1. Food self-sufficiency ratio and food self-sufficiency potential indicator

- FY2020's food self-sufficiency ratio on a calorie supply basis was 37%, a drop of 1 point compared to the previous FY, mainly due to decreased consumption of rice. On a production value basis, the figure was 67%, an increase of 1 point compared to the previous FY. This was mainly due to increased production of chicken, pork, vegetables, and fruit.

- The food domestic production ratio on a calorie supply basis (which does not reflect the feed self-sufficiency ratio) was 46%, that same as the previous year. The feed self-sufficiency ratio was also the same as the previous year, i.e. 25%.

- The food self-sufficiency potential indicator, which represents the potential food production capacity, was higher than the estimated energy requirement in the case of cultivating mainly potatoes. However, it was lower than it in the case of cultivating mainly rice and wheat.

- In order to improve the food self-sufficiency ratio, together with strengthening domestic production base through measures such as fostering and securing personnel and farmland concentration and intensification, also promote the following: improving the feed self-sufficiency ratio by increasing production and use of domestic feed; responding to processing/commercial demand and overseas demand; and measures to bolster consumption, such as shokuiku and local consumption of local products.

- The food self-sufficiency potential indicator has also been on a long-term downward trend, and the government will pursue securing farmland and labor, improving yields and productivity, and maintaining and improving the food self-sufficiency potential.

2. Establishing comprehensive food security in anticipation of food supply risks

- International prices for produce such as grain have been on an upward trend, mainly due to increased demand among the major importers. In particular, wheat hit a record high in March 2022, due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in combination with factors such as crop failures in North America.

- The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) released by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) stood at 141.4 in February 2022, a rise of 21% compared to the previous year.

- In addition, food import prices are also on an upward trend due to various factors, among them the rise in marine transport fares.
The global rise in food prices is also affecting food prices in Japan. The Consumer Price Index for foods such as edible oils and flour has been on an upward trend in Japan. The domestic impact needs to be monitored closely, also taking into account factors such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Japan’s import structure for major agricultural products is highly dependent on a small number of specific countries. It will therefore be important to work toward increasing domestic agricultural production and stabilizing and diversifying imports through the maintenance and strengthening of good relations with the countries imported from.

The Food Security Guideline in Case of Emergency has been revised to appropriately address the new risks threatening the food supplies. A new "early caution phase" has been established, and the collection, analysis, and transmission of information is being strengthened.

3. Food consumption trends

In 2020, while the COVID-19 pandemic reduced opportunities to leave the home, it also increased opportunities to cook at home. This in turn increased the percentage of fresh foods in overall food consumption, and reduced that of eating out. Food consumption expenditure on mail order purchasing via the Internet increased.

In 2021, the percentage of fresh foods decreased compared to the previous year, and the proportion of eating out remained about the same.

The percentage of expenditure on cooked foods is on an increasing trend.

4. Exploration of demand through the creation of new value

Enhancement of competitiveness in the food industries

The domestic food industry production value in 2020 was 92.1 trillion yen, down 9.2 trillion yen from the previous year. The cause of the decrease was the substantial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the eating-out industry.

Compared to the previous year, factory-shipped cold and alcoholic beverages increased in the food manufacturing industry, and the relevant distribution industries remained virtually the same.

In December 2021, guidelines were formulated to enable food manufacturers to appropriately pass on the rises in raw material costs, etc., to promote appropriate business dealings between food manufacturers to retailers.

Through measures such as expert discussions by working groups established in the Food Tech Public-Private Council, the government is promoting public-private cooperation toward solving problems and creating new markets. Support is also being provided toward demonstrating business models that will create new products and services that utilize food tech, etc.
Addressing environmental issues in the food industry

➢ The Act on Promotion of Resource Circulation for Plastics has been established. Since April 2022, it has been mandatory to streamline the use of disposable plastics such as forks and spoons, reduce emissions of them and recycle them.

5. Strategic exploration of the global market

Establishing conducive environments for promoting exports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food

➢ In order to establish conducive environments in a variety of relevant fields with a view toward switching to exports based on a market-in approach, the whole government is working as one to implement export-related measures. The Headquarters for the Export of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Food serves as the control tower for these efforts, which include gathering information and conducting sales pitches on the ground overseas, and conducting inter-governmental consultations on import restrictions, etc.

**<Case Study> Narita City opens a publicly run Narita City Wholesale Market to serve as an export hub (Chiba Prefecture)**

➢ Narita City in Chiba Prefecture opened a publicly run Narita City Wholesale Market in January 2022.

➢ Located adjacent to Narita International Airport, as well as having annexes for fruit and vegetables and fishery products, the market also enables certificate issuance, quarantine and other export procedures to be completed within in. Providing a one-stop-shop solution for the export procedures means they can be completed in less time.

Establishing commercial flows to overseas and otherwise promoting overseas expansion for the food industry

➢ The number of Japanese restaurants overseas increased to approximately 159,000 in 2021, which is nearly triple the number in 2013.

➢ Overseas restaurants and food and alcoholic beverage retailers that use Japanese food products and alcoholic beverages have been certified as Japanese Food and Ingredient Supporter Stores Overseas since FY2016. They are one of the important places to export Japanese food products and alcoholic beverages.

➢ In order to support the overseas expansion of the Japanese agricultural, forestry, fisheries and food companies that are driving exports forward, overseas expansion guidelines have been developed that outline the key points to be careful about and the typical contract templates.

Protection and utilization of intellectual property

➢ Under the Geographical Indications (GI) Protection System, which protects the names of distinctive regional products as intellectual property, 13 new products were registered in FY2021, bringing the total to 119 products.

➢ The revised Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act came into effect in 2021. The new Act enables holders of plant breeder’s rights, for example, to restrict their varieties from being brought overseas. It is expected to protect Japan’s brand and revitalize breeding.

➢ The revised Act on Improvement and Increased Production of Livestock and the Act on Prevention of Unfair Competition on Genetic Resources of Livestock came into effect in 2020. Various efforts are progressing based on these two acts. For instance, producers of wagyu genetic resources draw up contracts, defining the scope of usage and user, whenever they transfer genetic resources.
### 6. Promotion of the Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MeaDRI

#### The significance of the Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MeaDRI

- While Japan's food systems provide consumers with high-quality, high-value-added agricultural, forestry and fishery products, there are also issues that need to be overcome—notable examples being a weakening production base and how to respond to climate change. Interest in the SDGs and environment considerations are also rising worldwide.

- In order to ensure food supply stability and expansion of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industries continue into the future, it will be necessary to establish sustainable food systems. Achieving this will require changes in the behavior of the parties involved in every stage, from procurement, through production, processing, and distribution, and all the way to consumption.

