

# Legal, governance, and policy measures toward climate-resilient food system

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# Legal, governance, and policy measures: why relevant

- Is ensuring food security a legal problem?
- Two camps of how to ensure world's food security: **technological innovation and agricultural expansion** vs. **inadequate and unequal distribution must be addressed** (Webster and Zumbansen, 2018)
- “law stands between food availability and food entitlement.” (Sen, 1981)

## Governing food systems

- Food as a matter of ‘global governance’ (Fakhri, 2015)
- National policies to ensure food security are deeply affected by international legal systems and transnational cooperation's activities

*Legal and policy scholars must ask: What laws and policies matter in ensuring resilient food systems? Does the current societal shift in response to the rapid societal change caused by the climate crisis change the contexts and conditions to ensure food security?*

# Japan's approach to food security

## *Domestic food security*

1999 Basic Law on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas

Art. 2 (Securing of Stable Food Supply)

- (2): In consideration of the fact that the world's food supply and demand and trade have some uncertainties, stable food supply to the citizens shall be secured **by increased domestic agricultural production as a base together with appropriate combination of import and reserve.**
- (3): Food supply shall be managed through improvement of agricultural productivity and comprehensive promotion of sound development of agriculture and food industry [...].

Art. 19 (Food Security in Emergencies)

- The State shall take necessary measures such as increasing food production and restricting distribution in order to secure the minimum food required by the citizens in the events prescribed in paragraph 4 of Article 2.

# Japan's approach to food security

Since Sep 2022 – Discussions for amending Basic Law on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas

Key policy documents:

- Dec 2022: National Policy Outline for Strengthening Food Security (食料安全保障強化政策大綱)
- Jun 2023: New Direction of Development of Food, Agriculture, and Rural Policies(食料・農業・農村政策の新たな展開方向)

Key directions:

- Transformation of industry into one that is **in harmony with the environment**
- Maintenance and development of production levels and maintenance of local communities **in a declining population**

Some notable revisions:

- Introduction of the notion of “food system” – which includes production, processing, distribution, retail and consumption
- New emphasis on promoting exports to meet growing overseas demand and to help improve the profitability of farmers and food business operators

Basic law is expected to be amended in 2024 or later

# Japan's approach to food security (cont.)

## *Food security as economic security*

May 2022: Economic Security Promotion Act

- “With the increasing complexity of the global landscape and changes in the world’s socio-economic structure, [...], the Act stipulates that the government formulates a basic policy and introduces necessary systems **as economic measures related to ensuring national security**, [...].”
- In relation to food security, **fertilizer has been selected as critical material** under the Act and plans for ensuring a stable supply are placed

## *Integration of climate-related policies*

Dec 2020: Climate Change Impact Assessment Report

May 2023: Climate Change Adaptation Plan

- Incorporating climate change prediction in food policy-making, supply chain resilience

*Debates on food security seem to be missing in mitigation policy-makings?*

# What do we need to know for better policy-making?

Climate change – risk and opportunity for food security

- Climate change alters the contexts/conditions under which food security has to be pursued and ensured
- However, how it transforms such contexts/conditions is understudied

## **Analysis of international norm-making processes**

- With this interest in mind, this project analyzes international norm-making processes on food security prompted by climate change, with focus on land tenure security and supply chain resilience

## **Questions for today's discussions**

- What are the impacts of climate change on food security governance we should be aware of? What are the key risks and possibilities?
- What legal, institutional, or policy approaches are needed to ensure a resilient food system under the climate crisis?

Thank you

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