

Invitation of Four Senior Research Administrators to Japan to Further the Mutual Understanding

Since the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry launched upon the tropical agriculture research in 1966 to contribute to the improvement of agricultural technique of tropical regions, various projects have been carried out such as sending oversea researchers, oversea spot investigation, technique exchange by holding symposium, invitation of senior research administrators to Japan and periodical English publications of research findings, etc.

Needless to state that to solve various problems confronting tropical agriculture which is rapidly changing and the improvement of which is keenly being demanded, the cooperation and mutual understanding among the related countries are particularly important.

In the light thereof, four senior administrators in tropical countries who are in charge of agricultural research and of application of the research findings have been invited to Japan to have them inspect agricultural research institutions of Japan and exchanged opinions on how to promote the research cooperation in future.

Although their stay in Japan was so short but four administrators have enthusiastically inspected our experiment and research institutions and frankly exchanged their opinions with their Japanese counterparts.

Visiting Senior Research Administrators were:

- Dr. G.W.E. Fernando
Director, Agricultural Research Station, Maha-Illuppallama, Ceylon
- Dr. Ir. Go Ban Hong
Director, Central Research Institute for Agriculture
Bogor, Indonesia
- Mr. Mohamad Tamin bin Yeop
State Agricultural Officer,
Kedah, Malaysia
- Mr. Chee Sek Pan

Chief of the Rice Research Unit
Bumbong Lima, Malaysia

The Names of the Institutes or Places visited by Dr. Fernando and Dr. Go

National Institute of Agricultural Sciences in Tokyo
Central Agricultural Experiment Station in Konosu
Food Research Institute
Kurume Branch, Horticultural Research Station in Fukuoka Pre.
Kyushu Agricultural Experiment Station in Fukuoka Pre.
Saga Branch, Agricultural Engineering Research Station in Saga Pre.
Institute of Agricultural Machinery in Saitama Pre.
Saga Prefectural Agriculture Experiment Station in Saga Pre.
Nagasaki Prefectural Agriculture and Forest Research Center Nagasaki Pre.
Aino Potato Research Center in Nagasaki Pre.
High-yielding Paddy fields in Saga Plain in Saga Pre.
Agricultural Machineries and Chemical Fertilizer Plants

The Names of the institutes or places visited by Mr. Tamin and Mr. Chee

Central Agricultural Experiment Station in Konosu
Tokai-kinki Agricultural Experiment Station in Mie Pre.
Institute of Agricultural Machinery in Saitama Pre.
Miyakawa Irrigation Project in Mie Pre.
Biwa-Lake Reclamation Project and Country Elveater in Shiga Pre.
The Center for Southeast Asian Studies Kyoto University in Kyoto
Agricultural Machineries and Chemical fertilizer Plants

Outline of the discussion at the research council

Japanese side first explained the research programs for tropical agriculture, then each visiting administrator expressed his opinion. The meeting was concluded by exchanging the opinions among all these attending.

Unanimous opinion of the visiting administrators was that their visit and inspection in Japan were first time that it was very fruitful. Dr. Fernando explained in details many upland crops now being experimented in Ceylon. It was very interesting that new crops are being steadily introduced.

Dr. Go Ban Hong explained the trend prevailing among the research institutions and researchers in Indonesia as well as various situations and factors surrounding the agriculture of Indonesia, the explanation offered a very valuable reference to technical cooperation in future.

Mr. Tamin and Mr. Chee pointed out various problems in irrigation plan of Muda River. The explanations further deepened the understanding of Japanese side in research cooperation particularly in mechanization, double cropping irrigation and the study of credit system.

Four visiting administrators expressed their interest and tribute to tropical agricultural research program and expressed their anticipation for further development of the program.

It can be safely stated that such a meeting will contribute immeasurably to the furtherance of technical research cooperation among the countries concerned and to the further recognition of the importance thereof. Brief reviews of the explanation and opinion of visiting administrators are as follows:

Dr. Fernando

At present already seven Japanese researchers are stationed in Ceylon. However, because upland rice culture has come to occupy a very important sector it was desired to have a research in this field.

Because of the fact that dry zone of Ceylon had such a potentiality and the related experiment and research are being expanded.

In recent years to ensure a high yield, the irrigation is keenly being studied with re-

search directed to irrigation agriculture including the experiment of introducing new crops and economic feasibility of irrigation agriculture.

Dr. Fernando requested a technical cooperation in the experiment to introduce new crops and new varieties in dry zone.

Dr. Go Ban Hong

Dr. Go opened his statement by regretting that no researcher under this tropical agricultural research program has not so far been sent to Indonesia and expressed his keen desire to have Japanese cooperation in research sectors which Indonesia lacks, under this program.

In 1966 at the time Japanese investigation team, headed by a director of agricultural experiment station visited Indonesia, the reorganization of research and experiment institutions has just been completed that the conditions were inadequate to receive the cooperation of other countries but years have passed since then and now, with domestic situations well stabilized that research can be fully carried out.

There are some common research problems in Indonesia with Japan such as 'Ando Soil' and Indonesia particularly desires the cooperation of Japan in improving the rice yield.

Dr. Go felt that the visit at this time offered him an opportunity to clearly comprehend that Japanese researchers are very superior with high capability and have such an abundant experience.

Mr. Tamin and Mr. Chee

The Muda Irrigation project is the largest construction work of its kind in Malaysia that at the completion of the Project in 1970, 30,000 ha of the district will be two cropping area. However, notwithstanding the shortage in time limit the project in confronted with so many problems calling for the solution.

In connection with the Project, specialists which Malaysia desires so much from Japan are agricultural engineer, irrigation agronomist, well acquainted in both crop and water management and specialist in drying and storage installations that is, among technical problems those which need an

immediate solution are mechanization in connection with the implementation of two croppings, particularly, the development of harvesting and transporing machineries and the problems of drying and storage.

At present we are searching the machineries suitable to the conditions of Malaysia but unable to find a proper machineries.

Because Japanese machinery makers are so quick in adapting new method and in improving machinery we desired so much to consult those machinery specialist of private

industry but we did not have a time which we regret so much. Next, as to irrigation specialist, we desire to have your cooperation in compiling the back data concerned with water management and double croppings, which are necessary in establishing a basic program for double cropping district.

Although our inspection at this time did not have a direct impact on the implementation of this great project of ours, the Muda Plan but it was a very good experience and very fruitful.