

Report comparing circumstances of your country with those of Japan

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1. Regarding agricultural instruction targeted at agricultural workers (based on your observations of Agricultural Improvement Centers and Agricultural Cooperatives)

- (1) What kind of impression did you have when you observed the agricultural training systems for agricultural workers in Japan? (Please write your impressions from the perspective of both superior aspects and areas you thought to be problems.)

(Superior aspects)
Japanese Peoples show us that they have an old and rich tradition in irrigation field. This tradition reached his apogee during the beginning of the 17 th century by the construction of the Oide irrigation channel. Agricultural Improvement Centers works closely with the Agricultural Cooperatives, which is an important factor to make effective advances in Irrigation Agriculture.
(Areas thought to be problems)
Most of workers on the farm are ageing people (average age toward 65 years). Furthermore, the cost of production turns out to be higher than the international price.

- (2) Are there organizations or agencies in your country that carry out agricultural training for agricultural workers? If so, please indicate in the space below the name of said organization, its positioning (in other words, whether it is a national or regional government organization, or a public foundation, etc.), comparing the work its carries out with the situation in Japan. If there is no such organization in your country, please indicate your own opinions about whether such on organization is necessary in your country, and whether it is possible for such a system to be introduced, and so on.

Yes, they are. ONAHA (National Office of Lands Improvement), INRAN (National Institute of Agricultural Research), ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics) and many NGOs (like KARKARA, Care International for example) are assisting farmers in food production and conservation. In the case of local NGOs, the assistance concerns also their organization (transparency and democracy).
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- (3) Are there matters that you would like to know more about in terms of the agricultural training system in Japan? If so, please indicate in the space below.

Yes of course! For example how to combat soil salinization in irrigation agriculture without spending a lot of money and reproducible by farmers. I'm also interested by reclamation techniques for marginal hard lands.
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2. Regarding the Technology Support Association in the Land Improvement Program (based on observation

of the Land Improvement Program Association Federation)

- (1) What kind of impression did you have when you observed the Land Improvement Program Association Federation, an organization that carries out technological support for the Land Improvement Program in Japan? (Please write your impressions from the perspective of both superior aspects and areas you thought to be problems.)

(Superior aspects)
The good communication between farmers and the trust they grant to the Federation make the system still efficiente.
(Areas thought to be problems)
In long-term the Federation does not have own sustainability, because some consulting engineers began to work in the same field and their services are cheaper than the Federation's. Moreover, the National Government encourages the limitation of rice production.

- (2) Are there organizations or agencies in your country that carry out technological support for land improvement programs? If so, please indicate in the space below the name of said organization, its positioning (in other words, whether it is a national or regional government organization, or a public foundation, etc.), comparing the work its carries out with the situation in Japan. If there is no such organization in your country, please indicate your own opinions about whether such on organization is necessary in your country, and whether it is possible for such a system to be introduced, and so on.

Yes, but in a past not very far. Nowadays, with the application of the structural adjustment program, many of these organizations were disbanded. Actually, only ANPIP (Nigerien Association for the Promotion of Private Irrigation) and ONAHA (National Office of Land Improvement) make similar activities. It's difficult to draw their positioning because irrigation can be achieved over only 10% of my country.

- (3) Are there matters that you would like to know more about in terms of the technological support association in the Land Improvement Program? If so, please indicate in the space below.

The methods used by the Federation to select projects in each district and making harmonious relationship among them and in agreement with some national regulations.

3. Regarding plans and implementation of the Land Improvement Program (based on observation of the Oide and Hojo Dune District of Land Improvement)

- (1) What impressions did you have when you observed the Land Improvement Program plans and methods of implementation in Japan? (Please write your impressions from the perspective of both superior aspects and areas you thought to be problems.)

(Superior aspects)
I'm very impressed by the total disappearance of "wife-killer work", the automation and the computerization of all the irrigation system during the 2 nd part of the 20 th century.
(Areas thought to be problems)
With the new fundamental law of agriculture currently in force, progress in the field of irrigation may be stagnated in the future.

- (2) What impressions did you have when you observed the organization and management systems of the land improvement zones that carried out the planning and implementation of the Land Improvement Program in Japan? (Please write your impressions from the perspective of both

superior aspects and areas you thought to be problems.)

(Superior aspects)

Good implementation of the Land Improvement Program through the real participation of farmers. Moreover, farmers have reach to appropriate projects, which is necessary for the sustainability of these projects.

(Areas thought to be problems)

The globalization, which is under way, and the growth in age of farmers are the new challenges for irrigation agriculture in Japan.

- (3) Are there organizations or agencies in your country that carry out planning and implementation of land improvement programs? If so, please indicate in the space below the name of said organization, its positioning (in other words, whether it is a national or regional government organization, or a public foundation, etc.), comparing the work its carries out with the situation in Japan. If there is no such organization in your country, please indicate your own opinions about whether such on organization is necessary in your country, and whether it is possible for such a system to be introduced, and so on.

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finances and Planning and many projects of rural development financed either by the World Bank or by friend countries.

- (4) Are there matters that you would like to know more about in terms of the planning and implementation of the Land Improvement Program? If so, please indicate in the space below.

I'd like to know about Japanese experience in practice of agriculture in or around urban area and the management of household refuses.

4. Regarding UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa)

- (1) Has your country joined the convention? If so, when did your country join?

Yes. My country (Republic of NIGER) has signed the convention since 14/10/1994 and ratified it on 19/01/1996.

- (2) Is your present agency working concerning the convention? If so, what work is your present agency doing?

Yes. My agency (Direction Nationale des Ressources en Eau) is actively involved in the stocktaking and monitoring of all our groundwater resources. But the great extent of my country and the scarcity of technical tools restrict in a drastic manner our ambitions.

- (3) Regarding the prevention of desertification, what do you expect of Japan? The report of Japan can be read with the following URL.

(<http://www.unccd.int/cop/reports/developed/2000/japan-eng.pdf>)

It is undeniable that combating desertification includes a deep understanding and harnessing groundwater resources in arid and semi-arid country. In this point of view, I expect from Japan a technical assistance by providing, to my country, experts and scientific equipment in the field of exploration and exploitation of groundwater resources.

5. If you have other opinions or impressions based on site observation, please indicate them in the space below.

I recognize, during the site observation, that the development of agriculture includes also preservation and management of environment. But the concept of environment will be shallow if it doesn't take a world scale. In this way, I expect again the reinforcement of Japanese Assistance toward the less developed countries most located in Africa where the degradation of environment is a real and daily fact and cannot be dealt with by a single nation.