

### III Agricultural Land

#### Explanation

This part contains statistics on cultivated land as regularly conducted by the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (hereafter MAFF) and statistics on transfer of rights and change of agricultural land prepared by the Management Improvement Bureau of MAFF.

#### 1 Cultivated land area

This statistics is based on results of the survey of cultivated land area as regularly conducted by the Statistics Department of MAFF.

##### (1) Survey method

The survey on cultivated land area is conducted by the method of sampling survey with actual measurement as of July 15, each year.

In this survey, present land category, area of paddy fields and area of upland fields are estimated on the basis of area of land category recorded in the cadaster, and confirmed by actual sample survey at each sample unit area (sampling unit of cultivated land of about 2 hectares). The areas in which a sampling survey with actual measurement is inefficient, a field observation survey or information gathering by officials, data collection by relevant authorities, use of aerial photographs, etc.

In order to make clear the reasons for increase and decrease of cultivated land, the area of cultivated land expanded or ruined is surveyed by field observation surveys or information gathering.

Areas in which a sampling survey with actual measurement was difficult to implement in 2011 due to the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake are understood through field observation surveys or information gathering by officials, data collection by relevant authorities, use of aerial photographs, etc.

As for the restricted areas under the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness in Fukushima Prefecture, in which a sampling survey with actual measurement and field observation surveys or information gathering by officials are difficult, estimated areas are recorded through data collection by relevant authorities, after subtracting the area of cultivated land ruined due to changed use of agricultural land, etc. which was understood before the earthquake and the estimated tsunami-hit area of cultivated land through use of aerial photographs and other means from the cultivated land area of the previous year in such areas.

##### (2) Definition and classification of cultivated land

- a Cultivated land : land arranged for crop cultivation, including attached dyke.
- b Field proper : land for crop cultivation (planting), excluding attached dyke.
- c Attached dyke : a part of cultivated land, necessary for the maintenance of the field proper such as small lane.
- d Paddy field : Cultivated land which has impounding facilities (such as an attached dyke) and facilities that can supply needed water to them (service water resources, irrigation canal, etc.).
- e Upland field : Cultivated land other than paddy field.

Ordinary upland field refers to upland fields other than land under permanent crops and short-term time meadows and is usually a cultivated herbaceous crops, young plants, etc. .

Land under permanent crops is upland field with tree crops of 1 are and over planted, including hop, bamboo forest for bamboo shoots cultivation, pinery and banana farm. Short time meadow upland field only for grass cultivation.

#### 2 Transfer of rights and change of agricultural land

Statistics shown here are results of transfer of rights and change of use of agricultural land based on the Agricultural Land Act (Act No. 229 of 1952) and the Agricultural Management Reinforcement Act (Act No. 65 of

1980), obtained from the "Survey on Transfer of Rights and Rent of Agricultural Land" conducted by the Management Improvement Bureau of MAFF.

### 3 Farm roads

These results come from the "Survey on Rural Road Infrastructure" as regularly conducted by the Statistics Department of MAFF.