

Pag-Abyad sa Altaran :
Maintaining the Rice Terraces in Tayabas, Quezon, Southern Tagalog, Philippines

By:
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ABSTRACT

The agricultural technique of rice terracing as widely practiced in the Philippines. Although the Banaue rice terraces located in the Cordilleras in Northern Luzon are renowned world wide as a cultural landscape, many are not aware of the existence of rice terraces in other regions of the country. This paper is a documentation of rice terracing techniques in Tayabas, Quezon Province, in the Southern Tagalog region of the Philippines. Overall, this paper has examined how Social Structures and Local technologies are responsible for the physical maintenance of the Tayabas rice terraces and the agricultural practices that operate therein. It identifies five types of rice terraces based on their material components: those that are made purely of soil; those that are made mostly of rock; those that are made of naturally-placed rocks and soil; those made of manually-placed rocks and soil; and a combination of both naturally-placed and manually-placed rocks and soil. A combination of traditional and modern farming tools are responsible for terrace maintenance. The division of labor according to gender and age was also examined, concluding that males are responsible for the physical aspects of farm work, while females deal with more administrative matters. Land ownership in the area is more favourable to outsiders who control the movement of tenant-farmers who live in the area. Findings also show that the maintenance of the Tayabas rice terraces are threatened by the decline in farmers in the area, and the emergence of subdivisions that require the conversion of farmlands.

**The Rise of Capitalist Conservation and Commodity Landscapes on Palawan
Island.**

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The social relations and agricultural lands that many rural people in Southeast Asia hold 'in common' are rapidly becoming privatized and commodified through the combined pressures of agrarian change, conservation and development. This paper examines how the broader and local processes driving agrarian differentiation have been accelerated through the revaluing of people and nature at Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, Palawan Island, the Philippines. Drawing on a case study, I show how the pace and scale of agrarian

change between rural peoples has increased with the onset of resource partitioning, objectification, commodification and, ultimately, revaluing through translocal 'capitalist conservation'. I describe and discuss how the national park's valuing as a 'common' World Heritage has drawn major private sector investments, which have objectified, commodified and rearticulated the value of people and nature according to modern images and ideals. It is through the shifts in primary and tertiary production, I argue, that marketers, tourists and locals come to revalue, reconstitute and reimagine people and nature according to modernity. The conclusion asserts that while the processes that produce agrarian differentiation and capitalist conservation lead to the revaluing of nature according to market ideals, the process is seldom absolute and always connected to local change.

The Farmers of Southern Pekalongan, 1800s – 2000s
Pujo Semedi

Abstract

This historical ethnographic study of the Petungkriyono farming community in southern Pekalongan, Central Java, Indonesia, addresses socio-cultural and ecological transformations which occurred in rural Java in the last two centuries. The establishment of a colonial administration in the 1790s brought the farmers into closer contact with the world market which opened opportunities for the farmers to increase their productivity and income. As the market expanded the contact intensified and a growing amount of money flowed into Javanese villages. While farmers had an agility in seizing market opportunities, their living conditions during the 19th and 20th centuries worsened. While previously the farmers cultivated and sold their agricultural products of coffee and sugar to the market, in the 20th century their main commodity was their human labour.

By utilizing the richness of archival, library and ethnographic data on southern Pekalongan farming communities this study attempts to find out why Javanese farming communities failed to utilize opportunities opened by the expanding world market. In this way the proposed study aims at revealing the roots of a number of social problems within present-day Javanese farming communities and at contributing to solving such problems. This project is part of research programme on which the researcher has been working since 1998: a comparative study of three village types in Java (a plantation community, a fishing village and an agricultural village) in order to arrive at an empirically-grounded typology of Javanese villages that will serve as a framework for rural socio-economic and socio-cultural research.

Key words:

Agrarian society, Java, world market expansion

Agricultural Transformation in India : Learning For South East Asia

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In the 21st century, agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development & poverty reduction in developing economies. It contributes to development as an economic activity , as a livelihood , and as a provider of environmental services, making the sector a unique instrument for development . Agricultural production is important for food

security because it is a source of income for the majority of the rural poor. However food Security remains an important policy challenge in many countries of the world. Increase in food production has not resulted in greater food security at the individual & household level for significant sections of the population . The first World Food Summit held in 1996 had the goal to reduce the number of inaccessible people to food by 50% in 2015 . However this goal which has been prioritized & renewed as global commitment at similar summits carried out in Rome in 2002 , has not been achieved . It is important to recognize that agricultural growth & rural development are crucial for food security & both of them are greatly influenced by policies & outcomes in the rest of the economy. According to Yoginder K. Alagh ‘ only widespread agricultural growth can trigger broad based rural growth & this is the only guarantee of reducing hunger’. Food Security is not just food availability at the macro level , it also means food accessibility – physical (through the public distribution system) & economic (through employment). Food Absorption is another important parameter of food security. Proper absorption is dependent upon the state of health & environmental sanitation & hygiene , safe drinking water, knowledge of nutrition & dietary practices etc.

Countries like India & China have witnessed diversification but with less availability of food . There has been a shift from farm to non-farm sector , a shift from food crop to non-food crops. Off- farm income can be very lucrative for both rich & poor households . Yet the rich often dominate the important business niches . The poor lose out as they lack access to capital , education & infrastructure . Also the entire debate has to be seen in the context of the deadlock between the developed & the developing countries. The agricultural negotiations need to satisfy the development needs of all the countries .

