

Regionality in Today's Local Labor Market and Agriculture: A comparative analysis of Miyada village in Nagano and Omonogawa towns in Akita

Wakaba MAGAKI

Summary

The purpose of this study was to clarify the actual situation in Tohoku of the local labor market structure based on the possibility that low-level male work wages are not unique to farm households, and also to determine how workers secure household expenses.

Previous studies suggest that a male full-time wage that is only half of the household expenses normally secures household expenses by families working together. These observations also apply to worker households in Tohoku.

Based on this, a comparative analysis of the local labor market was conducted using the N hamlet in Miyada village, Nagano prefecture, and O hamlet in Omonogawa village in Yokote city, Akita prefecture. Consequently, for regular employees of private enterprises, the “seniority wage” was the norm among residents in N hamlet, whereas in O hamlet, most individuals have a single person’s wage. Additionally, cases were found in a studied couple in the O hamlet where it is difficult to cover household expenses even when they work together. However, couples were barely involved in the family farm. Under these circumstances, insufficient household expenses were covered by parents living together. Furthermore, the family farm was positioned as a fixed working place. Moreover, the farming employment structure in the O hamlet reflected the labor market outside farms in Yokote city. Therefore, I concluded that the male full-time wage is a “value division” wage applicable to worker households in the region.

Keywords: local labor market, household expenses, single person wage, value division