



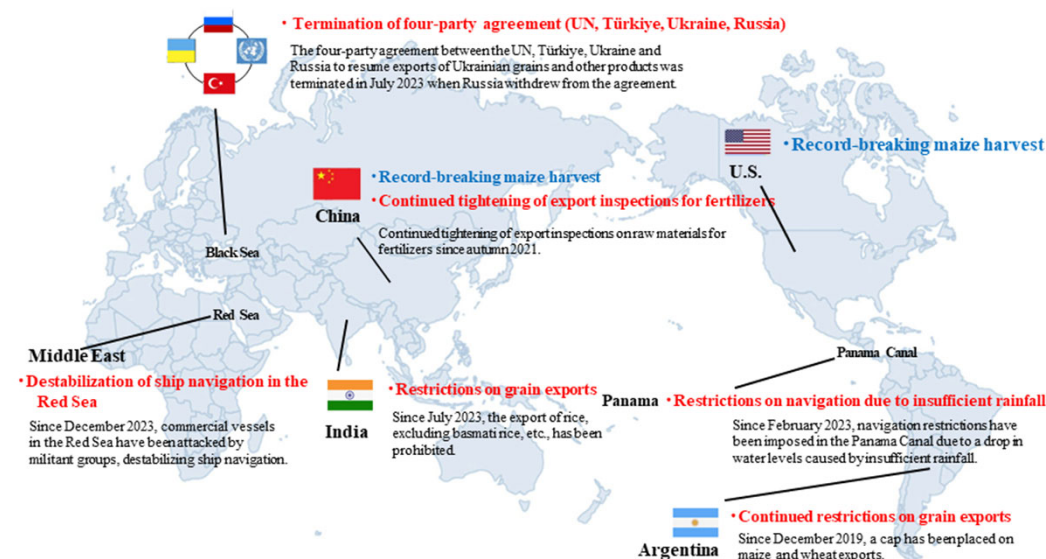
Topics

- 1 Promoting structural transformation measures and the formulation of PAA toward strengthening food security
- 2 Promoting response to the “2024 problem in logistics”
- 3 Promoting the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food
- 4 Promoting the expansion of carbon credit initiatives in the agricultural sector
- 5 Promoting highly productive agriculture through the introduction of smart agricultural technologies
- 6 Promoting agriculture and welfare collaboration to resolve agricultural and welfare challenges
- 7 Promoting response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

To reduce excessive reliance on imports, efforts are made to promote structural transformation by promoting the expansion of the production of items that are highly dependent on overseas sources, such as wheat and soybeans, and promoting the domestic substitution of agricultural production materials

- There are growing risks surrounding global food supply and demand, due to the destabilization of global food production caused by climate change and the intensification of procurement competition accompanying the global expansion of food demand, compounded by the heightened tensions in Ukraine and other factors. Strengthening food security has become a pressing issue of top priority for the country.
- Excessive reliance on the import of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and food heightens risks that threaten the stable supply of food, even during normal times. For example, it may not be possible to import items at the desired conditions due to changes in the international situation, such as soaring grain prices due to crop failures in the country of origin, and a reduction in procurement volume due to export restrictions by countries producing chemical fertilizers.
- To reduce excessive reliance on imported food and agricultural production materials, structural changes are promoted, such as promoting the production expansion of items that are highly dependent on overseas sources, such as wheat, soybeans, and animal feed crops, and promoting substituting domestic agricultural production materials for imports.
- A bill to partially amend the Act on Temporary Measures concerning Improvement of Management of Specified Agricultural Products Processing Industry was submitted to the 213th ordinary session of the Diet. In addition to extending the effective period of the Act on concerning Improvement of Management of Specified Agricultural Products Processing Industry by five years, the bill also enables support for measures to stabilize the procurement of raw materials for specific agricultural processing industries affected by the soaring prices of imported raw materials, among other factors.

