



Welcome to Matsuzuka Soil Museum



Greetings from the Director

Radioactive cesium released into the air due to the nuclear accident following the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 fell onto the ground in Iitate village with rain. Since radioactive cesium adsorbed strongly to clay in the soil stayed in the soil without moving and continued to emit radiation from the ground surface, the spatial radiation dose rate in the village did not decrease. Therefore, evacuation orders were issued to all villagers in Iitate village from April 2011 to March 2017. In order to return the villagers to their homes as soon as possible, the Japanese government has conducted decontamination work to remove the surface of residential and agricultural lands, and has reduced radiation dose to safe levels. In particular, in farmland that occupies a large area, mountain soil was put in to restore the ground that has been reduced by shaving work to its original height. ("Guest soil")

At the soil museum, the holes dug for soil survey after the decontamination work are left as they are. Please observe the soil with your own eyes.

The points of observation are the following three points.

- The difference in color between the original soil and the "guest soil" seen around 10 cm from the ground surface
- Puddles collected in holes (groundwater)
- Unglazed clay pipes leading to pools (underdrain)

These are agricultural engineering techniques that have long been used in Japan. All of the wagyu beef and rice around the museum are produced on this kind of invisible agricultural foundation. I would be grateful if you could take this opportunity to learn about the agricultural technology that supports Japanese food production.

This soil museum has been set up by the generous permission of landowners: Mr. Takeshi Yamada and his son, Mr. Yutaka Yamada. In addition, the construction of the soil museum was supported by the members of Nonprofit organization "Resurrection of Fukushima".



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