

# TPP and Japan's Agricultural Policy Change

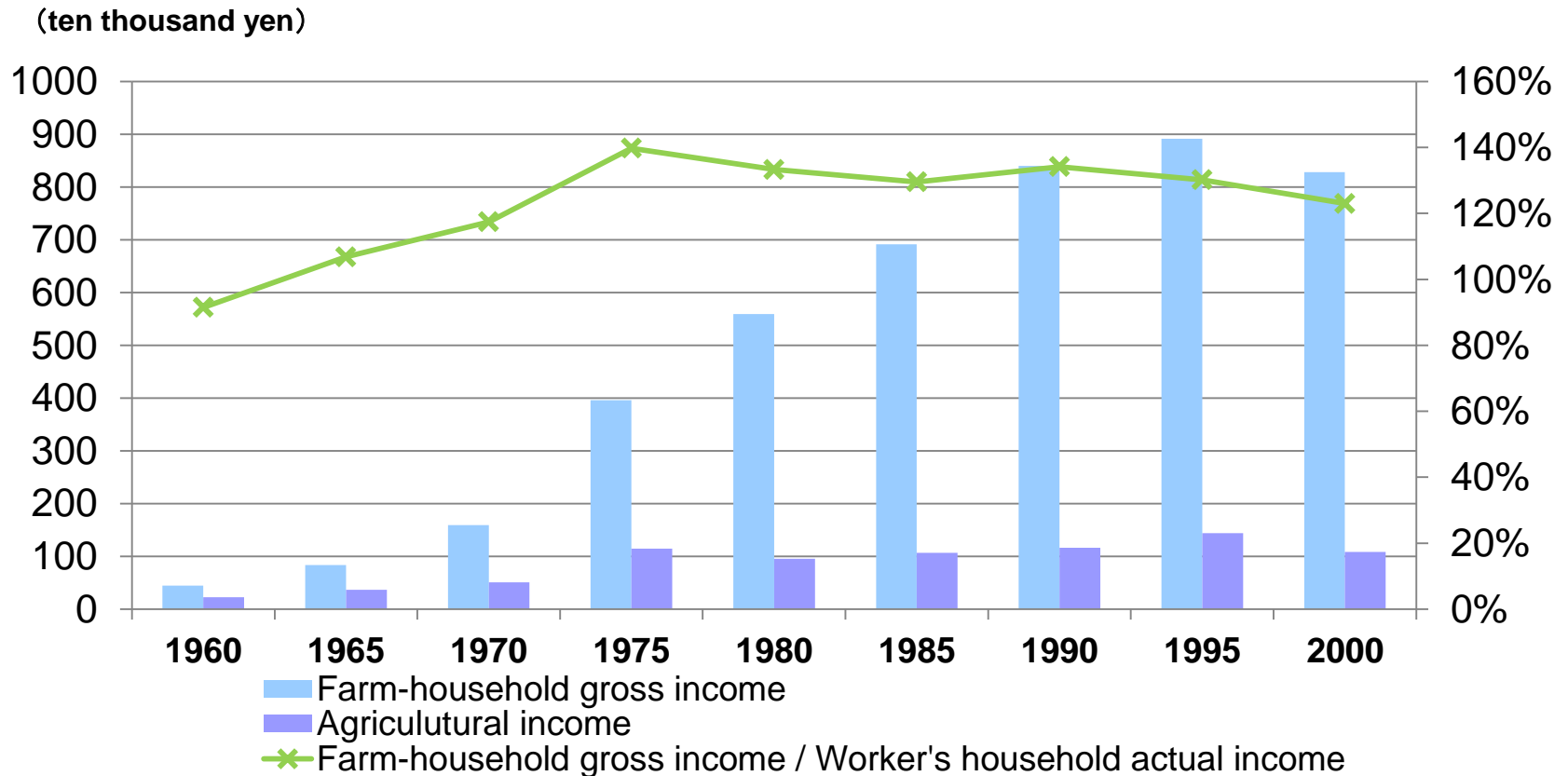
Research Director,  
the Canon Institute for Global  
Studies

Kazuhito YAMASHITA

# What has the Japanese government done for the farmers?

- When the industry fully recovered from the World War II damages, farmers turned out to be worse off than workers.
- The Japanese government **increased the rice price** for farmers. Inefficient small-scale part-time farmers remain in the rice industry.
- Eventually this caused the glut of rice. The government introduced **the acreage reduction or set-aside program** in 1970 by giving farmers subsidies for reducing rice production. Now it is the only measure to keep the rice price high.

