

Recovery & Reconstruction

By Power of Cooperation



March 11

The Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami
and the JA Group's Efforts



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We Can Recover!



Akira BANZAI (JA-Zenchu President)

It has been nearly seven months since the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami, a disaster of unprecedented proportions that claimed many precious lives and at the same time robbed survivors of livelihoods built up from previous generations. I sincerely mourn for the lives lost and I offer again my condolences to the persons afflicted by this disaster.

The backbone industries in the regions hit particularly hard by this disaster were the agricultural and fishery industries. Farmland along the coast was flooded by the tsunami, which also damaged irrigation/drainage networks and many other agriculture-related facilities. There is still no end in sight to the harmful repercussions of the TEPCO nuclear power plant accident, almost seven months after the disaster struck. This damage has had a major impact on operations of primary agricultural co-operative (JAs) in these coastal areas.

The JA Group will marshal its full capabilities in working toward an early recovery. In addition to a relief package exceeding 10 billion yen (133

million USD) and individual donations from members, officials and employees of JAs, we have continued our dedicated efforts to deploy JA Group Assistance Teams, to implement operational countermeasures at JA locations in disaster-hit areas, and to undertake measures to combat the damage caused by the TEPCO nuclear power plant accident.

At the same time, I believe that the central and local governments have an extremely large role to play in bringing recovery to the afflicted areas. We must seek to establish sustainable agriculture to encourage all JA members who have lost their means of production to remain in farming, and to reflect in the vision for recovery the genuine wishes of local communities so that those who have had their livelihoods taken from them can live with a sense of security in these communities.

The devastation caused by the disaster was of an enormity defying description. Despite the difficulties, JA members, officials and employees and local residents in the distressed areas are helping each other out in making a strong push towards recovery, and I have been deeply impressed by this collaboration. Indeed, let me express here my profound gratitude for the heartwarming support we have received not only from JAs nationwide but also friends of co-operative abroad in providing assistance to people in the afflicted regions.

The breadth and depth of the support that has arrived from all over Japan and around the world following the disaster seems to me to indicate a heightened sense of the value of mutual assistance and mutual ties. I have no doubt that the road to recovery will be a long and steep one, but I am convinced that the encouragement and help that so many people are providing each other will take us all the way down this road.

Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami TEPCO Nuclear Power Plant Accident

The magnitude 9.0 Tohoku-Pacific Earthquake, the largest in recorded Japanese history, struck at 14:46 on March 11, 2011, centered beneath the seabed offshore the Sanriku area. The tsunami generated by this earthquake struck Japan's Pacific coast along a stretch from the Tohoku to the Kanto regions, inflicting devastation in particular on Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures. More than 20,000 persons were killed or went missing, more than 230,000 houses were partially or totally destroyed, and the economic toll reached 16.9 trillion yen (225 billion USD). The agricultural, forestry and fishery industries suffered a tremendous 2.3 trillion yen (30 billion USD) in damage, and JAs were seriously harmed by the total destruction of branches and offices and the deaths of personnel. Furthermore, the core meltdown and hydrogen explosion, a worst-case accident, occurred at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant. Residents of the surrounding area have been forced into long-term evacuation, restrictions have been placed on the shipping of local agricultural and livestock products already the subject of harmful rumors, soil has been affected by radioactive contamination, and the serious harm suffered by the agricultural industry continues to this day.

The Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami – I

Human suffering (persons)

Dead	15821
Missing	3929
Injured	5940

As of October 5
(National Police Agency study)

Agricultural damage (unit: 100 million yen)

Classification	Primary damage	Amount of damage
Farmland, agricultural facilities	Destruction of farmland	3,992
	Damage to agricultural facilities, etc.	3,906
Farm produce, etc.	Farm produce, livestock, etc.	118
	Agricultural/livestock facilities, etc.	397
Total		8,412

As of July 25
(Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries study)

Estimated area of farmland damaged (washed away, flooded, etc.) by tsunami (units: ha, %)

Prefecture	Cultivated area (2010)	Estimated area washed away, flooded, etc.
Aomori	156,800	79 (0.1)
Iwate	153,900	1,838 (1.2)
Miyagi	136,300	15,002 (11.0)
Fukushima	149,900	5,923 (4.0)
Ibaraki	175,200	531 (0.3)
Chiba	128,800	227 (0.2)
Total	900,900	23,600 (2.6)

From FY2010 White Paper on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas

North Japan Kumiai Feed Plant in Hachinohe
Manufacturing of feeds for chicken and pig restarted on March 28

JA Ofunato
Head office flooded and unusable, head office functions temporarily transferred to Inokawa Branch, 11 branches totally or substantially destroyed.