#### Specific efforts in each field of the Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MeaDRI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Efforts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Procure</td>
<td>1. Promoting non-import-based, decarbonized, low-environmental-impact procurement of materials and energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Procuring sustainable materials and energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) Putting efforts to make better use of local/untapped resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) Creating systems and developing technologies toward the reuse and recycling of resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Creating sustainable rural areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Establishing fundamental technologies and performing collaboration (human resource development, future technology investment) throughout a supply chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Maximizing CO₂ absorption and fixation by fully making use of forests and wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce</td>
<td>2. Creating sustainable production systems through innovation, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Switching to a sustainable production system while maintaining high productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) Promoting electrification and hydrogenation of machinery, etc., and greening of materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) Developing and disseminating earth-friendly super varieties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4) Promoting long-term and large-scale storage of carbon into farmland, forests, and oceans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5) Improving labor safety and productivity, and increasing the circle of producers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6) Promoting appropriate management of fishery resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process and distribute</td>
<td>3. Establishing sustainable processing and distribution systems that are free from overburdening and waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Switching to sustainable imported food and raw materials and promoting environmental activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) Streamlining and appropriating processing and distribution through the use of data and AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) Developing packaging materials for long-term storage and long-term transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4) Promoting decarbonization, and strengthening the competitiveness of the food industry with health and environmental considerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consume</td>
<td>4. Promoting shokuiiku and expansion of environmentally friendly sustainable consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Increasing sustainable consumption, including reduction of food loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) Promoting mutual understanding through exchange between consumers and producers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) Comprehensively promoting Japanese-style eating lifestyles with excellent nutritional balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4) Promoting the use of wood-based materials in architecture and living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5) Increasing consumption of sustainable fisheries products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✔ Increasing employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✔ Improving region’s income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✔ Achieving rich eating lifestyles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Promoting non-import-based, decarbonized, low-environmental-impact procurement of materials and energy

- Japan mainly relies on imports for chemical fertilizer raw materials such as ammonium phosphate, potassium chloride and urea.

- In order to shift away from imported raw materials, the government will promote recycling and making better use of local/untapped resources in rural areas.

---

**Countries that Japan imports fertilizer raw materials from Ammonium phosphate**

(Total import volume: 512,000 t)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Import Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>511,100 t (99.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>460 t (99.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by MAFF based on "Trade Statistics" (Ministry of Finance)

Note: July 2020 to June 2021.

---

**<Case Study> Niigata Prefecture develops its first-ever pellet compost**

- JA Sasakami in Agano City, Niigata Prefecture developed a prototype pellet compost in June 2021, and is currently pursuing full-scale practical use, including conducting trial sprayings from a small spraying machine fitted to tractor.

- The aim is to reduce the necessary personnel and work hours by utilizing form of small, less-fragile pellet compost with diameters of 5 to 6 mm.

---

**Pellet compost developed as a prototype**

Source: JA Sasakami
Creating sustainable production systems through innovation, etc.

- With a view toward reducing the risk-weighted use of chemical pesticides, the government is promoting integrated pest management that does not rely solely on pesticides, and the development of pesticides with even lower risks.
- In order to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, measures underway include promoting the recycling of unused organic resources such as livestock waste, and the adoption of variable fertilization based on sensing via drones.
- In FY2018, 23,700 ha were used for organic farming, which was 0.5% of the total area of cultivated land.
- Efforts the government is promoting to address the issue of overly time-consuming work such as eliminating weeds and pests include the following: developing advanced technologies such as robots that use AI to ensure they only eliminate weeds; and fostering leaders in the prefectures. In addition, support is being supported through the system of direct payments for environmentally friendly agriculture.

Establishing sustainable processing and distribution systems that are free from overburdening and waste

- The labor productivity of the food manufacturing industry in 2020 was 4,836,000 yen per person. The government is promoting increased labor productivity through shifting to automation and remote operation by utilizing robots, AI, IoT, etc.
- Japan's food loss and waste has been on a downward trend in recent years, and the amount in FY2019 is estimated to be 5.7 million tons, which is 0.3 million tons less than the previous year. In order to reduce the food loss and waste in the food industry, the government is promoting easing expiry date labeling (year/month format and date batch format) for food manufacturers, and the development of supply-demand prediction systems that utilize data and AI.
- Efforts the government is promoting include the following: the development of efficient food distribution systems in the manufacturing, distribution and sales sectors; working toward sustainable procurement of imported raw materials; and information disclosure that will help draw in ESG investment.
- Through developments such as creating systems that will enable mutual use of data at every stage from production, through processing, distribution and sales, and all the way to consumption, the government is promoting increasing products' added value and reducing their environmental impact by enabling consumers to confirm their freshness.

Labor productivity in the food manufacturing industry and in the manufacturing industry as a whole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Food Manufacturing</th>
<th>Manufacturing as a Whole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>7,696</td>
<td>7,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>7,941</td>
<td>7,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>7,754</td>
<td>7,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>5,401</td>
<td>6,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>4,836</td>
<td>FY2029 target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>FY2029 target</td>
<td>FY2029 target</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount and location of food loss and waste (estimated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by MAFF
Note: 1) Labor productivity = value added / total personnel
2) The figures for food manufacturing include beverages and cigarettes.
Promotion of Shokuiku and enhancement of the consumption of sustainable and environmentally friendly foods

➢ Public and private sectors formed a consortium (AFFF-no-wa 2030 – for Sustainability of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Food) and worked together to encourage sustainable production and consumption. This project involved 150 members including farmers, large companies, SMEs and associations.

➢ During “the Week for Sustainability” in September 2021, the project members presented their activities for sustainability to raise consumers awareness on sustainability in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food industries.

➢ Methods for communicating information such as carbon footprint of foods were discussed for better consumer's reception, which would lead to promoting decarbonization and its visibility.

➢ In order to achieve the targets set forth in the Fourth Basic Plan for the Promotion of Shokuiku, the government will work with relevant local parties to promote shokuiku activities about issues such as protecting and passing on food culture, including leading Japanese-style dietary habits.

7. Deepening of the connection between consumers, food and agriculture

Efforts for local production for local consumption and increase in consumption of domestic agricultural, forestry and fishery products

➢ The number of farmers’ markets that are open year-round with annual sales amounts of 100 million yen or more is 2,922 in FY2020.

Protection/transmission of Japanese food culture

➢ In order to protect and pass down the diverse food culture of the region, the “Our Regional Cuisines - Beloved tastes and flavors we want to pass on to the next generation” was released, which contains information on the histories, origins, and recipes of over 1,300 regional cuisines for 47 prefectures.

Strengthening the relationship between consumers and producers

➢ The Ministry's official YouTube channel "BUZZ MAFF," the Ministry's official Twitter, the web magazine "aff," etc., strengthened the communication of information to connect consumers, agricultural, forestry, and fisheries stakeholders, and the MAFF.
8. Ensuring food safety and consumer confidence taking international activities into consideration

- The number of food poisoning incidents in 2021 was 717 cases, the fewest in the last 10 years, as a result of a decrease in the use of restaurants due to the spread of COVID-19, etc.

- In order to allow farmers to use fertilizers derived from industrial by-products without concern, the raw materials control system was introduced in December 2021 based on the Act for Partial Revision to the Fertilizer Regulation Act, including setting the standards of raw materials, requiring manufacturers and importers to maintain raw material books, and prohibiting false advertising of raw materials.