Main developments overseas in 2023



Source: Prepared by MAFF

Case of production expansion of items that are highly dependent on overseas sources



Agricultural Cooperative Cooperation Obukuro Eino promotes increased wheat production through the use of large-scale machinery and the advanced utilization of agricultural land (Oita Prefecture)
Source: Agricultural Cooperative Cooperation Obukuro Eino

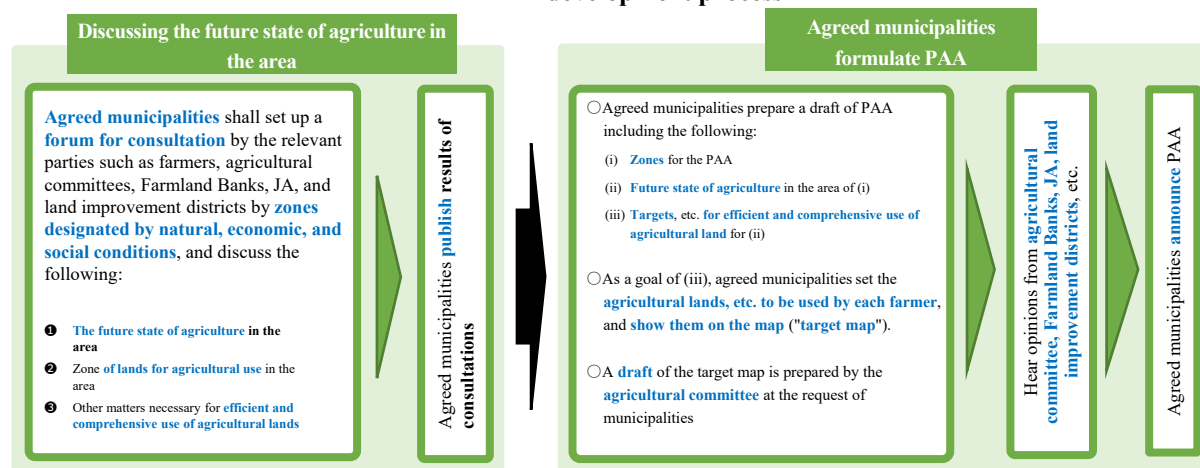


JA Kikuchi is rolling out the large-scale double-cropping of maize to secure the self-supply of feed (Kumamoto Prefecture).
Source: JA Kikuchi

Formulating PAA, which set out the future approach to regional agriculture through dialogues with the region, and promoting the accumulation and consolidation of agricultural land by utilizing Farmland Banks

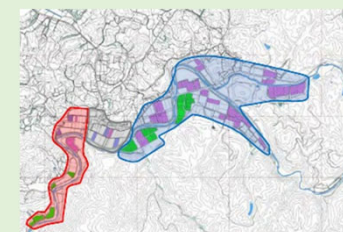
- Under the revised Agricultural Management Framework Reinforcement Act, which came into force in April 2023, municipalities shall formulate PAA based on the previous Farmers and Farmland Plans and taking into account discussions by farmers and others in the region. PAA shall include target maps that clarify the future approach to regional agriculture and the vision for agricultural land use for the future.
- PAA serve as a blueprint for the future of regional agriculture. It is important that regional agricultural stakeholders come together to formulate them in discussion with all the stakeholders of regional agriculture, while incorporating a wide range of opinions, including those of young people and women. The formulation of PAA is also important for strengthening food security, improving productivity through the introduction of smart agricultural technologies, and establishing food systems that are in harmony with the environment.
- 1,636 municipalities plan to formulate PAA by March 2025. In order for each municipality to steadily advance the formulation of PAA by March 2025, it is necessary for the relevant organizations and groups to work together and systematically promote initiatives.
- MAFF has prepared a PAA Manual and drawn up key points for formulating PAA, including feed. It also introduces examples that can serve as references in the formulation of PAA, and holds online exchanges of opinions with leading regions.
- In addition to promoting the accumulation and consolidation of agricultural land using the Public Corporation for Farmland Consolidation (Farmland Bank), MAFF also promotes the systematic conservation and appropriate use of regional agricultural land in an integrated manner.

