

# Make **plum** agriculture a side business ~to protect the plum industry in Minabe Town~

A48 Wakayama Shin-ai Junior and Senior High School

Anju Takeguchi/Nanami Kondo  
Sakura Nagamatsu/Fuka Ichinose

Minabe town in Wakayama prefecture produced Nanko-Ume, a kind of plum everyone knows. And this town is the most famous as a plum-producing district, and produces 34,800 tons of plum. However, Minabe town suffers from serious problems that other areas all over Japan also have.

- ① Aging plum cultivators
- ② Lack of successors
- ③ Reduction of plum consumption

If our idea works well, we can apply it to the agriculture in other areas suffering from the problems of aging cultivators and lack of successors, and it will eventually help to improve a rate of self-efficiency in Japan and to deal with food shortage caused by population growth in the future.

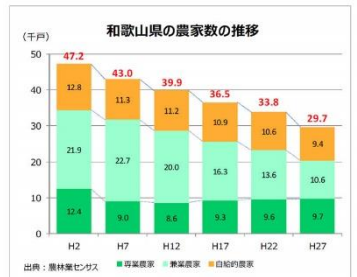


We propose to make plum agriculture a side business.

40% of the total population in Minabe Town are already engaged in plum industry.

It is not realistic to find someone else there who can join the plum industry.

The only answer is to invite people to Minabe town, and make the plum industry suitable for sideline.



To make good use of vacant houses

The population in Minabe town is decreasing, there are more and more vacant houses. We will be able to accept weekend farmers by renovating those vacant houses.



① The preparation of the plum cultivators who accept weekend farmers

We need to enlarge the plum farms and convert them into a corporation, bonding together individual plum cultivators who suffer from aging and lack of successors. This will enable new weekend farmers to grow plums more easily and reduce the cost of an initial investment.

② The collaboration with the tourism industry

What we need to offer to weekend farmers is a discount of accommodation fees and generous treatment in various activities.

※Weekend farmers are those who work in urban areas on weekdays and work in farmlands on weekend.

References

- 和歌山県HP「和歌山県の農業」
- 外務省HP「世界の食料需給の動向と中長期的な見通し」
- 河本食品HP「みなべ・田辺の梅システム」