



TRENDS AND PROSPECTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN JAPAN

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1. AGING AND DEPOPULATION IN RURAL AREAS IN JAPAN

Aging and depopulation are progressing in Japan, especially in rural areas.

Against these trends, the actions by rural residents toward rural development are required.

Japanese government organizations support these actions by various measures.

2. REGIONAL MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION(RMO)

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC : Soumu-Syou) , which is one of Japanese government agencies, also support the actions toward rural development.

MIC is promoting the establishment of Regional Management Organizations(RMO).

RMO is the organization which is managed by rural residents. RMOs address regional issues about lifes and economies of rural residents.

There are 4,787 RMOs in Japan (2018).

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3. A CASE: ORGANIZATION "T"

Organization T was established by rural residents in 2008.

T is a voluntary organization.

T has 72 households.

Organization T is located at Hanamaki-shi, Iwate Prefecture.



HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT

The residents in this area had problems which are aging and depopulation about 20 years ago.

6 persons in this area proposed the establishment of the regional organization, and then Organization T was established in 2008.

T made the plan of rural development about welfare for the elderly and local agriculture in 2011.

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CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Study meetings about local issues.
- Rental farm management for the handicapped persons
- Health consultation for the elderly



Study meetings



Rental farm management



Health consultation for the elderly

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CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Food distribution service for the elderly
- Outing support for the elderly
- Local food products development
- Providing opportunities for agricultural experiences



Food distribution service



Outing support



Providing opportunities for agricultural experience

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MIGRANTS TO THIS AREA

There are 10 migrant households to this area in the last 10 years. 1 household migrates per year.

Most migrants like the landscape in this area.

Most migrants actively participate in local activities; local festival, mowing of the common land and so on.

All migrants are members of organization T.

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THE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT BY ORGANIZATION T

Organization T had various activities and contributed rural development.

Former inhabitants and migrants worked together in activities of T.

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4. FUTURE PROSPECTS

RMOs have important roles for rural development.

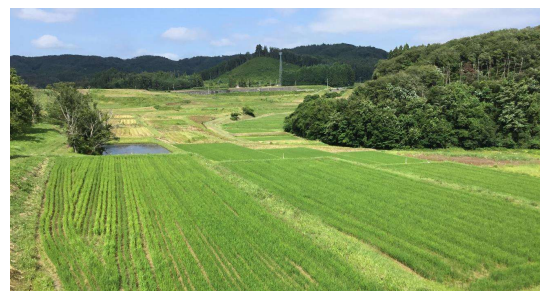
But most RMOs have poor financial positions and poor human resources.

Central government and local governments need to support RMOs in future.

- Subsidy for activity costs
- Human resource development

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