

Case study of current status and issues of new entrant apple farmers in Nagano Prefecture

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In Japan's agriculture, the retirement of elderly farmers is expected to increase in the future, so they will be able to use them effectively on degraded farmland and farmland of farmers without successors and become human resources who will support Japan's agriculture in the future. The urgent task is to secure new youth farmers and promote their establishment. Under these circumstances, the number of new farmers from 2014 to 2017 was 57,650, 65,030, 60,150 and 55,670. If new farmers under the age of 49 were limited, 21,860, 23,030, 22,050, 20,760 and 20,000. It has been maintaining more than people. The main reasons for this are that the government is promoting a system to support new employment of young people, such as the “employment of farming” and that the number of family-owned (sales farmers) is decreasing, but the number of organization-based entities is increasing. It is also possible that the number of workplaces that can farm as salaried workers has increased. In this study, a new self-employed farmer in the apple orchard in Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture, and a sales farmer aiming for the organic apple JAS certification. The current situation and issues of new farmers will be introduced, based on interviews with selling farmers and analysis results of apple orchard soil.

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