

FY2025

Summary of the Annual Report on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas in Japan



May 2026

MAFF

Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries



Special Feature



Responses for Stable Supply of Rice



(1) Verification of factors behind rising rice prices and responses Special Feature: Responses for Stable Supply of Rice

- ✓ **Retail price and negotiated transaction price of rice rose. Imports increased due to rising domestic rice prices.**
- ✓ **Factors behind rising rice prices and responses were verified in August 2025.**

- As production fell below demand and private-sector stocks declined in the summer of 2024, rice prices soared due to shortages caused by an increase in purchases following the announcement of the Nankai Trough Earthquake Emergency Information. The retail price of rice in May 2025 was about twice that of the same month in the previous year. Prices stabilized after September, when new rice entered the market. Looking at negotiated prices between rice collecting businesses and wholesalers, 2024 production was up 64.4% from the previous year, and 2025 production was up 44.2% as of February 2026. On the other hand, due to the impact of soaring rice prices, SBS rice, which is imported as part of State Trading (ST) and distributed mainly for staple food, was imported by the Japanese government at the upper limit of 100,000 tons. In addition, the amount of rice imported through private trading increased significantly from the previous year to 96,834 tons in 2025. There are concerns that demand for domestically produced staple rice may decline, affecting domestic production.
- Factors behind rising rice prices since the summer of 2024 and responses were verified in August 2025.
 - ✓ Based on the assumption that demand for staple rice will continue to decline, the MAFF prepared an outlook for the demand, and in light of the expected decline in demand, created a forecast for a decline in production. In response to this, the actual production decreased, and the milled rice yield in 2023 was low due to heat damage, and the supply volume of milled rice decreased. On the other hand, the actual demand in 2023/24 and 2024/25 tended to increase on a brown rice basis due to the increased demand from inbound tourism and the low milled rice yield rate, as well as the increase in quantities purchased per household, and there was a large gap between forecast and actual demand.
 - ✓ As a result, production has fallen short of demand from 2023/24 onward and private-sector stocks have been withdrawn. As private-sector stocks decreased, competitions to collect rice arose at the distribution stage, and rice was procured at relatively high prices, causing rice prices to soar.
 - ✓ The MAFF, however, believed that production was sufficient. For this reason, the MAFF was passive in grasping the actual distribution situation, and information dissemination and dialogue with the market was insufficient. In addition, the stock release was delayed under the rule that government stock rice should be released in the event of a poor harvest, and thus the concern of wholesalers and others could not be dispelled, leading to further soaring of rice prices.

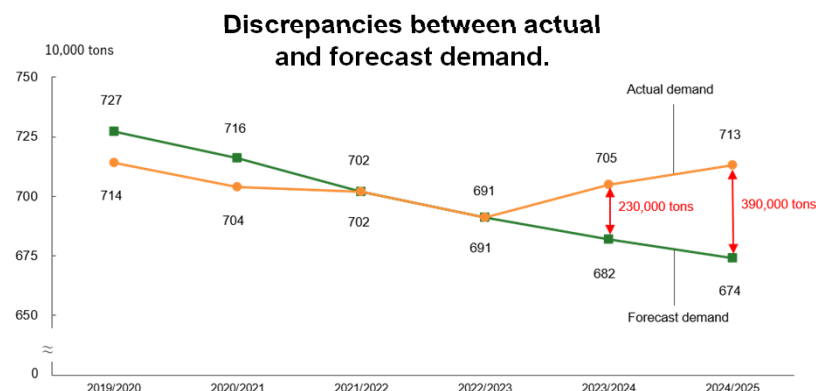


Source: Prepared by the MAFF based on Point Of Sale (POS) data provided by KSP-SP Co., Ltd.

Note: 1) The Point Of Sale (POS) data provided by KSP-SP Co., Ltd. is based on data of the rice purchased from about 1,000 supermarkets nationwide.

2) Weekly figures from January 1, 2024, to March 29, 2026. The month on the horizontal axis indicates the first week of each month.

3) Average of all Point Of Sale (POS) data



Source: Prepared by the MAFF

Note: All figures are presented on a brown rice basis.

(2) Initiatives for a Stable Supply of Rice

Special Feature: Responses for Stable Supply of Rice

- ✓ **To ensure a stable supply of rice, the government sold its government stock rice.**
- ✓ **Bidding for minimum access rice (MA rice) was also advanced.**

- To facilitate the distribution, the government began selling government stock rice to rice collecting businesses through general competitive bidding in FY2024. The government sold about 310,000 tons of government stock rice, but as of early May 2025, only about 10% of the rice was distributed to retailers, home meal replacement businesses and eating-out businesses. Furthermore, to supply rice quickly and at a stable price, on May 26 of the same year, the government began selling about 280,000 tons of government stock rice by Direct Purchase from a Single Supplier (DPSS) to retailers, home meal replacement businesses and eating-out businesses. In addition, because the supply of domestic rice for processing decreased significantly, the government began selling government stock rice on August 1 of the same year to consumers of rice for processing, selling about 50,000 tons of rice.
- The government also moved up the bidding for the purchase of MA rice, which is managed in ST, to prevent the supply and demand of domestic rice from being adversely affected. As the stocks are falling due to the sale of government stock rice, just in case, the government conducted a tender in June for ordinary MA rice imported for FY2025, earlier than usual, and increased the import volume of medium-grain rice, which is close to the quality of domestic table rice. SBS import scheme, under which up to 100,000 tons of MA rice per year is distributed mainly for staple food consumption, also had its tender process moved forward to the same month.

