

## *Summary and Proposals (Research Reports)*

### **Session B: Northeast Asian Food Security**

For the "Northeast Asian Food Security" session, in its second year continuing on from the previous time, reports were made on case examples and research connected to food industry clusters and regional stimulation. Case examples were introduced of the links between the food industry and agriculture, or food industry clusters, being formed in various countries and regions around the world, and in each of the case examples it was shown that there is potential for the food industry clusters to invigorate the food industry and agriculture of the region, and in turn the entire socio-economic fabric. There were reports abounding in suggestions for the "International Food Cluster Formation in Northeast Asia", prearranging proposals for the session next time around.

For the first half of the session the current situation of food industry clusters in less developed countries and in Japan was reported in keynote reports. Firstly, Professor Ewa Bojar of Lublin University in Poland, with a title of "The Clusters, and the Foreign Direct Investment Inflow and Its Impact on the Labor Market in Less Developed Regions", spoke on the role that the Hop and Ecological Food Clusters in Poland play within regional economies. In Poland clusters stimulate innovation, increase the competitiveness of individual businesses, attract foreign direct investment, and are creating employment.

Next, Professor Osamu Saito of the Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University, with a title of "Food Industry Clusters in Japan: Food Systems Linking Food and Agriculture", reported on the current situation of and challenges for Japan's food industry clusters. In Japan, the "Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas" was reviewed in 2005, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry had also just begun to tackle the linking of SMEs and agricultural producers via the "agriculture and commerce and industry partnership initiatives", yet the impact to date has been small, and he said that in the future the formation of food industry clusters was necessary which addressed among other things: the industrial linking of food and agriculture; the development functions of experimental and research institutions; and governmental policy support. In particular, he proposed the formation of networks in which other industries and diverse forms of business conduct interchange, and the formation of clusters which have integrated the supply and value chains.

In the second half, reports were made on case examples of food industry clusters in various regions of China, the ROK and Japan. Firstly, Professor Lily Kiminami of the Niigata University Graduate School of Science and Technology reported, with a title of "International Linkages and Cooperation in China's Rural Development and Food Industry by Means of a Cluster Strategy". Initially, regarding the collaborative research by ERINA, Niigata University, and Tokyo University which forms the base of this session, the making of practical proposals was explained relating to the formation of international food clusters conducive to food security and economic links in Northeast Asia in the future. Additionally, it was reported that the results, of the analysis of the case examples of the Shanghai Vegetable Cluster and the Xinjiang Hop Cluster, and of the analysis of a questionnaire on the project linkages in Niigata Prefecture and Heilongjiang Province, were that cluster formation is applicable as a vehicle for rural and societal development and that project linkages promote the growth and improvement of competitiveness of businesses.

Next, Professor Lee Byung-Oh of the Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics, College of Agriculture and Life Science, Kangwon National University, ROK, with a title of "The Present Situation of Food Industry and Cluster Policy in Korea", reported on the course of development of food industry clusters in the ROK and the trial in Gangwon-do. In the ROK, under a concept to lead the way in the development of the food industry as a whole, they are creating the national food cluster in Iksan City, Jeollabuk-do, with an investment of approximately one trillion won from 2009 to 2015. By region, as regional agricultural cluster projects, food industry clusters are being fostered which make the best of regional specialties. He proposed that in Gangwon-do also they should promote the improvement of security and added value in differentiation and sales channels via the diversifying of project content, such as traditional food products, local food products, foods with health-promoting benefits, foods for the elderly, foodstuffs, and exports.

Lastly, Teruya Morishima, Senior Researcher at the National Agricultural Research Center for Hokkaido Region, with a title of "The Attempt to Form a Soybean Cluster in Hokkaido", reported on case examples of clusters in Japan's regions. Although Hokkaido is the largest area of soybean production, constituting approximately a quarter of the national total, it has undertaken development modeled on the shipment out of produce for a wide variety of agricultural and marine products, and not just soybeans. Consequently, increasing the degree of processing in Hokkaido and creating added value is a challenge for regional economic revitalization; they have deepened the links between the agricultural and fisheries industry and food-related industries within certain geographic areas; and in order to generate new products and business, the attempt to support with policy the formation and development of food industry clusters is being carried out in various areas. The "A" Soybean Cluster (Sapporo Urban Area) was set up in 2001 in a policy initiative, the network of enterprises connected to it has expanded, and product development has also progressed. It was suggested that there is potential for linking to the creation of new projects in various areas in the future also.

(NAKAMURA, Toshihiko, Research Division Director, ERINA)

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