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# **The Trend of Growing Population Returning to Farming and Rural Areas and Policy Challenges**

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- “KREI Agricultural Policy Focus” relates to analysis and description of the trend of and policy for agriculture and rural areas.
- This is also provided at the KREI website ([www.krei.re.kr](http://www.krei.re.kr)).

## ◇ Abstract ◇

- According to the statistics by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) and Statistics Korea, the number of households that returned to farming and rural areas in 2014 is 44,682, an increase by over 10 times from 4,067 in 2010.
  - The proportion of households returning to rural areas jumped from 58.5% in 2012 to 74.9% in 2014, implying that the number of households returning to rural areas has more significantly increased than that of households returning to farming.
  - The number of people per household that had returned to farming and rural areas also increased from 1.75 in 2012 to 1.8 in 2014.
- While the population of all ages returning to farming and rural areas has been on the rise, the increase rates of those under 30 or in their 40s and 50s are higher than that of retired people aged over 60.
  - Destinations of such people returning to farming and rural areas used to be concentrated in particular suburban areas in the past, but now such areas are widely distributed all around the country.
- If this trend continues, the rural population after two decades will remain at the present level or increase further.
  - In a positive scenario where the current trend of population movement toward rural areas continues, the rural population will increase from 9.3 million in 2013 (based on the mid-year population statistics) to 9.5 million in 2033.
  - A decrease in the rural population can be partially delayed by the inflow of population, mostly the middle-aged and elderly, but there will be a limit to maintain the foundation of rural population in the long term. The rural population is likely to be on the decline from the long-term perspective.
- The trend of returning to rural areas based on values of rural areas and post-modern values, such as a pursuit of inner abundance, is common in advanced countries.
  - Whether or not the total rural population increases depends on unique situations of each country, but it is a common phenomenon that a growing number of urban residents are returning to rural areas, pursuing unique values of rural communities.
  - In addition, differences in conditions between regions affect changes in rural population as the population of areas with more amenities, such as the natural environment, climate, water resources, and cultural and historical resources, tends to increase further.
- Considering these facts, the following policy challenges can be suggested.
  - Carrying out mid- and long-term programs to nurture people who have returned to farming as successors of local agriculture
  - Designing strategies with consideration for young people who have returned to farming and rural areas by providing education, training and internship programs and financial support for startups
  - Encouraging participation of people returning to farming and rural areas in socioeconomic activities aimed at providing local communities with services related to education, culture and leisure, health and medical care, and social welfare
  - Comprehensively expanding the foundation for settlement for both current residents and those returning to rural areas



## 1. Overview

### ☐ A rapid increase in population returning to farming and rural areas in 2014

- The statistics provided by MAFRA and Statistics Korea show that the number of households that returned to farming and rural areas in 2014 is a total of 44,682, an increase by over twice from 2012 when a similar survey was conducted.<sup>1)</sup>
- The increase in population returning to rural areas, rather than those returning to farming, is more noteworthy, and such people return to farming or rural areas with family members rather than move alone. This trend is spreading from particular regions to all around the nation. Another important characteristic of the trend is that the average age of those returning to farming and rural areas is getting younger.

### ☐ A need to analyze the main factors of the trend of returning to farming and rural areas and forecast the future of the trend

- According to a theory that demonstrates traditional phenomena of population movement, the trend of growing population returning to farming and rural areas is resulted from an interaction between push factors in urban areas and pull factors in rural areas.

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1) The data until 2011 were collected based on administrative investigations of local governments, and these data did not classify between those returning to farming and those returning to rural areas and between householders and family members. In contrast, the data from 2012 were based on statistics collected and jointly announced by MAFRA (an administrative investigation into population returning to rural areas) and Statistics Korea (an administrative investigation into population returning to farming), and these data sort between householders and family members.

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○ The population returning to farming and rural areas has increased as both push factors in urban areas (high house prices and unstable employment) and pull factors in rural areas (alleviated limitations of choosing a place to live thanks to the development of transportation and communication, and changes in values and lifestyle due to economic growth) have worked together.

- Moreover, a policy that was implemented in 2005 and aimed at encouraging people to return to farming and rural areas appears to have contributed to this trend.

○ It is needed to predict whether this trend is temporary or will continue and to find implications by analyzing global trends.

