

# Current Situation of Japanese Smallholders

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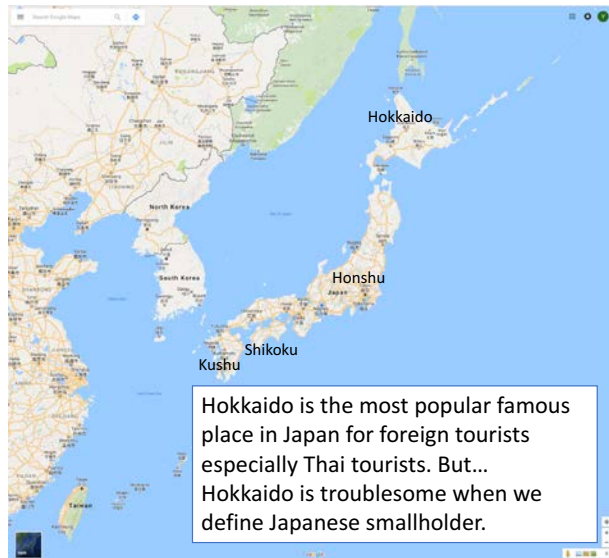
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*"By small peasant we mean here the owners or tenant - particularly the former - of a patch of land no bigger, as a rule, than he and his family can till, and no smaller than can sustain the family."*

Engels, F. (1894) "The peasant question in France and Germany".

[https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Engles\\_The\\_Peasant\\_Question\\_in\\_France\\_and\\_Germany.pdf](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Engles_The_Peasant_Question_in_France_and_Germany.pdf)

## Hokkaido question



## Cultivated land composition ratio in Hokkaido

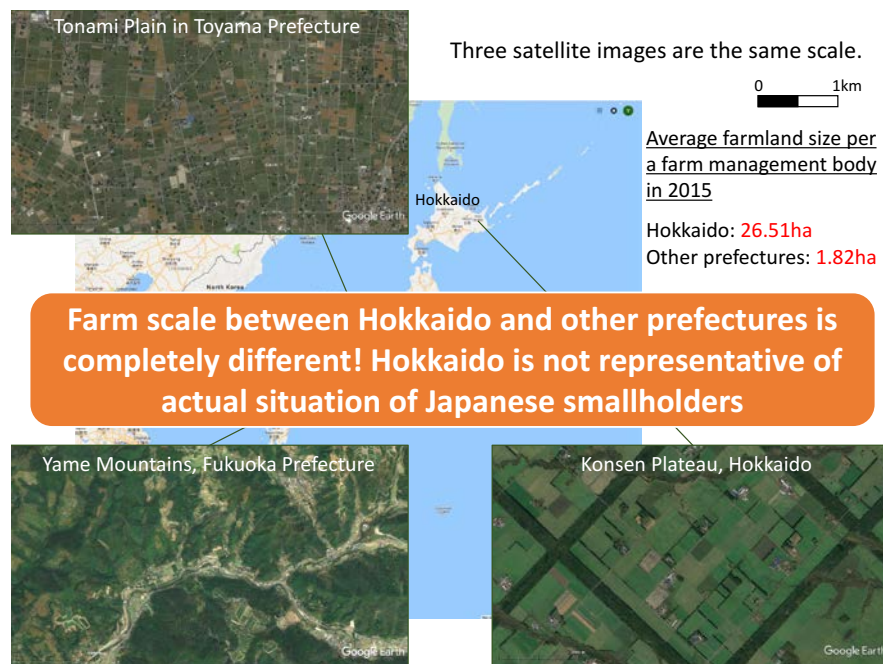
Cultivated land	Number of management unit	Ratio (%)	Cumulative ratio (%)
Less than 0.3ha	90	0.0	0.0
0.3~0.5	472	0.0	0.1
0.5~1.0	1,259	0.1	0.2
1.0~1.5	1,623	0.2	0.3
1.5~2.0	1,789	0.2	0.5
2.0~2.5	2,304	0.2	0.7
2.5~3.0	2,591	0.2	0.9
3.0~4.0	6,128	0.6	1.5
4.0~5.0	7,460	0.7	2.2
5.0~7.5	22,553	2.1	4.3
7.5~10.0	25,932	2.4	6.8
10.0~15.0	65,645	6.1	12.9
15.0~20.0	69,859	6.5	19.4
20.0~25.0	72,159	6.8	26.2
25.0~30.0	71,263	6.7	32.9
More than 30.0ha	717,125	67.1	100.0
Total	1,068,252	100.0	

