

Report comparing agricultural situation of your country with that of Japan

Name	NAYEBZAI Mohammad Haroon
Country	Afghanistan
Present Post	Cooperative officer –Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

1. Regarding plans and implementation of the Land Improvement Program

- (1) What is your impression on the organization and management systems of the land improvement districts in the relation to the planning and implementation of the Land Improvement Program in Japan? (Please write your impressions from the perspective of both positive attributes and points you regarded as challenges.)

(Positive attributes)

- Land reform in Japan after World War II has long been considered one of the most successful and drastic agrarian reform projects in the world.

In Japan Land improvement district has some important roles such as agricultural development, a stable supply of food and agricultural country environmental preservation through the management of farmland and irrigation institutions.

The farmhouse pays a fee for the services provided by the LID and also provides labor, such as cleaning of a waterway, for reservation of the stable supply of agricultural water. The fee varies between land improvement districts or areas. Its price is between 1300yen to 1600yen. The rate of occupying the assessment from the farmhouse in the incomes is various among the land improvement districts. The incomes, such as the assessment and a subsidy or subsidy from the government, are applied to management of an irrigation institution.

Japan has 6,400 land improvement districts with some 4.3 million people participating, from this amount of LID Tottori prefecture has 108 of such districts with some 50,000 members.

- Afghanistan is a landlocked and mountainous country in Central Asia

Successive governments in Afghanistan have adopted land allocation policies as a means of rewarding and consolidating their own support.

Cultivable land which has no owner is deemed to be public land.

The law prohibits acquisition of such land without the permission of the government in violation of the law (Article 1991 Civil Code.) Government permission is necessary for acquiring any type of land

Comprehensive land policy has not yet been formulated. However, several major policy documents have emerged in the past six years; to counter the widespread distribution of public lands to undeserving beneficiaries the Government issued Decree 99 in April 2002 to freeze distribution, sales and transfers of government owned land.

The law of land management (11 chapters and 95 articles) established in 2008/July mainly focused on proper land management system and analysis of the conflict of land.

Most property in Afghanistan has never been surveyed. A majority of landowners do not hold legally recognized deeds to their property, but rather have customary land deeds with poorly defined property descriptions.

The lack of clear boundaries is a major factor in the pervasive, bitter and often fatal land disputes. Courts play an important role in land relations, which prepare and archive legal deeds, and adjudicate on land claims.

The ownership of real property is regulated by a complex of customary, religious and statutory law.

In Afghanistan much of the land is currently being illegally occupied or controlled by powerful commanders.

The land administration is under the Amlak (Department of landownership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock) and Municipalities.

The land registration process is lengthy, expensive and requires completion of a number of forms and payment of tax at 5-7 % of the value of the land.

The land administration system is ineffective, centralized, dominated by the courts and no Ministry of Land has ever been created.

Improvement of land tenure security is an essential element to peace building Afghanistan.

(Points you regarded as challenges.)

Japan:

- The farmer's communities are losing their village function, with more non-farmers living in the regions and more farmers carrying on business other than agriculture.

Afghanistan:

- Un-authorized occupation of land (a term which means "land grabbing by powerful people and the informal occupation of land for family uses), particularly land that has not been privately owned
- the overlapping of claims to private, public, government or community land, that is, the situation where two or more people have claims to the same parcel of land, a problem which particularly affects pasture land.
- Cumbersome procedures for the purchase and sale of private land;
- lack of agreed procedures for the community based effective and sustainable management of public, governmental or community lands;

- (2) Are there any organizations or agencies in your country that carry out planning and implementation of land improvement programs? If so, please indicate it in the blank below with the name of said organization, its positioning (in other words, whether it is a national or regional governmental organization, or a public foundation, etc.), by comparing their work and the situation with those you observed during the site observation week in Japan. If there is no such organization in your country, please indicate your own opinions about whether if such an organization is necessary in your country, and whether if there's a possibility for such a system to be introduced, and so on.