Sales status of government stock rice

Method of sale	Bidding date/Bidding opening date	Bidder	Rice for bidding	Selling price per 60 kg (tax excluded)	Selling quantity
Sale through general competitive bidding	March 10 to 12, 2025	Rice collecting businesses	2024 rice crop: 100,000 tons 2023 rice crop: 50,000 tons	21,217 yen (weighted average price)	2024 rice crop: 100,190 tons 2023 rice crop: 41,606 tons
	March 26 to 28	Rice collecting businesses	2024 rice crop: 40,000 tons 2023 rice crop: 30,000 tons	20,722 yen (Same as above)	2024 rice crop: 40,179 tons 2023 rice crop: 30,157 tons
	April 23 to 25	Rice collecting businesses	2023 rice crop: 100,000 tons	20,302 yen (Same as above)	2023 rice crop: 100,164 tons

~About 310,000 tons

Method of sale	Bidding date/Bidding opening date	Bidder	Rice for bidding	Selling price per 60 kg (tax excluded)	Selling quantity
Direct purchase from a single supplier	May 26	Major retailer	2022 rice crop: 200,000 tons 2021 rice crop: 100,000 tons	2022 rice crop: 11,010 yen 2021 rice crop: 10,080 yen	2022 rice crop: 187,940 tons 2021 rice crop: 12,698 tons
	May 30	Small and medium retailer	2021 rice crop: 60,000 tons	2021 rice crop: 10,080 yen	2021 rice crop: 28,074 tons
		Rice retailer	2021 rice crop: 20,000 tons	2021 rice crop: 10,080 yen	2021 rice crop: 10,531 tons
		Major retailer			2021 rice crop: 16,913 tons
	June 11	Small and medium retailer	2021 rice crop: 120,000 tons 2020 rice crop: 100,000 tons	2021 rice crop: 10,080 yen 2020 rice crop: 9,140 yen	2021 rice crop: 5,192 tons 2021 rice crop: 7,766 tons
		Rice retailer			2021 rice crop: 10,862 tons
	June 20	Home meal replacement businesses and eating-out businesses			
	August 1	Consumers of rice for processing	2020 rice crop: 75,000 tons	2020 rice crop Brown rice: 9,110 yen Milled rice: 11,248 yen	2020 rice crop Brown rice: 50,930 tons Milled rice: 1,242 tons

~About 280,000 tons

~About 50,000 tons

Source: Prepared by the MAFF

Note: 1) Of the selling price per 60 kg (tax excluded), the selling price by general competitive bidding is the weighted average price of the successful bid price. Sale under DPSS is based on the selling price under the DPSS (First class rice prices except for rice for processing)

2) Figures for government stock rice for sale through general competitive bidding and sale under DPSS for the period from May 26 to June 20, 2025, are on a brown rice basis.

✓ **An emergency survey was implemented to obtain a more detailed picture of rice distribution.**

- In June 2025, as an emergency survey, a new survey was conducted on stocks, destinations, and quantities of rice producers, and the government expanded the survey to include rice distributors and sellers.
- ✓ According to the interview survey on producers' stocks quantity, etc., the volume of rice shipped to agricultural cooperatives and other rice collecting businesses of 2024 production decreased by 340,000 tons from the previous year, while direct sales by producers increased by 488,000 tons. To assess the diversifying distribution situation, it is necessary to regularly monitor the actual situation of purchasing, sales, and stocks of other companies than rice collecting businesses.
- ✓ The survey also found that the milled rice yielding rate of 2023 and 2024 production was lower than the average yield between 2020 and 2022 production. It is necessary to understand actual rice distribution on a milled rice basis to forecast demand, in consideration of the fact that the demand for rice on a brown rice basis has increased due to the decrease in the milled rice yielding rate, which is contributing to the increased demand.
- ✓ A survey on purchasing, sales, and stocks for all registered suppliers under the Act on Stabilization of Supply, Demand and Prices of Staple Food (Staple Food Law) resulted in a response rate of only about 20%. To understand the situation of those who did not report by the due date from September 2025, a follow-up survey was conducted for the suppliers that had an annual handling volume of 300 tons or more at the time of notification.

Producers' stocks quantity, etc.

