

제7발표논문(영어본)

Establishment of an Environment-friendly · Organic Agricultural System at a Regional Level

- Experiences from a Successful Case of Yangpyong County -

Kim, Wan-Bae

Professor, dept. of Agricultural Economics, Seoul National University

I . Introduction

The objective of this paper was to go back into the history of and to evaluate an environment-friendly agriculture at the Yangpyong county in Korea. The background and reasons for the start of an alternative agriculture at that county were discussed and then tried to analyze the detailed developing processes and the present situation of the county's alternative agriculture. Finally, the performances were evaluated and several suggestions for the enlargement of an alternative agriculture were proposed.

II . The Background and Reasons for an Alternative Agriculture

There are several reasons for the start of an alternative agriculture at the Yangpyong county. Around the beginning of U.R. agricultural negotiation, a lively discussion on an environment-friendly agriculture was started as one of the ways for the survival of Korean agriculture and, in addition, consumers became more conscious of and requested for the safety of agricultural products. The change of external circumstances provided a stimulus to put an alternative agriculture in action at the Yangpyong county. Secondly, the county is located near the largest service water source and has suffered from various regulations. Thus, in a position of the county, there was no alternative but to find a way out in an environment-friendly agriculture. Finally, around 400 farmers were

already engaged in an alternative farming before the start of a full-scale alternative agriculture at the county. Their experiences gave confidence in some extent to other farmers.

III. The Developing Processes and Present Situation

An steering committee called "Yangpyong Organic Agriculture-21" which was consisted of leading groups from various fields has played a major role in the developing processes. The committee worked out a master plan with the help of outside experts and even persuaded older generations who were accustomed to a traditional agriculture to join in the movement of an alternative agriculture.

In 1997, the number of farmers engaged in an alternative farming was 418 and the cultivated area was 192 *ha*. However, in 2001, the number of farmers have been increased more than ten times of those in 1997, which is almost a half of whole farmers in the county. The cultivated area of an alternative agriculture in 1997 was 192.1 *ha*. The area has also been increased about 15 times of that in 1997. The budget for an alternative agriculture amounts to 32 billion won which is around 21% of a general account.

Table 1. Farm Households and Cultivated Area by Types of Alternative Agriculture in Yangpyong County, 1997-2001

		Organic	No Chemical	Low Chemical	Total
1997	Farm Households	28	62	328	418
	Area(<i>ha</i>)	16.2	34.1	141.8	192.1
1998	Farm Households	28	97	328	453
	Area(<i>ha</i>)	16.2	69.1	141.8	227.1
1999	Farm Households	40	274	2,255	2,569
	Area(<i>ha</i>)	22.4	121.4	1,913.6	2,057.4
2000	Farm Households	474	1,279	2,360	4,113
	Area(<i>ha</i>)	104.4	397.8	2,078	2,580.2
2001	Farm Households	537	1,215	2,922	4,674
	Area(<i>ha</i>)	126.5	695.6	2,167.3	2,989.4

Source : Yangpyong County

IV. Future Agenda

The developing processes of an alternative agriculture at the Yangpyong county is held in much repute. However, there are still various obstacles to overcome and problems to solve for a further growth. The development of more efficient post-harvest technologies to maintain the freshness of organic products and more effective methods to protect against insect diseases, the enlargement of processing capacities for organic products, and the more detailed and intensive educational programs for farmers might be examples. Some of obstacles can be handled by the county. However, large portions are reserved for the share of central government.