

Danish Agriculture's Challenge 1: Combating global warming

By Masaru Yamada, the Japan Agricultural News

Denmark is the first country in Europe to decide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030, the fastest in Europe. The agricultural sector is no exception.

We visited the agricultural scene, where Denmark has one of the world's leading dairy and pig farming industries and is stepping up to new challenges.

"Cattle burping is the main cause of global warming." While the world is taking a hard look at livestock farming, Mr. Jens Krogh, who runs a 200-cow organic dairy farm in the west end of Denmark, says: "I don't get any criticism at all. In front of his stylish home on 380 hectares of farmland. A windmill for electricity generation and a biogas facility are in operation on the property.

Mr. Krogh, who has now succeeded in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than the amount of methane gas emitted, first created a climate change action plan for his farm 10 years ago, which has been revised twice and is now in place. The dairy sector's greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 40%, with

measures to reduce gobbling as the main focus; the shortfall of 100% was made up by wind and biogas power

generation. Mr. Krogh's farm will have achieved the target of a 70% reduction by 30 years by a comfortable margin. Cattle are grazed in summer. The feed is almost entirely self-sufficient. Biomass, including crop residues as well as manure, is converted into electricity for 900 households using a German-made methane gas generator.

According to Mr Krogh, normal organic milk has a price premium of about 15%, but due to virtually zero greenhouse gas emissions, the farm's milk can be sold at a 60% premium. The income from electricity sales far

exceeds that of the milk sector due to high energy prices. As head of the local organic dairy cooperative, he

works with neighbouring farmers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The philosophy of the cooperative with

its 44 family dairy farmers is excellent. We are not taking over the farm from our father. The cooperative has

set out plans to reduce energy use by a further 25% by 25 years, improve the landscape and enrich biodiversity.

The whole community is involved in the fight against global warming. 'Our members enjoy an affluent lifestyle. We provide what people want and earn the income they deserve. It is the right choice as a business to

fight global warming," said Mr. Krogh.