

Gender Gap in Decision Making of Farm Management in Japan

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The objective of this presentation is to investigate the determinative factors of the gender gap in farm management decision-making. Although previous studies have analyzed the effect of farm attribute on the levels of participation in decision-making separately such as crops, farm sizes, and sales, few have analyzed by integrating these attributes. The models applied here are multiple regression models for the participation in decision-making of husband and wife, regarding of farm types, such as rice farms, and horticulture farms. The questionnaire survey was conducted to 134 couples in an agricultural organization in Tochigi-city, Japan. The dependent variables are the level of participation in four decision-making area: "product and fund management," "labor management," "sales management," and "diversification." The explanatory variables are family attribute, dummy for full-time farms, sales, diversification, age, days of farm-work, and off-farm work.

The results of our analysis show that, in small rice farms and part-time farms, husbands alone make decisions on "product and fund management," and "labor management." In horticulture farms, husbands delegate the decision-making on "product and fund management" to wives, as they get older. Wives whose husband is the eldest son and heir are not allowed to participate in "product and fund management." This result implies that it is difficult for young daughters-in-law to participate in farm management.