

PRIMAFF

Policy Research Institute,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

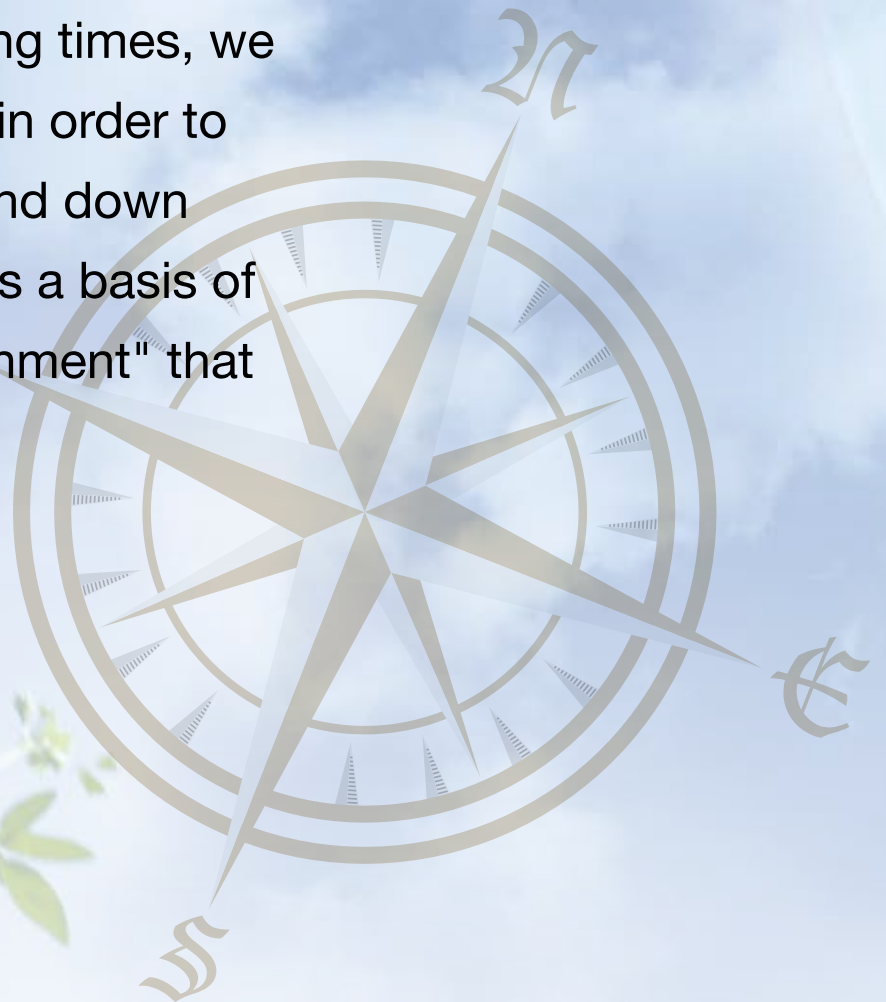


MAFF

As the compass of agriculture, forestry and fisheries policies

— convinced future by
convinced analysis —

In response to the changing times, we
conduct **policy research** in order to
achieve our mission to hand down
"food" to future children as a basis of
human life and an "environment" that
allows us to live in peace.



Outline

The Policy Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PRIMAFF), established in April 2001, as the sole national policy research organization engaged in the study and research of the policies related to agriculture, forestry, and fisheries by reorganization of the former National Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (NRIAE).

Recent years have seen important changes in the areas of Japanese foods, agriculture, and rural areas. In this movement, to ensure the continued development of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and rural areas in the future, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan has been working on planning and promoting relevant policies adapted to the new era, under Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas Basic Act, etc.

PRIMAFF attaches importance to the cooperation and coordination with administrative offices of the Ministry more closely than before and responses to new policy directions through its policy research.

From this standpoint, it carries out research on the situations and policies of food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and rural areas inside and outside Japan using social science approaches including economics, law, and sociology as well as related natural science approaches.

History

1946	Nov.30	National Research Institute of Agricultural Economics established at 8 Azabu-shinryudo-cho, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan
1959	Nov.10	Moved to Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo
1974	Mar.30	Library was designated as a branch of the National Diet Library; the NRIAE Branch of MAFF Library
1983	Oct.1	Three branch offices integrated into the main office
2001	Apr.1	NRIAE reorganized into the Policy Research Institute, MAFF
2001	Aug.20	Branch office established in Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
2008	Nov.1	Main and branch offices moved to Central Government Building No. 4 in Kasumigaseki, Tokyo

Basic concepts of research activities

This institute, which was established for the purpose of conducting comprehensive policy research agriculture, forestry, and fisheries policies, will proceed with policy research in a flexible and accurate manner in response to important policy issues and the direction of policy development.

