

Current Situation of Women Engaged in Agriculture in Japan

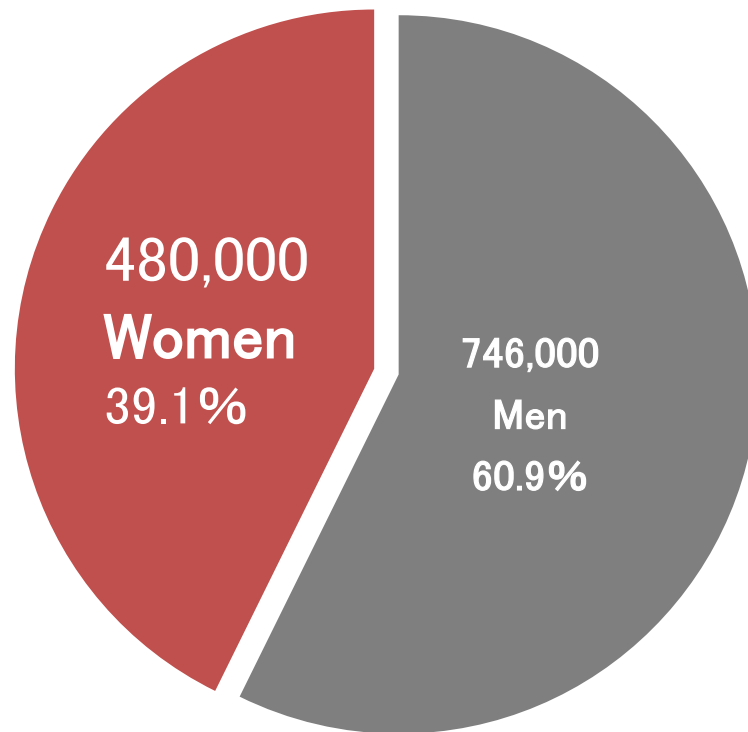
prepared in May 2023

Women's Empowerment Office,
Young Farmers and Women Division, Management Improvement Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Current Situation of Women Engaged in Agriculture

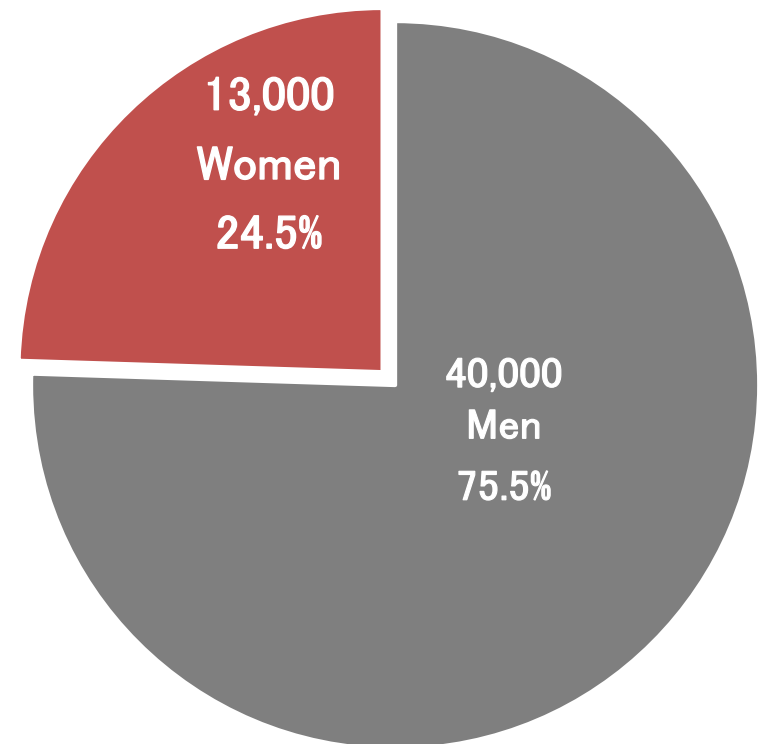
Rate of women in the agricultural workforce

Men and women as core persons engaged in farming
(as of 2022)



[Source] Survey on Movement of Agricultural Structure 2021, MAFF
[Note] **Core persons engaged in farming:** "Core persons mainly engaged in farming" refers to persons among the population mainly engaged in farming who engaged in their own farming as their usual work among household members in the year prior to the survey date.