**□ A need to come up with policies to maintain the trend of returning to farming and rural areas and utilize this trend as an opportunity for rural development**

○ Since a trend of decreasing and aging rural population hinders a balanced growth of the country, the trend of returning to farming and rural areas is a meaningful starting point to develop rural areas and achieve a balanced growth of the nation.

○ It is necessary to consider approaches with policies to maintain this trend for some time and encourage and support people returning to farming and rural areas to harmonize with existing residents and contribute to the development of rural communities.

## 2. The Trend of Growing Population Returning to Farming and Rural Areas and Its Characteristics

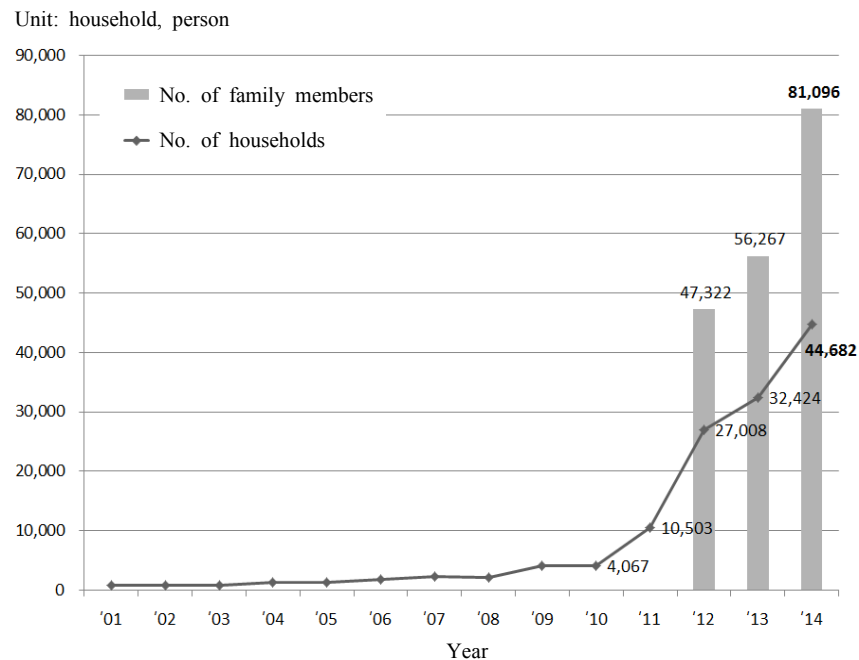
### ☐ A rapid increase in population returning to farming and rural areas after 2010

- According to the recent statistics by MAFRA and Statistics Korea, the number of households that returned to farming and rural areas in 2014 is 44,682 in total, an increase by over 10 times from 4,067 in 2010.
  - Among this, the number of households that returned to farming is 11,240, which is much higher than the figure in the late 1990s when the foreign exchange crisis broke out (6,409 as of 1998).<sup>2)</sup>
- Compared to 2012, the number of family members of households returning to farming and rural areas surged by 71% to 81,000 in 2014, and the number of people per household returning to farming and rural areas also increased from 1.75 to 1.8.

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2) Kim Jeongseop et al., *The Recent Trend of Returning to Farming and Rural Areas and Policy Challenges*, *Agricultural Policy Focus* No. 13, 2012.

**Figure 1. Annual Changes in the Trend of Returning to Farming and Rural Areas**



□ **The population returning to rural areas has increased more than those returning to farming.**

- According to the statistics from 2012, which classify between those returning to farming and those to rural areas, the number of households that returned to farming has slightly increased in Jeonnam, Gyeongbuk and Jeju, but overall, the population returning to rural areas has increased much further compared to those returning to farming.
  - The proportion of households returning to farming: (2012) 41.6% → (2013) 33.7% → (2014) 25.2%
  - The proportion of households returning to rural areas: (2012) 58.5% → (2013) 66.4% → (2014) 74.9%



□ **Places for people returning to farming and rural areas to settle are distributed nationwide.**

○ Among the total destinations for households returning to farming and rural areas, the proportions of Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Chungbuk and Gyeongnam have dropped, while those of Chungnam, Jeonbuk, Jeonnam, Gyeongbuk and Jeju have increased.

- Destinations for people returning to farming and rural areas used to be concentrated in particular suburban regions, but now their destinations seem to be widely distributed around the country.

