

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The census of agriculture and forestry (CAF) in Japan was first conducted in 1950, in accordance with the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 1950. Census data collection for the forestry has been conducted since 1960. Since the CAF 2005, censuses of agriculture and forestry have been conducted every five years. The CAF 2015, to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, is the fourteenth census data collection to be conducted for agriculture and the eighth for forestry.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The census was undertaken under the provision of the following acts:

- the Statistics Act, approved by the Cabinet (Order No. 334 of 2008);
- Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries No. 39 of 1969 on the Census of Agriculture and Forestry;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Notice No. 1071 of May 20, 2004.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The CAF is organized and undertaken by MAFF. The national government consigns the conduct of the CAF to prefectures and municipalities, which are local government organizations. MAFF designed the CAF, developed the census forms and guidelines, supervised the prefectures and local statistics offices, tabulated the nationwide CAF results, and documented the reports. The census was funded through the national budget.

Census staff

Operations involving the CAF were carried out by a staff of 14 persons within the Statistics Department, Management and Structure Statistics Division, Census Statistics Office, under the Minister's Secretariat. Approximately 150 000 enumerators and 11 000 supervisors were engaged in the census operations to collect data from the agricultural and forestry management entities (for holding-level data collection). Sixty-nine regional centres and 38 branch offices were in charge of conducting and inspecting the survey of rural areas (for community-level data collection).

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 1 February 2015, for inventory items, such as livestock numbers.

Reference period: the past year (from 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2015), for farm workforce, land use, forestry items, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Field operations were carried out: (i) from 15 December 2014 to the end of February 2015, for the enumeration of agriculture and forestry management entities (AFMEs); and (ii) from 1 April to the end of June 2015, to collect data on rural areas from the municipalities and rural communities.

5. SCOPE OF THE CENSUS AND DEFINITION OF THE STATISTICAL UNIT

The **census scope** covered agricultural (crop and animal production) activities.

The main **statistical unit** was the AFME, defined as the entity that produces agriculture or forestry products or are engaged in agriculture or forestry operations under consignment agreements with the land area/number of head of livestock for their production/operations are above a certain size. The AFMEs were divided into: agriculture management entities (AMEs)¹ and forestry management entities (FME). In turn, among AMEs two types of entities were distinguished: family-owned farm management entities and organized management entities.

Along with the holding-level data collected from the AFMEs, the CAF collected information on rural areas from the municipalities and rural communities.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The census covered the entire country.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The following thresholds were established for the AFMEs:

- farming in which the cultivated land under management is over 30 ares (0.3 ha);
- farming above any of the following limits: (i) planted area for outdoor grown vegetables: 15 ares, (ii) cultivated area for greenhouse grown vegetables: 350 m²; (iii) cultivated area for fruit trees: ten ares; (iv) cultivated area for outdoor green flowers: ten ares; (v) cultivated area for greenhouse grown flowers: 250 m²; (vi) number of milking cows: one head; (vii) number of fattening cattle: one head; (viii) number of pigs: 15 head; (ix) number of hens: 150 head; (x) number of broiler chickens shipped each year: 1 000 head; or (xi) 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;
- farming operating under a consignment agreement; and/or

¹ The census results presented in this publication concern the AMEs.

- those conducting forestry operations based on rights to carry out “silviculture” and deforesting (excluding acquisition for the sole purpose of deforesting standing trees and bamboo) for an area of forestland of 3 ha or more (hereafter referred to as “owned forest land”).

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was adopted for the CAF 2015.

Frame

The census frame was built based on the list of AFMEs, which contains the names and addresses of individuals and organizations that are possible AFMEs.

Complete or/and sample enumeration methods

Complete enumeration was used for the CAF 2015 data collection.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection method(s)

The information from the AFMEs was collected using the self-enumeration method. The census questionnaires were dropped off at the respondents' addresses and collected by the interviewers. For the survey of rural areas (municipalities) self-enumeration using the mail-out/mail-back method (via e-mail) was applied.²

Data collection for the survey of rural areas was conducted using the PAPI method.

