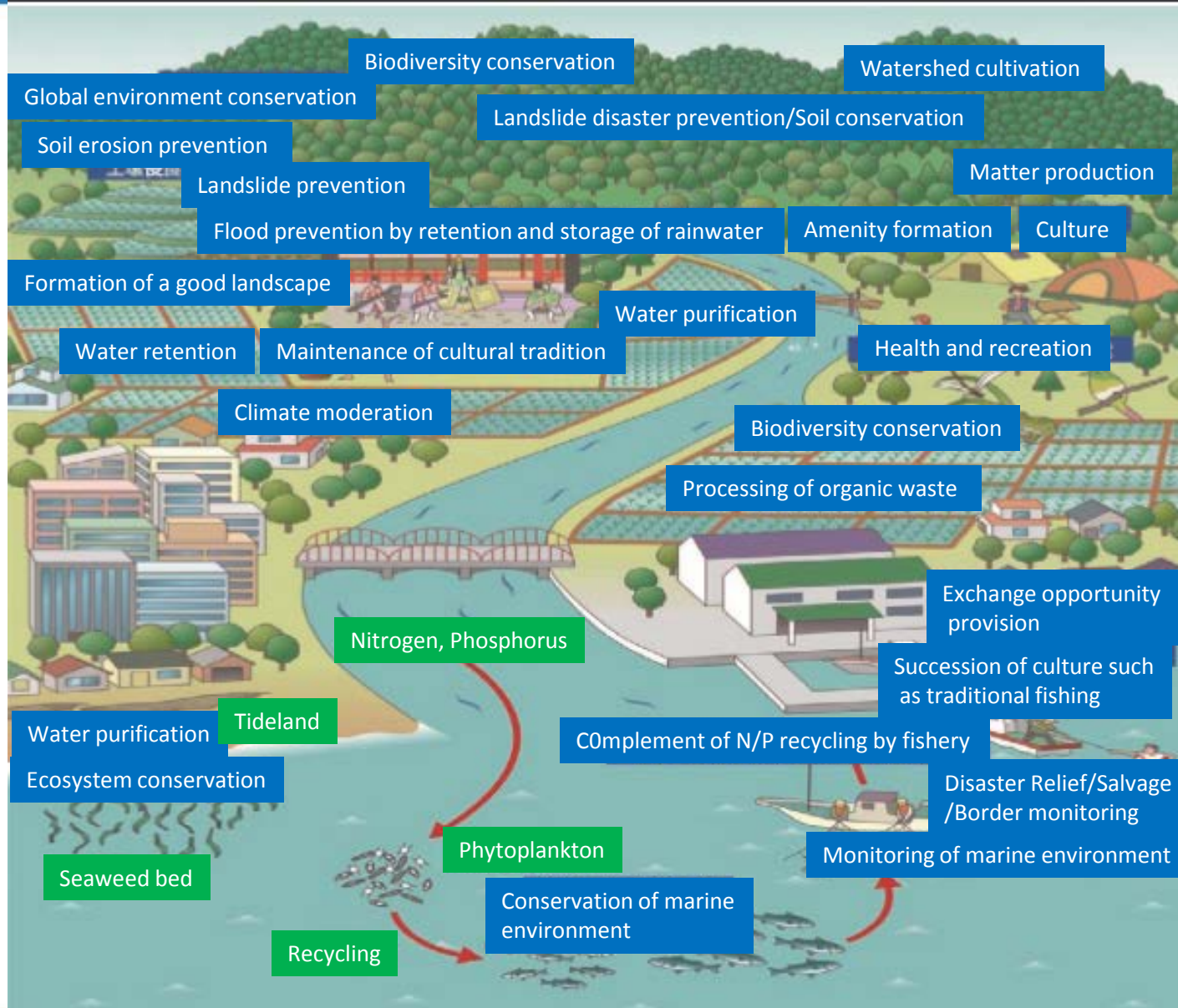




Policies to support multiple functions of Agriculture

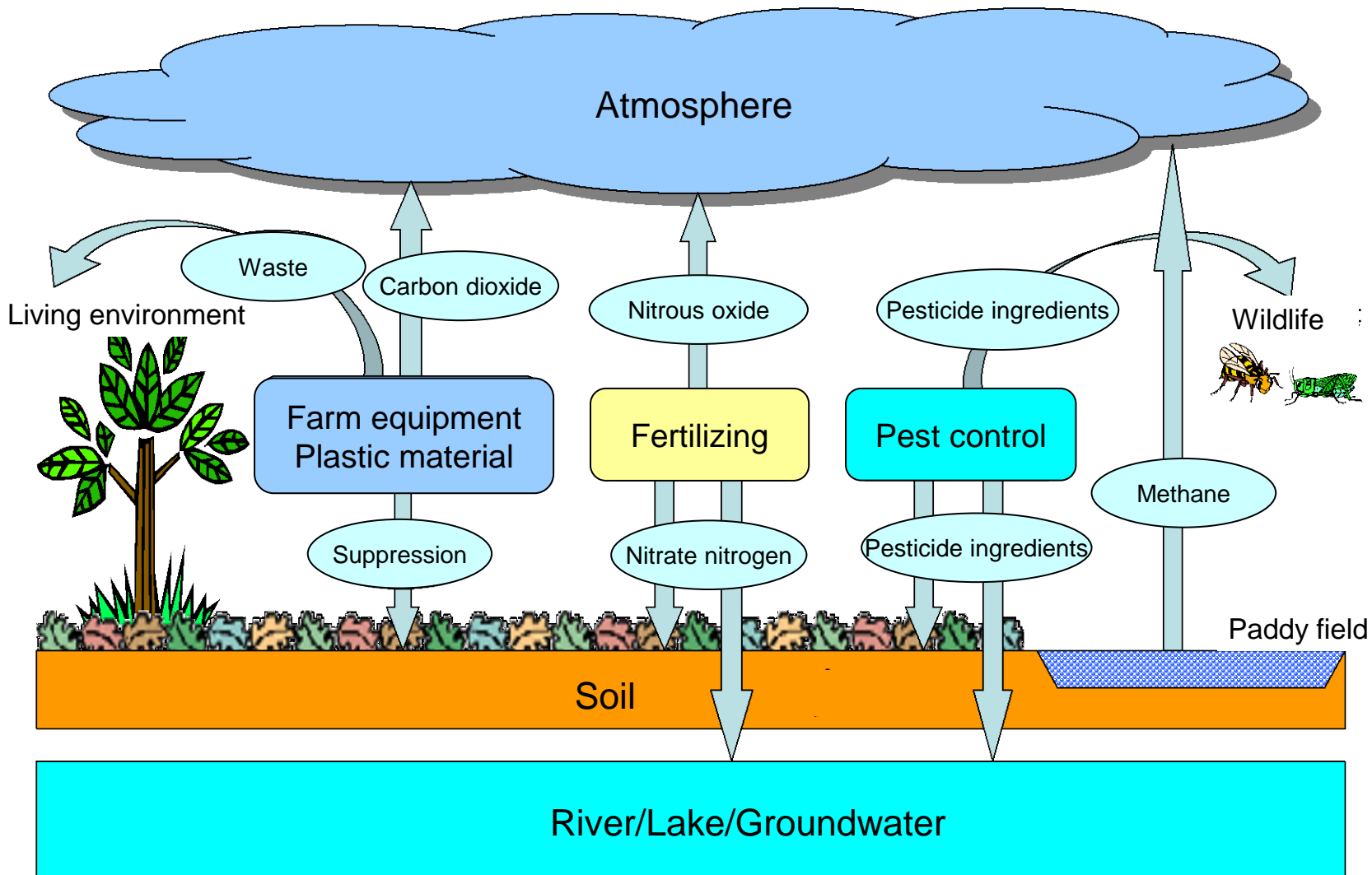
Akira Nagata
Senior Programme Coordinator
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Multiple Functions of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

