

The Establishment of Sustainable Livestock Farming Service in Galshir, Mongolia: Challenges and Possibilities of Integrated Governance

(モンゴル、ガシル・ソンにおける持続可能な家畜農業サービスの構築：総合的ガバナンスの可能性と挑戦)

Student: Gonchig Gantulga (201025042)

Supervisor: Kenichi Matsui

Abstract

Livestock farming is an important source of employment and export income for Mongolia. The livestock farming sector employs around 34.6 percent of the total labor force and produces 18.8 percent of all GDP, of which 86.9 percent is from livestock production in 2010.

Traditionally, native Mongolian people developed and sustained unique mobile-based livestock farming. Mongolia's livestock farming has been developed by ecologically knowledgeable pastoralists. They have sustained this mobile economic activity for centuries by using stewardship community based governance, which has embraced regionally unique believe systems, traditional knowledge and practices. Through this governance, both pastoralists and livestock have become adapted to the local ecological conditions.

In 1990, the collapse of the socialist system introduced the democratic polity. The land remained state property, but the collectives such as livestock were divided among former employees. As a result, a number of inexperienced family herders increased. The environmental conditions for livestock farming have become worsened, including the decrease of well sites and water resource. Overgrazing has also caused land degradation.

Therefore, in the last fifty years, traditional livestock governance has weakened, and this demise has led to the significant deterioration of pasture land. On the other hand policymakers tend to emphasize western conventional livestock farming practices. But the contemporary large-scale industrial livestock farming system is no longer sustainable. The question Mongolia faces today is how its livestock farming service can adopt the best approach to sustainable livestock farming.

Very few studies have examined sustainable livestock farming governance in Mongolia. This study focuses on this traditional farming governance to provide some insight on the question as to how current livestock farming may move toward more sustainable practices. It also sheds light on sustainable pastureland use, environmental disaster prevention, and organic food marketing systems.

This presentation places current Mongolian agricultural and environmental policies within a context of sustainable agriculture that has been broadly acknowledged in the international arena. It provides with a case study on traditional farmers in Galshir *sum* (county unit), which is located in east-central part of the Mongolian steppe and desert-steppe grazing zone. This case study illustrates challenges and possibilities of integrating traditional knowledge into recent rural livestock farming in Mongolia.

Keywords: Sustainable livestock farming, integrated governance, traditional knowledge, service