



表紙

『RICE IN ASIA — Lives of Seven Farmers』 (Published by Times Academic Press for the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre, Singapore) より



Shinnai Kobayashi and his successor, Shinya Kobayashi.



Planting *nyubyo* by Shinya Kobayashi.

Shinnai Kobayashi's Rice Farming Philosophy の節から、“ぴゅあコシヒ カリ” の栽培方法の部分を紹介します

日本の部分のもくじ

* 日本の部分の執筆者は、
高橋一男東洋大学教授です

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Shinnai Kobayashi and his son make most of their profits through their secure method of cultivation, which involves organically grown seedlings and naturally-cultivated rice without fertilizer. Kobayashi started the natural crop-cultivating garden, "pure *Koshihikari*," eight years ago. It is called "Yusuien." Terms such as organic vegetables and organic rice refer to cultivation using organic fertilizers. Shinnai Kobayashi has some doubts about their use. Various kinds of fertilizers, such as the faeces of cows, pigs, and birds are often used. Yet, the amount of antibiotics in the fertilizers and in the animal is not indicated in the manure. Perhaps crops grown with organic fertilizers have traces of the antibiotics. For example, there once was a problem with breeding yellowtails. Some mothers would not let their children eat cultured yellowtails because the yellowtails had been given antibiotics to prevent diseases while being bred in such high densities. Kobayashi suspects that there may be a similar fear with organically cultivated crops.

There is the possibility that the organic fertilizer is ultimately damaged. Consequently, the idea of employing inorganic chemical fertilizers for security may become popular. Shinnai Kobayashi, however, grows crops without using organic or inorganic chemical fertilizers. Although, he does not use any kind of fertilizers in his fields, his rice grows well. Even though it is practically left untouched, it seems more lively when compared to other rice fields. The process used involves discharging the energy of the field and the secret is in the rice seedlings.

Basically, the difference is in the process of the seedlings' growth. Generally, *chibyo*, infant rice seedlings, are planted in Itakura-machi. In the case of special types of rice, *nyubyo*, baby rice seedlings, are used because the size of the seedling is a little smaller. The majority of farmers

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use *chibyo*. *Nyubyo* is quite rare among farmers in Itakura-machi.

Seibyo, mature rice seedlings, are more than 20 cm in length and closer to *chibyo* in size. In the case of *seibyo*, they are lightly sowed in a box that measures 30 cm by 60 cm. This box is then used in the planting machine. It is called "pot sowing" and farmers plant them one by one with a special farm implement. While *chibyo* is planted after 20 to 25 days, *seibyo* takes 45 days more or less. *Nyubyo* can be planted after seven to ten days.

Nyubyo are about 10 cm in length. The sprouts appear not after germination, but after the sowing of seed. For a period of four days, they are grown in heat and water, but not sunlight. This is because *nyubyo* must be planted before the unhulled rice seed falls off so that it can be planted with it. The farmers often say that the seedlings are planted with their "lunch." When they are planted this way, the rice has energy to grow. For this reason, fertilizer is unnecessary. In order to conserve the starch in the rice seed, sunlight is shut out and the root is kept relatively short. This process is contrary to the usual cultivating method in which the seedlings are extended.

Shinnai Kobayashi uses urethane mats for sowing the seedlings whereas, usually, soil and vinyl are put into a box, and the seeds are sowed, irrigated, and turned over. With the urethane mats, the roots do not have to be stretched since the mat is organized by itself. In the box method, the roots become stretched because the soil is placed on a thin piece of vinyl put at the bottom of the box. The vinyl must be removed carefully when planting otherwise the seedling mat will be destroyed and will not lie firm in the machine. Instead of this procedure, Kobayashi and his son use a 1-cm thick urethane mat with a bit of soil and they sow the seeds on it.