

Characteristics and Issues of Agricultural Corporations in Hokuriku (Summary)

DONG Qi

Research Fellow, Research Division, ERINA

Japan's decreasing birthrate and aging population along with strong government support have greatly stimulated the development of Japanese agricultural corporations. However, the development of these entities manifests distinct regional characteristics. This paper focuses on Japan's Hokuriku region, including Niigata Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture, and Fukui Prefecture, and aims to figure out the characteristics of its agricultural corporations as well as the problems that stifle their development. It is evident that the capital equipment ratio and the per capita value added (labor productivity) of the agricultural corporations in the Hokuriku region is relatively low. Moreover, these enterprises depend heavily on agricultural production, and they are less involved in agriculture-related and non-agricultural businesses. Both hinder the profitability and the further development of the agricultural corporations in the Hokuriku region. Further, this study argues that the high ratio of temporary employees, the high share of leased land, and limited access to financing account for those problems.

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