1. Codistar is Governmental organization in Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, working in the Land improvement programs at all provinces.
2. Amlak (department of landownership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock), this department working with Agriculture Directorate in all provinces.
3. Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO)
4. AIMS (Afghanistan Information Mapping System)

It is Non Governmental Organization, working for the mapping (location point, Altitude, latitude, reference point) of land management and other natural Resources.

In Japan the implementing body of land improvement projects is determined in the following manner:

1. National government,
2. Prefectural government,
3. District municipality and land improvement district association.

By comparing the work of organizations in our country and in Japan is more different.

- (3) Are there any information that you would like to know more about in terms of the planning and implementation of the Land Improvement Program? If so, please indicate it in the blank below.

I would like to know about:

- The procedure of land improvement program.
- Surface water management system of Japan.
- Surface Irrigation system.
- Watershed management.

2. Regarding the water use

- (1) What is your impression about the water use in the agricultural field in Japan? (Please write your impressions from the perspective of both positive attributes and points you regarded as challenges.)

(Positive attributes)

- Japan is an island nation of precipitous land form and a humid and rainy climate (located in monsoon Asia).

Japan is endowed with a lot of rain. The annual average precipitation is about 1,700mm, which is about twice the global annual average precipitation.

Japan has about 4,200 hundred million m^3 on average of water resources, while consuming approximately 870 hundred million m^3 a year. From this amount of water 65% or 572 hundred million m^3 goes to the agricultural sector, 15% to the industrial sector, and 20% to the household sector.

Water resources in Japan are very tight compare to the copious demand of a large population.

One of the water management system based on the historical background in Japan is a system of water rights. The water of Japan's rivers has been dominated by a large of number of river users with vested water rights. Water rights have generally developed as a customary right.

The old river law established in 1896 mainly focused on flood control and introduced an approval system for river water.

The river law was revised in 1964, and established integrated management of river system.

Present water rights system is a combination of traditional and comprehensive management.

In Japan, water used in the upper reaches is repeatedly used in the lower reaches of the river, especially for paddy fields, this system can be called as sustainable water use system.

Water rights in Japan have support water use system a long time.

The flow volume of Japanese rivers varies significantly because of natural condition such as climatic and topographic factors.

Japan has total 210,000water reservoir ponds, in this amount Tottori prefecture has 1,200 ponds.

Irrigation ponds have a function of extensive water use by collecting, storing and adjusting the water.

- Afghanistan is located at dried land in central Asia content; no boundary of this country is touch to the World Ocean. The country of Afghanistan included with hills with large height and more rivers, the source of these rivers is snow melting covered with hills.

Afghanistan has 75 billion cubic meters (BCM) of potential water resources of which 55 BCM is surface water and 20 BCM is groundwater (FAO).

The annual volume of water used for irrigation is estimated to be 20 BCM, which is 99 percent of all the water pumped. Total groundwater extraction amounts to some 3 BCM.

Approximately 15 percent of the total water volume used annually originates from alluvial Groundwater aquifers and springs, and almost 85 percent from rivers and streams.

Groundwater used from deep wells accounts for less than 0.5 percent.

The rest amount of water is flow to the neighbor countries of Afghanistan.

The water law established in 1981 (in 4 chapters and 39 articles), mainly focused on effectively using of water to meet the need of the people and the national economy. And reasonably utilizing the water resources.

Water utilization in Afghanistan is mostly for agriculture and approximately 85% of the country's crops are produced under irrigation system, irrigation systems is use mostly traditional methods and distribute water in traditional ways throughout the country with 84.6% of irrigation water in tapped from rivers, water from springs 7.9%, karezes 7% and 0.5% water is tapped from dug wells.

In surface Irrigation system(traditional method), Intake structure received water from the source (River) then the water flows in main Canal then to the water stream (sub canal) then to the water course and end point is the field of Agriculture land.

