Restructuring Korean Agriculture and Its Directions
For Future Development

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Contents

I. Introduction
II. Characteristics of Korean Agriculture
III. Growth of Agriculture
IV. Change of Agricultural Circumstances
V. Direction of Agricultural Development
VI. Summary of 10 Year Plan for Agricultural Development

Abstract

The productivity of Korean agriculture has remarkably increased since 1970's. Although Korean agriculture has continued its sustainable growth, income and living conditions of rural people is far behind compared with those of urban household mainly due to the policy of fostering export-oriented urban industry particularly in the 1980's, which depressed

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farmer's morale and deteriorated value of agriculture as an industry. Moreover, as the pressure to liberalize agricultural trade is geared up, farmers fearing the future of agriculture is steadily emigrating from their hometown to urban city, which has brought about fundamental change of rural community.

At this turning period, research activities toward agricultural technology innovation and extension system should be reconsidered to meet the necessities of restructuring agriculture. This paper summarizes the characteristics of Korean agriculture, its growth pattern, and environmental changes while describing the agricultural policy with emphasis on new agricultural research. The prospective 10-year government plan which proposes the directions for readjustment Korean agriculture is introduced.

I. INTRODUCTION

After Korean Peninsula was divided into North and South Korea, population of South Korea becomes 4th largest in terms of population density. Therefore, Korean farmers have to cultivate crops on their smallest land in the world and consequently land price converted from its productivity value is among the highest compared with that of other countries. It can be said that highest productivity is possible with the most intensive use of labor and inputs but at the highest production costs. In short, small scale of land, labor intensiveness, and partial self-sufficiency farming system may represent the characteristics of Korean agriculture.

Korea made much efforts to achieve the self-sufficiency of staple