

Report Summary – 2003

State-operated irrigation and drainage project and supplementary projects

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has carried out a project for constructing basic agricultural irrigation and drainage facilities to improve agricultural productivity. As supplementary projects, prefectures are constructing irrigation and drainage canals connected to the basic canals. According to our audit of the projects, among the 36 areas where five or more years has passed since the completion of the basic project, many areas are behind in the progress of the supplementary project or still have not begun the supplementary project because beneficiary farmhouses are negative in participating in the project and still have not submitted applications. Some areas have no prospects of beginning the project. If this situation continues, it will take a lot of time for the effect of the whole project to appear, the investment efficiency may decrease, and there may be an increasing number of areas where basic facilities will become too old before the appearance of the effect and a renewal project will become necessary. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the local governments should endeavor to make the effect of the project appear earlier by continuing to try to allot budgets to the farmer house implementing the supplementary projects as important fields, establishing a policy for the continuation and suspension of the project by the use of a reevaluation system, encouraging the areas that has still not begun the project to construct the facilities in other projects and further promoting gradual construction based on beneficiary farmhouses' intentions. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries should encourage the areas that have no prospects of beginning the project to use agricultural water for irrigation and basic facilities effectively by cooperating with local governments, grasping problems to the areas when carrying out follow-up investigation of other areas where the state-operating project is complete, and flexibly reexamining beneficiary area.

(Background amount: 711,200 million yen (expenses used for the state-operating project with regard to which some areas still have not begin supplementary projects, although five or more years has passed after the completion of the project))