

XVII Mutual Relief and Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Explanation

This part contains statistical data relating to mutual relief of agriculture, national forest insurance, fishing vessel insurance, mutual relief of fisheries and farmers' pension.

Brief explanations for respective statistics are as follows:

1 Mutual relief of agriculture

The mutual relief of agriculture is managed under the Agricultural Disaster Compensation Law (Law No.185 of 1947).

In accordance with this law, on the level of municipalities, agricultural mutual relief associations compensate their members for damages to crops (paddy field rice, upland rice, wheat and barley) and livestock (cattle (including calf and fetus of cattle), horse, pig), which are compulsory joining mutual relief and also, damage to fruits and upland field crops, and green houses, which are voluntary joining mutual relief.

Federations of agricultural mutual relief associations which cover prefectural areas, insure part of the mutual relief, for their member associations.

The Government (special account for agricultural mutual relief insurance), furthermore, reinsures part of the federations' insurance losses.

The management of the agricultural disaster compensation system has become available to undertake between the agricultural mutual relief associations (specified associations), which cover prefectural areas, and the government, through only two steps, since fiscal year 2000.

For fruits and nuts, mutual relief started in fiscal year 1973. For field crops and green house, mutual relief started in fiscal year 1979. Moreover, expansion of objective on crops have been undertaken.

Nowadays, municipalities are able to succeed to these mutual relief undertakings from agricultural mutual relief associations.

2 National forest insurance

The national forest insurance is managed by the Government under the National Forest Insurance Law (Law No.25 of 1937). The objective of this insurance is to compensate for damages to artificial forest (except bamboo and natural forest) by fire, weather disasters (wind, water (mudslide, fallen trees, and floods), snow, drought, frost, and tidal waves and wind), and volcanic eruptions.

3 Fishing vessel insurance

The fishing vessel insurance is managed by the Fishing Vessel Damage Compensation Law (Law No.28 of 1952). In accordance with the law, Fishing vessel insurance associations do an insurance business (Ordinary Insurance, Special Insurance, Protection and Indemnity insurance, Fishing Vessel Owner Crew Insurance, Cargo Insurance) for their members. The central society of fishing vessel insurance associations does in a reinsurance business for these fishing vessel insurance associations (except for Special Insurance, which is underwrote by the national government), and the national government underwrites a part of reinsurance responsibilities for the central society (Ordinary insurance, Protection and Indemnity insurance and Cargo insurance).

4 Mutual relief of fisheries

The mutual relief of fisheries was started in accordance with the Fisheries Disaster Compensation Law (Law No.158 of 1964). According to this law, fishery mutual relief associations compensate their members for damage concerning catches, aquaculture, and specified aquaculture as well as fishing facilities. And the national federation of fishery mutual relief associations reinsures member associations for their mutual relief loss. Mutual relief loss of the federation is reinsured by the government.

5 Farmers' pension

The farmers' pension was established in 1970, in accordance with the Farmers' Pension Law (Law No.78 of 1970). In January, 2002, a radical system change was made; from imposing to funding in the financing scheme, and from compulsory (for farmers beyond a certain operation scale) to voluntary participation in the method of joining a pension system.

The Farmers' Pension Fund that operates the business has been transformed into an incorporated administrative agency. According to the "Incorporated Administrative Agency: Farmers' Pension Fund Law (Law No. 127 of 2002)," this fund aims to stabilize livelihood of aging farmers and to improve their welfare through provision of pension for farmers as well as to contribute to secure farmers.