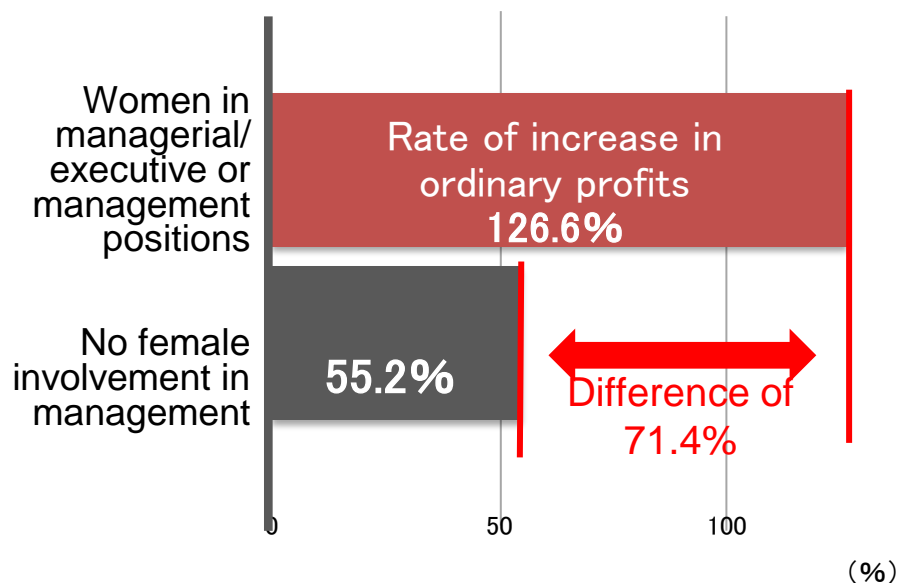
Men and women as newcomers in farming
(as of 2021)



[Source] Survey on Newcomers in Farming 2020, MAFF

Profits Increase as Women Become Involved in Farm Management

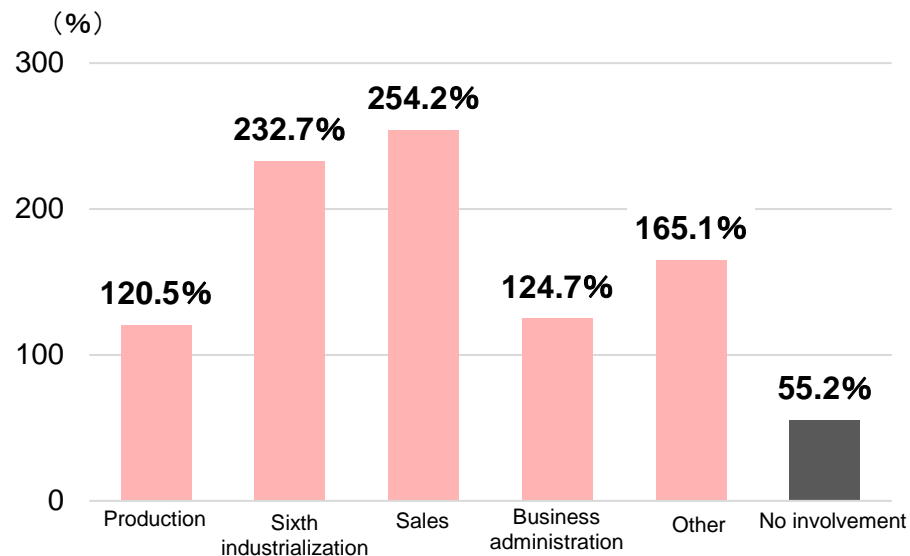
Women and management for profit
(in the last 3 years)



[Source]

