

Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University
East Asia International Human Resource Development Course
Field Research in Japan (2010 Autumn) Part II

Various Forms of Farmers' Local Initiatives

2 December 2010
Shuji Hisano

Introduction

□ Schedule

- 11/18 Thursday 16:30-18:00
 - Lecture on wholesale market system in Japan
- 11/24 Wednesday 6:00-8:30
 - Field trip to the Kyoto Central Wholesale Market
 - 6:00 at JR station "Tambaguchi (丹波口)"
- 12/2 Thursday 16:30-18:00
 - Lecture on various forms of rural local initiatives
- 12/5 Sunday 8:30-11:30
 - Field trip to Satonoeki Ohara
 - 7:52 at Demachiyanagi bus station (出町柳駅前)
 - 30 min. get off at the bus stop of Nomurawakare
- Report submission
 - Deadline 12/16 (by email: to hisano@econ.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

Outline

- Ninait*e farmers
- Community Farming and Rural Activities
- Support System for New Farmers
- Urban Agriculture
- Rural Small Business

1. Who are *Ninait*e farmers?

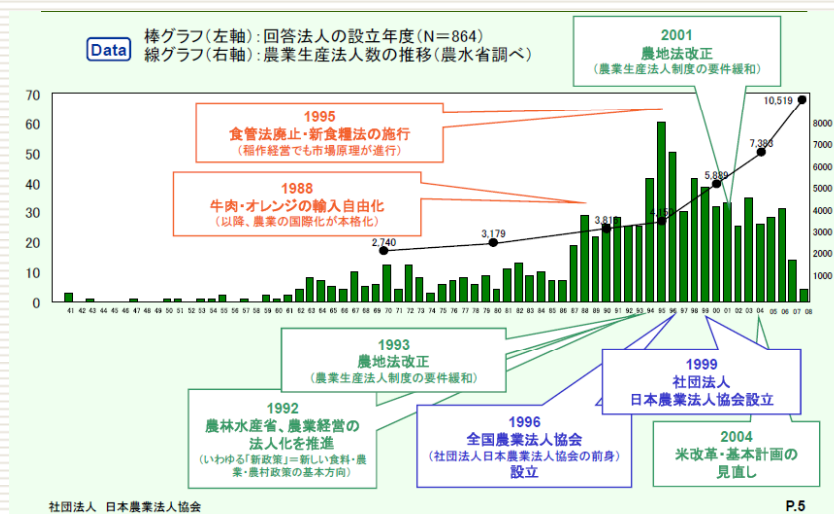
- Ninait*e (担い手)
 - Not just farmers who grow agricultural products
 - Farmers preferentially targeted by agricultural policy
 - Usually large, full-time, practical and motivated farmers
 - Why? ... "agricultural structural policy" needed to increase competitiveness of the Japanese agricultural sector, which has been characterised by small-scale farming and inefficiencies
 - Farmers expected to play crucial role in local agriculture, but in what sense?
 - Agricultural production
 - Commodities/money ... economic sphere
 - Local resources ... natural sphere
 - Local community ... social sphere
 - As caretakers of local farmlands and community activities, various types of farmers should be recognised to be *Ninait*e in different ways

Who are *Ninait* farmers?

□ Goldschmidt hypothesis (1947)

- A greater number of smaller, family-owned farms are more likely to support vibrant rural communities than a smaller number of corporately owned agricultural enterprises that dominate the rural landscape and agrarian economy
- How is it in Japan??
 - Still limited number of large corporate farms
 - Even without class-based differentiation, family farms have declined to the extent that many rural communities become marginalised and cannot sustain themselves...

Who are *Ninait* farmers?





Who are *Ninait* farmers?

農業用水が大きな役割を果たす
日本の水循環



Monetary Valuation of Multi-functionality

Floods prevention	JPY 3,498.8 bn
Water resource nurturing	1,517.0 bn
Soil erosion prevention	331.8 bn
Mudslides prevention	478.2 bn
Organic material deposition	12.3 bn
Climate mitigation	8.7 bn
Recreation/relaxation	2,375.8 bn
Total	8,222.6 bn

Source: Science Council of Japan (2001)

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Who are *Ninait* farmers?



- Conservation of land
- Fostering water resources
- Preservation of the natural environment
- Development of favourable landscapes
- Maintenance of cultural heritage
- Recreation / relaxation
- Viability of rural community

Who are taking (able to take) care of these functions of agriculture???

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Who are *Ninaito* farmers?