(Unit: 1,000 t)

	Production	Shipment quantity	Shipment to collecting businesses	Direct sales by producers, etc.	Consumption by producers (including gratuitous transfer)	Stocks quantity
As of June, 2024	6,610	5,710	3,250	2,460	569	331
As of June, 2025	6,792	5,858	2,910	2,948	600	335
Year-on-year change	182	148	-340	488	31	3

Milled rice yielding rate

(Unit: %)

	Milled rice yielding rate
2020 rice crop	89.7
2021 rice crop	90.3
2022 rice crop	90.0
2023 rice crop	88.6
2024 rice crop	89.2
Average between 2020 and 2022	90.0

Source: Prepared by the MAFF

Note: 1) Based on the results of the interview survey on producers' stocks quantity, etc., the stocks quantity, etc. of all producers was estimated using the shares of planted area by operational size class in the 2020 Census of Agriculture and Forestry.

2) Production is based on the MAFF "Statistics on Crops."

3) Figures on a brown rice basis

Source: Prepared by the MAFF

(3) Countermeasures and Future Prospects Based on Verification of Factors Behind Rising Rice Prices and Responses

Special Feature: Responses for Stable Supply of Rice

- ✓ **Published contents of statistical surveys on rice production were revised.**
 - ✓ **Supply and demand forecasts based on a new calculation method were announced.**
 - ✓ **Private-sector stocks as of the end of June 2026 are expected to be at the highest level in the last 10 years or so.**
- It has been pointed out that statistics on paddy rice production do not reflect actual perceptions in the field. To provide information that aligns with the actual perceptions of production sites, the "yield index of paddy rice," which compares the current yield to the average yield for three of the most recent five years, has been published since the 2025 production year. Also, the content of the announcement has been revised, including changing the sieve size used to measure the production of staple rice to larger size that producers commonly use. Furthermore, damage information on weather, pests and diseases has been collected from related organizations and reflected in the survey results.
 - To improve accuracy, trial initiatives such as collecting production data from producers were undertaken as an effort to introduce survey methods that utilize producers' production data. Looking ahead to future surveys, demonstration research has been launched to forecast yields by using satellite data and AI.
 - There are discrepancies between actual and forecast demand for 2023/24 and 2024/25. Methods for calculating supply and demand forecasts for 2025/26 and 2026/27 should be reviewed.
 - ✓ The outlook for the demand is based on a range that takes into account population decline, recent per capita consumption on a milled rice basis, inbound demand, and milled rice yielding rate. For verification purposes, demand is estimated based on the results of rice polishing quantity and milled rice yielding rate.
 - ✓ The forecast for the production of staple rice in 2026 production is set to be in line with the higher demand forecast for 2026/27.
 - ✓ According to the supply and demand outlook for 2025/26, the private-sector stocks as of the end of June 2026 is expected to be 2.21 to 2.34 million tons on a brown rice basis, which is expected to be the highest stock level in the last 10 years or so.
 - ✓ To ascertain supply and demand, the demand and supply forecasts of both on a brown rice and milled rice basis are to be released.

Supply and demand outlook for staple rice, etc.

(Supply and demand forecast for staple rice in 2025/26)

(Unit: 10,000 t)

	Brown rice basis	Milled rice basis
Private sector stocks at the end of June, 2025	155	138
Production of staple rice, etc. harvested in 2025	747	663
Of these, rice exceeding the producer's sieve mesh size	718	
Of these rice below the producer's sieve mesh size, estimated supply for staple food	29	
Supply of public grain reserve in 2025/2026	23	21
Total supply of staple rice, etc. in 2025/2026	925	823
Demand for staple rice, etc. in 2025/2026	691 to 704	614 to 626
Private sector stocks at the end of June, 2026	221 to 234	197 to 208

(Supply and demand forecast for staple rice in 2026/27)

(Unit: 10,000 t)

	Brown rice basis	Milled rice basis
Private sector stocks at the end of June, 2026	221 to 234	197 to 208
Production of staple rice, etc. harvested in 2026	711	630 to 635
Total supply of staple rice, etc. in 2026/2027	932 to 945	826 to 844
Demand for staple rice, etc. in 2026/2027	696 to 711	622 to 630
Private sector stocks at the end of June, 2027	221 to 249	196 to 222

Source: Prepared on the basis of the MAFF "Basic Guidelines on Stabilization of Rice Supply, Demand and Price" (published in March, 2026)

(3) Countermeasures and Future Prospects Based on Verification of Factors Behind Rising Rice Prices and Responses

Special Feature: Responses for Stable Supply of Rice

- ✓ **Studies have been made on the preparation of cost index for rice under the Food System Act.**
- ✓ **Further efforts are needed to expand demand for rice both domestically and internationally and to ensure a stable supply of sake brewing rice.**
- ✓ **Toward a stable supply of rice, the revision of the Staple Food Law is considered for the government to more accurately assess the distribution situation and take appropriate measures according to the distribution situation.**

- To promote price formation that takes into account the reasonable cost of rice based on the Food System Act, the “Cost Indicator Development Committee”, whose council members include stakeholders from production, distribution, and sales, has been examining how to develop cost indicators for rice since December 2025.