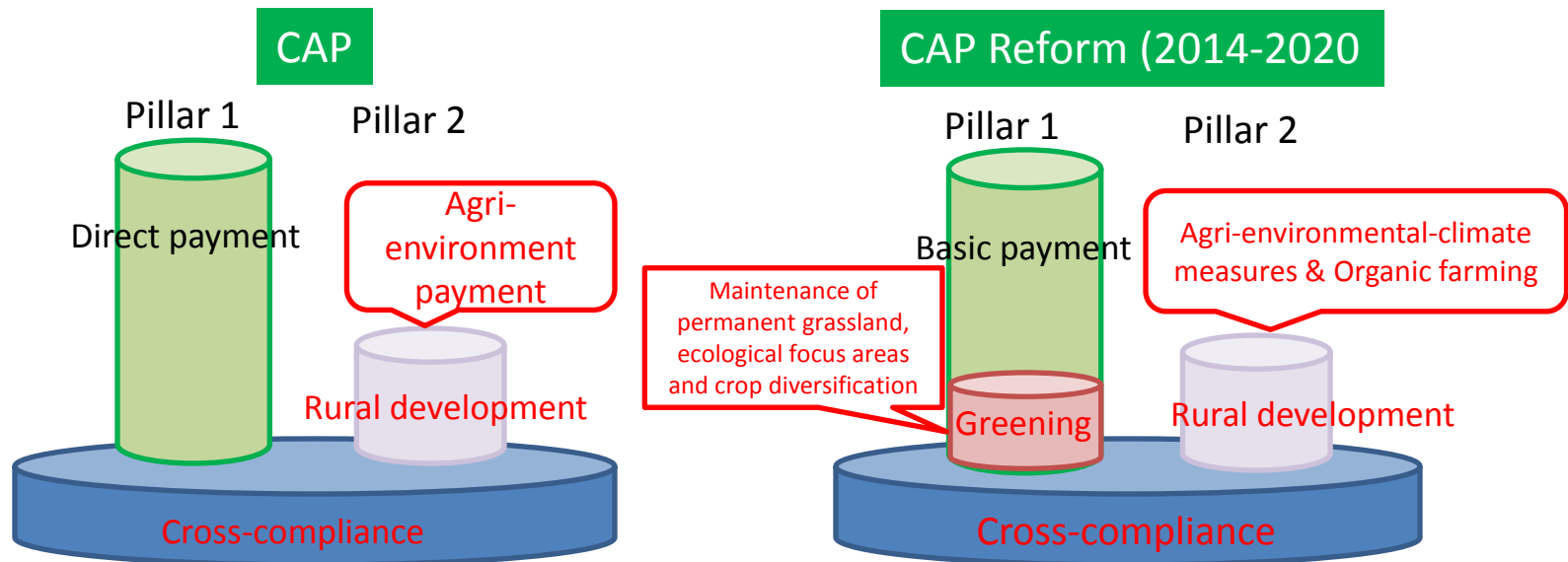


Source:
MAFF

Risk of Environmental Burden Caused by Agricultural Production Activities



- EU considers public nature of agriculture and regards that agriculture plays an important role in national land environment, not only foundation of food, and that extensive traditional agriculture can bring up rural landscapes and biodiversity
- The second pillar of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of EU includes agri-environment payment to the farmers who meet cross-compliance



- ❑ USA emphasizes business aspect of agriculture and regards that there is a conflict between expansion of agriculture and environmental conservation due to negative impact of agriculture to environment.
- ❑ USA implements Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to support environmental multiple functions of agriculture

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, rotational grazing, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat while maintaining active agricultural production on their land

Japan

- ❑ Agriculture and rural areas have various roles including not only food supply but also national land conservation, water recharge, biodiversity conservation, good landscape formation and cultural succession. All people, including urban residents, have benefitted from these roles.
- ❑ In order to maintain and demonstrate these multifunctional roles, the government steadily implements Japanese agricultural direct payments to support regional cooperation backing such roles, agricultural production in hilly and mountainous areas and effective farming for environmental conservation.

