

## Visitors

### 1. Open Day 2009

On Friday and Saturday 17 and 18 April, research institutes associated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries in the Tsukuba Agriculture and Forestry Research Complex held an open day. This event is held every year during Science and Technology Week.

On the 17th, the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences was the venue for displays, demonstrations, and mini-lectures; on the 18th, a program exhibit and quiz were held in the Tsukuba Office of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Research Council Secretariat. About 1100 visitors enthusiastically participated in the demonstrations and activities (Photo 1).

### 2. Summer Science Camp 2009

Science Camp is a “residential experience program for science and technology” hosted by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Cooperating research institutions throughout Japan accept students from high schools and vocational colleges to conduct experiments and receive training under the guidance of researchers and experts in a variety of scientific and technological fields. The programs aims to have participants discover the wonder in everyday life. It brings science and technology close to them by having them see how research is done and having them investigate familiar things by using the latest research equipment.

Summer science Camp 2009 at the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences had two courses: A: “Let’s detect pesticide residues in crops” and B: “Learning the power of microorganisms— alcoholic fermentation.” Eight high-school students (four in each course) experienced how researchers investigate the agro-environment and work toward solutions to problems (Photos 2 and 3).



Photo 1 In the Agro-environmental Inventory Museum, researchers showed soil monoliths collected from the farmlands of Japan and other countries (photo) and various specimens of insects, micro-organisms, and fertilizers.



Photo 2 Participants learned the theory of ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) and measured trace amounts of pesticide residue in vegetables.



Photo 3 Participants learned about the power of micro-organisms and the production of bio-ethanol, and measured the efficiencies of plant biomass saccharification by enzymes and bio-ethanol production by yeast.