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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

The Present Situation and the Subjects of Public Investment in Land Infrastructure

Shinsuke Ohta

This paper surveys and deals with the outlook of public investment in agricultural land infrastructure in Hokkaido which has contributed to higher agricultural productivity. The public investment share in the upland farming area has increased recently and the share of investment for public facilities such as drainage for daily living, rural road and community center has increased to more than fifty percent of total public investment. The environmental factor in rural development has become a more important issue. It is necessary to have a new national criterion for rural public investment based on regional demand to improvethe economic situation of rural areas.

(Department of Agriculture, Hokkaido Government)

The Effect of Irrigation and Drainage Projects on Agricultural Development in Furano City.

Kazutaka Orito

This paper attempts to investigate the effect of irrigation and drainage projects on the process of rural agricultural development in Furano City,Hokkaido.

Irrigation and drainage projects are main factors in the process of rural agricultural development, but their eforcement in not a sufficient condition.

From the experience in Furano City, farmer's organizations to produce and sell vegetables and regional facilities for vegetable storage improvement also played very important roles.

(Hokkaido Prefectural Central Agricultural Experiment Station)

The Farmer's Repayment Ability for Agricultural Land Improvement

Masami Taniguchi

The cost of agricultural land improvement investment has increased rapidly and the farmer's ability to repay has become an important economic problem. The postponing of project completion due to the change in the agricultural economic situation, the high standard of construction specifications and investment in less favorable agricultural areas are reasons for the increase in cost. Although special financial loans were given to farmers to reduce farmer's burden, other counterpolicies are needed to give incentive for land improvement to farmers.

(Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery's Finance Corporation)

Regional Resource Management and Social Capital
— the California Water Pricing Policy —

Fumio Osanami

Public investment in irrigation project has contributed to the growth of California agriculture. This paper attempted to clarify the water pricing policy of the federal and state irrigation projects, which has been controversial for a long time. The policy implications of the California experience for Japanese public investment for land improvement projects were also discuss-ed :(1) the difficulty of getting consensus to accept the public investment projects among farmers; (2) the ambiguous contract between the farmers and the public sector ; and (3) the restrictive substitutable crops which make inefficient resource use.

(Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University)

On the Role of Agricultural Land Improvement in Japan
- From the Viewpoint of Rural Development-

Toru Muramoto

Nowadays in Japan, agricultural land improvement projects are expected not only to improve farm management but also to contribute to the conservation of the rural environment, "amenity" development, and the revitalization of the rural community. This paper is written from the viewpoints mentioned above.

The issues of this paper are the following;

1)Position of rural environment improvement projects in agricultural land improvement projects.
2)Multi·functions of agriculture and rural environment that contribute to national welfare.
3)Meaning of "amenity".
4)Conservation as a key·policy for the improvement of rural environment.
5)Purpose of agricultural land improvement under the present system in West Germany.
6)Interdependent relationship between urban and rural areas.
7)Possibility of rural resort development in Japan.

(Nayoro Junior College)