Multifunctional payment

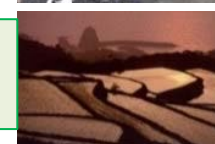
Farmland maintenance payment : supporting local resources conservation activities including agricultural road surface maintenance



Resource improvement payment : supporting simple repair of channels, agricultural roads and ponds, and other cooperative activities to qualitatively improve local resources



Direct payment for hilly and mountainous areas : supporting the continuation of agricultural production in hilly and mountainous areas



Direct payment for Environmentally Friendly Agriculture: supporting agricultural production activities contributing to natural environment conservation



Source: MAFF annual report 2015

Sustainable Agriculture in Japan

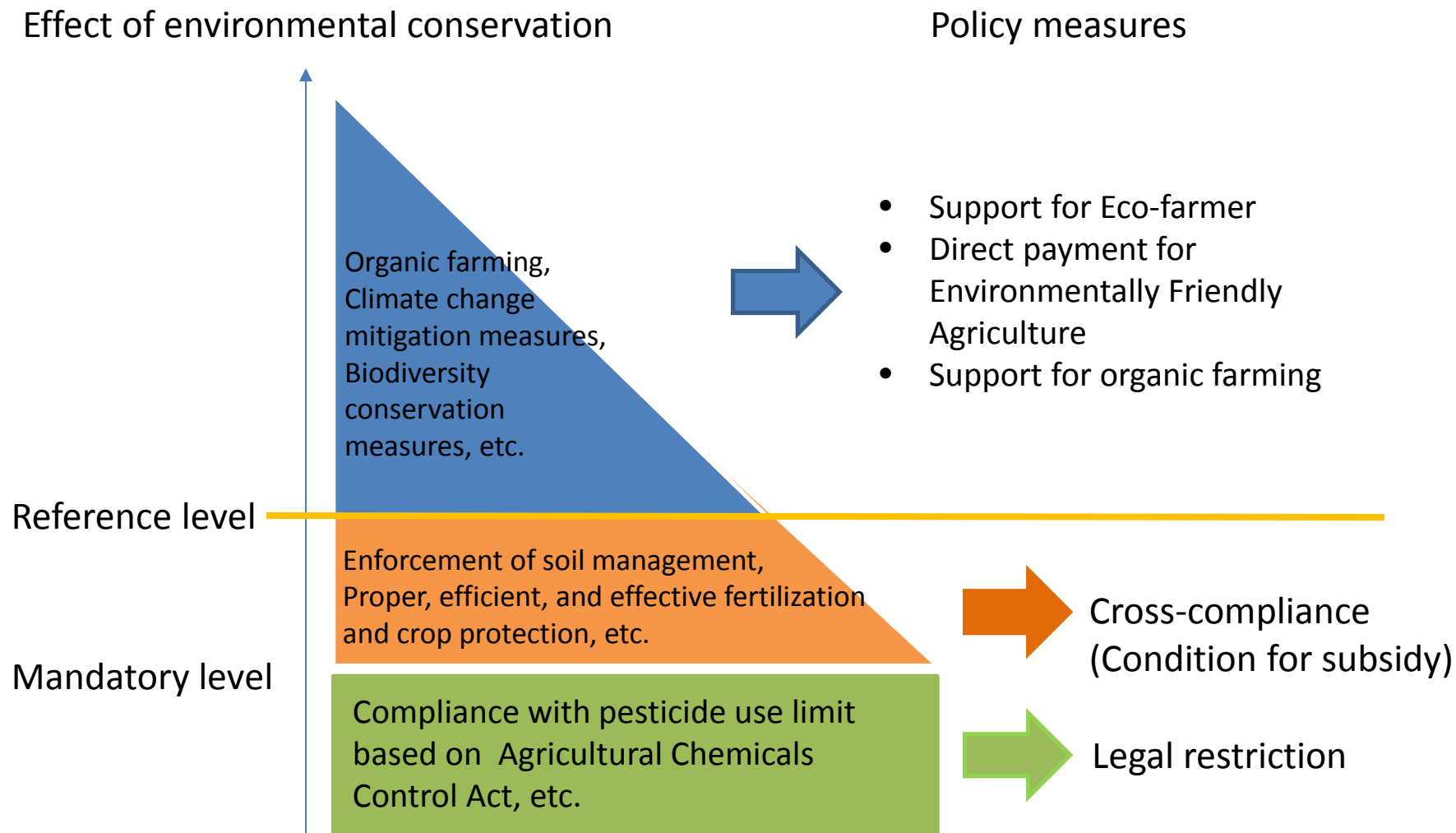
□ Definition

- “Sustainable agriculture” or “environmentally-friendly agriculture” is first defined by MAFF in 1992 as sustainable agriculture which considers reduction of environmental burdens caused by chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals through soil improvement, etc. using the material recycling function of agriculture and considering harmonization with productivity.

□ The Basic Law on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas in 1999

- Sustainable Agricultural Development in Article 4 stipulates that in consideration of the importance of its conventional role as a primary food supplier and its multifunctional roles, the sustainable development of agriculture shall be promoted by securing agricultural facilities including the necessary farmlands and irrigation/drainage, and a workforce, establishing a desirable agricultural structure with an effective combination of the above elements, based on regional characteristics, maintaining and improving the natural cyclical function of agriculture.

Policy Measures for Sustainable Agriculture in Japan



“Code for Agro-Environmental Practice”

Convert the whole Japanese agriculture into eco-conscious agriculture.

Every farmer should implement the basic measures to harmonize with environment.

“Code for Agro-Environmental Practice”

This practice is formulated to encourage the farmers to improve the agricultural production through **checking** their own production activities

