1. Ratio of Forest Land and Persons Engaged in Forestry

The forest land of Japan (excluding that of Okinawa Prefecture) was 62,480,800 ha, in 1959, and accounted for about 61% of the national land. When woodland areas are excluded, the area of the forest land amounted to 25,945,800 ha. When broad-leaved trees, evergreen trees, and forest gaps are excluded, the area of the forest land was 25,498,800 ha. By forest type, non-deciduous forests comprised 65% of the area and hardwood forests comprised 2% of the area. By ownership type, national forests accounted for 35%, public forests 11%, and private forests 54%.

Since the national land extends mainly over a rain belt in the temperate zone, various species of forests are abundant all over the nation and the growth of trees is rapid. Recently, increasingly added importance has been attached to the functions of forests for public interests, such as the cultivation of water resources, air purification, and their utility as places for rest and recreation.

Labor for forestry is nearly all dependent on farm household members as side work and the work largely takes on an intermittent and short-term pattern, making it difficult to grasp the workers’ real status.

Of the farm household members who work in forestry, less than 5% are engaged in forestry as a principal occupation, and the others work in forestry for more than 358 days in a year, a minor 3,580,000. The number of non-farm household members who work in forestry for more than one day a year was 60,000. Farm household members who work in forestry for more than one day a year total 3,580,000, meaning that 99.5% of workers are engaged in self-managed forestry. Of these, males account for 99% and females 1%.

No statistical data are available to provide an accurate picture of the changes that have taken place in the number of persons engaged in forestry. However, there has presumably been a considerable drop in the number due to the rapid spread of charcoal production, whose manpower accounted for about one-fourth of the total labor in forestry in 1959, and also to the increasing use of forestry machinery.

2. Structure of Forestry Households by Size of Forests Under Management

In 1959, there were 2,080,000 forestry households in Japan (excluding Okinawa Prefecture), and the forests under their management totaled 6,200,000 ha. The average area of forests under management per forestry household was 3.6 ha. Although most forests are managed by a few large-scale forestry households, the majority of the forestry households are small owners. The forestry households with less than 1 ha. of forests under their management numbered 1,800,000, or 87.4% of the total number of forestry households. The area of forests under their management was 3,460,000 ha., or only 5.6% of the total area.

From 1955 to 1978, the number of forestry households dropped by 148,000, whereas the number of forestry households having more than 3 ha. of forests under their management was on the increase.

In addition to the forestry households, forestry is also undertaken by firms, shrines, shrines, and shrines, and so on.

Selected Points of the Legend and Map Construction

The forests under management, as referred to here, represent the forests which may be placed under the management of forestry organizations. The forestry organizations, as referred to here, represent households, public forest services, and organizations other than (private) persons with more than 10 acres of forests under their management.

The forestry households, as referred to here, represent households engaged in forestry. This figure does not represent the structure of forestry households with less than 1 acres of forests under their management.

Source

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 1959 World Census of Agriculture and Forestry.