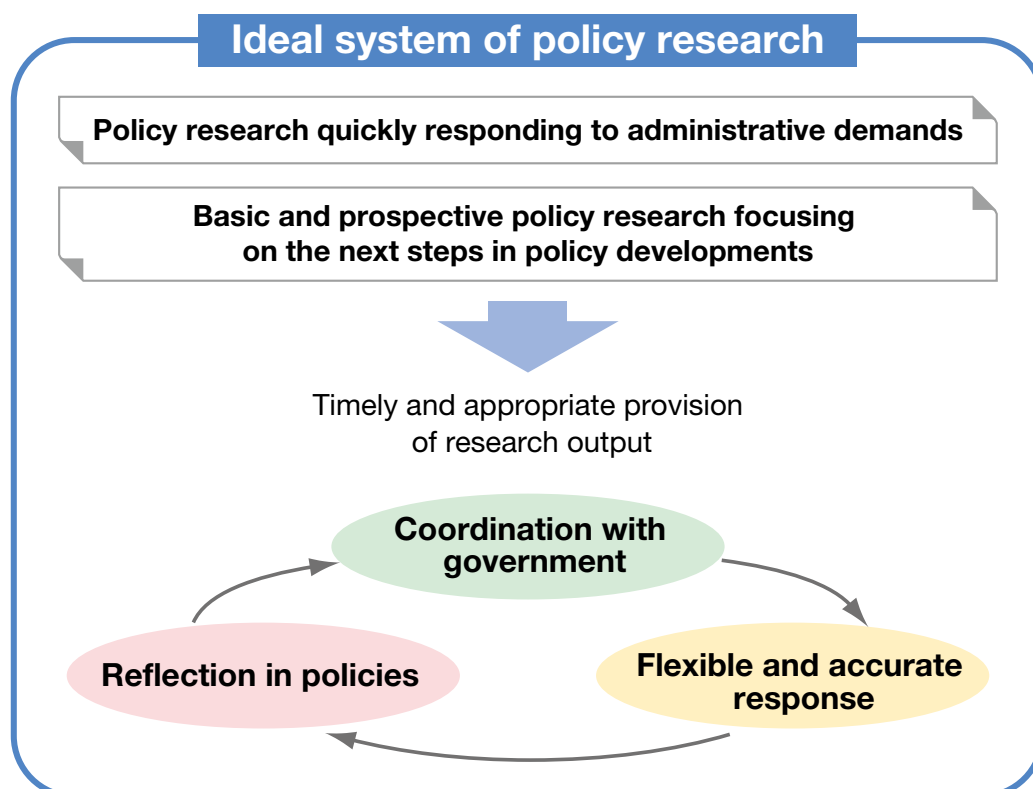
● Research activities meeting the administrative demands

Every year, the Institute selects research subjects under sufficient collaboration and coordination with related administrative offices and conducts research and studies necessary for policymaking and international negotiations.

● Fundamental and leading research

Using its expertise and knowledge, the Institute conducts the following fundamental and leading researches and aims at making highly academic achievements.

1. Research on mid- to long-term policy issues and issues that may require policy response in the future, focusing on the next step in policy development.
2. Promotion of evidence-based policy making (EBPM), analysis of policies and strategies of other countries necessary for international negotiations, etc.



Basic guidelines on policy research (Priority areas)

To swiftly reform Japan's agricultural, forestry, and fisheries policies, we are required to gather necessary information and analyze the situation, provide the results to administrative offices, and contribute to policy making. In response to these requests, we have formulated basic guidelines on policy research to proceed with policy research flexibly and accurately.

The basic guidelines focuses on the following five priority areas for policy research, considering the current situation of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries policies, requests from administrative offices, and the expertise of the institute.

- **Studies on food security in the post COVID-19 era**

Studies on food security based on mid- to long-term impacts of COVID-19 on food supply and demand

- **Studies on management improvements of business farmers**

Studies on solutions for management improvements, management succession, and labor shortage using ICT, etc., amidst concerns on a significant decline in the number of farmers

- **Studies on export and overseas expansion**

Studies on the direction of demand expansion measures of high added value of domestic, agricultural, and marine products that capture overseas demands, and the direction of export promotion measures for domestic producers and related businesses

- **Studies on regional development**

Studies on the transformation and future of rural settlements as the population declines and ages, regional development by introducing new technology utilizing ICT etc., and the sustainable use of regional resources, such as biomass

- **Studies on agricultural and trade policies of major countries**

Studies on agricultural and trade conditions and related policies targeting important countries/regions from the perspective of Japan's agricultural policy planning and the magnitude of its impact on the international food market and studies on the outlook for global food supply and demand

Operational system for research

Research teams are organized across the research areas for more flexible and accurate research according to topics.

