## **News Release**



#### Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

23-D-0110 May 15, 2023

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit rating.

# National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives (security code: -)

<Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating: AA+
Outlook: Stable
Subordinated Loan: AA-

#### Rationale

- (1) National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives ("Zenkyoren") is a cooperative insurance organization of JA (Japan Agricultural Cooperatives) Group. Zenkyoren supports the livelihoods of JA members and policyholders nationwide by providing a wide range of security based on the philosophy of mutual aid. The Insurance Business Act is not applied to JA's cooperative insurance business, but the Agricultural Cooperatives Act, etc. impose the same level of regulations as the Insurance Business Act. Zenkyoren's issuer rating reflects the creditworthiness of JA Kyosai Group, which includes The Kyoei Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Limited under its umbrella and others, and JCR favorably evaluates factors, such as the solid business foundation, stable earning capacity, prudent risk-taking policy, and the degree of capital adequacy relative to risks. The cooperative insurance business is managed together with nationwide JAs, and the presence of JA Group has a positive effect on the creditworthiness of Zenkyoren in terms of the wide customer base. However, because the possibility of financial supports from JA Group is not reflected into the rating, JCR does not see that JA Group's creditworthiness directly affects Zenkyoren's issuer rating.
- (2) With a strength of providing the one-stop service of life and non-life insurance businesses as the "comprehensive coverage of life, home and automobile," Zenkyoren enjoys a relatively high market share on the back of the brand power of "JA Kyosai." Regarding the performance in policies, Zenkyoren maintains solid policies in force, thanks to the well-tuned customer-facing service by life advisers, its main sales channel. Earning capacity measured by core profit, etc., has been stable, underpinned by a large amount of mortality gains, but the earnings from the non-life insurance business fluctuate widely with large disasters. In the fiscal year ended March 2023, a certain level of mutual aid claims payments occurred for damages from earthquakes, typhoons and hails. As impacts from natural disasters in Japan stay inevitable going forward, the possibility that such disasters might be a negative factor for the profit level should be considered. However, JCR believes that Zenkyoren will be able to continue posting stable profits going forward, given that it has built a portfolio consisting of low-correlated businesses in which the profits and losses of the life and non-life insurance businesses support each other.
- (3) The solvency margin ratio under the current regulations is at a high level, and capital adequacy based on the internally-managed economic value is also at an appropriate level. While Zenkyoren diversifys its business risks by operating both life and non-life insurance businesses, it needs to establish an appropriate risk management framework that takes into account the characteristics of both businesses, such as asset management that matches the liability characteristics of the life insurance business, and securement of protection and liquidity against catastrophe risk, etc. faced by the non-life insurance business. Although Zenkyoren has a certain amount of interest rate risk, it is continuing its policy of promoting duration-matching between assets and liabilities, working to curb the interest rate risk. In addition, although catastrophe risk accounts for a large portion of total risks, Zenkyoren is controlling the risk of damages from earthquakes, windstorms and floods through accumulation of catastrophe reserves, reinsurance schemes and other means. Given its capital adequacy relative to risks in the level of the AA-range equivalent, JCR believes that Zenkyoren can maintain financial soundness even in a business environment with a considerable degree of stress.
- (4) Zenkyoren has established a framework for the integrated management of earnings and capital based on the concept of risk management by developing an ERM structure. Efforts are being made to upgrade risk management, such as responding to the introduction of new prudential regulations in mutual aid underwriting and asset management. JCR will pay attention to the promotion status,



including the expansion of opportunities to use ERM, and the degree of penetration and the stability of the ERM culture within Zenkyoren.

Kiichi Sugiura, Tomohiro Miyao and Seito Achiha

#### Rating

Issuer: National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives

#### <Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating: AA+ Outlook: Stable

Issue	Amount (bn)	Execution Date	Repayment Date	Interest Rate	Rating
Subordinated Loan	JPY 200.0	Oct. 25, 2021	(Note 1)	(Note 2)	AA-
Subordinated Loan	JPY 48.9	Oct. 18, 2022	(Note 3)	(Note 4)	AA-
Notes:					

- 1. Third business day prior to October 25, 2051.
- 2. Fixed interest rate until and including October 25, 2031. 5-year JGB interest rate + a certain spread + 1.00% every 5 years from October 26, 2031.
- 3. Third business day prior to October 21, 2052.
- 4. Fixed interest rate until and including October 21, 2027. 5-year JGB interest rate + a certain spread from October 22, 2027 until and including October 21, 2032. 5-year JGB interest rate + a certain spread + 1.00% every 5 years from October 22, 2032.

#### Rating Assignment Date: May 10, 2023

The assumptions for the credit ratings and the definitions of the rating symbols are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/).

Outline of the rating methodology is shown as "JCR's Rating Methodology" (November 7, 2014), "Life Insurance" (July 1, 2013), "Non-Life Insurance" (July 1, 2013), "Ratings of Hybrid Securities" (September 10, 2012) and "Rating Methodology for Financial Institutions' Capital and TLAC Instruments" (April 27, 2017) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/).

The rating stakeholder participated in the rating process of the aforementioned credit ratings.

