

Study on Pepper Production Plan in Micronesia (JICA Loan Support)

(Period of the study: 2 months from March, 1987 Our assignment: Soil Survey)

Background of the Study

In Ponape Island of Micronesia, high quality pepper can be produced. However, the potential had not been made full use because of the marketing problem that Ponape is far away from international market compared to the other producing areas. Therefore, Ponape Industry Development tried to develop new market in direct sales to the tourists and the Japanese pharmaceutical companies under the application of JICA loan support to activate pepper cultivation in Ponape. For formulating the cultivation plan, soil survey and present situation of cultivation was carried out to select the candidate area for cultivation.

Outline of the Study

At the experimental station in Ponape, various experiment and research activities are being carried out for not only pepper but also vanilla, ilang-ilang and shakao. Information collection and field survey have, therefore, been carried out for the cultivation of these useful plants. About pepper, especially, we have visited pepper farmers distributed in the island and have surveyed the site conditions and cultivation methods. Soil survey has also been carried out at the place where agriculture office designated as suitable area for pepper cultivation. Based on these results, the project implementation plan for pepper cultivation in Ponape Island was formulated.

Our assignments

- Information collection and field survey about cultivation of useful plants,
- Field survey at pepper farmers distributed in the island about cultivation and marketing methods,
- Soil survey at the areas designated as suitable areas for pepper cultivation distributed in the island, and
- Formulation of project implementation plan including candidate site and cultivation methods based on the results of the study.