9. Strengthening measures for animal and plant quarantine

- In November 2021, a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak occurred in Akita Prefecture. 17 cases in 11 prefectures were confirmed through March 2022 and about 1.09 million birds were subject to destruction.

- Thorough biosecurity of animal health by all concerned parties, including disinfection and bird-proof net management, and monitoring for early detection and reporting were strengthened.

- The first outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF) in Japan in 26 years occurred in September 2018, with 77 cases reported in farms in 16 prefectures as of the end of March 2022.

- As a countermeasure against CSF and African swine fever, measures were implemented against wild boars such as strengthening surveillance and capture, oral vaccine application, etc., in addition to thorough biosecurity, and border measures were strengthened.

- In view of the occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza and the continuing occurrence of CSF at the farms with CSF-vaccinated pigs, the Biosecurity Standards were amended in September 2021.
Since May 2021, a number of detections of Oriental fruit flies (a serious threat to citrus fruit) have been reported in Okinawa and some Kyushu prefectures. In recent years, the risk of introduction and spread of pests has increased due to climate change, such as global warming.

In light of the fact that decreasing the environmental load from the use of chemical pesticides is an international agenda, a "the proposed act partially amending the Plant Protection Act" was submitted to the Diet in February 2022.

10. Status of international negotiations

- 21 EPAs/FTAs and related initiatives were in force or signed as of the end of FY2021. The RCEP Agreement entered into force in January 2022.

- At the G20 Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting held in September 2021, Japan expressed that compatibility between enhancing the potential of food and agricultural production and improving sustainability is important.

Japan's EPA/FTA and related initiatives


Source: Prepared by MAFF
Note: As of the end of March 2022.
Chapter 2  Sustainable Development of Agriculture

1. Trends of agricultural output, agricultural production income, etc.

- The total agricultural output in 2020 increased by 43.2 billion yen to 8.9 trillion yen from the previous year.
- The agricultural production income in 2020 increased by 21.8 billion yen to 3.3 trillion yen from the previous year, mainly due to an increase in the total agricultural output.

2. Development and securing of business farmers for realizing a strong and sustainable agricultural structure

Encouragement of management development through the certified farmers system, incorporation, etc.

- The number of certified plans for improving agricultural management for FY2020 decreased by 8% from five years ago to 227,000 management entities. The ratio of certified farmers to the total agriculture management entities was 22%.
- The number of corporate farmer certified plans for improving agricultural management has increased consistently. The ratio of certified farmers to the total corporate management entities in FY2020 was 86%.

Taking over farm management, recruiting newcomers; training and securing human resources, etc.

- Looking at the status of securing successors to take over agricultural management, the management entities securing a successor within five years account for 27%, and the management entities not securing a successor within five years accounted for 71%, in the management entities whose owner was 65 years old or older.
- The number of newcomers aged 49 and under has remained at around 20,000 in recent years, with 18,000 reported in 2020.
- Newcomers faced major challenges at the start of management, including securing farmland and funds, and learning farming technologies. Some farmers cannot be established due to poor management, etc.
- The number of farmer’s academy graduates in FY2020 was 1,753. 54% of them became employed farmers. The percentage of new employed farmers is on the rise year by year, with 33% in FY2020.
Creating an environment in which women can play an active role

- The number of female newcomers in 2020 increased by 8.5% to 14,940 from the previous year.
- In FY2020, the number of certified female farmers decreased by 134 to 11,604 from the previous year, and the ratio of women to the total number of certified farmers was 5%.
- The ratio of women to the total number of farmers to decide on management policies was 36%.
- Support for women was provided with efforts such as creating women-friendly work environments and providing training for women leaders leading their regions.

### Number of female newcomers in agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New self-employed farmers</th>
<th>New employed farmers</th>
<th>New entries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,190 people</td>
<td>13,320</td>
<td>13,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,780</td>
<td>3,650</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,740</td>
<td>9,660</td>
<td>9,870</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MAFF, “Survey Result of Newcomers in Agriculture”
Note: Figures from February 1 through January 31 of each year

### Ratio of certified women farmers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,244</td>
<td>11,102</td>
<td>11,327</td>
<td>11,493</td>
<td>11,738</td>
<td>11,604</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by MAFF based on the “Approval Status of Plan for Improving Agricultural Management by Agriculture Type”
Note: 1) Figures as of the end of each fiscal year
2) The figure marked with * is the target for FY2021 in the measurement indicator of policy evaluation

### 3. Active participation of diverse human resources and entities that support agricultural sites

As of the end of FY2020, the number of farmers who have signed a family management agreement that stipulates the division of work and conditions of employment, etc. among their families was 59,000.

- To promote the work-style labor reforms with regard to farming, a handbook titled "Handbook for future agricultural management - Working with women -" has been prepared and distributed.
- The ratio of farmers using agricultural support services, such as farming consignment, leasing of machinery and equipment, and staffing, was 53% in a 2021 survey. The livestock sector, including dairy farming and beef cattle farming in particular, has shown a higher tendency of using these agricultural support services.
- The acceptance of foreign human resources in the agricultural sector has been on an increasing trend. As of the end of October 2021, the total number of foreign human resources in this sector was 38,532. This was about the same level as the previous year due to technical intern trainees’ extending their period of stay in Japan. These figures were seen despite the large decrease of foreign nationals entering Japan, which resulted from the impact of the border measures taken against the spread of COVID-19.

#### The actual usage of and the intention to use agricultural support services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Unused (intending to use)</th>
<th>Unused (Other)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddy field farming</td>
<td>53.2</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>33.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upland field farming</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor grown vegetables</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse grown vegetables</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit farming</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy farming</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>22.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef cattle fattening</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>22.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by MAFF based on the “Survey on Awareness and Intent on Agricultural Support Services” (published in December 2021)
Note: 1) Questionnaire survey conducted by mail and the Internet of 20,000 farmers from August to September 2021 (valid responses: 12,938)
2) Survey results to the questions "whether or not you are using services provided by external organizations or individuals" and "whether or not you intend to use the services in the future (for farmers who do not use them)"

#### Acceptance of foreign human resources in the agricultural sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Professional and technical fields</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>16.4 (Unit: 1000 people)</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled and prepared by MAFF based on the “Notification of the Employment Status of Foreign Nationals” of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Note: 1) Figures as of the end of each year
2) Figures in professional and technical fields after 2019 include the number of “specified skilled foreign workers.”
3) The notification of “employment status of foreign nationals” is mandatory at the time of employment and employment separation, but there is no obligation to make notification when the status is changed from “Technical Intern Trainee” to “Specified Skilled Worker” without turnover. Therefore, the figures should not be those consistent with other survey results.
4. Integration and consolidation of farmland and securing business farmers

The area of farmland in 2021 was 4.35 million ha, down 23,000 ha from the previous year. The area of dilapidated farmland in 2020 was 282,000 ha, the same level as the previous year. The dilapidated farmlands that are difficult to reuse was on an increasing trend.

Since the establishment of the Farmland Intermediary Management Institutions (Farmland Banks) in FY2014, the business farmers' share of the total farmland has been increasing year by year, and was 58% as of the end of FY2020.