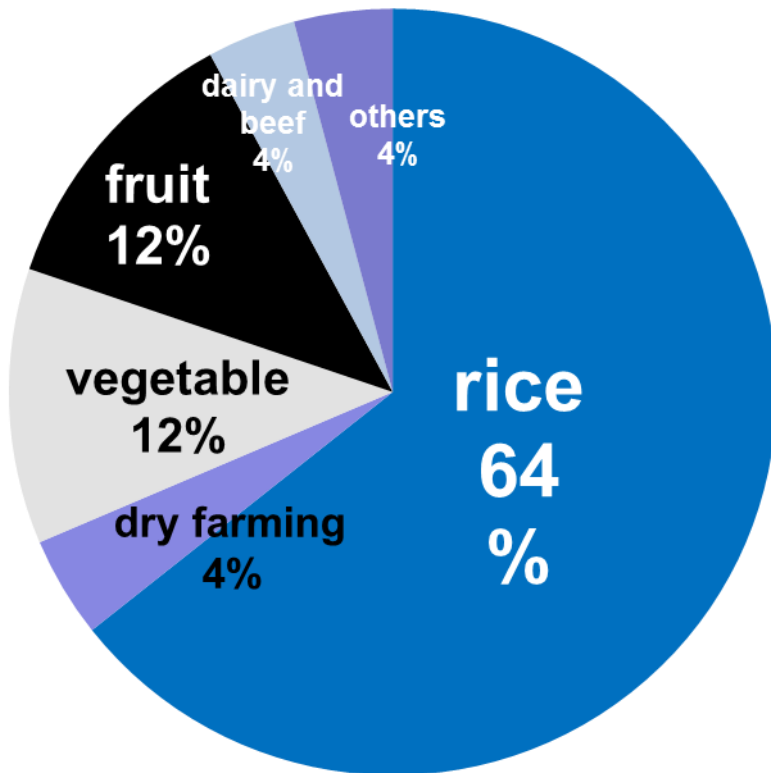
# Farmers are better off



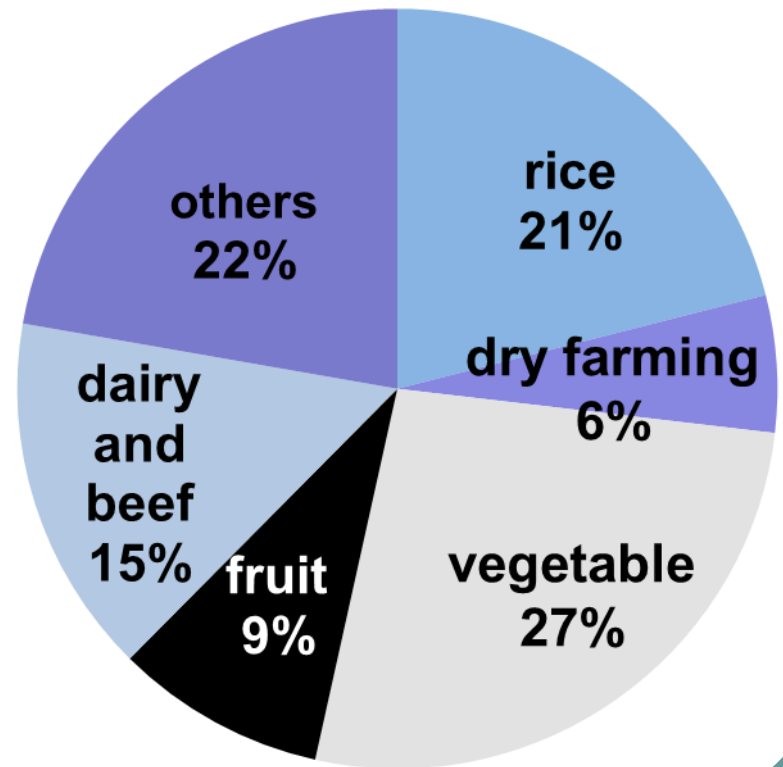
source:MAFF, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications "Household economy survey"

