

Experimental Study on Work Life Balance of Women Farmer in Japan
□Focusing on the Actual Situation and the Measures of the Declining Birthrate□

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Abstract

In recent years, maternity leave, child-care leave and paternal leave systems are being regularized in Japan. However, having different methods of working from employed workers, those systems are difficult to apply to self-employed business owners, including farmers. Creating a good environment for the balance of work and life would benefit young farmers and contribute to local revitalization, and above all, it is expected to prevent the declining birthrate in rural areas. This report is aimed at considering the necessary conditions in different cultures and systems.

I attempt to clarify the main characteristics of the women farmers' life time and actual work, managerial participation circumstances, changes in ways of working and other factors. The investigation targeted the women farmers in the child-rearing or bearing age who are in their twenties, thirties, and forties. Moreover, I specifically explored the terms and conditions of women farmers bearing and raising children, working, and doing social activities at their life stage.

One of the clarified points is that the subjects, farmer women, are focusing on child care and they are satisfied with child-rearing. About their work life balances, they think about the emphasis of the balance for the long term. The women farmers starting work pattern can have both M-shaped and a trapezoid type patterns because it varies according to the management size or agricultural crops etc. The starting work pattern varies through the life of the farmer women. The common important point is that the social support and the support by the system of the government are absolutely imperative.

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1. Introduction

1-1 Purpose and Assumption

"Purpose"

This paper is aimed at considering the necessary conditions in different cultures and systems. Recently, Japan is facing a real declining population era with declining birthrates, a growing proportion of elderly people, and the rapid spread of globalization. It is said that the trend of the falling birthrate is a prevailing condition in advanced countries including Japan. However, there are countries that improve this condition by creating support plans for women and families at the stage of childbearing and child-rearing. The measures have become national key policies in present

Japan. To achieve the society where positive energies exist, creating an environmental situation is needed, in which the individual can voluntarily select various possibilities and the ability can be demonstrated to its maximum. However, the current state of Japan is the situation of life for which the individual cannot lead a hopeful life, because of problems of long working hours, less flexible working environments, and unstable job situations. The influence reaches the home and the local society and it is related to the labor force.

In such a situation, there has been research done into worker's work life balance but, there is no research on the individual proprietors including agriculture and especially farmers. It is important that farmers straighten the work life balance in each life stage.

“Assumption”

I have the hypothesis that the farmer in Japan still has the sexual division of labor that comes from the role division of labor. When there is a sexual division of labor, I want to examine what kinds of reasons exist for wives' degree of dissatisfaction or satisfaction. The type of balancing is not 50/50 (work/ child-rearing), but how life fits someone's needs is the most important thing.

From the point of life time, I want to examine that how women farmers, who are in the child-rearing age, satisfy both work and child-rearing by the allocation of time, and the “decision-making” is appropriate for needs in this instance. It is considered that the work life balance is taken based on the ability to do the decision-making.

1-2 Viewpoints of Analysis

The actual situation at the country level can be understood from statistical material. In addition, from the research subjects, i.e. women farmers, the family, and a regional system, I want to examine some case studies. I want to clarify the various concrete conditions for the women farmers to have children, raises, work, and do social activities according to their life stage. I aim to examine what various conditions are necessary in different cultures and systems.

1-3 Literature Overviews

The major research is shown in the following. Masako Oshima 1992 “Kaigai ni Okeru Josei nougyousha no Tachiba” “Mura wo Ugokasu Joseitachi” pp203-228, Nousangyoson Josei/ SeikatuShienKyokai 1999 “Noson Josei no Houteki Shien ni Kansuru Kokusai Hikaku Chosa”, Chie Katayama 2005, 2006 “Kosodate Shiyasui Kankyuo Tsukuri ya Chiikikann no Tayouna Kouryuukatsudou wo Tsujita Chiikitsukuri ni shissuru chousa kennkyuu”, 2007, “Ikujiki ni Aru Joseinougyousha Heno Shien”

These research papers investigated the support plan to the farmer who gives birth and raises a child. Moreover, this research investigates the support environment centering on the birth vacation that becomes support before and after birth in Japan and France. The realities of the women farmers of the EC and the investigation of the legislation degree are shown from these research papers. The system of France serves as a useful reference for a case with the advanced country. The balance of the way of working and child-rearing of the women farmers in Japan that becomes the background of the falling birthrate is examined. And, I want to try conducting an international comparison of research in Europe and Japan.

1-4 Characteristics of this research

The trend of the falling birthrate in advanced countries has already been clarified by the statistical material. Moreover, countermeasures to the falling birthrate and the family support plan also are a feature in each country associated with a social security system. It is difficult for independent enterprise including agriculture, to adjust though the key measure in the background of the falling birthrate deals with the workers.

Agriculture protects nature, supports health, and bears a multipronged function. Therefore, this research has the feature of farmer's countermeasures to the falling birthrate to make an international comparative study. In this area, it is thought that the comparison research in Japan and Europe is few, and that is why it is important.

1-5 Subject Area

The questionnaire survey is done all over Japan. For the respondent selection, the researcher asked the Agricultural Extension Center and JA¹. A total of 24 people were targeted, focusing on the women agricultural workers.

The case study is as follows.

2007 October 25 th	Yamanashi Prefecture Katsunuma City (6)
2007 October 26 th	Yamanashi Prefecture Minami Alps City, and, Kofu City (4)
2007 October 29 th	Kanagawa Prefecture Isehara City (1)
2007 December 10 th	Hokkaido Hokuto City (2)
2007 December 13 th	Wakayama Prefecture Kinokawa (2)
2007 December 14 th	Wakayama Prefecture Hidaka (2)
2007 December 17 th	Hokkaido Wakkanai City (1)
2007 December 20 th	Aichi Prefecture Kariya City (1)
2007 December 21 st	Aichi Prefecture Nagoya City Moriyama Ward (1)
2008 January 7 th	Kumamoto Prefecture Kamoto (1)
2008 January 18 th	Kumamoto Prefecture Koushi City (1)
2008 January 21 st	Chiba Prefecture Yachimata (1)
2008 January 22 nd	Chiba Prefecture Tomisato City (1)
Total: 24 people	

1-6 Survey Contents

The investigation targeted the women farmers in the child-rearing or bearing age who are in their twenties, thirties, and forties. The following were understood.

(1) Women farmers' actual work, managerial participation circumstances, change in the way of working and the aspects were understood.

- 1) The actual work and way of working: ①The subject is chiefly engaged in the child care and housework. ②She is chiefly engaged in agriculture. ③She is chiefly engaged in work other than agriculture. ④Others. The investigation item divided into these four categories, and the researcher tried to understand to which category a respondent belongs to.

