A fundamental challenge that the Afghan people are facing today is ensuring millions of people living in poverty have access to enough food to maintain a healthy life. Poverty and food insecurity are multi-faceted phenomenon; involving low physical, financial assets and unskilled human capital in Afghanistan. Currently, over 80% of the country’s population live in rural areas where agriculture is the primary activity and the sector contributes about 40-50% of the GDP (excluding the opium economy). Although in recent years (after 2001) there has been some growth in agricultural production, the present agricultural situation in Afghanistan is marred by massive poverty among the rural population.

So that the study was carried out in Takhar province of Afghanistan, which is located in the northeast of the country and it is geographically a middle large sized province among the 34 provinces in Afghanistan, accounting for about 2% (12,376 km²) of the total area (652,290 km²) and 3% (870,900) of the total population (26 million) (NRVA, 2007/08). The share of the labor force in manufacturing industries in the province is much smaller than those in the capital city Kabul especially in rural parts of the province. The study determined the condition of food security and poverty in the rural area where the rural poor are living. The methodology adopted involved the use of structured questionnaires for the collection of information on the level of total household consumption expenditure and other social economic characteristics, which might influence the occurrence of food security and poverty in one way or the other. This case study has attempted to elucidate the socioeconomic consequence of poverty level and food security through investigating the actual implementation of surveys (2009
and 2012) in three different villages in the Yangi Qala district of Takhar province, Afghanistan. Drawing on primary data derived from the experiences of 75 households, the study thereupon estimates the economic balance between the households and their economic linkages. These samples were selected through stratified random sampling techniques in order to represent all strata of the households in the Yangi Qala district of Takhar province, Afghanistan. The data were analyzed using several statistical tools such as frequencies, mean, standard deviation and Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (FGT) poverty measures. As demonstrated, the local economy is dominated by agricultural activities, especially the production of rice and wheat. As noted, however, the production of these major primary sector products is potentially constrained on the supply side by limited agricultural inputs; such as improved seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, irrigation systems and the increasingly restricted availability of land.

The study revealed that most of the region’s population is living below the poverty line (as average 55.6%). Poverty analysis based on household level data shows that the problem of food insecurity is more severe in this region. Also, households with higher family size and higher dependency ratio and households having lower resources possession are suffering from higher incidence of food insecurity and poverty. Incidence of poverty is significantly high in village B (60%). This is mainly due to higher dependency on non-farm income, seasonal labor migration, low level of resource possession and geographical disadvantages that higher access to basic social services like transportation, communication, education, and health. These are also the factors responsible for chronic and transitory poverty, but when compared to other two villages (A and C), the poverty is deeper and severe in most developed village C, because, in village C there are more poor people and the income gap is much wider between poor and rich people, in the other hand; village C has easy access to some basic social services and it is most traditional village in this research. Food security condition of the household and access to loan is dependent on the household’s access to cultivated land, household size, and literacy level. The most important source of calorie for villagers is cereal. Research has shown that, about 72% of the population consume less than the estimated requirement (2,100 kcal/person/day).

The result of the study also shows that, education can play an important role in overcoming the symptoms of poverty through expanded opportunities of non-farm employment, improving food security and reducing child labor in the region. Another important implication is that improving the local credit system will cope with income risk management.

However, there is a need for the government to formulate and carry out thorough implementation of economic development plans and programs that will provide employment, housing, education, improved health care facilities among other things specifically for the rural poor.

Arising from the findings of this study, it is therefore suggested that policies that promote human capacity development, enhancing access to credit, and promoting farming activities are considered as key to reducing poverty among rural households in Afghanistan.

【Keywords】Afghanistan, Rural Poverty, Food Security perspective