

SEPTEMBER, 2016

JICA-Obihiro Paraguay Volunteer Team Partnership Program, seventh group of short-term student volunteers

Four student volunteers from the School of Agriculture (Miria Tominaga 4th year, Chika Motomura 3rd year, Yuta Dodanuki 3rd year, and Yusuke Kishimoto 3rd year), for the Project for Strengthening Small Dairy Farmers in Itapua, Paraguay worked hard in Coronel Bogado, General Artigas, and San Pedro del Paraná in Itapúa Department in southern Paraguay. The four students arrived on August 18 and conducted a door-to-door survey of 12 farm households and reported on the results on September 10.

Initially, they had many difficulties. They fought early-morning cold temperatures that dipped below 5°C and were forced to change their schedule because rain made it difficult to use the farm roads. However, as they analyzed an enormous amount of data in their hotel there was a heat wave with temperatures exceeding 30°C.

This was the fifth year of this six-year program, which began in 2011. Four long-term volunteers (Kouka Uchino, Momoko Chiba, Toru Egi and Natsumi Kobayashi) comprised of graduate students and graduates of OUAVM, are the program's third group and they assisted the students. The two groups already had bonds from the OUAVM connection, but they became even stronger while cooperating with each other to efficiently collect information during the survey, and preparing for the presentations they had to give at OUAVM.



Short-term volunteers prepare materials for their presentations with support of long-term volunteers