

Agricultural Growth Path and Technical Change in KOREA: An Experience and International Significance

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This paper analyzes the growth pattern of agricultural production in Korea for the 1955—88 period when the Korean economy experienced a rapid economic growth. Another objective is to find international significances of the Korean Path of agricultural growth. The findings are summarized as follows:

In the Korean agricultural growth path a clear change in production technology happened around the middle of 1970s. It shifted from the land-saving and fertilizer-using technology to the labour-saving and machinery-using technology. The Korean growth path was consistent with the S-shaped growth path of an Asian agricultural growth pattern which was indicated by S. Yamada.

An international comparison reveals that Korea is the only developing country in Asia where man-land ratio in agriculture shifted from decreasing trend into increasing one at the middle of 1970s. This implies that Korean agricultural development turned toward a direction orienting more increase of labour productivity that is common developed countries.