
한국의 유기농민단체 정농회에 관한 사례연구

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CASE STUDY ON ORGANIC FARMER'S ASSOCIATION IN KOREA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JUNG NONG (RIGHT FARMING ORGANIC FARMER'S ASSOCIATION)

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국문요약

본 연구는 1992년도 브라질에서 개최되는 국제환경회의에 UNDP의 요청에 의하여 이루어진 것이다. 한국의 유기농민단체들 가운데에서 화학비료와 농약을 전혀 사용하지 않고 영농을 경영하고 있는 정농회의 역사적인 발전과정을 조사하여 보았다. 그리고 정농회 회원들에 의하여 생산된 유기농산물과 일반 농산물 사이에 가격수준을 비교하여 보았다.

아직도 유기농업에 종사하고 있는 회원수는 500여명에 달하고 있다. 그러나 핵심 구성원수는 50여명에 불과하다. 정농회는 약 17년의 역사를 가지고 있는 유기농민단체이다. 유기농산물의 가격수준은 일반농산물과 비교하여 약 20% 정도의 높은 수준을 나타내고 있다. 그러나 유통과정에서 소비자들에게 직접 배달하여 주거나 또는 직판장에서 직판하고 있는 실정이다.

앞으로 한국의 유기농업을 발전시키기 위하여 좀더 많은 실증적인 연구가 이루어져야 할 것으로 기대하는 바이다.

ABSTRACT

If one is hungry, he cannot judge the quality of food products. He needs only enough quantity of food products. The chemical farming method may produce higher yields of agricultural production. It is

necessary to produce maximum quantity of agricultural production to feed all population in a country. There was green revolution in the early days, development of hybrid rice variety and increasing application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agricultural production. The chemical industry became

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richer and most of rural farmers had serious chemical poisoning from various pesticides. Many poor farmers in Korea lost their valuable life by doing chemical farming methods during last 32 years (1960—92). They could not continue chemical farming any more by applying chemical fertilizer and pesticides. The main goal of national agricultural policy was increasing volume of agricultural production by applying higher amounts of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

There are at present many kinds of different organic farmer's associations in Korea. The Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association is one of special organic farmer's group in comparison with other organic farmer's groups. They never apply any kinds of chemical fertilizers and pesticides mainly in plant production. They have about 16 years history and there are at present 450 member of farmers throughout South Korea.

There are some direct marketing shops in Seoul and Kwangju and about 1,000 urban consumers are regularly buying organic products sold by this organic farmer's association in Seoul. There are great shortage of management capital and the collection system of organic products could be improved efficiently by doing cooperative form of work. Most of organic farmers are supplying individually their farm products for themselves.

There is at moment non of scientific research information on organic farming method in Korea. There is almost non of organic farm advisory services at present and there is also non of education in organic farming methods.

The organic farm of former Chairman of this Association has 3.3 ha upland in Northern part of Seoul about 50. km away. He has only one worker and shortage of seasonal labor requirements. He may have some higher amounts of agricultural income, if he can have 2.5 units of labor forces (1 man × 250 days × 8 hours).

Most of the members of Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association has Christian faith. There is Screening Committee to become full members. They see only mature attitude of human life. They do not have any kinds of production standard in plant production. There is also some kinds of problem in urban consumers. The shapes of organic products is a little different from the conventional agricultural products produced by chemical farming methods. There is a seasonal unbalance of supply and demand of organic products. There is only 20% price differences between producer and consumers at present. That is very positive point in agricultural direct marketing of organic products in comparison with conventional agricultural products.

There is yet none of farm book-keeping results between organic and conventional farms. The financial support policy in converting organic farm is absolutely necessary in the future. The social security system is also necessary for organic farmers in Korea. The organic farming method has various advantages protecting life of farmers and consumers and at the same time keeping rural environment. The social welfare of organic farmers should be also improved in future.

"There are districts in which the position of the rural population is that of a man standing permanently up to the neck in water, so that even a ripple is sufficient to drown him" (Tawney, R.H., 1966).

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (St. Mark 8; 36).

INTRODUCTION

Every country in the world has some specific characteristics in agricultural and economic development. The Republic of Korea has her own development model of national economy and agriculture.

