable thing is starting to happen. Parts of this change are visible to our eyes, but other parts are not.
- One thing that we can feel is the warming of the earth. The average temperature of the earth rose only by point five degrees centigrade in the past one hundred years, but it is estimated that the earth's temperature will rise between two and five degrees centigrade in the next fifty to one hundred years. If the earth warms at this rate, the sea will cover eighty per cent of the land of some countries such as Bangladesh.
- Destruction of the ozone layer of the earth's atmosphere is the second change I would like to mention. The use of fluorocarbons in our cooling systems and sprays has started the destruction of the ozone layer, and this had led to a sudden increase in cancer and cataracts among the people of the world. Weakening of the body's immune system has also been linked to the ozone layer's destruction.
- The third change is acid rain and environmental destruction. Acid rain is destroying not only our forests and waterways, but also causing problems with our food supply and agricultural products.
- Fourth, our tropical rain forests are shrinking and some scholars think they may disappear altogether.
- The fifth change is the growing amount of the earth's land that is becoming a desert. I understand that every year, six million hectares of land becomes desert-like. Some report that over one fourth of the world is already a desert.
- Environmental hormones are the sixth change that is slowly polluting our earth. This change has only recently become widely known to us. Hormones very similar to those we have made are slowly influencing the natural environment. We already know that these hormones are responsible for disrupting the reproductive process of some organisms. This change has the potential for adverse effects over many generations of humanity. Their immediate effect on the human body is also clear. Some scholars worry if humanity can even continue to reproduce.
- Dioxin pollution is the seventh change the planet is facing. Dioxin is a poison one

thousand times more powerful than potassium cyanide. One gram of dioxin has the toxicity to kill ten thousand people, and in Japan, dioxin pollution is now beginning to be shown as one cause of illness in the vicinity of garbage and refuse processing plants.

Viruses are the eighth change I would like to mention. We have always had viruses, and in the past, we knew that viruses grew weaker as they spread, but now, we have more dangerous types of viruses that grow stronger as they spread. Viruses have become the instruments of death.

Finally, the ninth change I would like to bring to your attention is radiation pollution from nuclear energy plants. The Chernobyl accident is still fresh in our minds, and the critical accident of a plant in Japan last month reminds us of the problem. In Japan, three hundred and fifty thousand people had to evacuate an area that was potentially affected.

I am sure you are all aware of these issues. These problems, along and together, will take a large amount of time to resolve.

The cause of all these problems is the results of the efforts of humanity to secure a more abundant, convenient, and pleasant life, especially within the past one hundred years. In pursuit of abundance, convenience, and comfort, we have artificially created over fifteen million varieties of synthetic chemical compounds. These synthetic chemicals are now coming to haunt us. The seeds we have sown have sprouted and are now about to bear fruit, but this fruit is not delicious and we cannot eat it. It is a fruit we cannot appreciate, indeed it should be condemned. These changes are the fruit of our past efforts. But I believe that we, who have sown the seeds and created this fruit, have the responsibility to dispose of it.

Comparing our earth to a human being, we could say that our earth is a very sick patient. I am sure that we can all agree that it seems that the earth is beginning to utter its last cries.

Kyusei Nature Farming

The founder of Nature Farming, Mokichi Okada, was born in Tokyo, Japan, on December 23, 1882. He was rather frail from infancy and the first half of his life was a constant battle with disease and illness. From his early days, however, Okada was a gentle person with a strong sense of justice and independence, and as he grew to adulthood, he was able to apply his natural artistic talents in the creation of items for the accessories business. In early twentieth-century Tokyo, Okada became quite well known for his designs.

In the middle nineteen twenties, Okada had an unusual experience. One night, the words, "Prepare pen and paper" came suddenly and without thought from his mouth.

What poured from Okada's lips was a history of humanity for the past five hundred thousand years, from ancient times to the present, and a vision of what the future of the world could be like. From this mystical experience, Mokichi Okada realized that he was being driven to a great mission. At this period, Okada began his pursuit of the knowledge of how the world and earth is composed, what existence means, and the meanings of happiness and unhappiness.

Okada also learned that a great change, global in scale, was about to happen. From that point, he taught many people what they should do, how they had to live, to cope with these coming changes.

One of the things he taught, for example, was about agriculture. He taught that we should not use synthetic chemical fertilizers or pesticides, but pattern farming after nature in order to harness the productive power of the soil.

He realized that this type of agriculture would be important for human beings.

Okada's vision is the base for the fundamental concepts and ways of looking at phenomenon in Kyusei Nature Farming.

Mokichi Okada's greatest wish was to see a world without sickness, poverty, or conflict, a peaceful place of health and abundance. Okada called such a world, a paradise on earth. He considered it his mission to start the building of such a world, and that one of the steps toward construction of this paradise on earth was Nature Farming. Nature Farming embodies Okada's wish to see as many people as possible lead a happy life. In this context, Professor Higa is cooperating with us in the development of the usage of EM technology for this very reason.

People who sympathize with and share Mokichi Okada's dream have been working on Kyusei Nature Farming for the past seventy years. This development continues ever more strongly today. This brings me back to the first part in my talk, of the nine changes, or problems, that are facing the earth today. We believe that Kyusei Nature Farming has a great role and mission to play in the solution of these problems, and that the world will not be made a better place without Nature Farming. We have and are endeavoring to teach as many people as possible about Nature Farming and increase as much as possible the number of people who put Nature Farming into practice.

From the very beginning of its existence, Nature Farming has had a good reputation for delicious products that are healthy. In terms of production, weed control, and damage from pests, there is still much work to be done. Progress toward the solution of these three main problems advances each year. We continue to seek a world where agricultural methods do not use synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. We hope we can continue to look forward to your continued cooperation toward this goal.

Today, more than ever, people of conscience and good faith must band together for the sake of the earth, for the sake of humanity. We must work hard together to overcome the sufferings of the planet earth, to secure a better future for our children and grandchildren. I believe we have a responsibility to leave to our descendents a wonderful place to live and grow.

I do hope that all of you will continue to work for the popularization, development, and realization of Nature Farming. I also pray for the future success of your own endeavors.