[Production of Crops]

- Enforcement of soil management
- Proper, efficient, and effective fertilization
- Crop protection that is proper, efficient, and effective
- Proper management and processing of waste
- Reduction in energy use
- Collection of new knowledge and information
- Storage of the production information

Support for the Activities of “Eco-farmers”

□ Outline of Sustainable Agriculture

Prefectural Governments

Guidelines concerning introduction of sustainable agriculture
(Clarification of the system of sustainable agriculture that is to be introduced)



[certification]

Farmers (“Eco-farmers”)

Project on the introduction of sustainable agriculture
(Project on introduction of soil management technique + technique of reducing chemical fertilizer + technique of reducing synthetic agricultural chemicals)



- Preferential financial measure
 - Preferential measure concerning the loan from Agricultural Improvement Fund (Extension of the redemption period, from 10 years to 20 years)
- Advice and guidance from prefectural governments

Direct payment for Environmentally Friendly Agriculture

- Succeeding measures for “Support for Agricultural Management in Measures to Conserve and Improve Land, Water and Environment”(2007-2011)
- Supporting nationally common farming activities as well as locally special farming activities which contribute to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation

Target of support

- Farmer (including legal person)
- Community based farm cooperative
- Farmers’ group

Level of support

- Cover crop: 80,000 yen (800 USD) / ha
- Manure application: 44,000 yen (440 USD) /ha
- Organic farming (buckwheat, fodder crops): 80,000 (30,000) yen (800 (300) USD) /ha

Activities for support

- Supporting farming activities which contribute to climate change mitigation
 - Cover crop planting or manure application before/after main crop cultivation with reducing 50% or more chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals
- Supporting farming activities which contribute to biodiversity conservation
 - Organic farming which does not apply chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals

Sustainable Development of Agriculture