

Measures for Reduction of Radionuclide Contamination of Agricultural Produce

November 2024

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Table of contents

1 Control of radionuclides in food	2 – 4
2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration	5 – 16
3 Test Results	17 – 19

1 Control of radionuclides in food

Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters

- Setting and lifting of food shipment and intake restrictions

Instructions

Related municipalities

- Develop and implement inspection plans for food
- Implementation of shipment and intake restrictions for foodstuffs

Claims /
Support

Reports

Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare

- Response to food exceeding maximum levels
- Disclose test results

Cooperation

Consumer Affairs Agency

- Set the maximum levels for radionuclides in food

Support

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

- Regulate materials used for production of food and feed
- Support inspection plans and advise in technical inspection
- Advise in technical provisions for reduction of radionuclide contamination at production sites

Cooperation

Inquiries

Findings

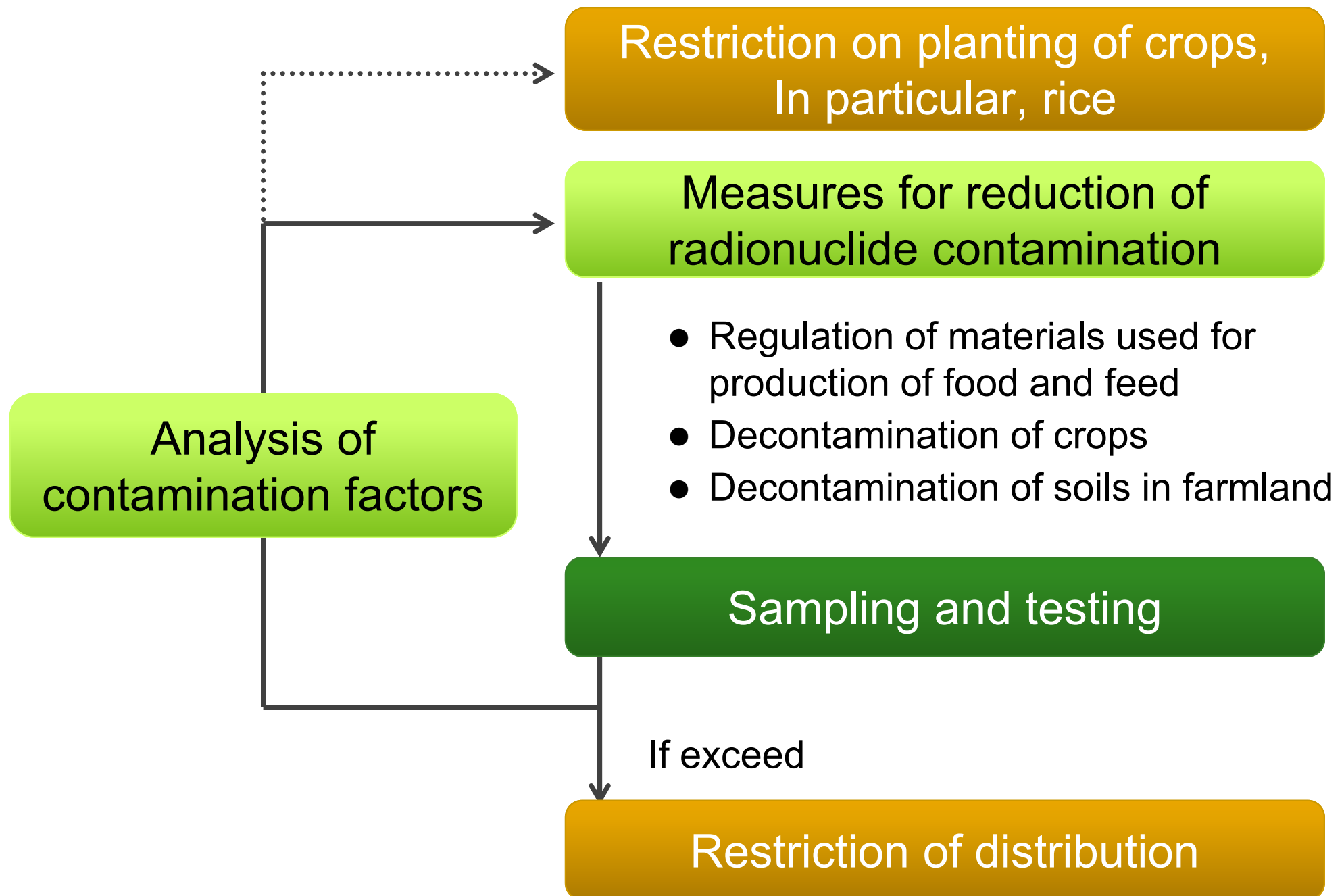
Food Safety Commission

- Evaluate health impact from radioactive materials in food

Nuclear Regulation Authority

- Radiation Council

1 Control of radionuclides in food



1 Control of radionuclides in food

(Reference) Maximum levels for radioactive Cs in food

- The maximum levels have been set in accordance with the table below

Food groups	Maximum level (Bq/kg)
Drinking water	10
Milk	50
General foods	100
Infant foods	50