JA Shin-Iwate
One branch totally destroyed

JA Iwate Hanamaki
Two branches totally destroyed, one branch unusable

North Japan Kumiai Feed Plant in Hanamaki
Restored in mid-March

JA Iwate Furusato
Access barred to one regional center in danger of collapse

JA Minami-Sanriku
Head office destroyed, head office functions transferred to Motoyoshi Branch, two branches destroyed.

JA Ishinomaki
One branch and 10 offices completely destroyed, many agricultural facilities washed away

North Japan Kumiai Feed Plant in Ishinomaki
Partially restored in mid-May

JA Sendai
One branch destroyed

JA Natori Iwanuma
One branch collapsed

JA Miyagi Watari
Two branches destroyed

JA Futaba
All head office and branch functions suspended within 30 km radius of TEPCO nuclear power plant, head office functions moved to JA Fukushima Building

JA Soma
Three branches and one field office facing operational difficulties due to TEPCO nuclear power plant accident

JA Sukagawa Iwase
Head office collapsed, head office functions moved to East Branch

JA Ibaraki Central
One branch closed due to damage

East Japan Kumiai Feed Plant in Kashima
Restored in mid-March

Oirase Town	44ha
Hachinohe City	35ha
Hirono Town	10ha
Kuji City	34ha
Noda Village	94ha
Tanohata Village	12ha
Iwaizumi Town	92ha
Miyako City	243ha
Yamada Town	93ha
Otsuchi Town	50ha
Kamaishi City	79ha
Ofunato City	460ha
Rikuzentakata City	671ha

Kesenuma City	1032ha
Minamisanriku Town	262ha
Ishinomaki City	2107ha
Onagawa Town	10ha
Higashi-Matsushima City	1495ha
Matsushima Town	91ha
Shiogama City	27ha
Shichigahama Town	171ha
Tagajo City	53ha

Seismic center (M9.0) (2:46 p.m., March 11)

Sendai City	2681ha
Natori City	1561ha
Iwanuma City	1206ha
Watari Town	2711ha
Yamamoto Town	1595ha

Shinchi Town	433ha
Soma City	1311ha
Minami-Soma City	2722ha
Namie Town	366ha
Futaba Town	177ha
Okuma Town	74ha
Tomioka Town	75ha
Naraha Town	203ha
Hirono Town	103ha
Iwaki City	459ha

Kita-Ibaraki City	14ha
Takahagi City	15ha
Hitachi City	2ha
Tokai Village	50ha
Kashima City	200ha
Kamisu City	250ha

Choshi City	1ha
Asahi City	100ha
Sosa City	11ha
Yokoshibahikari Town	3ha
Sammu City	112ha

Principal Damage

Area of farmland washed away/flooded

Damaged Feed plants (as of April 6, JA ZEN-NOH study)

Damage JAs (inquiries to prefectural unions, etc.)

Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant

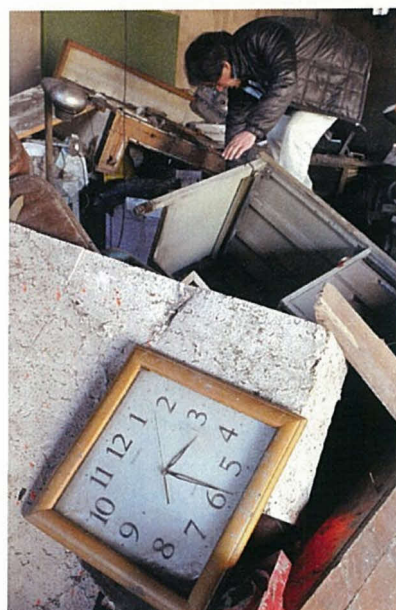


Giant Tsunami, Earthquake, Nuclear Accident...