¹ Japan Agricultural cooperatives

- 2) The managerial participation situation was divided into the following four items and the researcher tried to understand to which category a respondent belongs to.
- ⊖ There is no discussion concerning the farm management, and other families have decided it alone.
 - ⊖ There is a discussion concerning the farm management however, the respondent does not present a case.
 - ⊕ The subject sits in the discussion concerning the farm management however, the respondent does not present a case.
 - ④ The subject sits in the discussion concerning the farm management and the respondent speaks her opinion.
- 3) The role and the standpoint in the labor for farming were divided into the following four categories and the researcher tried to understand to which category a respondent belonged to.
- ①The subject is engaged only in the labor for farming directed by the husband and parents or others. ②In the same standpoint as the husband and parents, she is engaged in the labor for farming based on her own intention. ③In the standpoint directed the husband or parents; she is engaged in the labor for farming. ④She is not engaged in the labor for farming.
- 4) In the questionnaire survey, presentation of a case, and the reason for 1) was understood. At that time, the period was set for the future. About 2) and 3), the hopes in the present and for the future was understood.
- 5) In the catching investigation: About 1), the change of the content between the marriage and present was understood. ①,②,③,④each contents change was understood. ⑤When, ⑥what reason (factor), ⑦how it changed or whether it had been maintained was understood. About 2) and 3), the change in the way of working was understood at the marriage time and present time.
- 6) In the catching investigation, the realities of the child care: "How did you take care of a child?" was understood.
- 7) In the questionnaire survey, about the attribute of the women farmers and the household: ①age, ②cohabitation family, ③child of cohabitation or separation, ④farm produce revenues, ⑤most two title goods and amount of sales, ⑥cultivation area, were understood.
- 8) In the catching investigation, about the attribute of the women farmer and the household: ① date of birth, ②birthplace is farmhouse or non- farmhouse, ③marriage date, ④prenuptial career or experience of famer, ⑤ marriage, change, and present, and two high-ranking commodities of sales amount and area and breeding numbers, ⑥transition and factor of social participation from marriage, ⑦ method of acquiring agro technology and management technology, ⑧ transition and factor of life management from marriage time, ⑨ ascertain presence and content of agreement of family management were understood.

2. Dynamic Trends in Population, Agrarian Labor and Way of Working in Japan

2-1 Dynamic trends in population of Japan

In 1966, the population of Japan was 99 million 36 thousand people, and 100 million people were exceeded for the first time in 1967. The overall population of Japan became 127.77 million people in 2006. However, it is forecast that the population of Japan will decrease on the boundary of 2006 in the future.

Table2-1 Overall population of Japan:2006 from 1966

Year	Population (Unit: 1000 people)		
	Total	Male	Female
1966	99,036	48,611	50,425
1970 ¹⁾	103,720	50,918	52,802
1975 ¹⁾	111,940	55,091	56,849
1980 ¹⁾	117,060	57,594	59,467
1985 ¹⁾	121,049	59,497	61,552
1990 ¹⁾	123,611	60,697	62,914
1995 ¹⁾	125,570	61,574	63,996
2000 ¹⁾	126,926	62,111	64,815
2001	127,316	62,265	65,051
2002	127,486	62,295	65,190
2003	127,694	62,368	65,326
2004	127,787	62,380	65,407
2005 ¹⁾	127,768	62,349	65,419
2006	127,770	62,330	65,440

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications: Statistical Research and Training Institute

Average population increase rate (%) of year is $(n\sqrt{(P1/P0)} - 1) \times 100$

1) Census

2-2 Agrarian labor

In 1975, total population of farmer was 23.19 million people, but it decreases rapidly to 8.37 million people in 2006. The ratio of the population of the farmer to the overall population is 6.6% in 2006 and decreases from 21.0% in 1975. It is understood that the man and women population of the agricultural work force from especially 15 to 59 years old has decreased.

Table2-2 Population of farmer

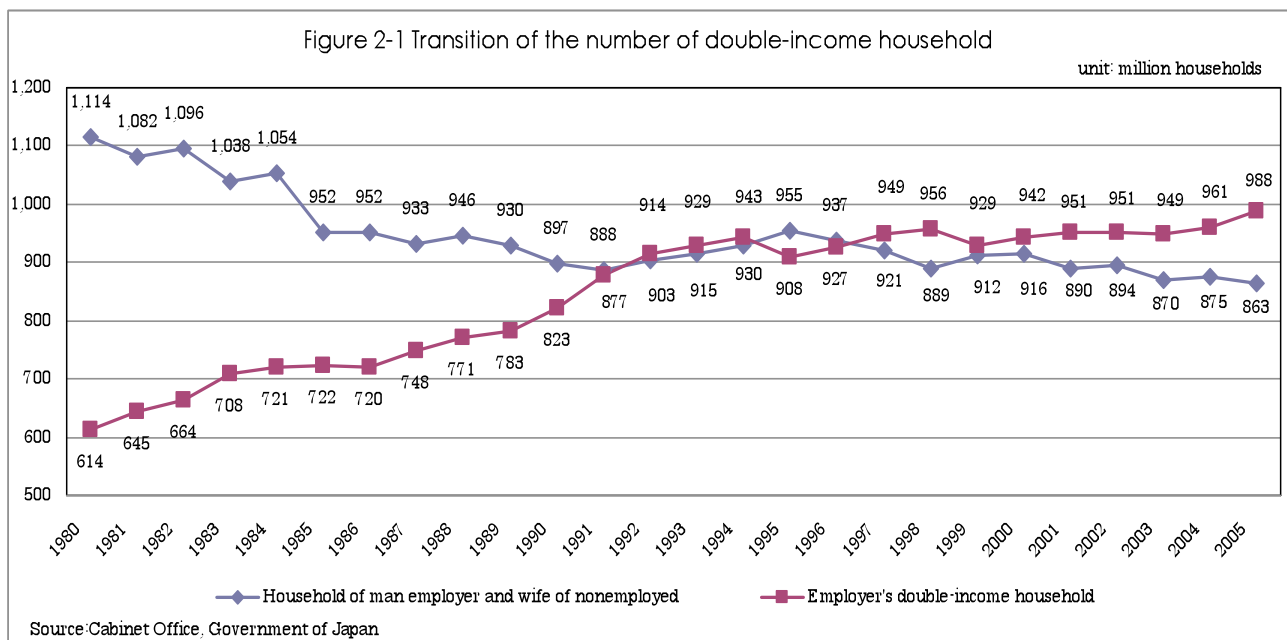
Unit (1,000 people)

Year	Total	Population of agricultural work force	Male			Female			Ratio of population of farmer to overall population (%)
			Total	15~59 years	60 years old or more	Total	15~59 years	60 years old or more	
1975	23,197	7,907	2,975	1,835	1,140	4,932	3,574	1,358	21.0
1980	21,366	6,973	2,674	1,532	1,142	4,300	2,943	1,356	18.4
1985	19,839	6,363	2,478	1,227	1,252	3,885	2,369	1,515	16.5
1990	17,296	5,653	2,249	885	1,364	3,404	1,758	1,646	14.0
1995	12,037	4,140	1,767	608	1,159	2,372	1,053	1,320	9.6
2000	10,467	3,891	1,721	533	1,187	2,171	793	1,378	8.3
2002	9,898	3,751	1,667	495	1,172	2,083	731	1,352	7.8
2003	9,647	3,684	1,645	485	1,160	2,039	706	1,333	7.6
2005	9,400	3,622	1,621	471	1,150	2,000	679	1,321	7.4
2006	8,370	3,353	1,564	465	1,100	1,788	572	1,216	6.6

