

## IX Rural Areas

### Explanation

This section contains statistics on rural communities, multiple functions, and efforts for environment conservation farming, as well as on exchange activities between rural areas and urban areas, mainly based on surveys conducted by the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (hereinafter MAFF).

The "Survey on Rural Communities" had been conducted every 10 years until the "2000 World Census of Agriculture and Forestry". In order to comprehensively understand multiple functions of agriculture and forestry and rural areas, since 2005, it was conducted in periods of five years as the "Survey on Rural Areas" to understand the status and utilization of natural resources in rural areas, integrating the former "Survey on Rural Communities" and the "Survey on Forestry Areas".

#### 1 Rural communities

Statistics are based on the results of the "Census of Agriculture and Forestry" conducted by the Statistics Department of MAFF. This part contains the numbers of rural communities by required time to reach a Densely Inhabited District (DID), total of area per rural communities, size of cultivated land, size of rate cultivated land, size of rate paddy field, distinction of executive associations or not and number of gathering held during the past year.

#### 2 DID (Densely Inhabited Districts)

Densely Inhabited Districts (DID) are the districts which are composed of a group of contiguous Population Census enumeration districts each of which has a population density of about 4,000 inhabitants and over per square kilometer, and whose combined population of the contiguous districts exceeds 5,000, as referred to in the "Population Census of 2005" by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

#### 3 Required time to DID

These are required time to travel to the center of the nearest DID from the center of a given rural community by the mode of transportation regularly used (cars, buses, trains and others).

Required time to travel from rural communities in remote islands which require sea or air transportation is also included.

#### 4 Conservation of resources and environment

- (1) This part contains the number of agricultural management entities engaged in environment conservation farming, based on the results of the "2010 World Census of Agriculture and Forestry - Survey on Agricultural and Forestal Management Entities" conducted by the Statistics Department of MAFF.
- (2) This part contains the status of conservation of rural resources, based on the results of the "2010 World Census of Agriculture and Forestry" conducted by the Statistics Department of MAFF.

#### 5 Efforts for business on agricultural production

Statistics are based on the results of the "Survey on Rural Community Farming" conducted by the Statistics Department of MAFF. This part contains the ratio of rural community farms.

#### 6 Status of Efforts to Turn Farming and Rural Areas into a Sixth Industry

Statistics are based on the results of the "Comprehensive Survey on Turning Farming and Rural Areas into a Sixth Industry" conducted by the Statistics Department of MAFF. This part contains the annual sales and the ratio of business entities by sales amount, the number of workers and the ratio of male and female employees, the annual purchase price by production area and the ratio of local products, and the annual sales and the number of entities of agricultural production businesses by prefecture.

#### 7 Status of private farmlands for public use

The Rural Development Bureau of MAFF compiled the number of private farmlands for public use and their areas created under the "Act Concerning the Promotion for Development of Private Farmland for Public Use" (Act No.44 of 1990) and the "Act Concerning Special Cases of the Agricultural Land Act Concerning the Rent of Specific Agricultural Land Leases" (Act No.58 of 1989).

#### 8 Operation of the direct payment to farmers in the hilly and mountainous areas

The direct payment to farmers in the hilly and mountainous areas was established for encouraging continuous agricultural activities to prevent the abandonment of agricultural land there and help such areas to perform multiple functions of agriculture. This part contains the status of implementation of this payment compiled by the Rural Development Bureau of MAFF.