The main economic policy in Korea is rapid industrial development to export industrial products. The international competition of industrial products are becoming very serious in recent years. The level of wages for labourers has increased very rapidly during last 22 years(1970~1992). At the same time, the capital investment in research to find out a new product was very limited in larger business enterprises. Therefore, at present the volume of industrial export is decreasing slowly and at the same time, the import of consumer goods are increasing rapidly in recent years.

Korean agriculture experiences very rapid migration of young rural farmers into larger cities to find out job opportunities. Most of farmers came to larger cities such as Seoul and Pusan. The most difficult problems in larger cities are shortage of suitable housing, transportation and clean water supply. At present, the total numbers of inhabitants made 12 million people in Seoul city. The concentration of population in larger cities made many kinds of social, economic as well as environmental problems.

Many different kinds of agricultural products bring to the whole sale market in Seoul and sent back to the retail market in other regions. The rate of margins for agricultural products is very high in Korea. At present, there are many kinds of agricultural products and selling direct in many different market places, such as larger department stores, super markets, shops and so on.

The arable land in Korea is very limited and the density of population is very high. Therefore the main goal of agricultural policy is to feed city dwellers at reasonable level of agricultural prices and at the same time, the farmer should receive a little higher level of prices in comparison with the level of consumer price. In order to produce higher level of agricultural production, it is necessary to apply higher rates of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Most farmers had already experiences of poisoning

by pesticides. They could not continue chemical farming any more, because they had already had experiences of poisoning from pesticides application. Without application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, some farmers have done farming for a few years. They had very special experiences of ecology and living organisms.

The Korean Government policy was not very correct to supply chemical fertilizers, pesticides and farm machinery through the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation(NACF). The regional NACF can also loan capital for farm management purposes. Many farmers were used to buy chemical fertilizers and pesticides in order to borrow management capital from the NACF.

At present, there is an increasing trend of organic agricultural production and organic farmer's association in Korea. In this case study, the Jung Nong (right farming method) organic farmer's association will be investigated to know the actual process of development and present picture of organic farmers in Korea.

Among many different organic farmer's associations, the Jung Nong organic farmer's association is doing farm management practice without application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The farm yard manure are very important organic materials in this farmer's association. The total number of this association made about 450 at present throughout South Korea. They have their own direct marketing shops in Seoul and Kwangju and they have about 1,000 regular urban consumers in Seoul. This case study may give some information on organic farming development and direct marketing of organic products in Korea. This organic farmer's association has 16 years history and there is a great shortage of farm book keeping record and farm survey. This is one of very important tasks in the future to have enough information with economic results of conventional farming method. All of this organic farm-

er's association has Christian faith.

ORIGIN AND PRESENT SITUATION OF JUNG NONG ORGANIC FARMER'S ASSOCIATION

The author has visited Mr. Oh, J.G., former Chairman and founder of the Jung Nong Organic farmer's Association two different times. On 23rd October, 1991, author went with his undergraduate students to visit his organic farm management. Mr. Oh has about 3.3ha upland and he grows mainly chinese cabbage, carrot, millet, red pepper and radish. On 22nd November 1991, the author went to meet Mr. Oh and this farm is located 50km northern part of Seoul city. At present, he is 71 years old and living with his wife and one young farm worker. He can harvest at least 4-5 M/T of carrot, and 3.000 chinese cabbage stumps, radish 2-3.000 stocks and other agricultural products such as millet and red pepper are produced mainly for home consumption.

He has 1 M/T Truck, 1 tractor and 1 motor cultivator. Most members of Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association do not think that the economic profit is main goal of organic farm management. They think that the becoming mature human being is more valuable than any other. It might be possible that the economic situation of organic farmers by this association may not be under estimated compared with conventional farmers near in the same rural villages.

The author had the following calculation of agricultural gross receipts for Mr. Oh.

chinese cabbage 3.0000 stumps × 8.000Won = 2.400.000Won
 carrot 4.000kg × 1.000Won = 4.000.000Won
 radish 2.000 stocks × 4.000Won = 800.000Won
 total gross receipt = 7.200.000Won

The folowing Tabel-1 shows the agricultural in-

come, kg of farm yard manures and labor requirement per 10 are cultivated area.

