

Horticulture in My Life: It Started From the Production of Miniature Roses[®]

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After 2 years of studying rose production and marketing in Osaka, I began to produce pot roses in 1973. From the beginning, it was very hard for me to dig the soil with a spade every day for production and transplanting over 100,000 roses. After 15 years of such hard works, for reasons of my health, I began to consider a job change. At that time, I was very impressed to see the wonderful production system of very pretty miniature roses in Holland, and firmly determined to produce such roses. First, I built a greenhouse of 1000 m² in area. Since no one had succeeded in the year-round production of miniature rose through cuttings in Japan, I had to do everything by trial and error. The cutting method did not work well; therefore, it took 10 years to achieve stable production. I built a new greenhouse every year and now I have a total of 2.2 ha of greenhouses. At present, both the quality and quantity of miniature roses produced in my nursery are said to be the highest level in Japan. In addition, now I have begun to produce garden roses. However, I think our current production system for garden rose plants must be improved to supply garden roses with high quality.

Most of the existing roses are derived from the cool region of Europe and do not grow well in the high temperature and humidity of the Japanese summer. This is a large obstacle for the expansion of consumption. Therefore, it has been important for us to take on the job of educating the consumers on the culture and enjoyment of roses. The popularity of gardening is decreasing in Japan. I think the recovery of popularity will take 10–15 years. This realization is very important, and this might be my last work.

My company participates in the production system Milieu Programma Sierteelt, a certification program aimed at reducing the environmental impact of the floriculture sector and improving the sector's image. We are promoting the production of the rose to fulfill this purpose. We intend to enhance the value of rose as good brand of "Central Rose" by showing the quality and past records of this commodity. I am convinced that such a great deal of effort will certainly be rewarded. Accordingly, I will continue to produce with enthusiasm.

Now, it has been widely recognized that we will face a serious shortage of foods in the 21st century. Seven years ago, we founded a company, Gialinks Co. Ltd., to make provision for a food shortage.

To help save Japanese people from a food shortage, we are proceeding with a large soybean production project in the wide and fertile soil of the Argentine Pampas; the production area is 1,250 ha. The degree of self-sufficiency in Japan for food is 40%. This is the lowest of the developed countries in the world. We are bringing up this serious problem to Giakinks Co. Ltd.