

Status of Organic Farming in Recent Years

Organic food market and organic farming area

The size of organic food market in Japan and abroad

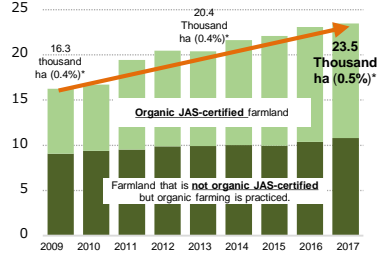
Japan (JPY100 million)

2009	2017
1,300	1,850

Global (US\$100 million)

2009	2017
509	970

Areas under organic farming in Japan



* Numerals in brackets indicate the proportion of organic farming areas among cultivated areas in Japan in each fiscal year.
Source: the Current Situation of Organic Agriculture (February 2020), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Organic farming contributes to the achievement of SDGs

Effects on the biodiversity conservation of organic farming

Organism groups ¹	Comparison between different cultivation methods
Red List plants	Conventional < less chemicals farming < Organic
Tetragnatha	Conventional < less chemicals farming/Organic
Sympetrum	Conventional < Organic
Pelophylax	Conventional/ less chemicals farming < Organic
Aquatic birds	More birds are found in areas where more organic paddy fields have spread

Greenhouse gas reductions in organic farming practices compared with standard management practices (using chemical fertilizers).

Effects on Preventing Global Warming

Action	Greenhouse gas reduction per unit* (tCO ₂ /ha/year)	Area of implementation (ha)	Total Greenhouse gas reductions (tCO ₂ /year)
Organic farming	0.93	14,537	13,519

Press release of August 28, 2019 by National Agriculture and Food Research Organization
Source: "(Research result) Clarifying the relationship between organic farming and cultivation with reduced agricultural chemicals and biodiversity"

Compiled by Sustainable Agriculture Division based on the report from the 11th meeting of the Third Party Committee on the Direct Payments for environmentally friendly agriculture (August 22, 2019)

Points discussed in the Fruits and Organic Sub-committee of the Council of Food, Agriculture and Rural Area Policies (Interim summary by the Sub-Committee)

[Purpose of promoting organic agriculture]

- ✓ **The purpose of promoting organic farming should be clarified**, considering the characteristics, etc., of organic farming in the agriculture as a whole.

[Systems of Organic farming]

- ✓ **Organic farming-related systems are difficult to understand**, not only for consumers but producers. **The systems need to be organized** by referring to the international activities level and facilitating the acquisition of organic certification, etc.

[Measures for Organic farming]

- ✓ **Human resources development** and mutual cooperation of organic farmers, **technical development, securing and grouping the organic farmland, market development and rationalization of distribution, and communicating the information / ensuring the understanding of consumers.**

Basic Policy on the Promotion of Organic Farming in the Past

- Formulated in accordance with the Organic Agriculture Promotion Act (enacted in December 2006)
- The basic items, targets for promotion and dissemination, measures and other matters are described.

Formulated in April 2007

Revised in April 2014

*Targets until around 2018 are established
The target of implementing the policy in 1.0% of all cultivated areas was set in 2018.
(0.53% as of 2017)

New Basic Policy on the Promotion of Organic Farming

Basic Items

- The expansion of organic farming contributes to the promotion of agricultural policies from the characteristics shown below.
 - Contributes to the **achievement of the SDGs** in overall agricultural policies and in rural areas by **greatly improving the natural cyclical function of agriculture, reducing the environmental load** deriving from agricultural production, and demonstrating a significant effect on **biodiversity conservation and the prevention of global warming.**
 - **Contribute to establish production and supply that meet the demand and promote the expansion of exports** through ensuring a stable supply of domestic products to meet the expanding demand in Japan and abroad.
- To promote the expansion of organic farming, the following measures will be promoted while respecting the autonomy of farmers and other interested parties.
 - **Expand organic farming production: human resource development of organic farmers and development of production areas.**
 - Expand the **domestic share** in organic food products: **diversification of sales opportunities and enhancement for consumers understanding.**

Targets for promotion and dissemination

- Demand for organic foods in Japan and abroad in ten years' time (2030) is projected to expand as follows:
 - <Demand for organic foods in Japan> 130 billion yen (2009) → 185 billion yen (2017) → **328 billion yen (2030)**
 - <Export value of organic foods> 1.75 billion yen (2017) → **21 billion yen (2030)**
- The following production and consumption targets are set to respond to the demand:
 - [Areas under organic farming] 23.5 thousand ha (2017) → **63 thousand ha (2030)**
 - [Number of organic farmers] 11.8 thousand persons (2009) → **36 thousand persons (2030)**
 - [Domestic share of organic foods] 60% (2017) → **84% (2030)**
 - [Proportion of consumers who consume organic food once a week or more] 17.5% (2017) → **25% (2030)**

Measures for promotion

- To promote organic farming as a means of contributing to the SDGs and to appeal its characteristics to consumers, **activities of organic farming on a par with or above international level** will be promoted in human resource development, production areas development, diversifying sales opportunities, and enhancing consumer understanding.
- Research and technological development will be widely promoted regardless of international level.

*Measures shown in **blue bold letters** indicate those that is added in the current basic policy

- **Human resource development:** Consultations for potential farmers, development of joint-use facilities, technology demonstrations, **construction of a soil diagnostics database, training of instructors and on-site guidance, etc.**
- **Production areas development:** development of core production area, **securing and grouping farmland suitable for organic farming, building networks of local governments, etc.**
- **Diversification of sales opportunities:** collaboration with various industries, **rationalization of distribution, expansion of processing demand, reduction of the burden of organic certification, etc.**
- **Enhancement of consumer understanding:** Spreading of awareness of labeling systems, collaboration with food education, and **stimulation of demand for domestic products in cooperation with retailers, etc.**
- **Technology development and research:** establishment of a technology system suitable for each region, such as **weed control and breeding. implementation of various surveys and dissemination of information in an easy-to-understand manner.**

Interim evaluation and review

- With the **target fiscal year** set in ten years' time (2030), the status of achievement will be checked from time to time, and **an interim evaluation will be conducted in five years' time to review the plan.**