Table-1 : Production data in organic farm

products	income(1.000Won)	FYM(M/T)	labor hours
X1 cabbage	374	12	202
X2 carrot	1263	4	193
X3 radish	1140	18	172

Source : Korea Rural Economics Institute(1991) : Seoul

The linear programming method was applied to calculate optimum farm incomes for the organic farm. The objective function of organic farm is given as follows ;

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max} &= 374 \times 1 + 1263 \times 2 + 1140 \times 3 \dots\dots\dots(1) \\ 1 \times 1 + 1 \times 2 + 1 \times 3 &\leq 33(10 \text{ are}) \dots\dots\dots(2) \\ 12 \times 1 + 4 \times 2 + 18 \times 3 &> 0 \text{ FY manures} \dots\dots\dots(3) \\ 202 \times 1 + 193 \times 2 + 172 \times 3 &\leq 5.000 \text{ labor hours} (4) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} X1 &= 66a \\ X2 &= 1.0 \text{ ha} \\ X3 &= 1.0 \text{ ha} \\ &2.66 \text{ ha} \end{aligned}$$

Farm yard manures 300M/T

The total labor requirement is 5.000 hours. The seasonal labor requirement should be investigated in the future to know labor demand. The seasonal labor shortage is one of serious problem at present.

Mr. Oh has some possibilities of increasing his agricultural income level, if he could have 2.5 persons (1 person × 250 days × 8 hours), 300M/T farm yard manures.

It is difficult to estimate wage of employee, seasonal labor, manager and wife's labor, machinery depreciation, oil and repair(truck, tractor and cultivator) and other costs such as water, electricity, taxes and so on. He may also buy seed and many other farm materials in order to manage his farm.

It was September 1975 just about 16 years ago. Mr. Oh had contact with a Japanese Chairman of "Love Farming" Farmer's Association in Kyoto, Japan, One Japanese(Kobayashi) came to Korea for there days staying together with Mr. Oh and other farmers in Sora between Seoul and Inchoen City. At that time, there were about 40 Korean Farmers to hear the message from the Japanese. Mr. Oh was sborn with Christian faith in the North Korea and came to the South Korea after liberation from the Japanese impeialism for 35 years(1910—45). Mr. Oh was originally a specialist in medical handling business. Mr. Oh had Bible study with Mr. Ham, S.H. who insisted strongly Christian faith without attending church regularly.

The Japanese who came to Korea was originally Buddest in Japan at that time, when he was 17 years old. He bought one book from the bookstore and he read the following sentence.

"All books may disappear in the world. However, the Bible should remain only forver."

He got off from Underground and he bought Bible at first time. He read St. Matthew Chapter 5: 28: "But I say unto you. That whosever looketh on a women to lust after her hath committed adulatory with her already in his heart."

He realized that Japanese had very terrible occupation in Korea. He did not know whether this kind of non application of Nitrogen fertilizer was a form of organic farming or not. Most of Korean farmers at that time in the meeting had realized that the chemical farming method is one of the farming method of killing human life. At that time, Korean farmers in the meeting thought that we are indirect killer of human life by proucing agricultural products applying much chemical fertilizers and pesticides. They finished meeting for three day studying mainly Bible. They felt that it might be very necessary to meet again after one year in January 1976. We will wait for holy spirit to guide us. After one year, we

can decide to do something.

That was the beginning story of the Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association in Korea. They meet regularly in January of the year hearing various lectures and learning Bible. They are only teaching mature attitude of spiritual life. There is one Screening Committee of the Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association having only 5 persons.

They do not inspect the quality of agricultural procuts. They see only mature attitude of Christian faith. If they have the Jung Nong Organic farm product label, they can receive higher level of prices.

At present there are 3 shops selling organic agriultural products by the members of this Association. In Seoul, there is one shop and it is very hard to know exact quantity of organic products sold by this Association. However, there are about 48 pure organic farmers who are supplying their organic agricultural products to the city consumers. there are at present 1.000 urban consumers of organic products by this Association in Seoul city. The consumers are often not very satisfied because of different form of organic products in comparison with conventional products. The most difficult problem is reasonable meeting of demand and supply of organic products. The other difficult problem is shortage of management capital paying back at the end of year. Ordinary rice is purchased by the Government about 20% of the total production, but the organic rice is not yet purchased by the Government. The farm gate price of organic rice per 1kg is 1875 Won and the consumer price per 1kg is 2125 Won(13.3 %) including transport and handling margins. There is only one shop in Seoul paying 30 Million Won(IUS \$ =755.10 Won, 22nd November 1991, 39,729US\$) should be paid as guarantee and every month 1 Million Won(1324US\$) should be paid for shop building area. There are at present 450 organic farmers by this Association, but some of them are waiting to become full memebrship of the Associa-

tion. They supply organic agricultural products with name of producer, Province of organic farms. The Association publishes monthly newsletters and yearly Journal. If one wants to receive organic products at home. then deliver regularly to home.

