

# Local Approaches to the Production and Distribution of Food from Affected Areas.

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# Objective

To address approaches taken by the prefecture government, municipal governments, and specific examples of approaches of local initiatives taken by farmers, cattle ranchers, and fishermen to ensure the marketability of their products.

# Key themes

- Work of the Agricultural High School and collaboration with the community
- Assessing radioactivity contaminated farmland and regeneration of safe agricultural produce
- Practical aspects of Anpo-kaki farming in Fukushima Prefecture
- The reality of the fishing industry in Fukushima Prefecture
- Producing safe Fukushima cattle
- Management of distribution of food from Fukushima Prefecture
- Cheering for Fukushima products from consumer side

# Soma Agricultural High School

- It is unusual to have the views of students presented at International workshops.
- High school students represent the future.
  - Subject of the conference is a key factor for their future.
  - They should understand the issues.
  - They should be included in the decision making.
- Impressed with the wide variety of their activities
- Perhaps they will write a paper for OECD NEA of their experiences



# Producers

- Deep-rooted history and unique quality of products.
- Environment monitoring
  - Surveys of agricultural land
  - Surveys of seawater
- Mitigation actions /Countermeasures
  - Potassium in soil
  - Reverse tillage
  - Selection of feedstuffs for cattle
  - Removing bark, cleaning trees for fruit (Anpokaki)
- Monitoring of outputs
  - Voluntary programmes
  - Requirement to train inexperienced (non-scientific) operators
  - Very high number of items monitored.
  - Quality assurance
  - Community spirit



# Distribution of food from Fukushima/consumers' view

- Role of distributors particularly Co-op.
- Non-Governmental organisation so trusted more than Government
- On the side of the consumer (particularly for its members)
- Discussion of standards set by Co-op and differences with Government standard limits.
- Building the trust of their consumers.
  - Provided advice and education
  - Re-assurance monitoring focused on customer requirements (for example meal monitoring)
  - Spread the word to other prefectures in Japan (countrywide network)

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# Concluding remarks

- Monitoring programme is leading to an easing of the anxiety within the local community which needs to be propagated further afield.
- Very high involvement of initiative taken by the producers
  - Monitoring programmes
  - Labelling
  - Re-assurance to consumers
- Oversight by Government and quality assurance including the involvement of International organisations (eg IAEA)
- Implications for local demographics.
- International 'experts' can help and advise – real experts are those that live through the aftermath and rebuild their livelihoods.
- Essential to re-establish trust, resilience will be required!