Unprecedented Calamity for Agriculture

Town swallowed by giant tsunami

Streets of Rikuzentakata City (Iwate Prefecture) erased without a trace by the tsunami; JA Ofunato Takata Branch visible in background (March 21)



Time standing still

Clock stopped at the time the tsunami is thought to have struck (March 19, Yamada Town, Iwate Prefecture)



Cowshed collapse

Rescue of beef cattle trapped under cowshed collapsed by earthquake (March 16, Misato Town, Miyagi Prefecture)



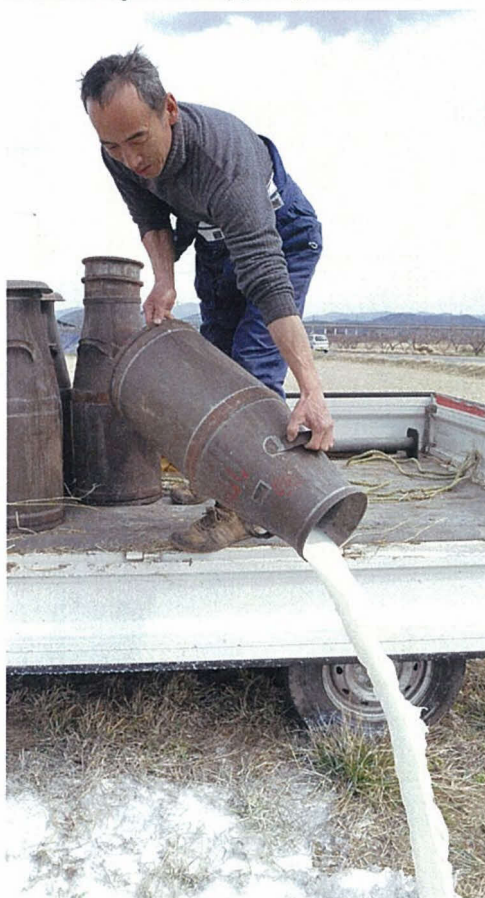
Production area destroyed

Damage from tsunami that struck Watari Town, Miyagi Prefecture's largest strawberry growing area (March 17)



Buried in rubble

A firefighter continues search efforts in paddy field buried in rubble washed in by tsunami in Wakabayashi Ward, Sendai City (March 18)



Heartrending milk dump

Dairy farmer in Fukushima City compelled to dump milk in pasture when milk collection truck failed to show up (March 14)



Shipments suspended

Anxious cattle farmer feeds his animals as shipments of beef produced in Fukushima Prefecture are halted (July 19, Kitakata City)



Collapsed head office

JA Sukagawa Iwase head office ruined by earthquake (March 13, Sukagawa City, Fukushima Prefecture)



Toward Restoration and Recovery

Mutual Assistance at JA

Rice balls with best wishes

Members of Women's group in JA Shin-Fukushima cooking rice balls for 2000 persons (March 14, Fukushima City)



Maintaining lifelines

Upper right: JA Group Yamagata personnel making "curry & rice" for disaster victims (March 21, Higashi-Matsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture)
Lower right: Staff from Saku Central Hospital of Nagano Prefecture inquiring about the health of disaster victims (April 8, Ishinomaki City)
Left: Vehicle being refueled with pedal-driven pump at JA Minami-Sanriku's refueling station (March 25, Kesennuma City)



The rice is here!

