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Effect of the past deforestation on the rainfall induced landslide hazarad in July 2009 in Yamaguchi Prefecture

Hiromu Daimaru^{1*}

1FFPRI

The heavy rainfall on 21 July 2009 triggered serious surface erosion on the mountains in Yamaguchi and Houhu districts. The resulted landforms produced by the erosion were topographically classified into three categories, such as, skin-slip type, hollow type and gully type. The old aerial photographs taken in 1947 showed much human-induced bare grounds (hageyama) on the mountain ridges. Many gullies initiated in the valley heads filled by granitic sandy colluvium. The ¹⁴C age of the charcoal under the granitic colluvium was Cal AD 1440 - 1470 and indicates that the degradation occurred after the 15 centuries. In the Yamaguchi and Hofu areas, past human activity strongly influences on the characteristic of erosion by the 2009 rain storm.

Keywords: rain storm, landslide, hageyama, sediment disaster