(See Section 3 of Chapter 4 for price formation taking reasonable costs into account)

- To maintain paddy field agriculture in our country and ensure food security, it is important to create an environment where producers can grow rice to meet diverse demand, build a more efficient production system, streamline distribution, and develop domestic and overseas demand for rice.
 - ✓ Providing detailed information that helps production areas and producers make decisions about the cultivation of rice for various purposes.
 - ✓ Intensive promotion of the land consolidation for large-sized paddy fields and other farmland measures for structural transformation of agriculture.
 - ✓ Working toward extension of direct-seeding and establishing new technologies such as ratoon rice cropping. To streamline and improve the efficiency of the rice distribution structure, making efforts to cooperate in distribution to meet the diversifying user needs, and providing support for the development of models such as direct transactions based on long-term contracts between retailers and production areas working to improve productivity.
 - ✓ Regarding rice flour, supporting the development of products that meet new market needs and creating new demand through expanding opportunities to eat it. At the same time, securing production of rice for flour and promoting the reduction of production costs in response to increased demand through the development and extension of specialized variety suitable for rice flour processing.
 - ✓ To expand rice exports, the following measures are being promoted: strengthening the promotion of Japanese food and the development of distribution channels; establishing integrated supply chain models linking domestic and overseas markets; supporting the overseas expansion of Japanese food-service companies; and fostering large-scale export-oriented rice-producing areas that enhance productivity through farmland accumulation and consolidation, as well as land consolidation for large-sized paddy fields, increased planting of high-yield rice varieties, and other measures.
- Owing to the increase in the planting of staple rice and the decrease in the planting of sake-brewing rice caused by the rise in the price of staple rice, businesses concerned about securing sake-brewing rice. Therefore, support is provided to sake-brewing rice producers that work to improve the productivity, etc. under the strengthening of the linkage between production areas and actual demand.
- In examining the factors behind rising rice prices and the response to the sale of government stock rice, it became clear that the MAFF had not been able to grasp the diversifying distribution situation, and that the sale procedures for government stock rice took time and lacked agility. Therefore, for the purpose of ensuring a stable supply of rice, revising the Staple Food Law is considered. The contents of the revision include the following measures: strengthening the understanding of rice distribution; establishing a private storage system; abolishing regulations on production adjustment; and production aligned with demand following the implementation of demand expansion measures, so that the government can more accurately grasp the distribution situation and take appropriate measures in response to the distribution situation.



Chocolate Soufflé Made with Rice Flour

Source: Mont St. Clair Co., Ltd.



Topics



- 1 Regional Planning Efforts for the Future of Regional Agriculture**
- 2 Special Project: Looking Back 100 years of the Showa Era**

- ✓ **As of the end of April 2025, "Regional Plans" had been formulated in 1,615 municipalities and 18,894 districts.**
- ✓ **About 10% of the regional plans have clarified farmlands to be consolidated for future recipients, and about 30% of farmland area has not been targeted for future recipients.**
- ✓ **Ongoing review of regional plans is required.**

- As the number of farmers decreases and the population ages, there is concern that farmland will not be used appropriately. The issue is to accelerate efforts for farmland consolidation so that it can be used effectively. Based on the Act on Promotion of Improvement of Agricultural Management Foundation, initiatives are launched to formulate "regional plans" including target maps that clarify the future state of regional agriculture and the future use of farmland through regional discussions.
- As of the end of April 2025, 1,615 municipalities and 18,894 districts had formulated regional plans. About 10% of the regional plans have clarified farmlands to be consolidated for future recipients. The area of agricultural land is 4,222,000 hectares, of which as much as 30% of the farmland area has not been targeted for future recipients. The main reasons for this include insufficient discussions due to differing landowner intentions and the issues of absentee landowners; the difficulty of coordinating the intentions of the parties concerned in some municipalities where there is a shortage of leaders to drive discussions; the case that the system to make the discussion practical was at the stage of development; and the shortage of people in the region who can take charge of receiving farmland. On the other hand, in regions where discussions were used as an opportunity to build consensus on the future agricultural workforce, and in regions where efforts were made to implement land consolidation for large-sized paddy fields through development of agricultural production base, farmland consolidation has progressed.
- To properly use farmland, farmland consolidation is effective, and commodity-based farmland accumulation is important. By analyzing regional plans and clarifying the situation and issues of farmland consolidation, as well as reviewing the plans, studying the feasibility of quantitative evaluation methods for the consolidation progress and promoting "development of production areas based on regional plans" should be promoted.
- For effective use of farmland in each region, it is necessary to improve the level of completion through participation of young people who will lead the region in the future and continuous review of regional plans. In addition to municipalities, it is important to develop a promotion system that enables related organizations such as the agricultural committee to work together to promote efforts.