A "bill to revise part of the Act on Reinforcement of the Agricultural Management Framework" was submitted to the Diet in March 2022. The consolidation of farmlands, etc. was further developed by establishing manpower and farmland plans in laws and making use of farmland banks.

A "bill to revise part of the "Act on Vitalizing Rural Areas** was submitted to the Diet in March 2022. Support was provided by newly positioning projects for farmland conservation, such as pasturing, the development of buffer zones for wildlife, and turning to forestlands, as the targets of the revitalization plan.

* The official name is the "Act on Promotion of Settlement and Interregional Exchange for Vitalizing Rural Areas."

5. Promotion of initiatives toward stabilization of agricultural management

In 2021, the number of entities enrolled in revenue insurance increased by approximately 23,000 entities to 59,000 entities from the previous year. This was due to increased interest in the revenue insurance among farmers due to the impact of the spread of COVID-19.

The actual enrollment in 2022 was 76,000 entities as of the end of February 2022.

The number of applications for Farming Income Stabilization Measures in FY2021 decreased by 600 cases to 42,000 cases for direct payment for upland field crops from the previous year. Payment to mitigate the impact of reduced income for rice and upland field crops decreased by 10,000 cases to 68,000 cases from the previous year.
6. Development of agricultural production bases that contribute to the transformation of agriculture into a growth industry and strengthening national resilience

Development of agricultural production infrastructure for developing agriculture industry to a growth sector

➢ As of March 2020, 11% of paddy fields had been consolidated into large partitions, and 47% of paddy fields were upgraded to multipurposed paddy fields by installing culvert drainage, etc. Irrigation facilities had covered 25% of upland fields.

➢ In order to facilitate the implementation of smart agriculture, the expansion of farmland partitions suitable for automated agricultural machinery, development of ICT water management facilities, etc., and development of an information communication environment in agriculture and rural areas have been promoted.

➢ Support has been provided to promote the Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MeaDRI, by introducing renewable energy using small hydroelectric power generation, etc. and by taking actions to achieve energy saving in agricultural irrigation facilities.

➢ A "bill to revise part of the "Land Improvement Act" was enacted in March 2022. The development of agricultural drainage facilities and culvert drainage, etc. for agricultural use, has been added to the scope of farmland development projects related to the Farmland Intermediary Management Institutions, which can be implemented without the expense of farmers in order to accelerate the integration and consolidation of farmlands.

Strategic conservation and management of agricultural irrigation facilities

➢ Developed core agricultural irrigation facilities include channels totaling 51,472 km and 7,656 facilities including dams and diversion weirs as of March 2020. The aging of agricultural irrigation facilities has been progressing, and sudden accidents such as water leaks have also been high.

➢ Long-life facilities and lower life cycle costs have been achieved through stock management, which implements repairs and renewals in a planned and efficient manner.

Disaster prevention and reduction measures to strengthen the resilience of agriculture and rural areas

➢ Pursuant to the Act on Special Measures for Construction of Agricultural Reservoirs*, as of the end of July 2021, approximately 55,000 locations were designated as Important Agricultural reservoirs for disaster prevention. Approximately 25,000 of those reservoirs have created hazard maps.

* The official name is "Act on Special Measures Concerning Promotion of Disaster Prevention Works on Important Agricultural Reservoirs for Disaster Prevention."

➢ Efforts for River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by Ail were promoted through "releasing water in advance" of agricultural dams, "rice paddy dams" using paddy fields, and utilization of Agricultural reservoirs and agricultural drainage facilities in order to properly exercise the flood control functions of farmland and agricultural irrigation facilities.

➢ A "bill to revise part of the "Land Improvement Act" was enacted in March 2022. Measures for heavy rain in agricultural drainage facilities were added to the target of emergency disaster prevention projects that can be implemented at the discretion of the national or local governments, and further development with regards to measures for disaster prevention and reduction have been made.
7. Strengthening of the production bases compatible with changes in the demand structure, etc., and streamlining of distribution/processing structures

Livestock products

- Wholesale prices of beef carcasses have been on a recovery trend since May 2020, and have been around the same level as the average prices in recent years since 2021.
- Wholesale prices of pork have been above the average prices in recent years in 2020, and have been around the same level as the average prices in recent years since 2021.
- Beef production volume in FY2020 increased by 1.8% from the previous year due to an increase in wagyu production volume.
- In FY2020, raw milk production volume increased by 71,000 tons from the previous year. Raw milk production volume has especially increased in prefectures for the first time in eight years.

- In FY2020, the production volume of pork, chicken and eggs was 920 thousand tons (up 1.5% from the previous year), 1.66 million tons (up 1.5% from the previous year), and 2.6 million tons (down 2.0% from the previous year) respectively.
- In order to promote production in response to domestic and overseas demand, further developments, such as strengthening the production base for increasing the stock of breeding meat cows, improving sanitation management, improving livestock, and improving cattle management technology have been made.
- Since 2021, feed prices have been on an upward trend, mainly due to soaring prices of imported raw materials.
Vegetables

The volume of shipments of vegetables for processing and business use produced in CY2020 decreased by 4% to 1.016 million tons from the previous year, due to adverse weather conditions and a decrease in demand from the food service industry as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

In order to further strengthen the production system of vegetables for processing and business use, and to promote the switching of imported vegetables to domestic vegetables, support was provided for the introduction of a new integrated mechanization system in the horticultural production area making use of rice paddies, the creation of new production and distribution systems, and the introduction of crop stability technology, etc.

Volume of shipments of designated vegetables for processing and business use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Production volume (FY2010)</th>
<th>Production target for CY2029 (FY2030)</th>
<th>Production in CY2020 (FY2021) target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>107.0</td>
<td>101.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>99.5</td>
<td>145.0</td>
<td>112.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>263.2</td>
<td>112.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>263.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 1) The total shipment volume of 14 designated vegetables, excluding potatoes (white radishes, carrots, taros, Chinese cabbages, cabbages, spinach, lettuces, Welsh onions, onions, cucumbers, eggplants, tomatoes, green peppers) 2) Vegetables for processing means those that have been shipped to the processing plant or to the processor for processing purposes, and those that have been clearly known as to be processed (including those for refrigeration provided for long-term storage); vegetables for business use means those that have been shipped to the food manufacturing and food service industries such as school lunches, restaurants, etc.

Fruits

In FY2020, the production volume of fruits was generally similar to that of the previous year, mainly due to the fact that apples' growth was favorable, but the Japanese pear's fruit setting decreased due to the low temperatures after flowering.

In order to strengthen the production base, efforts for the introduction of labor-saving tree forms and the diffusion of new technologies and varieties, etc. in response to the diversification and sophistication of consumer needs.

Medicinal plants

In 2019, the cultivation area of medicinal plants decreased by 8% to 523 ha from the previous year. Prior contracts and matching opportunities were provided, and support was given such as the preparation of demonstration and cultivation manuals.

Rice

Annual consumption per capita of rice was on a downward trend. In FY2020, due to the impact of the spread of COVID-19, a front-loaded purchase of polished rice was made at the end of the previous fiscal year, and commercial demand decreased, resulting in 50.7 kg.

