

## THE FUNDAMENTAL THEORY OF NATURE FARMING

Over a decade ago I discovered that it is possible to produce large agricultural crops by means of the nature farming method, which adds only leaf and grass composts to the soil and uses no artificial fertilizers or animal manure at all. At the time, however, few farmers would listen to what I had to say, no matter how hard I tried to convince them. I have continued unflinchingly to the present not just because from the outset I have known that my belief is true. I am also convinced that the nature farming method has the potential to save the farming population, and is thus deeply connected with the fate of the whole nation. Unfortunately, the grave situation that I anticipated with such concern has now come about. I am painfully aware of the need to win the understanding of both the farmers and the general Japanese population. I am gradually perceiving hopeful signs in the outlook for the nature farming method.

The fact that I am a religious leader is helpful here because members of our organization believe what I say and put it into practice, even though they cannot explain it. This has produced relatively quick results and won many sympathizers. Recently, even ordinary farmers who are not members have gradually started paying attention to our method.

The wonderful flavors of foodstuffs raised by nature farming deserve special mention. Anyone who has tasted grains or vegetables grown in this way becomes reluctant to eat those raised with fertilizers. I myself eat only foods raised without fertilizers, and farmers following this system have increased to the extent that I receive more vegetables than I can eat.

In short, crops raised the natural way are far better than those raised with fertilizers. The important thing to understand in this connection is the soil's own capability. Because the Creator made soil to grow the crops needed by humans and animals, it contains in itself more than enough fertilizing material. Essentially, it is itself fertilizer. Ignorant of this fact, human beings have greatly weakened the soil by applying chemical fertilizers as if they were nourishing the plants. This is an astonishing error, since, what is really necessary to increase crop production is the strengthening of the soil. To ensure the finest results, it is necessary to keep the soil pure by mixing no impurities with it and adding nothing but natural composts.

The fundamental theory of nature farming is respect for nature. As the generation and growth of all things in the world illustrate, there is nothing that does not depend on the power of nature: that is, the three basic elements of fire, water and soil, as manifest in the sun, the moon, and the planet earth. Given plenty of sun, ample water and pure soil, plants will produce more than human beings require. The leaves that fall in abundance and cover the earth each autumn are the true enrichment of the soil. Nature is teaching us to use them to improve the soil.

The center of the earth is a mass of fire ceaselessly radiating ground heat – that is, the spirit of soil – in the form of nitrogen. A God-provided fertilizer, it penetrates the earth's crust and rises to accumulate at a certain height above the planet. It is then brought back to earth in rainfall to permeate the soil. This natural nitrogen fertilizer descends from the sky in exactly the required amounts.