Junior-high school students in Kamaishi City carrying relief rice donated by JA Iwate Hanamaki (March 22)



JA Group Assistance Team

JA Group personnel assigned to clear mud and rubble from water channels in Rikuzentakata City, part of the purview of JA Ofunato in Iwate Prefecture; as of the end of July, 1700 personnel have been engaged in efforts scheduled to continue until the end of October (June 16)



Repaying a debt of gratitude

JA Miyazaki Prefectural Union Chairperson Toshiyuki Morinaga (far right) and other JA chairpersons from Miyazaki Prefecture engaged in restoration efforts to return the favor for assistance provided during Miyazaki's foot-and-mouth epidemic (July 7)



Rebuilding strawberry production area

JA Assistance Team assigned to restore green house for strawberry in Watari Town, Miyagi Prefecture (upper photo, July 7); JA Assistance Team righting a toppled humidifier (lower photo, June 7)



Overall Efforts to Assist Afflicted Areas The Power of Collaboration in Rebuilding

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami, JA Group summoned up its full organizational capabilities to help people in the afflicted areas rebuild their livelihoods, to restore/recover agricultural infrastructure, and to get JAs' operating bases back into business as soon as possible. In addition to fundraising efforts among JA members, officials and employees that yielded 11.6 billion yen (154 million USD) in donations and contributions, which includes funds from friends of co-operative abroad, we have provided relief supplies of food and daily necessities on a nationwide scale and pursued other assistance efforts in a spirit of cooperation.

Relief activities

Food and other supplies rapidly delivered 11.6 billion yen in donations raised

In the wake of the earthquake and tsunami, the disaster-stricken areas were in immediate need of food, daily necessities and other everyday commodities to tide people over.

In the JA Group, as co-operative organizations to maintain the livelihoods of communities, JAs in afflicted area began immediately after the disaster cooking and providing meals while JAs nationwide and their federations arranged for free supplies of food and everyday goods. JA Group organizations in all prefectures participated in these efforts, providing polished rice, retort-pouched meals, water, tea, juice as well as undergarments, blankets, diapers, towels, soap, cotton gloves, portable toilets and a host of other relief supplies. The Emergency Central Headquarters for the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Disaster also delivered "Pearl Rice" and A-COOP products.

In parallel with these efforts, JA members, officials and employees nationwide joined together in the JA Group Recovery Assistance Fundraising Drive that lasted from March 14 to April 28, with each JA placing a collection box at its respective location. The National Council of Agricultural co-operative Youth Associations and the National Council of Agricultural co-operative Women's Associations, too, called on the help of prefectural organizations throughout the country. Encouragement from co-operative colleagues and the goodwill of the Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative Union and overseas co-operative friends help raise a nationwide total of 1.5 billion yen (20 million USD).

A JA Group Recovery & Reconstruction Donation Fund was created apart from the relief money raised. The purpose of this Fund was to aid the quick recovery of JA infrastructure that constitutes a foundation for the liveli-

hoods of agricultural producers and local residents. A total of 10.1 billion yen (135 million USD) was col-

lected from JAs nationwide, prefectural federations and national organizations and co-operative friends abroad.

The allocation of these donations was approved on June 9, and the funding presented to Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Chiba and Tochigi prefectures. This money has been utilized to rebuild damaged JAs and prefectural unions and federations, and to restore and recover agricultural infrastructure in the areas affected by the disaster.

Free food supplied to afflicted areas

Polished rice	350 tons
Vegetables	600 tons
Meals	320,000 meals
Beverages	350,000 liters



JA Group Miyagi supplying rice balls to boost the spirits of disaster victims (March 22, Yamato Town, Miyagi Prefecture)

as ling Lives and Farms

Assistance by National Federations

Backing Efforts to Rebuild Disaster Victims' Livelihoods Offering Total Support to Restore Agricultural Infrastructure

National federations in the JA Group have reinforced their support system to help rebuild the livelihoods of disaster victims and restore/recover agricultural infrastructure.

JA-Zen-Noh (National Federation of Agricultural co-operative Associations) has continued its efforts to meet the needs of disaster-stricken areas, quickly providing rice, plastic-bottled beverages, and other foods and supplies and, because of the extensive damage suffered by feed plants and other livestock product facilities as well as petroleum shipping installations, arranging alternative transport from feed plants in other regions and emergency imports of kerosene from South Korea. To combat the adverse effects of the Tokyo Electric Power Company's nuclear power plant accident, projects were also launched in Tokyo and elsewhere to support sales of agricultural produce from Fukushima Prefecture and other afflicted production areas.

