

PREFACE

This supplementary issue presents some of the results of a 4-year research project funded as part of a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Project No. 19252006 headed by Jun Ikeno, Kyoto University) from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for the 2007 to 2010 Japanese academic years.

Seven articles in this volume draw on various perspectives to elucidate issues related to food security and livelihood in rural Africa. The meaning of food security at the household level may differ from that at the national level. However, the simplest method for ensuring the availability of food would seem to involve increasing the production of crops, especially those that are considered staples. Takane's article on Malawi (Ch. 1), Kodamaya's article on Zambia (Ch. 2), Takahashi's article on Senegal (Ch. 3), and Ikeno's article on Tanzania (Ch. 4) address this approach to food security. Takane and Kodamaya focus on the responses of small-scale farmers to the changing national agricultural development policies on maize, which is a staple crop. Takahashi also addresses the production of rice as a staple crop, but his article, as well as that by Ikeno on kidney beans as a non-staple crop emphasizes local initiatives for agricultural development, which are not necessarily directly responsive to national development policies. These four articles refer to livelihood strategies and changes in such strategies within the agricultural sector, whereas Ikegami examines diversification in the livelihood base. Ikegami's article (Ch. 5) discusses the emergence of pig production in the Northern Highlands of Tanzania in the context of the decline in the price of the main cash crop, Arabica coffee.

Apart from non-farm activities, which do not depend on land resources, access to land is crucial for rural livelihoods. Ueda's article on Tanzania (Ch. 6) examines the changing land-use pattern in a mountain village, given long-term changes in socioeconomic conditions. The article by Takeuchi and Marara on Rwanda during the post-civil war period (Ch. 7) illuminates the legitimacy of land rights by means of research into village mediation mechanisms for land conflicts. Takahashi also refers to a village's decision to provide relief to the landless younger generation, and Ikeno notes that outsiders can access irrigable fields within a community.

All authors included in this supplementary issue attend to realities in rural Africa that affect food security and livelihood. Increasing crop production is regarded as a useful, but not an exclusive, means for enhancing food security, given that rural populations have alternative livelihood strategies. For instance, when those in rural areas choose to purchase rather than produce food to attain food security, a gap between the intentions underpinning the national agricultural development policy at the macro level and the efforts of those involved in agricultural production at the micro level would seem to have emerged. Even in those cases in which farmers increase food production, this phenomenon should not be understood to be a simple consequence of a development policy but, rather,

an outcome of the complex decision-making processes of rural people. We hope our articles will contribute to bridging the potential gaps in micro- and macro-level perceptions, in the service of achieving participatory and sustainable development in rural Africa.

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