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

The male population of agricultural work force was 1 million 835 thousand people 1975 year but, it became 885,000 people, dropped below one million people in 1990. In the statistical data in 2006, it decreases to 465,000 people (about 1/4). There were 3 million 574 thousand farm workers from 15 to 59 years old of the women who had the majority in 1975. However, the population of women farmers in 2006 shows the sharp decline in 572,000 people (1/6). However, the male farmers of 65 years or more hardly has any change from 1.14 million people with 1.1 million people in 2006 and in 1975. Between 1975 to 2006, the number of women farmer has decreased by about 142,000 people. It is hardly understood that the population of agricultural work force is not different with men. The level that exceeds the majority of the farmer consists of employed farmers of 65 years or more. From these tables, it shows the decrease of young workers who forge the future and this can be perceived to be remarkable.

2-3 Comparison of Japanese women farmer's way of working



Recently, hope and circumstances have changed greatly, for example in relation for men and women's approach of work and domestic life. From figure 1, the number of both double income and lone income exceed, since the ratio of both male and female people who think, "Women should keep working even if they have children" has risen. The number of double-income households in Japan increases every year after 1980, the number of households (home of one person income) that consists of the wife that does not work in any industry and the man employer is exceeded in 1997. After that, the margin is a growing phenomenon. The double-income household is 9.88 million, and single person income is 8.63 million in 2005. The household consisting of six year old children or above for the youngest child in the double-income household occupies more than half.

From the above Figure 2-1, it indicates that the number of double-income households are increasing today. It mentioned that parents can have the number of desired children, are to be provided with support to families raising children, especially, support to financial strain, educational allowance, and an increase in the amount of child allowance is required.

The proposed measure was focusing to reduce an economic cost or guaranteed wage at the bearing and child-rearing period. However, from the time the child is born, there is a reality of the extravagant amount of child support or educational expense needed to be covered until advanced education ends. The high educational expense is one of the factors behind the falling birthrate.

3. Result of research analysis

At first, all over Japan was surveyed, and distribution investigation: 276 distribution number married couples and collection numbers: 268 married couples (97%). From among those, the intensive hearing survey of 20 cases was carried out. Hereafter, two results of the surveys are described.

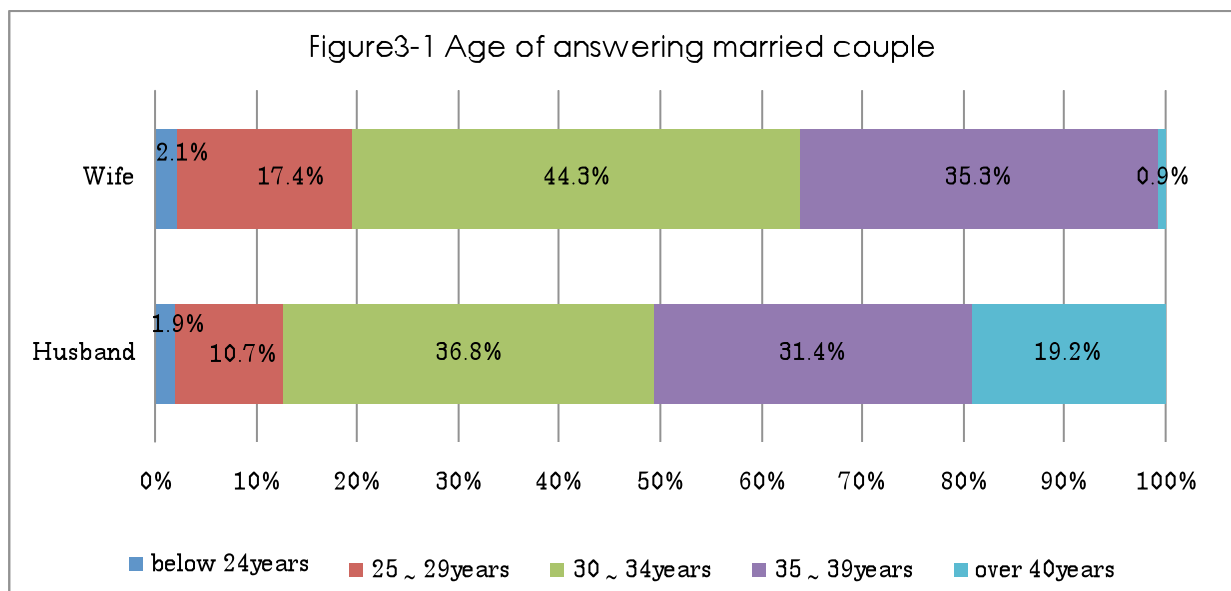
The data investigated with Professor Yotaro Arima who belongs to Japan Agricultural Development and Extension Association, is used.

3-1 All Japan analysis of questionnaire

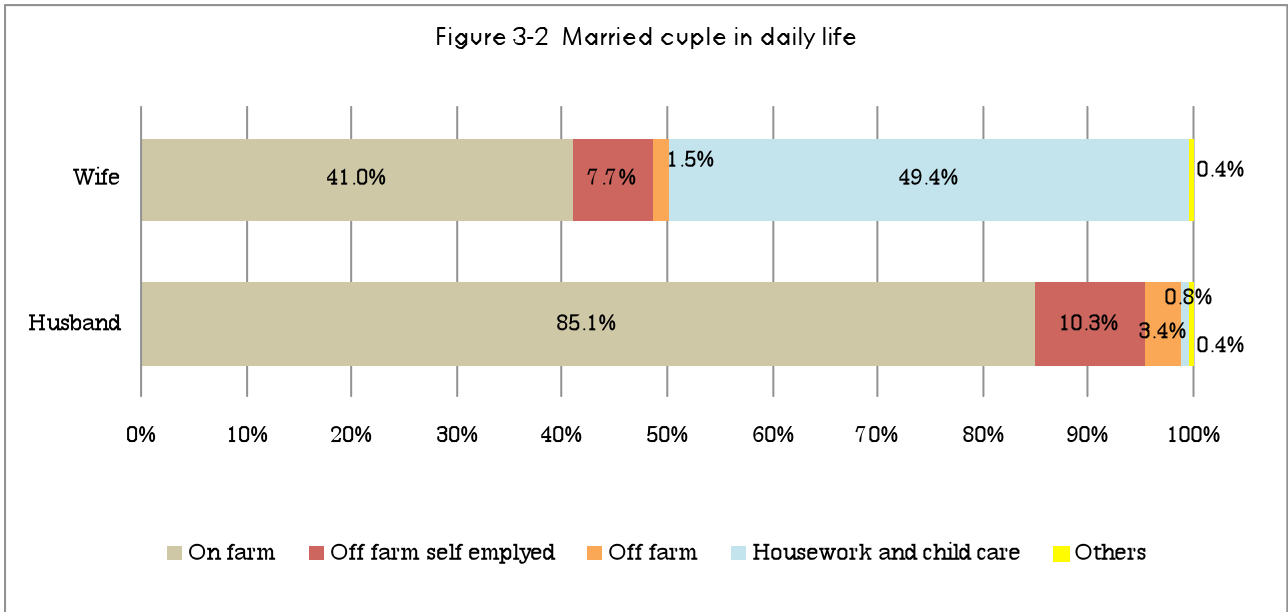
1. Respondent to a questionnaire's attribute

