

Support System for New Entrants to Agriculture from Non-farming Households from the Viewpoint of Farm Management and Rural Life

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1. Background

Japanese agriculture faces the problems of a shortage of core farmers, and reproducing these farmers only from farmers' children has reached its limits. In this circumstance, opening agriculture to those from other sectors who want to become farmers, who are recently increasing, and creating an environment where everyone can start farming, that is, measures for new entrants to agriculture from non-farming households (hereinafter referred to simply as "new entrants") are attracting attention as a mechanism for overcoming the lack of core farmers.

2. Objective and Outline of the Results

The purpose of this article is to examine the ideal way of developing new farmers, considering new entrants. Two points seem to be helpful in attempting to consider new entrants (Fig. 1). The first point is that new entrants who differ from successors to farm households must establish new relations with supporters, such as municipalities, advanced farmers, and agricultural cooperation. The second point is that there is a close relation between farm management and rural life for Japanese agri-

culture characterized by small-sized land and complicated land ownership. Thus, in order for new entrants to gain management resources, informal support of management and living from local people who live near the applicants are important. The former point is a universal characteristic of new entrants, and the latter is peculiar to Japanese agricultural issues.

Concerning a support system to start farming, the municipalities are able to carry out public works projects and step-by-step promotion of the development of new entrants, while agricultural cooperation and advanced farmers play a role in the training of new entrants. On the other hand it is necessary to make the occasion for blending in new entrants into the rural community to support to rural life. It is concluded that the ideal way of developing new entrants is by improving step-by-step agricultural training and adaptability to rural life.

3. Related Publication

Egawa, A. (2004) The trend and support system of new farmers: A case study of new entrants to agriculture from non-farming households; Research on Agricultural Law, Japan Academic Society of Agricultural Law.

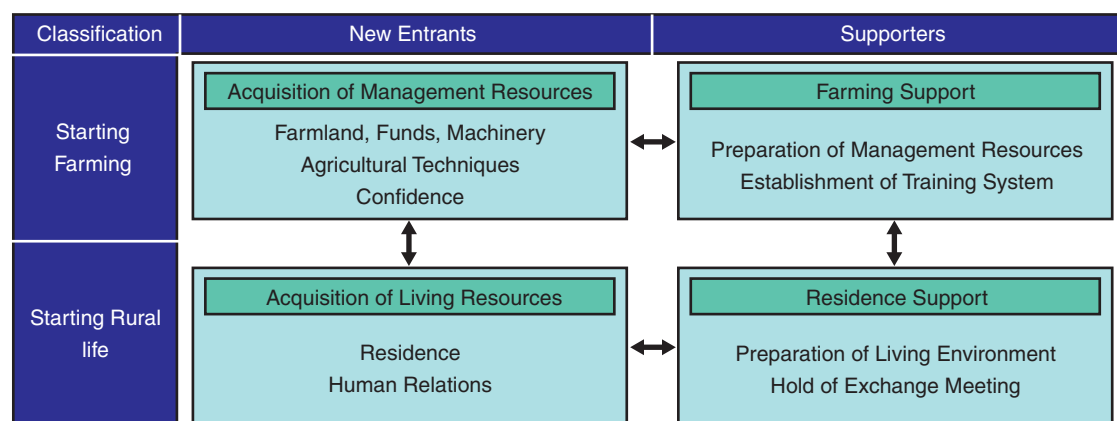


Fig. 1. Sketch of New Entrants to Agriculture from Non-Farming Households