

From Japan to the World!! “Agricultural Movement for and by All Global

Citizens” leading to “Green Life Chain” starting from a Quarter Acre Farmer

-Thinking from “one seed”. What kind of agriculture do we need to live on the earth?
Home seed production as our “right to exist”.-

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1. Self-introduction -“Jinendo” A Quarter Acre Farmer-

- “Jinendo” is our house name. I am a Quarter Acre Farmer, engaging in family agriculture, the smallest agricultural farming style in the world.
- Moved from Tokyo to a farming village in Ibaraki Prefecture in 2005 with my wife. We are family of four including two children. 10 years have passed since we started farming.
 - ⇒ “Jinendo” practices “Green Farmer Philosophy” for our future generation in order to restore damaged global environment.
- “Farming” is not about “agricultural business” only to exchange with cash but is about setting “agriculture” as a basis of our lives.
 - ⇒ Management of an “agricultural work-life balance”. Career and way of life from an “agricultural” perspective. (<http://blog.goo.ne.jp/hootenfarmer>)
- Taking a balance between raising children and agricultural way of living gives us energy to live as parents. Children learn how to live by themselves in the wild nature.
 - ⇒ The nature itself will not provide formal education but is the best teacher of all.
- ▲ “Noranora”, agricultural magazine for children, No.17, article “*Mugi Maku Taberu Asobu* (Plant wheat seeds, eat and play with wheat)” (Rural Culture Association Japan, November, 2015)

2. The goal picture for a farm of “A Quarter Acre Farmer” adopting natural way of farming advocated by Masanobu Fukuoka

- Four principals of “natural way of farming” by Masanobu Fukuoka are: No Cultivation; No Fertilizer; No Weeding; and No Pesticides.
- We do not consider “A Quarter Acre” only as a unit of area which equals to 300 *tsubo*, 1,000m².
- A field can be cultivated not only as a two-dimensional field but as a three-dimensional field by planting various kinds of plants and trees.
 - ⇒ A quarter acre field is an un-limited source which will affect all the surrounding nature and bring lots of green to the whole world, starting from each seed of the plants and trees.
- ▲ “*Midori no Tetsugaku, Nogyo Kakumeiron -Shizen Nouhou Ittan Hyakusho no Susume-* (Green Philosophy, Agricultural Revolution way of thinking: Encouragement of Natural way of Farming and A

3. Current situation of Japanese farmers and agricultural issues in a global era

• As to current situation of Japanese farmers, there are broad range of topics to discuss about and it is not possible to discuss it without comprehensive points of view.

• Current concerns from the perspective of farmers → lack of successors, decrease in self-sufficiency ratio as a result of global trades, social security policies to support small-sized family farmers, increase in deserted cultivated land and deteriorating agricultural environment by climate change.

• Lack of successors is a worldwide issue in agriculture. Agriculture needs to be considered as a social civil occupation instead of individual occupation.

⇒ Agriculture needs to be shifted from a space of production for farmers to a space to learning of life and empowerment. A school to learn agriculture regardless of students' majors is needed.

• Need to involve all global citizens and create grand design for our society based on sustainable agriculture and support successors of farming.

• More solar panels are installed in deserted cultivate lands. Can we overlook the problems of deforestation and damages to soil from chemical herbicides? Are "soil" and the "Sun" there for our electricity?

⇒ We need to focus on immediate actions, instead of focusing on existing agricultural issues, to educate farmers for the next generation, engaging in "agriculture that help us to learn how to live along with the nature".

• Experience in Eritrea in Africa, one of the ports stopped over upon a cruise around the world hosted by peaceboat, an NGO, in 2002.

• A demonstration held during the WTO ministerial meeting in Cancun in Mexico in 2003 on the way back from the Republic of Cuba after taking a training of organic agriculture.

⇒ Agriculture is not a topic only for farmers. What is the origin of agriculture? Let's start an "agriculture for us to live on the earth".

▲ The 2nd "YOUTH AG-SUMMIT" was held in Australia in 2015. Report made in Rome at FAO in October.