**Table 1. Changes in the Number of Households Returning to Farming and Rural Areas in Each Metropolitan City and Province**

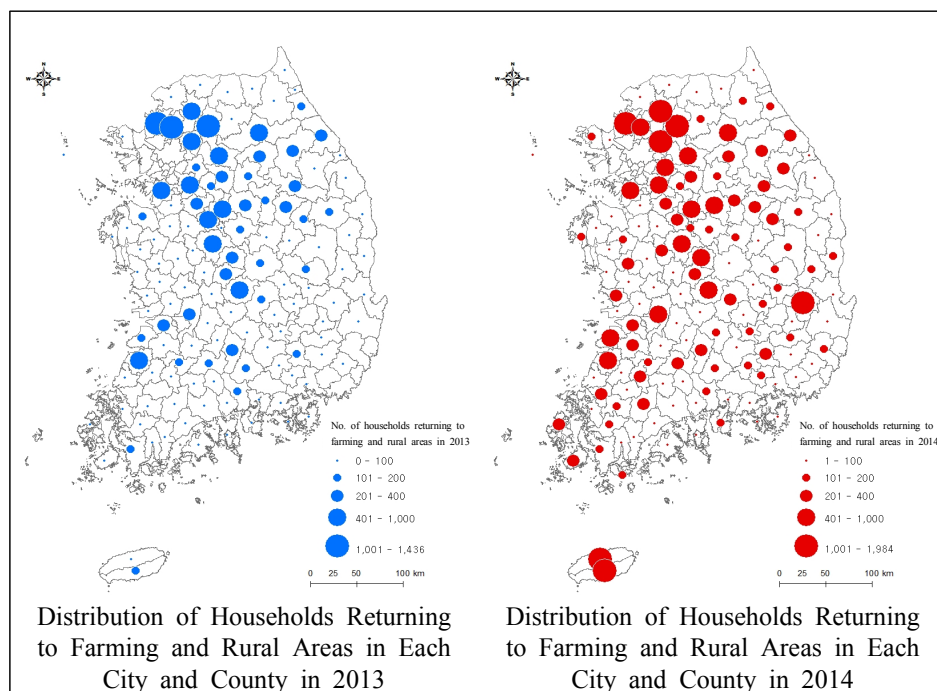
Unit: household (%)

	2012		2013		2014	
	To Rural Areas	To Farming	To Rural Areas	To Farming	To Rural Areas	To Farming
Total	15,788 (100)	11,220 (100)	21,501 (100)	10,923 (100)	33,442 (100)	11,240 (100)
Metropolitan cities	62 (0.4)	346 (3.1)	85 (0.4)	329 (3.1)	571 (1.8)	343 (3.1)
Gyeonggi	6,644 (42.1)	1,027 (9.2)	8,499 (39.6)	931 (8.6)	10,149 (30.4)	1,043 (9.3)
Gangwon	2,786 (17.7)	972 (8.7)	2,846 (13.3)	875 (8.1)	2,960 (8.9)	812 (7.3)
Chungbuk	2,897 (18.4)	918 (8.2)	4,046 (18.9)	872 (8)	4,238 (12.7)	906 (8.1)
Chungnam	319 (2.1)	1,214 (10.9)	679 (3.2)	1,177 (10.8)	1,321 (4)	1,237 (11.1)
Jeonbuk	990 (6.3)	1,238 (11.1)	1,782 (8.3)	1,211 (11.1)	3,081 (9.3)	1,204 (10.8)
Jeonnam	313 (2)	1,733 (15.5)	681 (3.2)	1,825 (16.8)	2,499 (7.5)	1,844 (16.5)
Gyeongbuk	1,015 (6.5)	2,080 (18.6)	1,409 (6.6)	2,087 (19.2)	3,345 (10.1)	2,172 (19.4)
Gyeongnam	687 (4.4)	1,434 (12.8)	1,270 (6)	1,348 (12.4)	1,709 (5.2)	1,373 (12.3)
Jeju	75 (0.5)	258 (2.3)	204 (1)	268 (2.5)	3,569 (10.7)	306 (2.8)

Source: Internal data from MAFRA.

- In terms of the distribution of households returning to farming and rural areas in each city and county, the number of such households was large in metropolitan areas and Chungbuk in 2013. In 2014, however, people who wanted to return to farming and rural areas headed to not only metropolitan areas and Chungbuk but also cities and counties in Chungnam, Gyeongbuk, Jeonbuk, Jeonnam and Jeju.