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JCR is registered as a "Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization" with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to the following four classes. (1) Financial institutions, brokers and dealers, (2) Insurance Companies, (3) Corporate Issuers, (4) Issuers of government securities, municipal securities and foreign government securities.

JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)



Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

### Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives
Rating Publication Date:	May 15, 2023

- The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7
  - Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.
- The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7
  - Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.
- The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7
  - The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
  - The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

#### A) Business Bases

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to its issuer's business bases - how they can be maintained/ expanded into the future and thereby secure earnings and cash flows in adequacy and in a sustainable way.

#### B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the degree of the issuer's indebtedness and loss absorption capacity in terms of equity capital. Also notable is that a financial institution might see a significant loss of financial grounds as a result of changes in value of the assets under its possession.

#### C) Liquidity Positions

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the adequacy of the issuer's cash and other sources of repayment (liquidity positions).



- D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer
  - The likelihood of debt payment is affected one way or the other by the issuer's related parties such as parent company, subsidiary, guarantor, and the government of the issuer's business domicile, etc. by their own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer.
- E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuer's discretion, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same issuer in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by laws, etc.

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The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.
- Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7
  - The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.
- 6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7
  - There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.
- Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7
  - There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.
- The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule17g-7



- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.
  - A) Audited financial statements presented by the rating stakeholders
  - B) Explanations of business performance, management plans, etc. presented by the rating stakeholders
- Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(l) of Rule 17g-7
  - JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the audit by an independent auditor, the warranty made by the issuer, the publication by the issuer, some independent media or, otherwise, JCR analyst's scrutiny, etc.
  - JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.
  - If the credit rating is an Indication, please see the report for Indication.

### 10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR receives payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR received in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of public or private credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

# 11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

#### A) Business Bases

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases, since its revenue, etc. may improve or deteriorate by the change in its business management policies, clients' preferences, competitive situation, or a technological innovation. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the business bases is large.

#### B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its debt/ capital or vice versa and thereby makes its individual debt payment liability less or more bearable and its loss absorption capacity into the future decreased or increased. Also, the changes in the quality of asset under the issuer's holding may affect the credit rating, since such changes could raise or lower the likelihood of future loss of the issuer's financial grounds. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the financial grounds and/ or asset quality is large.

#### C) Liquidity Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's financial management policy or in the relations with fund procurement sources and the change thereby makes its liquidity positions improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.



#### D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's parent company or subsidiary, guarantor or other provider of credit enhancement, or the government of the issuer's business domicile, or other related parties' own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer, and the change thereby makes its business bases, financial grounds and/ or liquidity positions improve or deteriorate, and/ or making the effectiveness of guarantee and other credit enhancement improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

#### E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts caused by the improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's financial condition. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large. Also, in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, the credit rating is subject to alteration if and when the likelihood of such non-payment is projected to increase or decrease. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

#### F) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a rise/ fall in the general economy and/ or the markets inducing the issuer's revenues/ expenses to increase/ decrease and vice versa, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

#### G) Various Events

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as change in the issuer's major shareholders, M&A and other organizational change, accident, violation of the law, litigation, legal/ regulatory change, natural disaster, etc., which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's business bases, financial grounds, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

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Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- · Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/

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Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

#### A) Business Bases

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's business bases and powers of earning or cash flow generation, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases on some drastic change in the operational environments, etc.

#### B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's financial grounds and asset quality. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but



possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's financial grounds and/ or asset quality on some drastic change in its business bases.

#### C) Liquidity Risks

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in its financial management policy or relations with fund procurement sources, etc.

- D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer
  - The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's parent company or subsidiaries, guarantor or other providers of credit enhancement, the government of the issuer's business domicile or other related parties' status and stance of support/assistance for the issuer. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if there is a major change on the part of related parties, such as replacement, disappearance, some drastic improvement/ deterioration of financial grounds/ balances, etc.
- E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract

  The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the order of seniority in repayment of interests and principal. JCR assumes the resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch. The change could be as much as a few notches if the issuer's financial structure differs so much and thereby the balance between debts shifted so greatly. Rating change is also possible in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turns out to be inaccurate. The change of the credit rating is assumed to be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.
- $14^{\parallel}$  Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7
  - The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

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## The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
National Mutual Insurance	Issuer(Long-term)	May 19, 2021	AA+	Stable
Federation of Agricultural	issuer(Long term)	Way 17, 2021	7 12 1	Stable
National Mutual Insurance	Issuer(Long-term)	May 10, 2022	AA+	Stable
Federation of Agricultural	Issuer(Long-term)	May 19, 2022		
National Mutual Insurance	Loan(subordinated)	October 25, 2021	AA-	
Federation of Agricultural	Loan(subordinated)	October 23, 2021		
National Mutual Insurance	Loan(subordinated)	May 19, 2022	AA-	
Federation of Agricultural	Loan(subordinated)	Way 19, 2022		
National Mutual Insurance	Loon(subordinated)	October 19, 2022	AA-	
Federation of Agricultural	Loan(subordinated)	October 18, 2022	AA-	

### Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

- I, Tomohiro Miyao, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:
- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.

宮尾知浩

Tomohiro Miyao

General Manager of Financial Institution Rating Department