PRICE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORGANIC AND CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTS

The following Table-2 shows price level of consumer of organic products by this organic farmer's association. In the following Table-3, the price difference between producer and consumer for conventional agricultural product was also shown. The price difference between producer and consumer is very wide in case of radish 657, and pumpkin 503. This is one of very serious problem of price difference between producer and consumer in conventional agricultural products.

In comparison with conventional products, the price difference between producer and consumer made only 20-25% in organic agricultural products. The price level of organic product is 57% higher than conventional products in case of ordinary rice. The glutinous rice made only 17% difference between organic and conventional products.

Table-2 : Price level of producer and consumer for organic products for Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association (Nov-Dec. 1991, Won/kg)

products	producer(A)	consumer(B)	B/A
rice	1875	2125	113
glutinous	2125	2625	124
soybean	2800	3400	121
red bean	2800	3400	121
green bean	2800	3400	121
lettuce	2000	3330	167
spinach	750	3330	444
white potato	800	1200	150

Source : Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association (1991) : Monthly Report November-December, Seoul

Price level of green bean and white potato in organic products is lower than organic products. Otherwise most of organic products have higher consumer price level than conventional products. The price variation in conventional products is very wide, however there is almost constant price decision of organic products. The organic farmers have some advantage to receive fixed producer price level.

There is less differences of producer's and consumer's price level in organic products in Korea in comparison with conventional agricultural products. Most of organic products have about 20% higher price differences between producers and consumers. However, the spinach has most highest price differences between producers and consumers in organic products.

Table-3 : Price differences between producer and consumer for conventional products (1991 August, Won/kg)

products	producer(A)	consumer(B)	B/A
rice	1196	1350	113
glutinous	1574	2250	143
soybean	916	1667	182
red bean	1858	3000	161
green bean	2359	4487	190
sorghum	829	2500	302
cabbage	127	400	315
radish	71	467	658
spinach	416	1000	240
lettuce	500	1500	300
carrot	522	1300	249
white potato	481	1300	270
sweet potato	308	1300	422
onion	235	800	340
cucumber	385	1667	433
pumpkin	318	1600	503
ginger	1402	2667	190

Source : National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (1991) : Monthly Report, September, Seoul

The following Table-4 can give differences of yields by different products of organic-natural and conventional method.

Table-4 : Comparison of yields of organic-natural and conventional farming methods(kg/10 a)

products	organic(A)	Conventional(B)	B/A
rice	405	481	0.84
spring potato	2570	2309	1.11
apple	2157	2053	1.05
grapes	1638	1472	1.11
field pepper	263	175	1.50
house cucumber	1718	1970	0.87
" tomato	2110	2071	1.02
" watermelon	1231	1110	1.11
" melon	1223	1008	1.21
radish	3000	2000	1.50
cabbage	4756	4456	1.07
lettuce	240	132	1.82
carrot	1850	2190	0.84
galic	3044	2390	1.27
sesame	60	67	0.90

Source : Korea Rural Economics Institute(1991), Seoul

There is less difference of yields between organic-natural and conventional agricultural products. However, this is almost first farm survey results in Korea on organic and conventional products.

CONSUMERS BEHAVIOUR ON ORGANIC PRODUCTS

The KREI in Seoul had one research project on the development plan of organic products in the Province Kangwon in 1990. They had 407 urban household survey of consuming organic products from various organizations including Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association. The following survey results may be very useful to understand the consumers behaviour of organic products in Korea. The average age of answers was 40 years old and their

average monthly income level was 1-1.5 million Won. The level of education of answers was high school graduate and the numbers of family was 5 persons(2-8 persons).

- About safety of food quality

The following Table-5 show the distribution of answer on safety of food quality.