**Figure 2. Changes in Distribution of Households Returning to Farming and Rural Areas in Each City and County (2013-2014)**



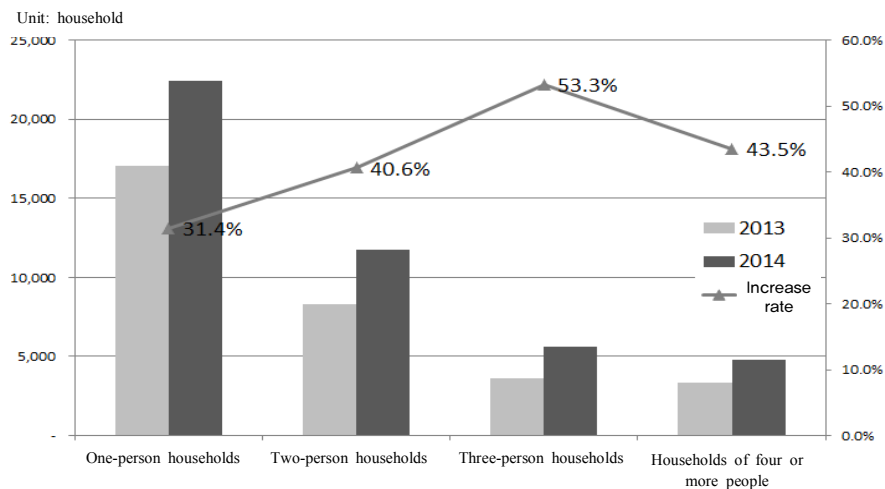
## ☐ The increase in population returning to farming and rural areas as a family unit

- In 2014, compared to 2013, the number of two-person households returning to rural areas increased by 40.6%, that of three-person households by 53.3%, and that of households of four or more people by 43.5%. The trend is changing as the number of people returning to

rural areas alone decreases while a growing number of people move to rural areas as a family unit.

- Proportion of one-person households: (2013) 52.7% → (2014) 69.3%
- Proportion of two-person households: (2013) 25.7% → (2014) 36.2%
- Proportion of three-person households: (2013) 11.3% → (2014) 17.3%
- Proportion of households of four or more people: (2013) 10.4% → (2014) 14.9%

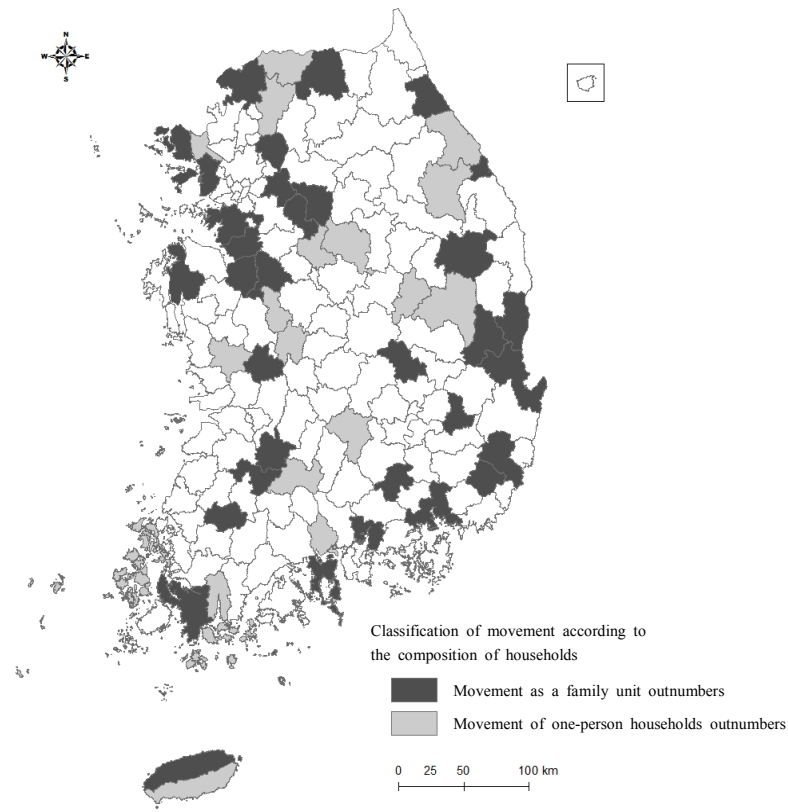
**Figure 3. Changes in Composition of Households  
Returning to Farming and Rural Areas**



Source: Statistics Korea, *Statistics of Population Returning to Farming and Rural Areas* (annual data).