1. Survey on Agriculture Outlook 2016, Japan Finance Corporation (issued on September 2016)
2. Target of the survey: loan customers of Super L fund of Japan Finance Corporation or loan customers of Agricultural Improvement Loans

Female involvement in farming business departments for profit
(in the last 3 years)

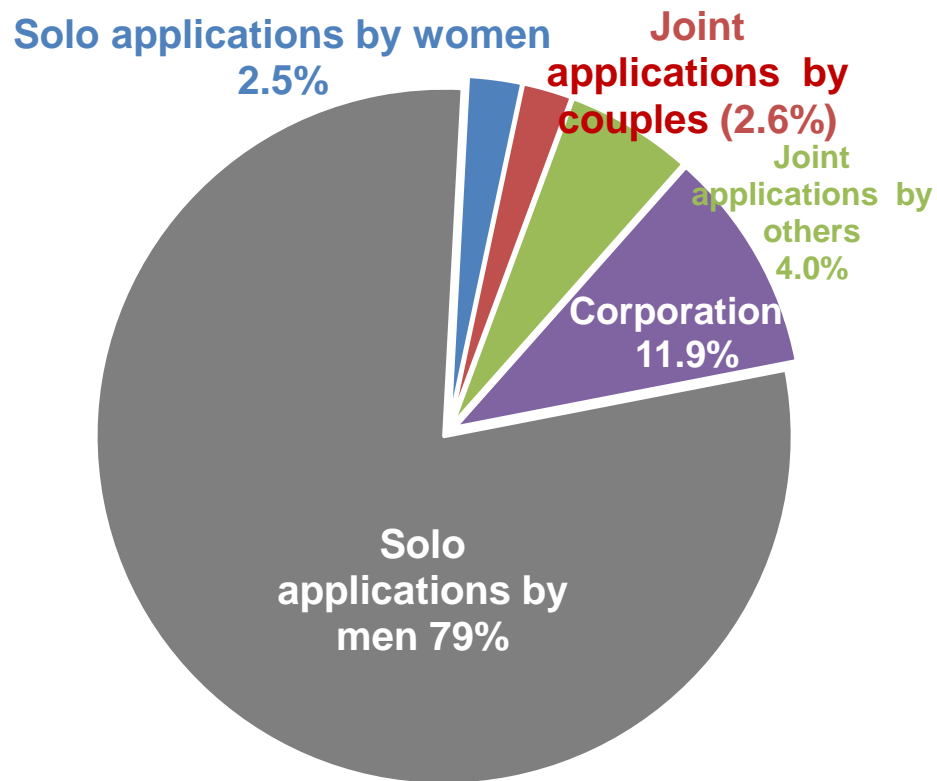


[Source]

1. Survey on Agriculture Outlook 2016, Japan Finance Corporation (issued on September 2016)
2. Target of the survey: loan customers of Super L fund of Japan Finance Corporation or loan customers of Agricultural Improvement Loans

