

economic effect brought by the merger can not expected, the improvement of efficiency of management by organizational reformation has become critical.

Moreover, positive analysis on the comprehensible improvement of productivity within the management of Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperatives between the 1980s and mid 1990s was carried out based on a TCI approach (Firm-Specific Indexed of Technical Change) which was used in the research of the measure of efficiency within the aviation industry and banking industry. The result indicates that during this period, the trend of the TCI increased about 30 % (Fig. 1), however the TCI is floundering, and shows no marked changes especially in recent years. Next, the TFP (Total Factor Productivity) change rate with regard to the total technological change and scale merit were measured (Fig. 2), and the result indicates stagnant growth in technological changes as well as the scale economy effect. As can be seen from the rate which indicates subzero growth in the 90s, the TFP shows little increase. The result proves the depression in Japanese Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperation Management from the perspective of productivity. The result indicating the decrease in the contribution to the productivity by scale of benefit as well as the stagnation in the rate of technological changes reveals the limits of the merger aiming at the increase in productivity.

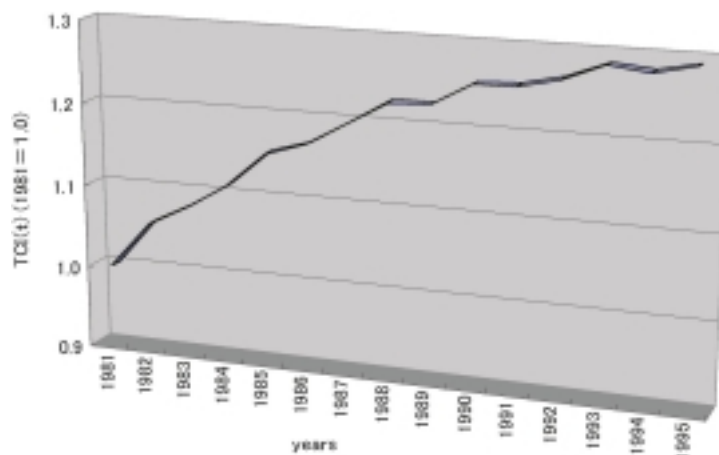


Fig. 1. Trends of the TCI in Japanese Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperatives from 1991 to 1995

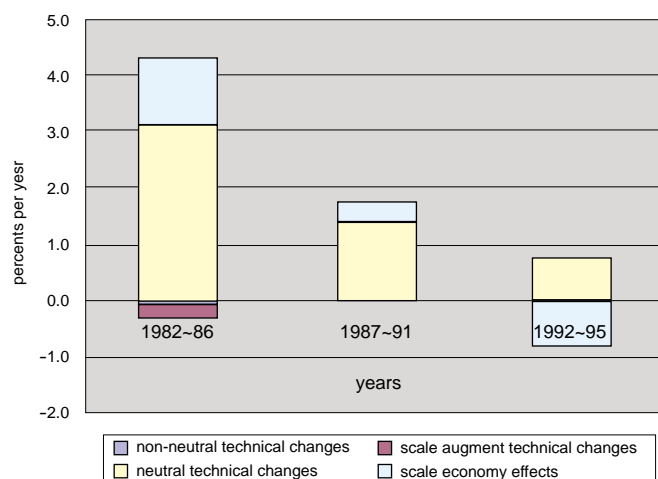


Fig. 2. Changes of the TFP

A Comparative Analysis of the Institutional Construction of Rural Development Policy

Keiichi ISHII

1. Objective

Since the 1980s, rural development policy has been expanded to enable the farm economy to adapt to the decline of price support policy oriented by EU Common Agricultural Policy and to reduce economic disparities between regions. Meanwhile, efforts are being sought to enhance the ability of local policy makers to assure rural development policy. The objective of our research was to analyse the structure of local authorities in major European countries and to acquire knowledge that enables comparative studies of rural development policy making implemented in these European countries with those in Japan.

2. Method

The research involved analysing docu-

ments of rural development policy studies in Europe. The current regional situations in major European countries were also surveyed by means of both literary analysis and field research. The organisational characteristics of local government systems were clearly defined to analyse the relationship to rural development policy making.

3. Outline of the results

In 2001, a field survey was carried out in Langres, Haute-Marne, France, the results of which are summarized below.

