



Director General
Dr. Takashi Shinohara

The National Research Institute of Agricultural Economics, changed its name to “Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries” (PRIMAFF) on April 1, 2001. So 2002 is the second year as PRIMAFF. Only this Institute remains a part of the governmental organization, whereas each of the other 28 natural science-related institutes under MAFF became a so-called “Agency”, or Independent Administrative Institution, due to the Japanese Government’s administrative reform. PRIMAFF remains a national research institute as it is deemed to participate in the policy making of MAFF. Therefore, PRIMAFF has to cooperate and collaborate with MAFF or other Ministries, so it is different from other semi-autonomous agencies under the supervision of MAFF.

PRIMAFF has changed its name, but the mandate given by MAFF and the Japanese Government has not fundamentally changed. We have contributed to policy making for MAFF through our research since the establishment of this institution in 1947. The modest change at this time made our role far more clear. From now on, we will explicitly put more emphasis on policy-oriented analysis rather than academic-oriented research, as the first user of our research is the administration of MAFF.

Research activities of PRIMAFF consist of project research and individual research. Project research consists of group research activities concerning policy themes with consideration of the demands of the administrative section. The project research conducted in 2002 is made up of the following nine research projects.

“Research on the Practical Use of Regional Resources for Rural Revitalization”

“Study on Overseas Movements Regarding the Development and Regulations of Genetically Modified Crops”

“World Food Demand and Supply Project”

“Research on Evaluation Methods for Policies on Recycling and Reuse of Organic Materials Originating from Agriculture”

“Research on the Establishment of a Risk Management System for Food and Agriculture”

“Economic Analysis on Stabilization of Vegetable Supply and Demand”

“Study on Overall Evaluation of Rice Policy in Japan”

“Price Prediction of Major Fruit using Demand Functions”

“Economic Analysis on Distribution Costs of Food”

The last four research projects are categorized as “policy-oriented special research”, which corresponds to direct demand from the administrative section and are to be implemented within one or two years.

Individual research underlies research activities based on the spontaneous ideas of each researcher.

Under these circumstances, PRIMAFF decided to accept various foreign researchers, who are interested in Japanese agricultural policy. Now we have three foreign researchers from South Korea, China and the U.S.A. (OECD).

I hope that readers will compare our Annual Report 2002 with those of their own country. Presumably readers will also be astonished at the similarity of research themes. I hope you enjoy learning about our work through this book, our Home page and other channels.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

We have not published or distributed results of our research in English. However, we started to accept English papers in the Journal of Agricultural Policy Research. Annual Report 2002 is the only authorized English version that offers a summary of our activities.



Director General
TAKASHI SHINOHARA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Shinohara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.