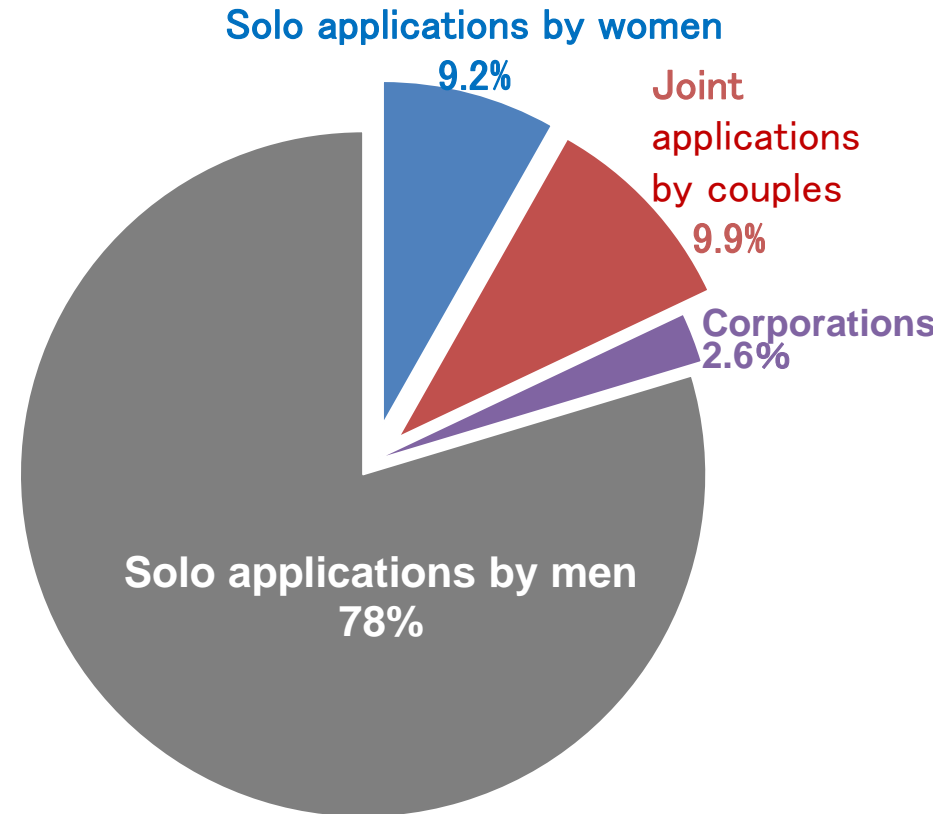
Certified Farmers – Women and Newcomers

CERTIFICATION OF FARM
MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLANS
(AS OF 2021)



[Source] Data on certified farmers by farm management pattern collected by MAFF

CERTIFICATION OF PLANS
BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHERS
TO START FARMING
(AS OF 2021)



[Source] Data on certified newcomers in farming as of March 2021

Women's Involvement in Decision-Making on Farm Management

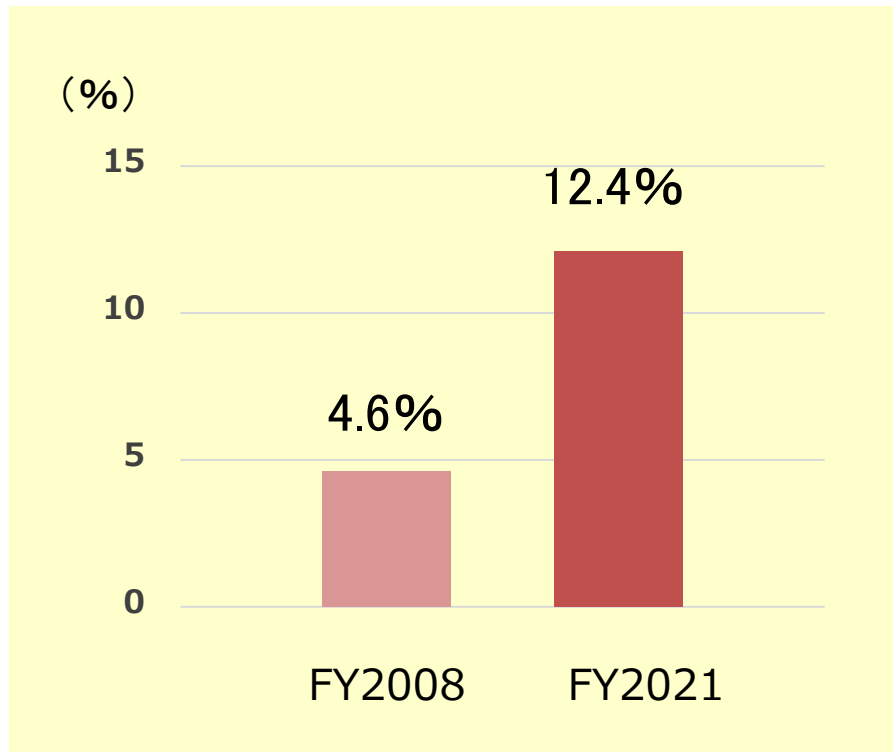
Involvement in Farm Management Policy Decisions (Commercial Farmers)