In order to produce rice that meet consumer needs, stable transactions through prior contracts and multi-year contracts linking production areas, producers, and actual users were promoted, crop conversion was supported, and information on inventory and prices, etc. was provided.

Chapter 2  Sustainable Development of Agriculture
Regarding rice produced in CY2020, private inventories rose due to insufficient crop conversion to meet demand and a decrease in commercial demand due to the impact of the spread of COVID-19.

In response to this, the MAFF provided support for crop conversion regarding rice produced in CY2021, as well as the parties concerned in the region worked together to promote production and sales in accordance with demand. As a result, a 63,000-ha crop conversion, which is necessary for the stability of rice supply and demand, has been achieved.

Exports of commercial rice in 2021 increased by 12% to 5.93 billion yen from the previous year. Exports to Hong Kong, Singapore and other countries have been increasing, and exports have been expanding mainly to target countries and regions, and further developments with regards to fostering production areas of rice for export in large lots have been made.

In FY2020, the demand of rice for rice flour was 36,000 tons, the same amount as in the previous fiscal year. Production volume was 33,000 tons. JAS certification for manufacturing process control of non-gluten rice flour began in June 2021.

The planted area of rice for feed produced in CY2021 increased by 63% to 116,000 ha from the previous year.

### Wheat/Soybeans

The production volume of wheat in CY2021 was 1.097 million tons due to favorable weather conditions and favorable growth.

The production volume of soybeans in CY2021 was 247 thousand tons due to favorable weather conditions and favorable growth.

In order to increase the domestic market share through increased production of wheat and soybeans that were in demand, further developments with regards to integrated cultivation, strengthening production systems in production areas, and increasing production efficiency, etc. have been made.

#### Wheat planted area and yield

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Unit: 10,000 ha)</th>
<th>Planted area</th>
<th>CY2030 (FY2030) target (production volume)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Soybean planted area and yield

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Unit: 10,000 ha)</th>
<th>Planted area</th>
<th>CY2030 (FY2030) target (production volume)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.6</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MAFF, "Statistics on Crops"
Promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

- Implementing GAP contributes to ensuring sustainability, improving farm management, and ensuring trust by consumers.
- As of the end of FY2020, 7,857 entities obtained GLOBALG.A.P., ASIAGAP, or JGAP certification for agricultural products. It was increased approximately 1.7-fold over three years from FY2017.
- As of the end of FY2020, 17,388 entities implemented international-level GAP, including some entities under the guidance of international-level GAP instructor set up by the prefectural government.
- In March 2022, MAFF formulated Guidelines on International-level GAP aiming for implementation of international-level GAP in almost all domestic production sites by 2030.

Promoting farming safety measures

- In 2020, 270 people died in accidents during agricultural work, down 11 from the previous year. The number of deaths with 10.8 per 100,000 workers remains high compared to other industries.
- Efforts such as improving seat belt usage are promoted with the aim of halving the number of fatal accidents related to agricultural machinery work, which is the main cause of deaths, from 2017 levels by 2022.
- Since May 2021, the MAFF Application has begun using the notification function that alerts users of potential heat strokes. The Smart Agriculture Demonstration Project has demonstrated the effectiveness of the safety monitoring system for workers.

Supply of high-quality and low-cost agricultural materials and rationalization of production, distribution, and processing of agricultural products

- When it comes to agricultural materials, Japan relies heavily on imports for the majority of the raw materials. Since the raw materials for fertilizers are unevenly distributed throughout the world, they are characterized for being influenced by international affairs. It is therefore necessary to secure import countries and replace imported raw materials with domestic resources.
- Price indices such as feed, light, heat, and power have been on an upward trend since April 2021, mainly due to the rise in raw-material prices. In February 2022, the feed level rose by 20 points. The light, heat, and power levels rose by 24 points, and the fertilizer level rose by 9 points, from those in 2015. Behind Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, international market prices of crude oil, etc. have been changing at high levels and unstable. It is necessary to pay close attention to future trends and make every effort to secure materials.
- Agricultural production materials costs account for a certain percentage of agricultural expenditures, and it is important to promote an environment in which farmers can purchase agricultural materials at low cost in order to increase agricultural income.
- A protected horticulture safety net was established to provide compensation for when the fuel price exceeds a certain standard. In light of the soaring price of fuel in FY2021, support was provided to farmers by offering safety new membership, as well as other additional offerings.

Price indices by agricultural production material category

- Source: MAFF, “Agricultural Price Statistics”
  - Note: 1) Figures for each month of each year based on the 2015 annual average price by agricultural production material category as 100
  - 2) Approximate figures for 2021 and 2022
  - 3) Figures for gasoline and kerosene among light, heat, and power are referred to the results of the “Consumer Price Index” of MCA.
8. Promotion of innovations at agricultural production/distribution sites by utilizing information and communication technologies, etc.

Promotion of smart agriculture

➢ “Labor-saving in agricultural work” was farmers’ most expected outcome from the introduction of smart agriculture, followed by “Reduced labor intensity of agricultural work” and “Improvement of quality and yield.”

➢ The Smart Agriculture Demonstration Project evaluated the impact of technology introduced during its 2-year project period (FY2019-2020), in the regions where demonstrations were implemented. The autopilot function has enabled the farmers, including beginners, to work with the same accuracy and speed as experienced farmers, and in some cases, it was found that the size of the farmland entrusted to them increased.

➢ The services provided by private companies etc. utilizing WAGRI - an agricultural data collaboration platform - has been extensively deployed. From FY2021, the required support to develop a data sharing system which allows farmers to utilize data obtained from various resources such as agricultural machinery across different manufacturers.

Promotion of digital technologies in the development of agricultural policies

➢ The rate of unincorporated agriculture management entities engaged in data-driven agriculture is less than 20%, while the rate under the age of 15 to 39 years-old, and of incorporated agriculture management entities engaged in data-driven agriculture is more than 50%.

➢ Based on "The Conception and Projects for DX of Agriculture," MAFF aims to implement highly efficient farming by using digital technology and realize agriculture which provides products and food in a way that understands consumer needs through data, leading customers to realize its value.

➢ In order to achieve DX of agriculture, 39 various projects have been implemented, such as smart agriculture, the “Common Application System of MAFF (eMAFF)” which promotes administrative procedures of the MAFF being made online, and the "Common Geographic Information System of MAFF (eMAFF Map)" which aims to integrate agricultural land ledgers and to enable drastic efficiency and labor savings in confirmation of farmland usage.

Creation of innovation and promotion of technological development

➢ The open innovation initiative, Field for Knowledge Integration and Innovation, promoted creation of many new technologies and products via supporting open innovation in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and food sectors, and facilitated information sharing through various events such as the Agribusiness Creation Fair.

➢ The development of various products in agriculture, forestry, and fishery sectors has been promoted to provide benefits to the public, such as healthy diets and lowering the environmental impact.
Implementing global warming countermeasures

- Japan's agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors produced 50.84 million tons (CO₂ equivalent) of greenhouse gases in FY2020, which accounts for 4.4% of total national emissions.

