Private forest management and the current forest industry in Kosuge.
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Japan is one of the largest wood consumers in the world, making it practically impossible for domestic wood supplies alone to meet the demand of its wood consumption. Notwithstanding the above, for about three decades, growth in industrial production has largely been based on rising wood imports and today, approximately 80% of Japan's wood demand is imported from other countries. This has become a problem in the forest industry. For the success and competitiveness of the forest industries in Japan, it is very important to ensure the competitiveness and availability of domestic raw material.

Like any business, or enterprise private forest owners have a different idea to forestry and response to the profit motive. Private forestry is the most important factor in domestic wood production, more and more private forest owners have reduced their management activities, resulting in a general deterioration of private plantations in Japan. Today further investments seem to have dwindled and migration to urban centers is high.

A problem of immediate solution is also the one growing from the large numbers of small forest owners (<6ha). Liquidation of their forest property is becoming an alternative to sustain yield production. Some hold the forest only as a property to be transferred with intermittent operations and have no intentions of further investments in the forest industry. The objectives of this research include
• To work out measures to be taken to enhance the utilization of domestic wood.
• To assess whether the current regrowth and management will satisfy future requirements should the price of wood rise. Further information management relating to private forestry by co-operatives would be assessed.
• To assess the impact of changing wood price on private forestry and forest communities.
• To find out the idea of small forest owners and private owners in holding their forest properties.
• To know how income and cost for private owners are affected and how this relation will change in future.

Methods
1. Questionnaires would be administered to solicit views from private forest owners and co-operatives on forest management issues and impact of wood price on private forestry.
2. Observations would be made on some individual private forests and wood markets.
3. City and village offices would be visited to obtain data on forest industry.

Study area.
The study would be conducted in Kosuge and surrounding villages in the Yamanashi prefecture, Japan. This area has been chosen due to vigorous forest activities. It is believed that the results would be a fair representation of private forest management and the forest industry in Yamanashi prefecture.

Expected results
Marginal returns from forest investments would decrease and the attractiveness of other fields would increase relatively. Many people who have come into the control of forest properties, think today of exhausting the properties and seeking new enterprise, which they may receive returns for their investments and energy. The greatest share of the responsibility of providing for the future falls on private ownership. Reduced investment will result in the decline in rate of forest regrowth and forest operations. Migration of industries will rise and the youth will desert local communities due to lack of forest related jobs. Private forestry needs to be revitalized and administered efficiently to assure the supplies of timber and indirect benefits leading to an increase in the self-sufficient rate of timber production in Japan. Small forest owners are opting for liquidation rather than sustain-yield.

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