

Statistical Analysis on the Continuance of Rural Community in Hilly and Mountainous Areas

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Summary

The number of 4,959 rural communities has decreased compared with ten years ago, because a lot of rural communities disappeared in urban areas and hilly and mountainous areas. However, a few farm households are scattered among non-farm households in 70% of these communities. On the other hand, communities in which farm households have disappeared was estimated at about 1,500, and the number of farm households in 1990 was 5 or less in many of them.

In addition, we clarified the contributory factors of communities in which farm households have disappeared in hilly and mountainous areas by the discriminant analysis. The main factors were scale of a petty communities, rapid decrease in the number of farm households, and poor access to public facilities such as public offices and elementary schools.

Moreover, in hilly and mountainous areas in Shimane Prefecture, we made the correlation table of rural communities by the number of farm households, and analyzed the movement of communities from 1990 to 2000. As a result of this analysis, the rural community which was not able to maintain the community functions appeared when the number of farm households became 5 or less, and it was confirmed that this movement accelerated when becoming 3 or less. The clarification from these analysis consequences is that at least 5 farm households are necessary for the rural community in hilly and mountainous areas.