Farming households where women are the business owners (1)	Farming households where men are the business owners but there are women involved in management in addition to the business owners		Farming households where no one other than male business owners are involved in management	Farming households where women are involved in management policy decisions (= (1)+(2)+(3))
	Farming households where both men and women are involved in management (2)	Farming households where only women are involved in management (3)		
5.5%	6.7%	21.4%	62.7%	33.7%

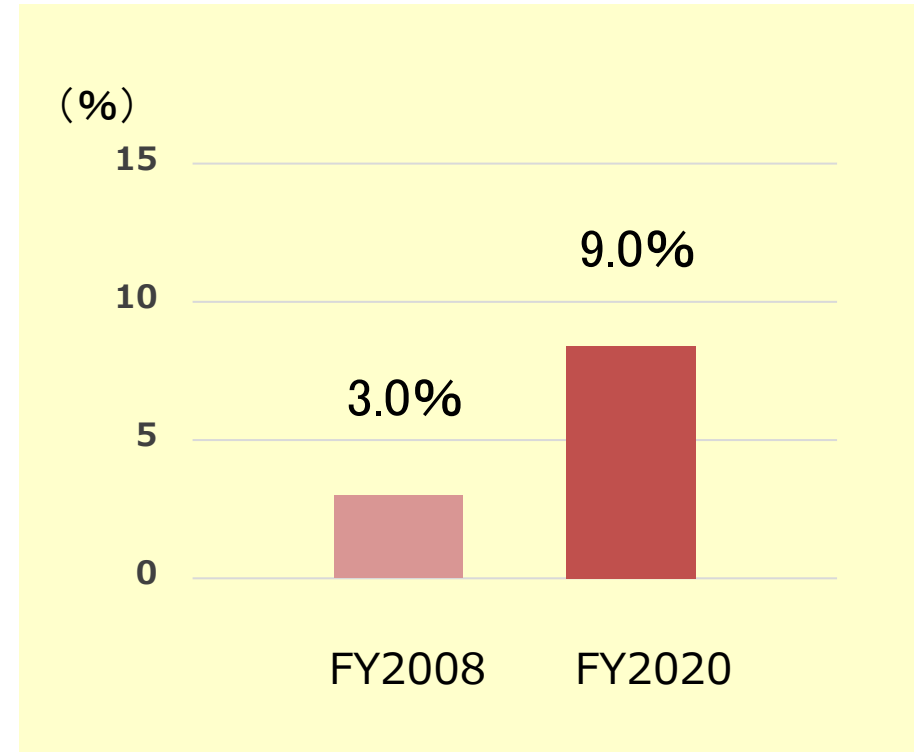
Source: Survey on Movement of Agricultural Structure 2021, MAFF

Women's Participation in the Process of Formulating and Deciding on Policy and Directions for Regional Agriculture

○Rate of Women in Agricultural Committees



○Women Elected/Appointed as Officials of Agricultural Cooperatives



<Targets> 5th Basic Plan on Equal Participation of Men and Women decided in December, 2020 by the Cabinet

20% as soon as possible, 30% by FY2025

10% as soon as possible, 15% by FY2025

Support for Women Engaged in Farming

Support for Female Farmers

(Project for Promoting future agriculture led by Women)
Budget allocated in FY2022: 85 mil yen

Support for fostering women leaders of farming communities

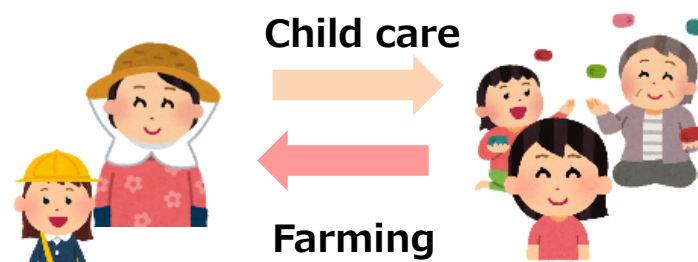
Practical training to learn some leadership skills which are necessary in agricultural committees and agricultural cooperatives.



