

Outline of the Tokyo Agriculture Promotion Plan: New Steps for the Next Stage

Chapter 1 Tokyo Agriculture Reaches a Turning Point

Changes in Society Related to Agriculture in Tokyo

[Situation surrounding agriculture in Tokyo]

- Rising expectations for fresh, safe, and reliable agricultural and livestock products produced in Tokyo, as well as higher value being placed on the various roles played by agriculture and agricultural land.
- Issues continuing to progress include reduced interest in agriculture as a profession due to declining profitability and land-related tax burdens, the rising age of farmers, and loss of farmland.

[Actions related to urban agriculture]

- In past years, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has asked the central government to improve systems pertaining to urban agriculture and farmland, as well as make tax system revisions.
- The central government enacted the Basic Act on the Promotion of Urban Agriculture (April 2015), and established the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Urban Agriculture (May 2016) by Cabinet Decision.

Current Status of Agriculture in Tokyo and Challenges

[Current status and features of Tokyo agriculture]

- Over a ten-year period, the number of ambitious certified farmers working to improve farm management rose 210%, whereas farmland decreased by 1,210 ha.
- Diverse styles of farm management are developing, including 70% or more of farmers selling products through direct sales and the establishment of over 100 farms offering farm experience programs.

[Challenges faced by Tokyo agriculture]

- Secure and train human resources for agriculture and strengthen management skills and productivity.
- Implement new measures to preserve urban farmland and further develop agriculture's varied functions.
- Ensure food safety and practice eco-friendly, sustainable agriculture, as well as promote local consumption of Tokyo's agriculture and livestock products.
- Develop measures to promote agriculture tailored to the situation in areas throughout Tokyo including, Tokyo's islands, hilly and mountainous areas, suburban areas, and urban areas.

Chapter 2 Direction for the Promotion of Agriculture in Tokyo and Development of Measures

Vision that Tokyo agriculture should pursue: Powerful agriculture that coexists with the city and contributes to the lives of Tokyo citizens

1 Secure and train human resources and develop robust farm management practices

[Secure and train diverse human resources]

- Establish a training system according to the needs of farmers, including comprehensive training provided by designated farmer-instructors.
- Promote the creation of a comfortable work environment for women, including holding training programs for women aiming to begin a career in agriculture.

[Strengthen the management skills of motivated farmers and others]

- Develop a highly productive cultivation system that utilizes advanced technologies such as ICT.
- Establish manuals for cultivating Edo-Tokyo vegetables and disseminate this information among producers.
- Establish high-quality brands by developing new varieties, conducting technical training, using original promotional methods, and other means.

[Enhance productivity by establishing required facilities, infrastructure, etc.]

- Provide support for building agricultural facilities with the aim of improving productivity and promote the utilization of farmland.



Magome Sanzun carrots
(an Edo-Tokyo vegetable)

2 Preserve farmland and leverage the various functions it can serve

[New approaches to preserving farmland]

- Operate model farms to promote the use of publicly-owned designated productive green areas for agricultural purposes.

[Support cities through disaster preparedness and environmental preservation functions]

- Improve urban farmland's ability to support a city when a disaster strikes by undertaking improvements such as building agricultural wells that can also be used to supply water in times of disaster.
- Support initiatives created from the standpoint of preserving green areas and agricultural scenery.

[Expand opportunities to experience a variety of farm work]

- Support the smooth operation of farms that offer school children the opportunity to experience farming.

[Promote urban greening using flowers and trees raised in Tokyo]

- Expand the use of plants grown in Tokyo for greening.
- Develop greening techniques that ease the heat of summer.



Children experience harvesting (Hino City)

3 Promote sustainable agriculture and local consumption

[Provide agricultural products through sustainable agriculture]

- Promote the use of GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) standards, and promote the system to consumers, etc.
- Consider establishing a Tokyo Metropolitan GAP system.

[Strengthen measures to prevent the spread of plant and animal diseases]

- Promote measures to prevent the outbreak of serious animal and livestock diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza.

[Promote local consumption of Tokyo agricultural and livestock products]

- Boost consumption of Edo-Tokyo vegetables by matching producers and businesses, and promoting them to Tokyo citizens and businesses.
- Support initiatives for the utilization of local agricultural and livestock products, such as establishing restaurants run by farmers.
- Establish a system to supply Tokyo grown/produced agricultural products to schools in the special wards area where farmland is scarce for use in school lunches.



Checking farm management records in preparation for obtaining GAP certification

4 Promote agriculture that takes advantage of the characteristics of the local area

[Promoting agriculture in Tokyo's Islands]

- Provide comprehensive support for securing human resources for agriculture by recruiting new participants from outside the islands, providing technical training, helping farmers find land, and other means.

[Promoting agriculture in Tokyo's hilly and mountainous areas]

- Utilize agriculture and the rich natural environment as a local resource and support initiatives that provide city-dwellers with the opportunity to try agriculture, etc.

[Promoting agriculture in Tokyo's suburban areas]

- Provide support for measures such as the establishment of cultivation facilities and the development of new sales channels, including supplying agricultural products for use in school lunches in central Tokyo.

[Promoting agriculture in Tokyo's urban areas]

- Support initiatives for securing urban farmland, including restoring residential land to farmland.



Agriculture training center (Hachijo-machi)

Chapter 3 Improve Systems Pertaining to Urban Agriculture and Farmland

To ensure the preservation of urban agriculture and farmland, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has requested the following of the central government.

[Inheritance tax deferral system that would apply to designated productive green areas which have been leased]

Establishment of a system to facilitate the leasing of designated productive green areas for a clearly defined lease period
Inheritance tax deferral system to apply to designated productive green areas which have been leased

[System for inheritance tax deferral to apply to land used for agricultural equipment and facilities required for the farming business]

Inheritance tax deferral system to apply to land used for agricultural equipment and facilities, including packing and shipping facilities, warehouses for farm equipment, and livestock barns.

[Support for purchasing land designated productive green areas]

Provide financial support to municipalities asked to buy land designated productive green areas

[Establish a new system for payment of inheritance tax in kind]

Create a new system to allow local governments to lease farmland within urbanized areas that has been transferred to the central government through payment of inheritance tax in kind, facilitating continued use for agricultural purposes.

Chapter 4 Working Together to Promote Tokyo Agriculture

To develop robust agriculture in Tokyo that coexists with the city and contributes to the people, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government promotes agriculture in cooperation with farmers, farming organizations, municipalities, the central government, and the citizens of Tokyo.

Chapter 5 Business Models for Tokyo Agriculture

Provides examples of business models for farmers to reference when setting income targets (models for 10 million yen, 6 million yen, 3 million yen, etc.)