Shortly after the disaster, JA-Kyousairen (National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural co-operative) established the disaster countermeasures headquarters at the national head office and gave top priority to helping out policyholders and local users by (1) rapidly surveying the damage and paying mutual insurance claims and (2) providing special disaster assistance to policyholders and JA users. A total of 2,450 assessors, consisting not only of personnel of JAs and federations in the afflicted prefectures but also personnel from federations in other prefectures, were dispatched to the afflicted areas to conduct damage surveys and make all-out efforts to pay mutual insurance claims. As the result, building endowment insurance and comprehensive life insurance payments in excess of 707.7 billion yen (9.4 billion USD) have been made in more than 470,000 cases as of October 4, 2011. A JA Mutual Insurance Inquiry Center for Evacuee Policyholders was set up for policyholders who have sought refuge outside their home prefectures.

The Norinchukin Bank provided expedient refunds of savings and emergency bridge loans as emergency measures to assist JA members and users in the disaster-hit areas. To support the recovery of the agricultural, forestry and fishery industries, a "Recovery Support Program," expected to last about four years to provide assistance funding of 30 billion yen (0.4 billion USD) for 1 trillion yen (13.3 billion USD) of business scale, has been established to provide loans to producers in the agricultural, forestry and fishery industries and to help JAs and fisheries and forest-owners co-operative revive their businesses.



To avert damage from harmful rumors, JA Zen-Noh undertook sales efforts to stress the safety of vegetables from disaster-stricken areas (April 17, Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium, Minato Ward, Tokyo)

JA-Zenkouren (National Health & Welfare Federation of Agricultural co-operative) set up a National Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters, assessed the damage to prefectural federations' offices hit by the disaster, and compiled demands for assistance. Prefectural federations and affiliated hospitals deployed disaster medical assistance teams and medical relief squads totaling 3,000 personnel who offered treatment, nursing and other healthcare services to disaster victims.

The Japan Agricultural News provided free copies of newspapers to evacuation centers, and a JA Group disaster relief Twitter feed was created. The Ie-no-Hikari Association sent disposable diapers to the afflicted areas and offered copies of "Ie no Hikari," "Chijo" and "Chagurin." The Nokyō Tourist Corporation operated free bus transportation in the afflicted areas, supported sales of agricultural and livestock products, and hosted meetings in afflicted areas.

Letter of Appreciation

To: Mr. Mamoru Moteki, President, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your understanding and cooperation in the administration of our nation's agricultural, forestry and fishery industries.

The Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami was a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions. The areas hardest hit faced serious difficulties in securing food and beverage supplies, with the dire straits faced by disaster victims culminating in uncertainty about what even the next day might bring. The subsequent Fukushima nuclear power plant accident forced still more people to evacuate their homes, a situation that continues to this day.

Given these circumstances, donations of food and other supplies as expressions of goodwill were immensely helpful in ensuring that the very essentials of life found their way to persons in the afflicted areas and in giving them courage and hope for tomorrow in the midst of their wrecked lives and relocation to evacuation centers.

Efforts to help the disaster-stricken regions are still underway now, a month since the earthquake and tsunami, and I would like once again here to express my deepest respect and gratitude for the assistance you have heretofore provided.

I would be grateful for your continued generosity toward the disaster-hit areas and I ask your support in assisting producers harmed by rumors stemming from the nuclear power plant accident to ensure evidence-based raw procurement.

April 2011

Michihiko Kano
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Letter of appreciation for emergency food relief efforts received from Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The original was written in Japanese. The JA Group quickly assisted disaster victims by providing food and daily necessities, and the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sent JA-Zenchu a letter of thanks for these highly-regarded efforts.

JA Assistance Teams

Officials and employees nationwide converge on disaster-hit areas to join in struggle to restore JA facilities and agriculture



JA Assistance Team engaged in the sweaty work of restoring a paddy field damaged by the tsunami (July 21, Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture)



A strawberry farmer (right) and a JA Assistance Team member work together to pull away a mulch sheet after clearing mud out of the furrows (May 24, Watari Town, Miyagi Prefecture)

As we gave serious thought what we could do for the regions hit by the disaster, we recruited volunteers from the JA Group to undertake recovery efforts and organized JA Group Assistance Teams for dispatch to afflicted areas in accordance with their particular needs.

