

# Agricultural Statistics System in Japan

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# Outline

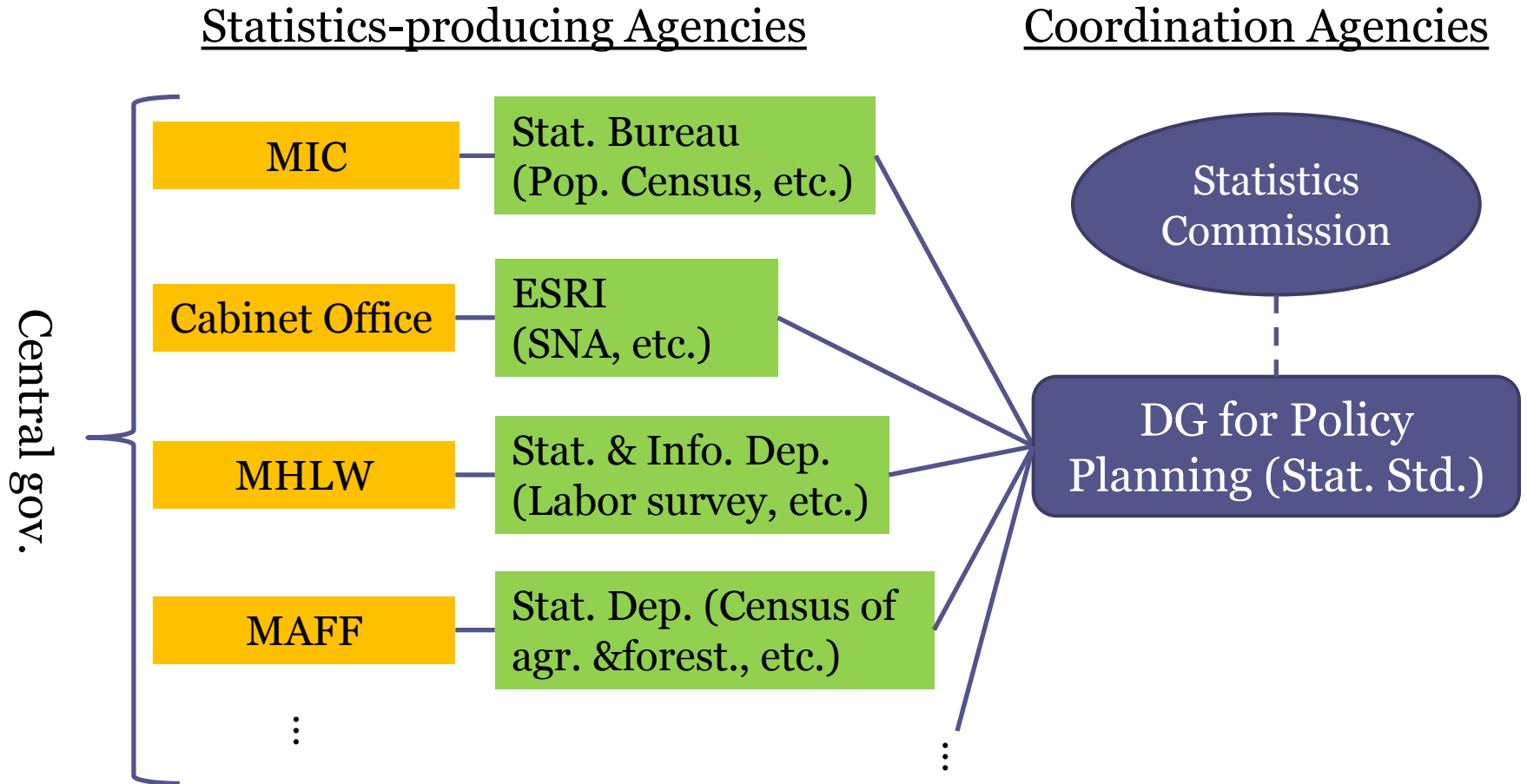
- **Overview of Official Statistics in Japan**
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# Overview of Official Statistics in Japan

# National Statistical System (1)

- Decentralized by subjects with a coordination authority
  - Individual ministries
    - have their own statistical departments
    - collect statistics alongside their administrative activities
  - Director-general for policy planning (Statistical Standards)
    - located in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
    - coordinates statistical activities among line ministries
  - Statistical Commission
    - located in the Cabinet Office
    - researches and deliberates important matters related to official statistics
    - provides advice to ministers