# How inefficient the Japanese rice industry is!

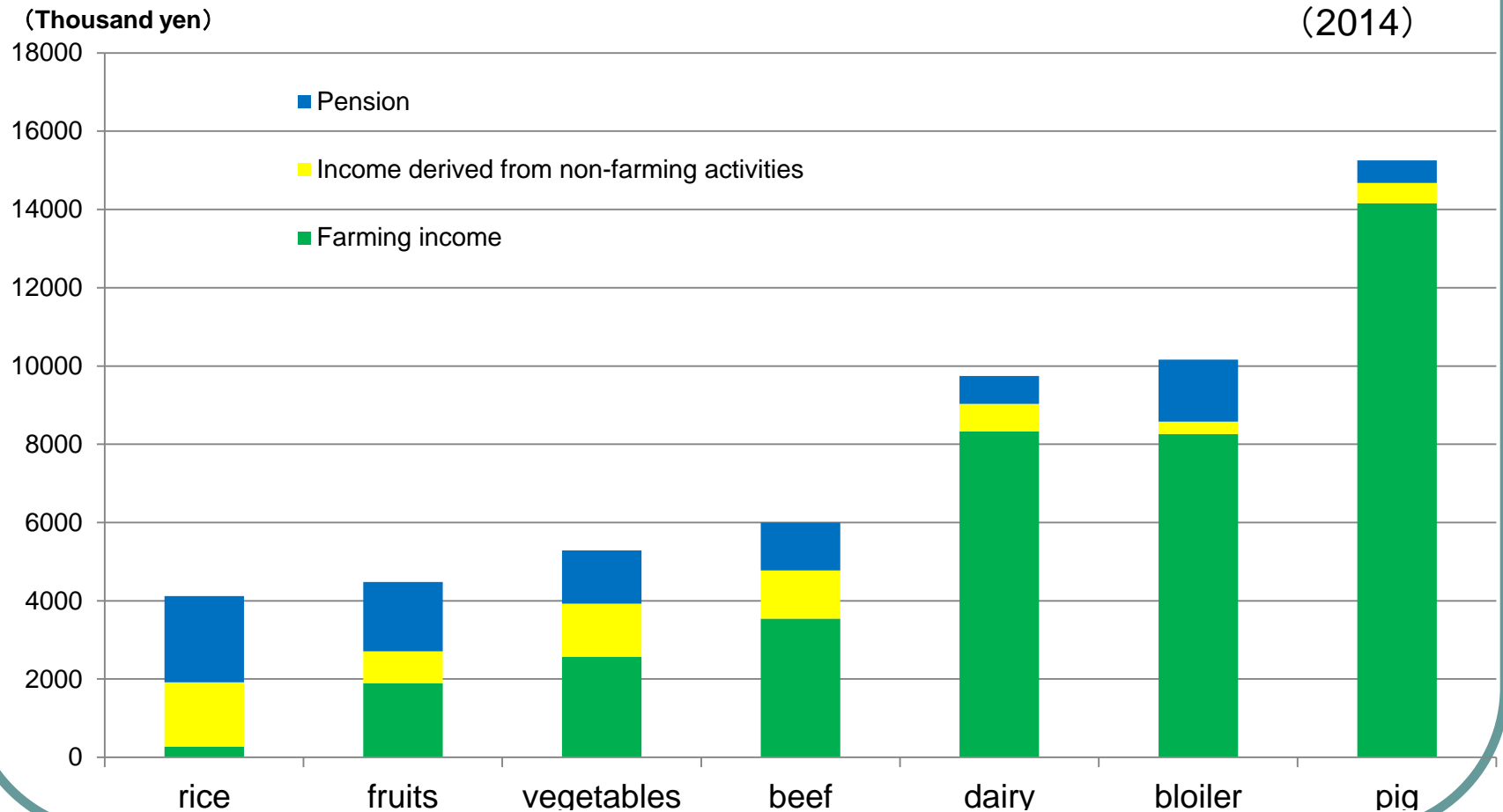
## The number of farmers



## The value of production

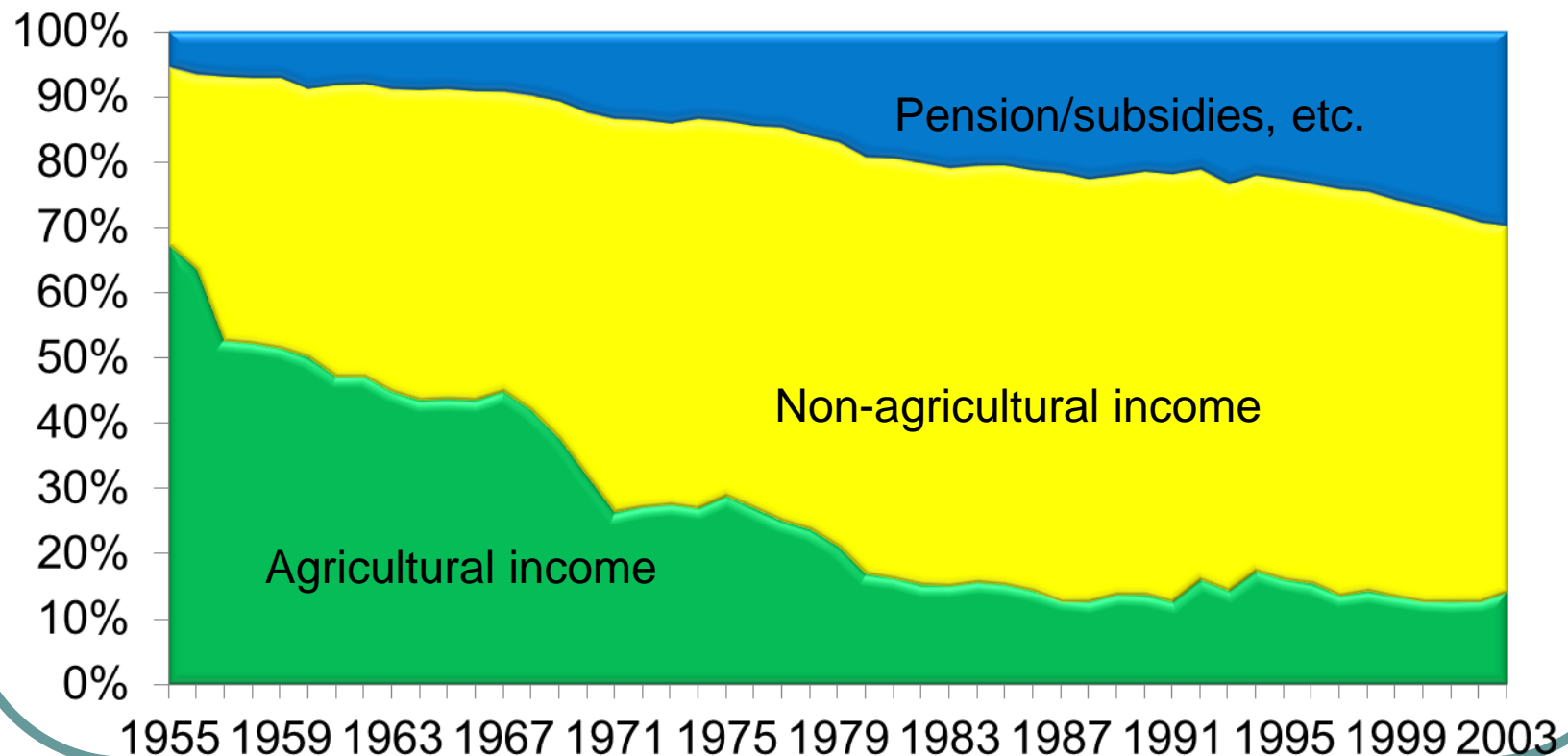


# Distorted rice farming due to high rice price



# Agricultural cooperatives prosper as agriculture declines

- JA has the second-largest deposits among all of the Japanese banks.