- To achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, the "Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures" and the "Climate Change Adaptation Plan" of the MAFF were revised in October 2021, also in light of the "Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MeaDRI." The target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from these sectors in FY2030 was set to 3.5% of Japan’s total emissions in FY2013.

- Carbon storage in farmland and grassland has been promoted as one of the measures to enhance greenhouse gas sinks, by applying organic materials such as compost and green manure, as well as biochar.

Conservation of biodiversity and making use of it

- The “Kunming Declaration,” which commits to political momentum, etc. to adopt the “Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework,” was adopted at the first part of the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in October 2021. The "Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework" is to be adopted at the COP 15 second part in 2022.

Measures against waste plastics

- Japan's volume of waste plastic was 8.22 million tons in 2020. Of these, the amount of waste plastic emissions in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors was 0.11 million tons, accounting for 1.4% of the total emissions of Japan.

- In the agricultural sector, farmers, agricultural organizations, and local governments thoroughly promoted measures to reduce emissions and promote proper disposal of waste plastics.

- For coated fertilizer using plastic, measures have been promoted to prevent the coated shell from escaping from the field after use and causing marine pollution.
10. Agriculture-related organizations supporting agriculture

In accordance with the revised Agricultural Cooperatives Act, which came into effect in 2016, the JA Group implemented its own reforms to raise farmers' income. In the "Action Plan for Regulatory Reforms" approved by Cabinet decision in June 2021, the direction of establishing a cycle in which the Japan Agricultural Cooperatives (JA) will implement their own reforms and a system in which the MAFF will provide guidance and supervision, etc. was decided.

Example> Continuous profitability achieved by maintaining quality and price (Shizuoka Prefecture)

- JA Mikkabi has been focusing on growing "Mikkabi Mikan (Satsuma Mandarin)," which accounts for 85% of the production and sales amount.
- Since 2015, JA Mikkabi has succeeded in making profits for more than 10 years by putting efforts, such as maintaining the quality and price of "Mikkabi Mikan" as food with function claims.

The agricultural committee has visualized the content and results of its activities to optimize farmland use, and promoted efforts to set concrete targets and record and evaluate optimization activities in order to further improve its activities.

The agricultural mutual relief associations, etc. have promoted the establishment of one cooperative in one prefecture to improve the efficiency of their operations, and have succeeded in establishing it in 45 prefectures as of April 2021.

A "bill to revise part of the "Land Improvement Act" was enacted in March 2022. For land improvement districts, business has smoothly been promoted by making use of the construction consignment system, etc. to the Federation of Land Improvement Associations.

Number of agriculture-related organizations, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Agricultural cooperatives)</th>
<th>(Agricultural committees)</th>
<th>(Agricultural mutual relief associations)</th>
<th>(Land improvement districts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FY2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>FY2016</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 661 cooperatives (Unit: 10,000 people)
- 608 committees
- 587 No. of cooperatives
- 632 No. of associates
- 437 No. of regular members
- 1,703 committees
- 1,702 No. of agricultural committees
- 39,584 No. of agricultural committees
- 40,873 No. of agricultural committees
- 165 organizations
- 252 No. of agricultural committees
- 223 No. of agricultural committees
- 4,585 districts
- 359 No. of land improvement districts
- 346 No. of land improvement districts

Note: 1) The figure for the agricultural mutual relief associations, etc. is the sum of the municipalities that carry out an agricultural mutual relief project with the agricultural mutual relief association.
2) The number of the agricultural mutual relief association members, etc. includes subscribers to voluntary mutual relief as well as institutional mutual relief.

Source: MAFF.
Chapter 3  Promotion of Rural Areas

1. Trends in the return to rural living

- Approximately 80% of the Japanese population is concentrated in urban areas. The population in hilly and mountainous areas have been aging and declining faster compared to urban areas.
- Meanwhile, according to a public opinion survey conducted by the Cabinet Office, about 27% of urban residents answered that they "have" or "more or less have" a desire to move to rural areas. By age, the trend is high at ages 18 to 29 and 50 to 59.

Population trends classified by types of agriculture areas (Estimates)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010 Population</th>
<th>2020 (Estimates) Population</th>
<th>Number of changes (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban areas</td>
<td>100,860</td>
<td>80,900</td>
<td>▲ 33 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat farming areas</td>
<td>11,906</td>
<td>10,864</td>
<td>▲ 1,042 (▲ 8.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilly farming areas</td>
<td>11,407</td>
<td>9,837</td>
<td>▲ 1,570 (▲ 13.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountainous farming areas</td>
<td>3,865</td>
<td>3,108</td>
<td>▲ 757 (▲ 19.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>128,057</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>▲ 3,401 (▲ 2.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by MAFF based on PRIMAFF "Demographics of Rural areas and Changes of Rural Communities - Statistical Analysis Using Data from Small Local Areas"

Whether urban residents want to move to rural areas

![Bar chart showing the percentage of urban residents who desire to move to rural areas by age group.]

2. Promotion of various types of agricultural management such as multi-management, to take advantage of local characteristics

Promotion of agriculture in hilly and mountainous areas

- Hilly and mountainous areas account for approximately 40% of the number of agriculture management entities, its total farmland area, and output, playing a key role in performing multiple functions and food production.
- The agricultural income per agricultural management entity in hilly farming areas and mountainous farming areas were approximately 70% and 40% respectively of the flat farming areas.
- Promoting the nationwide development of multi-management to take advantage of the characteristics of hilly and mountainous areas.

Key indicators for hilly and mountainous areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nationwide</th>
<th>Hilly and mountainous areas</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (10,000 people)</td>
<td>12,700</td>
<td>1,420</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of agriculture management entity (1,000 management entities)</td>
<td>1,076</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmland area (1,000 ha)</td>
<td>4,372</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural output value (100 million yen)</td>
<td>89,370</td>
<td>36,647</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total land area (1,000 ha)</td>
<td>37,286</td>
<td>24,118</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by MAFF, based on "2015 Census" by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, "2020 Census of Agriculture and Forestry" (recompiled), "2020 Statistics on Cultivated Land and Planted Area," and "2020 Statistics of Agricultural Income Produced" by MAFF.

Note: The figures for hilly and mountainous areas are estimated by MAFF.

Promotion of agriculture in hilly and mountainous areas

- Hilly and mountainous areas account for approximately 40% of the number of agriculture management entities, its total farmland area, and output, playing a key role in performing multiple functions and food production.
- The agricultural income per agricultural management entity in hilly farming areas and mountainous farming areas were approximately 70% and 40% respectively of the flat farming areas.
- Promoting the nationwide development of multi-management to take advantage of the characteristics of hilly and mountainous areas.

Agricultural income and others by classification of agriculture area

![Bar chart showing agricultural income and others by classification of agriculture area.]

Source: "Statistical Survey on Farm Management (Management Statistical by Farming Type) in 2020" (individual management entities)
Promotion of urban agriculture

- Although urban agriculture is mainly carried out in urban areas around 1% of the national farmland, the number of agriculture management entities and output are respectively about 13% and 7%. Agriculture developed by taking advantage of the conditions of producing vegetables, etc. at the consumption areas.

