

New series: Agriculture in the Dhofar region, Oman

Part 1: Dhofar region

We have printed several reports on Dhofar in AAI News before. Starting this issue, we are going to present five reports on agriculture in the Dhofar area. The planned contents are as follows: 1. The characteristics of topography, climate and regional agriculture and livestock farming. 2. Agriculture around Salalah. 3. Livestock farming in the Jabal region. 4. Nomadism in Nejd and modern agriculture introduced recently. 5. Problems and challenges facing agriculture in Dhofar in the future and my personal view of the future.

1) Regional characteristics of Dhofar

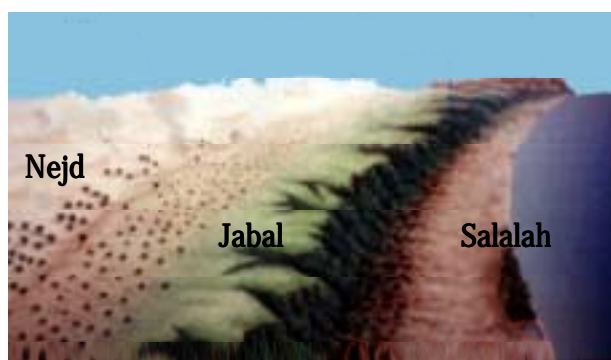
Along with the Batinah coastal region, the Dhofar region, located in the south of Oman, has long been rated as one of the best agricultural areas in the country. This is because Dhofar region, due to the influence of the July to September monsoon, has a climate unique among the surrounding areas on the tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

As indicated in the chart below, in Salalah and Jabal, temperatures decrease in summer months due to the monsoon. In Jabal, as temperatures decrease, there is a tremendous increase in rainfall. This is caused when moist winds from the Indian Ocean in the south hit Jabal and become rain. However, the monsoon effects differ radically over the mountain ranges. In the "Nejd" area behind Jabal, dried air comes over Jabal in the form of a hot wind, creating a climate with strong winds and dry, hot weather. Nejd is only about 30km away from the coast, however the climatic changes that occur from the coastal areas to Nejd vary phenomenally. As a result, different types of agriculture and livestock farming occur. These make the most of each region's natural environment.

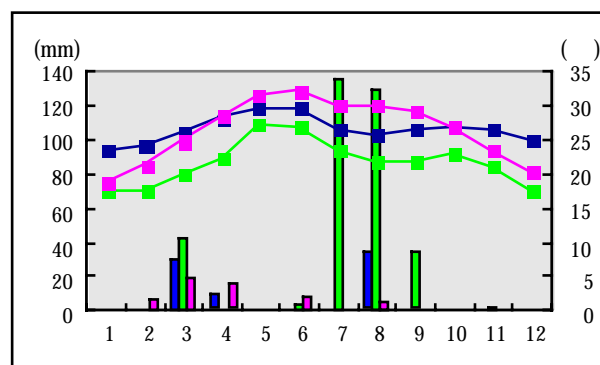
2) Regional characteristics of agriculture

1. Salalah coastal plain In the monsoon period, fruits such as coconuts and bananas, vegetables and grass for fodder are grown in a traditional manner, using infiltration water near the ground surface. Large-scale grass cultivation has been popular in recent years.
2. Mountain ranges Traditional livestock farming, mainly cows and goats, utilising wild vegetation as fodder.
3. Nejd area Traditional camel rearing. Large-scale grass cultivation irrigated by deep underground water has been seen in recent years.

Traditional agriculture and livestock farming have long been conducted in Salalah, Jabal and Nejd, and they have been recognized as Oman's main farming areas. However, at the same time, farming using modern methods has been promoted and has cut into the traditional farming areas. We would like to report on current conditions and various challenges for the future in the following issues.



Topography of Dhofar region



Climates of Dhofar