“PAA” development process



Source: Prepared by MAFF

Case of promotion of PAA formulation



Gotsu City uses coordinators to promote the creation of a PAA that sets out the future direction of agriculture for each region and a target map showing the use of agricultural land in the future (Shimane Prefecture).
Source: Gotsu City, Shimane Prefecture

Addressing the pressing “2024 problem in the logistics industry” and promoting efforts to secure the distribution of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food

- In April 2024, the number of overtime work hours for truck drivers has capped in order to alleviate long working hours in the logistics industry. If no measures are taken, it is estimated that there will be a shortfall in transportation capacity of 14.2% in FY2024 and 34.1% in FY2030, compared to FY2019.
- In June 2023, the Ministerial Meeting on Japan's Distribution Network Reform compiled a Policy Package for Logistics Innovation, setting out drastic and comprehensive measures that should be implemented urgently.
- In order to secure the logistics of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food, MAFF promotes the reduction of long-distance transportation, the reduction of waiting and loading time, the improvement of loading efficiency and shift to large lot sizes, and the reduction of reliance on truck transportation.
- To support the efforts to secure logistics by agricultural, forestry and fishery producers across the country and for each product, as well as to reduce their burden, MAFF established the MAFF Logistics Headquarters headed by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- A bill to partially amend the Act on Advancement of Integration and Streamlining of Distribution Business and the Motor Truck Transportation Business Act was submitted to the 213th ordinary session of the Diet.

Impact of restrictions on working hours, etc. on logistics



Source: Prepared by MAFF based on materials from NX Logistics Research Institute and Consulting, Inc.

Case of a joint relay logistics hub

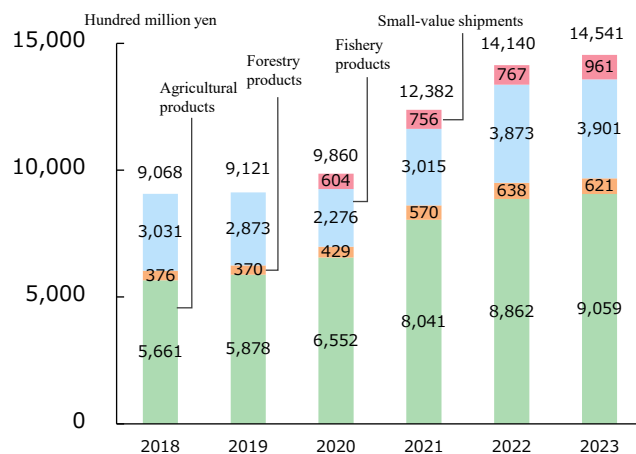


Meiko Flower Bridge KK has developed a joint relay logistics hub for the distribution of flowers, in response to the “2024 problem in the logistics industry” (Aichi Prefecture).
Source: Meiko Flower Bridge KK

Exports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food reached a record high of 1,454.1 billion yen in 2023. Promoting a shift in the export destination countries/regions following the suspension of fishery imports by China, etc. in response to the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea

- Exports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food in 2023 reached a record high of 1,454.1 billion yen, increasing marginally by 2.8% from the previous year.
- To achieve target exports of 2 trillion yen by 2025 and 5 trillion yen by 2030, there will be a strong push for initiatives such as promoting exports through all-Japan efforts centered on certified agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food export promotion organizations, providing support to overseas sites through export support platforms, creating model production areas for large-lot exports, and protecting and utilizing intellectual property, based on the Strategy to Realize Export Expansion of Agricultural, Forestry, Fishery and Food Products revised in December 2023.
- In response to Japan's discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea, China, Russia, Hong Kong, and Macau suspended the import of Japanese fishery products, etc. MAFF has strongly urged these countries/regions to immediately lift such restrictions that are not based on scientific evidence in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies.
- As a countermeasure in response to the suspension of fishery imports by China and other countries/regions, initiatives to diversify export destination countries/regions and regions are being implemented in cooperation with JETRO and other agencies, based on the policy package aimed at protecting the fishery industry.

