The Organic Agriculture Movement and the Pursuit of Truly Sustainable Agriculture
Characteristic Practices in Japan, or Universal?

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1. What has the Japanese Organic Agriculture Movement been aimed at?

- Pursuit of agriculture as it should be
- Agricultural principles and theories based on Japanese organic agriculture movement in the early days
- Develop a reform movement (innovation) based on TEIKEI
- Is organic farming a simple compost / organic material application farming?
2. Exploring truly sustainable agriculture beyond the boundaries of organic farming and natural farming

- Reaching the horizon called low-input, nature-symbiosis agriculture
- Practices such as natural farming and non-fertilizer natural cultivation

3. Under the industrialization of organic farming

- Appearance of industrial organic
- Expansion of organic market and spread of shallow organic agriculture
- Truly sustainable agriculture v.s. industrialization and globalization
- Toward the horizon of truly sustainable agriculture
Significance and viewpoint of reviewing organic and natural farming methods

From criticism and re-questioning of agriculture and food, an organized organic farming movement was established.

- 1962 Rachel Carson "Silent Spring"
- 1974 Started serialization of Sawako Ariyoshi's "Hukugo Osen" in The Asahi Shimbun
- 1972 IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) established
- 1971 Yukinogyo Kenkyukai established (Renamed Nihon Yukinogyo Kenkyukai JOAA in 1976)

Anti-modern, criticism of modern agriculture, counter culture movement, agriculture, farmer movement, anti-pollution, environmental movement, etc.

Conversion to organic and natural farming requires reassessment of relationships with nature, livelihoods and local communities.

- In the process, what horizons can agricultural principles and the technical theory of farming reach?

- Furthermore, the shift to such farming methods involves The relationship between nature and the practice of farming. The relationship between farmers and consumers in relation to agriculture and local community: What kind of change or reassembly was imminent?

Modern society system and an ideal way of modern agriculture. The reformation of agriculture, living and local communities beyond the modern age.
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◆ The aim of JOAA’s practices
   (Japan Organic Agriculture Association)

- Rather than being limited to efforts to spread specific methods of farming,
- JOAA encouraged a wide range of practices that reexamine the fundamentals of agriculture / agriculture, food and life, modern society / modern civilization.
- The purpose of the association's rules (Article 1) is to explore and establish "agricultural methods that produce healthy and tasty food while maintaining and cultivating soil productivity without environmental destruction."
◆ The Term “Organic Farming”
（有機農業）

- Translation of Organic Farming used by Rodale
- Coined by Teruo Ichiraku
- Teruo Ichiraku thought that it would be desirable to eliminate the term organic farming because it is the form of agriculture that should be, true farming, or ideal farming
- It can be said that organic farming is not a special farming based on its own standards and farming methods, but has the recognition that it has a historical significance that conflicts with modern farming in modern society

◆ Early Practices

- There was no way to learn from tradition and traditional farming methods, to face nature and the land, and to repeat trial and error to devise and improve cultivation techniques

- Then, compost and organic materials were added to cultivate soil productivity and the practice toward establishing farming methods (cultivation techniques) that did not depend on pesticides, chemical materials or chemical fertilizers
Albert Howard (1873–1947)

British plant pathologist and microbiologist
『農業聖典』 有機農業のバイブル
邦訳1959、新訳版2003
An Agricultural Testament 1940
『ハワードの有機農業』邦訳1987
Farming and Gardening for Health or Disease 1945
The Soil and Health 1947改題米国版

J.I. Rodale (1898–1971)

”Mr. Organic”
Howard Resonator

Spread organic farming in the United States
First published in 1942: Organic Farming and Gardening
(Subsequently renamed Organic Gardening)
This book taught people how to grow better food without using chemicals in the soil
『黄金の土』(原本1945、原題 Pay Dirt)
A general commentary on Howard’s Agricultural Scriptures
The agriculture proposed by Howard is called “Organic Farming”
This book made Rodale known as “Mr. Organic”

Established Rodale Association in 1947
First published in 1950: Prevention
◆ Exploring cultivation technique to replace modern agriculture

- A large amount of immature compost and organic materials were swept into rice fields, and rice paddies were infested
- Anyway, consumers have a strong commitment to not using pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- Organic rice farming resistant to cold damage
- Organically grown and naturally grown crops are delicious and long lasting. They taste like crops by nature.

◆ Pursuit of ideal agriculture, agriculture that should be

- Livestock mixed self-sufficiency farming to create as many items as possible by selecting suitable crops for each region
- Emphasis not only on agriculture but also on self-sufficiency and material recycling, taking into account total lives and communities

However, when the produced agricultural products were shipped to the market, they were purchased at the lowest possible price

Logic of life against economic logic
Do not commercialize food:
The TEIKEI movement
- By pursuing the ideal way of agriculture and living by a face-to-face relationship between producer and consumer
The term "organic" in "organic agriculture" gives the image of organic materials or compost. Therefore, organic agriculture has been seen as only a compost application agriculture and theory. This understanding is wrong.

As interest in organic farming increased and the demand for organic farming products increased, a shallow recognition and understanding was spreading, such as "It is organic farming if organic materials are applied without using chemical fertilizers."

In addition, the definition of organic farming was ambiguous, and the display of organic agricultural products was overflowing, and imaginary organic was becoming rampant.

At the end of the 1990s, in order to harmonize the international organic certification system, an organic farm product and organic food inspection certification system (Organic JAS, which is based on the Japanese Agricultural Standard System) was introduced in Japan. The Act on the promotion of organic agriculture was established in December 2006.

Development of policies and systems related to organic agriculture at the national level by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries level has progressed.