(1) Response situation according to wife and husband

Married couple farmers who answered the investigation are Figures 3-1, 3-2. Between 30 years old and 34 years old, both wives and husband have a lot of numbers of people. As for the comparison of wife and husband, the wife has a lot of young ratios, and the husband has a lot of 40 years old or more.

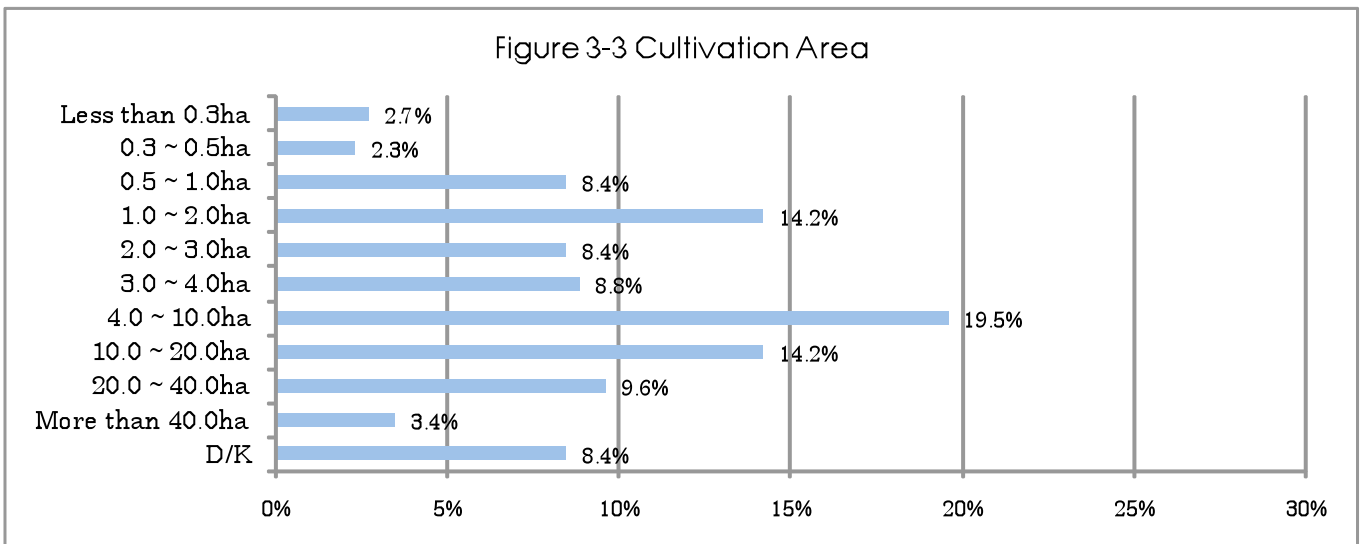


From Figure 3-2, it shows 49.4% of wives are chiefly engaged in housework and child care, and 41% are engaged in the agrarian labor, while 85.1% of husbands mainly engage in agriculture.



(2) The situation of each household's response

The household attribute is shown Figures 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, and 3-6. A lot of answers were able to be received from the farmer who owns the cultivated land under the category of management area of "4.0 ha to 10.0 ha". Next, a lot of farmers of small-scale "1.0 ha to 2.0 ha" and large scale "10.0 ha to 20.0 ha" answered.



As is shown in figure3-4, the management crops of "Poultry farming", "Facilities vegetable", and "Fruit" are about 20% respectively.

Figure3-5 and 3-6 shows, Family Management Agreement is connected in 71.3% of farms, and the farmer exists in most farms

