

Agriculture in Hokkaido (Second edition 2009, v2)

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EDITORS and CONTRIBUTORS

Editor and Chapter 2 Kazuto Iwama

Professor, Laboratory of Crop Science, Research Faculty of Agriculture,
Hokkaido University Email: iwama@res.agr.hokudai.ac.jp

Chapter 1 Masashi Ohara

Professor, Course in Ecological Conservation, Faculty of Environmental Earth
Science, Hokkaido University Email: ohara@ees.hokudai.ac.jp

Chapter 3 Hajime Araki

Professor, Section of Bioresource Development, Field Science Center for
Northern Biosphere, Hokkaido University Email: araki@fsc.hokudai.ac.jp

Chapter 4 Toshihiko Yamada

Professor, Laboratory of Bioresource Exploitation and Utilization Research,
Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, Hokkaido University
Email: yamada@fsc.hokudai.ac.jp

Chapter 5 Hiroki Nakatsuji

Associate Professor, Laboratory of Animal Production system, Research Faculty
of Agriculture, Hokkaido University Email: nakahiro@anim.agr.hokudai.ac.jp

Chapter 6 Takashi Kataoka

Associate Professor, Laboratory of Crop Production Engineering, Research
Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University
Email: tkataoka@bpe.agr.hokudai.ac.jp

Chapter 7 Yasutaka Yamamoto

Associate Professor, Laboratory of Agricultural and Environmental, Research
Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University
Email: yamay@agecon.agr.hokudai.ac.jp

Associate Editor Hiroshi Uchino

Post-doctoral Researcher, Laboratory of Crop Science, Research Faculty of
Agriculture, Hokkaido University

Technical Editor (English editing) Jai Gopal

Former Invited Professor, Research Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University

PREFACE

Agriculture in Hokkaido dawned in 1868; the time when the Meiji Government was established. Warriors who were deprived of their positions by the new government after the Meiji Revolution, and farmers who could afford only small area in the main islands of Japan, immigrated to Hokkaido. They cleared the land and planted crops facing severe winters of Hokkaido. Presently, Hokkaido leads agriculture in Japan, proudly tops the production of rice, wheat, potato, beans, sugar beet, vegetables, and especially dairy products.

The people of Hokkaido, however, shall never forget that it is the hard work of their predecessors for more than hundred years that has earned the present position for Hokkaido. At the same time, misunderstanding between immigrants and native Ainu people, and environmental degradation caused by reclamation of Hokkaido, should be matters of concern.

This book describes past, present and future of Hokkaido's agriculture. The articles for this have been contributed by the professors outstanding in their respective fields in Hokkaido University. All chapters have been written in a simple language and illustrated with relevant photographs. Though this book has been produced as a textbook for the foreign students at Hokkaido University, it can serve a wide range of readers. It will be a great pleasure for us if this book is read by all concerned including visitors to this lovely land of Hokkaido.

Representing the contributors, Kazuto Iwama

March 2009