

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** June 12, 2026

**Report Number:** JA2026-0036

**Report Name:** MAFF Published FY2025 White Papers

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation

**Prepared By:** Daisuke Sasatani

**Approved By:** Erica Summe

**Report Highlights:**

In May and June 2026, the Government of Japan published a series of annual White Papers through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) covering the food, agriculture, and fisheries sectors. These White Papers provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges facing Japan's food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors and outline the roadmap for future policies.

## **Background:**

White Papers (sometimes officially translated as “Annual Reports” in English) are official reports prepared and published by government ministries and agencies to inform the public in an accessible manner about the conditions of society and economics, as well as the current state of government policies.

MAFF is legally required to submit the following [four White Papers](#) to the National Diet as annual reports: the Annual Report on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas; the Annual Report on Food Education; the Annual Report on Forest and Forestry; and the Annual Report on the Developments in Japan's Fisheries. These White Papers are important to policy makers and industry groups as they provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges facing the food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors, as well as the roadmap for future policies.

## **Agriculture:**

On May 29, 2026, MAFF published the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 [Annual Report on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas in Japan](#). As is customary, the report includes a [special feature](#), with this year’s focusing on efforts to ensure a stable rice supply and MAFF's response to the "Reiwa Rice Crisis," the period of dramatic price increases following the 2024 rice shortage (see [JA2024-0044](#)). In the White Paper, MAFF candidly acknowledged several factors that contributed to the crisis, including insufficient production volumes and addressing complex distribution realities. MAFF also recognized that government-stockpiled rice was released too late to ease price concerns among wholesalers. Ultimately, MAFF concluded that the primary driver of the temporary price spike was a gap between its own supply-and-demand projections and actual conditions in the market.

## **Forestry:**

On June 2, 2026, MAFF's Forestry Agency published the [FY 2025 Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan](#). The special feature covers the establishment of a circular use process for forest resources, linking timber utilization with reforestation efforts. The White Paper notes that domestically sourced timber accounted for 52.9 percent of construction-use wood in 2024. Although demand for construction timber is driven primarily by low-rise housing, the report warned that residential housing starts are expected to decline over the long term due to factors such as population decline. To sustain Japan's forestry industry, the report emphasized expanding timber construction into mid- and high-rise buildings to generate new sources of demand, alongside continued promotion of wood use in low-rise residential buildings. See [JA2020-0209](#) for deeper discussion.

**Fisheries:**

On June 5, 2026, MAFF's Fisheries Agency published the [FY 2025 Annual Report on the Developments in Japan's Fisheries](#). The special feature covers measures toward developing aquaculture into a growth industry. Exports of fishery products reached a record ¥423 billion in 2025, up 17.2 percent from the previous year. With domestic demand for seafood continuing to shrink, the White Paper stressed that significantly expanding exports and capturing a share of the global food market are essential. In 2025, oysters and processed oyster products (see [JA2019-0200](#) for details on Japan's oyster market), as well as processed scallop products, were added to the list of priority export items, joining traditional exports such as yellowtail, sea bream, and fresh scallops ([JA2020-0201](#)). The government is also providing financial assistance to businesses and supporting the development of facilities that meet the sanitary standards of export destinations.

**English Translation:**

MAFF usually posts English summaries of White Papers on its [website](#) at a later date.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.