

# A survey on land and labor in Zanzibar, Tanzania

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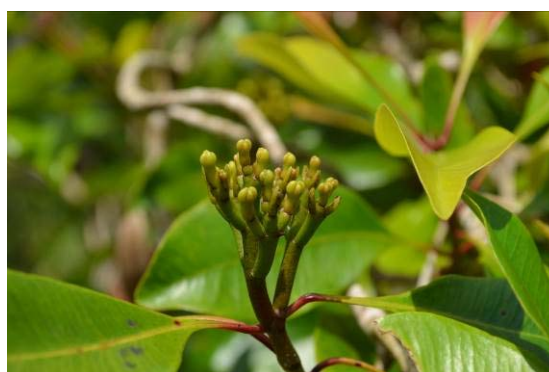
Place of fieldwork: Tanzania

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Key Words: Zanzibar, suburban village, land tenure, land use, labor allocation, labor migration, non-farm activity

- Research background

Zanzibar has been a center of slave and ivory trade in East Africa under the control of the Sultanate of Oman. Clove and coconut palm plantations have been developed using slave labor force. In December 1963, Zanzibar gained independence from Britain under the government dominated by people of Arabic origin. A month later, mainly African people staged a coup, which was called the “Zanzibar Revolution.” In April 1964, Zanzibar and Tanganyika (presently Tanzania Mainland) merged to form one country, currently called the United Republic of Tanzania. Zanzibar has remained a semi-autonomous area. It has own land and agricultural policies that differ from those of Tanzania Mainland. There have been few previous studies on aspects relevant to the self-government of Zanzibar. Therefore, I intend to conduct research on land and labor in Zanzibar.



Photos 1, 2 Coconut palms and cloves in Zanzibar

- Research purpose

At the research site of Unguja Island, where I conducted agricultural research last year, I start interviewing villagers about land tenure, land use, labor allocation, and labor migration. I also visit Pemba Island to set up new research sites where agriculture seems to be a more important livelihood. Moreover, I conduct research using documents from the archive and the agricultural research station. My field trip throughout Zanzibar and the documentary research provide me with a deeper understanding of my research site. I try to pursue my field survey



Photo 3, 4 Landscape of the research site in the Central District of Unguja

using Kiswahili language as much as possible and make an effort to improve my language skills in the language commonly used at my research site.

- Observation and results

I conducted a field trip in Zanzibar from a socio-economic point of view as well as an agronomical one. I set up my new research site in suburban villages in Unguja Island, and then I began to interview villagers about basic information on household members, land, and labor. On the other hand, I could not set up new research sites in Pemba Island. As the result of documentary research in some administrative agencies, I collected aerial photography and maps of the whole of Unguja Island and all laws of Zanzibar after the British protectorate era.

My research site is located in the Central District of Unguja Island, which is approximately 30 minutes' drive from Zanzibar City. A river runs through the western part. Rice paddies and vegetables are cultivated in the lowlands around the river. Upland fields are planted with various fruit trees, including coconut palms. In this site, many villagers engage in non-farm activities.

- Implications for future research

I would like to visit Unguja Island again next year and resume interviews with villagers on land tenure, land use, labor allocation, and labor migration. Because I already have a research permit from Zanzibar, I will be able to restart my research immediately. I reflect on the fact that I could not master the local language. I also could not obtain a Residence Permit, despite the strong support of Prof. Sheikh of the State University of Zanzibar. Therefore, I will try to expedite the procedure as soon as possible next year.