(1) Institutional changes in French rural communes

a) Decentralization was introduced in the early 1980's and administrative supervision, in-

cluding pre-approval of decisions made by local authorities, was abolished. The responsibilities transferred to local authorities were also defined in each area.

b) The reform of local government systems in the 1990's improved conditions necessary for local citizens to participate in local politics and administration while promoting intercommunal cooperation (Fig.1A) and enhancing local finances. Small *communes* are able to improve the efficiency of local administration by internalising their responsibilities within their *inter-communal* cooperative structure.

c) More than any other policy, the New Sustainable Land Development act of 1999 encouraged more widespread structure development to promote planning and coordination of local development policies (Fig.2C). The num-

ber of areas to which some public policies are applied has apparently risen from 400 to 600 nationally.

(2) Financial resources, organisations and human resources for rural development

a) Financial resources: Contributions by participating *communes* and subsidies from regional authorities are available to finance expenditure incurred from the workings of the intercommunal structure. Project costs from rural development and investments may be claimed by the regional and/or national government by "contract".

b) Organisations and human resources: The reform of local government systems has enabled a broadening of the scope of rural devel-

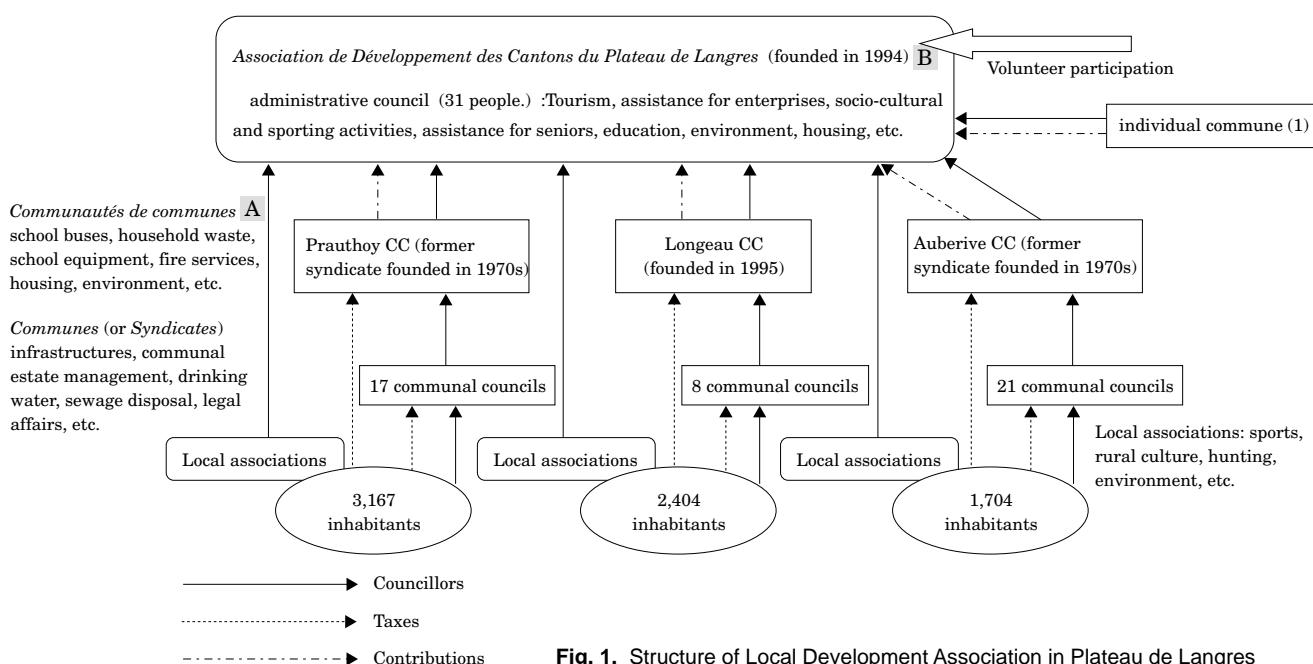


Fig. 1. Structure of Local Development Association in Plateau de Langres

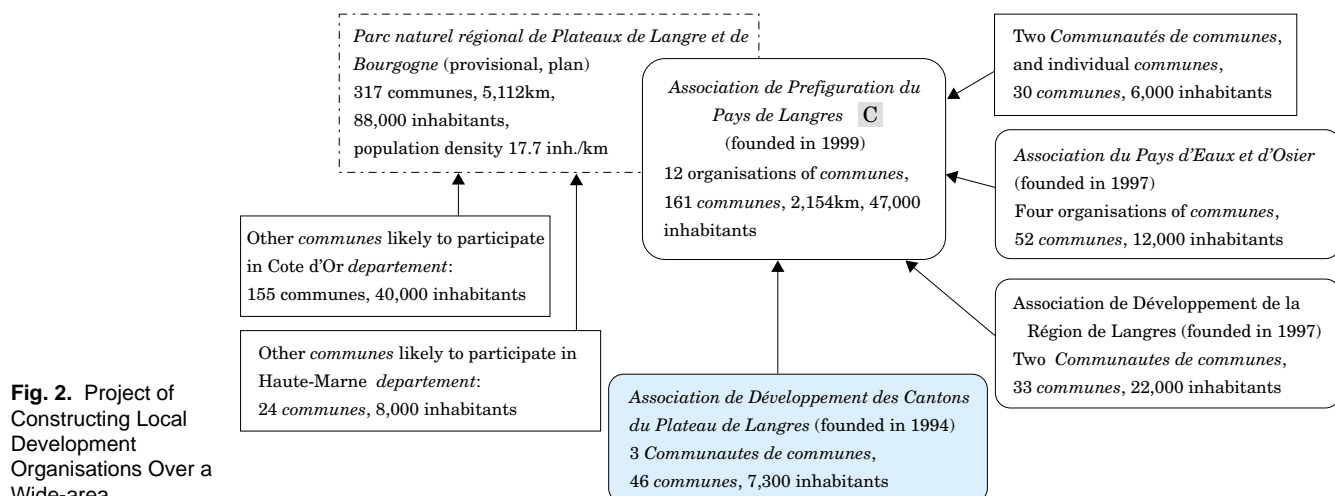


Fig. 2. Project of Constructing Local Development Organisations Over a Wide-area

opment policy centered on economic development and environmental conservation, while ensuring the sound existence of many small local authorities (*communes*). Such penetration of public policy into local societies does not exist within hierarchical bureaucratic systems, but it is practised by representatives of local

authorities and a small number of staff members who are appointed for a specific period to participate in policy making.