- In 2020, the area of the productive green zones was 12,000 ha. With an urban farmland leasing act put into force, leasing farmlands in productive green zones have progressed.

  * The official name is the “Act on Facilitating Urban Farmland Leasing.”

- With an urban farmland leasing act, approximately 515,000 m² of farmland has been certified/approved for leasing at the end of FY2020.

3. Promotion of innovations from rural areas

Promotion of rural areas in response to a declining population

- Promote "innovations from rural areas" to create new businesses and added value by utilizing diverse regional resources.

- A "bill to revise part of the Act on Vitalizing Rural Areas" was submitted to the Diet in March 2022. Accelerated procedures for the relocation of farmland for the development of innovation facilities for rural areas.

Creation of new value chains to meet demand

- Total annual sales of agricultural production-related businesses (such as processing and direct sales) by farmers engaged in AFFrinnovation*, has been flat in recent years.

- Total annual sales in FY2020 decreased by 44.3 billion yen compared to the previous year to 2,032.9 billion yen.

* AFFrinnovation is a combination of the first letters of “Agriculture,” “Forestry,” and “Fisheries” and the word “innovation,” and means utilizing the regional resources from rural areas and combining the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors to create innovation and value chains down to consumers.
Promotion of countryside stays

- The total number of guests staying in the countryside in FY2020 was 3.91 million, decreasing by 1.99 million compared to the previous year, affected by the spread of COVID-19. Efforts have been made to promote demand for countryside stays as a safe and secure travel destination, including supporting efforts to improve its contents for the future after the COVID-19 is under control.

Promotion of agriculture-welfare collaborations

- The number of parties engaged in the agriculture-welfare collaborations in FY2020 increased by approximately 10% compared to the previous year. Training programs were provided to educate persons with disabilities on farmwork methods to support their establishment in the agricultural sector.
- 25 organizations were awarded with the "Noufuku Award 2021" as best practices in agriculture-welfare collaboration.

Utilizing of renewable energy

- Promote efforts to establish local production for local consumption energy management system, which is set forth in the "Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MeaDRI." As of the end of FY2020, the economic scale of the districts that are working to develop regional agriculture, forestry and fisheries by utilizing renewable energy-generated power generation has increased to 44.8 billion yen.
- The area of farming photovoltaics in FY2019 is 742 ha.
- At the end of FY2020, 287 renewable energy facilities, such as small hydroelectric power generation, utilizing agricultural irrigation facilities. The use of electricity generated by the system at agricultural irrigation facilities reduces the burden on farmers.

4. Improvement of conditions necessary for people to continue to live in rural areas, including hilly and mountainous areas

Maintaining or strengthening local community functions

- Among the troubles of living in rural areas, more than 40% of respondents respectively said that "transportation to and from urban areas is inconvenient" and "there are fewer living facilities such as shopping and entertainment."
- It is important to complement the functions of multiple villages, and form a "Region Management Organization" (RMO) that will work together with agricultural land conservation activities and economic activities, including life support, to contribute to the maintenance of local communities.
Promoting the exercise of multifunctional roles

- The 5th phase of the direct payments to farmers in hilly and mountainous areas had begun (from FY2020). Additional measures were established for activities that strengthen the rural communities’ functions, introduce labor-saving technologies for farmwork, and promote the rice terraces. It also promoted rural communities’ strategies to clarify the future of agricultural land and communities.

- From FY2021 the payments for activities to enhance multi-functionality, measures to strengthen the rainwater storage function in paddy fields (rice paddy dams) have been implemented to increase the unit price of the resource improvement payments when area requirements are met.

Securing infrastructure, etc. for daily life

- The rural infrastructure, such as rural sewerage facilities and farm roads, has been continuing to age. Seventy percent of rural sewerage facilities have been around for twenty years (the durable life of machinery) since they were used for the first time.

- The government is promoting improvement of the conditions necessary for people to continue to live in rural areas with peace of mind systematically and intensively, including reorganization, strengthening, and upgrading of rural infrastructure.

5. Promotion of wildlife damage countermeasures and utilization of gibier*

Promotion of wildlife damage countermeasures

- The amount of agricultural crop damage caused by wildlife trended downward since its FY2010 peak. In FY2020, in some regions, the amount of damage slightly increased from FY2019 to 16.1 billion yen due to the habitat expansion of deer and wild boars.

- The target number of captured wildlife was reviewed mainly in regions where damage had not decreased, and its capturing activities were strengthened by increasing traps and utilizing ICT under the intensive hunting campaign in FY2021.

- In order to promote wide-area hunting, the prefectural government promotes research and capturing activities across administrative districts and human resource development.

*Gibier is meat from wildlife which is hunted according to the hunting regulations or captured to prevent damage to agriculture or ecosystems.
Increasing the use of gibier

- The amount of gibier used had increased until FY2019.
- In FY2020, the consumption of deer, which is consumed mostly in restaurants, was reduced by 24% compared to the previous year, due to a decrease in demand for eating-out because of the spread of COVID-19. The amount of gibier used was 1,810 t. Overall, 10% decreased.
- Sales to wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, etc. have decreased, while direct sales to consumers are increasing.
- In order to double the amount of gibier processed from wild animals at meat processing facilities, we have been promoting bringing in hunted wildlife and boosting its demand, etc. since 2019.
- 29 facilities obtained the domestic gibier certification system to ensure safety and security. (as of the end of March 2022)

6. Creation of new movements and vitality to support rural areas

Developing human resources to support the community

- In recent years, the number of employees in local public organizations, particularly in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, has decreased. Compared to 2005, 2020 saw a drop of more than 20 points.
- In order to develop human resources to support the achievement of the future image and hope of the region, the “rural area producers training course” began in FY2021.
- In order to expand the human resources supporting rural communities, including urban residents, it is effective to create and expand “Agricultural related population,” and deepen relations with rural communities by involving diverse human resources in agriculture and rural areas through urban agriculture and countryside stay.

Changes in staff in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sector of local public entity (Year 2005 = 100 index)
Twenty percent of those who said they had a desire to move to the rural areas responded that they would combine multiple jobs if they moved.

Example: A company implementing half-farmer-half-x (Shizuoka Prefecture)

Tsuchiya Construction Co., Ltd., located in Izunokuni City, Shizuoka Prefecture, started agriculture in 2011 to revitalize rural areas and promote regional industries, in response to a decrease in demand for infrastructure development due to the aging of rural areas and a decrease in population.

Since 70a of the farmlands borrowed at the beginning of farming were abandoned, they cultivated it using the construction industry's technology, such as their own heavy machinery and the operators.

They cultivated about 60 kinds of local vegetables, including radishes and watermelons, which are local specialties. They sold the harvested vegetables with their own brand name, "Roppo vegetables."

Promoting the appeal of rural areas

Under the Act on Vitalization of Tanada Region enacted in 2019, related government ministries provided comprehensive support for efforts of regional development focusing on rice terraces. Those rice terraces are participated by the Designated Tanada Regional Promotion Council including municipalities, prefectures, farmers, and local residents. A total of 698 areas were designated as rice terraces.

