1. Harvested Area of Rice

The harvested area of rice in 1963-1971 for Okayama Prefecture amounted to 2,080,000 ha, for paddy rice and 78,000 ha for upland rice, totaling 2,158,000 ha. There were 689,000 paddy rice harvesting farm households and 1,643,000 paddy rice selling farm households.

The Crop Statistics indicate that the land planted with rice in 1960 totaled 2,212,000 ha. The total area harvested was 2,080,000 tons for paddy rice and 21,600 tons for upland rice, totaling 2,101,600 tons. In the same year, rice imports amounted to 30,800 tons. The yield per 10 acres of planted land was 415 kg for paddy rice and 139 kg for upland rice. In the last few years, rice has been overproduced, and its production has been regulated since 1960, thus decreasing the area of land planted with rice.

The World Census of Agriculture and Forestry indicates that the double-crop fields which totaled 1,916,000 ha in 1960 gradually decreased to 1,300,000 ha in 1971. For this reason, the percentage of double-crop fields to total land planted with rice decreased from 94.7% in 1960 to 82.3% in 1971. The cause is attributable to the drop in the profitability of wheat and barley, which provide secondary crops in Japan, and the increase in the availability of profitable tobacco opportunities. In parts of Kita Prefecture and Okayama Prefecture, two paddy rice crops are raised a year.

Of the area of rice fields which is practically equal to the harvested area of rice, 37.1% is managed by full-time farm households, 62.1% by farm households engaged mainly in agriculture, and 0.8% by farm households engaged mainly in other jobs. The ratio of the area of paddy fields to the area of cultivated land under management of paddy fields exceeded 62.2% for full-time farm households, 58.3% for farm households engaged mainly in agriculture, and 48.4% for farm households engaged mainly in other jobs.

2. Harvested Area of Wheat, Barley and Miscellaneous Cereals

The harvested area of wheat in 1963-1971 for Okayama Prefecture was 238,000 ha. There were 2,380,000 wheat harvesting farm households, of which the wheat selling farm households totaled 741,000. The harvested area of rice was 2,380,000 ha. The yield per 10 acres of planted land was 253 kg. The yield of rice was 228,000 tons, two-rowed barley 238,000 tons, and barley 214,000 tons and oats 31,000 tons. The area and yield of wheat and barley increased in the last two years; however, the area of oats decreased. The greater part of the demand for wheat and barley is dependent upon imports. In 1969, 3,157,000 tons of wheat and 2,072,000 tons of barley were imported.

The harvested area of miscellaneous cereals, such as rice, barley, two-rowed barley, oats, and millet, increased 12,900 ha. For these cereals, farm households selling miscellaneous cereals totaled 75,000.

3. Harvested Area of Pulses

The harvested area of soybeans in 1963-1971 for Okayama Prefecture was 38,000 ha. There were 1,050,000 soybean harvesting farm households, of which there were 238,000 soybean selling farm households. The harvested area of red beans was 24,000 ha. In the same year, there were 1,230,000 red bean harvesting farm households, of which 1,000,000 were red bean selling farm households. The harvested area of other pulses was 6,000 ha. The Micronutrient Cereals indicate that the yield of pulses in 1969 increased 18.0% to 30.0% tons of soybeans, 9.0% to 18.0% tons of red beans, 100.0% to 110.0% tons of kidney beans, 10.0% of the beans in the last 10 years have continued to decrease, and the greater part of the demand for soybeans is dependent upon imports. In 1969, 2,250,000 tons were imported.

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 1963 World Census of Agriculture and Forestry.
HARVESTED AREA OF RICE

1969

- 1 acre represents 66.66 ha.
- Raised rice
- Upland rice

1971 data were used for Okinawa

1:4,000,000
HARVESTED AREA OF WHEAT, BARLEY AND MISCELLANEOUS CEREALS

1969

Harvested area

- Wheat
- O-variety barley, B-variety barley
- and naked barley
- Miscellaneous cereals

1971 data were used for Okinawa

1:4,000,000