1. Introduction

In Japan, the number of full-time farm households has continued to decrease since the latter half of 20th century. The number of part-time households has been also decreasing remarkably. Cultivated acreage also aligned with these tendencies and it has decreased. As a result, the farmland which is not cultivated increased and it may also grow into a social problem. Therefore, the present condition and future view of Japanese agriculture was examined in the study by analyzing the transition of non-cultivated arable land from a historical perspective.

2. Analysis

Fig. 1 depicts the area of non-cultivated arable land and the rate after 1975. This area of non-cultivated arable land includes the one of non-farm land owners. The area in 1975 was 13.1 ten thousand hectares, and then continued to increase gradually, it became to 39.6 in 2010. The rate of area of non-cultivated arable land was only 2.7 percent in 1975. It continued to increase significantly after the 1990s, and it reached more than 10% in 2010. After the 1990s, the increase of non-cultivated arable land area is quite noticeable as well as the trend of the rate.

Fig. 2 shows the area of non-cultivated arable land by owner in Japan after 1990. The area has almost doubled in about 20 years. The area of non-cultivated arable land by commercial farm households had increased until 2000, and then decreased. The area of non-cultivated arable land in non-farm households and non-commercial farm households has been increased significantly in both real and percentage. Non-cultivated arable land area owned by subsistence farmers increased by more than twice the number in 1990, and it had more than 9 ten thousand ha in 2010. This is also similar to the change in the area of non-cultivated arable land owned by the non-farmers. The percentage of non-farm households had increased from 30.5 % in 1990 to 45.9 % in 2010. Since there are many undesirable part of the current situation, it is required to change significantly current farm management style. The data by prefecture will be also presented on the day of the announcement.

3. Concluding Remarks

In fact, farmers begin to work with the distribution and sales companies, or companies have begun the agricultural production in Japan. If these changes are not rare but become on a daily basis, an increase of non-cultivated arable land may be relaxed. Effective agricultural policies should be carried out meticulously.

Keywords : Non-cultivated arable land, part-time farm households, non-farm households, Japan

Fig. 1 Area of non-cultivated arable land and the rate in Japan  
Fig. 2 Area of non-cultivated arable land by owner in Japan

Source; Census of agriculture and forestry in Japan