From the point of preserving rice terraces and promoting the region, in FY2021 the MAFF certified 271 excellent rice terraces, for “TSUNAGU TANADA heritage – passing hometown pride to the future."

In 2021, “Teragaike pond and Teragaike waterway”, and “Usa Irrigation System” were newly registered as World Heritage Irrigation Structures. The number of registered facilities in Japan is 44 in total.

In November 2021, the "International Conference on GIAHS 2021" was held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the first domestic recognition of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. The efforts of various regions were shared and discussed for further utilization and conservation.
Chapter 4: Restoration/Reconstruction from Natural Disasters, Disaster Prevention/Reduction and Strengthening National Resilience

1. Restoration/Reconstruction from Great East Japan Earthquake

Restoration and reconstruction from earthquake and tsunami disasters
- Salt removal and rice paddy boundary reconstruction after earthquake and tsunami disasters have been conducted on 19,660 ha of farmland which was subject for restoration, and it accounts for 95% of the tsunami damaged farmland as of the end of March 2022.
- Farmland partitions were expanded in conjunction with the restoration efforts after earthquake and tsunami disasters.

Restoration and reconstruction after the nuclear disaster
- Approximately 6,577 ha of the suspended farmlands in 12 municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster have resumed farm operations. To accelerate the resumption of farming, the government is dispatching MAFF officials to municipalities and supporting the creation of production areas that develop high value-added production through the integration of farmland use, production and processing, etc., under the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima.
- Seven percent of respondents are hesitant to purchase Fukushima products due to fear of radioactive materials. The government is disseminating information based on the “Strategy for dispelling harmful rumors and strengthening risk communication.”

| Restoration of farmland and agricultural facilities |
|-----------------|--------|
| Farmland         | 95%    |
| Major drainage   | 100%   |
| pump stations    |        |
| Farmland coastline| 98%    |
| rural sewerage   | 99%    |
| facilities       |        |

Source: Prepared by MAFF  
Note: As of the end of March 2022.

| Resumed farm operations of 12 municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Resumed farmland area of 12 municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster | 6,577 ha | 10,264 ha | 64% |

Note: Progress rate = Resumed farmland area (as of the end of FY2020) ÷ the target area at the end of FY2025.

Percentage of people hesitant to purchase products produced in Fukushima Prefecture due to fear of radioactive materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2. Restoration/Reconstruction from large-scale natural disasters

Recent natural disasters and damage to the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries industries
- In recent years, large-scale natural disasters occur throughout Japan every year. In Japan’s agricultural, forestry and fisheries industries, significant damage occurred to agricultural crops, agricultural land and agricultural facilities.

The amount of damage caused by natural disasters related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the last 10 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,890</td>
<td>2,008</td>
<td>3,126</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>2,585</td>
<td>2,460</td>
<td>5,138</td>
<td>14,45</td>
<td>4,999</td>
<td>2,636</td>
<td>1,955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by MAFF  
Note: The amount of damage in 2021 was as of March 31, 2022.
The state of restoration and reconstruction from natural disasters in FY2020

- Restoration work for farmland and agricultural facilities in the Tohoku, Tokai, and Kyushu regions, which were damaged by heavy rains in July 2020, have progressed. As of February 2022, approximately 60% of the disaster recovery project target was restored. As of March of the same year, approximately 90% of devastated agricultural machinery and greenhouses were restored.

Recovery from natural disasters in FY2021

- The amount of damage related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries in 2021 amounted to 195.5 billion yen. The "heavy rain starting on July 1, 2021" and the "heavy rain in August 2021" caused widespread damage from river flooding.

- In response to the severe damage caused by heavy rain starting on July 1, 2021 or other disasters, the government supported disaster restoration for farmland and agricultural facilities and designated the disaster-stricken regions as ordinance-designated serious disaster areas early on, so as to reduce the burden on local governments and affected farmers.

3. Disaster prevention, disaster reduction, strengthening national resilience and preparedness for large-scale natural disasters

Promoting measures for disaster prevention/reduction and strengthening national resilience

- Based on the "5-years acceleration measures for disaster prevention, disaster reduction and strengthening national resilience" decided by the Cabinet in December 2020, in order to promote measures for strengthening national resilience, for the five years from FY2021 to FY2025, the government promoted measures for disaster prevention and disaster reduction with structural measures such as reinforcement for seismic resistance of agricultural irrigation facilities and construction/restoration of drainage pump stations, as well as non-structural measures such as producing hazard maps.

Preparing for disasters

- To prepare for the disasters, farmers themselves were encouraged to join the NOSAI and agricultural insurance scheme.

- As a result of reviewing the contents in horticulture facility mutual aid and promoting farmers to join in, the percentage of the enrollment in FY2020 was 66%. The government continued to promote the enrollment of farmers.

- To encourage farmers to develop their own agricultural BCPs (Business Continuity Plans), the government prepared a checklist and a format for agricultural BCPs, and promoted their dissemination.
FY2022 Measures for Food, Agriculture and Rural areas

Summary
- Policy priorities, fiscal measures, legislative actions, tax measures, monetary measures

I Measures to maintain and improve Japan's food self-sufficiency ratio and potential
- Initiatives to maintain and improve Japan's food self-sufficiency ratio and potential
- Measures to realize the production targets for each major item

II Measures for securing a stable supply of food
- Exploration of demand through the creation of new values
- Strategic exploration of global market
- Deepening of the connection between consumers and food and agriculture
- Securing food safety compatible with international trends and securing consumer confidence
- Establishing comprehensive food security in anticipation of food supply risks
- Response to a new international environment such as TPP, and strategic international negotiations

III Measures for sustainable development of agriculture
- Development and securing of business farmers for realizing a strong and sustainable agricultural structure
- Active participation of diverse human resources and entities that support agricultural sites
- Consolidation of farmland to business farmers and securing farmland
- Promotion of initiatives towards stabilization of agricultural management
- Development of agricultural production bases that contributes to the transformation of agriculture into a growth industry and strengthening national resilience
- Strengthening of the production bases compatible with changes in the demand structure, etc., and streamlining of distribution/processing structures
- Promotion of innovations at agricultural production/distribution sites by utilizing information and communication technologies, etc.
- Promotion of environmental policy, such as responses to climate change

IV Measures for promotion of rural areas
- Securing income and employment opportunities by utilizing local resources
- Improvement of conditions necessary for people to continue to live in rural areas including hilly and mountainous areas
- Creation of new movements and vitality to support rural areas
- Development of a collaborative system of related ministries and agencies to continuously promote measures in line with the above three items

V Measures for restoration/reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and large-scale natural disasters
- Restoration/Reconstruction from Great East Japan Earthquake
- Preparedness for large-scale natural disasters
- Restoration from large-scale natural disasters

VI Measures for groups

VII Measures for forming a national consensus through the expansion of national movements on food and agriculture

VIII Response to new infectious diseases including novel coronavirus infections

IX Matters necessary for comprehensively and systematically promoting measures for food, agriculture and rural areas