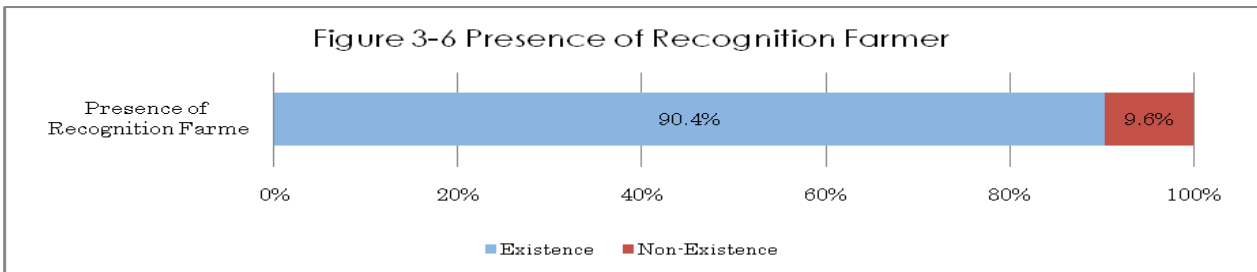
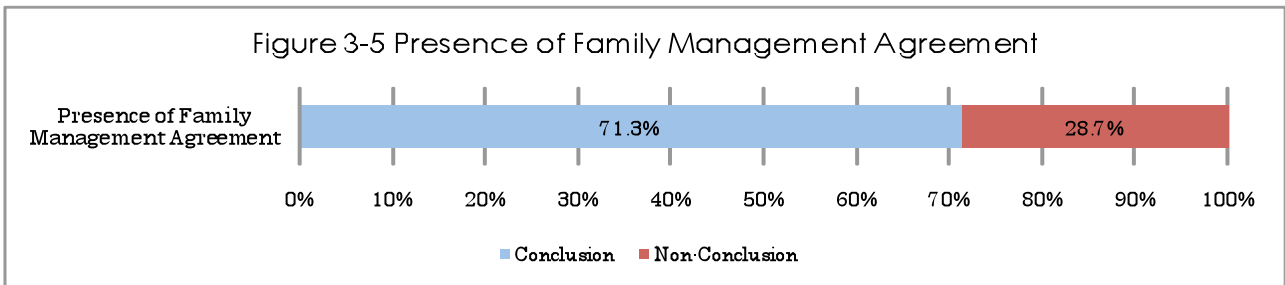
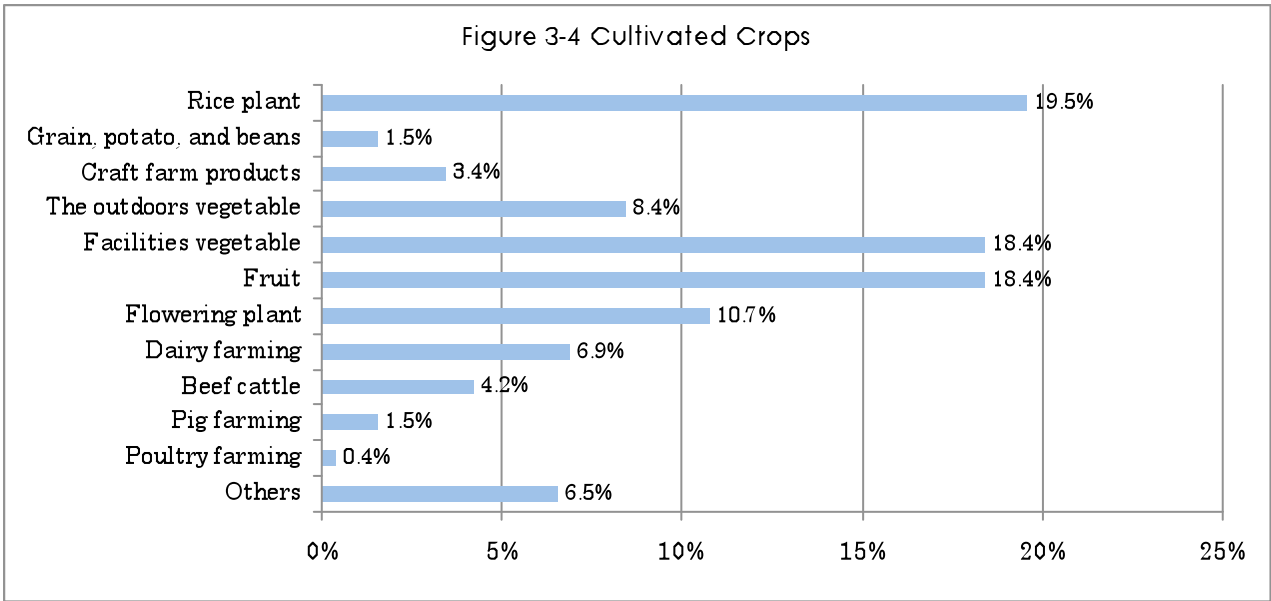
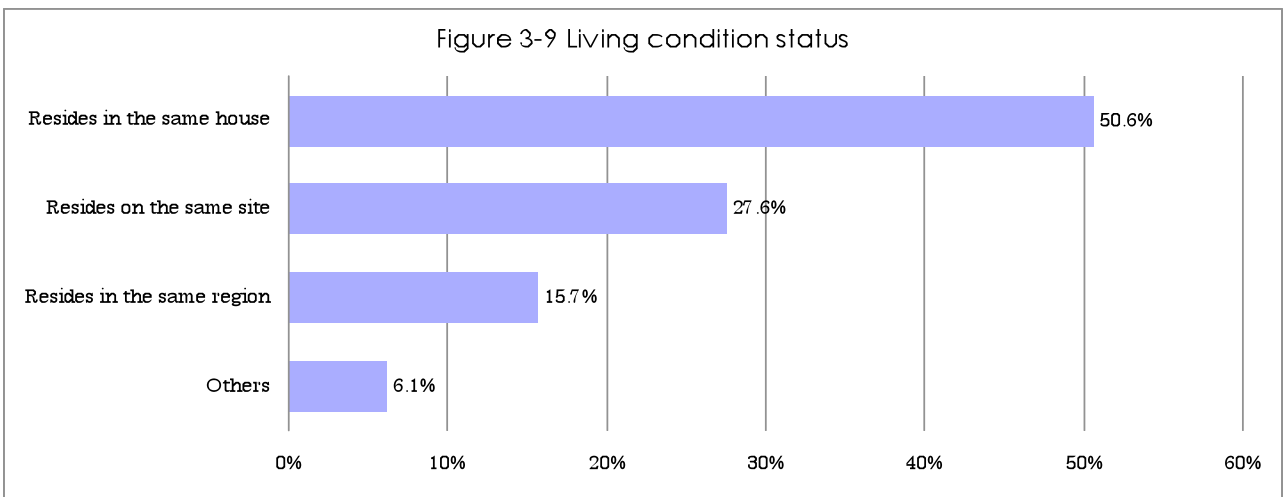
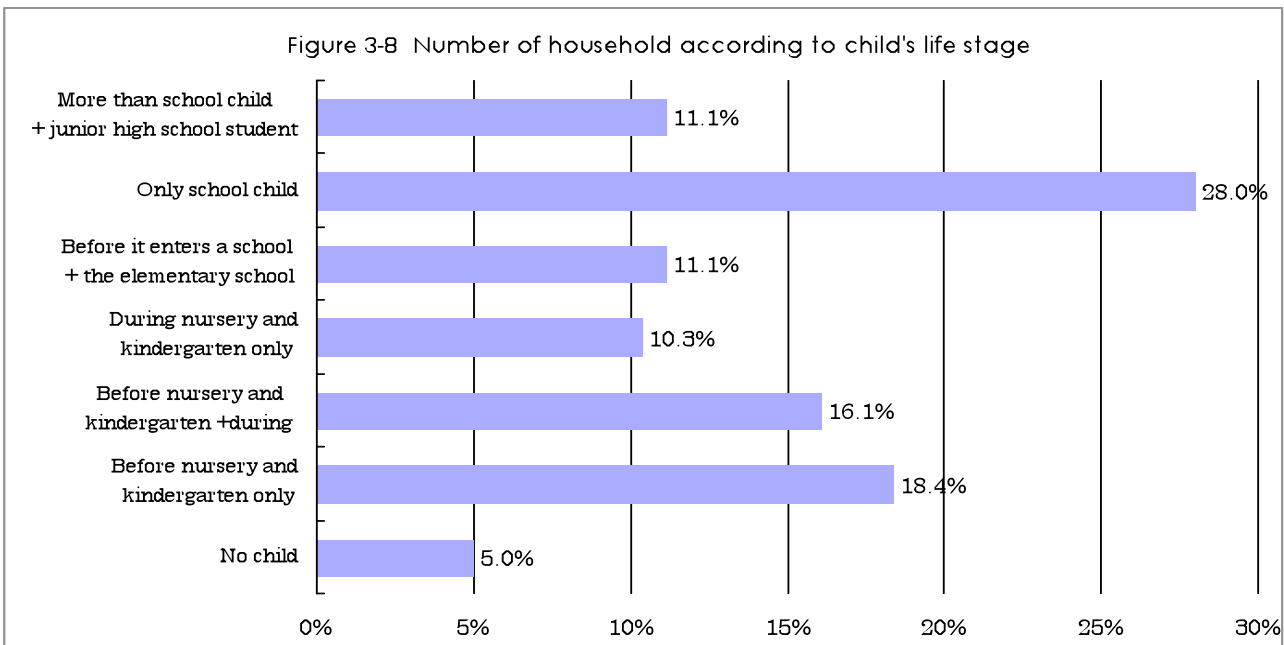
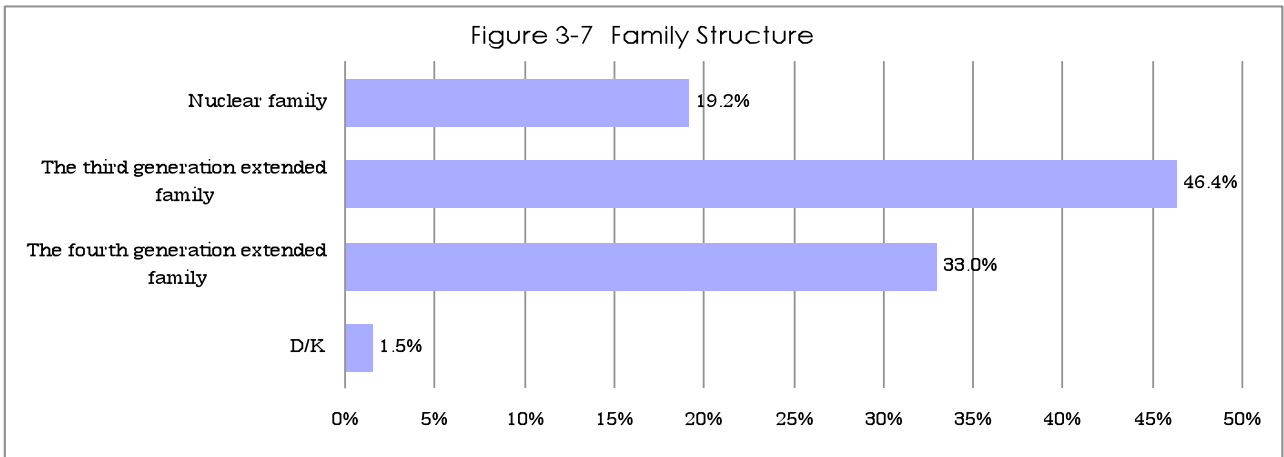


