Doctoral dissertation

Title: Reorganization East Asia Agricultural Economics
System and Taiwan Horse Administration Program: 19361945

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Using example of Taiwan horse administration program (1936-1945), this thesis presents reorganization of agricultural economics system which seen from livestock industry in East Asia before the World War II. In East Asia economic history studies, livestock industry is often overlooked and unresolved. Livestock animal has a lot of unusual research topics which has not in other industries, for example, biological characteristics, regional climate, etc. Sometimes, this unique research topic brings out problems of government policy and government colonial rule. In the many national policy of Japan at that time, imperial horse administration program was not only limited to main land but also expanded to Japanese colonies, especially south colony Taiwan is the most unique area. In Taiwan agriculture, water buffalo is the main livestock animal, but because of imperial horse administration program, Taiwan colonial government also have to promote use of horse in agriculture. Taiwan colonial government developed very detailed horse administration program, and at least government officials thought using horse in Taiwan, this program rationalizes agriculture economic system and improve farmer management. Actually, this policy was successful in 1930s, and horses were also become popular livestock animals among wealthy farmers. So, we should rethink rationalizing of Japanese policy in that time, if we only use the research point which the end of war, we can only find out sloppy or irrationality of Japanese government policy, but various cautious viewpoints able to emerge political rationality and different elements. These positive factors changed social economy and agriculture system.