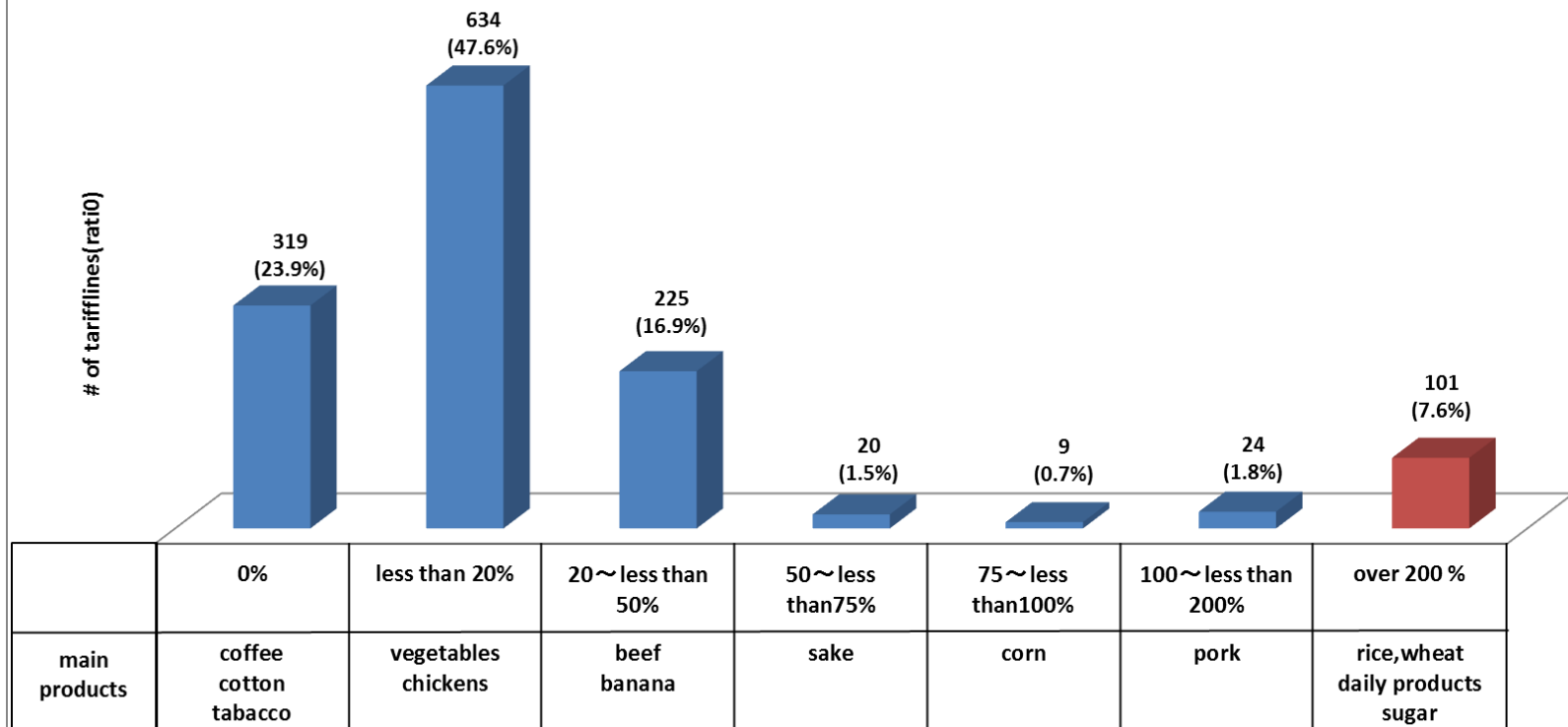


# Who blocks TPP negotiations and agricultural policy reform?

- JA (agricultural cooperatives) is the only legal person in Japan which can make any kind of business including sales of farm inputs and products, insurance, and banking.
- **By pegging the rice price high with tariffs**, JA could not only get high commission in proportion to price but maintain a lot of small-scale part-time farmers who have been the sources of JA's political power and have deposited their earned income in JA. JA is now the second largest bank in Japan.

