

Foreword

Agriculture in Tokyo, which takes place in one of the world's largest metropolises, not only provides citizens with fresh, safe, and reliable agricultural and livestock products, but also serves a variety of functions in areas such as preserving the environment and disaster preparedness. The greenery of agricultural land, which gives the city an attractive atmosphere and a sense of calm, is an especially valuable asset of Tokyo citizens.

The situation surrounding agriculture in Japan as a whole, however, remains severe. Contributing issues include a shortage in the number of people engaged in agriculture due to factors such as the rising age of farmers, loss of agricultural land when land is inherited or transferred, and an increase in inexpensive imported farm products. Agriculture in Tokyo is no exception.

In such an environment, the Basic Act on the Promotion of Urban Agriculture, which outlines the responsibilities of the national and local governments for the promotion of urban agriculture, was enacted in April 2015. The Cabinet Decision on the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Urban Agriculture, issued in May 2016, also prepared the foundation for the promotion of urban agriculture, including specifying that farmland is “a type of land that cities should have.” The plan will also serve as a favorable boost for agriculture in Tokyo.

Taking into consideration such changes, and looking ahead to the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and beyond, we have formulated the Tokyo Agriculture Promotion Plan as a new strategy to further bring out agriculture's potential in this major metropolis and to steadily develop agriculture in Tokyo for the future.

By obtaining the understanding and support of the people of Tokyo, including that of farmers and agricultural organizations, and steadily implementing this plan, we will develop agriculture in Tokyo into an industry closely interlinked with the lives of citizens, and realize a sustainable “Smart City” brimming with vitality.

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Yuriko Koike
Governor of Tokyo



小池百合子

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[Artwork on front cover]

“Saichufu” (Compendium of Vegetables and Insects) by Ito Jakuchu

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