Agricultural, fishery and forestry products and food exports



Source: Prepared by MAFF based on Ministry of Finance's "Trade Statistics"

Diversification of export destination countries/regions in cooperation with JETRO

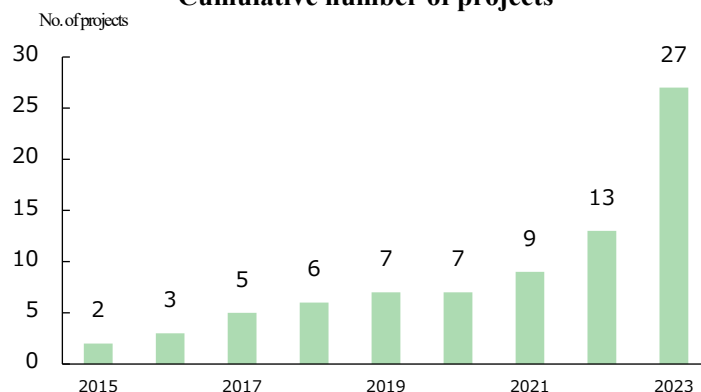


The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) first dispatched a visiting and business discussion mission to scallop processing facilities, etc. to Vietnam in January 2024. The mission visited a local scallop shucking and processing factories.

Promoting the J-Credit Scheme to support efforts that contribute to reducing and absorbing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from natural sources such as forests, agricultural land, and livestock, with a view to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050

- To achieve carbon neutrality in 2050, it is important to promote private investment in decarbonization and accelerate "green transformation" (GX), which will transform industrial and social structures that are centered around fossil fuel-based energy into structures that are based on clean energy.
- The J-Credit Scheme is a scheme under which the government certifies GHG emission reduction and absorption as credits, enabling transactions that attract private funds. Under this scheme, agricultural, forestry and fishery operators will be able to earn income by selling credits created through their effort to reducing and absorbing greenhouse gas.
- The credits created under this Scheme can be used for reporting GHG emissions based on the Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures, as well as for various other purposes such as reporting to overseas initiatives and voluntary efforts by companies.
- As of the end of March 2024, there are 608 registered projects under the J-Credit Scheme. 27 projects are undertaken by farmers, and 17 of which used agricultural methodologies.
- To promote the J-Credit Scheme in the agricultural sector, MAFF is preparing dissemination manuals and simple calculation tools for the expected amount of certified credits, as well as working on formulating new methodologies.

Registered project under J-Credit Scheme (Agriculture related)
Cumulative number of projects



Source: Prepared by MAFF based on materials from the J-Credit Scheme Secretariat
 Notes: 1) The number of registered projects was drawn up based on the fiscal year of project registration application.
 2) Figures as of the end of FY2023.

Case of utilization of the J-Credit Scheme



The wide-area agricultural organization "3Rise" works with Kubota Corporation to prolong the mid-season drainage period for paddy rice cultivation, and to promote an initiative to create credit derived from the amount of reduced GHG emissions through this method (Fukui Prefecture).
 Source: Kubota Corporation

Smart agricultural technologies based on digital technologies contribute to resolving various issues in agricultural sites

- Smart agriculture is useful for resolving on-site issues not only for large corporations but also for small, medium-sized, and family-managed businesses. On the other hand, it is effective to utilize agricultural support service entities in addressing the issue of the cost of introducing smart agricultural machinery. Start-ups that develop smart agricultural technologies and use such technologies to provide services tailored to the region are also entering the market.
- In order to enable the use of smart agricultural technologies in hilly and mountainous areas as well, it is necessary to develop smart agricultural technologies that can be used in narrow and steep fields, and to promote the sharing of agricultural machinery throughout the region.
- Smart agricultural technologies help to reduce the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and contributes to reducing the impact on environment. It is also used in initiatives to realize the MIDORI strategy, such as the “Aigamo” robot, which stirs up the mud in rice paddies to suppress the growth of weeds and reduce the use of herbicides, and pinpoint spraying technology of pesticides using drones.
- The use of smart agricultural technologies is also effective in promoting agriculture and welfare collaboration. Technologies that support agricultural work by people with disabilities have also emerged in the industry, such as a smart fruit sorting system that simplifies the work of packing fruit.

Case of smart agricultural technologies



Pesticide spraying robot that can also be used for small- and medium-sized, and family-managed businesses.
Source: Legmin, Inc.



Power assist suit that can be used in hilly and mountainous areas
Source: Power Assist International Corporation

Introduction of smart agricultural technologies at the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Miyazaki

- At the G7 Miyazaki Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held in Miyazaki City, Miyazaki Prefecture from April 22 to 23, 2023, MAFF exhibited smart agricultural technologies and conducted on-site demonstrations. At the exhibition venue, automatic green pepper harvesting robots and smart glasses were introduced, while demonstrations were conducted for self-driving tractors and drones at the demonstration venue.