# National Statistical System (2)



# Legislative Framework for Official Statistics (1)

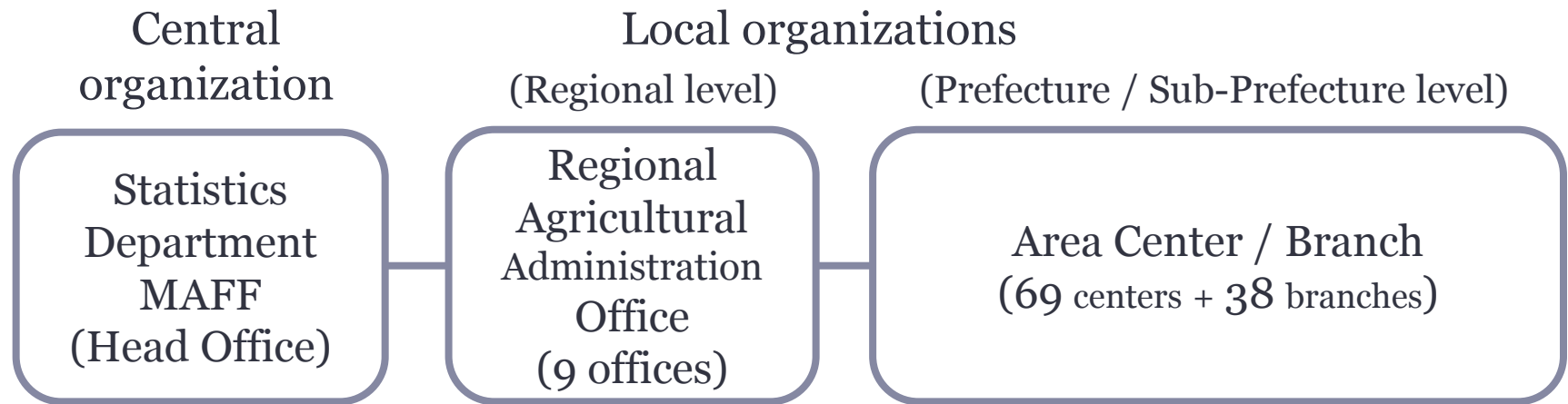
- Definition and mission of official statistics
  - stipulated by the Statistics Act
- Statistical organizations and duties
  - stipulated by Orders for organizations of ministries
    - e.g. Order for organization of the MAFF
- Detailed methodologies used by individual surveys
  - stipulated by ministerial and prefectural rules about individual surveys

## Legislative Framework for Official Statistics (2)

- The current Statistics Act was promulgated on May 2007, covering all official statistics.
- Key features of the Act
  - requires development of “Master Plan for Official Statistics” with an annual follow-up scheme
  - promotes the use of statistical data, including microdata provision for academic purposes
  - establishes the Statistics Commission as a neutral and fair deliberative council on official statistics

# Main Features of Agricultural Statistics in Japan

# Administrative Framework for Agr. Statistics (1)



# Administrative Framework for Agr. Statistics (2)



- Agricultural regions in Japan
- ✓ A RAAO is located in each region.
  - ✓ 5-21 ACs are located in each region.

# Mechanisms of Collecting Agr. Statistics (1)

- There are 29 official statistical surveys in agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors.
- Data collecting activities are sponsored and conducted by MAFF.
- Agr. statistics covers four main categories:
  - Basic Agricultural Structure
  - Economic Activities of Farmers
  - Resources and Production
  - Distribution of Agricultural Products

# Mechanisms of Collecting Agr. Statistics (2)

- **Basic Agricultural structure**
  - Census of agriculture and forestry (every 5 years)
  - Survey on movement of agricultural structure (yearly)
- **Economic activities of farmers**
  - Survey on farm management and economy (yearly)
  - Survey on agricultural production costs (yearly)
- **Resources and production**
  - Statistics on cultivated land and planted area (yearly)
  - Statistics on crops (yearly)
  - Statistics on livestock (yearly)
- **Distribution of agricultural products**
  - Statistics on milk and dairy products (monthly, yearly)
  - Survey on wholesale markets of fruits and vegetables (daily, monthly, every 5 years)

# Role of Agr. Statistics in Policymaking

- Setting policy objective and basis for evaluation
  - Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas
  - Forecast for supply and demand of rice
  - Food self-sufficiency ratio
- Providing criteria for implementing policy measures
  - National Disaster Financial Act
  - Stabilization system for production and shipment of vegetables and fruits
- Providing calculation base for gov. expenditure
  - Subsidy rates – e.g. farming income stabilization measures

