

Draft resolution for the VII International Conference of La Via Campesina proposed by Japan Family Farmers Movement (Nouminren)

Nuclear energy ruins peasant family farming; Stop human rights violation against peasants, withdraw from nuclear energy

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On March 11, 2011, a serious accident happened at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima despite the assurances from the Japanese government and business circles that nuclear power is absolutely safe.

In Fukushima, still nearly 80,000 people are forced to evacuate from the place they lived before the accident. The situation of the melted nuclear fuel is unknown. The crippled plant continues releasing contaminated water. Nobody can see an end to the accident. Nevertheless, Japan's Abe government sticks to the policy to resume operations at nuclear plants and export nuclear reactors. The government is even about to stop compensation and support for victims.

Since the accident of nuclear reactors in Fukushima, the safety of agricultural products has been received a lot of attention. However, a very serious issue has been overlooked. That is the issue of health and life of peasant/family farmers struggling to continue farming on the land with high levels of radiation.

To prevent unnecessary radioactive exposure, facilities to use radiation such as nuclear power plants or hospitals in Japan have to designate the places with high levels of radiation as restricted areas. Peasants in Fukushima have been forced to work on the land with higher levels of radiation than the restricted areas.

Japan's regulations say employers of these facilities must provide medical checkups to workers and also have to monitor the amount of radiation workers are exposed to. However, these regulations won't apply to farmers. This is a serious discrimination and human rights violation against peasants/family farmers. It is urgent to create a detailed map to reveal contaminated areas and protect peasant/family farmers from radiation exposure.

Meanwhile, we now know that under nuclear energy, the agriculture and the life of ordinary people cannot exist because once an accident happens, it causes irreversible, catastrophic damage on limitless areas over almost indefinite time.

Here at the 7th International Conference of La Via Campesina, delegates around the world call for **an immediate end of discrimination and human rights violation against peasant/family farmers in Fukushima, an immediate withdrawal from nuclear power and radical shift toward renewable energy, and full compensation for all the sufferers from the nuclear accidents.**