Seminar

Improving the working environment for women

Supporting child care and farming



Promoting activities for regional groups of female farmers

Seminars focused on marketing etc. for female farmers' groups



Encouraging people to understand women's empowerment in farming

Practical seminars aimed at informing male business owners of the importance of women's empowerment and examples of it etc.



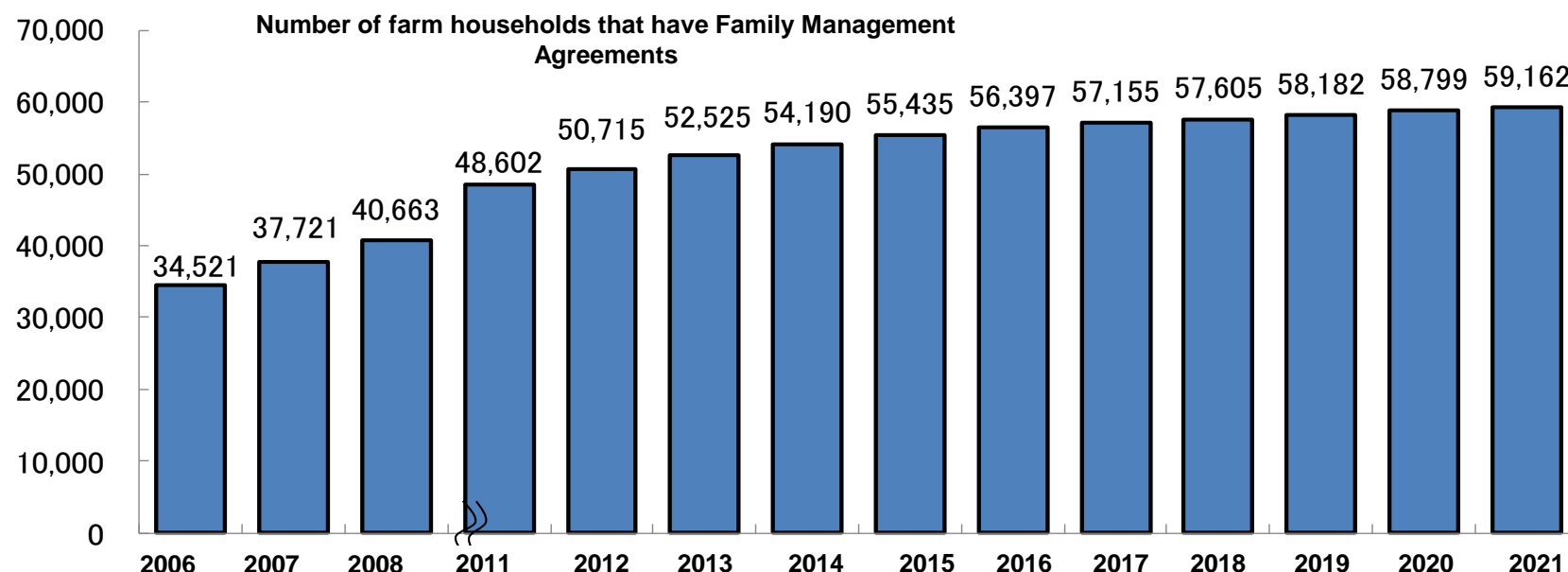
Promotion of Family Management Agreements

Family Management Agreements concluded in 2021

Number of farm households that have agreements	59 thousand
Number of business farm households	222 thousand
Ratio of business farm households that have agreements	26.6%

Source: Survey on Movement of Agricultural Structure 2021, MAFF

※The aim of “**Family Management Agreements**” is to achieve modern family farming through talking among family members to determine management policy, the roles of each of the members, working terms and environments, etc. They are also concluded in the presence of a third party or parties.



