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Trends and Forms of Timber Production Dealing in Okukuji Area, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan

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We undertake this study to (i) investigate trends in Japanese forestry, (ii) investigate changes in forestry policy considered in the Okukuji area and related regional action, (iii) investigate changes in the distribution of logs and timber, and (iv) document the current situation regarding log production dealers and sawing dealers. Log production dealers in the Okukuji area are divided into those with a business focus on national forests and those with a focus on private forests. Many dealers changed the forest to aim at it, and have changed their business objectives. While this has involved decreasing deal with national forests as other opportunities arose, different dealers reacted differently to new situations. When resources are rare in the Okukuji area, a dealer must be active outside the Okukuji area, but there are many dealers who market logs to the Okukuji area. Many sawing dealers source logs from the binary log market (OTDC, HSLM) in the Okukuji area, while, some dealers source logs without a clear market channel. Such dealers fulfill a customer order by direct and flexible log purchases. The themes of the Okukuji area are the monogenesis administration from the production to sales that "Valley Control System" aims at on the one hand, and the consistency with original corporate activity of dealers on the other. In addition, as the Government and the private forest owners are owners of the forest, the decline in timber serviceability in privately owned forests, in particular, creates a serious bottleneck in the forestry sector.

Keywords: forestry, log production dealer, sawing dealer, Okukuji area