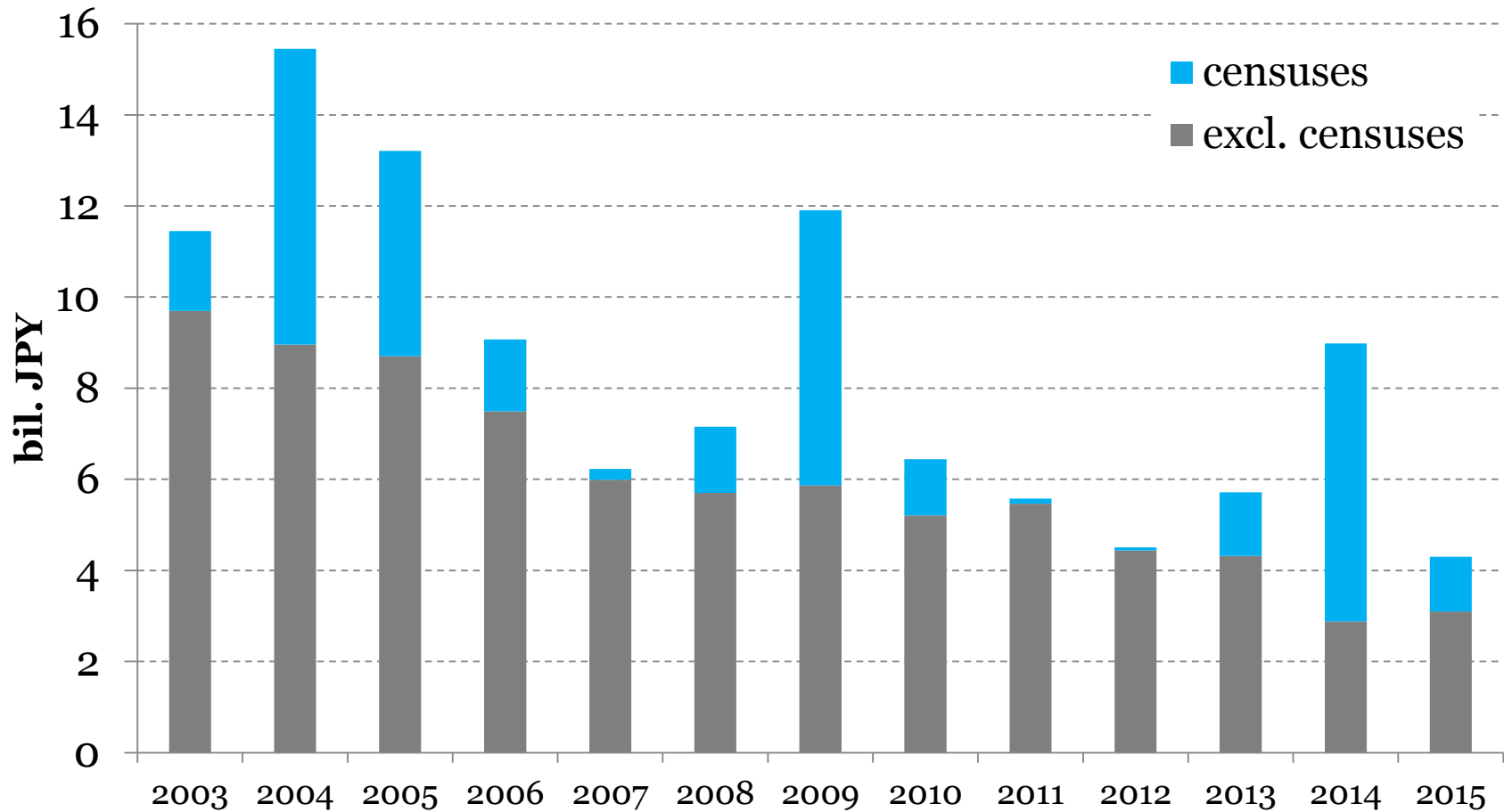
# Mechanisms of Disseminating Agr. Statistics

- **Release Survey Results**
  - present results at press conferences
  - announce results on MAFF official website, Facebook page and Twitter account
  - distribute statistical reports to libraries, prefectural governments, etc.
- **Public Relations in Various Events**
  - Statistical Data/Graph Fair
  - Festival of Food, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
- **Contribute Survey Results to Various Magazines**
  - e.g. academic journal of agricultural economics

# Mechanisms of Identifying Agr. Data Needs

- Needs for administrative activities
  - maintain close collaboration and communication between administrative and statistical staff
- Needs for academic and research activities
  - set up study group to examine design of questionnaire
  - consider results of deliberations of the Statistics Committee

# Budget for Agr. Statistical Activities



# Conclusion

- National statistical system in Japan is decentralized with a coordination authority.
- Basic legislative framework of official statistics is provided by the Statistics Act.
- Agricultural statistics collection activities are sponsored and conducted by MAFF.
- Challenges faced by agr. statistics:
  - respond to downsizing budget and workforce
    - e.g. review of research method and sample design, expand the use of administrative information
  - expand the area of the survey to encompass diversification of agriculture-related activities
    - e.g. cross-sector collaboration with other ministries