Note1: Data as of March 31 of each year

Note2: Data as of March 31, 2010 are use for the number of households with Family Management Agreements in 2011 in certain in Miyagi Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture due to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

“Nougyou-Joshi” (Female Farmers) Project

“Nougyou-Joshi” Project ~Outline~

農業女子PJ



Aim

The “Nougyou-Joshi” project launched in 2013 aims to create new products and services by linking female farmers’ wisdom to technologies and ideas of various companies and educational institutions and to widely disseminate information about them in society so that the project can enhance female farmers’ presence, change women’s awareness, improve management and increase the number of women who select agriculture as their career. It also has contributed to building networks among Nougyou-Joshi.

Data on Participating Members in the Project



Concrete Activities

Projects with companies

Collaboration of companies and the members of “Nougyou-Joshi” to develop new products and services so that PR on the activities of female farmers and the appeal being one can be conducted (as part of the business of the companies)

Team “Hagukumi” (fostering)

Collaboration of educational institutions such as high schools and universities and the members of “Nougyou-Joshi” to discover students interested in engaging in agriculture and inspire them to increase their awareness of agriculture

PR as SDGs activities

PR on the activities on five issues “Nougyou-Joshi” can tackle as SDGs activities

“Nougyou-Joshi” labs

Voluntary study meetings and other learning activities on what the members are interested in

PR on the appeal of being a female farmer through SNS and events



Objectives of the Project

To enhance the presence of female farmers in society and the agriculture sector

To change the awareness of female farmers and improve their management capabilities

To add “agriculture” to what young women want to choose as an occupation



The 10th Action Plan of the Nougyou-Joshi Project (Nov.2022 – Oct.2023)

1.Trial of 「NEXT LABO」

2.Creation of opportunities for interaction in the community

3.Informing people of the appeal of “agriculture”

Major Achievements in Projects by Various Companies

ISEKI & CO., LTD

Developed woman user-friendly farm machinery

◆“Petit Mower”, mower designed for Nougyou-Joshi [Dec. 2017]

- QR code attached for accessing video instructions via the Internet
- Improvement via an easy-to-operate side clutch lever and grip



◆“Choko Petit” cultivator [Dec. 2016]

◆“Shiro Petit” tractor [Jun.2015]

Montbell Co., Ltd.

Developed comfortable farm work wear

◆“Cool Parka” women’s field hoodie [Jan. 2021]

- Responding to opinions from Nougyou-Joshi,
- took great care over the material and silhouette.
- developed quick-drying and highly breathable hoodie that makes farming on a hot day more comfortable.



◆Field “Monpe” (easy-to-work-in pants) [Mar. 2019]

◆Women’s field rain jacket/pants [Sept.2018]



◆CLIMA PRO women’s field stretch coverall [Sept.2016]

Kaneko Sougyo CO, LTD

Developed women user-friendly tools

◆ “Lacuno” Series [Jan.2021]

- Developed the “Lacuno” Series (sickle, hoe and rake) of easy-to-use tools equipped with fatigue-relieving grips

◆ “Lacuno” Series (sickle, hoe, and rake) [Aug.2018]



Rakuten Inc.

Did PR for Nougyou-Joshi via Internet sales

◆Started to sell Nougyou-Joshi vegetables and processed products on Rakuten Market [Nov. 2017]

- Opened a special website full of attractive information about Nougyou-Joshi



農業女子PJ × Rakuten ラフマ

Daihatsu Motor Corp.

Developed a light truck

◆Developed a light truck based on women’s viewpoints [Sep.2014]

- Colorful body with 8 different colors
- Uses UV-cut glass / Has a lower floor for easy getting in and out



MARUYAMA MFG. CO., INC

Developed woman user-friendly farm machinery

◆“Karuuuno” mower [Jul.2015]

- Mower for girls “Karuuuno”



Five Issues Nougyou-Joshi Can Tackle as Farmers to Help Realize a Sustainable Society



Nougyou-Joshi have categorized many activities concerned with SDGs that they are tackling into five main goals that they should make a special effort to address.

