

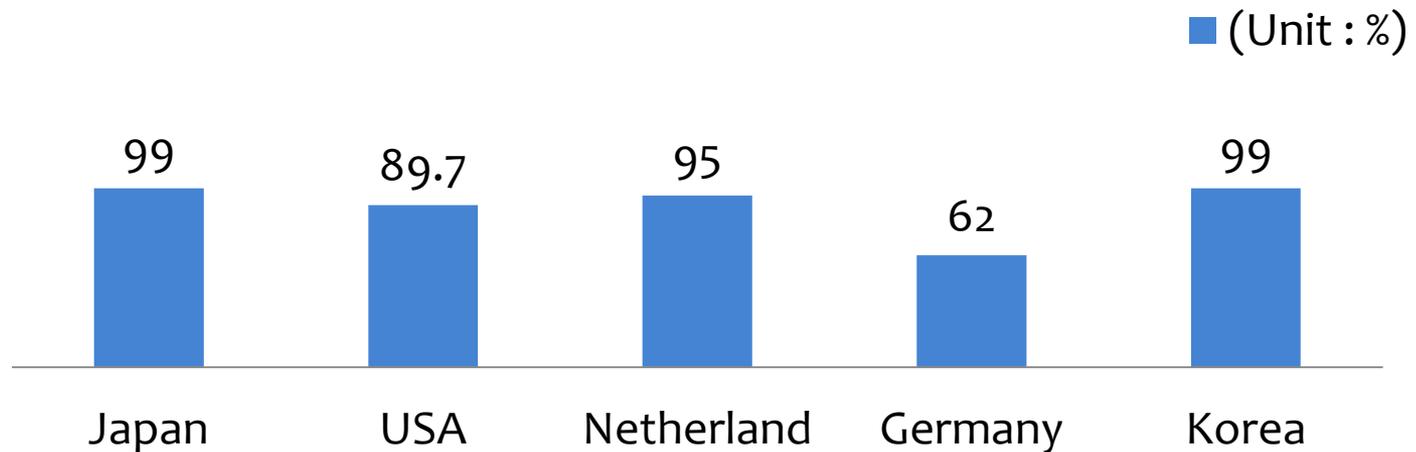
A Cooperative Perspective on Family Farming in Asia and the Pacific

Regional Dialogue on Family Farming :
Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security
21-22nd November, Bangkok, Thailand

1. Family Farmers and Smallholders

I. Introduction

- * Family farming : the basis of agriculture in many countries



I. Introduction

- * Family farmers and smallholders: relative advantages from several viewpoints
 - Operational Efficiency
 - Food Security
 - Sustainable Agricultural Development

II. Operational Efficiency

- * The argument for corporate agriculture and large farms:
 - “Bigger is better”--Large farms can take advantage of ‘economies of scale’

II. Operational Efficiency

- * Expanded farm size does not necessarily translate into improved productivity.
- * Rice production costs were the lowest on the farm size of 1.5 ha to 2 ha especially in Korea.

III. Food Security

- * The argument for corporate agriculture and large farms:

Corporate agriculture
=
expansion of markets
=
food security

III. Food Security

Corporate farms

VS

Family farms

IV. Sustainable Agricultural Development

- * Family farms have a strong attachment to farmland and they generally pass down it to subsequent generations
- * Family farmers have more incentive to preserve farmland for the next generation

IV. Sustainable Agricultural Development

- * The contributions of family farming outside of the market:
 - Preservation of cultural heritage
 - Maintenance of ecosystems and rural landscapes
 - Maintenance of rural communities

2. Agricultural Cooperatives

I. Introduction

- * The individual farmer and corporate agriculture
 - Economic disadvantage
- * The individual farmer and society
 - Social disadvantage
- * Organization is the key to overcoming these disadvantages and improving both income and status

II. Why Agricultural Cooperatives

- * Agricultural cooperatives are autonomous associations
 - user-owned, user-controlled businesses that distribute benefits on the basis of use
- * Agricultural cooperatives strive to maximize the economic benefits they generate for their members
- * Agricultural cooperatives seek to better the social and cultural status of farmers

III. Tasks ahead

- * To heighten public awareness of the importance of family farming in sustainable agricultural production
- * To serve as an interface for family farmers and government in the formation of agricultural policies

Thank you!