Figure 3-7 shows that extended family of the third generation (46.4%) and the fourth generation (33.0%) has a high proportion of way of living. The nuclear family composition is 19.2 %.

Figure 3-8 shows that it can be perceived to be distributed evenly from "no child" household to "only school child" household in child's life stage

From the figure 3-9, residing in the same house occupies half of levels. Moreover, it accounts for about 80% when the residence in the same site is included.

It linked to these "living condition status" and "presence of Family Management Agreement" is related to the child care, housework, and the agrarian labor of the women farmer who is in a birth or raising children period. It is an attribute for which the answer population parameter is secured.



3-2 Result of Case Study

The author took charge of 19 people (13 women and 6 men) who were the subject people of the hearing survey. These 19 subject people were selected from the nationwide investigation. In this

article, how the work life balance was kept was examined from the life time distribution. Women famer's result of analysis is presented here. These 13 cases were classified by farm management for relations and position of doing agriculture work. The result of five classifications is as follows.

(1) Farm management for relations and position of doing agriculture work: 6 of 13 subject women "sit in on the discussion concerning the farm management, and say their own opinion" and "In the same standpoint as other families, and engaged in the farming based on their own intention." They are occupied in an independent position of both the home and the labor for farming.

6 wives (Cultivation such as cucumber, tomato, mini tomato, rice, alley vegetable, asparagus, peanut, mandarin oranges, and grapes)

As for the tendency to the common feature of this 6 people, it is given that their child have already gone to the kindergarten, the day nursery, the elementary school, the junior high school, or the high school.

All these 6 people are registering "Management income and expenditure and labor for farming" therefore, they understand the total sales of farm products in 2006.

5 people are suggested by the member of agricultural popularize and are signed with the Family Management Agreement. The reason why the 1 person did not sign with the Family Management Agreement is that there is no necessity because management is steady.

Characteristics of life time: 1 of 6 subject women

Case 1		A3's Life Time Rhythm	
Farming season (December)		Farmer's leisure season (July)	
4 : 50	Wakes up and does preparation of her. The management of the field in front of the house, and washing, cleaning.	7 : 00	Wakes up
6 : 30	Because the child gets up, she makes children's breakfast.	7 : 30	Breakfast, dress up of children and cleanup
7 : 30	Breakfast, dress up of child	8 : 30	She drops off her children to the nursery
8 : 30	She drops off her children to the day nursery.	9 : 00	Returns home
9 : 00	She goes to the office and 5 places of fresh farm center	9 : 20	Dry clothes in the sun
12 : 30	She returns to the office (On the way, have lunch in the car.)The water of the rice field in the different location is seen.	9 : 40	She goes to fresh farm
13 : 00	She returns to work.	12 : 00	Lunch
14 : 00	Begins harvest of mini tomato and cucumber	13 : 00	It takes about 1hour delivering to fresh farm center (two places).
17 : 30	Picks up her children	15 : 00	Returns to the office
18 : 00	She returns to home once, goes back to the office again.	15 : 30	Work ends and picks up children
19 : 00	*Maintenance and harvest of garden farming	17 : 30	Goes back to home, and prepares dinner, runs hot water for a bath,
19 : 20	Runs hot water for a bath, prepares dinner, and takes a bath with the children.	18 : 00	Gives children a bath
19 : 45	Eats dinner. (30 minutes)	18 : 30	Dinner (While seeing TV.)
20 : 45	Plays with children and watch TV/DVD	19 : 00	Cleans up with husband
21 : 00	She sleeps with children.	20 : 00	Reads book or play with children
		21 : 00	
		21 : 30	Child going to bed
		22 : 00	Going to bed

Work life balance

All 6 people focus their life on the children while engaging in farming. There are 3 wives who do not have so many differences during farming season of busy day and during off season of when they are not busy.

As a reason for three people without the difference, the life pattern cannot be changed because the attending school and going home time of the child is earmarked.

The bedtime of the child is not changed. Therefore, their husband or the cohabiting family lend a hand with household duties

- Three wives get up earlier than usual at farming seasons; they return to the house before the time of going to school of the child after interrupting the agricultural work. They return to the agricultural work again after handling the cooking washing, and sending off their child.
- When the child comes home, they return to the home and prepare their dinner. Two of three wives are shortening work hours more than the husband. They change the content of work and, they live as much as possible around the child.
- One wife's child is already a high school student therefore; she is engaged in the agrarian labors as much as the husband. The housework has been allotted in the family.
- All six wives are pressed by work at the busy farming season, but they try to live around the child. They are also working at the farmer's leisure season, though they take time for their child and lead an easygoing way of life. For that reason, it was not possible to be around their family, especially their child during the farming season.

They can hardly have the private time at the farming season. Nevertheless, while the child has gone to school, or after the child sleeps, they cut down sleeping time occasionally and make their own time for relaxing, the private time.

