

Forests and Forestry Topics for FY2023

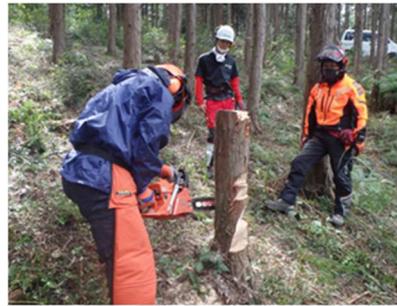
Topic 1: Every Citizen Supports Forests through Forest Environment Tax ~ Starts of the Forest Environment Tax and Status of the Forest Environment Transfer Tax Efforts ~

To sufficiently secure forest functions, it is necessary to promote public management of unmanaged forests. On the other hand, municipalities in mountainous areas are facing severe financial conditions. Therefore, the Forest Environment Tax and the Forest Environment Transfer Tax were established in FY2019 to secure stable local funding needed for forest management as a mechanism for each citizen who benefits from forests to share the burden and support forests. The Forest Environment Transfer Tax has been allocated to municipalities and prefectures since FY2019, and efforts such as forest management through the Private Forest Management Entrustment System, securing forestry workers, wood use and public awareness are implemented.

In FY2024, the Forest Environment Tax, which is the source of funds for the Forest Environment Transfer Tax, will begin to be levied, and the allocation ratio of the Forest Environment Transfer Tax will be reviewed. The Forestry Agency will continue to support municipalities and prefectures and will further disseminate the results to promote forest management and other efforts using tax.



Thinning of unmanaged forests through the Private Forest Management Entrustment System (Oyama Town, Shizuoka Prefecture)



One-day forestry experience and practical forestry training sessions (Misaki Town, Okayama Prefecture)

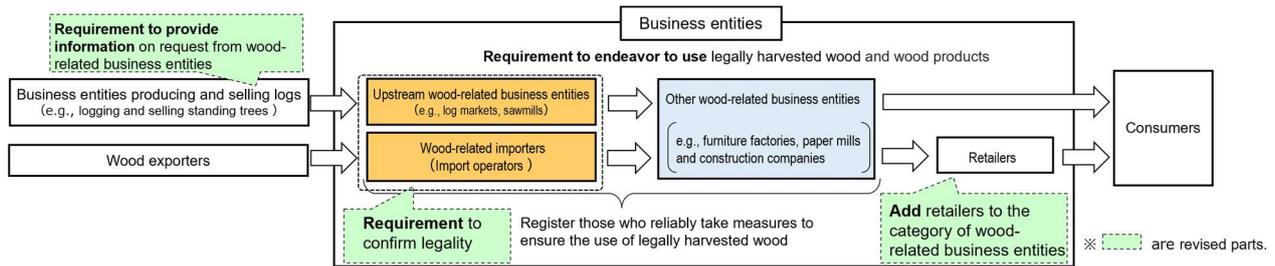
Topic 2: Revision of the Clean Wood Act to Further Expand the Use of Legally Harvested Wood and Wood Products

The GOJ aims to curb illegal logging by increasing the distribution of wood confirmed to be legally logged through the Act on Promoting the Distribution and Use of Legally Harvested Wood and Wood Products (the Clean Wood Act). At the same time, it is expected that the demand for wood will increase by creating an environment where people can use wood with confidence.

The revised Clean Wood Act was passed at the 211th ordinary Diet session and is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2025.

The main revisions include requiring upstream wood-related business entities/wood-related importers to confirm legality, and requiring business entities producing and selling logs to provide the entities information such as copies of logging and afforestation notification documents. Additionally, retailers will be added to the category of wood-related business entities to ensure that information on legality reaches consumers.

The Forestry Agency will conduct public awareness of the system to ensure smooth implementation and promote distribution and use of legality-confirmed wood and wood products.



Topic 3: "Digital Forestry Strategy Hubs" by the Whole Community Has Started

Although the foundation for the utilization of digital technology in forestry, such as the demonstration of production management using ICT, is steadily progressing, these efforts are individual and fragmented.

Therefore, since FY2023, the Forestry Agency has been promoting the establishment of "Digital Forestry Strategy Hubs", where related parties work together to advance comprehensive efforts to utilize digital technology in forestry activities as the whole community. The effort has started in three regions: Hokkaido, Shizuoka Prefecture, and Tottori Prefecture.

