



Director General  
*Dr. Takeshi Nishio*

Three years have passed since the establishment of the Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries by reorganizing the National Research Institute of Agricultural Economics. With this reorganization, the research area extended from agricultural economy to policy concerning agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This institute has greatly changed its organizational structure, and is significantly changing its way of performing research, as a think tank for contributing to the planning and designing of policies for solving the problems facing Japan's agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The institute's new activities have been implemented primarily by promoting efficient research by reorganizing research divisions, promoting special research programs for the administrative sections, and project research programs, both of which adequately grasp the necessity of the administrative sections, extending and fulfilling the research area by invited researchers, strengthening the connection with the administrative sections by establishing the Kasumigaseki branch, activating personnel exchanges within the administrative sections, universities, international organizations, and the like, contributing their research results to society by enhancing both seminars and publication of information. At the same time, the evaluation system regarding the achievement of the research activities and the whole management of the institute was strengthened, in order to judge whether these activities are adequately conducted.

Looking back upon the activities for the past year, I must especially make reference to two events. One is the establishment of the Forum for Agricultural Policy in North East Asia by the association of three institutes in October of last year: the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Chinese Academy of Science, the Korean Rural Economic Institute, and my institute. The purpose of this forum is to actively implement joint research on the common agricultural issues under the circumstances of the development of international trade of agricultural goods. The first seminar was held in Seoul in October of last year. The second event is naming the Office of Coordination and Information Analysis, PRIMAFF, to the Kasumigaseki branch, in its relocation and consideration of the function, with which we worked to strengthen both the information segment and research function. This enables us to quickly and smoothly conduct research for solving international agricultural issues, as well as domestic issues in even stronger association with the administrative sections.

This annual report is my institute's sole English publication, which has an aim of introducing the institute's activities not only domestically but also extensively worldwide. I am confident that this publication will inform readers of the institute's research activities as a whole, what its researchers are working on, their interests, and so on. Please don't hesitate to send us your questions and comments concerning this publication and the institute.



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