On April 19 the first batch of volunteers enrolled from among the officials and employees of JAs and prefectural unions and associations nationwide were dispatched. Assistance teams totaling 1,885 participants subsequently put in 9,703 man-days through the end of September.

This endeavor earned praise from the devastated areas, which lauded "the JA Group's distinctive grass-roots assistance and its recognition of agriculture's importance." JA-Zenchu extended the dispatch period, initially scheduled to conclude at the end of July, until the end of October.

Shortly after the disaster, head offices and branches of JAs in Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and other disaster-affected prefectures discovered that the tsunami and rubble had washed into their offices, thoroughly soaking all the documents therein. The initial dispatch of assistance teams thus focused primarily on clearing away this rubble, cleaning up the offices, and sorting out documents. These were labor-intensive tasks, and the helping hands lent by Group personnel well-acquainted with the situation faced by JAs were very welcome.

Carefully-stacked piles of rice bags stored in depots in Miyagi Prefecture and elsewhere had been knocked over in

the earthquake, putting their commercial value at risk, but assistance teams made up of personnel from JA Zen-Noh and other organizations restacked the stored rice.

In areas where farmers' greenhouses had collapsed or rubble had been washed inside, these teams also cleared away the rubble and mud in and around the facilities. We could hear voices from producers whose greenhouses had been restored by the assistance teams declared, "I'm now willing to give farming another try."

The tsunami had rolled into paddy fields in Iwate and Miyagi prefectures, bringing with sea sand, seawater, rubble, household items, etc. Removal efforts by the Self-Defense Forces and others only went so far as to clear the large wreckage from paddy fields, leaving behind small pieces of rubble and trash stuck in the paddy fields that would hinder any attempt to cultivate the land.

If the drainage ditches were not cleared before the rainy season, rain water would remain standing in the paddy fields and pose a risk of overflow. For that reason, the assistance teams primarily devoted their efforts from June to July to removing rubble and mud from drainage ditches.

An example of the gratitude expressed is this by one JA member: "Some people not aware of the importance of drainage ditches had piled up rubble that blocked up these ditches. JA Group personnel know all about paddy fields, though, and having JA Group personnel familiar with agriculture come to help me out was a real life-saver."

Request Recovery Efforts to the Government and Political Parties

The JA Group set up a Central Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Countermeasures shortly after the disaster struck to provide physical and material support and donations, to deal with the repercussions of the nuclear power plant accident, and to make requests to the government and the Diet. We are continuing our efforts to employ the power of cooperation to maximum effect in bringing restoration and recovery to the devastated areas.

On the evening of March 11, 2011, only hours after the earthquake, eight national organizations in JA Group set up a Central Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Countermeasures to the Tohoku-Pacific Earthquake. To enable swift relief efforts for the disaster-hit areas, a start was made on (1) assessing the damage suffered by agriculture and JAs, (2) developing proposals/requests for disaster countermeasures, (3) collaborating with relevant organizations, and (4) offering physical support.

The Central Headquarters decided support sharing among neighboring prefectures to offer prioritized assistance to the three prefectures hit particularly hard – Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima – and emergency dispatches of personnel were implemented in coordination with the government and JA prefectural headquarters.

To bolster efforts toward recovery, the Central Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Countermeasures was abolished on April 7 and replaced by a new JA Group Central Headquarters for Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Recovery & Reconstruction Measures organized mainly by presidents of prefectural unions from the afflicted prefectures. This new organization continues to (1) consider the legislation, budgets, tax schemes, and other measures necessary for the post-disaster recovery and rebuilding of the agricultural industry, rural villages and JAs and lobby the government and the Diet, and (2) to develop and implement measures to deal with requests for compensation and damages pertaining to the TEPCO nuclear power plant accident and to assist disaster-stricken JAs to improve the soundness of their management, businesses, and organizations.