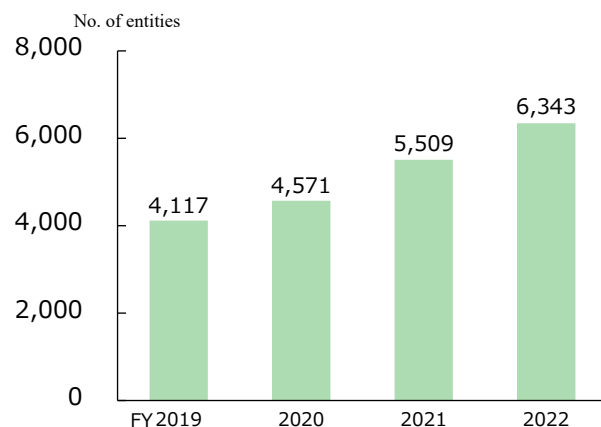


Students from agricultural high schools conducting demonstrations of smart agricultural technologies.
Source: G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Miyazaki Cooperation and Promotion Council

The number of entities engaged in agriculture and welfare collaboration increased by 15% compared to the previous fiscal year. Both the agriculture and welfare sectors acknowledge the benefits of agriculture and welfare collaboration

- Agriculture and welfare collaboration is an initiative that contributes to the development of agricultural management and creates self-confidence and a sense of purpose for people with disabilities through their success in the agricultural sector, while also realizing their participation in society.
- According to an FY2022 survey, the number of entities engaged in agriculture and welfare collaboration has increased by 15.1% from the previous year to 6,343 entities. There are high expectations for agricultural sector from the perspective of increasing wages for people with disabilities.
- 77.3% of agricultural management entities engaged in agriculture and welfare collaboration responded that the initiatives were effective in improving profitability. In addition, 87.5% of the employment facilities for persons with disabilities that had engaged in agriculture and welfare collaboration responded that the initiatives had a positive effect.
- In order to spread agriculture and welfare collaboration initiatives nationwide and establish them in every region, MAFF held the inaugural "Noufuku Week" in October 2023. During this period, agriculture and welfare collaboration events were held at 30 locations nationwide in cooperation with businesses and other entities engaged in agriculture and welfare collaboration in various regions.

Number of entities engaged in agriculture and welfare collaboration



Source: Prepared by MAFF

Note: Figures as of the end of each fiscal year.

Poster for Noufuku Week



農林水産省

Case of agriculture and welfare collaboration



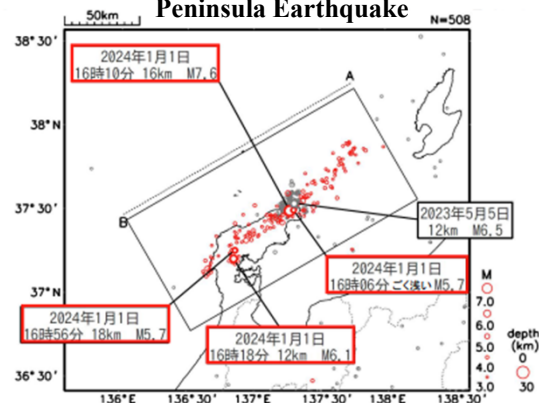
Social Welfare Corporation Yuzurihakai assigns farm work to people with disabilities based on their individual characteristics, providing them with a place to play and active role while earning high wages, and contributing to securing the next generation of agricultural workers in the region (Gunma Prefecture).

