

Korean Agricultural Policies Shift towards an Environmentally Friendly Agriculture :

An Interview with Minister of Agriculture and Chief of Staff of Agriculture in the Executive Mansion.

Kyoichiro ADACHI

Summary

Owing to the shift from a military administration to a civilian administration of February in 1993, Korean agricultural policies began to change direction from a “Scale and Cost Oriented Policy” to an “Environmentally Friendly Policy”.

The individuals who led this paradigm shift in Korean agricultural policy were Huh Shin-Haeng, Choe Yang-Boo, and Kim Sung-Hoon, all famous Korean agricultural economists. During President Kim Yeong-Sam’s Administration, Huh Shin-Haeng took office (Feb. 26, 1993–Dec. 21, 1993) as the first “scholar” Minister of Agriculture, Choe Yang-Boo took office (Dec. 23, 1993–Feb. 24, 1998) as the first “scholar” Chief of Staff of Agriculture in the Executive Mansion, the so-called Blue House, and at President Kim Dae-Jung’s Administration, Kim Sung-Hoon took office (Mar. 3, 1998–Aug. 7, 2000) as the second “scholar” Minister of Agriculture in the history of the Ministry of Agriculture in Korea.

They believed that a Sustainable Agriculture (Huh), an Environmental Agriculture (Choe) and an Environmentally Friendly Agriculture (Kim) could ensure the survival Korean agriculture and they actively promoted these forms of agriculture.

Under their strong leadership from Feb. 1993 to Aug. 2000, Korean Agricultural Policy Reform succeeded, with Korean Agricultural Policies now oriented towards the Environmentally Friendly Agriculture with, for example, the Sustainable Agriculture Promotion Act, the Direct Payment System for the Environmentally Friendly Agriculture, the Direct Payment System for the Paddy Farming, the stern Certification System for the Environmentally Friendly Agricultural Products.

Due to the nature of the Presidential system, Korean Agricultural Policies often change dramatically. It is therefore difficult to look into the future of Korean Agricultural Policies, but this trend needs to be watched more carefully.