Thus far we have submitted to the government a first set of requests on April 14 and a second set on June 9. The first set of requests presented the fundamental thinking underlying the requests and called for a buyback program for irreclaimable

farmland, tax exemptions and other exceptions to the tax system as recovery measures. At the same time, we asked the government to deal with the TEPCO nuclear power plant accident and implement specific assistance measures toward recovery.

The second set of requests included more specific versions of the first set as well as additional items, including accelerating recovery efforts and eliminating the problem of overlapping debt as well as alleviating livelihood and management issues standing in the way of farmers victimized by the disaster who were seeking to resume farming.

JA-Zenchu and the National Agricultural Policy Federation convened a meeting on Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Countermeasures and Basic Agricultural Policy Formulation with more than 1,000 participants in Tokyo on July 29. This meeting called for the slow progress in earthquake recovery measures to be accelerated, for the TEPCO nuclear power plant accident to be resolved as soon as possible, and for the restoration of public trust in beef safety through the blanket testing of beef cattle, submitting these requests to the government and both ruling and opposition parties.



(Then) JA-Zenchu President Moteki (left, at that time) presents list of requested earthquake recovery measures to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Michihiko Kano (March 24, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo)

Working toward a Quick Resolution and Full Compensation

The enormous impact of the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant – prolonged evacuation of farmers and other residents, suspended shipments of local agricultural and livestock products, sharp drops in prices and stagnating consumption, not to mention soil contamination – has shaken the very viability of local agriculture. The JA Group has continued pushing TEPCO and the national government to arrange full compensation for farmers, to make prompt payment of damages, and to take steps to halt the spread of harmful rumors and restore public confidence in local products. The JA Group has also endeavored on its own to support sales of agricultural produce from the devastated areas. The national government should heed the woeful pleas of local producers and implement swift and robust measures. It is also imperative that contaminated soil be decontaminated so that farming can be resumed as soon as possible.



(Then) JA-Zenchu Chairman Mamoru Moteki and JA Group representatives presenting a letter of protest to TEPCO President Masataka Shimizu (left) (April 14, TEPCO Head Office)

Our nation's worst nuclear power plant accident has had an immense and extensive impact on agriculture, causing shipments of vegetables, tea, beef and other local agricultural and livestock products to be halted; dramatically driving down farm revenue as a consequence of a substantial decline in market transactions; radioactively contaminating farm soil as well as rice straw and cow manure; and forcing livestock farmers who have become long-term evacuees out of business. The national government has imposed a two-tier rice inspection regime – pre-harvest preliminary inspections and post-harvest full inspections – on 17 prefectures in eastern Japan. Farmers are under serious strain, and delays in rice shipments are but one of the impacts being felt in production areas.

In response to this unprecedented nuclear power plant accident, the JA Group Central Headquarters for Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Recovery & Reconstruction Measures, comprising presidents and other heads of JA Group national organizations and JA prefectural unions in the afflicted prefectures, reached agreement on April 14 on a first set of requests for measures pertaining to the nuclear power plant

accident and began making appeals to the government and to both ruling and opposition parties. The principal requests called for prompt resolution of the accident, measures to help rebuild agriculture, and full compensation for halted shipments and damage stemming from harmful rumors in the wake of the accident.

In conjunction with these requests to the government and political parties, JA Group representatives staged protests against TEPCO. JA-Zenchu President Mamoru Moteki expressed his anger: "There have been no apologies and no explanations for the massive damage suffered by farmers, and farmers across the country are filled with anger and distrust." This nuclear power plant accident has debunked the "safety myth" surrounding

nuclear power plants and has made clear that it is those in the agricultural, forestry and fishery industries that suffer most when radiation leaks occur.

The JA-Zenchu executive board meeting on June 9 approved a second set of requests centered on restoration/recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami and measures addressing the TEPCO Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, submitting these requests to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Michihiko Kano on that same day. JA-Zenchu called for appropriate inspections for the presence of radioactive materials, quick and full compensation, and rules for lifting restrictions placed on shipments that take into account the characteristics of particular commodities, be they annual or perennial crops. TEPCO was asked to provide prompt compensation for all damages suffered, including those attributable to price drops, while the national government was implored to develop a program for quickly making provisional payments.