Source: Social Welfare Corporation Yuzurihakai

On January 1, 2024, an earthquake struck in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture causing severe damage. A Major Disaster Management on-site Headquarters was established, government officials were dispatched to the affected areas, food assistance was provided

- On January 1, 2024, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture, and seismic intensity of 7 was observed in Wajima City and Shika Town in the same prefecture. Sea level changes due to the accompanying tsunami were also observed along the coast.
- Immediately after the disaster, the government dispatched police, firefighters, and the Self-Defense Forces to the affected areas to obtain information on the damages and conduct search and rescue activities. It also set up Major Disaster Management on-site Headquarters and dispatched many officials from the respective ministries and agencies to the affected areas to open up roads, provide relief supplies, and carry out secondary evacuations to protect the lives and health of evacuees. The government worked as one to implement emergency disaster response measures.
- MAFF provided support by sending food and other items to the affected local governments since January 2. In addition, MAFF dispatched officials to the affected sites to facilitate food supply and logistics, as well as to check the damage to agricultural land and agricultural facilities and ensure their early restoration. To respond quickly to the restoration and reconstruction of agricultural facilities, MAFF established bases in three locations under the jurisdiction of the Hokuriku Regional Agricultural Administration Office by the end of March.
- The damage to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Ishikawa and other prefectures was extensive, including damage to agricultural land and agricultural facilities, animal house barns, and forest facilities, as well as large-scale hillsides collapse and damage to fishing ports and fishing grounds due to the uplift of the seabed. Livestock farmers in the Noto region suffered severe damage, including water outages, facility damage, waste of products and damage to livestock. In addition, agricultural land and facilities necessary for rice planting were seriously damaged.
- Food companies that produce soy sauce, miso, confectionery, and processed seafood products were also severely damaged, including damage to production and storage facilities.

Epicenter distribution map of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake



Source: Japan Meteorological Agency, "The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake (3rd Report)"



Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries speaking at the MAFF Emergency Headquarters for Natural Disaster Countermeasures



Providing free hot meals in areas affected by the disaster

To ensure the rapid recovery of the affected areas, a "Package of Measures to Support the Daily Lives and the Livelihoods of the Disaster Victims" was prepared by the government. With a view to the future vision for the region, the necessary measures will be taken to help agricultural, forestry and fisheries to rebuild their livelihoods as soon as possible

- On January 11, 2024, the government designated the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster as a disaster of extreme severity. This designation enables the implementation of measures in the agricultural sector to reduce the burden on affected farmers, etc. in disaster reconstruction projects for agricultural land, agricultural facilities, and communal facilities.
- On January 25, the government compiled a "Package of Measures to Support the Daily Lives and the Livelihoods of the Disaster Victims," comprising of measures that should be implemented urgently.
- In the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector, with a view to the future vision for the region, the necessary measures will be implemented toward the resumption of these industries and actions will be taken to quickly restore agricultural land, agricultural facilities, animal quarters, etc., with the aim of rebuilding the livelihoods of agricultural, forestry and fisheries as soon as possible, and achieving creative recovery by utilizing the Satoyama and Satoumi brand for the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage region of Noto.
- The government will listen carefully to the voices of those from the affected areas and put every effort into supporting the rebuilding of the lives and livelihoods of the affected people, with the resolve to "put itself in the position of the affected areas and the affected people and do everything it can."

MAFF's initiatives related to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Personnel and technical support toward the recovery of damaged agricultural land and irrigation and drainage systems

- Immediately after the disaster, government officials (MAFF-SAT) worked with the prefectural government and relevant organizations to inspect and survey agricultural facilities, including reservoirs (approximately 2,000 reservoirs).
- MAFF-SAT teams in charge of municipalities made individual visits to explain the systems and procedures for restoring agricultural land and irrigation/drainage systems, and to support the preparation of disaster assessments.
- It was efficiently improved by increasing the number of indoor assessments, and the utilization of the scheme for starting construction before assessments was promoted.



Support for emergency disaster countermeasures by MAFF-SAT
(installation of drainage pump at a reservoir)

Activities to publicize assistance measures, and provision of support

- A joint team was established between the national government and Ishikawa Prefecture to conduct briefing sessions at agricultural cooperatives in the prefecture.
- In matters related to agriculture, staff from the prefecture, agricultural cooperatives, and MAFF were stationed at agricultural cooperatives in the prefecture and consultation desks were established. These bases were used to accelerate attentive support in preparation for the planting season.
- In matters related to fisheries, on-site briefing sessions were held at the Ishikawa Prefectural Fisheries Cooperative Association head office and branch offices.



Providing support at an agricultural consultation desk



Fishery-related briefing session at the Suzu venue