- In regions near large cities, in particular, people who return to rural areas tend to move as a family unit.
  - As of 2014, the following map illustrates cities and counties where the movement as a family unit outnumbers (where households of two or more people account for over 70% in the total households returning to rural areas) and where the movement of one-person households outnumbers (where one-person households take up over 70% in the total).

**Figure 4. Distribution of Households Returning to Rural Areas Alone or as a Family Unit by City and County**



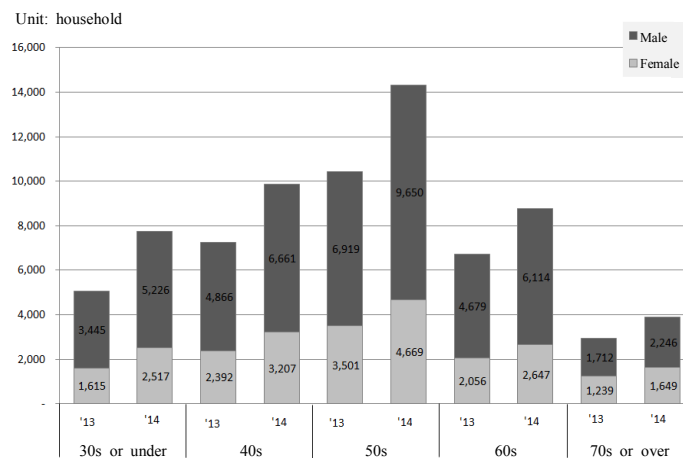
Source: Internal data from MAFRA.

#### ☐ **The increase in young population returning to farming and rural areas**

- Another change is that the average age of population returning to farming and rural areas is getting younger.
- Compared to 2013, the number of population returning to farming and rural areas is on the rise more evenly throughout all age groups. The increase rate is higher among people aged less than 30 and those in their 40s and 50s compared to retired people aged over 60.

- The fact that young generations with relatively high productivity take up a large proportion in the total population returning to farming and rural areas is inspiring in that there are more opportunities in this case to promote succession of farming and participation in agricultural businesses and vitalize rural areas, compared to a case where the movement to farming and rural areas is focused on older people.

**Figure 5. Changes in the Number of Households Returning to Farming and Rural Areas Classified by Age and Gender**



Source: Statistics Korea, *Statistics of Population Returning to Farming and Rural Areas* (annual data).

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### 3. The Outlook for Rural Population and Implications

☐ **If the current trend continues, the rural population after 20 years is expected to stay at the present level or increase further.**

○ How the rural population would change according to the recent trend of growing population returning to farming and rural areas was comprehensively analyzed with consideration for birthrates and mortality rates of each age group, and changes in the population movement rate between urban and rural areas.<sup>3)</sup>

- Future changes in rural population were predicted by utilizing mid-year population statistics provided by Statistics Korea, estimating rural population by the cohort component method, and applying the population movement rates of each age and gender group to reflect both natural and social factors for changes in rural population.
- The population movement rates were applied as divided into three scenarios: high, moderate and low. In the scenario of a high rate, it is assumed that a high population movement rate continues in the future based on the rates in the last decade (2003-2013).
- A low population movement rate is applied to the scenario with a low rate, and the one between these two scenarios is the scenario with a moderate rate.

○ According to these scenarios, the rural population, which was 9.3 million in 2013 (according to the mid-year population statistics), is

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3) Seong Joo-in et al., *Regional Revitalization Tasks in Response to Mid- and Long-term Population Changes in Rural Areas*, Korea Rural Economic Institute and Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, 2014.

predicted to decrease or increase within the range from 8.11 million to 9.5 million in 2033 (two decades later).

- In the most optimistic scenario with a high movement rate, rural population would increase up to 9.6 million reaching its peak and then gradually go down, but the population is expected to be 9.5 million in 2033, which is still larger than that in 2013 (recording an average increase rate of 0.11%).
- In the moderate scenario, rural population would be on the rise until 2018 and then drop to 9.29 million by 2033, the similar level to the present figure (a decrease by 0.01% on annual average).
- In the most pessimistic scenario, rural population is predicted to be on the steady decline from 2013 to 8.11 million by 2033 (a decrease by 0.68% on annual average).

