

Application Form for Joint Research Project 2010

Applicant(Coordinator) : Ishikawa, Hiroki

1. Project title	
Study on the Relationship between Agriculture and Culture in Sub-Saharan Africa in Historical Perspectives	
2. Project term	April, 2010 ~ March, 2013 (3 years)
3. Coordinator	(Name) Ishikawa, Hiroki (Role) Coordinator / Eastern and Central Africa
Sub-coordinator	(Name) Nagahara, Yoko (Role) Sub-Coordinator / Southern Africa
ILCAA member	(Name) (Role)
4. Number of project members	Ten persons.
5. Research Field of joint researchers	To report research results in project meetings and to submit a report on the research results.
6. Summary of the project	
<p>As economic depression of Sub-Saharan African countries becomes an international outstanding problem, it is required more and more to deepen knowledge about agriculture which is a key industry in most of the countries. In Japan, a great deal of effort has been made on the study of agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa by researchers of agriculture, anthropology, and economy and they have obtained good results in the last few decades. In this project, researchers of the above mentioned disciplines and historians will jointly examine the relation between agriculture and culture in Sub-Saharan Africa in historical perspectives. The goal of this project is to explore a new field of study on agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa by putting emphasis on subjects concerning staple food crops which still have numerous unsettled historical questions although these crops have had an important role socially and culturally in Sub-Saharan African societies.</p>	
7. Aim of the project	
<p>Although it is difficult to study agricultural history in Sub-Saharan Africa because of short of documents, it is not impossible to examine them by using information collected in fieldworks and document researches. The purpose of this project is to solve unsettled historical questions of the relationship between agriculture and culture in Sub-Saharan Africa by cooperation of researchers of different academic disciplines. This project will place stress on subjects concerning staple food crops such as cassava, plantain banana, maize, rice, teff. By studying cultivation and consumption of these crops and food cultures which are mainly composed of usage of staple food crops, this project will increase our historical knowledge on staple food crops which have been less studied than cash crops for export.</p>	
8. Significance of the research , especially the significance of carrying out the project as a joint research	
<p>By emphasizing on the examination of subjects on staple food crops which have been closely connected with people's life, this project will contribute to shed light on the social and cultural role of agriculture in social changes in Sub-Saharan Africa such as European colonial rule. Therefore this project will explore a new field of study on agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. This project will be managed as joint research project because the studies on the relationship between agriculture and culture in historical perspectives especially need close cooperation of researchers of different academic disciplines such as agriculture, anthropology, economy, and history.</p>	
9. Research results expected	

Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, has managed many joint researches on languages and cultures of Asia and Africa in the last few decades. This project, managed by members of this institute, will produce multidisciplinary results by cooperation of researchers of several academic disciplines relating with agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. This project will promote researches on agricultural history in Sub-Saharan Africa which leaves room for discussion compared with those in other areas such as Southeast Asia. In addition to this, this project will stimulate study of Sub-Saharan Africa's history in Japan.

10. Project plan

This project will span three years and project meetings will be held three times a year. The plan is as follows.

1. To report the agriculture in each research field

In Sub-Saharan Africa, environments and historical backgrounds have produced numerous types of agriculture. In addition to this diversity, researchers have different methods and put emphasis on different subjects when they study agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. In this project, the participants will report agriculture in each research field and give an outline of each research, after explanations of plan and goal of the project by coordinator

2. To discuss sources and methods

Then the participants will analyze documents for studying agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa and discuss characteristics of the information on agricultural history collected in fieldwork interviews.

3. To select subjects and to operate researches

On the basis of the above discussions, the participants will select subjects on the relationship between agriculture and culture in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially those concerning staple food crop, with considering social and cultural importance and needs of joint research. The participants will examine these subjects and report research results in meetings of this project and the conferences of international and Japanese associations for African studies.

4. To report research results

At the last meeting, the participants will inspect research results and discuss future subjects of the relationship between agriculture and culture in Sub-Saharan Africa on the basis of the research results of this project. Then they will submit a report on research results.

11. Plans to make research results public

This project's meetings will be opened to outside researchers. The participants will report research results in the meetings and the conferences of international and Japanese associations for African studies. At the end of the project, the participants will submit a report on research results and these reports' summary will be opened on webpage and public information magazine entitled *Field+* of the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa. It is also planned to publish a collection of papers on the basis of the research results of this project.

12. Documents needed from those applying for joint researchers

brief statement about your interest on the topic of this project (about 150 words)