

Key futures of an accident and post-accident situation and the
challenges for local population facing a nuclear accident:
**Suetsugi case study: Radiological situation and
quality of food products in hamlet**

Workshop based on Fukushima case study

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Suetsugi – location

- Suetsugi hamlet is the most northern tip of Iwaki city. In 2011, there were about 120 households and 500 inhabitants
- It is located 27 km from the Fukushima Daichi NPP
- It was included within the 30 km radius zone where people were requested to stay indoors.



Suetsugi – context

- Most cities included in the 20-30 km annulus were then included in the “emergency evacuation preparation zone” but Suetsugi was not
- Inhabitants were evacuated on order of the city government on 13th March 2011. Some of the residents returned when the evacuation order was lifted on 22nd April 2011
 - 30% of families with children have not returned
- In Suetsugi, most inhabitants grow their own rice and and vegetables in their garden for their own consumption
- In January 2012, 9 months after the accident, the radiological situation was still unclear
 - Government-made measurements are focused on evacuated areas
 - Contamination of soil is relatively unknown. Farmers have no idea about the contamination of their parcels.

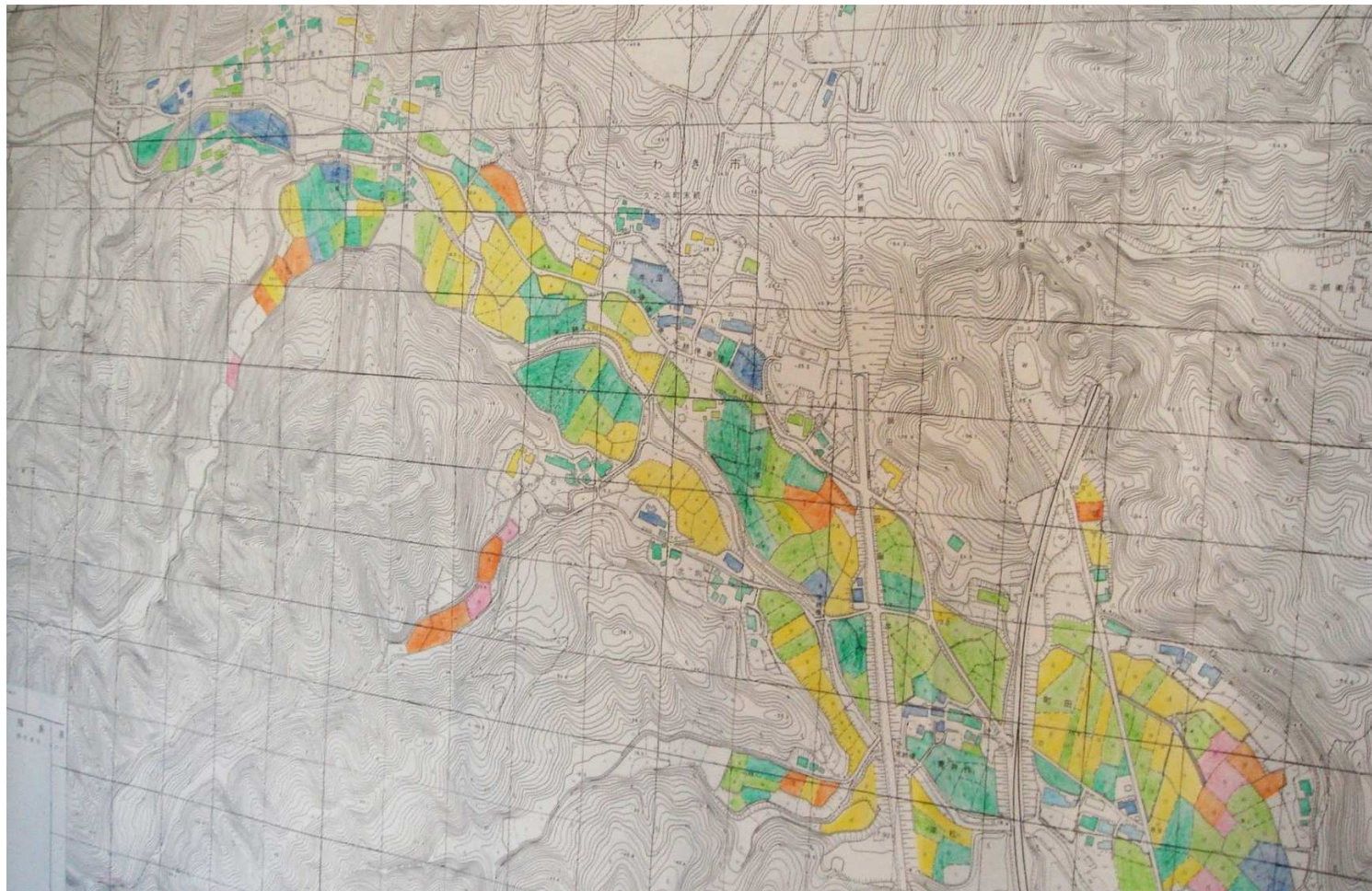
Suetsugi – mobilisation of inhabitants to clarify the situation



