

## Experience as a member of JOCV in Caoson village, Vietnam

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are developed from volcanic ash in response to climate, time, biota, geography and human activities, suggesting that the soils around Kuwanua are affected by different pedogenic processes in a small area. We considered podzolisation in the soils around the Kuwanuma in addition to Andosolization.

**【Materials and methods】** Three pedons at approximately 800m above sea level (ASL) and 3 pedons at approximately 1000m ASL, 6 pedons in total, were surveyed and sampled according to the genetic horizons around Kuwanuma. In addition to some general physicochemical study, sodium-pyrophosphate extractable organic carbon ( $C_p$ ) and fulvic acid carbon ( $C_f$ ) were determined by the dichromate oxidation method. The extent of podzolisation was also examined by using the  $C_p$ /(organic carbon) and  $C_f/C_p$  ratios.

**【Results and discussions】** Although all 6 pedons surveyed in this study are classified as Andosols, weak differences were found between the 800m ASL sites and the 1000m ASL sites. As a podzolisation trend, the vertical distribution of  $C_p$  and  $C_f$  of 3 pedons at the 1000m ASL sites showed high values between the upper part to the middle part of the soil profiles and they decreased gradually to the lower part. In contrast, 3 pedons located at the 800m ASL sites showed the highest value in the upper part of the soil profiles and the value decreased steeply to the lower part. These results suggest that the Andosols at the 1000m ASL sites are affected by faint podzolisation and podzolisation of the Andosols at the 800m ASL sites is almost negligible. However, no horizons met the criteria of  $C_p/OC \geq 0.5$  and  $C_f/C_p \geq 0.5$ . Thus, mobilization and accumulation of humic substances were not evident according to the method used to differentiate spodic horizons from buried andic A horizons in the World Reference Base for Soil Resources. All horizons of the pedons surveyed in this study showed low  $C_p/OC$  and high  $C_f/C_p$  values that are the fulvic properties.

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From June 2009 to June 2011, I worked as a rural development extension worker in Vietnam, which was supported by JOCV (Japan Overseas Corporative Volunteers) program, JICA. My office was belonging to Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at Hoabinh Province. The objectives of my job were for improving living conditions and for helping to increase residents' income in the village.

My first activity was to know farmers and their living status and to build friendship up with farmers. So, I tried to talk with many farmers in the village as frequently as possible, and I sometimes stayed in the village for 3-5 days to deepen friendship with them. However, it took a long time, about 1 year, to understand Vietnamese, so it was not easy to hear farmer's opinion and to understand feelings of Vietnamese people.

I conducted 3 activities. One was to introduce Japanese agricultural technology about natural agrichemical, compost, raising seedlings, and so on. Another was to produce furnace made by dirt and manure. And the last was to construct a model farm for producing organic vegetable. What I did for 2 years was limited so that I couldn't get any actual achievements in these activities. However, my experiences for the 2 years were so precious. I am pleased if my modest activities may contribute to improvement of living status of farmers in Caoson village.