- Various types of “farmers”
 - Core farmers (incl. Certified agricultural operators)
 - Part-time farmers
 - Elderly farmers
 - Hobby farmers (weekend farmers)
 - Non-farmer rural residents
- Community Farming (集落営農)



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2. Community Farming and Rural Activities

- Direct Payments in Hilly and Mountainous Areas
 - Since 2000
 - Less favoured areas (LFA), but still important in terms of multifunctionality and food security
 - 42% of farmlands, 43% of farmers, 38% of production values, and 50% of rural communities are classified as HMA (LFA)
 - Mainly focused on the issue of increased farmland abandonment, which is detrimental to the multifunctionality
 - Under the condition of **the community agreement**, members are encouraged to do activities concerning the multifunctionality
 - Farmers (as members of the community) receive direct payments on condition of land use, **irrespective of their economic performance**
 - Various activities both directly (and indirectly) related to farming are supported and promoted

Community Farming and Rural Activities

□ Direct Payments in Hilly and Mountainous Areas

■ Some examples

- High value-added farming, processing and marketing by use of local agricultural products
- Direct marketing (to non-farm residents and urban consumers) of local agricultural products, incl. at local outlets
- Support activities to help new entry farmers in terms of technical, management, and livelihood
- Community-based activities to address bird and animal damages
- Community-based activities to preserve local rural landscapes, especially *Tanada* (small and layered paddy fields on slopes, or terrace paddy field)
- Rural/urban exchange programmes
- On-site education programmes (for school children)
- Community-based activities to maintain various cultural heritage such as traditional festivals and folk entertainments

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Community Farming and Rural Activities



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Community Farming and Rural Activities

□ Action Plan for Improvement of Farmland, Water, and Environmental Conservation

- Since 2007
- Even in areas with good conditions for farming, it is getting difficult to properly maintain agricultural and rural resources
- Also needed to make the entire agricultural sector more environmentally sustainable, while addressing the growing demand of urban consumers for multifunctionality
- Focused on both agro-ecological farming activities and community activities to improve agricultural/natural resources by involving various actors
- Various activities indirectly (but crucially) related to farming are supported and promoted

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Community Farming and Rural Activities

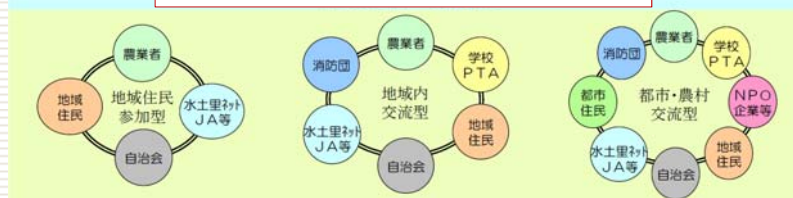


Community Farming and Rural Activities

■ Some examples of community-level activities

- Repairing community road
- Cleaning community reservoir (*tameike*)
- Management of farm path, eg. repairing and weeding
- Maintenance of irrigation facility
- Planting landscape crop/plant
- Recovering/preserving aquatic biodiversity
- On-site education about biodiversity and diet

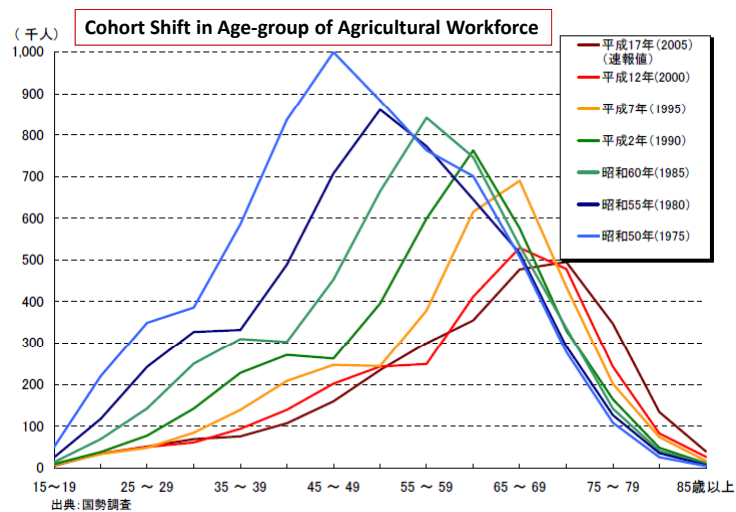
Different Types of Social Networks for Rural Activities



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3. Support System for New Farmers

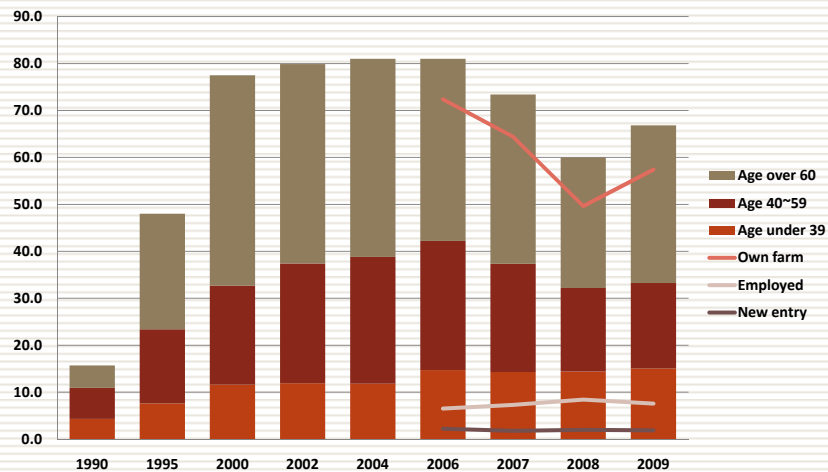


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Support System for New Farmers