● Collaboration with administrative offices

Policy research coordinators and assistant policy research coordinators keep track of administrative demands and closely coordinate with the related administrative offices at every step from selection of research topics and carrying out research to producing outputs.

To provide the staff of the administrative offices of the MAFF with the necessary research opportunities, we have appointed a consulting fellow who will be engaged in research work concurrently with the institute.

Through this, by expanding personnel exchanges and diversifying the career paths of the staff, ultimately, it is expected to contribute to the promotion of evidence-based policy making (EBPM) and implementation of international negotiations by those with expert knowledge.

● Collaboration with other research institutions

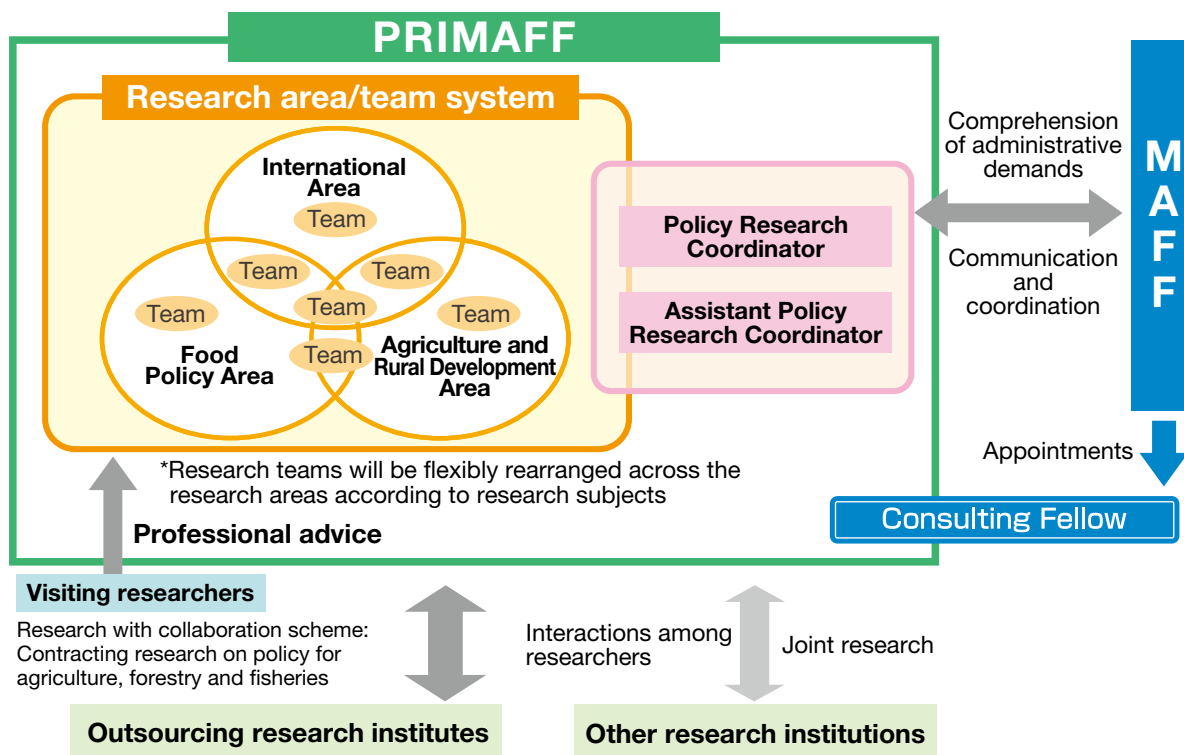
The institute seeks an open research environment by promoting interactions of researchers and joint research with other research institutions and utilizing a visiting researchers system.

In recent years, while changes that have a great impact on the socioeconomic situation are dynamically occurring, the number of policy research issues that should be tackled using cutting-edge analytical methods, as well as knowledge from multiple fields through integration of humanities and sciences, is also increasing.

