

## Study on Development Plan for Agriculture and Livestock in Northern Tocantins, Brazil

(Period of the study: 12 months from March, 2000 Our assignments: Farming system)

### Background of the Study

State of Tocantins is situated in the northern part of Brazil with rich natural resources unexploited occupying the area of 278,000 Km<sup>2</sup>. In order to utilize its natural resources efficiently for the economic development, the state government formulated the general development plan of agriculture and livestock during 1997 and 1998 under the technical support from JICA. As a part of the plan, also, study on the development plan for agriculture and livestock in northern area was requested. Feasibility Study at the priority area and Master Plan Study on general development plan were carried out for the target area of northern Tocantins State (about 37,000 Km<sup>2</sup>) aiming at the promotion of agriculture and livestock by considering the environmental conservation, establishment of production organization and improvement of living standard of rural area.

### Outline of the Study

The core of agriculture in the target area is livestock raising and a small number of large scale farmers who owns thousands of hectares are running stock farms of beef cattle. On the other hand, many poor small holders cultivate crops for themselves by burning barren land and after cultivation they turn the site into grassland. This kind of shifting cultivation has been an environmental problem in the area and the target of this study was to find out how to use already developed land efficiently and how to conserve unexploited forests. To improve such situation, general agricultural development plan was proposed with the plan of introduction of crop cultivation into grassland by large scale farmers combined with the plan of intensive group farming by small holders.

### Our assignments

- Collection and analysis of information about soil and land use, farming situation, farmers' economy and farmers' organization,
- Investigation of crops to be introduced and formulation of production plan by considering the suitable crops for the land and marketing,
- Formulation of group farming plan aiming at the improvement of the living standard of small-scale farmers, and
- Field survey of the target area and formulation of development plan.