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Study on Overseas Movements Regarding the Development and Regulations of Genetically Modified Crops

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Introduction

This research was carried out from 2000 to 2003 as part of the study, "Comprehensive Study on Ensuring Safety in the Industrial Use of Genetically Modified Products" (1999 - 2003), which was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Over recent years, the development of genetic modification technology has been remarkable, and the application of GM technology in the agricultural industry is rapidly on the increase. On the other hand, the social acceptance of GM crops and food products in many countries around the world is in question. There are debates over the safety aspect of GM products as well as labelling and trading regulations amongst not only governmental bodies but also producers, consumers, those in the food industry, journalists as well those who are ethically and religiously concerned. Considering such circumstances, this research was intended to interpret and analyze the actual overseas movements regarding the development of GM crops and relevant regulations by means of social and economic analysis, and to clarify the influence and circumstances behind these movements.

In 2001, a field survey regarding movements of production, distribution and consumption of GM crops and food products as well as related regulations, was implemented in the US, Brazil, Argentina and Australia. Information on relevant movements in France and South Korea was also acquired by means of literature and the use of the Internet. One of the project members was sent to the University College London, to implement a consciousness survey regarding British people's valuation of GM food. In addition, a social and economic analysis was carried out in order to interpret the phenomenon of adverse selection and the friction caused between the US and EU over GM crops and food products, as well as discussing the significance of international regulations for GM products.

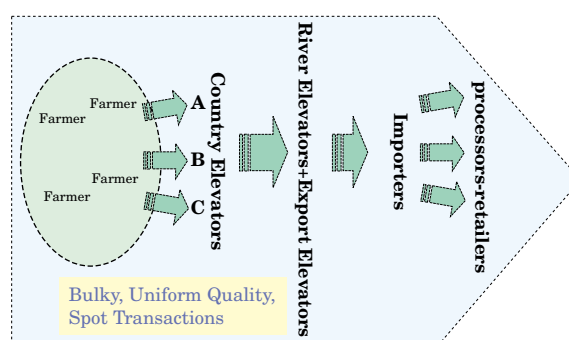
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IP Handling

