

# Livelihood of villagers in the Sahel area

## “A case study based on the Hausa and Foulani people of Southern Niger”

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### 1. Background and Purpose

The Sahel area is a semi-arid area located on the south of Sahara Desert. The loss of harvest or livestock are caused by a drought, irregular rain, the pest damage to agricultural products, shortage of grass and an infectious disease. Therefore villager's lives may be in "Crisis"(Mortimore and Adams 2001). In the Sahel, a number of regional development assistance have been made for food production that poverty is a problem from unstable climatic factors. Then, carrying out the regional development assistance, we need to understand the livelihood of the people and the mechanism of crisis management. The objective of this study is to understand the livelihood of the people of the Sahel area, to clarify the mechanism of crisis management.

### 2. Research Area and Method

The field research was conducted, in August-November 2011, January-March 2012, June-July 2012, and November-December 2012. Research fields are two villages of Hausa, Takasaba Maradi and Nafuta, one village of Foulani, Rougague Nafuta, in the Tessaoua commune, Tessaoua prefecture, Maradi region, Republic of Niger. Research was conducted by questionnaire, conversation with the villagers, participatory observation in Hausa language and French.

### 3. Results and Discussion

Farming is the main livelihood of the Hausa, rearing of small livestock, gathering, fishing, vegetable cultivation have been carried out in addition. Pastoralism and farming are the main livelihood of Fulani, in addition, gathering, migrant, peddling of milk have been carried out in addition. Hausa and Fulani run a living by combining a variety of livelihoods, and to conduct a complex livelihood had become crisis management. Hausa and Fulani's coping activities were sale of small livestock, sale of cattle, gathering and selling firewood, eat bran, beneficiaries of food aid and migrant. In the "crisis years", the amount, number and duration of livelihood has been carried out beyond the scope of routine. From this, a living mechanism of crisis management that are inherent became clear. And there were coping activities in subsistence livelihoods in the region and outside the region. A livelihood in the region, there was a feeding of cattle, small livestock rearing, gathering and selling firewood, a livelihood in the outside there was a migrant. Was focused on the migrant as a livelihood outside the region, a lot of villagers have experienced migrant, and a certain number of villagers every year was going to earn money as well in recent years. Migrant villagers had spread to a wide area to the city as well as outside the country. The contents of the work are wide-ranging, and the contents of the work do not require specific skills. Then, the villagers had to go away to work for the purpose of preparing the food and livelihood purchase of clothing and construction of the residence. It found that from the above, is one of the indispensable livelihood that migrant villagers in the Sahel.

Mortimore, J. M., and Adams, M. W., 2001, Farmer adaptation, change and 'crisis' in the Sahel, *Global Environmental Change*, Vol. 11, pp. 49-57.

