Farming-Fisherman and Fishing-Farmer: Subsistence Composition and Paddy Field in the Sea Village

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This article is a sequel to the preceding article The way of life named Farming-fisherman: "a farming and fishing village" criticism as the fishing village type [Yasumuro, 2010]. This article studies the existence of various ways of life in the same sea village by focusing on "farming-fisherman" and "fishing-farmer" that indicate the self-recognition of people in the village.

It was found that there are two major orientations in the life of the sea village which has been generalized as a "farming and fishing village" conventionally. One is the farming-fisherman, and the other is the fishing-farmer. There is no difference between the farming-fisherman and the fishing-farmer in the aspect of the subsistence composition of farming and fishing. However, while the former depended largely on fishing, the latter had several subsistence methods to produce income such as farming, fishing, transportation, etc. In other words, while the farming-fisherman earned a living with a single subsistence method, the fishing-farmer implemented a subsistence strategy to earn a living with multiple methods.

The difference between them in the orientation of earning also affected the sharing of roles among family members for subsistence. In the case of the farming-fisherman, the division of roles was clear: men earned a living, and women assumed self-consumption. Meanwhile, in the case of the fishing-farmer, such clear division between men and women was not possible. This means that the fishing-farmer implemented a subsistence strategy in which the whole family earned a living and also assumed self-consumption.

As a background to the difference between them in the orientation of subsistence strategy, particularly earning, the ownership of paddy fields draws attention. There is a clear distinction between those who owned paddy fields (fishing-farmer) and those who did not (farming-fisherman). The degree of their subsistence composition also depended largely on rice. For the farming-fisherman who did not own paddy fields, rice was basically something to buy. On the other hand, the fishing-farmer was able to produce rice himself.

At the same time, paddy fields and their mode of ownership indicated the social stratum in the sea village. This means that paddy fields existed not only for producing rice, but also as symbolic spaces which reflected the social stratum in the sea village. Whether they owned paddy fields or not was
also reflected clearly in the difference between them in subsistence strategy. This emerged as the difference between the farming-fisherman and the fishing-farmer in Sajima.

Key words: Farming-fisherman, fishing-farmer, sea village, subsistence composition, paddy field