1. Production of Timber

The output of timber in Japan in 1966 amounted to 34,366,000 m³ (including that of Okinawa Prefecture). By prefecture, production was largest in Hokkaido with 7,200,000 m³, which was followed by Aomori Prefecture with 2,190,000 m³, Mie Prefecture with 1,800,000 m³, Hokkaido Prefecture with 1,250,000 m³ and Aomori Prefecture with 1,125,000 m³. Of the output of timber, needle-leaved trees accounted for 64.7% and broad-leaved trees 35.3%. By type of forest ownership, national forest timber was 61.2%, public forest timber 8.5%, and private forest timber 29.5%.

The output of domestic timber has been decreasing from year to year. With a rise in the demand for timber, timber imports have been increasing from year to year.

The output of forest products other than timber stood at 223,000 tons for charcoal, 200,000,000 logs for firewood, 2,120,000 bundles of bamboo (with a 0.99 m-long straw rope used for each bundle), 584 tons for Mutsuki mushrooms (Merulius salicinus), 6,644 tons for Kuroshitate mushrooms (Cortinarius glutinosus), 50,964 tons for raw shiitake mushrooms, 6,480 tons for raw bamboos.

2. Ratio of Artificial Forests and Area of Artificial Forests

The artificial forests in Japan (excluding Okinawa Prefecture) in 1970 included 3,300,000 ha. By prefecture, Hokkaido topped the list with 900,000 ha, followed by Nagano Prefecture with 250,000 ha, Iwate Prefecture with 180,000 ha, and Saitama Prefecture with 210,000 ha. The ratio of the area of artificial forests to the area of forests (ratio of artificial forests) stood at 31.3% for the whole country. By prefecture, the percentage was highest in Saga Prefecture with 64.9%.

Of the total area of artificial forests, national forests accounted for 30%, public forests 15%, and private forests 55%. By stand type, needle-leaved forests comprised 94%, and broad-leaved forests 6%.

By tree species, Japanese cedars (Cryptomeria japonica) covered 3,314,000 ha, Japanese cypress (Chamaecyparis obtusa) 1,600,000 ha, Japanese red pine (Pinus densiflora) and Japanese black pine (Pinus thunbergii) 1,600,000 ha, Japanese larches (Larix leptostachya) and Yezo spruces (Picea jezoensis) 400,000 ha. By age class, the young stands, less than 20 years old, which together covering accounted for 45%, the forests 11-29 years old 25%, and the marketable forests over 30 years 27%.

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 1970 World Census of Agriculture and Forestry.