

Venue 1-2 [Nagano Pref.] Iida Municipal Wada Elementary School

- Fifth-grade students of Iida Municipal Wada Elementary School, thank you for the presentation. When I was in the 5th grade of elementary school, I experienced rice cultivation, too. However, the activities were just planting and harvesting rice a few times a year and finally steaming rice to make and eat rice cakes. The 5th-grade students of Wada Elementary School didn't just end their rice cultivation experience as hands-on activities, but they connected it to "learning" and thought about various things based on the learning. Keep up the good work. Thank you for the wonderful presentation.
- I think it was good that the children realized how hard rice cultivation was through their experience of rice cultivation with the support of local people, and that they were able to compare the present with the past. I also learned that there are various problems in rice cultivation, and that social problems such as the declining birthrate and the aging population are related to rice cultivation. I was also impressed by their idea of focusing on rice flour. I tend to eat bread as it can readily be eaten, but I will try to eat rice more. Thank you very much for the presentation.
- I honestly thought that it was wonderful that the children utilized what they learned in social studies, took the initiative to think about issues in rice cultivation, thought about what they could do concretely, and did what they could do while working in cooperation with local people. They have many unique ideas and suggestions, such as promoting rice flour, etc., for the future. Thank you very much.
- The children find issues and think about the meaning of the process through their experience. (The children were able to solve problems and think about the meaning of processes through actual experience.) It was great that they learned about the efforts and ideas of people involved in rice cultivation, and that they focused on staple foods alternative to rice due to changes in food culture. I think it would be good to think more about the attractiveness of rice flour and how to use it.
- I found it wonderful that the children found problems in rice cultivation and thought about and did what they can do. I think it would be difficult for young people to participate in rice cultivation because there are fewer young people, but it would be effective if the children made posters to convey the importance of rice cultivation. I also try to eat as much rice as possible and give importance to it. Their presentation was very easy to hear because they spoke clearly.
- Thank you very much for the presentation. Through the rice cultivation activities, the children learned how to make rice and how hard it is, as well as focused on the problems in rice cultivation and of rice farmers. I realized that many things can be learned through the activities. Since I am also from Iida City, Nagano, I feel that I should be interested in agricultural issues. At the same time, I think it is necessary to think about not only rice cultivation but also agriculture as a whole.
- I realized for the first time how much effort and time it took to cultivate rice that I usually eat. I should

appreciate it more. I was also surprised that the children learned that there are many problems in rice cultivation and listed five things that people can do to solve those problems. I think that "eating rice" was something I could be aware of regularly, but I couldn't think of being engaged in rice cultivation or being involved with the staff of JA, so it would be great if they could put those ideas into action.

I was also impressed by the children as they learned that rice flour protects rice cultivation in Japan, and compared flour, which is dependent on imports, with rice flour that can be produced in Japan. It's really amazing that they can focus their eyes on not only rice but also other crops that support rice cultivation. I will do what I can do right away to protect and inherit rice cultivation in Japan.