

Outline of the Act Partially Amending the Land Improvement Act

1. Background

- For sustainable development of agriculture, in addition to swiftly implementing urgent disaster prevention works for irrigation and drainage facilities such as storage reservoirs and drainage pump stations where frequent and catastrophic torrential rain is likely to cause secondary damage, there is also a need to efficiently implement the agricultural infrastructure improvement and to accelerate the accumulation and consolidation of agricultural land in the hands of farmers in the business of working it.
- Because a lack of technical personnel in municipalities and land improvement districts implementing small-scale land improvement projects has been hindering the smooth implementation of disaster prevention and mitigation measures and the development of agricultural infrastructure, there is a need to establish a framework to support fund procurement and project implementation.
- There is a need to introduce a mechanism that would enable small-scale land improvement districts to smoothly implement entity conversions while maintaining appropriate management of agricultural infrastructure, in the case of their shift to a sustainable management system tailored to the conditions of the rural areas.

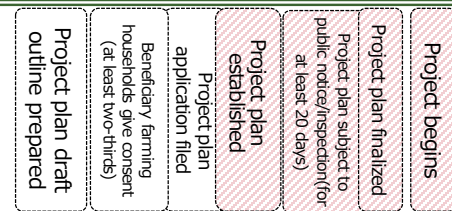
2. Outline of the Act

(1) Expansion of Urgent Disaster Prevention Projects

- The Bill would add countermeasures for torrential rain at agricultural drainage facilities to the list of disaster-prevention projects that the national or local government implements on its own judgment, in principle without asking qualifying project participants to bear the costs or give their consent*.

* Currently, this only applies to projects for earthquake countermeasures.

(Related to Article 87-4 and Article 96-4)



Process for urgent torrential rain countermeasures

Process for projects subject to general applications

(2) Expansion of Projects Involving Cropland Intermediary Management Institutions

- The Bill would add the development of infrastructure such as agricultural drainage facilities and culvert drainage to the list of infrastructural development projects that the prefecture implements on agricultural land of a certain level of cohesiveness on which a cropland intermediary management right has been established, with the consent of the cropland intermediary management institution and without asking qualifying project participants to bear the costs**.

** Currently, this only applies to redistricting and agricultural land development projects.

(Related to Article 87-3 and Article 88)



Converting open irrigation channels into pipelines and widening farm roads

(3) Realignment of Activities by Federations of Land Improvement Associations

- The Bill would add the following activities as part of the operations of Federations of Land Improvement Associations, in order to support the disaster prevention and mitigation measures and small-scale infrastructure development being carried out by land improvement districts and others.

① The National Federation of Land Improvement Associations would procure funding through long-term borrowings and bond issuance and distribute the funds to land improvement districts and others.

(Related to Article 111-9 and Article 111-22 through Article 111-25)

② Federations of Land Improvement Associations would carry out land improvement works at the request of land improvement districts and others.

(Related to Article 111-9)

(4) Creation of a System of Entity Conversion for Land Improvement Districts

- The Bill would create a mechanism that would enable land improvement districts to implement entity conversions and become general incorporated associations and approved community-based organizations.

(Related to Article 76 through Article 76-16)

3. Effective Date

April 1, 2022 (However, the effective date for (4) is April 1, 2023.)

土地改良法の一部を改正する法律の概要

1. 背景

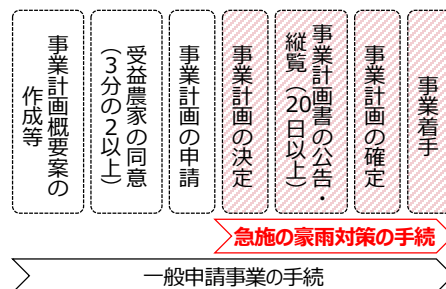
- 農業の持続的な発展に向けて、頻発化・激甚化する豪雨災害により二次被害が発生するおそれのあるため池、排水機場等の緊急的な防災工事を迅速に実施するとともに、農業生産基盤の整備を効果的に実施し、担い手への農地の集積・集約化を加速する必要がある。
- 小規模な土地改良事業を実施する市町村、土地改良区の技術職員が不足し、防災・減災対策や農業基盤の整備等の円滑な実施に支障が生じていることから、資金調達や事業実施についての支援体制を構築する必要がある。
- 小規模な土地改良区が、農村地域の実情に応じた持続的な管理体制へ移行する場合に、施設の適正な管理を維持しつつ、円滑に組織変更できる仕組みを導入する必要がある。

2. 法律の概要

(1) 急施の防災事業の拡充

- 国又は地方公共団体が、自らの判断により実施し、原則として事業参加資格者の費用負担及び同意を求めない防災事業の対象※1に、農業用排水施設の豪雨対策を追加

※1 現行は地震対策のみが対象 (第87条の4及び第96条の4関係)



(2) 農地中間管理機構関連事業の拡充

- 都道府県が、農地中間管理権の設定された一定のまとまりのある農地において、農地中間管理機構の同意により実施し、事業参加資格者の費用負担を求めない基盤整備事業の対象※2に、農業用排水施設、暗渠排水等の整備を追加

※2 現行は区画整理及び農用地の造成のみが対象 (第87条の3及び第88条関係)



(3) 土地改良事業団体連合会の業務の見直し

- 土地改良区等が行う防災・減災対策や小規模な基盤整備を支援するため、土地改良事業団体連合会の事業に以下を追加
- ① 全国土地改良事業団体連合会が、長期借入金・債券発行により資金を調達し、土地改良区等へ交付すること (第111条の9及び第111条の22から第111条の25まで関係)
- ② 土地改良区等からの委託を受けて土地改良事業の工事を行うこと (第111条の9関係)

(4) 土地改良区の組織変更制度の創設

- 土地改良区が、一般社団法人又は認可地縁団体へ組織変更できる仕組みを創設 (第76条から第76条の16まで関係)

3. 施行期日

令和4年4月1日〔ただし、(4)は令和5年4月1日〕