

Conservation of Biodiversity

The KUBOTA Group has launched various initiatives for the protection of the natural environment to ensure that our corporate activities will pose no threat to regional biodiversity.

Promoting activities friendly to the natural environment and biodiversity

Biodiversity conservation principles incorporated into the Kubota Group Environmental Action Guidelines

At the KUBOTA Group, various environmental measures have been underway, such as creating biotopes and green areas at business sites. To further encourage biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment, biodiversity conservation principles were newly incorporated into the Kubota Group Environmental Action Guidelines in December 2009. Under these guidelines, we will continue our efforts to provide appropriate control over the environmental impacts of our corporate activities, in order to protect the diverse range of regional ecosystems.



Rooftop garden at the Hirakata Technical Training Center

Highlight

Protecting ecosystems using KUBOTA's rice transplanters with devices that reduce the use of agricultural chemicals

Farmland, such as rice paddies and vegetable fields, provide habitat for a diverse array of flora and fauna and thus has huge environmental importance. On the other hand, to ensure a stable harvest of agricultural products, agricultural chemicals, such as herbicides and pesticides, have to be properly applied. Due to the difficulty in applying an appropriate amount of chemicals uniformly over a vast expanse of farmland, special caution has to be used to prevent agricultural chemicals from reaching nearby areas, while also avoiding the problem of excessive agricultural chemicals remaining on crops (residual chemicals), which results from a failure to uniformly apply such chemicals. Today's agricultural community is responsible for providing appropriate control over the amount of agricultural chemicals used and the method of applying them, for the dual purpose of securing food safety and preserving the environment.

To cope with this task, KUBOTA, since the 1990s, came up with a

device (an herbicide applicator) that can apply the right amount of herbicides during rice transplanting operation, as an optional product for its rice transplanters. In response to rising environmental awareness and the growing demand for labor efficiency regarding agriculture, KUBOTA also launched on the market a higher-efficiency herbicide applicator, known as "Komakichan," and a device for the nursery box application of fungicide and pesticide, known as "Hakomakichan." In recent years, stricter standards have been set for the aerial application of agricultural chemicals by means of radio-controlled helicopters, etc., as well for the control of the amount of chemicals to be used per unit area and the type of chemicals used, requiring the agricultural community to put greater attention on the environment and safety. With the above-mentioned products, KUBOTA contributes to reducing the impacts of agricultural activities on ecosystems and the natural environment, while promoting sound agricultural practices, in terms of both quality and the environment.



Komakichan and Hakomakichan attached to a rice transplanter



The "Komakichan" herbicide applicator

Using this applicator, the right amount of herbicide can be applied without fail during the rice transplanting process. This product is effective in a number of ways, including: preventing excessive application of herbicides; reducing environmental impact; improving economic performance; and saving labor.



"Hakomakichan," a device for the nursery box application of agricultural chemicals

Using this device, the right amount of fungicide and pesticide can be applied without fail during the rice transplanting process. Unlike the conventional method of the manual application of chemicals in a nursery box placed on the ground, this device prevents the scattering of chemicals and ensures their uniform application.

Frontline Voice

I hope to contribute to labor efficiency in agricultural activities and the protection of the beautiful rural environment.

Yoshihisa Fujita

Rice Transplanter Engineering Department
Sakai Plant
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It is tough work to apply agricultural chemicals manually across a vast rice paddy. The work also entails the risk of adversely affecting the environment due to the scattering of chemicals, while accidental inhalation of chemicals can cause health problems. KUBOTA's devices are effective in various ways: they contribute to labor efficiency, let users know the correct amount of chemicals used, have less environmental impact, and reduce cost by preventing the excessive application of chemicals.

Recently, agriculture is attracting growing interest. I really hope that our devices will help both practicing and prospective farmers in their agricultural work, and contribute to protecting and preserving the habitats of a diverse range of living creatures and beautiful rural environments.