

Visitors

1. Open Day 2008

On Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19, research institutes associated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the Tsukuba Agriculture & Forestry Research Complex held an open house. This event is held every year during Science and Technology Week.

On the 18th, the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences was the venue for displays, demonstrations, and mini-lectures; on the 19th, a program exhibit and quiz were held in the Tsukuba Agriculture Research Gallery, an exhibit facility in the Tsukuba Agriculture & Forestry Research Complex. Although the weather was unfortunately bad on the 18th, about 600 visitors enthusiastically participated in the demonstrations and activities (Photo 1).



Photo 1 Visitors used the Historical Agro-Environmental Browsing System (HABS) to compare land-use maps of the Kanto region made 120 years ago with those of the present.

2. Summer Science Camp 2008

Science Camp 2008 was a “residential experience program for science and technology” hosted by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), in which cooperating research institutions throughout Japan accept students of high school and college of technology, who conduct experiments and receive training under the guidance of researchers and experts in a variety of scientific and technological fields. The program’s aim is to have participants discover the “wonder” in everyday life and bring science and technology close to them by having them see how research is actually done and investigate things familiar to themselves using the latest research equipment.

Science Camp 2008 at the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences had two courses. A: “Let’s experience the wonder of soil!” and B: “Let’s investigate the interaction of plants through allelopathy.” The eight participants, four in each course, experienced how researchers investigate the agro-environment and work toward solutions to problems (Photos 2 and 3).



Photo 2 Participants went into the field and studied soil profiles and physical properties, which are important to food production.



Photo 3 Participants observed the phenomenon of allelopathy outdoors, and gathered plants to measure allelochemicals in the laboratory.