

PREPARATORY PROGRAM REPORT

A. Questions and Comments

1. Planning to Develop Infrastructure for Rice Production

Questions

- (i) What is “Asian type paddy field” development
- (ii) What is the difference between “Land Improvement District” (LID) and “Farmers Organization”?
- (iii) Several years after inception of a project it is said to be implemented by the government at each level. Is this done simultaneously by the tiers of government? How are the responsibilities (and liabilities) shared?
- (iv) Impression was created that “Effective use of local resource may enable developing up-land rice production in Africa” (Kabayashi, 2008). Wouldn’t the same method be good for lowland rice production as well?

2. Training Program on Seed Plan, Production and Supply Systems

Comment

- (i) The Seed Act is undergoing amendment in Nigeria and the new version is yet to be signed into Law. Efforts will be made to further fine-tune it by incorporating relevant aspects of the Japanese version into it.

3. Seeds of Ibaraki

Comment

- (i) It will be nice to see how the formation of “Seed production union” in the Municipals in Japan (1959) can help in the strengthening of Community-based Seed Producers in Nigeria.

4. Seed Inspection

Question

- (i) Who produces Breeder Seeds in Japan and who carries out the Inspection of Seeds in the field and after harvest?

5. Japan’s Rice Policy

Questions

- (i) What led to the drop of annual per capita consumption of rice in Japan from 118kg in 1962 to 57.8 by 2011?
- (ii) In what ways do farmers (who produce in compliance with quantity target) enjoy subsidies and compensation for price deflation?
- (iii) What has been responsible for the drop in price of staple rice?
- (iv) How do farmers access grants compensation?

- (v) Why should Japan import rice while discouraging local production?
- (vi) If cost of rice production is high how come the country is exporting rice?

Comment

- (i) Since Japan processes rice into various finished products for which markets exist abroad, one would have thought that the country should promote greater processing activities which should also boost paddy production.

B. Summary of the Video Lecture on *Planning to Develop Infrastructure for Rice Production*

The lecture is very informative. It took one through the entire process of paddy production. It started by highlighting important aspects of site selection and land development taking into cognizance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the project. Mention was made of good agronomic practices and water management methods. Roles of the various tiers of government and farmers organizations in the entire project were explained. The lecture also dwelt on the Japanese experience and concluded with tidbits on how to develop rice production in Africa.

An important lesson of the lecture, based on the Japanese experience, is that it takes time, patience, concerted effort by all stakeholders and, above all, good focus, to plan and develop infrastructure for rice production. Furthermore, if African countries can learn from the Japanese experience by adopting and adapting the relevant aspects to their local conditions, they can make faster progress in growing their rice sectors.

A quick takeaway, from the Japanese experience, for Nigeria will be to strengthen and empower the farmers' organizations.