Request and justification for lifting the import measures on Japanese food regarding radionuclides

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Food Industry Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
(MAFF) JAPAN

Control system of radionuclides in food

- ✓Food is monitored by prefectural governments based on the maximum levels of radio-cesium ($^{134}Cs+^{137}Cs$) in food set by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The products exceeding the levels are recalled and disposed of based on the Food Sanitation Act.
- ✓Depending upon the prevalence of the incidence, the distribution is suspended for such products on an area basis, based on the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (ASMCNEP).
- ✓By this system, the food products exceeding the levels are neither distributed nor exported.

■ **Establish maximum levels of radio-cesium (JMLs) in food***

Drinking water	10 Bq/kg
Milk	50 Bq/kg
Infant food(s)	50 Bq/kg
General food(s)	100 Bq/kg

*The effect of radionuclides other than radio-cesium is taken into account in maximum levels setting

【The Food Sanitation Act】

■ **Monitor radionuclides in food**

- ➢ The Government establishes the guidelines on monitoring plans
- ➢ Prefectural governments conduct the monitoring tests

【 ASMCNEP 】

【If food exceeding the JMLs is observed】

■ **Recall and dispose of the food containing radionuclides above the maximum levels**

【The Food Sanitation Act】

【If cases exceeding the JMLs are observed in a particular product over an area】

■ **Suspend shipment of the products from the area**

【 ASMCNEP 】

IAEA's evaluation on Japan's measures

✓ The Joint FAO/IAEA Division states that Japan's "measures to monitor and respond to issues regarding radionuclide contamination of food are appropriate, and that the food supply chain is controlled effectively."

"Monitoring foods, appropriate regulatory action and public communication are helping to maintain confidence in the safety of the food supply. Food restrictions continue to be revised and updated as necessary in line with the food monitoring results. This indicates the continued vigilance of the authorities in Japan and their commitment to protecting consumers and trade.

Based on the information that has been made available, the Joint FAO/IAEA Division understands that ***the measures to monitor and respond to issues regarding radionuclide contamination of food are appropriate****, and that* ***the food supply chain is controlled effectively*** *by the relevant authorities."*

Source: IAEA assessment on the September 2019 report ' Events and highlights on the progress related to recovery operations at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.'

Maximum levels of radio-cesium in food

		Codex	Japan	EU (Euratom 2016/52)	US
Annual additional radiation dose		1 mSv	1 mSv	1 mSv	5 mSv
Assumed ratio of contaminated food		10 %	50 %	10 %	30 %
Maximum levels of radio-cesium in food	Drinking water		10 Bq/kg	1,000 Bq/kg (or liquid food)	
	Milk		50 Bq/kg	1,000 Bq/kg (Dairy product)	
	Infant food	1,000 Bq/kg	50 Bq/kg	400 Bq/kg	
	Other than the above food	1,000 Bq/kg	100 Bq/kg (General food)	1,250 Bq/kg	1,200 Bq/kg (All food)
		Food consumed in small quantities† 10,000 Bq/kg		Minor food 12,500 Bq/kg	

† For food consumed in small quantities that represent a small percentage of total diet and hence a small addition to the total dose, the Codex Guideline Levels may be increased by a factor of 10. (Called 'minor food' in EU).

Note: The Japanese maximum levels of radio-cesium in food are set also in consideration of other radionuclides released by the accident namely ^{90}Sr, ^{106}Ru, ^{238}Pu, ^{239}Pu, ^{240}Pu and ^{241}Pu.

Results of the monitoring tests on radio-cesium (^{134}Cs+^{137}Cs) in food

[Number/ratio of samples exceeded the Codex guideline level (1,000Bq/kg)]