# Some tariffs are prohibitively high

## Japanese tariffs on agricultural products



source)MAFF

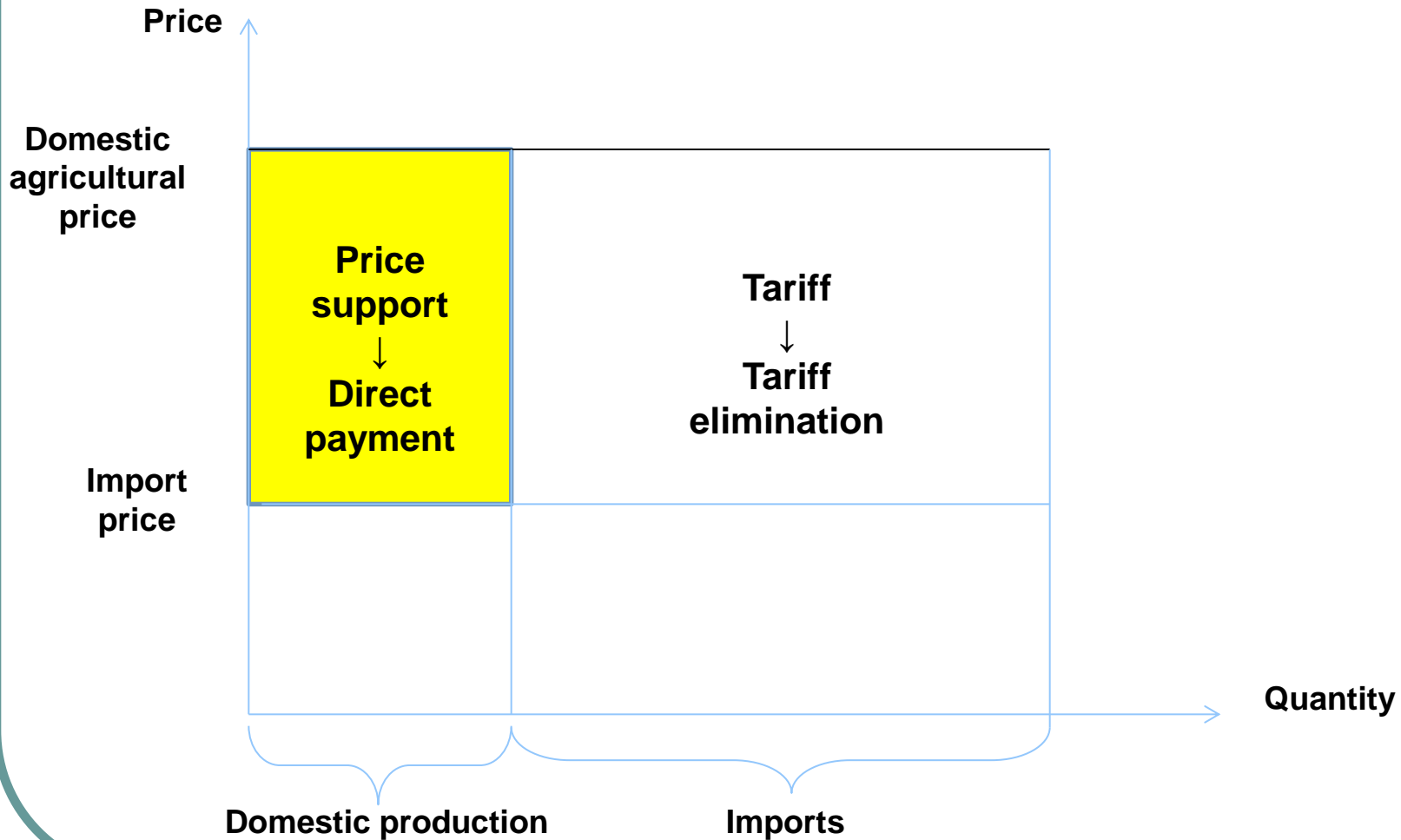


# Comparison of agricultural policies

Country	Japan	US	EU
Decoupled direct payments	No	Yes/No	Yes
Environmental direct payments	Partial	Yes	Yes
Direct payments for less favorable regions	Yes	No	Yes
Production restriction program for price maintenance	Yes	No	No
Tariffs* over 1000%	1 (tubers of konnyaku)	None	None
Tariffs of 500-1000%	2 (rice, peanuts)	None	None
Tariffs 300-500%	2 (butter, pork)	None	None
Tariffs of 200-300%	6 (wheat, barley, skim milk powder, starch, beans and raw milk)	None	None

\* Specific tariffs are applied to tariffed products in Japan. Here, these specific tariffs are estimated as their equivalents of ad valorem tariff rates, taking into account international prices.

# From Price Support to Direct Payment: Consumer Burden Disappears. But very disappointing TPP



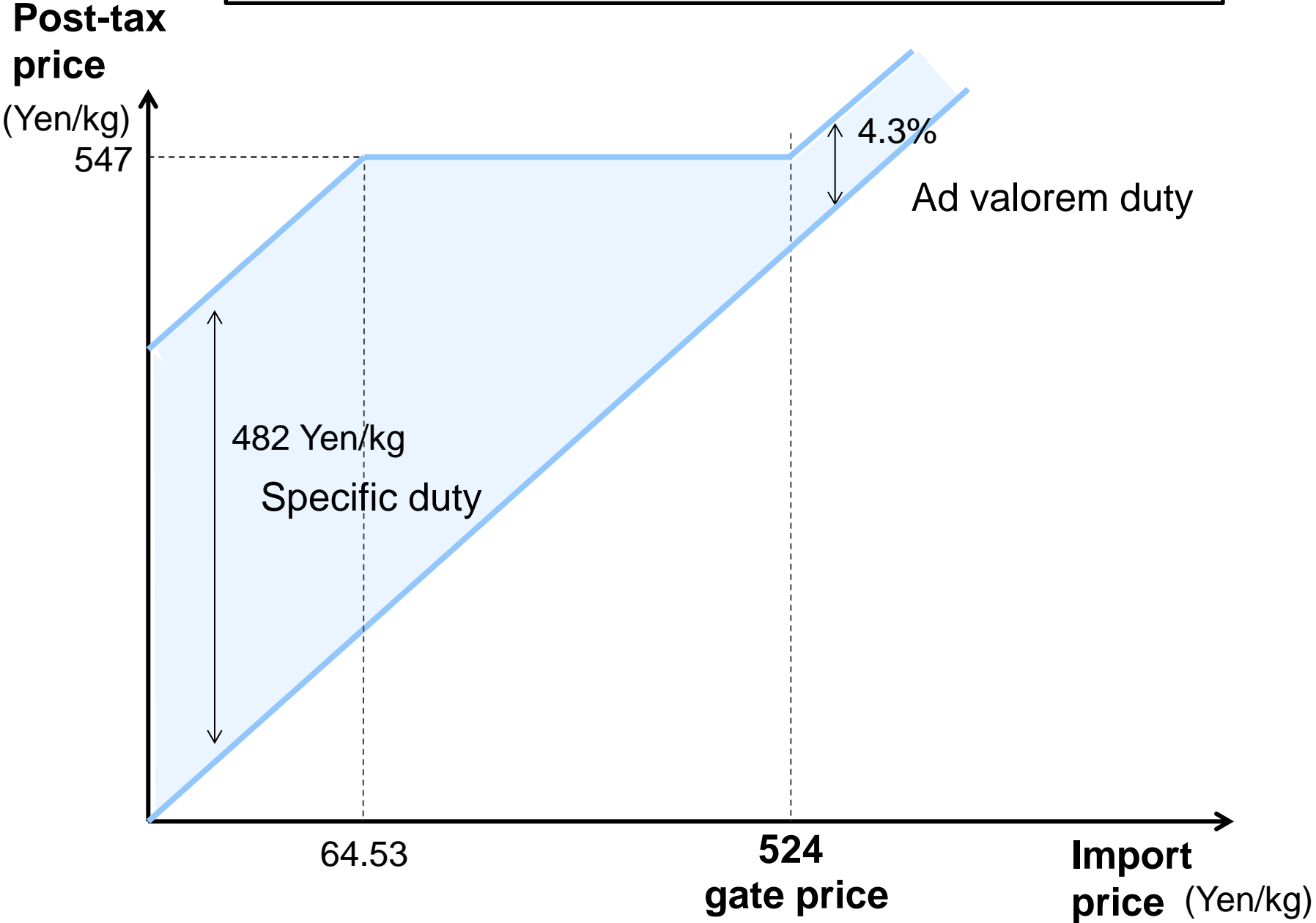
# The TPP and Japan's agriculture

- The Diet Committees on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries resolved that **rice, wheat, beef and pork, dairy products, and sugar** must be excluded from having tariffs eliminated in the TPP negotiations
- Tariffs on rice, wheat, sugar, butter and smp are maintained; tariff-quotas of rice, wheat, butter and smp expand; surcharge on wheat within tariff-quota decreases; tariffs on beef and pork decrease, tariffs on whey and cheese are eliminated

