

**Socio-economic impact of hybrid seeds for a local vegetable variety on rural community:
Case of Seinaiji-Akane turnip (*Brassica napus* L.) in Nagano, Japan. (Oral Presentation)**

Yoshiaki [Nishikawa](#)¹, Kazuhiro Nemoto²

¹ Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya, 4648601 Japan

² Graduate School of Agriculture, Shinshu University, Minami-minowa, Nagano, 3994598 Japan

Introduction

Production of local varieties of vegetable has been decreasing in rural Japan due to modernization of agriculture and change of lifestyle. However collaboration between farmers and breeders has been initiated for regeneration of such varieties, partly aiming at revitalization of rural livelihood.

Objectives

To identify the socio-economic impact of the introduction of hybrid seed production for local vegetable varieties which was aimed for uniformity in produces responding to market requirements.

Methods

Among the five cases reported for the utilization of hybrid seeds for revitalization of local varieties in Nagano Prefecture, Japan, Seinaiji-Akane turnip (*Brassica napus* L.) was studied by reviewing the records kept by the producers group, university, village government and interviewing key persons for the development.

Results

In order to sell local variety of turnip produced in Seinaiji Village, an initiative to develop a uniform variety was taken by a group of farmers in collaboration with a breeder and introduction of hybrid seeds was found to be the best practice. After Eight years of development, F1 variety was registered as Seinaiji-Akane. By harvesting hybrid seeds and distributing them to growers, the production of Seinaiji-akane was increased more than 50% responding to the market demands of pickles factories, but traditional OP variety has also been cultivated continuously.

Conclusion

Securing uniformity acceptable to market is one strategy to revitalize the use of local variety and hybrid seeds can be the best option. Collaboration between farmers and formal institutes were found to be important mechanism for such initiative. Continuation of the production of OP variety is also observed and farmers perception of OP variety was further strengthened by introduction of hybrid seeds.

Keywords: collaboration, farmers, perception, formal institutes, market, OP variety

Selected References

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Presenting Author: Yoshiaki Nishikawa, nishikawa@gsid.nagoya-u.ac.jp