- ◇ As for the evaluation to housework and the child care, all the six people seem not to feel dissatisfied so much. The reason comes from the great factor that their family is allotting housework and the child care. (Child care, and the cooking, cleaning, washing, grocery shopping, and bath, and putting out the garbage.)

(2) Farm management for relations and position of doing agriculture work: The subject sits in the discussion concerning the farm management, and says her opinion. She is in the situation of being engaged only in the agricultural work directed by the husband.

One wife (lily garden)

She is working while seeing the one year old child and two years old child on the premises. Therefore, she cannot get a responsible job yet. Because the husband is registering the management revenue and expenditure, and the agricultural work list, she only roughly understands the total sales of the farm products in 2006. She doesn't remember the content so much though she knows that she signed with Family Management Agreement. Her husband has employed the mother-in-law and her.

Characteristics of life time: Subject woman

Case 2 KC1's Life Time Rhythm

Farming season (May)		Farmer's leisure season (July)	
6 : 00	Wakes up and dresses up herself Breakfast and dress up of children	6 : 00	Wakes up and dresses up herself Breakfast and dress up of children
8 : 30	drops off children to school	9 : 00	Drops off children to the day nursery by car
9 : 00	, then starts work (separate lily)		Washing, cleaning and cleanup Prepares lunch (take care the youngest child)
12 : 00	Lunch is taken with mother	12 : 00	Lunch time
13 : 00	Starts work (separate lily) Picks up her children at 5pm	13 : 00	Cleans up, go to shopping
17 : 00	Preparation for supper	14 : 00	Works while playing with the children (sorted the pay slips.)
17 : 30	Takes bath with the children	15 : 00	
18 : 00	Dinner is taken	16 : 30	Pick up children
20 : 00	Prepares children for bed.	17 : 00	Goes back to home. Prepare for supper Takes care children
21 : 00	Bed time for children	18 : 00	Take bath with the children
23 : 00	go to bed	19 : 00	Dinner time
	*children is playing there when they are working in the warehouse.	20 : 00	Bed time for children, and cleanup
		21 : 00	Gets to bed
		23 : 00	

Work life balance

Her life pattern changed into the child center after the child began to go to the day nursery.

- She is helping the work of the selection of lily between from 13 o'clock to 17 o'clock because people are insufficient at busy time of the farming season.
- There is no agriculture work at the farmer's leisure season, and she is spending her time for the child or house work.
- She is making her own time when her children slept at the both farming seasons and farmer's leisure seasons. She goes to the parents' home, and leaves the child's care to parents at the farmer's leisure season. And, she is slowly spending more private time.
- ◇ Especially, she doesn't have dissatisfaction with housework and the child care. She is all processing these "cooking, a cleaning, washing, Child care, and a grocery shopping, to and from the day nursery, and the child in fever."

Her husband is taking charge of child's bath and putting out garbage in cooperation with wife.

Therefore, she hopes to take charge of part of house work with her husband in the future

She occasionally has mental irritation by the child care and housework however; she hardly feels a physical load. She cannot act outside besides agriculture because she still busy at raising children. She is relieving her stress by playing with the children and taking care of the fish in the water tank.

(3) Farm management for relations and position of doing agriculture work: The subject sits in the discussion concerning the farm management, and doesn't say her opinion. She is in the situation of being engaged only in the agricultural work directed by the husband.

One wife (lily garden)

She started to help the agriculture work when her children go to the kindergarten. She doesn't know the total sales of farm products in 2006, and does not understand whether to connect to Family Management Agreement.

Characteristics of life time: Subject woman
Case 3 CB's Life Time Rhythm

Farming season (June)		Farmer's leisure season (February)	
6 : 00	Wakes up and dress up , makes breakfast laundry	6 : 00	Wakes up and dresses up, make breakfast Laundry
7 : 30	Eats breakfast	7 : 30	Eat breakfast
8 : 30	Sends children to bus terminal	8 : 30	Sends children to bus terminal
9 : 00	Go to workplace	9 : 00	Go to workplace
12 : 00	Lunch	12 : 00	Lunch
	Washes the dishes (after a meal)		Washes the dishes (after a meal)
13 : 00	Starts working	13 : 00	Start working
15 : 30	Picks up children, and go to shopping	15 : 30	Picks up children, and go to shopping
17 : 00	Takes children to workplace(selection of lily, and pack in a box)	16 : 30	Makes dinner takes in the laundry
17 : 30	Makes dinner	18 : 30	To supper 19:30
18 : 00	Dinners time	20 : 00	Takes bath with the children
18 : 30	Takes bath with the children	21 : 00	Bed time for children Cleans up and , Preparation for breakfast on the next day
20 : 00	Bed time for children	23 : 00	Goes to bed
21 : 00	Cleanup and , Preparation for breakfast on the next day		
23 : 00	Goes to bed		

Work life balance

Her life pattern changed into the child center after the child began to go to the kindergarten. Because the child is still young, she is shortening her work hours more than her husband. And, she gives priority to child-rearing.

The amount of the lily decreases and she is not busy in February of the farmer's leisure season. She lives slowly by the pace around the child.

- Because the collection of cargo of cut flowers is busy in June of the farming season, she picks up her children at 15:30. At 17 o'clock, she takes her children to the workplace and does the selection of the flower or packing in a case.
- She is making her own time when her children slept at the both farming seasons and farmer's leisure seasons.
- ◇ At present, she doesn't have dissatisfaction with housework and the child care. She is taking charge of everything, such as "pick up the children's extracurricular activities and the cram school, pick up at the kindergarten, and give children a bath, child care, and pick up when

children in fever.” Her husband also helps with the children’s care in some way. She is also taking charge of the whole house works, such as cooking, washing, cleaning, putting out garbage, garden cleaning, and cleaning around house. It is not necessary to take partial charge of house work now. She thinks that she wants her husband to take partial charge of house work when the time of the future comes.

- ✧ She often has a mental irritation stress by the child care and housework. And also, she sometimes feels physical liability. As a stress relief method, she is venting the stress by parting from the child, and going shopping alone.

(4) Farm management for relations and position of doing agriculture work: They sit in the discussion concerning the farm management, and don’t say her opinion, and they are not engaged in the agriculture work.

Two wives (cattle farmer)

As the common feature of two wives, their children are still young (0-years old child), like a prekindergarten or before the day nursery. It is given that they have to take care of their newborn baby anyway. Other families are writing the management revenue and expenditure, and the agriculture work list therefore, they do not understand the total sales of farm products in 2006.

