

VI Agricultural Land

Explanation

In this chapter, statistics on cultivated land area, maintenance situation of paddy and upland field, transfer of right and repurposing agricultural land, farm road, and major farm irrigation facility and ditch are recorded.

Brief explanations for respective statistics are as follows:

1 Cultivated Land Area

"Statistics on Cultivated Land and Planted Area" by the Statistics Department of MAFF is recorded.

This survey was conducted to clarify the actual condition of cultivated land and crop planting, which forms the basis of agricultural production.

(1) Cultivated land area

a. Cultivated land

It means land arranged for crop cultivation, including attached dyke.

b. Field

It means land directly used for cultivation of crops, which is the land exclude the attached dyke from cultivated land.

c. Attached dyke

It means a part of cultivated land, necessary for the maintenance of the field properly.

d. Paddy field

It means cultivated land which has impounding facilities such as an attached dyke and facilities that can supply needed water to them, e.g. source of irrigation water, irrigation canal, etc.

e. Upland field

It means cultivated land other than paddy field. Normally, it includes land under permanent crops and temporary meadow in addition to ordinary upland field.

(a) Ordinary upland field

All fields, excluding land under permanent crops and temporary meadow, where herbaceous crops are usually cultivated. In the case of cultivation of arboreal crops, this includes the cultivation of nursery trees and a form of cultivation without collective planting 1 a. or more.

(b) Land under permanent crops

Upland field with collective planting of arboreal crops of 1 a. or more including farms of hop, pineapple and banana, and bamboo forest for bamboo shoots cultivation.

(c) Temporary meadow

Upland field only for pasture cultivation.

(2) Expanded and Ruined area

a. Expansion

It is the state that land category has been changed into paddy or upland field from categories other than cultivated land, where crops have already been planted or can be planted in the next season.

Expansion is caused by land reclamation from dilapidated farmland, forests or wilderness, or restoration from natural disasters.

Furthermore, focusing on land category, the conversion between paddy field and upland field is a factor

to increase (decrease) the number of paddy fields. Therefore, conveniently, an increase of paddy (upland) field is included in the expansion of paddy (upland) field.

b. Ruin

It is the state that change of land category from paddy or upland field to others with the condition in which crop cultivation has become difficult.

It is caused by natural disasters or artificial abandonment.

Furthermore, focusing on land category, the conversion between paddy field and upland field is a factor to decrease (increase) the number of paddy fields. Therefore, conveniently, a decrease of paddy (upland) field is included in the ruin of paddy (upland) field.

(3) Dilapidate Farmland

"Dilapidate Farmland" by the Rural Development Bureau of MAFF is recorded.

Dilapidate farmland means farmland that is not currently used for cultivation and has been dilapidated due to abandonment of cultivation, which makes it objectively impossible to cultivate crops with usual agricultural practices.

2 Maintenance Situation of Paddy and Upland Fields

"Basic Survey on Fundamental Agricultural Data" by the Rural Development Bureau of MAFF is recorded. However, area of paddy and upland fields are from "Statistics on Cultivated Land and Planted Area" by the Statistics Department of MAFF.

"Completion of farmland plot development" means the situation that the shape of the plot is adjusted into a square in principle.

"Completion of terminal farm road development" means the situation that a farm road with the width at least 3 meters borders with the farmland.

3 Transfer of Right and Repurposing Agricultural Land

"Transfer of Right and Repurposing of Agricultural Land" by the Management Improvement Bureau of MAFF is recorded.

This survey was conducted to collect, organize, analyze, and provide basic information on the situation of the transferring farmland right, etc. to contribute to the agricultural use of farmland and the coordination of farmland use relationships for the Agricultural Commission in accordance with the Agricultural Land Act.

4 Farm Road

"Survey on Farm Road development situation" by the Statistics Department of MAFF is recorded.

This survey was conducted to clarify the situation of farm road development and to provide necessary data for the promotion of agricultural and rural development and for the calculation of local grant tax.

Farm road is 1) constructed by "land improvement project" based on the "Land Improvement Act" and maintained as farm road with more than 1.8 m width, or 2) more than 1.8 m width of road constructed by "farmland maintenance project," "designated hilly and mountainous areas maintenance project," and "farm road urgent maintenance project" based on the "Act of the Forest Research and Management Organization, National Research and Development Agency."

However, roads which have been designated as prefectural or municipal ones are not included in this category, even if they are constructed as farm roads.

5 Number of Major Farm Irrigation Facilities and Extension of Farm Ditches

"Basic Survey on Fundamental Agricultural Data" by the Rural Development Bureau of MAFF is recorded.

Major farm irrigation facilities are those that used for drawing and discharging water for agriculture and whose beneficiary area is 100 ha or more.