

The trip to Takahata was in many ways a trip of new experiences and new learning for me. On the first day, we visited Takahata Junior High School. We had the chance to talk to them and they introduced us to their farming club. Although some students were quite shy, the leader of the club explained to us their activities as a club. I was very impressed by how individual members of the club are proactive in farming. When I asked one girl why she joined the club, she told me that it was because her friend had invited her into joining the club together. The motive may be small, but both students were very active and willing toward their work. This enthusiasm of the junior high school students toward working with their society is the true value Takahata holds.

On the second day, my group visited the home of Miyagawa-san. They had vegetable farms and rice fields. First, we helped clean the tray for the seeds. There was this machine which cleans the tray when you put the tray into it. However, there were just so many trays that no matter how hard we worked on it, it seemed as if we had a lot more to work on. I realized that manual labor is also a very important part of agricultural farming. Then, we took turns to go to the vegetable farm. I went to the green onion farm, and I helped to pick up the weeds. As we worked on it, we found so many bugs and insects that truly illustrated what it means to do agricultural farming. Some green onions were bent down and broken on the bottom where we can see that some bug has eaten the part of the plant.



In the afternoon, we went into the rice farm with our bare feet. The field was so much warmer than I had expected. We used our hands to scoop the weeds out of the farm. Miyagawa-san taught us how to distinguish the young plant from weed as they both looked very similar.



Overall, I believe that the sentence of “子供に自然を 老人に仕事を” explains all of Takahata’s agricultural farming. The children are surrounded by nature in which they start to think about nature and it becomes a part of their life without realizing. On the other hand, the elderlies have a job to inherit everything that they have created to their children. Their cooperation is what creates the Takahata’s agriculture farming and leads to their further prosperity.