

THE OCCUPATION AND LIFE OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PEOPLE IN SAHELIAN RURAL AREA OF WEST AFRICA FOCUSING ON THEIR RISK MANAGEMENT AND WOMEN'S ROLE

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Keywords: Sahelian area, agricultural people, pastoral people, women, vegetable growing in dry season, potential, “crisis year”, risk management

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE THESIS

The climate of Sahelian area in west Africa is semi-arid by nature and its annual precipitation is unstable year by year from 200mm~400mm. This harsh climate condition and unstable rainfall make this area fragile to serious famine. Besides cultivated acreage per person has decreased because of the growing population in rural area and continuing cultivation for many years has made deteriorate land fertility, the growing number of the livestock attendant on the population growth has also put spurs to it. However even under such difficult circumstances, people have stuck a balance between their life and these situations. The objective of this thesis is to find their potential and to take in the option to ameliorate the life by observing and deliberating their life.

2. OUTLINE OF SAHELIAN AREA IN NIGER

Sahelian area of Niger is located between the northern limit of cultivation and southern Sudan-savanna climate area. Because of the harsh climate condition mentioned above, people are suffering from lack of food chronically. Characteristic of this area is that both agricultural people and pastoral people live and their life-style has been closer to each other in recent years.

3. THE LIFE OF SAHELIAN RURAL AREA

The life of pastoral men, agricultural men and women in the study area are focused on in this chapter.

Based on the results of the interviews which were taken from December 2007 to March 2008, their life and occupation are observed from various aspects and especially, women's potentials or possibilities are found in the dry season.

4. “CRISIS YEAR” AND THE RISK MANAGEMENT

“Crisis year” and its reactions of pastoral men, agricultural men and women are examined in this chapter. Their “crisis years” are different by their occupation or risk management and also their sensitivities to the crisis are changed by many reasons.

5. SMALL SCALE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES – CASE STUDY OF THE VEGETABLE GROWING IN DRY SEASON-

Women's activities of vegetable growing in the study area, which put women's potential in dry season to account are focused on in this chapter. They could be one of the option of risk management.