

## 2. Outline of the Results

A typical life-oriented agricultural training system is Shuno-Junbi School established in 1996, which has a Tokyo headquarters and 9 branches in various areas of Japan. Table 1 summarizes characteristics of 66 courses given by the school. This table shows that 50.0% of courses are introductory courses, 80.3% of training terms are two weeks or less, and 72.9% of school fees are less than 30 thousand yen. Thus we can see that agricultural training system of Shuno-Junbi School is short term, low cost and for beginners.

A lot of life-oriented systems do not necessarily engage in farming. However they have need to use acquired agricultural skills and knowledge through a farmwork program for beginners. The project based on these needs is

undertaking of Tokyo promoting farmwork volunteer started at 1996. In this project, a citizen of Tokyo who has finished agricultural courses supports the farmer for farmwork. The number of farmwork volunteers is 613 persons cumulative from 1996 to 2003, and they are assigned to 126 farmers. We should keep track of the trend toward increased farmwork volunteering, because life-oriented systems have a potential for a farmer taking the next step.

## 3. Related Publication

Egawa, A. (2003) Startup of Farm Management and Incubation on New Entry of Non-Farming Households into Agriculture, Yanagimura, S. (eds.), *Succession Problems on Japanese Agriculture*, Nihon Keizai Hyoronsha.

**Table 1.** Description of Course Given by Shuno-Junbi School

| Venues      | Number of Courses | Ma Number of Students (person) | Descriptions of 66 Courses |      |                           |      |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
|             |                   |                                | Course Type                | %    | Training Term             | %    |
| Sapporo     | 2                 | 40                             | Experiential course        | 18.2 | 1-6 days                  | 45.5 |
| Koibuchi    | 3                 | 43                             | Introduction course        | 50.0 | 7-13 days                 | 34.8 |
| Uchihara    | 13                | 240                            | Specialty course           | 18.2 | 14-20 days                | 10.6 |
| Saitama     | 4                 | 100                            | Practical course           | 13.6 | More than 21 days         | 7.6  |
| Tokyo       | 11                | 300                            |                            |      | Others                    | 1.5  |
| Yokohama    | 4                 | 120                            | Types of Class             | %    | School Fees               | %    |
| Yatsugadake | 10                | 125                            | Experience of farming      | 19.7 | Less than 10 thousand yen | 21.2 |
| Nagoya      | 8                 | 215                            | Vegetable                  | 19.7 | 10-20 thousand yen        | 10.6 |
| Osaka       | 8                 | 160                            | Organic farming            | 18.2 | 20-30 thousand yen        | 40.9 |
| Fukuoka     | 3                 | 70                             | Flower                     | 12.1 | More than 30 thousand yen | 27.3 |
| Total       | 66                | 1,413                          | Horticulture               | 10.6 |                           |      |

Source: Data of Association of Education assistance for Youth in Rural areas

## Thoughts and its Changing Process of Theatrical Movement in Rural Area

**Yoshihiko AIKAWA**

Kenji Miyazawa (1896-1933) proposed that modern arts monopolized and biased by capitalism should be returned to the hands of the ordinary people and be restored by adding their life force and vitality to them. In his thoughts is clearly observed a strong influence of democracy movements in the Taisho Era (1912-1926), which coincided with his adolescence, and the popular art theories stimulated by these movements.

The post-war rural theatrical movement in Nagatoro, Yamagata Prefecture, had its origin in Miyazawa's thoughts on arts. Before the war, Jinjiro Matsuda, who had learned Miyazawa's ideas on arts from Miyazawa himself, started theatrical movements of young people as a means of rural development. These movements were revived in the post-war years as a group activity through the cooper-

ation between the students of Ichitaro Kokubu, the leader of a life recording movement, and the young people provoked by Matsuda's theatrical movement. This group activity was supported by local youth groups and associations. To these groups, staging was helpful in making the solidarity of members stronger, but was an obstacle because it required a large amount of funds and enormous labor. Thus, owing to the clash between the need to strengthen the ties of members and the difficulty in financing, members engaged in staging work were often replaced by new ones.

Fig. 1 shows the number of performances by youth groups and associations after World War II. The number of performances was generally increasing when youth groups and associations were active. The latter half of the 1940's and the 1950's were the most active

period in the movements of youth groups and associations. When young people began to flow out of villages consequent to economic growth in urban areas starting in the 1960's, the number of performances was decreasing, to once a year at most. After 1979, when the youth association in Nagatoro was dissolved, performances became impossible, though several were tried during the first half of the 1980's.

