

# Aim of SORALS ( Prospectus )

After the establishment of the machine industry based on the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, production activities sharply enlarged.

In addition, development of heavy industry and chemical industry in the latter half of the 19th century enabled rapid progress of economical activities. In the 20th century, technological innovation progressed with increasing speed and continued up to the present. During this passage, technological development certainly brought the great benefit to the life of human. On the contrary, production activities based on rapid technological development led to destruction of nature and caused the problems that put human being in danger such as destruction of rain forest, depletion of rain forest, depletion of the ozone layer, desertification, acid rain, global warming and environmental pollution with radioactive wastes, heavy metals and chemicals. Technologies, originally developed for bringing human being welfare, conversely threaten our life. These ironic phenomena might be said as evils of the resources consumption type material civilization based on "mass production", "mass consumption" and "mass destruction".

In the end of the 20th century, importance of nature preservation came to be recognized. People started to search for methods for continuous development and came to advocate the switch from resources consumption type society to resources circulation type society. These trends were proper consequences occurred from the reflections on the material civilization.

The 21st century will be an important starting point, which aims at large conversion from material civilization. Of course, it is not easy to convert the economic structure and highly complicated social structure built strenuously from the Industrial Revolution. However, now, we must take account our situation that we faced with the crisis of the existence of ourselves and we are obligated to supply all wisdom to solve the problems as the human being who lives in the present age.

If the purpose of economics is "securing the material foundation of social life to maintain human life", that of agriculture will be "investigating the possibility of the natural resources and developing the method for practical use of them to survive". Agriculture is comprehensive science of the life system that important mission is obligated. Up to now, agriculture has greatly contributed to conquest of starvation and epidemic.

In addition, as for life science, one of the fields of agriculture, many results, such as gene analysis technologies, were obtained. Since agriculture belongs to the sciences that studied their subjects from the viewpoints of life science, agriculture is more suitable to be called "agricultural life science". Agriculture will be expected to bring human being good in the future and also have to respond to the expectation.

Thus, although there is no doubt that agricultural life science is indispensable to the solution of the critical problem which human being faces, it will be necessary to remind following three points firmly.

First of all, we must clarify our purpose. Recently, we have many opportunities to see and hear the words like "earth-saving" and "kind for environment". However the purpose of environmental protection is, without fearing misunderstanding, not for nature but for survival of human being, persistently. This point should be made clear.

Secondly, we must reconfirm that human being is *homo sapiens*. Human being is simply one of the creatures that survives on the earth and is nothing but dominants in the pyramid of biomass. Moreover, it should keep in mind that the status of human being will not continue to be guaranteed forever.

Finally, we must recognize again the importance of the fundamental studies. As mentioned above, modern science enabled gene analysis and recombination and made us think that as if human being could create and control life. However, how far does we understand life of the plants that are the starting points of a food chain and are the only producers in ecosystem?

In addition, how far can we elucidate the mechanism of the interaction of the creatures in ecosystem? It is not too much to say that human being could not save nature for the survival of human beings without these fundamental knowledge.

If the views mentioned above are shown, the objection will surely come out. As for questions of the essence of human being and questions of the relationships between human being and nature, there have been various philosophical disputes about them from ancient time and, even now, these are not questions to be easily concluded. It may be a fact that human being is an extraordinary existence on the earth. As Engels (Friedrich Engels) pointed out, human being was considered to have evolved by labor and language and human being is different existence from the other creatures in their performance of production activities. Moreover, although human being is one of the members of ecosystem, wastes, human being has discharged have been separated from the chain of substance circulation of ecosystem.

However, justify of nature destruction based on "the man, the natural dualism" and "the human original sin theory", human being is subject to recognize nature and nature is only object, is not any help to solve the problem. However, we do not entirely agree with the intuitive and mystical idealism in which man and nature is unit. These topics are often discussed by the confrontation diagram of European philosophy and Oriental philosophy and there are worthy in comparing and inspection the differences between these philosophies. However, in case of thinking about the relationships between human being and nature, these discussions rather cause confusion than become help. Although it is a fact that the evil of resources consumption type civilization caused natural destruction, it is also a fact that human being cannot live without using natural resources.

Simultaneously, human being is required to save nature to continue to survive in the future. The point is that the rational limit of the utilization of natural resources and nature saving are required to be set up.

It is thought that agricultural life science is the study that recognizes human being as human being, *homo sapiens* and the study that plays the role of the guidance of human being from the viewpoint of life.

By the way, in case of a discussion about main culprit of nature destruction, the population problem is recently referred frequently.

Simultaneously with it, prospective food problem is also apprehensive problem. Present world population, six billion is predicted to increase to 10 billion until 2050. Malthus (Thomas Robert Malthus) pointed out that "food productivity did not increase in form of arithmetic series, although population increases in form of geometric progressive" in "An Essay on the Principle of Population as it affects the future improvement of society" in 1798. His opinion seemed to realize through a little more than 200 years. The problems of starvation and malnutrition have not been solved yet and, moreover, increase of world population as predicted will lead to inevitable food shortage. There is an opinion that asks agriculture for the solution of this problem. However, the cause of starvation or malnutrition is not only food shortage but also the other factors as follows; natural disasters like drought, an artificial factor, for example war or dispute and social factors such as poverty. That is the "North-South problem" which Franks (Oliver Shewell Franks) pointed out in the middle of the 20th century. Therefore, agricultural life science should investigate the possibility of uninvestigated and unutilized biological resources in the developing countries and should contribute to solve "North-South problem".

In the previous part, we verified the importance of agricultural life sciences to solve the critical situation with which human being faces, the subject that promotes this promotion must be "citizen".

The concept of the "citizen" mentioned in this part is "all human existences that are working with their independent intention". That is, this concept is not small cooperat independent intention". That is, this concept is not small cooperation of industry, academia and government and the conventional frameworks of organizations do not have any effects on this concept. When giving familiar example, if people participate in the society with their intention, their social position, for example civil servant civilian, will not be distinguished at all. Furthermore, from the global field of view, this concept is the concept that transcends the distinction between countries and races. In the confused present age, we are required to have the consciousness as "citizen".

Based on the recognition mentioned above, we establish non-profit organization, "Supporting Organization for Research of Agricultural and Life Science", according to "law to Promote Specified Nonprofit Activities" to promote agricultural life sciences by supporting broad range of researches in the field of agricultural life sciences from the point of view of "citizen" and, moreover, to contribute human life, welfare and healthy development.

December 2, 2002

Representative of organizers