

A Development Project as a Livelihood Strategy

: Rethinking of the Image of “Recipients” in a Development Project

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Background and objectives of this research

Because of its economic success and growth-based development philosophy, Ghana has enjoyed full financial support from international community. Recently, a number of aid organizations have concentrated in the Northern Ghana, which includes the Northern Region, the Upper East Region, and the Upper West Region, partly because the economic level of the Southern Ghana has already increased and partly because the government launched “Northern Development Initiative” in 2008.

In N Village, Upper East Region, my research field, too, various kinds of development projects have been implemented in recent years. One farmers association called “T” has gained more supports from many aid organizations than any other associations. T was voluntarily established among the farmers and has been prepared to accept aids from outside. Because T members practice what “donors” want them to do, more and more supports have come.

Development studies have often presumed that their lives should be improved by rightly-planned development projects and described “recipients” as passive actors of the project. However, this study concerns how vigorously but selectively individuals try to gain resources from outside. By focusing that, this study purports to clarify how people make use of development aid projects, irresistible force from outside, and tries to change their livelihood with their own direction.

The broad aim of this study is to analyse individual’s various livelihood strategies to maximize their access channel to resources in relation to development aid projects. The objectives of the study are as follows: i) Clarify various livelihood strategies of individuals with special regard to development aid projects: What kind of livelihood strategies does each individual use? What role do development projects play in each individual’s livelihood strategy? ii) Analyse how development aid projects affect (or change) the use of other livelihood strategies.

Pictures



Picture 1 【Ghana】 :
Organizing Secretary of Topa with manure
made under the direction of Ministry of Farming
and Agriculture.



Picture 2 【Ghana】 : Basket made by
people in Nyariga.



Picture 3 【Cameroon】 : Dja River.



Picture 4 【Cameroon】 : Welcome ceremony
by people in Andom.