To help producers through the procedures for claiming damages from TEPCO, councils have been organized around the JA Group in various



Livestock farmer gazes at dead cow in bare cowshed during temporary return home (June 4, Okuma Town, Fukushima Prefecture)



Employees make quick visit to evacuation zone to retrieve documents from JA Futaba Head Office (May 27, Okuma Town)

prefectures. As of the end of September, councils had been set up in 18 prefectures in eastern Japan and the compensation demanded (by 14 prefectures as of the end of September) had reached 70.6 billion yen (9 billion USD). However, the provisional payments actually dispersed by TEPCO thus far only come to 20.2 billion yen (2.7 billion USD), not even 30% of total claims.

The discovery on July 8 of radioactive cesium exceeding provisionally permissible levels in rice straw being provided to beef cattle has developed into a situation that has rocked the beef market and livestock producers. The central government has imposed suspensions on beef shipments from Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures, but the impact of plummeting beef prices and a consumer shift away from beef has reverberated across an even broader scope, including neighboring prefectures and the entire Kanto region, sparking the most serious livestock crisis since the 2001 outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

In order to dispel public doubts about beef, JA Group organizations in all regions have begun lobbying to quickly launch blanket testing of beef cattle for radioactive materials. On July 20 JA-Zenchu and JA Group Fukushima asked Reconstruction Minister Tatsuo Hirano to promptly establish a blanket testing system for beef cattle and a buy-back program for beef exceeding the provisionally-established radiation ceilings, and to get TEPCO to pay compensation for losses incurred as a result of the halt in beef shipments, the drop in beef prices, and the decline in transactions. JA Group organizations in Iwate, Miyagi, Yamagata, Tochigi and elsewhere also submitted their own requests to Minister Hirano and other government officials.

On July 26 the national government announced a number of measures to be taken but, in addition to implementation being left to the private sector, the measures themselves were lacking in effectiveness and were insufficient to dispel consumer distrust in beef. Required straight

Claims for Damage to Agricultural/Livestock Produce from Nuclear Accident (unit: million yen)

	April	May	June	July	August	September	total
iwate						29	29
miyagi					222	367	590
akita						102	102
yamagata					63	202	265
fukushima		478	2559	6527	8070	9905	27539
ibaraki	1846	6619	7609	5702	2870	1633	26279
tochigi	1106	1344	1298	1239	313	295	5595
gunma		1607	2301	383	74	185	4550
saitama					857	2	859
chiba		298	1554	1495	704	204	4254
kanagawa			142	176	53		371
niigata					16	48	64
shizuoka					94	11	105
shimane						36	36
total	2952	10346	15464	15522	13338	13018	70640

Claims as of the end of September. Totals may not match sums of individual figures due to rounding.

away are measures that offer the maximum help to livestock farmers in stabilizing their businesses, such as the prompt establishment of a government-run blanket testing regime, full compensation for damages, and programs to expand consumption. The JA Group convened a meeting on Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Countermeasures and Basic Agriculture Policy Formulation on July 29, and pleas were made for swift and full compensation for all damages, blanket testing of beef cattle, a government buyback program, and price support measures.

The Dispute Resolution Panel to Determine Compensation for Nuclear Power-Related Damage (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) on August 5 approved "interim guidelines" to serve as rules for determining compensation. These guidelines extended eligibility for compensation to losses resulting from harmful rumors suffered by the agricultural, forestry and fishery industries. The JA Group will be verifying whether these guidelines are adequate in view of the losses suffered, and will be making the necessary appeals to the government and relevant organizations to ensure that producers, JAs and others are compensated for all harm actually incurred. In addition, the JA Group will be firmly demanding prompt payment of damages from TEPCO and the government and continuing its efforts to see its demands met.



JA Fukushima Goren Chairman Shojo (left) presenting Prime Minister Naoto Kan with a letter of request asking for prompt action in resolving the nuclear power plant issue, and a box of strawberries, a Fukushima specialty (April 15, Prime Minister's office, Nagatacho, Tokyo)



Cooperation

With best wishes
With belief in oneself
With belief in others

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