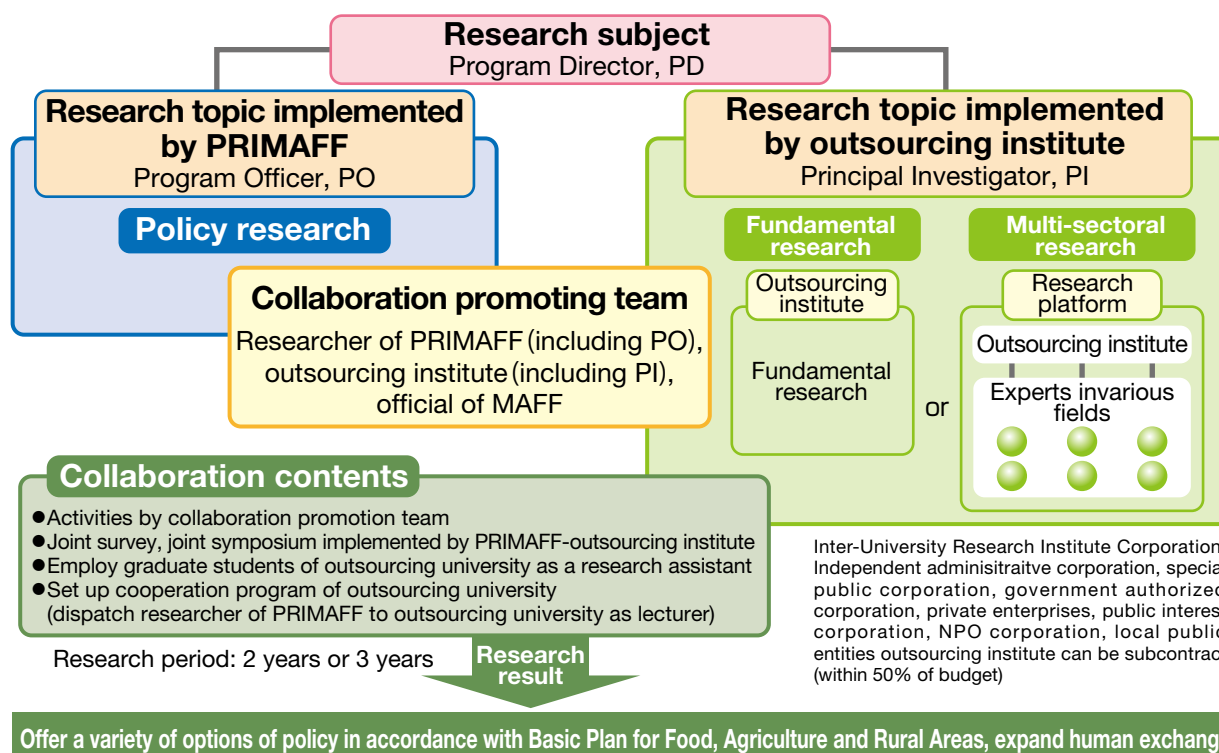
From this standpoint, under a common research theme, the institute and research institutes outsourced are conducting research on the "Collaboration Research Scheme," in which each research is promoted while strengthening collaboration.

Research system

● Overview of the research system based on the research area/team system



● Research with collaboration scheme: contracting research on policy for agriculture, forestry and fisheries



International Area

Studies on agriculture and agricultural policies of major countries and world food supply and demand projections

The Institute surveys and analyzes the agricultural production and trade of major countries/regions along with associated policies, estimates, and publishes world food supply and demand projections.

Since Japan heavily depends on the international market for our food supply, it is important for us to have accurate information on global food demand and supply from the perspective of the food security of our country.

Therefore, the Institute continues to survey and analyze trends in the agricultural production and trade along with related policies, focusing on major supplying/consuming countries.

In Japan, based on the Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas, policies toward secure and stable food supply, sustainable development of agriculture and promotion of rural area development are implemented. and, based on the Strategy for Sustainable Food System, MeaDRI (Measures for achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation), achievement of a good balance between increased production and the sustainability of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries is set as a goal of policies. The Institute performs survey and analysis on efforts of various coun-

tries/regions to contribute to the good implementation of these policies in our country.

In these surveys and studies, the Institute pays attention not only to those on each country and region but also to cross-national/regional comparison.

In terms of ensuring Japan's food security, as a country dependent of agricultural imports, it has a significant importance to elaborate Japan's own projection for global food supply and demand.

In our Institute, based on the uniquely developed global food demand and supply model, in combination with the information of major countries and regions we have collected, we have been estimating and publishing the World Food Supply and Demand Projection for the next 10 years every year.