Number of municipalities and districts that have formulated regional plans by region, and area of agricultural land in regional planning areas

	Hokkaido	Tohoku	Kanto	Hokuriku	Tokai	Kinki	Chugoku and Shikoku	Kyushu and Okinawa	Nationwide
Number of municipalities that formulated regional plans	172	223	394	80	119	172	195	260	1,615
(Reference) Number to be formulated	172	223	395	80	120	174	197	265	1,626
Number of regional plans formulated (districts)	489	2,513	3,050	1,998	1,033	3,906	2,216	3,689	18,894
(Reference) Number to be formulated	489	2,514	3,120	1,998	1,158	4,350	2,271	3,705	19,605
Area of agricultural land in the regional planning area (10,000 ha)	120.0	84.4	67.9	30.8	13.6	16.6	37.6	51.4	422.2
Farmers' managed area in 10 years as indicated in the target map	108.7 (91%)	54.1 (64%)	34.5 (51%)	23.9 (77%)	7.8 (57%)	11.5 (69%)	15.0 (40%)	32.9 (64%)	288.3 (68%)
Area of farmland where future operators have not been indicated	11.2 (9%)	30.3 (36%)	33.4 (49%)	6.9 (23%)	5.8 (43%)	5.1 (31%)	22.6 (60%)	18.5 (36%)	133.9 (32%)

Source: Prepared by the MAFF

Note: 1) Figures in () indicate the ratio to the area of agricultural land in the regional planning area.

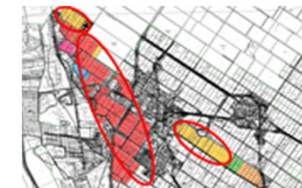
2) Figures as of the end of April, 2025

Examples of regions with farmland to be consolidated for future recipients

The region focuses on the land-use for paddy rice, wheat, and soybeans, and several legal persons (circled) take over the farmland that has no successors in the region, consolidate it, and group it to facilitate farming.



Current Map (FY2022)



Target Map (FY2032)

*Photo source: B City, A Prefecture
Source: Prepared by the MAFF

- ✓ The initiatives were progressed to increase food production and modernize agriculture from the late 1920s through to the postwar period.
- ✓ The income gap between households engaged in own farming and workers engaged in other industries widened during the economic growth period around 1960.

In the late 1920s and early '30s

- With the increase in national income and urbanization, the quality of dietary pattern improved, and the composition of agricultural production changed. Vegetable and fruit production increased, replacing mulberry cultivation.
- Improvements in agricultural research infrastructure supported the establishment of an environment conducive to the development of crop cultivar, the enhancement of cultivation technology, and the improvement of livestock breeding.

During World War II

- The Food Control Act was enacted to control food supplies. In addition, other materials were also controlled. Fertilizers and other agricultural production materials were distributed, and the labor force was adjusted.
- Owing to a decrease in production of raw silk and fruit due to priority given to production of rice and wheat, etc., significant changes in agricultural production structure and rural areas were seen.

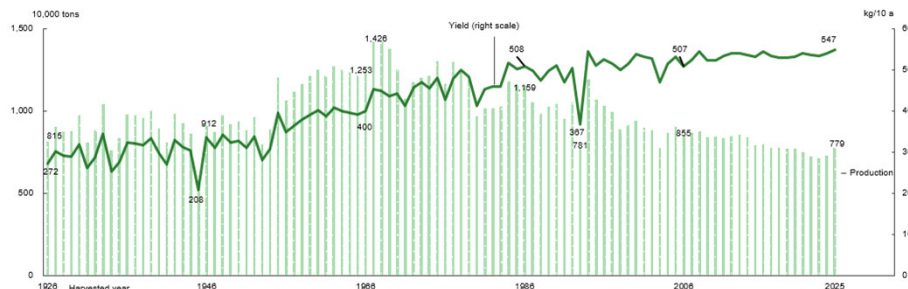
Around 1945 to 1955

- Owing to agrarian reform including the enactment of the Act on Special Measures for Owner-farmer Establishment, owner farmers became the majority, and the enactment of the Agricultural Cooperatives Act promoted the development of cooperatives to supplement small-scale management.
- To overcome the severe food shortage, urgent priorities were increasing domestic food production and strengthening fertilizer production capacity. The Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, the Fertilizer Regulation Act, and the Plant Protection Act were enacted. In addition, the Land Improvement Act was enacted, the development of farmland and agricultural irrigation water was actively promoted.
- School lunch program resumed in major cities in 1947 and gradually expanded nationwide.
- In 1956, a new rice cultivar "Koshihikari" with improved cold tolerance and eating quality was developed.

Around 1960

- The income gap between households engaged in own farming and workers engaged in other industries widened during the economic growth period.
- The environment surrounding agriculture was changed, including the shift of labor from the agricultural sector to other industrial sectors, consumption expansion of agricultural products, and changes in the demand structure.

Rice production and yield of paddy rice



Source: "Statistical Yearbook of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry," Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, for the production from 1926 to 1957; "Statistics Yearbook of Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce," Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, only for the production in 1942 and 1943; "Statistics on Crops," Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, for the production from 1958 onward.

Note: 1) Production represents harvest volume (for grain use).
2) The production from 1944 to 1973 does not include that of Okinawa Prefecture.