Article "Future of Agriculture -Proposal from the next generation farmers, lack of successors-", THE MAINICHI NEWSPAPERS, October 7, 2015

4. "One Seed Farmer" as an entry to "Agriculture Movement for and by All Global Citizens"

-Fundamental transition of agriculture from the perspective of "One Seed"-

• Jinendo" has produced its home seeds from local seeds and specific seeds since it started farming.

• It has cultivated local soybeans and ancient rice and sold agricultural hand-made products.

• Since the nuclear power plant accident on March 11, 2011, has agriculture been existed for farmers/producers and consumers?

⇒ We human beings created issues of nuclear power plants and agricultural issues. They can be permanently solved if each of us participate in agriculture.

• Rotation between cities and farming villages, transition from monetary consumption to production by hands.

⇒ Transition from industrial model of production system in capitalism to public model for citizens→

group of small-sized independent farmers.

▲ "Community Business", a Social Contribution Course held at Sophia University in 2004

What is self-sufficiency?

• Paradigm shift to self-sufficient management, "increase of self-sufficiency ratio for living". We shall increase the number of farmers.

• We have been selling home produced seeds for ten years and developing a movement called "Let's become one seed farmers!". (<http://jinendo.exblog.jp/>)

• Sales channels of seeds; direct sales at farmers markets; book stores; natural food super markets; and related forums, etc. Afforestation of Ashio copper mine.

⇒ Working as an "One Seed Farmer" is a starting point of my movement. → I am a practitioner of "A Quarter Acre Farmer".

• The United Nations set 2014 as International Year of Family Farming and 2015 as International Year of Soils, and today December 5 as "World Soil Day".

• In relation to the issues presented, I launched a campaign called "One Seed Farmer" campaign. Planting of seeds in Iraq, Nicaragua, Brazil, etc.

• Agricultural and food problems from the farmers' point of view. Need to build awareness for agriculture not only in city areas or farmers' area but together and with the whole world.

⇒ Minimum unit to start agriculture: "One Seed Farmer"

Let's engage in agriculture as each and one of all global citizens.

▲ Declaration -In the International Year of Soils 2015-: "Let's become One Seed Farmers!" by Jinendo, A Quarter Acre Farmer.

• "One Seed Farmer" will give us a hint to transit agriculture fundamentally and visualize a vision of agriculture.

• From agricultural literacy (understanding) and agricultural inspiration (theories)

⇒ Role as an "Agricultural Radical Interpreter", visualizing agriculture with multiple aspects and physicalizing the concepts of agriculture.

• A minimum way to plant seeds on the surrounding soil. We are providing a real agricultural experience "What is agriculture?" in respect of our common fundamental way of thinking.

• Seeds and soils inside you... Going through the real agricultural experience, people start to change and think about agriculture by themselves.

⇒ Movement of "Let's become One Seed Farmers!" as a starting point of the "Agricultural Movement for and by All Global Citizens"

▲ "Community gardens from One Seed Farmers". Considering agriculture as a community garden will remove barriers or hesitations around and towards agriculture.

5. Number of Quarter Acre Farmers will connect us all and the earth with "Green Life Chain"

• Cop21, the 21st Conference of the Parties, i.e. the annual meeting of all countries which want to take action for the climate, is now held in Paris.

- There were rainstorms in Kanto area and Tohoku area on September 10, 2015, which led to a collapse of bank of Kinu River for 30km long in Joso City, Ibaraki Prefecture.

- The recent rain patterns have been changing due to global warming and climate change. Heavy rains start suddenly. There is a limit in what infrastructure can do to protect us.

- Stand point to consider agriculture as a root cause of climate change and another stand point that considers sustainable agriculture slows the speed of climate change.

⇒ "Agriculture to protect natural resources and our environment". Farmers farming based on global environment are the bearers to solve the climate change.

- "Rain will not come from the heaven, but the green on land creates rain." Masanobu Fukuoka, a founder of natural way of agriculture.

- "Plants irrigation": Planting seeds based on the natural way of agriculture will help afforestation of desert.

⇒ Planting many seeds will cover the land with green and create shades on the ground that will lower the temperature of the surface of the earth and restore sleeping seeds.

- Climate of the earth can be called "Green Climate". The land and the sky are mutually dependent on each other.

⇒ Green around us provides various kinds of lives and fresh air, makes water spring from the ground, and prevents global warming and climate change.