Wheat field of Russia, the world's leading wheat exporter



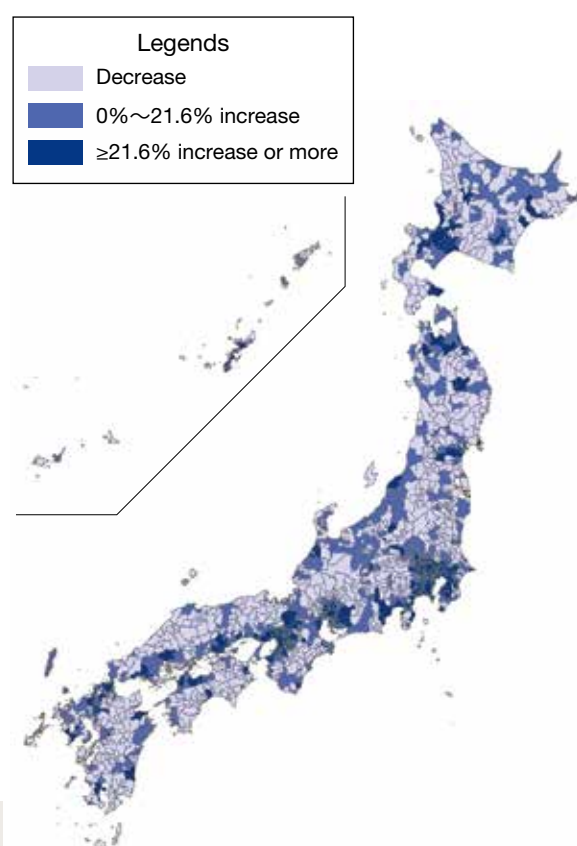
Organic vegetables sold in a market in France

Food Policy Area

Studies on food consumption and food security

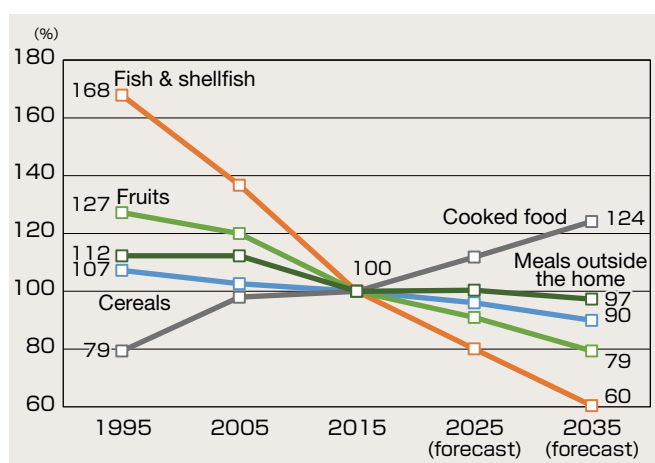
The Institute clarifies the state of the food system and related topics through economic analysis such as econometrics combining geographic information system, economic experiments with behavioral economics, and domestic/international surveys.

Japan's food consumption has been quantitatively saturated as population declines and aging advances, which necessitates a new food system that accommodates the outsourcing of meals attributed to change in lifestyle. Thus, along with analysis of future food consumption trends, studies related to the high added values of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products are focused on to improve producers' income. Field experiments apply behavioral economics as evidence-based research on policy measures. In addition, the Institute investigates the mid- to long-term impacts of COVID-19 on food demand and supply, as well as shapes of a stable food supply system and food security in the post COVID-19 era. To shed light on the food system in a super-ag-



Increase rate of food inaccessibility population by municipality (2015/2005)

ing society, the Institute researches the impact of food inaccessibility on food intake and the health of seniors along with communities.



Trends and forecast of per capita food expenditure (main items, 2015 = 100)

Agriculture and Rural Development Area

Studies on Agricultural Structural Problems and on the Promotion of Agriculture and Rural Areas

We are conducting studies on the overall trends in Japan's agriculture, ideal method of agricultural production in rural areas, and new roles that agriculture and rural areas will play in the future due to the declining and aging rural population.

In Japan's agricultural and rural areas, the number of laborers in the agricultural sector and the area of agricultural land are expected to decrease. There is a concern that management resources and agricultural technology will not be passed on to the future generations and that the production base will be further weakened. In addition, there are concerns that rural depopulation will continue and it will be difficult to maintain local communities.

To tackle these problems, it is necessary to understand the current situation based on the latest data. We conduct a statistical analysis using the *Agriculture and Forestry Census*, surveys in sites that have unique structural changes in agriculture and rural areas, and in areas where problems have become more prominent due to aging and decline in population. These surveys are used to clarify the factors that caused various problems, to develop measures to improve the sustainability of agricultural management, and to maintain and revitalize rural areas.