In September 2023, the "MORI-HUB Platform" was established as a place for gathering organizations, human resources, and information necessary to promote forestry innovation. In November 2023, a kickoff event was held, initiating efforts to match members and encourage new entrants from other fields into the forestry sector.

Hokkaido Region ICT Harvester Data Smart Forestry EZO Model Construction Council

Efforts

- Accumulation of log production information obtained from ICT harvesters in the cloud
- Utilization of date for the distribution from log production → transportation of logs → sawmills
- Labor-saving for detection of logs at each stage
- Labor-saving for weeding using remote-controlled machinery

Remote operation: Weeding machinery, Logging sites, Acquisition of log production data, Production management, Omission of detection, Inventory management, Truck transportation, Data sharing, Distribution management, Sawmills, Digital data acceptance, Inventory management

Shizuoka Region Wood SCM System* Shizuoka Prefecture Eastern Region Digital Forestry Promotion Consortium

Efforts

- Accumulation of log information from the yard acquired through an app in the system
- Utilization of date for the distribution from log yards → transportation of logs → plywood mills
- Labor-saving for detection of logs at each stage and delivery management at plywood mills
- Labor-saving for forest surveys by GNSS surveying of logging areas

Production and inventory management: Logging areas GNSS Surveying, Acquisition of log production data, Production and inventory management, Distribution management, Log yards in forest, Log yards, Acquisition of log production data, Inventory and invoice management, Plywood mills, log data acceptance, Inventory and invoice management

*Supply Chain Management

Tottori Region Traceability System Tottori Prefecture Digital Forestry Consortium

Efforts

- Accumulation and sharing of supply and demand data for logs and products
- Utilization of date for the distribution from log production → log markets → sawmills → precut factories → builders
- Digitalization of forestry workers' practice plans and daily work reports

Traceability (Confirmation of each stage of sales management slip), Electronic application, Electronic issuance of certificate, Daily Work Reports, Application via App, 販売管理表, 証明書

Topic 4: Recognition of sustainable forest management and wood use at G7 Hiroshima Summit

The production and use of wood, a renewable resource, through sustainable forest management contributes to achieving carbon neutrality and a circular economy significantly.

The G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment in Sapporo recognized the importance of "promoting sustainable forest management and wood use including by combating illegal logging" and "improved use of wood in the construction of buildings". The G7 Sustainable Urban Development Ministers' Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa emphasized the need for "the use of wood in buildings".

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) held a side event seminar "Toward Net zero and Circular economy with Sustainable Wood Use" at the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Miyazaki to confirm and disseminate the significance of sustainable forest management and wood use.

It is noteworthy that "promoting sustainable forest management and use of wood" was clearly stated in the summit outcome documents for the first time at the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May 2023.

The GOJ will continue to promote wood use domestically and will also continue to communicate and share the importance and necessity of sustainable wood use internationally.



Desks and chairs made of Japanese cypress were used at the G7 Hiroshima Summit.



Architect and Yale University professor Mr. Organschi spoke at a side event seminar of the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Miyazaki.

Topic 5: Response to mountain disasters caused by the Noto Peninsula earthquake in 2024

On January 1, 2024, an earthquake centered in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture caused large-scale hillside failures and damaged forest roads, wood processing and distribution facilities, and non-timber forest products facilities, with the total damage amounting to approximately 22.6 billion yen. 110,000 houses were damaged.

The Forestry Agency conducted helicopter investigations of the damage by the National Forest Regional Office and dispatched the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Support and Advice Team (MAFF-SAT) from the day after the earthquake.

As support measures for the reconstruction of the lives and livelihoods of disaster victims, the Forestry Agency provided support for the restoration and maintenance of wood processing and distribution facilities and non-timber forest products facilities, and special

measures for disaster-related funds.

For emergency temporary houses, to secure housing that meets the needs of disaster victims, construction of prefabricated houses, wooden row houses that have been built during previous disasters, and detached-style wooden houses that are closer to the living environment before the disaster has occurred.

The Forestry Agency is committed to supporting early recovery and contributing to the reconstruction of the disaster-affected prefectures through the recovery and revitalization of the forestry and wood industries.



Large-scale landslide collapse (Wajima City and Suzu City, Ishikawa Prefecture)



Emergency temporary houses
(Wooden row houses)