

Organic Rice Farming and Production Systems

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The Prevalence of Organic Rice Production in Japan: An Overview from the Census of Agriculture and Forestry

Takeru Kusudo¹, Atsushi Tanaka¹¹Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The importance of sustainable farming practices is increasing from the perspective of the SDGs and in consideration of the environment. Along with this background, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has introduced a strategy for sustainable food systems, “MIDORI” strategy. In this MIDORI strategy, by 2050, we aim to increase the percentage of organic farmland to total agricultural land to 25% (1 million hectares). In the 2020 Census of Agriculture and Forestry, a survey was conducted on whether or not organic farming is practiced and its scale at the agricultural entity (hereafter, producer) level. In this presentation, we present an overview of organic rice production in Japan based on this census data. The main findings are as follows. Among the whole rice producers (for sales), 35,244 producers practiced organic farming in rice production (Table 1). The percentage of organic producers is increasing as the scale of paddy rice farmed increased up to 100 ha (Fig. 1). Additionally when we focus on the percentage of organic cultivation area in each scale (organic per total rice cultivation), we can see different findings. The percentage of organic cultivation area was mostly 100% of rice cultivation area up to about 10 ha, i.e., the majority of the relatively small rice producer practiced organic farming in the entire rice cultivated area. However, the percentage of 100% organic farming decreased monotonically with the increase in the scale of cultivation area, and the majority of relatively large producers practiced organic farming in a part of the cultivation area (Fig. 2). This may reflect the fact that it is appropriate for relatively small producers to practice organic farming in the entire field from the viewpoint of managing contamination from neighboring fields. On the other hand, in large producers, their arable land is divided into several plots, and, in many cases, each plot is apart. Therefore, large producers can practice organic farming in some of the plots while conventional farming is practiced in the other plots. These results suggest that it is necessary to consider both increasing the number of organic producers and increasing the area of organic farming for each organic producer.

Table 1. Number of organic producer and their organic cultivation

	Num. of Producers	Ratio of OFP (Num. of Producers)	Cultivated Area (ha)	Ratio of OFP (Cultivated Area)
Num. of Producers	1,075,705	-	-	-
Cultivate Rice	713,792	-	1,285,654	-
Organic Rice	35,244	4.9%	60,624	4.7%
Cultivate Soybeans	49,731	-	132,084	-
Organic Soybeans	2,862	5.8%	5,122	3.9%
Cultivate Vegetables	282,543	-	264,734	-
Organic Vegetables	24,647	8.7%	18,435	7.0%
Cultivate Fruits	172,528	-	126,819	-
Organic Fruits	12,750	7.4%	9,630	7.6%
Others	-	-	-	-
Other Organic	6,598	-	21,458	-

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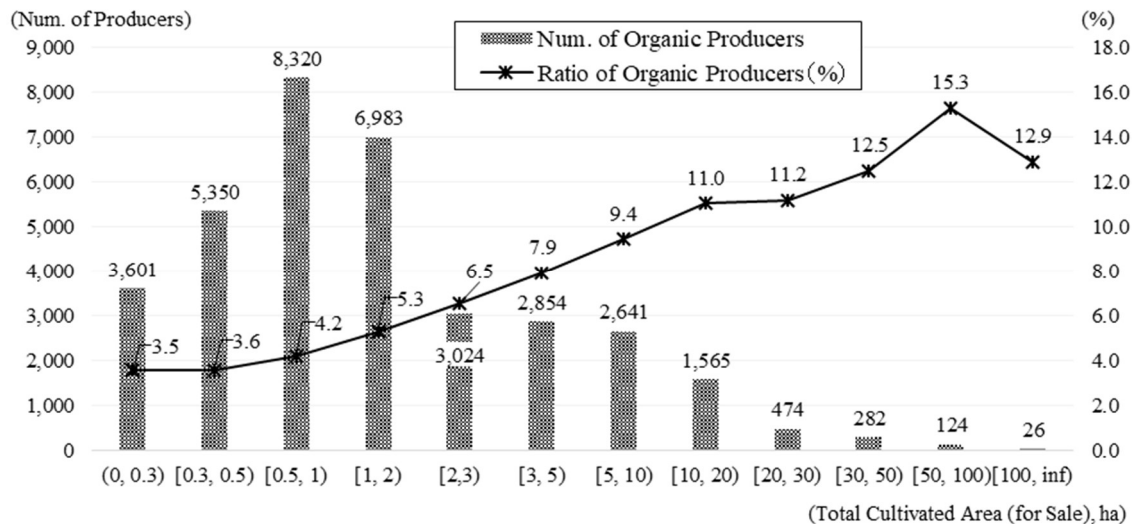


Fig. 1 Relationship between scale of cultivation area and practices of organic farming (rice)

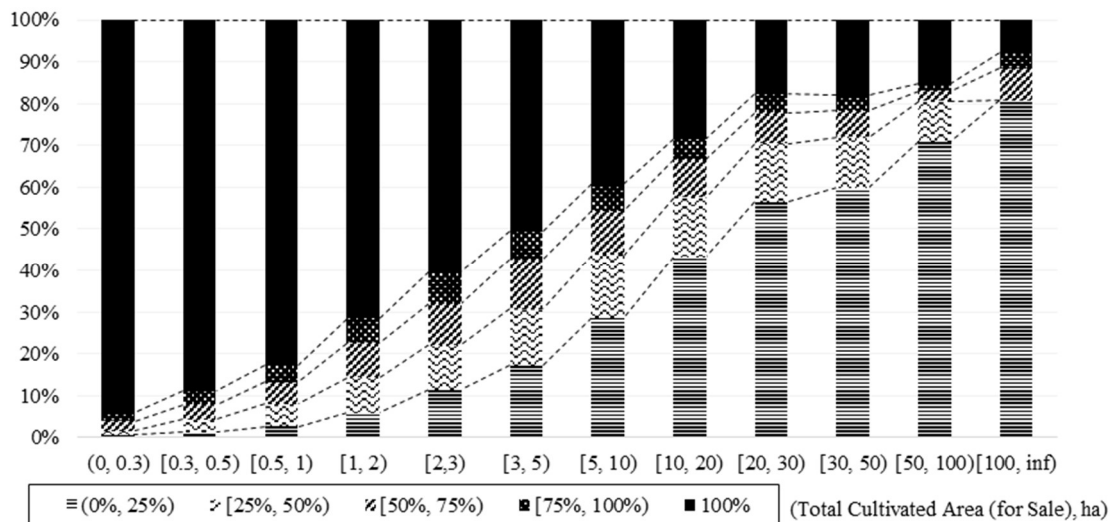


Fig. 2 Relationship between scale of cultivation area and the percentage of organic rice field (rice)

Key words: census of agriculture and forestry, organic rice production, scale of cultivation, small producer, large producer

Co-responding author: Takeru Kusudo

Position: Researcher

Affiliations: Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Country: Japan

E-mail: takeru_kusudo150@maff.go.jp