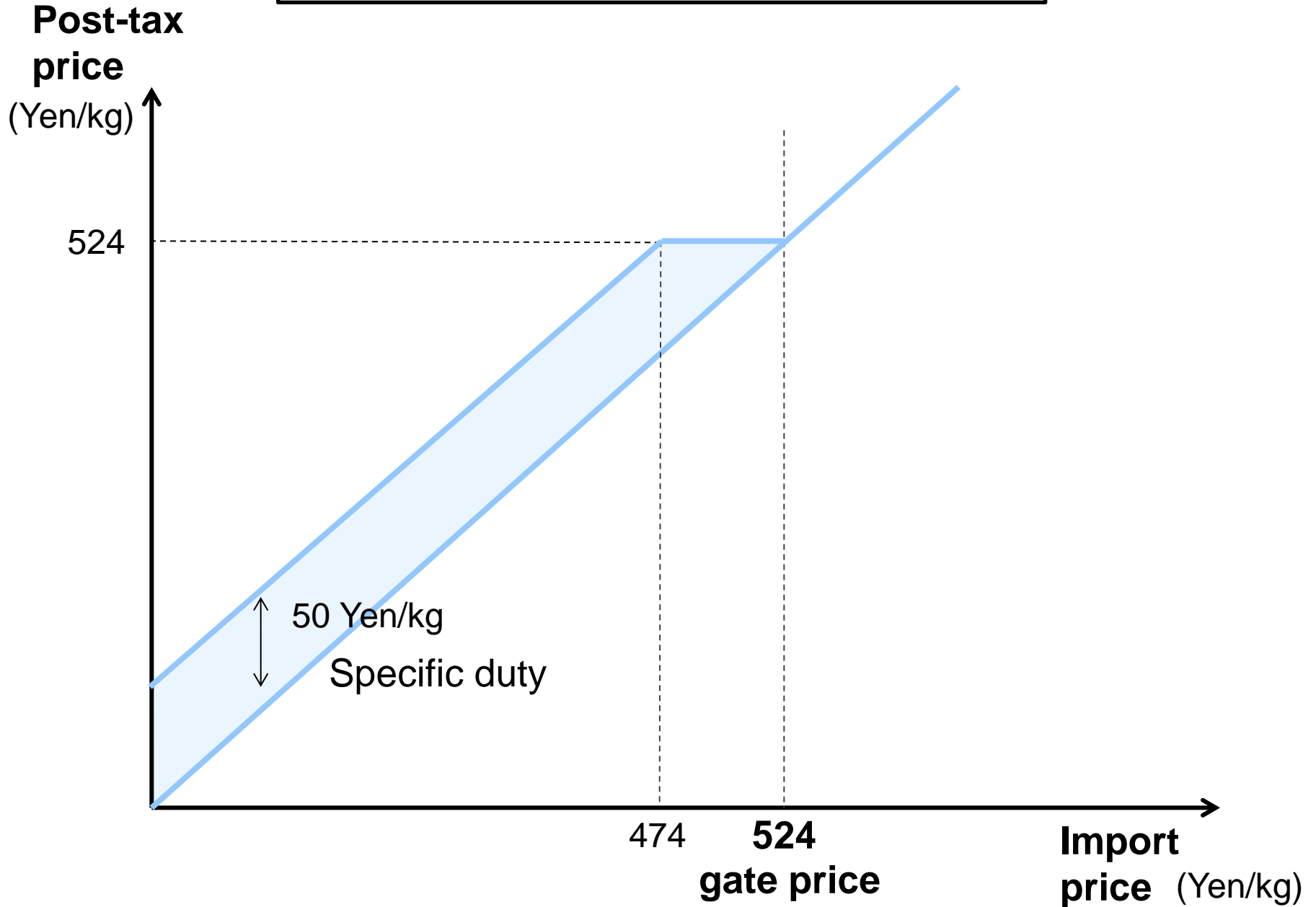
# The TPP and beef

- Since import quantity restrictions were lifted and imports were liberalized in 1991, tariffs decreased from the original 70% to about half at 38.5%. But the production of Wagyu beef has increased.
- Transplantation of fertilized Wagyu eggs in milking cows became common. Japanese beef production has shifted to Wagyu, less affected by imported beef.