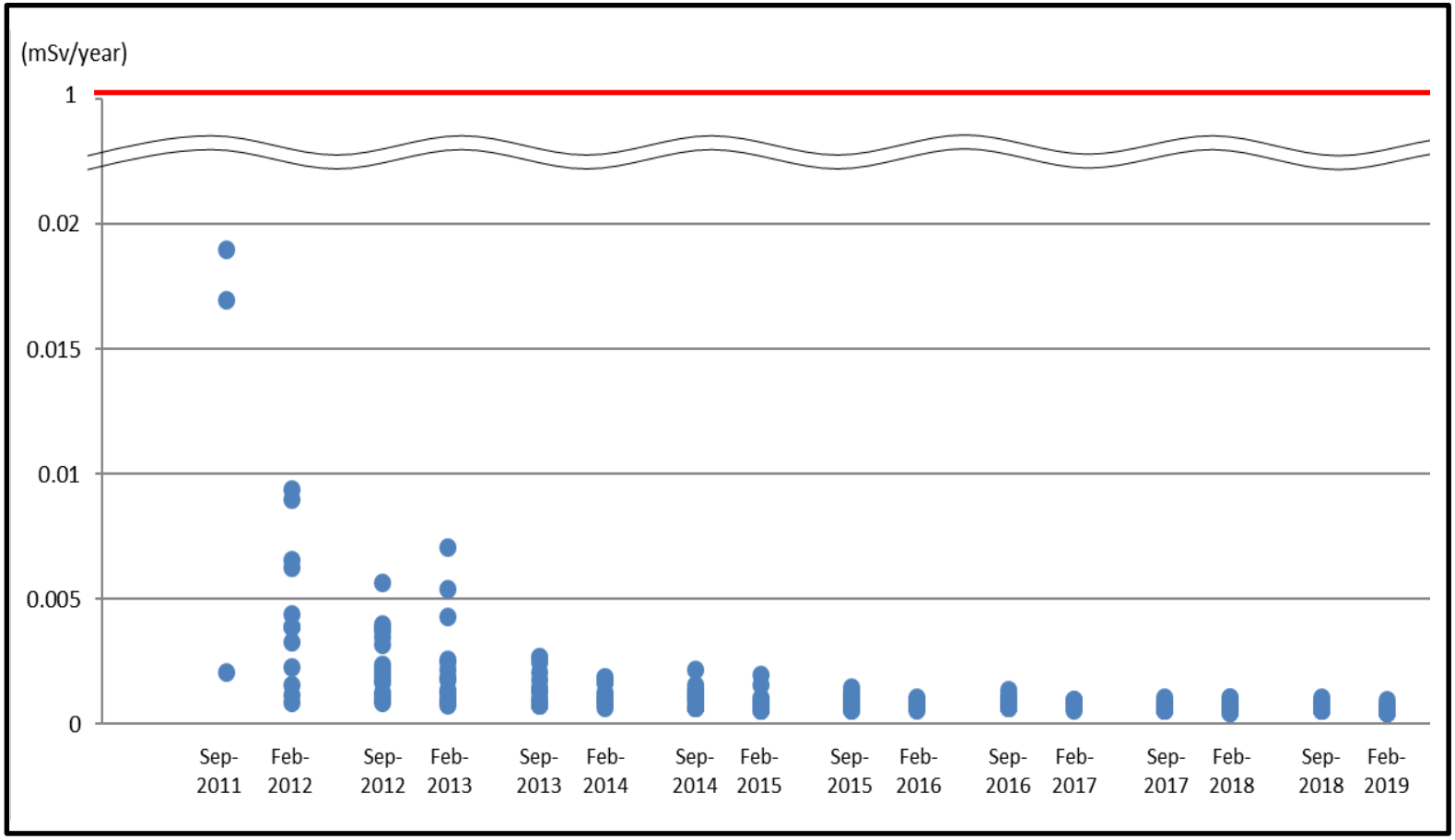
	FY2012 (4.2012-3.2013)		FY2013 (4.2013-3.2014)		FY2014 (4.2014-3.2015)		FY2015 (4.2015-3.2016)		FY2016 (4.2016-3.2017)		FY2017 (4.2017-3.2018)		FY2018 (4.2018-3.2019)	
	Total	Excess (%)	Total	Excess (%)	Total	Excess (%)	Total	Excess (%)	Total	Excess (%)	Total	Excess (%)	Total	Excess (%)
Grains	18,998	0 (0.00)	12,962	0 (0.00)	6,094	0 (0.00)	5,136	0 (0.00)	2,963	0 (0.00)	2,044	0 (0.00)	1,451	0 (0.00)
Vegetables	19,004	1 (0.01)	20,676	0 (0.00)	17,520	0 (0.00)	12,814	0 (0.00)	11,272	0 (0.00)	8,852	0 (0.00)	6,967	0 (0.00)
Fruits	5,635	0 (0.00)	5,331	0 (0.00)	4,147	0 (0.00)	3,374	0 (0.00)	2,712	0 (0.00)	1,996	0 (0.00)	1,577	0 (0.00)
Beef	187,176	0 (0.00)	231,072	0 (0.00)	235,583	0 (0.00)	274,071	0 (0.00)	261,745	0 (0.00)	255,210	0 (0.00)	256,108	0 (0.00)
Livestock products (other than beef and milk)	2,148	0 (0.00)	2,265	0 (0.00)	1,834	0 (0.00)	1,544	0 (0.00)	1,432	0 (0.00)	1,196	0 (0.00)	915	0 (0.00)
Milk and infant foods	5,215	0 (0.00)	4,973	0 (0.00)	4,461	0 (0.00)	3,666	0 (0.00)	3,207	0 (0.00)	2,552	0 (0.00)	1,917	0 (0.00)
Tea, drinking water and beverages	1,674	0 (0.00)	1,140	0 (0.00)	804	0 (0.00)	636	0 (0.00)	557	0 (0.00)	497	0 (0.00)	401	0 (0.00)
Processed foods	8,506	4 (0.05)	9,919	0 (0.00)	9,220	0 (0.00)	8,525	0 (0.00)	7,498	0 (0.00)	6,177	0 (0.00)	4,956	0 (0.00)
Fishery products (other than freshwater)	18,658	16 (0.09)	20,261	1 (0.00)	21,328	0 (0.00)	18,939	0 (0.00)	18,501	0 (0.00)	16,465	0 (0.00)	13,282	0 (0.00)
Fishery products (freshwater)	3,343	1 (0.03)	3,394	0 (0.00)	3,251	0 (0.00)	2,385	0 (0.00)	2,149	0 (0.00)	2,054	0 (0.00)	2,113	0 (0.00)
Edible fungi (cultivated)	4,390	17 (0.39)	3,949	0 (0.00)	4,438	0 (0.00)	4,425	0 (0.00)	4,520	0 (0.00)	3,981	0 (0.00)	3,673	0 (0.00)
Wild plants and wild edible fungi	2,478	24 (0.97)	3,664	21 (0.57)	4,135	4 (0.10)	4,032	0 (0.00)	4,827	3 (0.06)	3,953	0 (0.00)	3,963	0 (0.00)
Game meat	1,255	108 (8.61)	1,411	39 (2.76)	1,403	28 (2.00)	764	10 (1.31)	1,715	35 (2.04)	1,719	6 (0.35)	2,177	13 (0.60)
Total	278,480	171 (0.06)	321,017	61 (0.02)	314,218	32 (0.01)	340,311	10 (0.00)	323,098	38 (0.01)	306,696	6 (0.00)	299,500	13 (0.00)