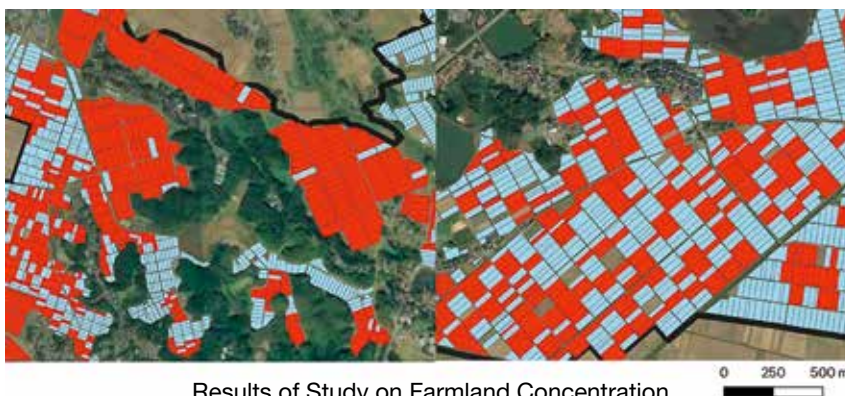
Regarding the promotion of rural areas, there are concerns about the problems of migration to urban areas in the face of a severely declining birthrate and aging population in Japan.



Sale of Tomatoes Harvested by Farming Girls

Conversely, new attractions and roles of rural areas have been pointed out. The role of rural areas in Japan has been reconsidered in terms of activities, such as farming with disabled people and farm stays. Under these circumstances, we evaluate various effects of these

new roles and proposed measures that would promote return migration of the younger generation and improve rural-urban exchanges and relationships. Finally, we consider the roles that rural areas should play in the future.



Results of Study on Farmland Concentration

Studies on Agricultural and Rural Environmental Issues and Sustainability

Because agriculture utilizes natural resources, we are conducting studies on the impact of agricultural production on the environment and the ideal method of sustainable agricultural production.

In recent years, constructing a sustainable society is strongly recommended by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and agriculture is expected to contribute to the SDGs. A multifunctionality of agriculture is that it has a positive impact on the environment. However, it also has a negative impact on the environment through water use and chemical inputs. Therefore, in order to promote an economically viable method of sustainable agriculture that is ecosystem-friendly, it is necessary to properly understand the value of various benefits, including multifunctionality as well as food and material provision. The impact on ecosystems and socio-economy must be comprehensively assessed and visualized. To expand sustainable agricultural production, it is necessary to



Pastures beyond a Biogas Plant

appropriately assess farmers and agricultural corporations that are practicing these initiatives.

We investigate measures that would urge farmers to change their attitudes toward sustainable agricultural production.

We also establish a comprehensive evaluation method for sustainability, not only for farmers and agricultural corporations but also for rural areas in general. In addition, we conduct a wide range of investigations on the overall relationship among agriculture, rural areas, and the environment. These investigations include bioenergy and biomass supply, multifunctionality, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.



Beautiful Terraced Rice Fields
(Hamanoura, Genkai Town, Saga Prefecture)

Publication and dissemination of research outputs

Seminars

The Institute holds research results report meetings and seminars to share its latest findings and related information with the world. It also incorporates online events to facilitate free discussions of diverse participants from even wider regions to energize research activities and improve the level of research.



● Open seminars

The institute holds debriefings for researchers to announce their latest results. These debriefings serve the purpose of bringing vitality to research and increasing the level of quality of research through an exchange of opinions between participants and the researchers themselves.

● Seminars/Lectures

The institute invites experts and relevant policymakers from Japan and abroad to conduct lectures.

These talks serve as an opportunity to learn specialized knowledge and interdisciplinary findings that can contribute to the institute's research activities.

Forum for Agricultural Policy Research in North East Asia (FANEA)



12th Symposium (2017, Saitama)



14th Symposium (2019, Qingdao)

In March 2003, PRIMAFF, the Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI) and the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (IAED/CAAS) founded the Forum for Agricultural Policy Research in North East Asia (FANEA). The three institutes cooperate in studying various issues including agricultural structure, agri-environment, and agricultural trade in North East Asia. As part of the research cooperation, the institutes have taken turns holding annual international symposiums since 2003. Each year, the institutes report their outputs and discuss under particular subjects regarding agriculture and agricultural policies in North East Asia. The 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th symposiums were held in Japan.

Publication and information activities

The institute reports research activities and outputs in various publications. Information on seminars and publications are announced on a timely basis at the website and by e-mail newsletters.



Publication of research outputs

- Journal of Agricultural Policy Research
- Research Monograph Series
- Research Reports

Online information

- Website
<https://www.maff.go.jp/primaff/e/index.html>
- Mail magazine (in Japanese)



Publication of information magazines

- PRIMAFF Review

Library

— a sub branch of the National Diet Library —

The library has collected and provides lending services for approximately 200,000 volumes from a wide range of disciplines, mainly those related to the policies on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including agricultural economics, economics, law and sociology. It also possesses many historically valuable books and documents published inside and outside Japan.



Library Information

- Open from 9:30 until 12:00, and from 13:00 until 17:00.
- Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, year end through new-year holidays.
- Outside visitors: The materials may be used only within the library. Be advised to come to the reception desk and take necessary procedures.
- Library catalogue is available on the website (in Japanese).

