From Farm to Table Food Systems Connect Countries All over the World

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Food system is a new concept to understand the interaction as a chained system among actors and factors (materials, information, etc.) - relevant to foods from farmers to consumers via food manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing and catering industries. Food systems connect countries all over the world. We are making efforts to assess what is really going on in each country with theoretical framework introduced to analyze the food system.

Diversity of Farms and Agribusinesses

Without the farm, which is situated at the beginning of the food system, food to support human life will not be available. The advance of globalism (reduction of trade barriers, strengthening of free market principle), however, is pushing farms to the brink of closedown. The fair price and market based on institution should be reviewed.

In every country, farms are abundant in diversity with traditional family farms at one end and the huge multinational agribusinesses at the other. In Japan, community-based agricultural organizations are also vital. The characteristics and social raison d'etre of respective farms, and impacts on local communities and food supply should be brought to light.

Food System and North-South Problems

Coffee is a symbolic commodity of the North-South problem, which is produced in developing countries (Latin America, Africa, etc.) and heavily consumed in developed countries. The coffee futures price determined by coffee exchanges at the New York Board of Trade is applied for pricing of almost all coffee as the basic price.

The futures price has slumped to historic lows especially in 2001-02, which has obliged 25 million coffee producers all over the world to suffer from poverty. We are seeking solutions to alleviate their poverty such as reconstruction of the International Commodity Agreement and growth of fair trade coffee.

Food System and Food Safety

In these days of frequent food incidents including those caused by food poisoning through pathogenic microbes such as O157:H7, BSE, and false labeling of foods, we are urged to create a social system to ensure food safety. We are carrying out cross-national researches on food safety administration, risk analysis, risk perception of consumers and traceability in the food chain through interdisciplinary research groups.

* Traceability is the ability to follow the movement of a food in the food chain through identifying the food by linking the food and that information

Key words

Recent publications

○ The Theory of Organic Substance Cycle

○ Consumer Psychology on Health Effects of Radioactive Substance: Procedure and Type to Provide Information
  Niiyama, Y.(2012), Agriculture and Economics;78(1), 5-17 (in Japanese)

○ The Structural Models of Public Risk Perception of Typical Food-related Hazards: An Analysis of the Structural Complexity of Incorporated Factors by SEM

○ Re-investing the Factors Affecting Public Perception of Food-related Risk: A cross-national study by the Laddering method

○ The Barance of Market Power for the Coexistence of Stakeholders in Food System

○ Characteristics of Cattle Feeding and Sales in Kilimanjaro: Risks and Securities of Farm Household Economy

○ The Kyoto Protocol and the Private Forest Policy of Local Government in Japan.
  Matsushita, K. and Taguchi, K. (2011), Small-scale Forestry 10 (1); 19-35

○ Historical Documents Relating to Forestry and Forest Products in Ohara, Kyoto, Japan (4): Documents Relating to Forest Management by Kimura Sohemon, magistrate of Gonyubokuyama

○ Theories of Food-Safety-System Practices, 2nd edit.
  Niiyama, Y., ed. (2010), Syouwado (in Japanese)

○ What is the GAP for Food Safety?

○ In Search of Food safety; Regulatory Science for Food Safety

○ The Possibility of North East Asia Cooperateting for Food Safety
  Niiyama, Y. (2010), Agriculture and Economy; 76(3), 65-77 (in Japanese)

○ "Collaborations among Agriculture, Commerce and Industry for Local Development" and "New Cooperations" of JA: Diverse Collaborations for Local Revitalization
Roles of the Biofuel Crop (Jatrofa) for Development of Africa: “Miracle Crop” or “Neocolonialism”
Tsujimura, H., Mizuno, Y. (2010), Agriculture and Economy, 76(4), (in Japanese)

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Economy of Delicious Coffee: The Bitter Reality of Kilimanjaro Coffee

Transition of agricultural policy in Tanzania: From the Structural Adjustment Policy to the Poverty Reduction Strategy

Price Formation of Coffee and Fair Trade: A Case Study of Kilimanjaro Coffee

Positions of the Organic Coffee for Roasters and Producers: Views of Social and Environmental Ethics
Tsujimura, H. (2009), Agriculture and Economy, 75(3) (in Japanese)

Old Documents on Forestry and Forest Products in Ohara, Kyoto, Japan (2): Documents related to Kimura Sohemon, Magistrate of Gonyubokuyama

Analysis Method of Fairness in Food Trade: Roles of “Food System” and “Management of Farming Household Economy” for Fair Trade Studies

Consumer Choice Behavior on Food and Consumption of Domestic Agricultural Products

The Supplied Information Quantity and Consumer Choice Behavior at the Point-of-Food-Purchase: On Information Supplying in Traceability-system

Ethical Sourcing, Fair trade and CSR in the Coffee Industry

The Socioeconomic Structure and Regional Economic Zone of the Western Area of Mt. Kilimanjaro

The Global Food System and Price Fluctuation of Coffee: From Tanzania as a Case of Producing Countries to Japan as a Case of Consuming Countries

Old Documents on Forestry and Forest Products in Ohara, Kyoto, Japan (1)
○Consumers’ Milk Choice Behavior and Palatability: An Integrated Study with Point-of-Purchase, Information Display Board, Questionnaire and Palatability Test Approach

○Consumer Information processing at the Point of Flesh Food Purchase; The Conceptual Model and The Protocol Analysis by Thinking Aloud Method

○Price Formation of Rice produced at Ayabe, Kyoto and Problems of Direct Sales from the Farm (Sanchoku): The Value of Face-to-Face Relationships

○Poverty Issues and Management of Farming Household Economy at a Rural Village in Tanzania: Roles of Fair Trade of Coffee

○The Coffee Crisis and Fair Trade: Characteristics of Price Formation and Impact on Production Areas
  Objectives of Fair Trade: The Present Situation and Problems of Diversified Fair Trade in Japan

○People in Kilimanjaro

○Characteristics of Maize and Bean Production and Sales in Kilimanjaro: Commercial Crop Diversification Caused by the Coffee Crisis and Security of Farm Household Economy