Outline of the report on “the future direction of international cooperation in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries”

Under the situation that the Japanese government is being expected to implement its ODA (Official Development Assistance) in line with the national strategy, MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) recognizes the importance of continuous and steady promotion of international cooperation in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries such as social infrastructure development and transferring technical know-how. From this point of view, MAFF unveils the future direction of international cooperation in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

1. Present situation of the cooperation
   - The importance of sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in developing countries and Japan’s cooperation for the sustainable development have not changed for the achievement of “Millennium Development Goals” and for the poverty reduction especially in Africa.
   - MAFF would implement cooperation by using its own financial resources in specific fields which hold importance from the viewpoint of agricultural, forestry and fishery policies in Japan. MAFF would also provide human resources and knowledge on agriculture, forestry and fisheries for cooperation under the national framework through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA.
   - MAFF recognizes the importance of comprehensive strategy to implement cooperation effectively under the movement for integration of ODA implementing bodies and strengthening the function as the headquarters for cooperation.

2. Issues to be considered in cooperation
   - In order to become more effective in planning and implementing cooperative projects such as the new sector-wide approach in competition among international donors, there is the need to consider medium/long term agricultural policies, and build up necessity systems and policies in recipient countries in addition to the previous cooperation of the transfer of technology.
   - It is needed to consider coherent strategy of basic food and agricultural policy through the viewpoint of food security and global-wide resource/environmental issues including WTO/EPA negotiation.

3. Future direction of cooperation
   (1) Setting up a strategic target from the viewpoint of;
      - Contribution to stable food supply in the world including developing countries will also contribute to stable food supply in Japan.
      - Transferring the Japanese farming system, which harmonizes with the environment, to the regions where the system would be suitable
      - Cooperation in global environment and natural resources conservation
   (2) Directions of the cooperation
      - Comprehensive political support for administrative systems in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in developing countries
• Exact and positive response to the needs of developing countries which are also beneficial to Japan such as food safety, animal and plant quarantine, global environmental issues, implementation of “Development initiatives” and for that purpose, cooperation with international organizations
• Support for establishing a legal system in the field of agriculture forestry and fisheries and for capacity building relating to international rules/standards
• Strengthening international coordination/cooperation within/outside the framework of ODA for food security in Japan and in the world
• Work on sustainable forest management and illegal logging for global-wide environmental protection
• Steady implementation of social infrastructure improvement and technical cooperation

4. Concrete measures
(1) Measures by MAFF
In addition to ongoing methods of cooperation, the following comprehensive measures would be taken;
• summarizing and introducing previous cooperation projects which have been completed successfully
• planned cultivation of technical experts with high specialties and language skills
• participating positively in activities of setting up international rules/standards by FAO, strategic cooperation with CGAIR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization)
• specifying cooperation policies by region, for example, for the Asian region, support for building up techniques and systems by using knowledge and experience from the Japanese farming system, sharing the data on agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry, its products and food, and enhancing political cooperation
• strengthening international cooperation on food and agriculture issues from the view point of food security, and in the first place, enhancing information exchange coordinating with universities and trading houses

(2) Various activities by strengthening network
Strengthen network with NGOs, universities, local governments and various private organizations. Set up occasions for dialogue among the network members.

STATISTICS

The following statistics are available from the Statistics Planning Division of the Statistics Department: Tel. (03) 3501-3710.


Reference: The English documents are published on the following URL: http://www.maff.go.jp/esokuhou/index.html

Notes: 1. All materials are in Japanese unless otherwise noted.
2. The contacts may not be able to respond to inquiries in any language except Japanese.