Study abroad and student exchange in agriculture education

The importance of short-term study abroad and student exchange (STSAE) programs in agriculture education has been documented in several publications such as NACTA Journal and Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education. In 2016, a STSAE program was organized for undergraduate agriculture students of Kauai Community College, Hi, USA and Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (OUAI/M), Obihiro, Japan for international agriculture exposure, on-site Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and production agriculture training and student presentation.

Kauai Community College (KCC) team in Obihiro, Japan
In Summer 2016, five KCC students and a faculty visited OUAI/M, Obihiro, Japan for one week. The details of visit are as follows:

1. Study abroad team

2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM): a part of the training

3. Training on potato harvesting and post-harvest technology, and meat processing

4. Student presentation and discussion

5. Travel and meeting

6. Horse riding, kendo practice and friendship

7. Farm tools and equipments

8. Food

9. Obihiro University team at Kauai Community College, Hawaii, USA

10. Field training, island trip and fun

Fig. 1. Team for the study abroad in agriculture: Five KCC students and a faculty at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Obihiro, Hokkaido, Japan. Team members from the left are Eman I. Gabour, Mason K. Chock (Kama), Robert A. Petersen, Dr. Sharad P. Marahatta, Michael B. Girod and Randy K. Umetsu (Photo: Masanori).

Fig. 2. Experiments with biological control agent, B. thuringiensis (Bt) (A) on tomatoes in greenhouse and (B) cabbage in the field (photo: Maki Ishiwata). (C) KCC student, Rob, observing a Bt treated tomato fruit and (D) spider: a common predator in IPM (photo: Randy).

Fig. 3. KCC team at the field for (A) harvesting potatoes (with Obihiro team), (B) processing and baking harvested potatoes (photos: Sharad) and (C) in the laboratory for processing pig meat (photo: a volunteer at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine).

Fig. 4. KCC and Obihiro team: (A) students and KCC faculty, Dr. Sharad P. Marahatta (first from the left), (B) KCC student, Randy Umetsu, (sixth from the left) giving his talk (photos: Masanori).

Fig. 5. (A) KCC team and Dr. Koike (on the far right) travelling from Sapporo to Obihiro (photos: Sharad), and (B) KCC team with President Dr. Kiyoaki Okuda (fifth from the left) and Dr. Koike (on the far right) (photo: volunteer).

Fig. 6. (A) KCC student, Eman, riding a horse (photo: Sharad) and (B) kendo player, KCC student, Randy, (third from the left on first row) with KCC and Obihiro team after a special kendo practice session (photo: volunteer).

Fig. 7. A tool for primary tillage, Mouldboard plough (photo: Mika), (B) traditional tillage practice shown at Horse Museum, Obihiro (photo: Sharad), (C) KCC students with Obihiro farmers (photo: volunteer) and (D) KCC student, Randy, in a farmers market (photo: Sharad).

Fig. 8. (A) KCC student, Kama, preparing a popular food item of Obihiro (Jingisukan) and (B) KCC team with Dr. Koike (first from the left) at Dr. Koike’s home for dinner (photos: Randy).

Fig. 9. Obihiro students (A) at Kauai Community College gate, (B) with KCC students in welcome program, (C) in Plant Biology and Tropical Agriculture (PBT) laboratory and (D) at a apiary station for training and (E) one of the Obihiro students, Hiroto, in classroom for his talk (photos: Sharad).

Fig. 10. (A) Fun at Kauai Community College (KCC), field trainings at (B) and (C) KCC, (D) Syngenta Research facility, (E) two farmers field, (F, G, and H) Kokee and Waimea canyon area, and (I) Syngenta Research facility.

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Impact
- Institutional relationship and faculty collaboration was increased.
- Student enrolment in agriculture was increased.