**Table 2. Outlook for Rural Population**

Unit: 1,000 people

Classification		2013	2018	2023	2028	2033	Average annual increase rate (%)
Optimistic scenario	Town	4,434	4,744	4,920	5,080	5,231	0.83
	Township	4,866	4,854	4,682	4,480	4,270	-0.65
	Total	9,300	9,598	9,602	9,560	9,501	0.11
Moderate scenario	Town	4,434	4,747	4,933	5,110	5,285	0.88
	Township	4,866	4,769	4,528	4,267	4,002	-0.97
	Total	9,300	9,516	9,461	9,377	9,287	-0.01
Pessimistic scenario	Town	4,434	4,520	4,466	4,392	4,306	-0.15
	Township	4,866	4,712	4,416	4,107	3,802	-1.23
	Total	9,300	9,232	8,882	8,499	8,108	-0.68

Source: Seong Joo-in et al., *Regional Revitalization Tasks in Response to Mid- and Long-term Population Changes in Rural Areas*, Korea Rural Economic Institute and Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, 2014.

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**□ Despite growing population returning to farming and rural areas, rural population can still decrease due to aging demographic structure.**

- In rural communities, young generations in their 20s and 30s moving to urban areas have outnumbered those returning to rural areas. If this trend continues, the phenomenon of aging population would be more intensified than now.
  - There is a possibility that the proportion of elderly population (aged 65 or over), which was 20.1% in 2013, would be on the steady rise, reaching 33.9-36.0% in 20 years and 47.3-51.7% in 40 years.
- Even in the optimistic scenario, there is a limit for rural population to be on the steady increase.
  - When rural population reaches the point when it is affected more by natural decline than social increase as the elderly account for an overwhelmingly large proportion in the total, rural population will decrease lower than the present level in two or three decades even in the optimistic scenario where a large number of people move to rural areas.
  - The current inflow of population to rural areas, mostly focusing on the middle-aged and elderly, may delay a decrease in rural population for some time, but it has a limit to maintain the foundation of rural population in the long term.



**Table 3. Outlook for Proportion of the Elderly Aged 65 or over in Rural Population**

Unit: %

Scenario	Region	2013	2023	2033	2043	2053
Optimistic scenario	Nationwide	12.0	18.0	27.0	33.0	37.0
	Town	13.8	18.6	26.9	35.6	40.3
	Township	25.8	32.6	42.6	52.2	59.3
	Total	20.1	25.4	33.9	42.4	47.3
Moderate scenario	Nationwide	12.0	18.0	27.0	34.0	38.0
	Town	13.8	18.5	26.8	35.4	40.0
	Township	25.8	33.4	44.4	54.1	60.5
	Total	20.1	25.6	34.4	42.6	46.8
Pessimistic scenario	Nationwide	12.0	18.0	27.0	35.0	40.0
	Town	13.8	19.2	28.7	39.1	44.2
	Township	25.8	33.3	44.2	54.8	62.7
	Total	20.1	26.2	36.0	46.0	51.7

Source: Seong Jooin et al., *Regional Revitalization Tasks in Response to Mid- and Long-term Population Changes in Rural Areas*, Korea Rural Economic Institute and Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, 2014.

☐ **Differences in changes in rural population between regions will be large in the future.**

- According to an outlook for future rural population in each region, drawn by utilizing data such as gender ratios, birthrates and life tables of each city and province and the regional movement rate based on the cohort survival model, rural population will be significantly different between cities and provinces.
  - Rural population in large cities, such as Busan, Daegu, Incheon and Ulsan, and Gyeonggi is expected to increase, and that in Chungbuk will be on the rise too as affected by metropolitan areas.
  - Rural population in other areas will be generally on the decline.
  - Several cities, such as Busan and Daegu, are forecasted to be in the counter-urbanization phase (the late phase of urbanization) as population

in central cities will be on the decrease while that in rural areas will be rather on the increase.

- In Gangwon and Chungnam, on the contrary, the entire population including that in central cities will increase as affected by metropolitan areas, while rural population near such large cities will drop.

