

# Contributing to regional revitalization through addressing agricultural issues



The Japanese agriculture industry today is surrounded by serious problems such as a growing number of fields abandoned due to factors that include an aging labor force, insufficient human resources coming into the industry and acreage-reduction policies.

In August 2016, our Company established Mirai Kyouso Farm Akita, Co., Ltd., which is a corporation for the rationalization of farmland realized through a joint investment with companies such as Ogata Village Akitakomachi Rice Producers Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation. In addition to cultivating rice that utilizes abandoned and unused farmland, these organization are aiming to establish large-scale efficient and highly profitable commercial farming models that incorporate the perspectives of the sixth sector industry\*, such as handling outsourced farming and selling crops.

We are deploying people as executive officers or full-time employees from our Company who are entrusted with duties from formulating local management strategies and supporting execution of those strategies to supporting the use of ICT through the NEC Group.

Since its establishment, Mirai Kyouso Farm Akita has furthered investigations such as those into the heart of problems faced by the agricultural industry in local regions while communicating closely with local farmers and people from each municipality. In these efforts, it is

currently striving to commercialize onion farming.

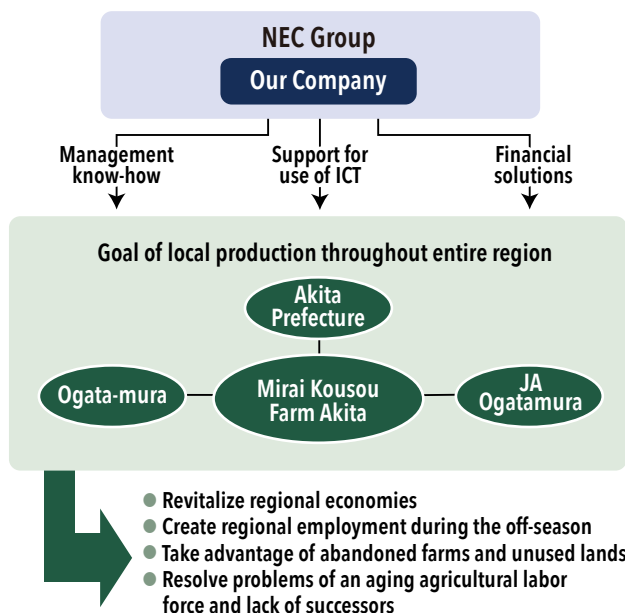
The reason onions were selected as the crop is because of the shipping season.

This season for shipping from Akita aligns with the off-season crop of Hokkaido onions from the middle of June to the end of August after the shipments from the primary onion farms in Awaji Island and Kyushu. In addition, it also allows full time employment on farms without overlapping the peak rice plant season in the agricultural industry. Moreover, continuous operation can be achieved by mechanizing sowing through harvest using ICT while we can expect a growth in the per unit income of several times that of rice to aid in solving development of local agriculture industries and succession problems.

Today, with JA Ogamamura at the core, national subsidies have been acquired and construction is underway for large-scale facilities to dry, control and store onions. Mirai Kyouso Farm Akita will contribute to the revitalization of the agriculture industry in Akita Prefecture with the aim of inciting local production of onions through a partnership with JA Ogamamura and government agencies.

Leveraging the know-how and knowledge cultivated in Akita Prefecture, we will contribute in solving a variety of agriculture problems in each region throughout Japan with the cooperation of people in each of those local regions.

\* Sixth sector industry: The sector unites agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in not only their products but also manufacturing and sales of processed foods made from those raw materials.



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