
Japan – Census of Agriculture and Forestry 2010 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Japan has conducted Censuses of Agriculture every five years since 1950, advocated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The 2010 Census of Agriculture is the thirteenth which is reported here

Legal basis and organization

The census was undertaken under the provisions of: "Statistics Law" (Act No. 53, enacted in 2007), the "Enforcement Order of the Statistics Law" (Act No. 334, enacted in 2008), the "Regulations on the Census for Agriculture and Forestry" (Act No. 39, enacted in 1969) and subjects stipulated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries based on the regulations of the Census for Agriculture and Forestry (May 20, 2004 Ministry Notice No. 1071). The census periodicity is established in five years. The census is organized and undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The national government consigns the conducting of the Census of Agriculture and Forestry to prefectures and municipalities, which are local government organizations. The census was funded through the National budget. Approximately 163 200 field enumerators and 11 000 field supervisors worked in the census operations.

Enumeration period

Field operations developed from mid December to end of February, 2010.

Reference period/date

The census reference date was February 1st, 2010.

Definition of the statistical unit

Agriculture and forestry management entities are defined as those engaged in or who have been entrusted to conduct (consigned) agriculture and forestry production activities where the area and number of feed livestock of the production or operation are above a certain size.

According to **legal status**, Agriculture and Forestry Management Entities were classified in:

- Incorporation (corporate entity);
- Agricultural producers cooperative corporation;
- Company (comprising:
 - * Incorporated company;
 - * Unlimited/limited partnerships;
 - * Limited liability company;
 - * Mutual company);
- Various Organizations (comprising:
 - * Agricultural cooperatives;
 - * Forestry cooperatives;
 - * Other organizations);
- Other corporations;
- Local governments/property wards.

A special category of multiple holders was created: Organized management entities: "Agriculture and Forestry Management Entities" that conduct operations through multiple households (not single-farming).

Geographical coverage

The census covered the entire country.

Statistical coverage

The Survey of Agriculture and Forestry Management Entities (holding based census) covered:

a) Farming in which the cultivated land under management is over 30 ares.

b) Farming above any of the following limits:

- Planted area for outdoor grown vegetables: 15ares
- Cultivated area for greenhouse grown vegetables: 350m2
- Cultivated area for fruit trees: 10ares
- Cultivated area for outdoor green flowers: 10ares
- Cultivated area for greenhouse grown flowers: 250m2
- Number of milking cows: 1head
- Number of fattening cattle: 1head
- Number of pigs: 15heads
- Number of hens: 150heads
- Number of broiler chickens shipped each year: 1,000heads

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- Others: Total sales of farm products equivalent to 500,000 yen or more during the one-year period up to the day before the survey period.

c) Farming operating under a consignment agreement.

Data items coverage

The Survey of Agriculture and Forestry Management Entities (holding based census) comprised a large list of items both from the core and supplementary modules of the FAO Programme WCA2010: Management style, household conditions, farm management characteristics, area of cultivated land under management, possession of farming equipment, workforce on farms, area under cultivation, livestock breeding conditions, product sales amounts, contracting and consigning farming, area of owned forest, forestry workforce, transplanting area, materials production amounts, forest product sales, contracting and consigning forestry operations.

Frame

The census frame was the Register of Proposed Management Entities, which had to be filled out in advance of the actual survey.

Methodology

The 2010 Agriculture and Forestry census comprised **three types of surveys**:

- Survey of Agriculture and Forestry Management Entities;
- Survey of Rural Areas (Municipalities Questionnaire);
- Survey of Rural Area (Rural Communities Questionnaire).

Post census techniques to check census quality

No Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was performed. Quality checks including a strict field supervision, clerical screening, follow-up of non respondents, keying and transmittal of completed report form, etc. were used to assess data quality.

Special features

Community survey was executed at two levels: Municipalities and Rural Communities. In both cases a self-administered questionnaire was sent and returned by e-mail and also online reporting was available if requested.

Data source

Census report, methodological notes and questionnaires at:

<http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/ListE.do?bid=000001037762&cycode=0>

Mailing address / Census contact Points

MAFF, 1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950, Japan.

Website: <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/>