

Current state and problem of the environmental policy on livestock raising

- Policy of giving priority to making compost in Awaji Island

Kohei Mochizuki

Key words: livestock, manure, compost, recycling, circulation

Background

Agricultural policy in Japan has expanded the scale of livestock raising rapidly since 1960s. This drastic step made difficult to treat livestock excreta, and caused pollutions from them. In this situation Law on Promoting Proper Management and Use of Livestock Excreta aiming at treating animal waste appropriately and making efficient use of manure was executed in 1997. The purpose of this paper is to criticize this policy.

Studying method

Through the case study in *Minamiawaji* city and *Sumoto* city in *Awaji* Island, I do trial calculation of the number of composting plants, amount of production of composts from them, and over-and-short amount of composts in each city. Then I investigate the circulation of composts. On these bases, I show the problems of the policy of giving priority to make manure.

Result of analysis

Minamiawaji city and *Sumoto* city have 178 and 78 composting plants, and then they produce 70,000t and 30,000t compost. The production and the amount of the farmland receipt are different in each city. It runs short of about 15,000t compost in *Minamiawaji* city, while the surplus of about 9,300t compost is generated in *Sumoto* City., if the amount of the farmland receipt is subtracted from the compost production. But the almost whole areas are exhausted when livestock excrement not made compost is added. The amount of circulation is extremely little though the compost circulation is promoted politically in each city. This reason is that farmers carry compost, and they are excessively exhausted in each city.

Consideration

In *Minamiawaji* city the good quality compost is used for consolidating crop farming. But the range of circulation of compost is extremely narrow and composting plants have great defects. The produced compost in *Sumoto* city is excessively scattered in the self-ownership farmland. So the problem of pollutant caused by livestock excrement is not solved. The reason is that the policy of giving priority to making compost is unified. Not only the policy promoting to make compost but also the reduction policy and the structural reform are necessary for the long term in stock raising excessive region. At the same time it is necessary to promote to use compost not only in farm land but also in park, riverbed or playground and so on.