However, the legislative standard (Organic JAS) incorporates the minimum standard (minimum requirement) for organic agriculture, and has institutionalized the above-mentioned shallow misrecognition and understanding.

Organic farming is not a specific farming method to meet standards such as Organic JAS standards. Agriculture and farming are established on the balance of workings between nature and man.
2. Exploring truly sustainable agriculture beyond the boundaries of organic farming and natural farming

- Reaching the horizon called low-input, nature-symbiosis agriculture
- Practices such as natural farming and non-fertilizer natural cultivation

◆ Prior to organic farming methods with an emphasis on compost application practice of organic farming: Natural farming

- The mainstream method of organic farming in the early days was to explore the shift to pesticide-free and chemical-free fertilizer cultivation while centering on soil productivity by introducing organic fertilizer.
- From the middle of the 1930s, the religious scientist Mokichi Okada (1882-1955) and the agricultural philosopher Fukuoka Masanobu (1913-2008) were independent of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Proposing to assemble farming methods based on drawing out the power of soil and crops, their methods became known as natural farming methods.
◆ Attention to natural farming methods / natural farming

- One non-fertilizer method is called Syomei or natural farming method with low input / internal circulation / symbiotic agriculture (Low input / sustainable agriculture)
- Yoshikazu Kawaguchi’s natural farming:
  Akame Natural Farming School
- Groups that challenge non-fertilizer natural cultivation:
  Nico
- High interest in natural cultivation: Areas where organic materials such as plants and manure are difficult to secure in the area (e.g. Ogawa-machi, Saitama Prefecture)

Akashi Farm: 明石農園
(Miyoshi-cho, Iruma-gun, Saitama Prefecture, farmed in 2005)

10 years of soil creation:
Practice in a field of about 10a

2005 ~ 6 years  Non-fertilizer tomato, cucumber withering
3 years  Harvesting barley

September 2015: Sowing vegetables such as Radish, Arugula, Red mustard and Shandong vegetables

2 months later
- The green leaves are beautiful
- There is almost no insect bite
- Less weed
- We can eat it on the spot
- Delicious!
Proposing low-input, internal circulation, symbiotic organic farming technology

The Organic Agricultural Technology Conference by Kiichi Nakajima and Tetsuo Akamine gave a warning to material-dependent organic agriculture and advocated resource-saving low-input organic agriculture rather than relying on input materials.

In organic farming, the field and the environment surrounding it is a single ecosystem. Innumerable creatures are living there, and crops are regarded as one part of the whole. It is necessary to create technology that coexists with nature.
Regional (circulation) farming that coexists with nature

- Soil productivity by introducing compost over many years
- Farmland is a stable ecosystem

Organic farming by pioneers who have reached maturity
- Low input / sustainable agriculture
- Less dependency on external organic input
- Agriculture with affinity with natural farming

Unlimited mature organic farming:
- Approaching natural farming

Resources, sustainability, biodiversity axis and farming patterns

- Mass production of cheap and safe food
- Mass input of materials and energy

- Conventional agriculture (modern agriculture)
- Organic farming
  - Large-scale industrial organic farming
  - Fertilizer / material input type organic farming
  - Organic farming utilizing the natural ecosystem circulation
- Natural farming
- Traditional farming

Regional resource circulation, sustainability, biodiversity
3. Under the industrialization of organic farming

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- Toward the horizon of truly sustainable agriculture

◆ Beyond the existing global agri-food system

- The relationship between human beings and nature has been drastically reviewed, and a network of partnerships (life community relationships) and collaborative social projects (solidarity economy) have been created locally.

The new mechanism that connects food and agriculture

- TEIKEI: Farmer (producer)-consumer alliance
- Formation of an appropriate scale market (Local production for local consumption, farmers market, etc.)
- CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) movement, etc.
◆ **Organic 3.0**

- In 2015, IFOAM published a discussion document called Organic 3.0 (Subtitle: “For truly sustainable farming and consumption”)
- Getting ideas in shape on issues and directions for the international situation facing the organic agriculture movement
- Organic 3.0 transforms it by positioning organic as a truly sustainable agricultural system and further enhancing the holistic food and agricultural system from farm to final product. It is aiming for that. The framework of the food and agriculture system is composed of ecological soundness, economic feasibility (profitability), social justice, cultural diversity, and high transparency. (Source: Organic 3.0)

◆ **Agroecology Movement Philosophy**

- Pièrè Rabbi in France has resolutely rejected chemical modern farming while practicing organic farming. He has advocated **Agroecology as his fundamental idea**.
- The movement’s philosophy overlaps with organic agriculture in that it explores truly sustainable farming and has a lot in common with practices such as environmental efforts.
- The movement’s philosophy encompasses all sciences, movements, and practices that seek the ideal way of agriculture and society to protect the ecosystem.
- Organic agriculture and sustainable primary agriculture are not specific. **Truly sustainable agriculture is backed by experience & knowledge, living knowledge, and scientific knowledge that encompass society the environment, and understanding. This recognition is spreading.**
Hayashi farm: 林農園  
(Sakado, Sakura City)  
A friendly relationship with consumers is the starting point of agriculture

- Cultivate approx. 80 items of vegetables, beans, wheat and fruits in a 2.4 ha field, with 2.4 ha of forest, approximately 150 chickens raised
- Delivering sets of vegetables directly to about 100 consumers, in nearby areas such as Chiba City, Sakura City, Yotsukaido City
- Delivery once a week or every other week of 8-18 items
- Trainee acceptance 20 years
  In recent years, the number of trainees working in municipalities near Sakura City has increased
  Inba Organic Vegetable Production Association
  formed by 10 people
- Supply organic vegetables to a nursing home for the aged near Sakura City, leading to stable management of new farmers