- In January 2012, 2 residents (a farmer and a resident) initiate and lead a process of determination of contamination, as neither TEPCO or local authorities acted (“I did not wish my son to grow up seeing a cowardly father). They got advice from NGO “Ethos in Fukushima”
- At first, about 40 inhabitants measured ambient dose rates in the houses
 - At 10 cm & 1 m above ground and in all 4 sides of the buildings and in areas where radioactivity could be high (e.g. where rainwater is accumulating)
- Then the inhabitants measured the rice paddy fields to know if rice farming could be resumed
 - Soil samples collected at depth 0-5 cm and 5-10 cm in each of the 440 paddy fields (1,000 samples in total), with adequate numbering, labelling and mapping of the samples
 - A local company performed the measurements, which were paid by TEPCO. Using the measurements, inhabitants drew radiation maps



Radiation map



Decrease of rice contamination

- After the accident, Suetsugi people were told not to grow rice. However, the leading farmer planted 1 paddy rice as a test to grasp the reality of the situation.
 - Rice cultivated on this parcel were contaminated at 232 Bq/kg
 - A bag of rice from the same paddy was sent to Iwate Agriculture & Forest office and was measured at 76 Bq/kg
- The (now authorised) harvest during the 2nd year gave rice at about 10 Bq/kg, and the harvest of the 3rd year had undetectable contamination levels
- However, some consumers are still reluctant to buy food produced in the Fukushima prefecture.

Round 1 of discussion: capacity of actors to rebuild dignified living conditions



- From your point of view, what are the lessons of the case as regard the capacity of local actors to rebuild dignified living conditions?
 - What have been the key issues at stakes for the different actors?
 - What have been the key dimensions of living conditions at stake?



Remarks and clarification questions on this definition of dignified living conditions?

Environment enabling the effective satisfaction of the essential needs

Integrity and effective personal capacity to act

Effective ability to build meaning and access reliable, trustworthy & true information

Effective capacity to act with others



Effective capacity to act on & benefit from one's political environment

Symbolic & spiritual resources

Territorial & cultural rooting of people and communities

Round 2 of discussion: how are uncertainties addressed



- What key uncertainties local actors are confronted with in the process of rebuilding dignified living conditions?
- What are the resources for addressing these uncertainties?
- From your point of view, what are the lessons of the case as regard the capacity of local actors to deal with uncertainties while rebuilding dignified living conditions?



Round 3 of discussion: what impact of public policies?



- If such a situation would occur in your own territory,
 - How would the system of actors react?
 - How would national policies (or regional policies if emergency/post-emergency management falls in their jurisdiction) influence the capacity of local actors to deal with the situation and rebuild/maintain dignified living conditions?
 - How could national policies be improved to increase the capacity of local actors to rebuild/maintain dignified living conditions?

