

## 1. The Beginning of the Struggle

(1) 〈The Uchinada Dunes: Providing Hope to the People of Uchinada〉 (～September, 1952)

For generations, many people of Uchinada Village (now Uchinada Town) have made their livelihoods fishing on the Sea of Japan and the Kahoku Lagoon. However, relying on the fishing industry has often meant a difficult and unpredictable way of life. This became even more pronounced in the postwar period, when food shortages drove up the price of rice, and so many fishermen started to consider turning to farming as a more stable alternative.

As a result, the Alliance for Realizing the Acquisition of Federal Military Land was formed in 1946. This movement strove to acquire the Uchinada Dunes—which had become state-owned land after they were purchased by the Japanese military—and transform them into farmland. In response to growing popular support for this plan, Ishikawa Prefecture decided to purchase the Uchinada Dunes from the national government with the intent of furthering agricultural development by afforesting the dunes into arable land. In this way, agricultural development of the sand dunes began to be seen as a source of hope for the people of Uchinada.