

Chapter 7 Remaining Tasks for the Future

Needless to say, the agricultural and rural development project must be built on a solid base. We have been discussing about the types of considerations that are needed to enable active participation of farmers, particularly women, in the development process for promotion of development project, i.e. reform of the entire society and improvement of livelihood and how the matter should be approached. Formation of the project on actual site, however, requires further deliberation.

The first point is how to understand the actual site. In developing countries where agriculture is positioned as the main sector of national economy and rural villages provide the main opportunities for employment, it is no exaggeration to say that the agricultural and rural development project is something that determines the direction of socioeconomic development for that country. Therefore, the project will have to give full consideration to the macro socioeconomic environment of that country and be compatible with the development strategy for the country as a whole even if the project is limited to a particular region.

Contributing to the development of national economy along this development strategy requires full comprehension of the region's economic positioning or its resource mobilization potential in addition to giving consideration to understanding traditional factors intrinsic to the region, utilizing them effectively, and seeking their improvement.

The second point is full and accurate understanding of the motivation behind desire for development and reform of the community among the local people and the aspiration behind their willingness to take action, i.e. grasping the problems of present and future development and the needs for their solution. In doing so, it is essential to recognize in view of gender and social class difference what is on the minds of the local people as they manage and utilize the resources that are offered to them. This is the rationale behind the importance of the so-called baseline survey.

The third point is the need for local people to acquire the ability which is worthy of, or necessary for, their behavior as they participate in the process of social change toward the realization of their desire. They will have to be aware of this as they take action.

When establishing and promoting the plan for reform and improvement of livelihood for the entire society, it is important to not only introduce technical and economic improvement measures but identify a balanced and steady path of improvement. This is the most important quality required of both external and internal leaders.

Furthermore, what is needed is voluntary planning and action based on spontaneity of the community and consensus of the region. Therefore an organization which is aware of macro socioeconomic environment and at the same time expresses its opinion to outside must be formed instead of internal organization that merely receives what is given to it from outside. Our task is to examine the method of assistance for meeting this need, and difference in approach is naturally expected according to the different characteristics of the donor side. In other words, one of the tasks for the future would be to create a system that can make effective use of financial capacity, expertise, and information collection capacity by taking into consideration the differences that exist in these aspects.

Although we have been discussing the points related to organization of local people by using the

examples of project implementing bodies with different character, we have not been able to examine how the functions of each body and organization can be combined effectively and utilized.

Moreover, we were not able to fully examine the repercussive effect of social change that takes place in one region. It is by all means necessary to examine such effect of social change in connection with higher goals of the socioeconomic development plan in that country. We also believe that it can be utilized as a material for understanding the role and meaning of voluntary participation of local people in the development process.