In this context , good governance becomes important both for the farm & the non-farm sector for increasing the possibilities of small-holders & the rural poor to raise their voice .The key to food security also , both at the domestic & the community level is diversity which is also the basis of sustainable agriculture. People’s rights, their livelihoods, their diverse food cultures & the environment will also be protected by sustainable agriculture. According to Madhura Swaminathan , creation & continuation of an effective system of food security requires political commitment & public support , government support & support from below . The role of public action has been emphasized by both Jean Dreze & Amartya Sen. Good & balanced governance requires that one has the government , the private sector & the grassroot people’s institutions working harmoniously to preserve , promote & protect the interests of the common man .

This article seeks to look at the agricultural transformation in India and ascertain the specific / unique experiments in their agricultural & rural development policies which in turn also affects their food security . All aspects of food availability , accessibility & absorption will be looked into & the areas of production, yield , rural poverty & employment , shift to the non-farm sector , rural development policies , achievements by the grassroot institutions including successful programmes by the NGOs etc will be examined. The agricultural sector is the starting point for finding sustainable solutions to overcome the current food crisis. This relates to agricultural productivity as well as to policy frameworks for combating hunger & poverty .

Farmers in both South Asia & South East Asia face the common challenges of the need to produce more food from less land than ever before . At the same time , they face long term threats to productivity with the climate change as well as the environmental changes which decades of intensive farming have brought to the fields. Already most farmers

encounter marketing problems & the commodity prices are relatively low. This situation is likely to get worse as the world is now entering in an era of free trade in agricultural products . The experiences of India can be a learning lesson for countries of South East Asia particularly Indonesia which is also facing such global changes, ie not only the struggle to increase food production & its accessibility for all people but also it is concerned about food safety, nutrition & environmental impact of their food consumption . The paper will seek to look at not only the future challenges but also the policies that are being looked at for long term solutions.

The Vietnam Land Question – the Impact of Colonialism

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The debate on the impact of colonialism in countries' current economic performance has regained momentum partly by the publication of the works of Engerman and Sokoloff and Acemoglu et al (AJR). They are tracing the roots of underdevelopment, which are identified in terms of institutional inefficiencies, back to early colonial times.

This paper scrutinizes these main theories on the impact of colonialism on long-term economic growth, especially focusing on the distinction between extractive institutions and institutions for property rights, by taking colonial Vietnam as a case in point. The special focus will be on the land question. At the time of independence, inequality in land distribution had reached startling proportions and had become not only a burning political issue but also a hindrance to economic transformation. In Cochinchina only one fourth of the farming families owned all the land they were cultivating, and secure property rights in land were held by a small minority. Despite the very different factor endowments (especially labour/land ratio), Tonkin also presented significant economic inequalities. In this paper, we present a new hypothesis on the understanding of colonial impact on Vietnam's post-colonial relative underdevelopment, which includes the interaction of colonial and local institutions as well as to the importance of market mechanisms vis-à-vis factor endowments.

Agrarian Expansion and Territorial Sovereignty on the Indonesian-Malaysian Frontier

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Abstract:

Many of the remaining areas of 'unexploited' lands and natural resources in Southeast Asia are located in frontier regions adjoining national borders. This is also the case in Indonesia, where long stretches of the border region between Indonesia and Malaysia are still widely forested and contain large patches of what in government narratives are classified as 'sleeping', 'waste' or 'idle' lands waiting to be exploited and developed for agricultural and security reasons. This paper examines the current drive behind rapid agrarian expansion in frontier regions of developing states. Specifically, the paper seeks to develop an integrated understanding of how the current agricultural expansion along the Indonesian-Malaysian frontier is interlinked with national policy regimes of development, issues of territorial sovereignty, and global market demands for agricultural intensification. The paper argues that frontiers in Southeast Asia are distinctive social and political formations with multiple meanings as (A) political borderlines separating two or more nation states and, (B) as areas physically separate from state cores, and (C) as zones between settled and unsettled areas, accentuating underdevelopment, remoteness and dense forest landscapes. A main assumption is that these frontiers are deeply contested places both regarding resource access/struggle and the upholding of territorial sovereignty.

Colonial cattle breeding in Cochin-china

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Our study is based on three main data sources : veterinarian and agricultural archives of Cochin-China (National Archives of Vietnam, Centre n°2, Ho Chi Minh-city) ; archives of the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the *Bulletin Economique de l'Indochine*. It focuses on experimentation undertaken by the French veterinary surgeons in Cochin-china for improving cattle race. Colonial cattle breeding presented several interests. First, it concerned producing home-like beef and milk for the settlers, in order to create the familiar environment of the "fatherland". Second, it had an economic interest : producing cattle for exportation to other East Asian countries. Third (in the later period of colonial rule), improving nutrition of the local population, as well as training the latter to modernize animal farming and increase

productivity became an additional concern of the French authorities. In order to carry out their projects, the colonial administration set a veterinary service and constituted local staff trained in veterinarian medicine to control epizootic diseases. Last, but not least, the veterinarian policy was an important element in the construction of French colonial administration: cattle surveillance, border control, vaccination certificates.

Agricultural transformation in Java - legacies of the past challenges for the future

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Indonesia came a long way under Suharto but it became very clear in 1997 that the development process was far from finished. In fact, the crisis showed how vulnerable the Indonesian economy still was. A core issue in development policy in Indonesia was the transformation of the agricultural sector and great efforts were put into this in the early Suharto era. With achievement of self sufficiency on rice in the early 1980s the process stalled and by 1997, the need for agricultural change is as great as ever. With this as a starting point, the paper will examine the agricultural transformation process in Java since the fall of Suharto. The paper will focus on three core aspects of the transformation process in Java, namely productivity, income and equity in agriculture. With a focus on these three aspects the paper will highlight some of the problems that arose in agriculture in the latter half of the Suharto's reign and examine if these still persists. The paper combines statistical data with policy documents concerning the agricultural sector of Java covering the period 1968 -2008.