

Re-inventing Japan project

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I did exchange program at ESALQ ,Sao Paulo university, in Brazil from April 2017 to February 2018. This report is described about my experience.

Initially, this is second time to visit ESALQ for me. First visiting is in summer vacation 2016 as short term Re inventing project.

I wanted to do long term since first time because I felt ESALQ has high quality education and Brazil is one of the most strong country of agriculture. Because of that I applied this project and fortunately I could be exchange student.

I'm really glad that had this great opportunity and appreciate a lot of supports of everyone who took care.

In the first semester I took some classes but I focused on more learning Portuguese and to do long-term internship. I lived in shearing house with ESAIQ students and they helped me a lot to be accustomed in Brazil.

In June and July I did long-term Internship of agricultural cooperative of Tome-acu for about 40 days. Tome-acu is located in the north area of Brazil in Amazon rainforest. It is know as area of Japanese emigration and agroforestry which is land system of agriculture and forestry. As representative product are pepper, cacao, acai and passion fruits.

There is also agricultural cooperative to sell products and processes to poppa. For instant, passion fruits ,acai and areola would be processing after harvest. They also have silo to stock pepper and cacao. This silo has important role of selling when international market price is high and to save logistics cost.

In the first week I learned how cooperative processes products at juice factory and how to sell main dry crops in the international market.

Movement of international price, tax related domestic market in Brazil and exporting root are things that I haven't study directly so it is really interesting context for me.

Rest of them I did farm staying and researched how is the system of agroforestry. I stayed 8 different farms in total for 3 days each. I worked in the farm as employee in the morning to afternoon and asked interview to them.

Everyone has many stories from begging of emigration until now. The first period of Japanese emigration of Amazon is the most difficult part because they developed Amazon native forest to land to start agriculture. While developing they were suffering from malaria disease, difficulties of adapt foreign country and also success story. These stories are that I haven't imagined before I talked with first generation of immigrant directly.

According to interview many different farms I could figure out that they have different way and idea of agriculture even if do same system in the same area. Planting as combination of various different crops is common but it is different which and crops plant more and less for example main crops of Farm A are cacao and pepper and with some fruits but Farm B are acai and pepper and oil palm,

This experience was great opportunity to understand how is real agriculture and also I had great time to talk with Japanese immigrant about their story.

I participated in the ESALQ International Summer Course for 2 weeks from July 24th to August 4th. Students from various countries gathered from ESALQ students as well as from other universities, and conducted classroom lessons and company tours on Brazilian agriculture.

I had great time to visit general examination agriculture, research facilities and factory not only ordinary lesson of ESALQ but only outside of the university .

Particularly I got impressive the tour of companies called Raizen which is sugarcane production to bioethanol processing.

Agriculture by companies that do all the production processes from sowing to harvesting on a large machine before I've never seen it because it is impossible to do in this scale in Japan.

I felt overwhelmed by the richness and magnitude of Brazilian natural resources related to agriculture too. After harvesting, they have processes to squeeze the sugarcane large boiler or machine and heat it to bioethanol.

Through this summer course I learned that Brazil can produce not only food but also energy in agriculture and that the agricultural sector will develop further in the future.

Also on the last day there was an opportunity to give presentation the problems concerning agriculture of each country as a group. Those presentation were precious time to talk about not only Brazil but also students share about agriculture in each other country. It is the first time to do presentation in English for me and this experience gave me some confidents too.

From January 17 to February 8, I did Internship with Nichirei Brazil (hereinafter referred to as the local company name NIAGRO) located in Petrolina City, Pernambuco state.

NIAGRO is a material manufacturer specializing in acerola. It operates a food factory of FSSC 22000 standard and organizes acerola farmers mainly in the middle region of San Francisco river. NIAGRO covers over half of world demand of acerola material.

During Internship I stayed in a Japanese employee's house, trained in each department from Monday to Friday.

NIAGRO has 6 departments in all, ① quality assurance, ② environmental management , ③ Manufacturing and management, ④ raw material procurement, ⑤ finance · accounting, ⑥ exporting work, and additionally on the research farm activities.

Managers of each department showed how produce aserola to international market and also gave me piratical experience. I learned production of company and factory processing and export.

Lastly I appreciate a lot of support from everyone who helped me. I want to become a bridge between Brazil and Japan.