# Pork under the current system



# After TPP

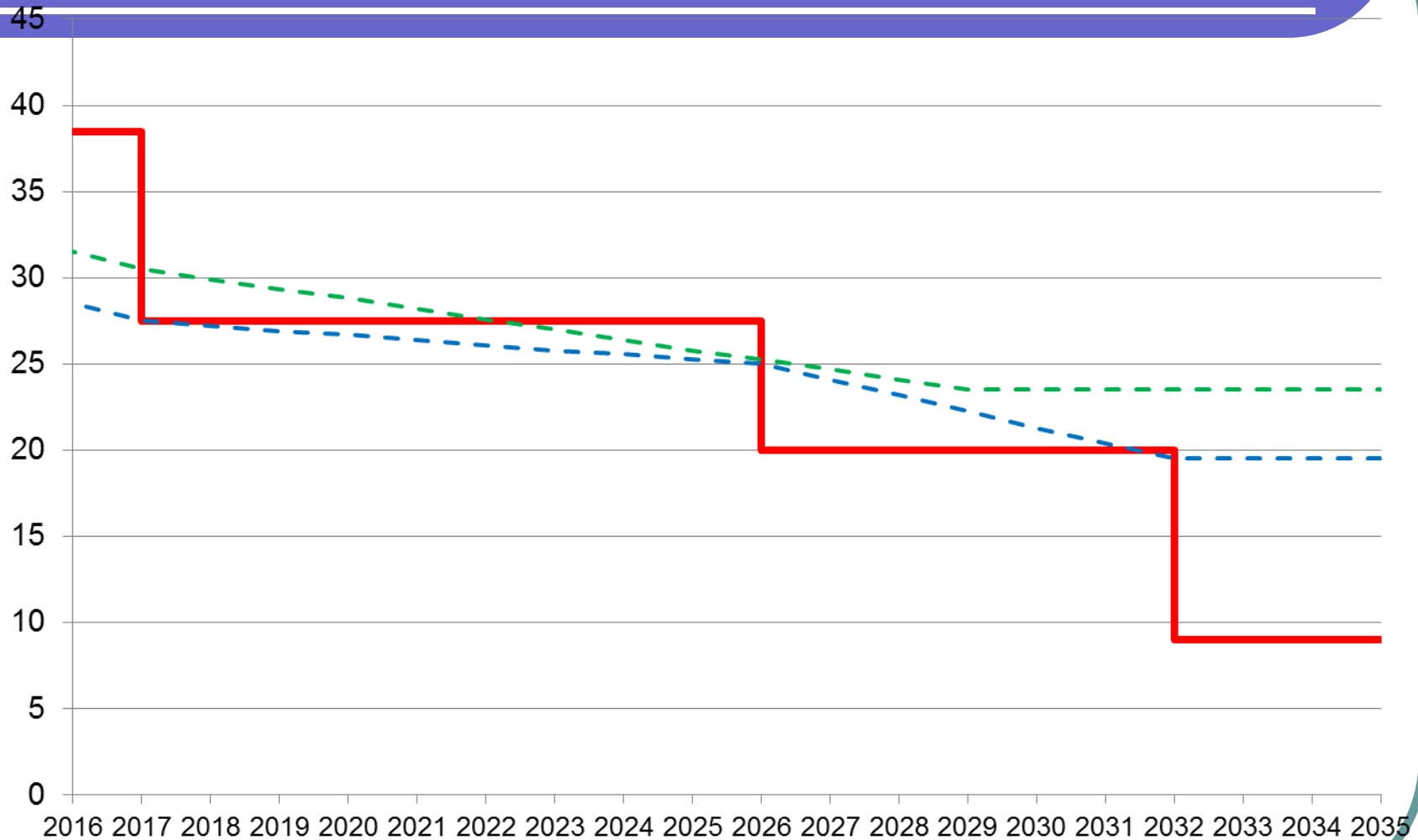


# Domestic support for beef and pork increases

- Japan will increase the amount of deficiency payments for beef and pork: from 80% of the difference between the guaranteed price and the market price to 90% of it.
- The Government bears the 75% of the expenditures for the payments for pork as well as beef: currently 50% for pork.
- These deficiency payments will become permanent measures by chiseled in a law.

# The tariff reduction schedule on beef if TPP goes into effect in 2017

Tariff rate(%)

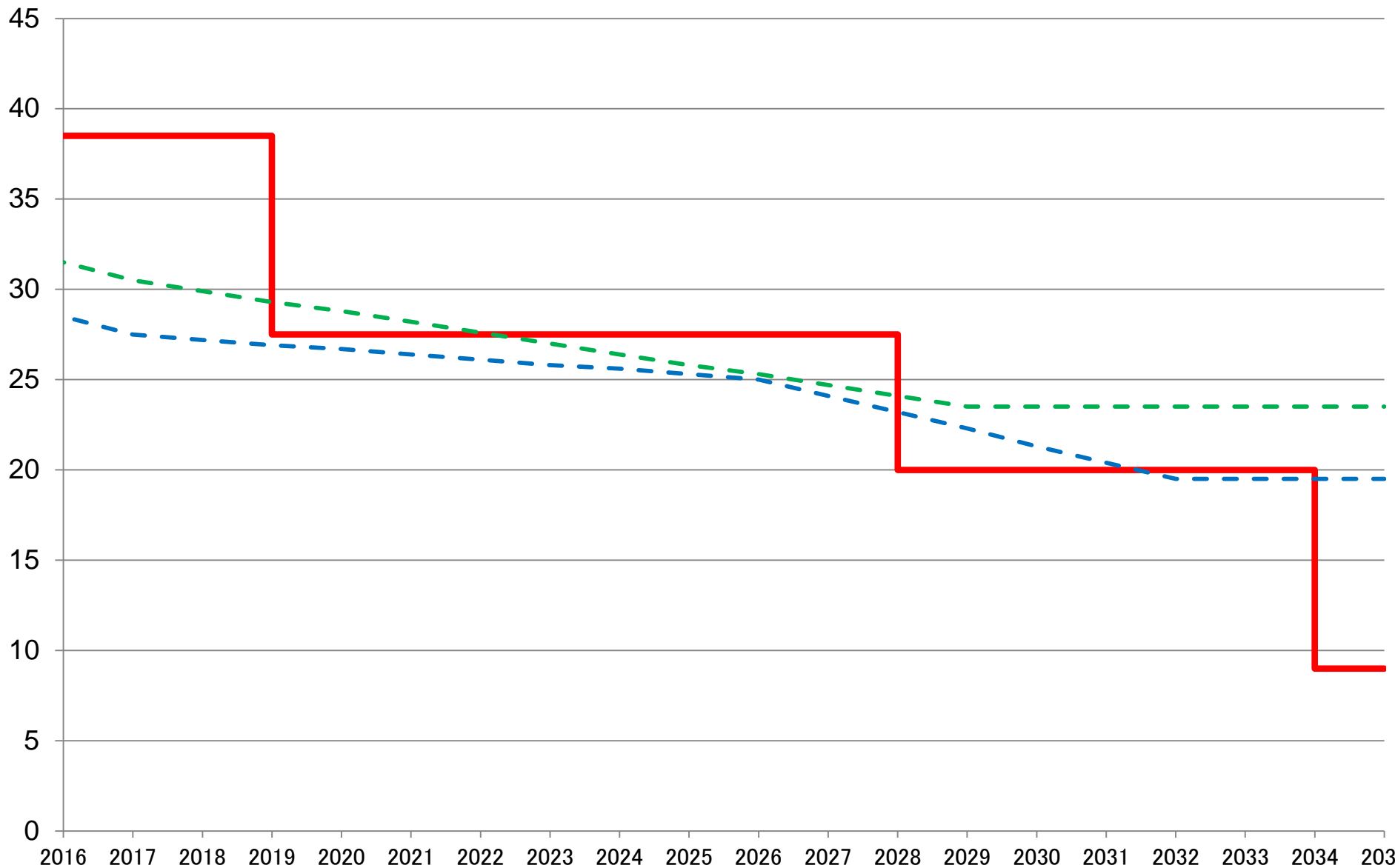


— TPP    - - J-AUS (Frozen)    - - J-AUS (Chilled)