Upland field set up in front of the Diet building to cope with food shortages

※For the image, please refer to the Japanese PDF version available through the link below.

URL :
https://www.maff.go.jp/j/wpaper/w_maff/r7/r7_h/trend/part1/pdf/c0_2_02.pdf



School lunch program in 1955

Source: Incorporated Administrative Agencies, Japan Sport Council

(Reference) Major movements from 1926 to 1960

	From 1926	From 1936	From after World War II (1945)	From 1956
General	Great Depression (1929)	Second Sino-Japanese War (from 1937) World War II (from 1939) The Pacific War (from 1941)	The end of the war and the establishment of the United Nations (1945) The Constitution of Japan promulgated (1946)	Dispatch of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition started (1956) Iwato Boom (1958-61) National Income Doubling Plan decided on by the Cabinet (1960)
Food		Food Control Act enacted (1942)	Price Control Order promulgated (1946) Establishment of Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) (1950) Nutrition Improvement Act enacted (1952) School Lunch Program Act enacted (1954)	Advent of instant noodles (1958)
Agriculture	Good rice harvest (1930) Cool-weather damage in Hokkaido and Tohoku region (1931)	Agricultural Land Adjustment Act enacted (1938)	Memorandum of understanding on Agrarian Reform (1945) Act on Special Measures for Owner-farmer Establishment enacted (1946) Agricultural Cooperative Act enacted (1947) Act on Compensation for Agricultural Loss enacted (1947) Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act enacted (1948) Land Improvement Act enacted (1949) Rice Price Council established (1949) Fertilizer Regulation Act enacted (1950) Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control enacted (1951) Act on Agricultural Committee enacted (1951) Cropland Act enacted (1952)	Registration of 'Koshihikari' as a new rice cultivar (1956)
Rural village			Peak number of farm households (1950)	

	Unit	1926	1936	1946	1956
Total population	One million people	60.7	70.1	75.8	90.2
Rice production	10,000 tons	815.0	983.6	912.4	1064.7
Total agricultural output	Trillion yen	...	...	...	1.6
Farmland area	10,000 ha	...	...	...	601
Total number of farm households	10,000 households	556	560	570	604 (1955)

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, "Population Estimates"; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, "Statistics Yearbook of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry"; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "Statistics on Crops," "Statistics of Agricultural Income Produced," "Statistics on Cultivated Area and Planted Area," "Census of Agriculture and Forestry," "Survey on Movement of Agricultural Structure," and "Food Balance Sheet."

Note: 1) Production represents harvest volume (for grain use).

2) The total food self-sufficiency rate on the calorie supply basis since FY2018 has been the figures corrected for the increase and decrease in food consumption due to inbound and outbound tourists. Figures are for each fiscal year.

3) Per capita consumption of rice is calculated by dividing the annual supplies for domestic consumption by the total population, and includes processed steamed rice, mochi (rice cakes), rice crackers, and rice flour, but does not include rice for feed, seed, or processing (liquor, miso, etc.).

Figures are for each fiscal year.

- ✓ The “Agricultural Basic Act” was enacted in 1961 to improve agricultural productivity and narrow income disparities.
- ✓ 1970s: Amid an urban overcrowding and depopulation in rural areas, many part-time farmers shifted to rice farming.
- ✓ 1980s: Income increased, lifestyles changed, and dietary patterns became more sophisticated and diversified.
- ✓ 1990s: New international environment, environmental problems, and concerns about food crises became apparent.

The Agricultural Basic Act was enacted in 1961

- The “Agricultural Basic Act” was enacted to improve agricultural productivity and balance the standard of living between households engaged in own farming and workers in other industries. Setting the direction for agricultural policy with three pillars: production policy, price/distribution policy, and structural policy. Preparation and publication of a white paper on agriculture based on the Act.
- The total food self-sufficiency rate on the calorie supply basis was 73% in FY1965. Since then, it has declined over the long term with changes in dietary pattern such as a decrease in rice consumption and consumption expansion of livestock products and fats and oils.

1970s

- Urbanization and industrialization spread throughout the country, causing urban overcrowding and depopulation in rural areas.
- Many part-time farmers shifted to rice farming, and full-time management shifted to capital-intensive sectors such as pig farming, poultry farming, and greenhouse horticulture.
- Complete self-sufficiency was achieved in rice in FY1966, but the production continued to increase amid declining consumption, resulting in oversupply, and full-scale production adjustments began in 1971.
- Meat consumption increased and grain consumption decreased. Imports of agricultural products continued to increase, and our country became one of the world's top net importers of agricultural products, with a food self-sufficiency rate to the 50% range.

1980s

- The economy was on an expanding trend, supported by strong foreign exports. Income rose and lifestyles changed.
- As dietary patterns became westernized and diversified, sections for home meal replacement products expanded in supermarkets and other places.

