1. LAND USE

2. NATIONAL AND PREFECTURAL FOREST LAND.  NATIONAL AND PREFECTURAL LAND OTHER THAN FORESTS

1. Land Use

Land utilization in Japan assumes complicated shapes except for forests, and well reflects, in general, the natural conditions of the land.

The greater part of mountains and hilly areas and volcanic areas are covered with forests and some used only for grassland for rearing and pasture and orchards.

Plains which consist of plains, terraces and lowland are mostly used for cultivated land and built-up land and contains only a small area of forests. Except for urban utilization of land such as built-up areas, the lowland is mostly used for paddy fields. While plains and terraces are mainly used for upland fields and, in some cases, for orchards, mulberry fields and tea fields. Plains and terraces which are well irrigated are used for paddy fields. The northern and eastern parts of Hokkaido, being in cold climates, are not suitable for paddy cultivation. Even inlands in these areas are used only for upland fields, scrubland or grassland.

The distribution of orchards, mulberry fields and tea fields, depending more on areas, are affected not only by natural conditions but also by social and economic conditions.

According to the Annual Report on National Land Use, the areas by utilization mode of national land is [97]; except the northern islands of Hokkaido, Shikoku, Kyushu and Honshu together with Takao Island and their percentages to the total area were as follows: 3,675,040 ha. (11.9%) for agricultural land, 2,138,868 ha. (6.9%) for forests, 500,698 ha. (1.6%) for woodland, 1,138,090 ha. (3.7%) for water areas, 606,829 ha. (2.0%) for roads, 1,131,631 ha. (3.6%) for housing areas and 2,320,356 ha. (47.2%) for other uses.

2. National and Prefectural Forest Land

The area of national and prefectural roads, rivers and boundaries of March 31, 1972 was 2,008,000 ha. and accounted for about one-third of the total land area of Japan.

National land can be classified by total of national property as follows: 4,864,000 ha. for administrative property and 176,000 ha. for common property. The breakdown of administrative property in 2,943,000 ha. for official-use property, 2,900,000 ha. for public-use property, 6,000 ha. for Imperial Family property and 1,000 ha. for public enterprise property. The greatest part of the land of public enterprise property consists of national forests belonging to the National Forest Service Special Account.

There are many national forests in eastern Japan such as the Tottori Region and not many national forests in western Japan such as the Kinki Region.

The area of prefectural land including roads, rivers and boundaries as of March 31, 1974 was 828,000 ha. and prefectural forests accounted for 85% of the total forested land. The breakdown of the area of prefectural forests by prefecture was as follows: 625,000 ha. for Hokkaido (which was the largest), followed by 160,000 ha. for Yamanashi. Areas of other prefectural forests are all below the 10,000 ha. mark.

Figure: Area of National Land by Type (1972)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Area</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Land Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultivated land</td>
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<td>Forests</td>
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<td>Water areas</td>
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<td>Roads</td>
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<td>Housing areas</td>
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<td>Pastures, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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Figure: Area of Prefectural Land Other Than Forests (1974)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Area</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Land Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National property</td>
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<td>Public-use property</td>
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<td>Imperial Family property</td>
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<td>Public enterprise property</td>
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Sources:
1. Data from the Forestry Agency and prefectural governments.