

Food Security

The Present Food Security Situation

■ Soaring food prices

The international agricultural commodity prices, which had hit a historic high in 2008, fell temporarily by the current economic crisis, but has increased again since March 2009. The soaring prices could lead to the reoccurrence of food security crisis.

■ Increase of hunger population

With a remarkable rise of food prices, threats of hunger and undernourishment increased, in many developing countries and social unrest escalated. The number of undernourished people is estimated to be 1.02 billion people. It is diverging from the prospected the MDGs trajectory set to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Japan's actions

1. Lead the argument of the international community by summit diplomacy including the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit

■ FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security (June,2008 Rome)

Prime Minister Fukuda attended the conference and expressed Japan's determination to lead the future discussion on soaring food prices and to take all possible measures

■ G8 Hokkaido Toyako summit (July,2008)

G8 confirmed its commitment to take all possible measures to address food crisis. In order to prevent the reoccurrence of the crisis G8 committed to establish the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security with the involvement of all stakeholders.

■ High-level Evening Event on the Food and Climate Change Crises convened by the Secretary-General (Septemar,2008 New York)

Prime Minister Aso attended the event and emphasized the importance of agricultural technical corporation, confirming Japan's commitment on global food security.

2. Food and agriculture related ODA

Japan has committed approximately 2.1 billion US dollars for food and agriculture related assistance since January,2008

3. The Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS)

Japan chaired the G8 Experts Group meeting on Global Food Security in Tokyo in November,2008,and lead the discussion on the GPAFS. At the High Level Meeting on Food Security for All in Madrid in January this year, it was agreed to start the consultation process towards the establishment of the GPAFS

4. International investment for food security

The Japanese government established an intergovernmental taskforce to promote overseas private sector investment in agriculture. The taskforce is due to announce a strategy in summer

At L'Aquila Summit, Regarding "agricultural land grab" issue, Japan will propose an initiative for the promotion of international investment in agricultural, which includes the development of principals and good practices.