

IV. Tanzanian Agriculture Under the Structural Adjustment Programmes: with Special Reference to Two Villages in Kilimanjaro Region Comments

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C O M M E N T

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Mr. Ikeno has examined the impact of the structural adjustment programme on the agriculture and rural societies of Tanzania. His conclusion is that there was a limited success in reviving agricultural production, but it has not been up to the expectations of the people and the government of Tanzania.

Mr. Ikeno pointed out first that agricultural production increased after 1986, and its annual growth rates were mostly above the growth rates of the population. Also conspicuous recovery was registered in the growth rate of manufacture, and its was constantly above 7% after 1988 (See Table 1).

The World Bank attributes this success to (1) good weather, (2) improved availability of input goods for production, (3) better producer prices for farmers, (4) improved availability of incentive goods such as clothes. This was brought about, especially with (2), (3) and (4), by the better policy of the Tanzanian government which was made possible by the structural adjustment programme.

Mr. Ikeno, however, cautions us that (1) food crop production is still vulnerable, (2) exports performance is poor, and even in the case of cotton the production did not surpass that of 1971/72, (3) urban labour living conditions are miserable, (4) the manufacturing industries cannot fulfill the domestic needs, eg. cotton textile industries.

I believe most of his analysis is valid, but would like to ask him some big questions on some issues in relation to the Tanzanian

structural adjustment programme.

Question (1) Are the rural peasants generally better off after the structural adjustment programme in comparison with the urban dwellers? In other words, was the rural-urban income differential narrowed?

Question (2) Mr. Ikeno mentioned that some university scholars like Mbilinyi and Maganya wrote that SAP only benefitted capitalist farmers and rich peasants. However, Collier and Wangwe, in their publication called "Labour and Poverty in Rural Tanzania," 1986, claimed that stratification of Tanzanian farmers and peasants is not much observable. Do you agree that capitalist farmers are emerging even in Tanzania?

Question (3) It is true that the crucial problem is the performance of the export sector, and the performance has been rather poor. The main reason for this seems to be that the international commodity market prices for the traditional Tanzanian export crops such as coffee and cotton have been depressed.

This is an internationally induced phenomenon that Tanzania can influence very little. The only thing that could have been done by Tanzania is to somehow diversify its exports. In this connection, did Tanzania make effort to promote exports of the manufactured goods? Did she make an all-out effort to export non-traditional primary goods?

Question (4) It seems that the rise in producer prices for agricultural products was annihilated by the high rate of inflation, and the real producer prices for some have declined. Isn't the main failure of SAP the inability to contain inflation?

Mr. Ikeno has developed the concept of multi-occupation ori-

ented rural household by his excellent study of Ukambani in Kenya and by his current study of Mwanga District in Northern Tanzania. To me, the most interesting point that he brought about in this paper is that the income transfer from urban jobs does not always lead to agricultural development, as the money was spent for conspicuous consumption or for purchasing assets for passing to their sons. From the comparison with the Kamba case, Mr. Ikeno says that the North Pare people send less remittance. I wonder if this is because the Tanzanian economic situation is much worse than Kenya, with less chance to earn enough money to send remittance, or because of different behaviour pattern of the two peoples.

Question (5) It is very difficult to evaluate the effects of the structural adjustment programme with so many different factors affecting the over-all performances of Tanzanian economy. May I suggest that another way of evaluating the success or failure of the programme is the subjective judgement of the inhabitants themselves? Are the farmers/peasants and workers of Tanzania more willing to work and try new things than before (acquired the will to do=Yaruki in Japanese) or are they discouraged to make such an effort?