

Mr. N. Iwazawa' s “winter no drainage - zero tillage” and EM Super Cera Easy Farming for paddy rice growing harmonious with nature.



In the early summer of 2006, about 2,000 fireflies were seen dancing in the paddies.

Takayama Village, Nagano Prefecture fosters agricultural methods that are harmonious with nature in a program dubbed as “home to fireflies project” . The aim of this project is to develop the region to be rich in biodiversity.

In line with this project, the “*Hotaru no Iru Tambo wo Tsukuru Kai*” (Make Paddies-with-Fireflies Association)” in Takayama was started in November 2005. The group wants to practice a mix of the EM Super Cera Easy Farming and Mr. Nobuo Iwazawa' s “winter no drainage-zero tillage” method.

Water is spread around in the paddy after harvest. This allows the small living creatures to continue their activity, suppress growth of weeds and lets the microbes fertilize the soil.

The activity of the organisms is not stopped and the microbes are included into the manure, and the growth of weeds are also suppressed.

Seedlings with 5.5 leaves grown under cold conditions are then transplanted onto the untilled and hardened winter paddy soil. The seedlings firmly extend their roots, grow strong like wild plants, and become strong against pest insects. EM Technology application is by Super Cera Easy Farming Basic Application Set: use of EM Super Cera, Activated EM, and EM Bokashi.

The water in the paddy creates a good environment for the microorganisms to multiply. With the application of EM, it becomes possible to develop a paddy rich with living organisms even at the first year of use. A viscous and pulpy soft layer of decomposing substances made up of microbes and small organisms form a layer on the paddy bottom, preventing the weeds from sprouting. This pulpy layer also allows tubifex (sludge worms) and algae to propagate and make natural manure. This makes it possible to reduce the amount of manure to be applied to the paddy. Since plowing and turning over are not needed, this method saves the farmer time and energy.

