



Food policy as a driver for change?

- Cases of Rural Innovations in Korea

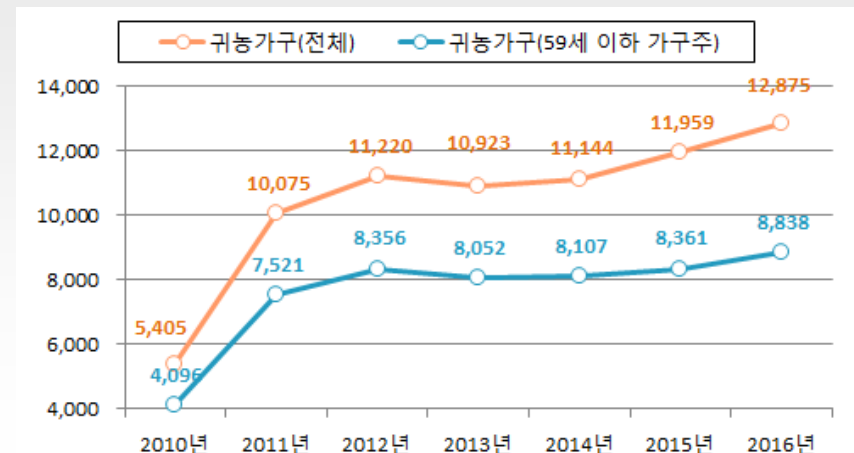
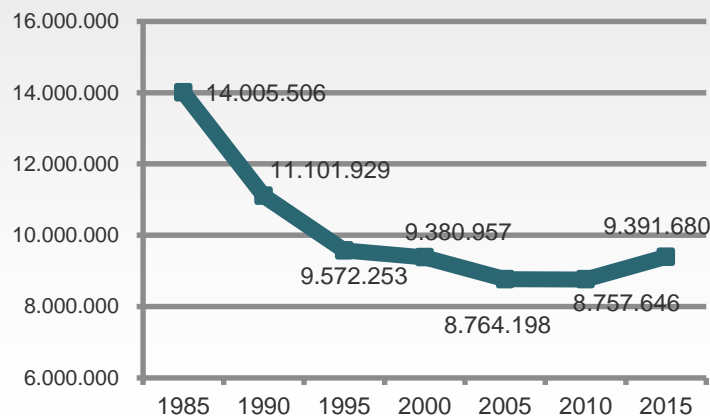
**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Affairs**

Republic of Korea

Status of Rural Communities in Korea

- Rural population in Korea started to grow since 2010s
 - Population outflows from rural areas prolonged due to industrialization and rural-urban migration trends since 1960s
 - Rapid rural hollowing and depopulation resulted in an image of rural areas as lagging behind cities
 - Baby boomers migrate to rural areas for their retirement
 - Baby boomers lead social and agricultural activities after they settle in rural communities

Rural Population in Korea

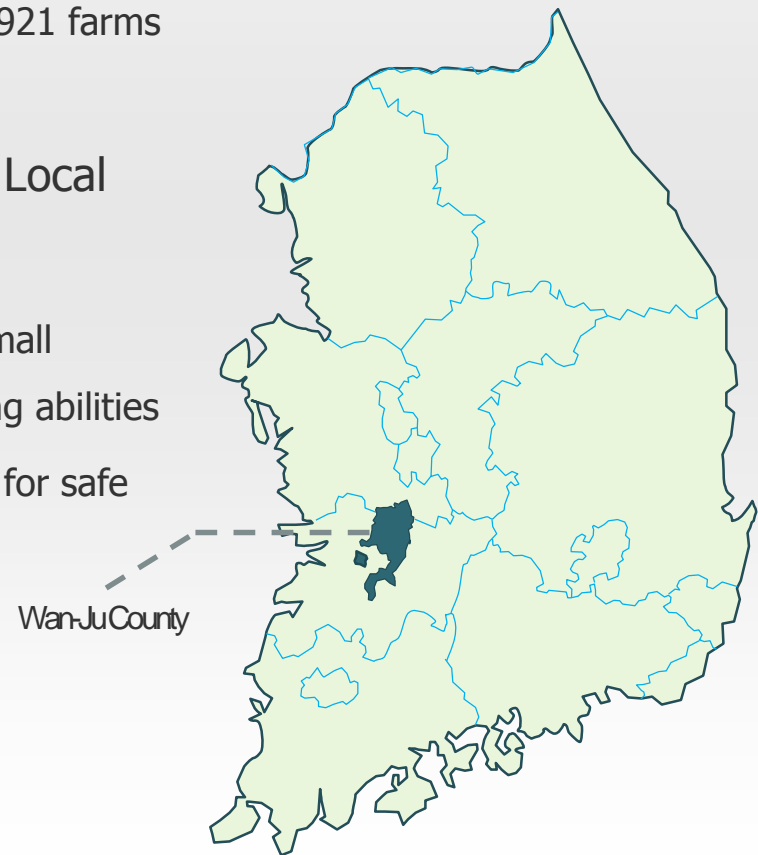


Seek and Implement Rural Innovations (in terms of food policy)

- Re-discovery of rural areas as source of innovations
 - Ruralness and multi-facet value of rural areas are re-assessed at the national scale
 - Some agricultural areas are taking a territorial-based approach to promote rural innovations
 - Wanju Local Food Cooperative, Jangsoo korean beef-apple local cycling agriculture, Gurye "Nature Dream Park" of consumer cooperative iCoop
- Local Foods under spotlight as a new strategy for rural innovations in Korea
 - Sustainability in agriculture faces limit due to falling income of small-holder farms, which takes up the majority of Korean farms.
 - Requires a comprehensive territorial-based approach in linkage with collective organization of small farms at the local scale
- One example of rural innovation cases in Korea is 'Wanju Local Food Project'

Wanju Local Food Project

- Wanju County, located near big cities, has market accessibility but most of its farms are owned by smallholder, elderly farmers
 - In Wanju County, Farmland size of 75.5% among 7,921 farms smaller than 1.0ha in 2015
- In 2019, Wanju County Office implemented the Local Food Project with the following objectives
 - Supply: Promote income growth among elderly & small farmers, Foster family farmers equipped with farming abilities
 - Consumption: Meet the demand of local consumers for safe agricultural products and quality food



Wanju Local Food Project(continued)

- Strengthen the value chains at local scale and expand opportunities for community business activities
 - Expansion of direct trade market and farmer`s restaurants, public school meals
 - Organization of producers through farmer`s cooperative: "Wanju Local Food Cooperative"
 - 1,100 cooperative members additionally earn KRW 150,000/month on average
 - Creation of various jobs related to local foods
 - Vitalization of welfare services, expansion of food processing business of village communities, etc.

Wanju Local Food Cooperative



Local Food direct trade Market



Food products developed within local communities



Farmers' Local Food Restaurant



Local products on sale at local food direct market

Challenges and Directions of Policies for Rural Innovations in Korea

- Successful innovation cases in rural areas are limited, the environment for innovation remains hostile
- Success and failure cases of innovations have not been accumulated in most rural areas
 - lack of innovation actors in rural areas in terms of quantity and quality
 - Building partnership among different sectors and establishing region-based policies for rural innovations at local level
- Create more opportunities for community-based business activities
 - Build regional partnership and vitalize cooperation for life quality improvement in rural areas
 - The central government developing rural policies in linkage with policies for other sectors
- Provide settlement support and strengthen policies for fostering leaders of future innovations including younger generations
 - Promote linkage with policies for new industries related to rural areas