**Table 4. Outlook for Rural Population by City/Province**

Unit: 1,000 people

City/Province	Classification	2013	2018	2023	2033	Average annual increase rate (%)
Busan	Total population (A)	3,426	3,365	3,304	3,164	-0.40
	Rural population (B)	122	133	140	147	0.14
	B/A(%)	3.6	4.0	4.2	4.6	
Daegu	Total population (A)	2,465	2,438	2,400	2,304	-0.34
	Rural population (B)	164	173	174	178	0.02
	B/A(%)	6.7	7.1	7.3	7.7	
Incheon	Total population (A)	2,826	2,967	3,076	3,187	0.60
	Rural population (B)	85	89	88	84	0.00
	B/A(%)	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.6	
Ulsan	Total population (A)	1,129	1,154	1,163	1,148	0.08
	Rural population (B)	207	227	243	277	0.08
	B/A(%)	18.3	19.7	20.9	24.1	
Gyeonggi	Total population (A)	12,137	12,738	13,158	13,464	0.52
	Rural population (B)	2,051	2,242	2,466	2,807	0.08
	B/A(%)	16.9	17.6	18.7	20.8	
Gangwon	Total population (A)	1,500	1,520	1,544	1,588	0.29
	Rural population (B)	610	591	557	475	-0.05
	B/A(%)	40.7	38.9	36.1	29.9	
Chungbuk	Total population (A)	1,552	1,580	1,619	1,688	0.42
	Rural population (B)	624	651	658	671	0.02
	B/A(%)	40.2	41.2	40.6	39.7	
Chungnam	Total population (A)	2,060	2,136	2,222	2,355	0.67
	Rural population (B)	1,143	1,108	1,015	843	-0.08
	B/A(%)	55.5	51.9	45.7	35.8	
Jeonbuk	Total population (A)	1,798	1,803	1,811	1,831	0.09
	Rural population (B)	581	548	499	396	-0.08
	B/A(%)	32.3	30.4	27.5	21.6	

City/Province	Classification	2013	2018	2023	2033	Average annual increase rate (%)
Jeonnam	Total population (A)	1,761	1,749	1,736	1,737	-0.07
	Rural population (B)	1,062	1,042	974	836	-0.06
	B/A(%)	60.3	59.6	56.1	48.1	
Gyeongbuk	Total population (A)	2,641	2,644	2,648	2,651	0.02
	Rural population (B)	1,279	1,216	1,116	915	-0.07
	B/A(%)	48.4	46.0	42.1	34.5	
Gyeongnam	Total population (A)	3,255	3,316	3,345	3,347	0.14
	Rural population (B)	1,189	1,211	1,152	1,034	-0.03
	B/A(%)	36.5	36.5	34.4	30.9	
Jeju	Total population (A)	570	605	629	661	0.75
	Rural population (B)	163	161	154	135	-0.04
	B/A(%)	28.6	26.6	24.5	20.4	

Source: Seong Joo-in et al., *Regional Revitalization Tasks in Response to Mid- and Long-term Population Changes in Rural Areas*, Korea Rural Economic Institute and Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, 2014.

**□ The trend of returning to farming and rural areas is a social phenomenon that has occurred on a steady basis in advanced countries.**

- Most advanced countries went through counter-urbanization in the 1970s as the net inflow of population toward rural areas outnumbered. Since then, rural population changed in different ways in each country under the influence of other factors including economic conditions.
  - In the 1980s, the previous counter-urbanization trend had been reversed again, so the population movement toward rural areas slowed down or that toward cities outnumbered.
  - In the late 1990s, there was no consistent pattern among countries in terms of changes in rural population. In the UK, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, Switzerland, Ireland and Spain, rural population has been on the steady increase even since the 2000s.
  - In contrast, rural population in Japan, France and the Netherlands has been on the decline.

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○ Apart from whether or not population increases, the trend of returning to farming and rural areas is common and continues in many advanced countries.

- Regardless of whether or not rural population is on the rise, the movement to rural areas continues in advanced countries as people long for simple and quiet life, pursuing post-modern values such as inner abundance.

**□ For maintaining the trend of returning to farming and rural areas, it is important to establish the foundation of settlement, create sufficient jobs for residents, and preserve unique values of rural areas.**

○ In Korea, it is expected that the trend of returning to farming and rural areas will go on not only because of push factors of cities, including high housing expenses, unstable employment and a decrease in income, but also because of the willingness of people to pursue unique values of rural areas.

- Destinations for people returning to farming and rural areas will be in rural communities that have adequate foundation for settlement and are capable of satisfying values that such people want to pursue in rural areas.
- Even in advanced countries, changes in rural population are different between regions as the population tends to increase in areas with adequate conditions including the natural environment, climate, water resources, and cultural and historical resources.
- This suggests that if a country intends to continue this trend, the government should create jobs that can make the most of characteristics of rural areas, and preserve and utilize values of rural communities, including the natural environment, culture and traditions, thereby strengthening pull factors of rural areas.