Library Information

<https://www.maff.go.jp/primaff/e/about/library.html>

Special collections

Amery collection

Dr. G.D. Amery (1890-1955), British, Lecturer of Oxford University, who wrote a bibliography of the works of Arthur Young, the famous British agricultural economist, had a collection of 2,403 volumes, mainly on agriculture, sociology, economy and history in UK and Europe in 18th and 19th centuries. After his death, the institute purchased the collection from his wife. It contains some valuable materials that had never been available in Japan.

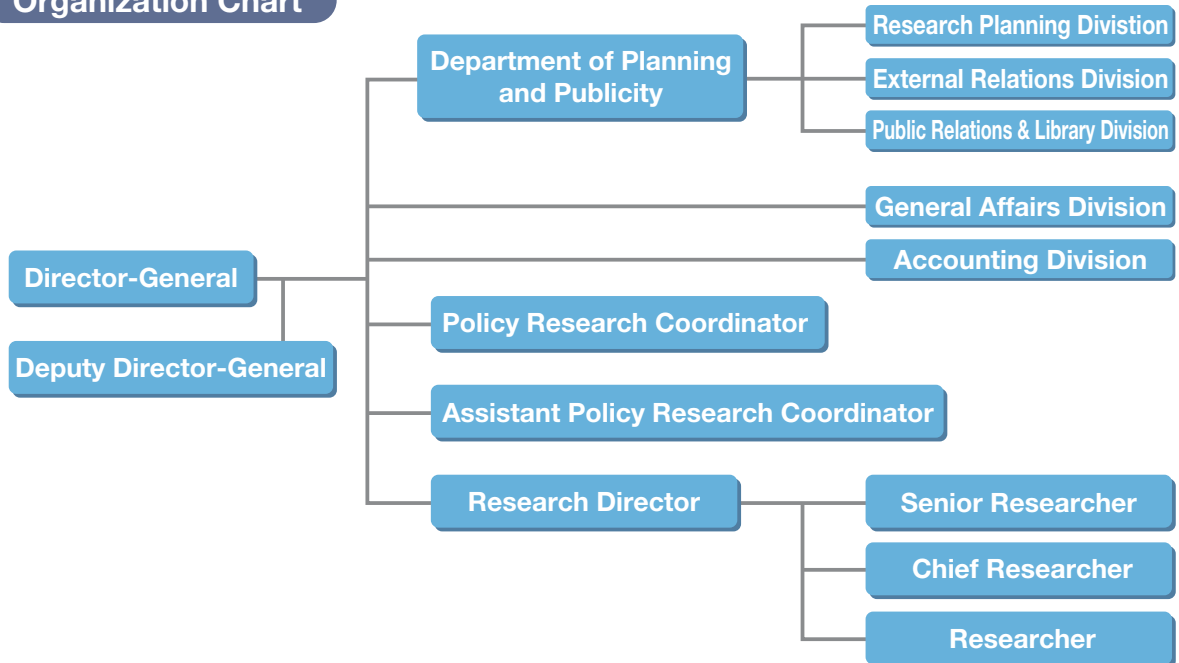
Tobata collection

Dr. Seiichi Tobata served as the first Director-General of the institute from 1946 to 1956, while maintaining his professorship at The University of Tokyo (and also served as the Chairman of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, the President of the Institute of Asian Economic Affairs, the Chairman of the Research Committee on Basic Issues Concerning Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Chairman of the Agricultural Policy Council, the Chairman of the Committee on Tax Systems, etc.). From his collection of 20,000 books, he selected and donated 5,073 to the institute, most of which were books in English and German on agriculture, sociology and economy of Germany and other countries, which he had collected until his retirement from Tokyo University in 1959. Some of these books were collected in early Showa period during his study years in the US and Germany.