The rural theatrical movements ran after two hares: pursuit of an idea and the provision of entertainment. Initially, the staging got rid of entertainment-oriented popular dramas and offered programs of enlightenment aimed at considering problems together with the audience. But gradually the pieces staged freed themselves from their original obstinate adherence to ideals and began to include folklore dramas and other existing masterpieces. Then the programs started to take up subjects close to people's lives in answer to audience

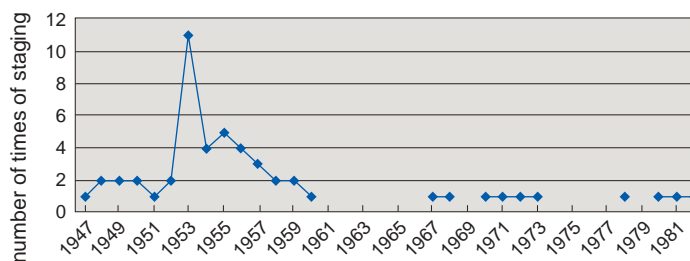


Fig. 1. Number of performances by youth groups and associations in Nagatoro Village after World War II

demand, and to create dramas reflecting rural life and traditions. But as the young people's organizations were dissolved one after another, the rural theatrical movement based on these groups disappeared. At present, Nagatoro has three theatrical groups, which are being specialized in a direction that strengthens the aspects of enlightenment or arts.

## Present Problems of Hilly and Mountainous Areas under Enforcement of the Direct Payment System

Takaaki WATANABE

The purpose of this study is to clarify the present problems in hilly and mountainous areas (HMA) by examining the enforcement process of the direct payment system.

In April 2000, the Japanese government started a direct payment system for farmers in HMA, so that they could continue farming and living and could preserve multifunctionality in HMA. The authorities are aware of the fact that depopulation and land abandonment in HMA reduce the so-called multifunctionality of Japan's agricultural and rural areas, and consequently damage the whole system of ecology and economy. Based on regulatory standards, HMA municipalities define the target of this payment, where people and communities are expected to continue farming and preserve multifunctionality. In the target district, farmers participating in the system have to make a contract and continue preserving farmland for 5 years.

According to the author's case studies in some HMA municipalities, municipal officers enforce the system in accordance with the actual situation and needs. All contracts are based on the hamlet, and farmland has been maintained better than before. In all cases, the direct payment is either utilized for communal activities or is distributed to individual farmers. In Minase village, only 6% of payment is utilized for community activities, while the ratio in the other two villages amounts to almost the half (Table 1). In Sukawa village, the majority is spent on the maintenance of farm

roads, farmland and water facilities, whereas in Sakegawa the ratio of the expenditure for communally used machines and facilities is the largest (Table 2).

Table 1. Enforcement of the Direct Payment System in three Villages (2001)

|  | Minase village | Sukawa village | Sakegawa village |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Number of contracts                                | 20             | 10             | 32               |
| Number of participating farmers                    | 617            | 462            | 608              |
| The total area for payment (ha)                    | 522            | 314            | 654              |
| Paddy field (ha)                                   | 508            | 314            | 637              |
| Field (ha)   | 6              | 0              | 17               |
| Grassland (ha)                                     | 7              | 0              | 0                |
| Amount of payment (1,000yen)                       | 71,459         | 32,053         | 135,701          |
| Ratio of appropriation for communal activities (%) | 6              | 52.4           | 50               |

Source: All data is collected from official government of Akita prefecture, Yamagata prefecture, Minase village, Yuzawa city, and Sakegawa village.

Note: The data of Sukawa village is based on 2000.

Table 2. Appropriation for Communal Activities (breakdown) (%)

|  | Sukawa village | Sakegawa village | Japan average |
|--|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Committees' remuneration                                 | 7.8            | 7.3              | 7.2           |
| Meetings   | 5.9            | 2.4              | 2.2           |
| Maintenance of farm roads, farmland and water facilities | 48.1           | 18.9             | 32.3          |
| Communally used machines and facilities                  | 4.0            | 32.8             | 12.7          |
| Promoting landscape management activities                | 10.1           | 1.6              | 7.6           |
| Others   | 9.3            | 10.0             | 12.9          |
| Reserve fund   | 0.0            | 6.7              | 9.4           |
| Balance carried forward                                  | 14.8           | 28.0             | 15.6          |

Source: All data is collected by MAFF and official government of Yuzawa city, and Sakegawa village.

Note: The data of Sukawa village is based on 2000.