



Title	SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES
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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

A Re-examination of the Structure of Agricultural Production

Terutoshi Shiozawa
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This is the report of the presiding chairperson of the symposium entitled "Re-examination of the Structure of Agricultural Production." Agriculture in Hokkaido has changed since 1960. The average area of land managed by one farm has increased, and there has been a remarkable development of mechanization and agricultural facilities. On the other hand, Hokkaido now faces many critical problems such as an aging labor force, a lack of successors, a decline of soil productivity, and a heavy debt carried by many farmers. In December 1993, the Japanese government accepted the Uruguay Round of GATT. We are obliged by this agreement to import field crops, meat and dairy products and to lower customs duties. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries and the Hokkaido Prefecture Office have announced guidelines with which they resolved to promote competition among farmers in the international market. In order to achieve this goal, they put an end to the system that has maintained a stable price for agricultural products. They say that large-scale farming, which lowers the cost of production and provides for efficient management, makes farmers more competitive. Facing many difficulties, farmers in Hokkaido are losing their confidence and hope for their future. However, the introductions of new techniques such as direct seeding of paddy fields, new milking systems and environmentally-friendly techniques have provided some hope.

Management Characteristics of New Technologies for Rice Farming - Present Status of Direct Sowing of Rice Paddies in Hokkaido -

Naoki Nishimura
(Hokkaido Prefectural Central Agricultural Experiment Station)

In this paper, after clarifying the limitations of traditional rice farming technology in terms of an expanding management scale, we have selected the technology of direct sowing of rice paddies, which is expected to overcome those limitations, as the subject of our study. We have examined the current technological developments and resulting management characteristics of rice farm management.

As a result, we have concluded that the current methods of direct sowing of rice paddies have two

problems:

- 1) The yield is influenced by the workers attitude and experience.
- 2) Although it reduces labor, it also causes a decrease in yield per ha. This technological development has a tendency decrease labor productivity. We have also pointed out that if this technology came into general use, the competitiveness of the Hokkaido rice crop would decline proportionally.

A Study on the Enlargement of Dairy Farming

Yoshihiko Yoshino

(Institute of Regional Agriculture in Hokkaido)

In this paper, we study a process for optimizing the scale of dairy farms.

1) From the production cost survey, we see that raw milk production per dairy cow has not increased in proportion to the increased self sufficiency in feed per hectre.

2) From an analysis of 350 dairy farms, the connection between net agricultural income and the

number of dairy cattle is not clear.

3) Dairy farms aiming for a large scale are increasing these days. From these results we see that we need to develop personal relationships with dairy farmers, and that we need to take another look at the standards for evaluating the production capacity of dairy farms.

Bookkeeping Systems in Family Farms

Kensuke Kudoh

(Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine)

The present standard for calculating costs on family farms is dependent on a method of calculating the production cost of agricultural products provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This cost is the so-called "social production cost", which is based on a concept of economics. It is not suitable for individual farm level costing accounting. Generally speaking most of the farmers do not practice bookkeeping with a cost accounting system. Cost is calculated outside the books. In such cases farmers

calculate various kinds of costs. Take labor cost for instance. It would be more accurate to base labor on the cost of living on a family farm, rather than on the pre-vailing wage. The growth of book-keeping with a cost accounting system is limited, especially in diversified farms. Nevertheless, the growing popularity of personal computers, improvement in software and the increased participation of women in bookkeeping will all play an important role in the growth of an authorized cost accounting system.

Timing of Environmental Policy Enactment and Execution

XiuZhenjie* and Katsuhiko Demura**

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In environmental policy debates, it is often argued that industries would be put in jeopardy by the immediate enforcement of severe policies, while postponing environmental policies would allow the domestic industries to introduce new technologies and products, that would effectively improve

environmental quality. Timing the execution of environmental policy is examined in finite and infinite horizon, perfect information game. However, postponement of policy fails to pass the credibility criterion called "renegotiation-proof."