The Relationship between the Utilization of Close Natural Environment and Appearance of Wild Animals: Comparison of Two Areas Near a Local City with Different Industrial Structure

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This study investigated the relationship between the change of natural environment near the village and the use of natural environment to analyze the appearance of wild animals. The study sites in Yamanashi are two areas of difference industrial structure after decline of sericulture. The abandoned fields grow and the inhabitant’s use of natural resources decrease as soon as the industrial structure converted secondary and tertiary industries after sericulture declined at Kamiohata in 1960’s. Only private cultivation remains and the recreational use of natural resources are recognized at present. The sericulture turned into the cultivation of orchard and vegetable same as the industrial structure sifted in 1980’s at Nakabatake & Shingyoji. They had stopped gathering grass and fallen leaves at the same time of Kamiohata in 1960’s. The firewood gathering was stopped when the sericulture declined, because they had lost the slack season to gather it with cultivation of orchard. Most of the mulberry fields changed to orchard and vegetable fields but some abandoned. The utilization degree of natural resources is lower in Nakabatake & Shingyoji than in Kamiohata. Abandoned fields are increasing owing to the labor shortage. The reasons of wild animals appearance are the increase of abandoned fields, the decrease of the use of natural resources and the narrowed range as sericulture declined. The appearances of wild animals recognized by the inhabitants were fewer in Nakabatake & Shingyoji than Kamiohata. Its growth has started slower than Kamiohata. These are explained with the condition of location and the time difference in industrial structure shift.

Thus, new type of secondary nature management is necessary for prevention of wild animals appearance to be considered especially in the area where the inhabitants abandoned and change the relationship with nature. At the result of this study, reduction of the abandoned fields with opening allotment and the nature manage activities extended from the recreational use of natural resources in concert with existing station of environmental education at first case. Then second case needs to make the systems and activities to management of nature connected assistance of fruit trees growth. Moreover, the participation of citizen and all generation of habitants for the sustain management activities in rural area near a local city.