# The tariff reduction schedule on beer if TPP goes into effect in 2019

tariff rate(%)



TPP

LAUS (Frozen)

LAUS (Chilled)

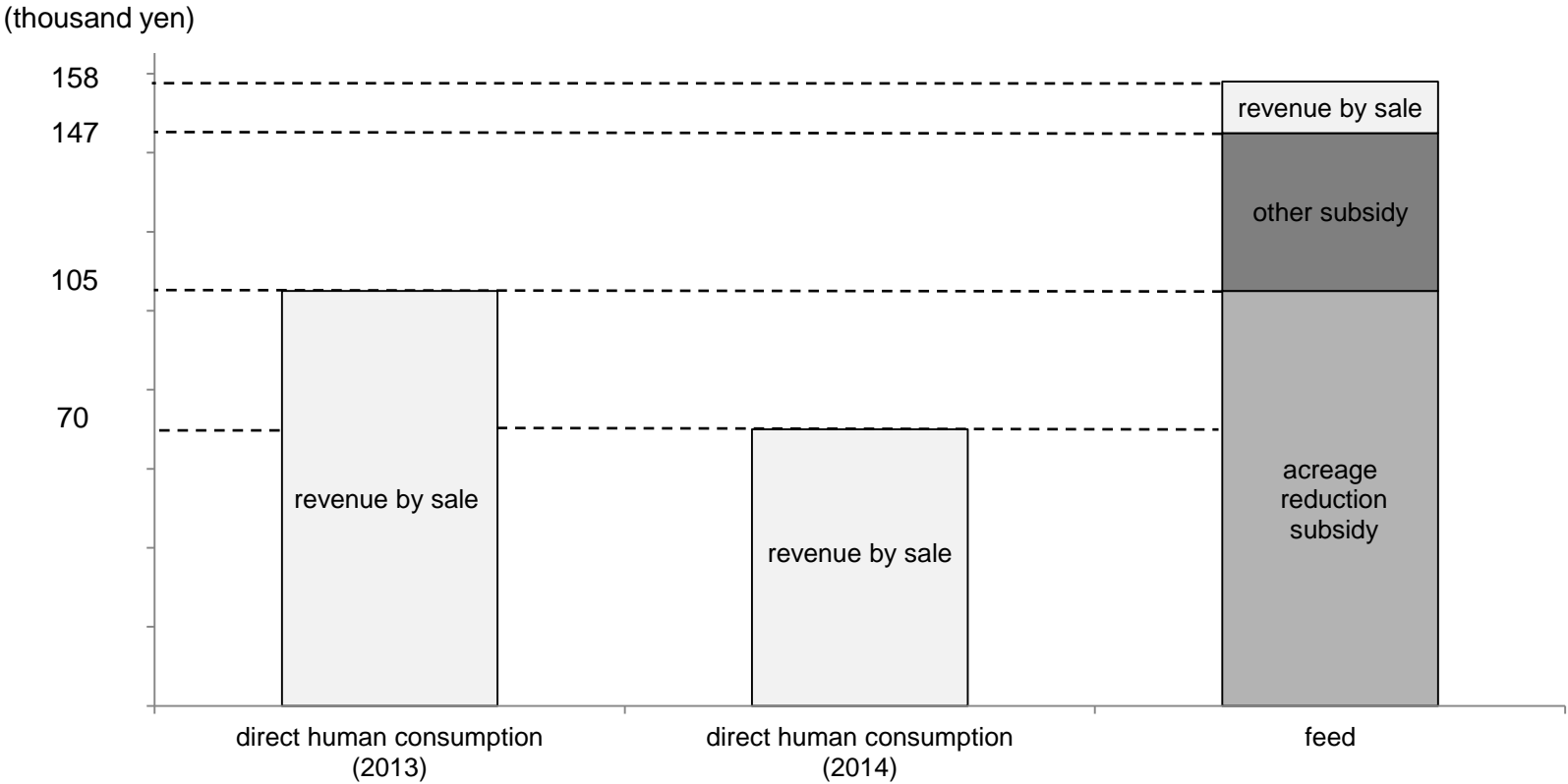
# The TPP and rice

- 70,000 tonnes TRQ for US, 8,400 tonnes TRQ for Australia for direct human consumption.
- The Japanese Government buys up the same amount of Japanese rice in the market. Thus, additional import will not change the total amount of supply in the domestic rice market. It will not decrease domestic rice price. Farmers are as well-off as before.

# The rice paddy set-aside program

- While paying the subsidy of 400 billion yen to entice rice farmers to join the program, the government forces consumers to pay an additional amount of 600 billion yen for the price artificially inflated by limiting supply through the program. It's **doubly wasteful**.
- The high price has reduced rice consumption.
- **Japan must have eliminated tariffs on all products, rice in particular**. Without tariffs we cannot maintain any domestic cartel prices.

# The comparison of the revenue of rice between for direct human consumption and for feed use



# What might happen?

- The increase of rice for feed **substantially replaces corn import from U.S.** which amounts to 10 million tons. The Japanese Government tries to increase the production of rice for feed to 4 million tons.
- This subsidy is regarded as actionable or causing serious prejudice in the meaning of WTO's SCM Agreement. **U.S. could retaliate on Japan by imposing high tariffs on imported industrial products such as automobiles from Japan.**