Table-5 : Necessity of organic products

contents	answers%
It is necessary to have organic products, even if the level of price is higher than conventional products	56.1
It is necessary to apply some chemicals	28.9
There is no problem at present	1.2
The class conflict is increasing	9.8
Others	4.0
Total	100.0

Source : KREI(1991)

There are rapidly increasing trends of consuming organic plant products. The following Table-6 may explain the priority order of consumers by different characters of organic products.

Table-6 : Priority of producing organic products

priority	rice	cabbage	strawberry	eggs
price	1(30.8)	2(17.0)	4(6.3)	3(14.0)
taste	2(26.5)	3(14.0)	2(29.3)	5(2.7)
fresh	5(2.4)	1(44.4)	1(43.3)	1(44.3)
nutritious	3(14.4)	5(3.4)	5(5.5)	2(14.2)
safety	4(12.1)	4(9.6)	3(11.2)	4(13.9)

() means percentage of answers

Source : KREI, ..., ibid.

The following information may give the degree of safety of organic products by the consumers.

Table-7 : Degree of Safety in organic products.

ontents	%
cannot trust	41.5
never trust	7.5
compartively safe	40.0
safe	10
no answer	1.0
total	100.0

-Source : KREI(1991) : , ..., ibid.

They have asked to the consumers why they do not purchase organic products.

Table-8 : Reason why consumers do not purchase organic products

contents	%
cannot trust	25.5
higher price	16.8
cannot buy in the market	4.13
not necessary	16.3
total	100.0

Source : KREI(1991) : ..., ibid.

Table-9 : Possibilities of increasing consumption of organic products

contents	%
guarantee of quality	37.2
lower level of prices	24.1
easy purchase	22.5
direct purchase from producers	9.9
consumer movement	3.7
advertising	2.5
no answer	0.1
total	100.0

Source : KREI(1991) : ..., ibid.

The following Table-10 give the amounts of organic products in Korea in 1990 and this is almost first survey of organic products quantity.

Table : 10 : Organic products in Korea(1990, M/T)

products	organic	%
grains	2679	14.8
vegetables	3593	19.7
fruits	4089	22.4
livestock products	7853	43.1

Source : Survey of Organic Products Sale by National Agricultural Cooperative Federation(1991) : Seoul

SUMMARY

There are very serious rural problems in Korea such as increasing farm debt, international preasure to open food markets and great shortage of younger labor forces in rural areas. The main characteristics of Koren agriculture are small peasant farms on average one ha cultivated area dominated by rice farming. At present, there is an increasing surplus of rice production, however the Uruguay Round in GATT Negotiation have preasure to import rice from the United States of America. Korean agriculture has to adjust the difficulties arising from the export-oriented economic policy, rapid industrialization and types of agricultural production by small size of peasant farms. The farm size should be increased to compete with the European and American agriculture. The level of production cost in peasant farm is very high in comparison with larger scale farm management. The land price has increased very rapidly during last 30 years and the enlargement of farm size will be one of very serious problem in the future.

The Jung Nong Organic Farmer's Association was founded in 1976 having about 450 small farmers throughout South Korea. All members of this association have Christian faith. They never apply any chemical fertilizers and pesticides in plant production. There are about 1.000 urban consumers of organic products by the association. There is a great

shortage of management capital in comparison to conventional farmers. There is no agricultural financial support policy for converting organic farms. There is no retirement system, enough hot water supply in farm houses and social security system. There is a rapidly increasing trend of direct marketing of various organic products in Korea. However, there is no organic production standard of plant and animal production. The University education should be transformed to know the effect of rapid industrialization and rural development.

The farm experiment on organic production should be increased and organic farm advisory service should be increased very rapidly in Korea. The management of capital for organic farmers should be prepared in the future. They are isolated from the conventional farmers and they should have some pride of producing organic agricultural products. The urban consumers may profit by consuming organic products.

One of main difficulties in organic farm management is higher labor requirement. Therefore, the level of production cost should be higher than conventional products. It is the task of Korean Government to supply fund to prepare farm yard manure in organic farms, so that the quality of food should be improved for human health. The organic farming method has various advantages both for producers and consumers. However, the conventional farming method has various disadvantages both for producers and consumers killing human life. In order to know the efficiency of organic farming method in Korea, the farm book-keeping should be done throughout South Korea. The economic and social profits of organic farming method should be investigated in Korea as well as other parts of the world.

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