



FACULTY OF BIOSCIENCE& BIOINDUSTRY

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Establishment of a sustainable agricultural production system < Specially Appointed Assistant Professor > <Takahito Watanabe>

Content:

Today, the population on Earth is predicted to exceed 7 billion people and to over 9 billion people by 2050, food shortage is a big problem. Even today, there are more than 800 million people suffering from hunger. In addition, food for increased population will be also necessary, increasing food production is an urgent issue.

However, in modern agriculture supporting the food production system, the occurrence of insecticide-resistant insect pests has been a serious problem, becoming conspicuous due to the abuse of chemical pesticides. Therefore, in recent years, introduction of integrated pest management (IPM) has been promoted, that uses natural enemies as biological pesticides and not relying solely on chemical pesticides. However, IPM is not widely spread due to the complicated procedure and unstable controlling effect depending on weather conditions. Therefore, in order to construct a sustainable food production system, we are developing simple and reliable IPM. Specifically, we breed the natural enemies by genome editing technology and try to control the pest-control effect and palatability. At the same time, we will develop a verification system for the pestcontrol effect of breeding natural enemies using closed systems such as plant factories. In the future, we aim to establish a new IPM system utilizing the created natural enemy line, spread to the agricultural field. In addition, to contribute to society, we will launch a company that mass-produces various useful animals including natural enemies, to industrialize ourselves.

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