論文要旨

Salvation Through Soy

Growth and Challenges for the Soybean Industry in Latin America

［自発展開型］
原　陽一郎（経済学部３年）
指導教員：ロジャー・バティー

1. The Wonder Plant

The first portion of this section explains the background of soybeans to give a clearer picture for the rest of the report. First, the history of soybean plantation and the current state of soybean plantation in the world are examined. Soybeans were first discovered in China, and have spread worldwide since. Looking at soybean production in a more recent scale, soybean production worldwide has gone up significantly due to the many uses of soy and increased demand worldwide. One of the main reasons that demand for soybeans has gone up is because of the many uses of soybeans. Besides being used in food products, oil, and as energy, soybeans are one of the main ingredients in many forms of animal feed. In China, the increased popularity of meat products has led to an increase in the need for animal feed. As a result, China has started to import more and more soybeans, leading to an increase in the price of soybeans in the international market. Next, the major soybean-producing countries are discussed briefly, and the current international market for soybeans is discussed. Some major soybean growing areas will be discussed, such as Argentina, China, and India. A brief history of soybean production in these countries will be discussed as well. The last portion of this section will examine the reasons why soybeans are fit for the world today, with a focus on the potential that soybeans have. Soybeans can help feed malnourished people in developing countries, and can be transported for long periods without spoiling.

2. Examining Soybean Production in Brazil and Paraguay

The second section of the paper discusses the case studies in two Latin American

countries, Brazil and Paraguay. Both of these countries are among the world leaders in soybean production, and for a select few, have produced large amounts of money. However, as this section will show, soybean plantation is not all positive for these countries, and under the surface, a variety of problems have occurred. International companies headquartered in developed countries overrun small-scale farming in many areas, leaving a gap between the rich mega-corporations and the poor farmers. Land ownership rights have been an issue, with more of the land being owned by a handful of large companies and landowners. In addition, problems with the environment exist in these areas as well. For example, a large portion of forest has been cut in order to make room for soybean plantation. Brazil and Paraguay are home to many acres of rainforest. However, in the last 20 years, a majority of the forest has been cut down. Another problem in these two Latin American countries is the increase in genetically modified crops. In recent years, the plantation of genetically modified soybeans has increased as well, causing health problems in the surrounding areas. This section will cover these problems in detail with charts and numerical data on the effect of soybean plantation in these two countries. Some potential solutions to these problems will be discussed briefly as well.

3. Looking Forward…

This section will address the future of soybeans and its potential. The section will cover two points. The first point is the growth potential of soybeans in developing countries, specifically Africa. As the first section will point out, soybeans can be grown in many climates, and are already grown in many countries worldwide. However, at the present, there is little soybean cultivation in Africa, and the market is still untapped. Some soybean production has occurred in Africa in the past, but most of it was very small-scale, and soybeans are still not a main crop in Africa today. Africa has vast unused land, and soybean plantation can bring benefits to Africa in several ways. The potential of increased soybean plantation in Africa will be examined, with an emphasis on the food shortage issue in Africa. The second point to be discussed in this chapter is the issue of possible future problems relating to genetically modified crops. In Russia, a recent study of hamsters fed genetically modified food found that the animals developed significant health issues. This issue will be discussed in further detail as well.