## Cultivated land composition ratio in Japan

Cultivated land	Number of management unit	Ratio (%)	Cumulative ratio (%)
Less than 0.3ha	6,965	0.2	0.2
0.3~0.5	124,732	3.4	3.6
0.5~1.0	391,657	10.8	14.4
1.0~1.5	327,127	9.0	23.4
1.5~2.0	246,608	6.8	30.2
2.0~2.5	188,813	5.2	35.4
2.5~3.0	139,360	3.8	39.2
3.0~4.0	198,615	5.5	44.7
4.0~5.0	140,980	3.9	48.6
5.0~7.5	220,742	6.1	54.7
7.5~10.0	131,736	3.6	58.3
10.0~15.0	186,931	5.1	63.5
15.0~20.0	139,318	3.8	67.3
20.0~25.0	127,188	3.5	70.8
25.0~30.0	110,129	3.0	73.8
More than 30.0ha	950,684	26.2	100.0
Total	2,563,336	100.0	

## Cultivated land composition ratio in Japan excluding Hokkaido

Cultivated land	Number of management unit	Ratio (%)	Cumulative ratio (%)
Less than 0.3ha	6,875	0.3	0.3
0.3~0.5	124,260	4.8	5.1
0.5~1.0	390,397	15.2	20.3
1.0~1.5	325,504	12.7	33.0
1.5~2.0	244,819	9.6	42.6
2.0~2.5	186,509	7.3	49.9
2.5~3.0	136,769	5.3	55.2
3.0~4.0	192,487	7.5	62.7
4.0~5.0	133,521	5.2	67.9
5.0~7.5	198,189	7.7	75.7
7.5~10.0	105,804	4.1	79.8
10.0~15.0	121,286	4.7	84.5
15.0~20.0	69,459	2.7	87.2
20.0~25.0	55,029	2.1	89.4
25.0~30.0	38,867	1.5	90.9
More than 30.0ha	233,561	9.1	100.0
Total	3,631,585	100.0	



## Farm type and productivity in 2014

Farm type	Average Production area (ha)	Average annual family working hours (hour)	
Rice farming	1.66	922	High labor productivity
Outdoor vegetable farming	0.96	3,142	
Indoor vegetable farming	0.43	5,275	High land productivity
Fruit farming	0.98	3,142	
Outdoor flower farming	0.83	4,093	
Indoor flower farming	0.46	6,788	

Source: Statistical Survey on Farm Management and Economy, 2015

**It is difficult to compare productivity by different farming types.**

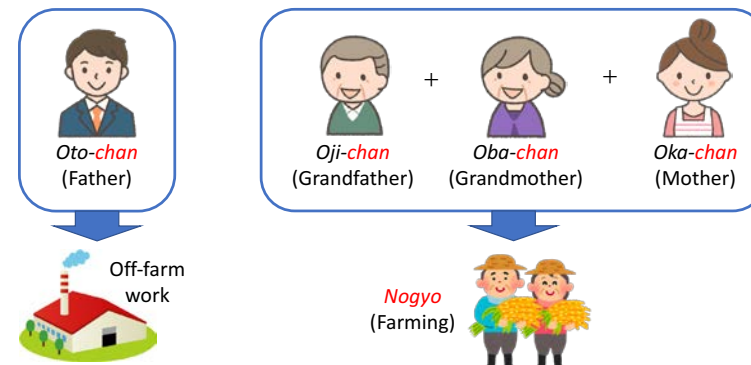
## Composition of farm products in Japan

Agricultural products	Area of cultivated land	Component ratio of area	Farm households	Component ratio of farm households
Rice	1,220,867	54.0	1,160,030	71.1
Vegetables	271,485	12.0	434,742	26.7
Wheat & Barley	184,003	8.1	56,559	3.5
Fruit Trees	152,094	6.7	242,344	14.9
Industrial Crops	142,712	6.3	75,321	4.6
Beans	111,266	4.9	127,204	7.8
Potatoes	86,619	3.8	115,140	7.1
Miscellaneous Cereals	33,767	1.5	39,167	2.4
Flowers & Ornamental Trees	28,265	1.3	66,889	4.1
Other Crops	28,932	1.3	27,608	1.7
Total	2,260,010	100.0	1,631,206	100.0

Rice cultivation is predominant over other cultivations, and it is relatively small scale.

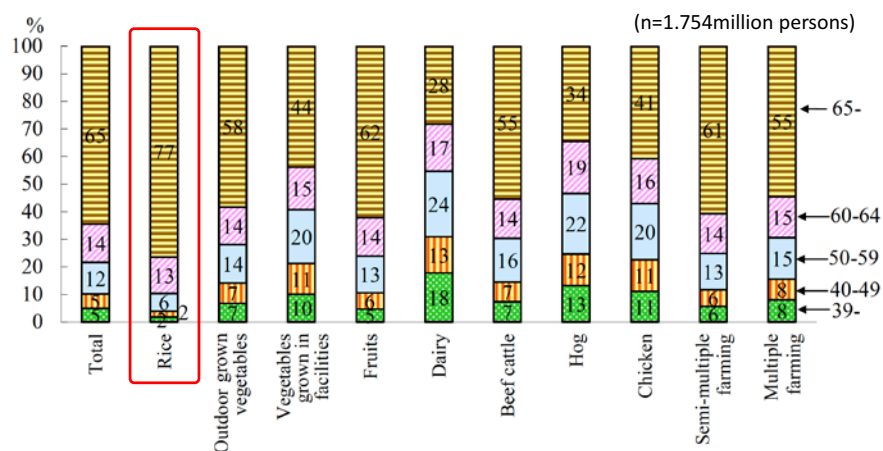
## Typical Farm Household in Japan

- In many Japanese rural areas, farmers (mainly head of household) are engaging in off-farm work besides keeping their farmlands
- Agricultural labor forces in the family are mainly consisted by ages persons and women



