

### No. 3 Food Produce Amount

Food for human beings can be classified as farm, livestock, and marine products. Naturally enough, the productivities of farm, livestock, and marine products rely on the permissible level (or the reproductively) of farmlands, meadows/prairies, and the ocean and rivers, respectively. Therefore, if people take products beyond the permissible level, the amount of the productivity will gradually become decreased. The permissible level of the food product capacity corresponds to the principle of the saving account. If we spend more money than the interest, we have to withdraw the principle, which results in decrease of the interest. We then end up spending the principle.

The history of the recent increase of food products is divided into two periods. Before the beginning of the 20th century, the frontier era, the amount of food products was increased along with the expansion of the cultivated acreage and fishing grounds. The amount of acquisition of this period was within the permissible level of the earth and there were many lands to be reclaimed. This was the time to expand the territory and advanced countries colonized Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America. Moreover, the imperialistic wars occurred frequently.

In the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were no more reclaimable lands on the earth. Instead, the improvement of scientific technologies increased productivity of goods, such as an increase of yields per unit in the agricultural industry and an increase of a catch owing to the improvement of fishery technologies in the fishing industry. The global grain produces were 600 millions tons in the 1940s and about 1.8 billion tons in 1997, which shows more than 3 times of an increase in produces in 50 years. The catch of fish was 19 millions tons in 1950 and 93 millions tons in 1997, which is more than 4 times of an increase. An increase of food produce in this period was owed to the remarkable improvement of scientific technologies. This was surely the period that scientific technologies won wonderful victory over nature's restrictions.

So far, human beings have improved the producing technologies to get food resources more efficiently without developing the technology to measure the tolerable level of the earth, which is the natural tendency under the economical marketing system. However this situation is permissible only when the annual amount of harvest is within the tolerable level of the earth (amount of reproduction). However, we, human beings, don't have any technology to measure the tolerable level of the earth correctly at this point. More seriously, since 1990, an annual increase in productivity of crops and in a catch of fish become slowed down in arable land and fishery ground, the place of the food

produce, which is a sign that the amount of food produce is about to reach the tolerance level of the earth.

The amount of grain produce has hardly increased since 1992 (1.8 billion tons). Annual amount of produce per person is decreased from 342 kg in 1984 to 322kg in 1997 as a consequence of the rapid growth of population. Moreover, the dries and damages from salt water of arable lands became frequent phenomena due to the excess use of the groundwater in India, China and the U.S., all of which are the major countries for food produce. The amount of a catch is also slightly increased from 89 millions tons in 1989 to 93 millions tons in 1996. Recently, not only a catch is declined in 13 out of 15 fishing grounds in the world, but also some fish species, such as tuna and a sea bream, are in the crisis of extinction. It is considered from those signs that the present amount of food produce has already reached to the tolerance level of the earth (less than 2 billions tons for the amount of grain products and less than 100 millions tons for a catch of fish).

Similar to other resources, there is a bipolarization on the amount of food consumption between advanced and developing countries and the food distribution gaps between those countries become bigger. Today 800 million people in the world are malnutrition and 200 million children suffer from starvation. Moreover, 88 nations are classified as low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs). On the contrary, advanced nations, including Japan, are facing with the problem of an increase of food wastes due to satiation. In the United States, the largest food consumption country of the world, around 800 kg of food is consumed per person if calculated with the conversion to grains (while 200 kg in India). More than 50 % of Americans are diagnosed as overweight or obese.

There already exist many sings that food crisis will occur in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century if human beings do not change the food situation. Food shortage problems in developing countries will influence to all countries with low self-sustenance in food. The EU nations make an effort to be more self-sufficient in food to avoid this problem.

#### Gandhi in a famine

When India suffered from starvation due to drought in 1920s, people in India had asked its suzerain state, England, for provisions. However, Mahatmas Gandhi said, "We don't need food." He stated as follows, "Accepting provision from foreign countries will destroy our food production system, which will deteriorate our nation. We must make an effort to produce food by ourselves."

No independence can be achieved through aids.

If you know sufficiency, your mind is wealthy even in want. If you do not know sufficiency, your mind is poverty even live high. Discernment well about that never be arrogant, never be choosy. Remember, proverb says preference can be ruin yourself.

- [Hiroyasu Hirao](#) –

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