The main Hydraulic strictures are water intake, spill way, Outlet, Inlet and Culvert constructed by the manual and constructed method.

The total land under irrigation is 6.2 to 8.2Million Hectare.

Agricultural production is constrained by an almost total dependence on erratic winter snows and spring rains for water; irrigation systems are primitive. some existing irrigation networks and other agricultural facilities were destroyed in military conflict

(Points you regarded as challenges.)

Japan:

- Effects of global warming on Japan water resources.
- Effects of Agricultural practices on water.

Afghanistan:

- 75% of water flows to the neighbor countries without any tax.
- Lack of Water Management technical personals in institution.
- Scarcity of GIS system for that land including water.
- Unavailability of Water(snow, snowstorm, rain) measurement parameter
- No any research taken place in proper level of surface water by the Governmental and Non- Governmental Organization.
- Drought and warming of air temperatures have reduced the size of the glaciers.

3. Regarding the land use

- (1) What is your impression about the land use in the agricultural field in Japan? (Please write your impressions from the perspective of both positive attributes and points you regarded as challenges.)

(Positive attributes)

- The most striking feature of Japanese agriculture is the shortage of farmland.

In 2000, the amount of cultivated land in Japan totaled 4.83 million ha (in 2006 was 4.67million ha), which was approximately 13% of the total area of Japan. Out of the total agricultural land, 2.641 million ha of land was paddy fields and 2.189 million ha was other cultivated fields.

Rice paddies occupy most of the countryside, non-paddy farmland share the terraces and lower slopes and are planted with wheat and barley in the autumn and with sweet potatoes, vegetables, and dry rice in the summer. Intercropping is common: such crops are alternated with beans and peas.

The first agricultural basic law established in 1961, this law indicated policies to promote improvements to the agricultural infrastructure and agricultural modernization in response to the outward flow of agricultural labor resulting from the rapid economic growth and trade liberalization.

This law revised in 1962 to loosen the maximum area restrictions on the acquisition of rights to agricultural lands, and to establish agricultural production incorporation and agricultural land trust system.

I think in Japan some students and non-farmers want to be engaging in agriculture in the future.

- The Afghan economy is predominantly agricultural and the main source of income in the country is agriculture, the arable agricultural resource base is about 8 million ha, which is 12 percent of the total land area arable, and less than 6% currently is cultivated.

2.6% forest land, 7.1% desert land and 39.3% range (grazing) land.

Major arable lands for permanent crops are located in the north and western parts of the country.

There are roughly 3.9 million ha of cultivated land of which 1.3 million ha is rainfed and 2.6 million ha is irrigated. Up to 85% of crop foods are produced on irrigated land.

The agricultural sector contributes slightly more than half of GDP and employs almost 70% of the labor force. Grain (primarily wheat) production is the country's traditional agricultural mainstay.

Other major farm products are fruit, nuts, karakul (sheep) pelts, wool, and mutton.

Afghanistan has the productive capacity to more than meet its food needs, according to some observers.

(Points you regarded as challenges.)

Japan:

- Shortage of farmland.
- Some agricultural lands utilized for residential use.
- Flood erosion.
- Japanese farmers doubting that their children would become farmers.

Afghanistan:

- Over 75% of the Afghan people live in rural areas where agriculture is the primary activity

- Agriculture sector contributes about half of the GDP.
- Only 12% of the country's 65 million hectares of land is arable.
- Only 40% of agricultural land is irrigated.
- Agricultural production grew at a rate of only 0.2% per year.
- No comprehensive policy for agricultural land.
- No analysis of the conflict of land.

4. If you have any other opinions or impressions based on site observation, please indicate them in the blank below.

It is important that the Japan government as well as farmers, agricultural cooperatives and food industries share a common understanding of the various issues concerning food and effectively utilize Limited agricultural lands in Japan to increase domestic agricultural production. It is to be carried out by a policy, Which combines fundamental efforts to increase domestic production with import and food stockpiles.