1. Improving dietary patterns



2. Teaching the importance of food and agriculture through farming programs



3. Improving the working environment, and making agriculture a regional key industry



4. Informing people of the appeal of rural areas, and sustaining agriculture



5. Striving to achieve sustainable farming that can exist in harmony with the environment



[What Nougyou-Joshi are doing]

"Omukae Markets" for parents at nurseries



Supplying products for school meals



Classes and harvesting activities with elementary school children



Publishing and reading books: "AGRI BATON PROJECT"



Creating a comfortable working environment for women



Adopting smart agriculture to reduce stress in management



Sharing the appeal of farming with residents



Broadcasting their thoughts on agriculture through media



Sustainable farming with marine waste biomass



Breeding beef cattle by making good use of residual grapes



Dissemination of Information from Nougyou-Joshi



Official Home Page

Has up-to-date information on the project activities from the members, participating companies, educational institutions, the project office, etc.



<http://nougyoujoshi.jp/>

農業女子プロジェクト

WEB検索



Official Facebook

Transmits information on the project activities and articles by Nougyou-Joshi from the project office two to three times a week

<https://www.facebook.com/nougyoujoshi.project/>

農業女子プロジェクト

Facebook検索



Official Instagram

Has up-to-date information on everyday activities by the members and the project office

#nougyoujoshipj

Instagram検索



Dissemination of Information on Japanese Female Farmers' Activities to the Rest of the World

2017 Model Farmers Award of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific presented to: Nougyou-Joshi Project member Eri Otsu from Kumamoto (on October 16, 2017 in Thailand)



【Outline of Activities】

- Ms.Otsu began working as a farmer together with her husband in Minami-Aso Village in 2003 and has since engaged in activities to promote the use of renewable energy while producing chemical-free rice. As the representative of “Country Heroines”, she has pursued and proposed ideal ways to live in the countryside and as a female agricultural manager.
- In addition, Ms.Otsu is involved in activities to contribute to the reconstruction of disaster-damaged areas. To pursue “creative rehabilitation” from the 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes, for example, she produced a “restaurant bus” serving meals utilizing the nature of Aso and local ingredients.

Activities by female farmers in Japan introduced at a side event of the UN Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) by: Nougyou-Joshi Project member Kozue Yuki from Yamagata (on March 15, 2018, at United Nations Headquarters in the U.S.)



【Outline of Activities】

- Kozue Yuki spoke at “Actions To Empower Rural Women and Girls”, a side event held at CSW hosted by 3 Japanese NGOs and the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.
- While Japan, Nepal, Tanzania and FAO introduced their activities, Kozue Yuki reported that a network of female farmers she has gotten acquainted with through the Nougyou-Joshi Project contributed to the growth of her business in such areas as processing of products and development of sales channels and that she will work to create environments for the fostering of next-generation leaders.

Rural Women's Day

➤ What is “Rural Women's Day”?

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries designated March 10 as Day of Rural Women in order for women to demonstrate their capabilities as important leaders in agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors for the development of farming and fishing villages.

➤ Thoughts and hopes regarding the day “March 10”

- Improved conditions and environment, enabling women to enjoy learning and meeting up in society with reduced burden of labor in villages.
- Hopes that women will demonstrate the three capabilities of their wisdom, skill and experience fully

➤ An award ceremony for active rural women in FY2020 is planned. This will be a good opportunity to think about various rural women's activities.



**March 10 is
Rural Women's Day**

What is Rural Women's Day?
A day that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has designated to advocate improving the environment so that women can fully demonstrate their capabilities and have their roles recognized correctly.

While the roles of rural women have been recognized as important, participation of women in the management of agriculture, forestry and fishery has not been satisfactory. What the women need is improved work environments, support with employment, reduced burdens in terms of caring for children and the elderly, and changed attitudes regarding fixed ideas about women's roles.

The ministry will promote, together with the organizations concerned, measures to increasing participation by women in policy decision-making for example in agricultural committees and agricultural cooperatives, and to clarify their position in management, improve their economic situation and increase the adoption of Family Management Agreements.