

IV. Cash Crop Production and Peasant in Southern Zambia Comments

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COMMENT

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First of all, I have to say that I'm not a specialist of foreign affairs including African countries but domestic affairs, mainly agrarian structure in Japan. But fortunately about one year ago I had a chance to make a field survey in Tanzania which was interesting for me to be able to compare agriculture in Japan with that in another country.

After that I have taken part in this "Africa Project" not only to know the agricultural affairs in African countries but also to understand Japanese agriculture itself much better.

Well, today I'm going to make some small and rather simple questions to Mr. Kodamaya.

First, it's about terms. I think that it's important to clarify the definition of the unit of peasant. I want to ask the difference of household, farms, and grower in the paper. For example, on the Table 1 (P87) he uses "sample household", then on the Table 2 (P88, the next page) "sample farmer", and "number of growers".

Second, if Mr. Kodamaya has more data about the cost, price, and net return of maize, cotton, and sunflower, please show us this information in order to characterize and to classify these crops on the economic and farm managing point of view.

And are there hired farm labour in the surveyed area or not? I want to know that point because it's maybe connected to be reinvestment of cash income.

Third, after this analysis what does Mr. Kodamaya present us a conclusion in connection with the debate which was shown us in the introduction (Section 1). I think that the Zambian farmers

are economically very rational and market mechanism is also working there. Price mechanism or price incentive is only a part of market mechanism being supported by other factors such as credit availability, ecological conditions, resource base of peasants, and so on.

Probably the base of behavior of the Zambian farmers is economic rationality, but it must be also emphasised there is something to mediate that behavior. The something is socio-political bias as the speaker mentioned.

So, there are two major factors to make clear the agricultural structure, the one is economic factor and the another is socio-political factor. How we should connect these two factors? If Mr. Kodamaya has some opinion about this point, please give us some comment.