Legend : Table created by MAFF based on the monthly data of "Levels of radioactive contaminants in foods tested in respective prefectures" by press released date (MHLW https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/index_food_radioactive.html)

- The game meat exceeding 1,000Bq/kg (at least from FY 2016 to 2018) were all sampled from area where distribution is already restricted and they are tested only for the monitoring purpose (not for sales).
- If relying on the Codex guideline level of 10,000Bq/kg for food with small consumption, there has been no excess sample for wild plants and wild edible fungi for more than 5 years (since last detection in May 2013), and no excess sample (out of around 2,200 samples) for game meat during FY2018.

Estimation of radiological annual intake from food in Japan

✓According to the biannual market basket surveys, the effective dose from radio-cesium in food has been estimated as far below the intervention exemption level of 1 mSv/year (0.0005～0.0010 mSv/year in early 2019). Considering the share of Japanese food in total intake, the effect is significantly lower for consumers in the foreign countries.



1mSv/year (Intervention exemption level, recommended as safe for the public)

I received 0.03mSv of cosmic radiation from 10 hour aeroplane flight!*

* http://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/faq.html

Exposure from the accidental releases (^{134}Cs+ ^{137}Cs) at 15 monitoring sites (Sep 2012～)

Note: In the long term, the majority of radiation doses through food intake, derived from the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, are attributed to radio-cesium.
Source: https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000205937_00006.html (In Japanese)

List of countries which lifted the import measures

✓Total 54 countries and regions have introduced import measures on Japanese food following the nuclear power plant accident in 2011, and more than 60%, 34 of them have totally lifted the measures.

（As of 8 January 2020）

Month, Year	Countries
June 2011	Canada
〃	Myanmar
July 2011	Serbia
Sep. 2011	Chile
Jan. 2012	Mexico
Apr. 2012	Peru
June 2012	Guinea
July 2012	New Zealand
Aug. 2012	Colombia
Mar. 2013	Malaysia
Apr. 2013	Ecuador
Sep. 2013	Vietnam
Jan. 2014	Iraq
〃	Australia
May 2015	Thailand (Except 3 species of wild animals)
Nov. 2015	Bolivia
Feb. 2016	India

Month, Year	Countries
May 2016	Kuwait
Aug. 2016	Nepal
Dec. 2016	Mauritius
〃	Iran
Apr. 2017	Qatar
〃	Ukraine
Oct. 2017	Pakistan
Nov. 2017	Saudi Arabia
Dec. 2017	Argentina
Feb. 2018	Turkey
July 2018	New Caledonia
Aug. 2018	Brazil
Dec. 2018	Oman
Mar. 2019	Bahrain
June 2019	Congo DR
Oct. 2019	Brunei
Jan. 2020	Philippines