From 1989

- The Reunification of East and West Germany and the collapse of the former Soviet Union brought the Cold War to an end.
- After the collapse of the bubble economy in 1991, our country entered a long period of economic stagnation. The cold summer of 1993 led to a serious rice crop failure.
- The GATT Uruguay Round negotiations were effectively concluded in the same year, and the WTO Agreement on Agriculture entered into force in 1995.
- The Food Control Act was abolished, and the Staple Food Law was enacted as a system to encourage producers to exercise their independence and streamline distribution.
- While the depopulation and aging of the population progressed in rural areas, exchange activities such as green tourism became active.



School lunch program in the early 1970s

Source: General Incorporated foundation,
Musashino City School Lunch and Shokuiku
(food and nutrition education) Promotion
Foundation



Deli section of a supermarket

(Reference) Major movements from 1961 to 1998

	From 1961	From 1970	From 1980	From 1989
General	Tokaido Shinkansen opened (1964) Tokyo Olympic Games held (1964) Izanagi Boom (1965-1970) The entire Tomei Expressway fully opened (1969)	The Japan World Exposition (Osaka Expo) held (1970) Okinawa Returned to Japan (1972) Oil shocks (1973/1978)	Tohoku and Joetsu Shinkansen lines opened (1982) Seikan Tunnel opened (1988) The Seto Ohashi Bridge opened (1988)	Consumption tax introduced (1989) German reunification (1990) Collapse of the former Soviet Union (1991) Bubble economy burst (1991) European Union (EU) launched (1993)
Food	Frozen food section opened in supermarkets (1963)	The advent of fast food restaurants (1970) Wholesale Market Act enacted (1971) The advent of cup noodles (1971) The introduction of franchise convenience stores (1974)	Japanese dietary pattern proposed (1980) Arrival of pizza delivery (1985)	Food Control Act repealed, Staple Food Law enacted (1994) Introduction of expiration date labeling system for processed foods (1995) Start of minimum access rice imports (1995) Food poisoning outbreak caused by O-157 (1996)
Agriculture	Agricultural Basic Act enacted (1961) Establishment of agricultural production legal person system (1962) Peak rice production (1967) Act on Establishment of Agricultural Promotion Regions enacted (1969)	Full-scale implementation of production adjustment of rice (1971) Population mainly engaged in farming fell below 10 million (1975)	Start of the GATT Uruguay Round agricultural negotiations (1986)	Establishment of producer compensation program for veal calf (1990) The GATT Uruguay Round agricultural negotiations effectively concluded (1993) Great rice crop failure (1993) Act on Promotion of Improvement of Agricultural Management Foundation enacted (1993) (Amendment of the Agricultural Land Use Promotion Act/Establishment of the Certified Farmers System) Act on Special Measures concerning Incentive Loan Program for Youths to Become Farmers enacted (1995)
Rural village	Ogata Village was established on the reclaimed land of Lake Hachirogata (1964)	Act on Emergency Measures for Depopulation Areas enacted (1970) Act on Promotion of Introduction of manufacturing Industry in Rural Areas (1971) National Land Planning Act enacted (1974) Promotion of the "One Village One Product" Movement (1979)	Post offices started local specialty delivery service (1983)	Promoting green tourism (1992) Act on Promotion of the Improvement of Basic Conditions of Agriculture, Forestry and Other Business in Hilly and Mountainous Areas enacted (1993) Act on Promotion of Development of Infrastructures for Leisure Stay in Rural Areas (1994)

	Unit	1961	1970	1980	1989
Total population	One million people	94.3	103.7	117.1	123.2
The total food self-sufficiency rate on the calorie supply basis	%	73 (FY1965)	60	53	49
Annual per capita consumption of rice	kg/person-year	117.4	95.1	78.9	70.4
Total agricultural output	Trillion yen	2.1	4.7	10.3	11.1
Farmland area	10,000 ha	609	580	546	528
Total number of farm households	10,000 households	606 (1960)	540	466	419

- ✓ In 1999, the “Basic Act on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas” was enacted to ensure a stable supply of food and the fulfillment of multifunctionality (multifunctional roles) of agriculture and rural areas.
- ✓ 2000s: The outbreak of BSE and other incidents undermining food safety and consumer confidence occurred.
- ✓ After 2010: The trade framework was changed, leading to the effectuation of CPTPP, Japan-EU EPA, and the Trade Agreement between Japan and the United States of America.
- ✓ In recent years, multiple risks such as COVID-19, climate change, and geopolitical situations have emerged.
- ✓ The Basic Act on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas was revised in 2024 based on the changes that were not anticipated at the time of enactment.

The Basic Act on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas was enacted in 1999.

- The “Basic Act on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas” was enacted to reconstruct policies from the perspective of the people, to ensure a stable supply of food, and the fulfilment of multifunctionality (multifunctional roles) of agriculture and rural areas. The “Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas” formulated in 2000 based on the Basic Law, set a target for food self-sufficiency.

