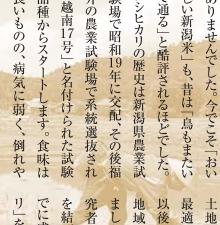
魚沼コシヒカリ発祥地石碑 Monument of the Birthplace of Uonuma Koshihikari



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Wishing for Good Harvest Planting Rice

地元の努力と研鑚が実り 不動の人気を確立。」

The King of High Quality Rice: Koshihikari rice produced in Minamiuonuma

Among brands of rice, Koshihikari rice enjoys a distinctive high reputation as very tasty rice. Koshihikari has the largest planted acreage and holds an established top position in terms of both popularity and quality. Koshihikari produced in Minamiuonuma is especially considered to be exceptional and the best brand rice. However, discovering high quality Koshihikari rice was not that easy. Tasty rice produced in Niigata today once had a bad reputation as the rice even birds

avoid.

The history of Koshihikari started with a new experimental breed of rice named Etsunan 17, whose hybridization of rice succeeded in a Niigata Prefectural Agricultural Experiment Station in 1944. This rice was then selected and developed in an Agricultural Experiment Station in Fukui Prefecture. This rice tasted good, but it was not strong against disease, and it easily fell down. Therefore, it was completely forgotten because the biggest issue then was how to effectively produce more rice.

Mr. Fumiyuki Sugitani, an officer at the Nagaoka Branch of the Niigata Prefectural Agricultural Experiment Station at that time, paid attention to this new breed. Devoted farmers in the region joined the project believing that the new rice would save their villages. The extremely infertile land of Minamiuonuma was turned out to be the best land for cultivating Koshihikari. Minamiuonuma devoted itself to developing this new rice so much that the future of the city was staked on it. Through trial and error, the efforts and cooperation between researchers and local farmers enabled generating Koshihikari produced in Minamiuonuma and growing the delicious rice that people would call the best rice in Japan. Minamiuonuma, and growing the delicious rice that people would call the best rice in Japan.