Characteristics of life time: 1 of 2 subject women

Case 4 W1's Life Time Rhythm

Farming season		Farmer's leisure season (December)	
6 : 00	Wakes up and dresses up herself	8 : 00	Wakes up and dresses up Make breakfast
6 : 30	Makes breakfast	8 : 30	breakfast
8 : 30	Breakfast	9 : 00	Washing /cleanup and domestic duties
11 : 30	Washing /cleanup, and cleaning Preparation for lunch	11 : 00	End time of domestic duties
12 : 30	Lunch	11 : 30	Break Preparation for lunch
13 : 00	Washes the dishes (after a meal) (takes care the children)	12 : 30	Lunch
17 : 30	Free period	13 : 00	Washes the dishes (after a meal)
17 : 30	Makes dinner Eats with the husband	17 : 30	Takes care of children Makes dinner (It takes time because there are two young children.)
20 : 00	Dinner	19 : 00	Dinner
20 : 30	Gives a bath to children with husband Bed time for children	20 : 30	Gives a bath to children cooperate with husband.
21 : 00	Prepares the bed	21 : 30	Watches TV, and gets settled
22 : 00	Goes to bed	23 : 00	Goes to bed

Work life balance

They are not related to agriculture now and mainly taking care of housework and children's care. In the future, they plan to help agriculture work as soon as the children's care will become unnecessary.

- They are taking care of their children for 24 hours because their children are still young. There are not so many changes at their life time of a day at the farming season and the farmer's leisure

season. The different point is to delivers sweets to the cowshed between at 16 to 15 o'clock in a busy day, or the hour of rising and the hour of bedtime are different.

- At both farming seasons and farmer's leisure seasons, they do not have the private time. Every once in a while, after the child sleeps, it is possible to make a little time.
- ◇ They are almost taking charge of all housework, such as the children care, cooking and washing to either home. Their husband and mother and father in law cooperate a lot.

However, to take care of children 24 hours, they sometimes feel the mental burden. They occasionally feel a physical liability where rest cannot be taken out. Though they have almost never had private time, they enjoy raising the child.

(5) Farm management for relations and position of doing agriculture work: There is no discussion concerning the farm management, and other family members have decided it alone such as the father-in-law or parents.

Three wives (rosery and orchard)

One person is working for Japan Agricultural Development and Extension association though she is on maternity leave now. Her husband is managing the rosery with the mother and father in law. When her work is off or at the farming season, she is helping the rosery. However, she does not know the total sales of farm products in 2006, and does not connect Family Management Agreement.

Another person is helping wife's parents' fruit tree farm (peach) by the married couple. Parents do not agree so much that they succeed in plantation though she is preparing to succeed in plantation. She does not know the total sales of farm products in 2006.

One person is working for the food company that was working from premarital as a part time now. About the agricultural managerial participation situation, she is helping with the agriculture work only at the farming season.

Characteristics of life time: 1 of 3 subject women

Case 5 KG1's Life Time Rhyme

Not busy day on Sunday		Not busy on Weekday	
7 : 30	Wakes up	6 : 00	Wakes up
7 : 30	Prepares breakfast	6 : 30	Prepares breakfast
8 : 00	Eats breakfast, takes care of children	7 : 00	Eats breakfast, takes care of children
8 : 30	8:00~9:00 Watch TV	8 : 00	Washing /cleans up, and personal affair
12 : 00	Lunch	10 : 00	cleanup/washing, takes care of children
13 : 00	washes the dishes (after a meal)	11 : 00	10:00~11:15 Watch TV
14 : 00	Takes care of children	11 : 15	11:00~11:15Take break
	15:00~15:30 Take break	12 : 00	Prepares the lunch, and takes care children
17 : 00	Washing /cleanup		Eats lunch and washes the dishes (after a meal)
		15 : 00	Watches TV or DVD, takes a break
17 : 30	Makes dinner	17 : 00	Domestic duties, makes dinner
18 : 45	Eats dinner	19 : 30	Eats dinner
19 : 30	Cleans up	23 : 45	Takes care of children
21 : 30	Takes care of children		
22 : 00	Domestic duties	24 : 00	Goes to bed
22 : 15			
24 : 00	Goes to bed *Almost 24 hours taken care of children who are 0 years old.		*Almost 24 hours taken care of children who are 0 years old.

Work life balance

Three wives are basically concentrating on the child care, housework or the duty position that they do not engage in agriculture. They are helping with the agriculture work while doing the housework only at the farming season.

A day not busy of the weekday and Sunday was asked to these three people. Two people are still taking charge of most of the child care and housework on the weekday so that other families may go to work. One wife is a newly-married couple and does not have child yet. She is studying how to make an internet homepage or participates in the course that studies agriculture to sell farm products by the internet.

- All three people do household chores carefully on a not so busy day.
- At both farming seasons and farmer's leisure seasons, two wives do not have much private time because their children are still young (when they were working, the private time was made well.) They take a rest a little while the mother and father in law sometimes take care of the children. One wife lives slowly around housework because she still lives only as a family of two.
- ◇ There is no dissatisfaction because the family takes charge of housework and the child care respectively. In the future when the time comes, they think that they want the husband to take charge of housework a little more.

4. Conclusion

The way of life is diversified because single, the late marriage and late childbearing are become generalized today. Women may often achieve the marriage, the pregnancy, birth, child-rearing, labor, and leisure in the balance so that considerations of life design of individual, the family's help, social system, and sexual division of labor relates to it.

Moreover, satisfaction of both work and the domestic life becomes a problem for not only the women but also the men. Today, women who enter agricultural industry are decreasing while the number of women who start other work increases. Men's participation in parenting is more common in today's society. However, for women who take care of children period, working as a farmer becomes difficult if community support is not given.

The point that was able to be found as a result of the investigation, women farmers, who are in the child care period, were able to secure private time when their children went to bed. At the farming season, they are too busy to make even their own time. In their community, the child-support service is also minimal, and nobody takes care of the children besides them. They have a hard time making the private time. For the women farmer, it is difficult to achieve a balance between housework and the agriculture work while being confronted with child-rearing every day.

As for agriculture, the sexual division of labor in recent years is disappearing by the advancement of mechanization. Double incomes will increase in the future; traditional sexual division of labor is still general for the farmhouse. Why is farmer women's work life balance a problem, the sexual division of labor accomplishes a conventional role in business. Heavy labor has decreased because information and technology progressed recently, but the work of a man and women is still fixed. The situation is a problem that the sexual division of labor is fixed as it is in the family role. In the hypothesis, women famers are not dissatisfied with it though they want to improve the traditional sexual division of labor. It's interesting to note that how to see this gap. Moreover, there are two ways to take balance, such as responded balance of each life stage, and

balances for the long term. The women farmer tried to take the balance for the long term.

In Japan, the M-shaped starting work pattern is still a general tendency. However, it is hoped that the women farmer who makes all commodities becomes a trapezoid type starting work pattern for the balance of work and life.

The following needs exist when the nation, the community, and the society consider what kind of support is necessary for young women farmers. As the future tasks, it is a necessary matter of course to support training housework and the child care for husbands. And also, it is necessary to support training of married couple participation, companion and network making, technological training as employment support to farmer, secure enough helpers during child-rearing and nursing care, and the training of technology and IT.

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