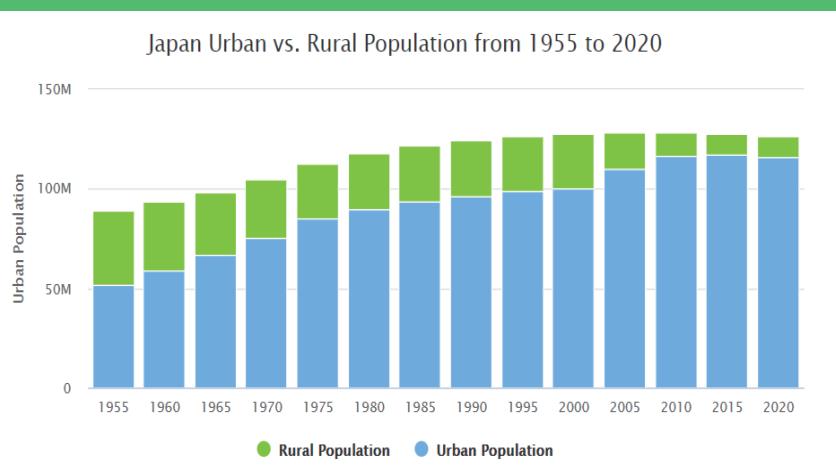


Japan's declining rural population: The Last of Japan's Local Agriculture?

Japan has been undergoing sub-replacement fertility issue in recent decades, and its population ratio between urban and rural areas has dropped significantly from 58% : 42% in 1955 to 92% : 8% in 2020. Japanese farmers are facing aging labor and land abandonment.



The average age of Japanese working in agriculture and forestry reached 65.8 in 2010, topping the 65-year mark for the first time according to the The 2010 Census of Agriculture and Forestry . Two thirds of Japan's 3.12 million farmers are over 60. Fifty percent are over 65. Many are over 70. It is not unusual for a harvest to be done by two 70-year-old women and a 75-year-old man.



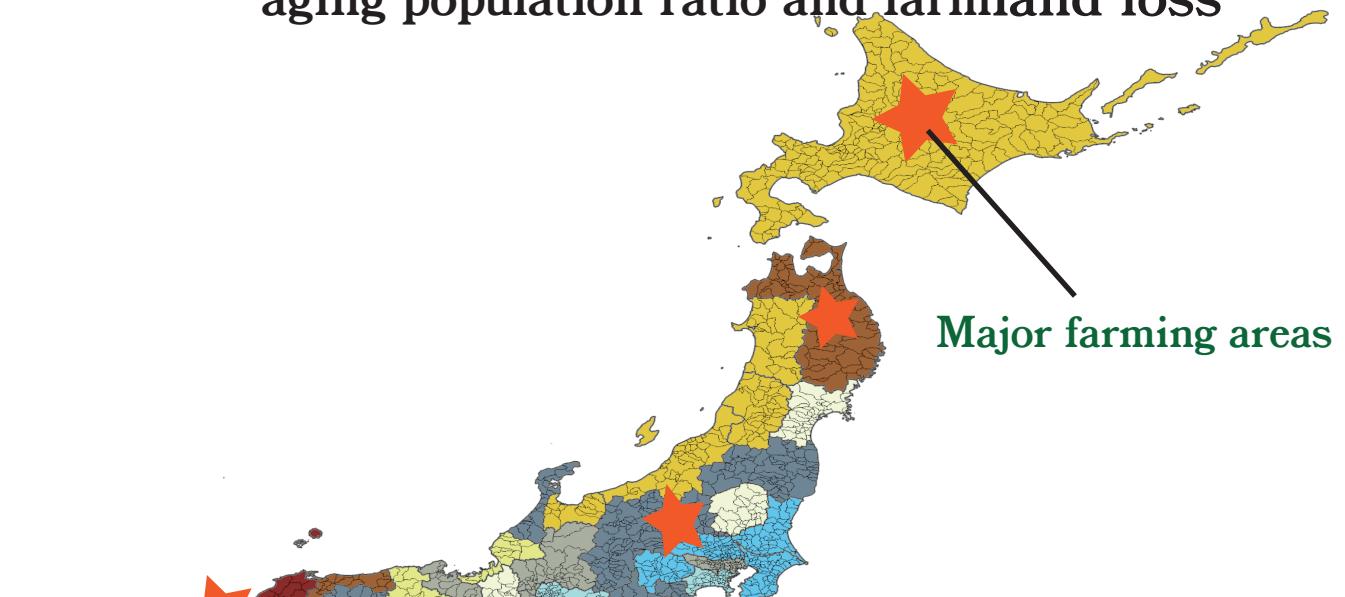
Combining aging population and low fertility rate, the majority of rural areas are now facing loss in farmland.



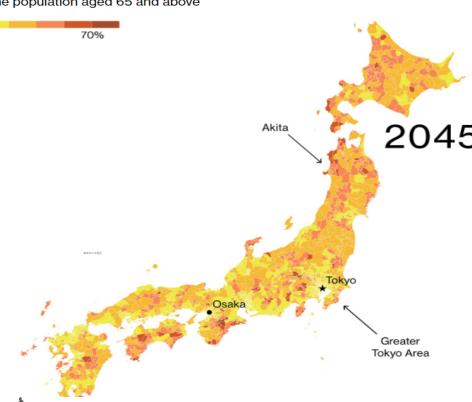
Aged Population Percentage 2020
Farmland Loss Percentage 2020



Bivariate choropleth map of Japanese aging population ratio and farmland loss



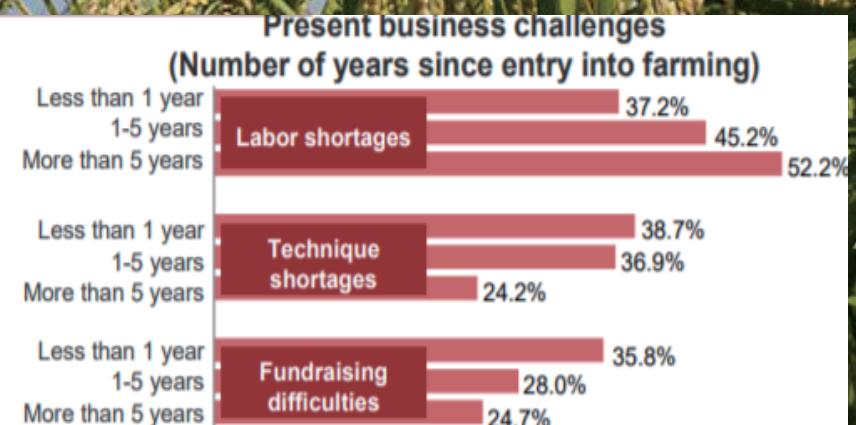
Major farming areas



Aged Population prediction in 2045

0 125 250 500 Kilometers

What will Japan face in the future of agriculture?



Japan Agricultural Co-operatives: savior or trouble maker?



JA has been controlling the storage, processing, and sale compartment of Japanese agriculture. It has become a major political power since farmers have to rely on its supplies, farming machine stipend, and distribution network. Sometimes, in order to maintain the high price of domestic agricultural products, JA even pays local farmers to actively reduce their yield. This abnormal marketing deprives farmers' incentives to engage in farming, and result in more people fled to cities to search for better salary.

Young generation of Japanese farmers: The possible successor

Currently, many younger generation farmers have joined the industry in Japan. Compared to their predecessors, they have more knowledge in technologies such as drones, and their experiences in social media provides them more diverse ways to sell their products.

Using social media like tiktok and instagram has become popular, and they also do collaboration with fine-dining restaurants to advertise their farms.