San-chan-Nogyo [Three (San) chans engage in farming]

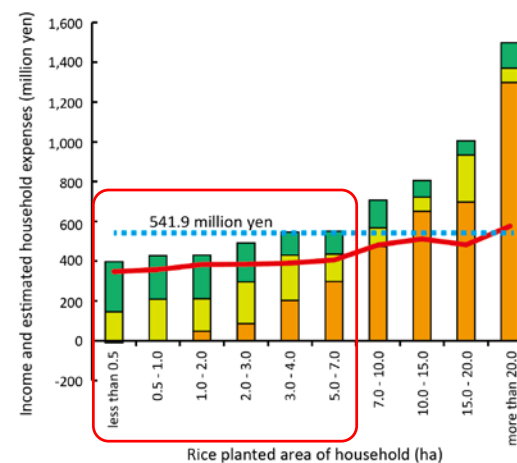
## Core persons mainly engaged in farming by farming type and age group in 2015



Core person aged 65 or more accounted for 65% of the total number, those aged 40 or less capturing 10%, showing a remarkable imbalance.

Particularly, rice farmers have been aging.

## Smallholder in Japan



Farmers who hold less than 7-10ha of rice planted areas cannot raise the household expenses if there is no off-farm income.

Although the farm size of 3ha does not reach the optimal size for rice farming, it might be a reasonable result to set as smallholder considering the current state of farm management in Japan.

Income from agriculture  
Income from off-farm activities  
Income from pension etc.  
Estimated household expenses  
Average income per household

## Income Composition of paddy farmers

	Total income	Income of agriculture (A)	Income of off-farm (B)	Pension (C)	Housekeeping expenses (D)	A/D*100	B/D*100	C/D*100
Less than 0.5ha	3,625	-154	1,405	2,374	3,476	-	40.4	68.3
0.5~1.0ha	4,147	-102	1,955	2,294	3,586	-	54.5	64.0
1.0~2.0ha	3,977	116	1,559	2,301	3,823	3.0	40.8	60.2
2.0~3.0ha	4,572	337	1,878	2,320	3,886	8.7	48.3	59.7
3.0~5.0ha	4,247	1,192	1,663	1,392	3,915	30.4	42.5	35.6
5.0~7.0ha	4,231	1,880	1,238	1,069	4,108	45.8	30.1	26.0
7.0~10.0ha	5,478	3,629	746	1,096	4,779	75.9	15.6	22.9
10.0~15.0ha	6,193	4,449	908	836	5,032	88.4	18.0	16.6
15.0~20.0ha	8,276	6,608	994	660	5,246	126.0	18.9	12.6
20.0ha and more	12,515	10,871	884	759	5,956	182.5	14.8	12.7

Unit: JYE 1,000, %

Source: 2014 Total Agricultural Output and Agricultural Income Produced

It is characterized by farm management structure rather than farm size. Smallholder in Japan is defined as “*Kengyo Kazoku Keiei*” (part-time family farming)

## Economic Partnership Agreement (Trans-Pacific Partnership: TPP)

**MAFF's policy to TPP: Develop agriculture, forestry and fisheries into proactive industries (via measures to sharpen competitiveness)**

- Nurture business persons with an excellent business sense to shoulder the next generation
- Promote innovation in internationally competitive production areas
- Explore demand frontiers for the export of high quality agricultural, forestry and fisheries products
- Switch to sustainable, highly profitable business arrangements
- Enhance cooperation with consumers, reform regulations and the tax system

farmland consolidation and intensification



Source: TPP Task Force, Cabinet Secretariat

## Next study for Japanese team

Based on the above discussions, we would like to survey:

1. Agricultural structure in the area where part-time family farming dominates (Rice; Nomi city near Kanazawa)
2. Village-based farming organizations which are actively implementing farmland consolidation and intensification (Rice; Okutama district, Ichinoseki city, Iwate)
3. Agricultural structure and land holding in the rural settlement where part-time family farming dominates (fruits; Mizunaka settlement, Takayama village near Nagano city)

Japanese team has other research funds for conducting these domestic researches. We will flexibly combine various funding sources.

The Japan Times NEWS  
 TOKYO (10 p.m.)  
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U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at the Armed Services Ball in Washington on Friday. | REUTERS

**Trump's scrapping of TPP complicates Japan's trade, growth options**

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