2000s

- Demand for biofuels increased against the backdrop of soaring crude oil prices. Global abnormal weather such as droughts and floods, and financial and economic crises occurred. Speculative movements spread in the grain market, causing grain prices to rise and soar.
- BSE, unregistered agricultural chemicals, large-scale food poisoning, falsification of beef, and irregular distribution of non-food accident rice occurred in Japan. Various food safety systems were established and revised.

From 2010 to 2020

- Starting the creation of "the Farmers and Farmland Plan," which stipulates the farmland concentration to the main management entity and the state of regional agriculture, and Farmland Banks were established in 2014.
- Changes in the trade framework led to the effectuation of CPTPP, Japan-EU EPA, and the Trade Agreement between Japan and the United States of America.

From Reiwa Era onwards

- COVID-19 began spreading in 2020, and Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. The number of farmers was significantly decreasing and aging, and the population of rural areas was declining and depopulating ahead of urban areas.
- In 2024, the Basic Act on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas was revised for the first time in 25 years to ensure food security as a pillar of the basic philosophy in light of changes in circumstances that were not anticipated when the Act was enacted.
- Based on the Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas, which was launched in April 2025, for the promotion of the structural transformation of agriculture in the initial five years, the following measures are intensively implemented: land consolidation for large-sized paddy fields, and reorganization and rationalization of facilities for shared use.
- To pass on the history and achievements in these 100 years and utilize them for sustainable development, it is necessary for the entire nation to make concerted efforts.



Efforts by construction companies to produce gentians



Starting stockpile of fertilizer raw materials to address growing procurement risks due to changes in the international situation. (Ibaraki Prefecture)

(Reference) Major movements from 1999 to 2025

	From 1999	From 2008	From 2018	From 2024
General	September 11 attacks (2001) Effectuation of Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2005) Soaring crude oil prices (2006)	Soaring grain prices (2008) The collapse of Lehman Brothers (2008) Japan's population peak (2008) The Great East Japan Earthquake (2011) Substantive agreement on TPP (2015) SDGs adopted at the United Nations (2015)	CPTPP entered into force (2018) Japan-EU EPA entered into force (2019) Trade Agreement between Japan and the United States of America entered into Force (2020) COVID-19 pandemic (2020)	Noto Peninsula Earthquake (2024) Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan (2025)
Food	Large-scale food poisoning caused by processed milk, liquid milk containing recombinant milk (2000) Dietary guidelines for Japanese formulated (2000) The outbreak of unregistered pesticide problem (2002) Beef falsification incident occurred (2002) Basic Act on Shokuiku (Food and Nutrition Education) enacted (2005)	Irregular distribution of non-food accident rice occurred (2008) "Washoku, traditional dietary cultures of the Japanese" registered as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the UNESCO (2013) The system of Foods with Function Claims launched (2015)	Tsukiji Market relocated to Toyosu (2018) Act on Facilitating the Export of Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Products and Food enacted (2019)	Act on Countermeasures for Difficult Food Supply Situations enacted (2024) Food System Act enacted (2025)
Agriculture	Outbreak of BSE in cattle (2001) Outbreak of Avian influenza for the first time in 79 years (2004) Expansion of corporate entry into agriculture through farmland leasing (2005) Act on Promotion of Organic Farming enacted (2006) Programs of Direct Payment for Land-extensive Farming initiated (2006)	Outbreak of Foot and mouth disease (2010) The creation of the Farmers and Farmland Plan began (2012) Establishment of Farmland Banks (2014) Geographical Indications Act enacted (2014)	Outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF) (2018) Commencement of agricultural insurance scheme (2019) Act on Management and Conservation of Irrigation Ponds enacted (2019) Act on Promotion of Environmental Burden Reduction Business Activities for Establishing Environmentally Harmonized Food Systems enacted (2022)	Act on Promoting the Utilization of Smart Agricultural Technology enacted (2024)
Rural village	Introduction of direct payment to farmers in the hilly and mountainous areas (2000) Science Council of Japan report on evaluation for multifunctionality (multifunctional roles) (2001) Introduction of Measures to Conserve and Improve Land, Water and Environment (2007)	Act on Promotion of the "Sixth Industry" to Create New Value Added Using Agricultural Products in Rural Areas enacted (2010) Act on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Electric Power Generation Harmonized with Sound Development of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries enacted (2013) Basic Act on Promotion of Urban Agriculture enacted (2015)		The Basic Act on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas revised (2024)

	Unit	1999	2008	2018	2024
Total population	One million people	126.7	128.1	126.7	123.8
The total food self-sufficiency rate on the calorie supply basis	%	40	41	37	38 (approximate)
Annual per capita consumption of rice	kg/person-year	65.2	58.8	53.4	53.4 (approximate)
Total agricultural output	Trillion yen	9.4	8.5	9.1	10.8
Farmland area	10,000 ha	487	463	442	427
Total number of farm households	10,000 households	324	252	216 (2015)	175 (2020)

- Unless otherwise noted, this report is based on information available as of the end of March 2026.
- The figures in the tables and charts are rounded off and may not exactly reflect the actual totals.
- The maps in this report do not necessarily indicate Japan's territories comprehensively.