

AAINews

APPROPRIATE AGRICULTURE INTERNATIONAL
CO., LTD

1-2-3-403 Haramachida, Machida, Tokyo, 194-0013 JAPAN.
TEL/FAX:+81-42-725-6250 Email: aai@koushu.co.jp

Dhofar Region in Oman and the counterparts of JICA Project

Dhofar is located in southern part of Oman, which occupies about one third of the country, and shares the border with Yemen. Thus, the culture and the race of Dhofar are influenced by Yemen strongly and are different from those of the northern part of Oman such as Muscat. In 1960s, people in the mountain area stood up for independence and fought a battle with the present government. However, criticisms against the government are hardly heard at present, because Sultan Qabus gives economical support to them. The region is now very peaceful and stable.



The Dhofar Region can be classified into three parts according to the geographical features. The first one is "coast area" including Salalah, where agriculture and fisheries are the main industries. The second is "Jabal" consists of 1,000m high mountains in the north of the coast area, where livestock raising (cattle and goats) is prevailing. The third is "Nejd" in the north of Jabal, where camels have been grazed by nomads since old days. It drizzles in the coast area and Jabal from July to September under influence of south-west monsoon blowing from the Indian ocean. Because of this drizzle, these areas are covered with vegetation which are hardly seen in other parts of the Arabian Peninsula. On the other hand, temperature in Nejd rises over 45°C and the air becomes extremely dry because of the foehn phenomenon caused by the monsoon blowing in across the mountains.

At NARS (Nejd Agriculture Research Station) in Nejd, ten young agricultural engineers are working as counterparts of a JICA project. They are expected to be driving forces in Oman in future. All of them are from the Dhofar Region, particularly from Salalah, Jabal and Nejd. Their ages vary between 20 and 25, which means only 1 to 3 years have passed since they graduated either from universities or high schools. The former Director was 25 years old and capable for the project management. He is a family member of the Shanfalus, an influential family in Salalah. At present, these counterparts are engaging in research works on development of arid land agriculture, which includes cultivation of fodder and vegetables, soil survey and other related analysis. (Reported by Zaitso from Oman)



The Director and Badar (Salalah)



Bakhit (Jabal)



Mohamed and Salem (Nejd)