## 4. Policy Challenges

### ☐ Nurturing people returning to farming as successors of local agriculture

- Encouraging them to play a role as successors who will develop future agriculture
  - Among population that started farming in 2011 when the number of households returning to farming was 6,541, the proportion of those who had returned to farming was estimated to exceed at least 30%.<sup>4)</sup>
  - Accordingly, the proportion of those who have returned to farming in the current population that has started farming will be around 50% as the number of population returning to farming doubles that of 2011.
- Providing programs for those returning to farming to help them participate in farming in a stable foundation and grow into agricultural workers for two or three years after they return to rural areas
  - The current support programs should be improved beyond simple policy packages designed to attract population, consisting of loans for farming, financial aids for movement, and short-term training programs.
  - It is needed to introduce and operate programs providing people returning to farming with job training programs for over one year at local agricultural corporations, by reorganizing the current agricultural internship systems and connecting with programs for nurturing successors of agriculture.

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4) Kim Jeongseop et al., *The Recent Trend of Returning to Farming and Rural Areas and Policy Challenges*, Agricultural Policy Focus No. 13, 2012.

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**□ Diversifying policy projects with consideration for young generations returning to farming and rural areas**

- It is necessary to utilize strategic approaches for young people returning to farming and rural areas, who have a positive influence on rural population in the long term and vitalize local communities.
  - Supporting young people who lack experiences and capital by providing benefits to them in training programs for those in their 20s and 30s, financial aids for startups, and programs connecting farmland and housing
  - Introducing and operating programs aimed at comprehensively supporting young people returning to farming and rural areas in relation to procedures including the submission of business plans, consultation and approval

\* Japan enacted the Special Act of Loans for Encouraging Young People to be Engaged in Farming, and has implemented policy programs for nurturing successors of agriculture, which provide young people who are willing to work in the agricultural industry with financial aids for preparation on condition that they work for local agricultural corporations for a certain period of time (over one year), take training courses and establish their plans to be engaged in farming.

\* France has implemented a program called Young Farmers' Direct Payment to encourage young generations to settle in rural areas.

**□ Including programs for those returning to farming and rural areas in socioeconomic strategies for rural development**

- For households returning to farming and rural areas, especially young people and the elderly with low capital, the cash flow of households is a crucial factor that determines the success of settlement.
  - In particular, households returning to farming in a small scale cannot afford household expenditures relying only on agricultural income (average farmland area: 0.44 ha).

- Accordingly, it is necessary for them to participate in pluri-activities, such as processing of agricultural products and rural tourism that can be part of agriculture, local community services, and existing local businesses in the commercial, service and manufacturing industries.<sup>5)</sup>
- It is needed to introduce and operate policy programs that utilize those returning to farming and rural areas as human resources for rural development and provide opportunities to participate in multiple economic activities.
  - There has been an attempt to implement a project for supporting the participation of people returning to farming and rural areas in local communities as part of the project for attracting urban residents to rural areas, and now it is necessary to develop this project further.
  - It will be desirable to expand opportunities for those returning to farming and rural areas to find a job related to services of education, cultural and leisure, health and medical care, and social welfare in local community.

**□ Fostering policy measures to expand the settlement foundation for both existing residents and those returning to rural areas**

- It is necessary to implement policies aimed at efficiently establishing the settlement foundation rather than promoting dispersed support programs for those returning to farming and rural areas.
  - There is a limit for short-term support programs for those returning to farming and rural areas to maintain the foundation of rural population in the medium and long term.

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5) Kim Jeongseop, *A Qualitative Inquiry on the Social and Economic Activities by Immigrant Farm Households*, *Journal of Agricultural Extension & Community Development* 21(3): 53-89, 2014.

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- It is crucial to strengthen pull factors of rural areas by nurturing rural communities as self-sustained places with settlement foundation where people in all age groups can live.
  - It is required to satisfy the demand of urban residents for settlement in rural areas and design integrated projects for each settlement zone unit in rural areas to reorganize rural communities that are losing population in a strategic and efficient way.
  - It is necessary to improve the effect of related policies by integrating and connecting a variety of rural development projects, including village projects, central area projects and rural industry development projects.



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