

The Group for Reclaiming Our Beautiful Small Village of Oguni from Radioactivity

(1) Project operator: The group for reclaiming our beautiful small village of Oguni from radioactivity

[Establishment] September 16, 2011

[No. of members] 294 households (As of January 15, 2011), about 70% of the all Oguni district households

[Objective] To restore the Oguni district contaminated by radioactivity from the Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant to a place where people can live a safe and secure life permanently”

[Major activities]

- (1) To make a contamination survey and promote decontamination based on its results
- (2) To promote area industries, for example, by introducing and planting crops resilient to radioactive contamination
- (3) To establish an inspection system to ensure safe and secure farm products
- (4) To develop a region where people can live a purposeful life permanently
- (5) To promote cooperation with Oguni and Shimo-oguni resident associations
- (6) To promote partnership with Fukushima University and other research institutes, as well as groups and individuals beneficial to our activities
- (7) Any other activities deemed necessary to achieve the objective above

(2) Activities for recovery

The group began taking atmospheric readings in October 17, just one month after its inauguration, to get the details of radioactive contamination. The air dose rate survey conducted by the national government used 2 km mesh, and even the contamination map prepared by Date City (a more detailed version) used 1km mesh (2 points). An official detailed contamination survey has not been conducted by the national government yet. Under such circumstances, with the cooperation of about 40 members (112 people in total), a survey was conducted for 533 points by using 100m mesh, covering the cultivated lands and residential areas (except forests and abandoned farmlands) to produce a detailed radiation map.

Since the monitoring study of farm products conducted by the national government did not cover enough study areas (required number of points), we could not fully confirm the safety of farm products, including homegrown ones. So, we rent a room of the local community center to set up a simple measuring instrument for radioactive substances in foods, NaI(Tl) scintillator, and a radioactive measurement station for local residents (October 22). At the same time, we started a contamination survey in farm products, including homegrown ones.

(3) Achievements

The completed radioactive map revealed some important facts: highly contaminated spots (7.2 μ Sv/h max at 10cm above the ground, and 5.1 μ Sv/h max at 100cm above the ground) are scattered over the area and air dose levels vary greatly among mesh sections, indicating that the survey conducted by the public administrations failed to grasp the realities accurately. This “map of the air dose rates in residential and agricultural spaces” provides important and essential basic information in 1) discussing the development of a farming plan for the next year concretely, 2) asking for cooperation from universities and research institutes for proper agricultural advises and decontamination works, and 3) ensuring the funds for recovery support projects. A tried and tested contamination survey system like ours could be widely applied by municipalities and residential organizations. We believe this is a useful system that could be disseminated to other damaged areas.

(4) Future development

The group is to provide a place where local people gather and exchange opinions to support each other. We will continue to work for the recovery of foods, agriculture, and livelihood in the area, by 1) conducting area status surveys with resident participation, 2) presenting the opinions of local people to the city, prefecture and national governments to affect public administration (politics), and 3) cooperating with universities, research institutes, and other relevant groups.