Questionnaire(s)

Three questionnaires were used for CAF data collection: (i) a questionnaire for agriculture and forestry management entities; (ii) a questionnaire for rural areas (municipalities); (iii) a questionnaire for rural areas (rural communities).

The CAF 2015 questionnaire covered 14 of the 16 core items³ recommended for the WCA 2010 round.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

No information was provided in the census reports available.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Quality checks, strict field supervision and follow-up on non-respondents were used to assess census data quality.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The CAF results were disseminated through printed publications and online. A preliminary report for the CAF was released in November 2015, and the final report was published in March 2016. Details were released through sequential publications, in eight volumes.

13. DATA SOURCES

Statistics of Japan. 2017. Overview of the 2015 Census of Agriculture and Forestry. In: *Statistics of Japan* [online]. Tokyo, Japan. [Cited 5 September 2019]. https://www.e-stat.go.jp/en/stat-search/files?page=1&layout=datalist&toukei=00500209&tstat=000001032920&cycle=0&tclass1=000001077437&tclass2=000001097415&cycle_facet=cycle

14. CONTACT

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² Data collection on AFMEs and on rural areas was conducted through the MAFF network: (i) AFMEs: prefectures – municipalities – supervisors – enumerators; (ii) rural areas (municipality questionnaire): regional coordination centres – regional centres; (iii) rural areas (rural communities questionnaire): regional coordination centres – regional centres – enumerators.

³ The exceptions were the following items: (i) “Presence of aquaculture on the holding”; and (ii) “Other economic production activities of the holding’s enterprise”.

JAPAN – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY 2015 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	1 377 266	3 451 444
Family-owned farm management entities	1 344 287	2 917 513
Commercial farm households	1 329 591	2 914 860
Organized management entities	32 979	533 931

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	1 377 266	3 451 444
Holdings without cultivated land	16 089	
Holdings with cultivated land	1 361 177	3 451 444
Less than 5 ha	1 256 164	1 453 806
5–7.5 ha	36 194	217 611
7.5–10 ha	16 035	137 222
10–15 ha	16 569	199 032
15–20 ha	8 827	150 728
20–25 ha	6 057	134 227
25–30 ha	4 235	115 276
30–40 ha	5 958	203 310
40–50 ha	3 427	151 441
50–100 ha	6 121	406 602
100 ha and above	1 590	282 189

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX AND AGE	
	Number
Commercial farm households managed by a household member	442 813
Male	393 013
Female	49 800
Under 25 years	138
25–34 years	2 095
35–44 years	8 124
45–54 years	40 384
55–64 years	154 654
65 years and over	237 418
Commercial farm households managed by more than one household member	879 560
Male	840 921
Female	38 639

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	4 880 368
Male	2 431 439
Female	2 448 929
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	3 398 903
Male	1 869 899
Female	1 529 004

MANAGERS ON THE HOLDING, BY SEX	
	Number
Total managers	1 666 805
Male	1 509 191
Female	157 614
Family-owned farm management entities	1 344 287
Male	1 252 690
Female	91 597
Organized management entities	322 518
Male	256 501
Female	66 017

EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THE HOLDING	
	Number
Total employees	1 676 606
Male	902 661
Female	773 945
Permanent hired workers	220 152
Male	112 624
Female	107 528
Temporary hired workers	1 456 454
Male	790 037
Female	666 417

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Cattle	n.a.	3 692 102
Beef cattle	50 974	2 288 824
Dairy cows	18 186	1 403 278
Pigs/swine	3 673	7 881 616
Chickens (1 000 head)	n.a.	760 008
Hen	4 181	1 514 816
Broilers	1 808	6 085 260

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO THE HOLDING		
	Holdings	Units
Tractors	1 040 405	1 394 047
Combine harvesters	596 117	631 247

TEMPORARY CROPS PLANTED		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.	2 153 559
Rice	952 684	1 313 713
Wheat	49 229	263 073
Other cereals	36 814	58 170
Potatoes	86 885	86 122
Beans	96 447	160 010
Vegetables	381 982	272 470