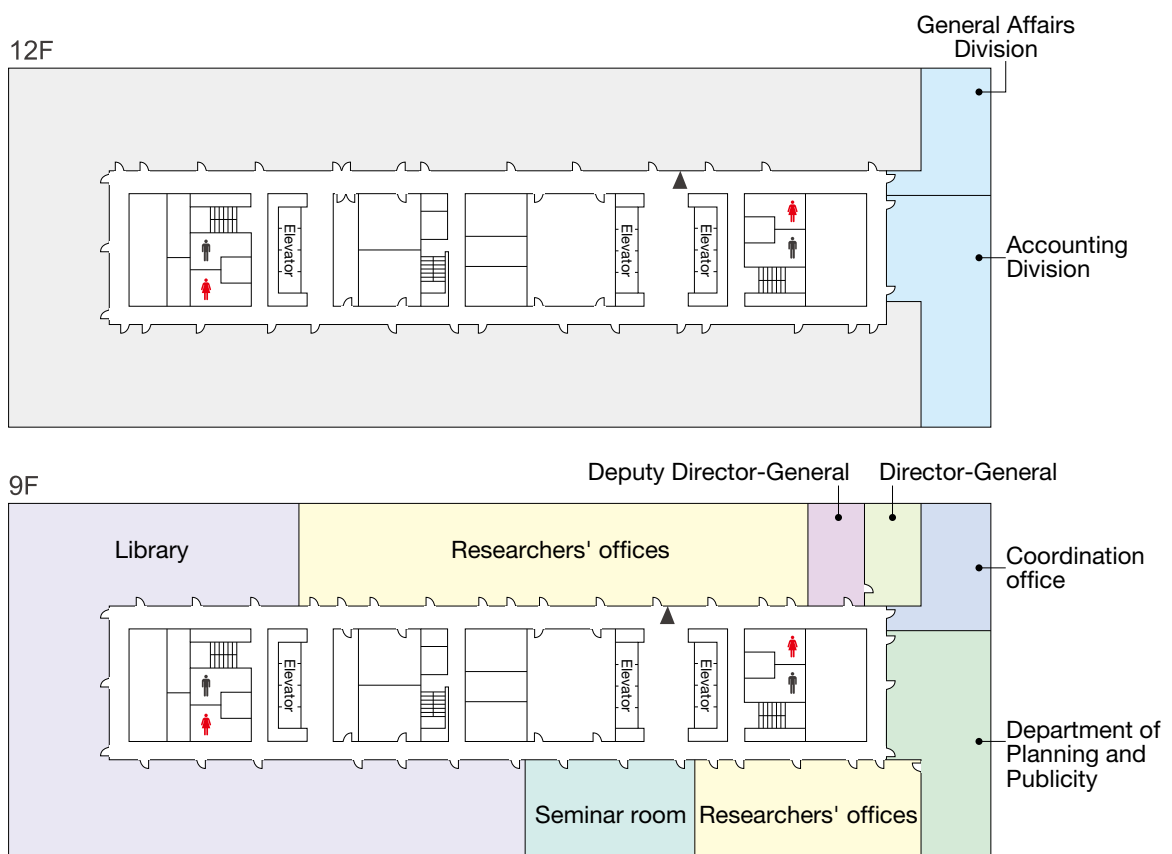
In addition, the library has various statistical reports, DAI NIPPON NOKAI HO (Journal of the Agricultural Society of Japan), Kanseki (classical Chinese books) and books and journals in Russian, Chinese and Korean.

Organization

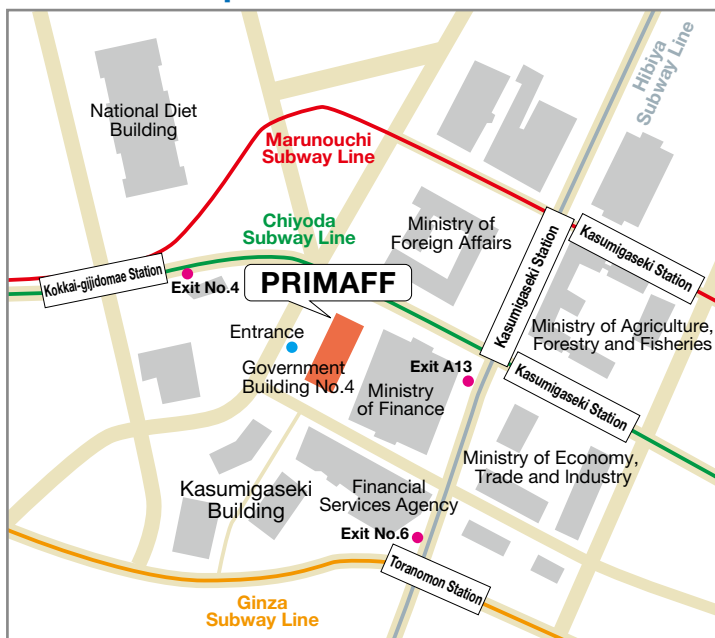
Organization Chart



Site Plan



Access Map



- Five minutes' walk from A13 Exit of Kasumigaseki Station on the Subway Marunouchi, Chiyoda and Hibiya Lines
- Five minutes' walk from No.4 Exit of Kokkai-gijidomae Station on the Subway Marunouchi and Chiyoda Lines
- Five minutes' walk from No.6 Exit of Toranomon Station on the Subway Ginza Line

Visitors to the PRIMAFF (Central Government Building No.4) are required to show their identification cards (e.g. driver license, company ID card) at the main entrance.



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