Trend of New Farmers in Japan ('000)



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Support System for New Farmers

□ Some typical patterns of new entry farmers [Akitsu 2009]

1. Entry as a passive choice (~1960s)
2. Entry motivated by ideology (1970s)
3. Entry as a **new lifestyle alternative** (1980s~)
4. Entry as a **career change** (1990s~)
5. And now...? (2000~)
 - Entry as a **post-retirement job**
 - Entry as an **emergency shelter** (employment opportunity)
 - And mixed with 3 and 4

□ Another classification [Akitsu 2008]

- settled, or **semi-settled farmer**
- + full-time, **part-time** (半農半X) or **hobby farmer**
- + **business-oriented**, lifestyle-oriented, or employed farmer

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Support System for New Farmers

□ Who support new entry farmers?

- Local government programmes, incl. public agricultural corporations (農業公社)、agricultural extension services (農業改良普及センター)、agricultural colleges (農業大学校) and agricultural councils (農業会議)
- JA's farm guidance activities (営農指導事業)
- Farmers groups, especially in organic sector
- Non-profit organisations, especially in organic sector
- Agribusiness companies

4. Urban Agriculture

□ Backgrounds

- Urban agriculture has long been declining largely due to urban development/exploitation (with/without planning)
- However, attitudes of urban consumers towards urban agriculture have changed in the past recent years

Attitudes of Metropolitan citizens	1981	1993	2005
Positive about urban farmlands	66%	66%	81%
Negative about urban farmlands	29%	31%	6%
Don't know, or no answer	5%	4%	13%
Reasons of positive attitudes	1981	2005	
Conservation of natural environment	60%	61%	
Recreation/relaxation in the middle of a big city	23%	48%	
Educational effects	16%	48%	
Fresh agricultural products	32%	42%	
Disaster prevention space	33%	22%	

5. Rural Small Business

□ Rural small business

- Beyond personal lifestyle or voluntary activities
- Necessary for (new) farmers to settle in... (半農半X)
- For example..
 - Agro-tourism (for experience, exchange, education, etc.)
 - Livelihood support business (country stores, welfare services)
 - Farm produce outlets
 - New business by use of local rural resources (local brand products, small-scale electric generation from river water and biomass, carpentry jobs, etc.)

Rural Small Business

□ Agriculture, Commerce, and Industry Partnerships

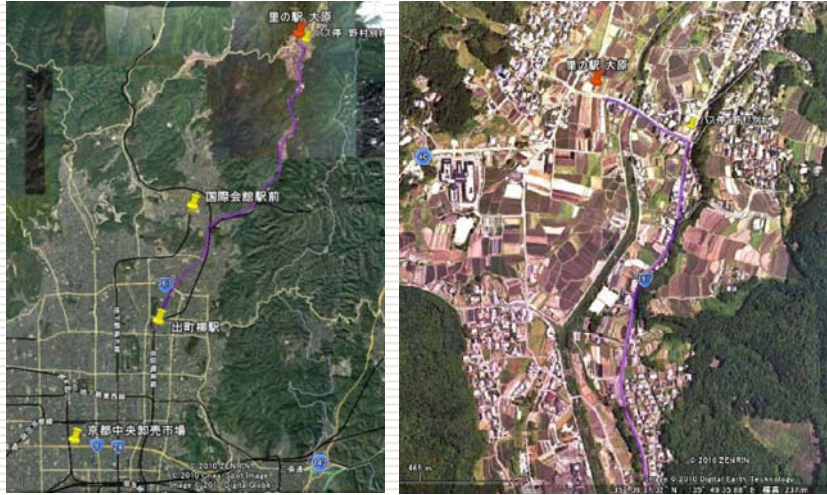
- Local-level partnerships...expected to make a ripple effect of investment and economic activities within the local
- Various stakeholders
 - Local government, JA, community banks, SME, producers (agriculture, fishery, forestry), universities, research centres, etc.

□ Sixth-order Industrialisation

- Farmers are encouraged to add/change values
- From just producing to processing, marketing, and linking their resources with various services
- With support from other stakeholders



Practical Information



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Practical Information

- Public transportation = Kyoto Bus
 - From Demachiyana Station (Southwest side of the intersection)
 - No. 16 or 17 – 7:20, **7:52**, 8:17, 8:42, 9:02, 9:24, 9:40
 - From Kokusaikaikan Station
 - No.19 – 7:40, 8:15, 8:50, 9:05, 9:20, 9:40
 - Get off at the bus stop Nomurawakare
 - Bus is going toward the north
 - Go west for a few minute walk

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