▲ Japanese "Plants Irrigation", "Mu III Natural Way of Farming" Masanobu, Fukuoka, Shunjusha, 1985.

▲ English "Greening the Desserts" "Natural farm and Green belt" from The Natural Way of Farming by Masanobu Fukuoka, 1985, translated by Frederic P. Metreaud, Japan Publication, Inc.

- Farm of "A Quarter Acre Farmer". We plan corns, okras, sorghum bicolor and several beans altogether.

- Mexico, Mozambique and Japan, they are all connected through food cultures, seeds and the sky.

⇒ Shift from a global perspective to relationship of a marginal consciousness and the world.

- Networks among "small farmers" who engage in agriculture that is within their realm of daily lives and live along with agriculture are the keys to overcome obstacles of agriculture.

⇒ Home seed production is a "right to exist", right for us to maintain minimum standard of healthy and cultural life. Agriculture as a right to live.

- We need to rely not only on human hands but also on "hands of seeds" which accumulate the wisdom of the great nature.

- Soil is everywhere. We need to work together with others as global citizens. "True seeds" will go beyond borders.

- One seed has all the "means to live". Animals, plants, insects, and bacteria are all independent and interdependent at the same time.

⇒ We human beings need to use energy within our bodies and go back to the "origin of human beings and agriculture", which used to exist in the old days along with our nature.

- Practice of "A Quarter Acre Farmer", self-learning, self-training, self-improvement

- Each pain of the Earth becomes our own pain. "Agriculture" can be the first step to find out fundamental root cause of its issues.

- Each of us needs to be a new successor of "agriculture for us to live on the earth".

⇒ Each farm of "A Quarter Acre Farmer" is a green network hub.

- One small seed has lots of possibilities and it shows us ways to solve many global issues.

• “One Seed” will lead to the road of one thousand mile. What we can do, starting from today...? “Seed planting”

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▲Reference: <http://greenpic-jinendo.seesaa.net/> website by A Quarter Acre Farmer –Jinendo-

”Everyday Greenpic, Agricultural Movement for All Global Citizens. For a farmer, every day is a green festival.”

October 29, 2015, Thursday

Hirotsugu Saito

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Practitioner of "agricultural work-life balance"

Researcher, T and T Institute

Born in 1974.

Graduated from Faculty of Economics, Rissho University.

1997: Joined a distribution venture company and worked for five years.

2002: Experienced organic agriculture in the Republic of Cuba, while on a cruise around the world organized by an NGO.

2003: Trainee, Kamogawa *Shizen Ohkoku* (Kamogawa nature world), agricultural cooperative corporation; Representative, Kamogawa Futures Club; Researcher, T and T Institute; Secretariat, Cuba *Entaku Kaigi* (Cuba round table meeting)

2004: Staff, Toziba, incorporated non-profit organization (NPO); Representative, *Nouteki City Life no Kai* (Agricultural city life club); Started to develop and advocate "Agricultural Movement for and by All Global Citizens", creating agricultural interactions between people in cities and people in farming villages in the above-mentioned organizations.

2005: Moved from Tokyo to a farming village in Ibaraki Prefecture with his wife. Has been engaging in family agriculture, the world smallest agricultural style, under a house name, "A Quarter Acre Farmer - Jinendo" with his wife and two children.

- Co-editor of "*Midori no Tetsugaku, Nogyo Kakumeiron -Shizen Nouhou Ittan Hyakusho no Susume-* (Green Philosophy, Agricultural Revolution -Encouragement of Natural Farming and Quarter Acre Farming-)" written by Masanobu Fukuoka (Shunjusha, 2013)
- Covered in "Noranora", children's agricultural magazine, No.17, Issue of Winter 2015 (Rural Culture Association Japan, November, 2015)

Current interests / study area:

"How do we make people more passionate about agriculture than about soccer?"

Agriculture is a green, on-site philosophy that enables people to define their style. It is more fantastic and more realistic than soccer games. It has both inner and outer, and mental and physical characteristics, and has more collective and independent features than soccer games do. What kind of formation is needed to bring people to the platform of soil, field of sustainable agriculture, which has no final goal?