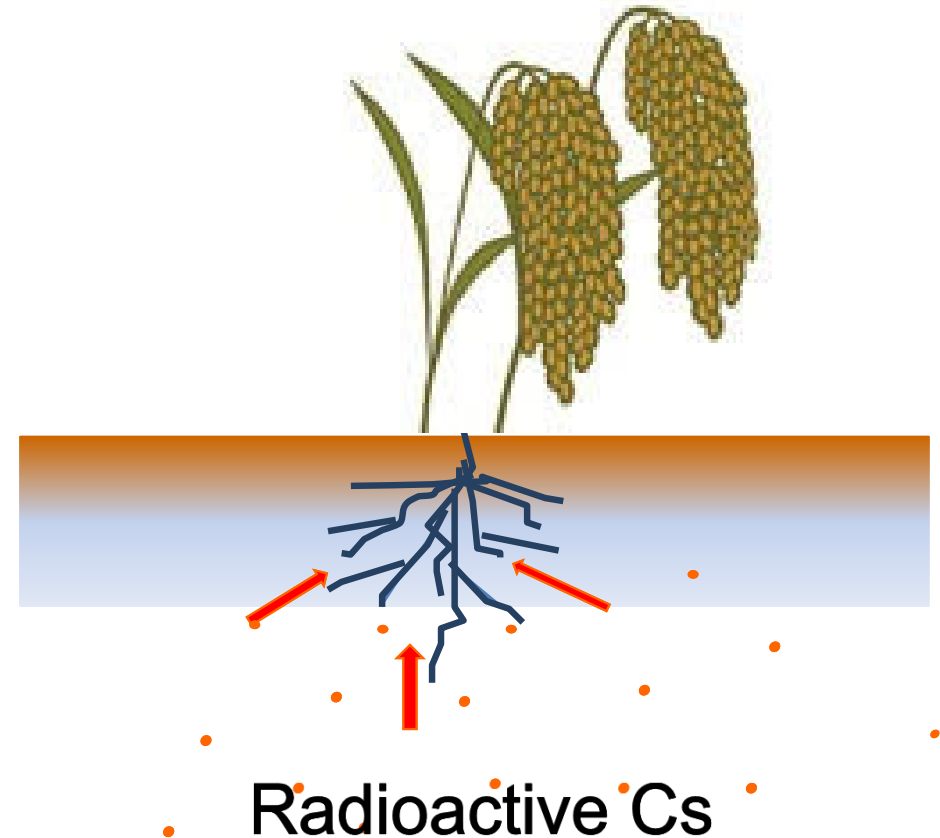
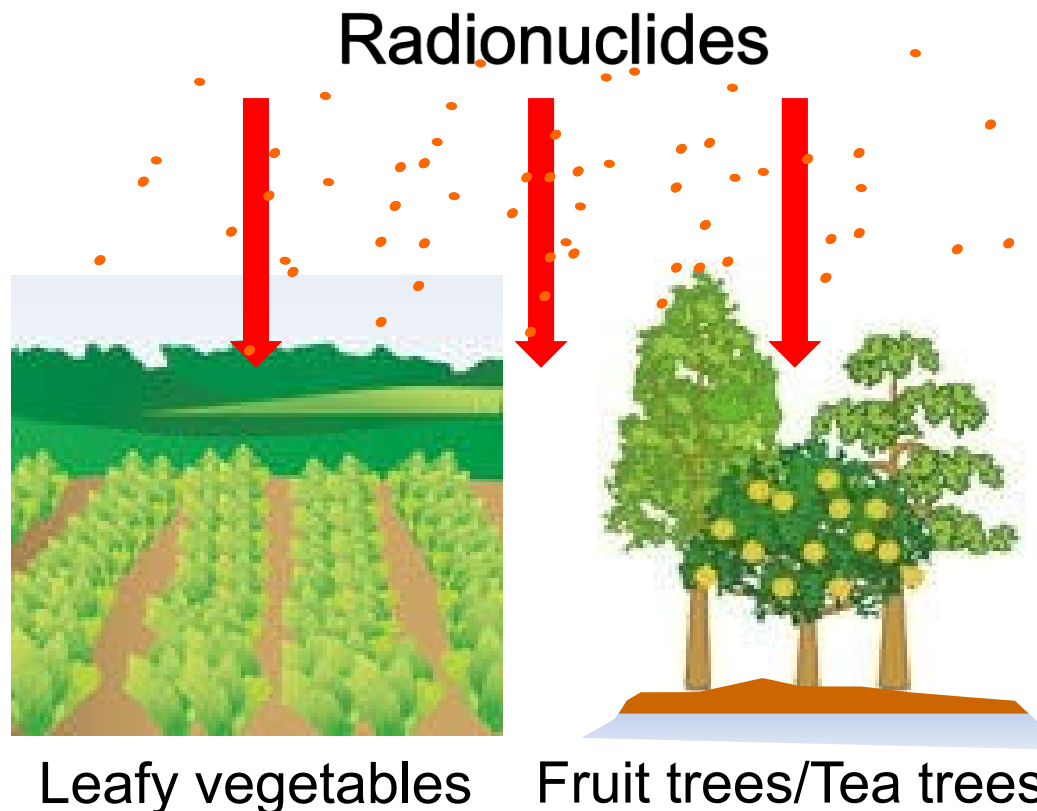
- ※ Assuming that the intervention exemption level of 1 mSv/year, the same value as for Codex guideline levels.

2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Pathways of radionuclide contamination of crops

Direct contamination by radionuclide fallout

Uptake of radionuclide from soil



Radionuclides attached to trees are transferred to fruits or shoot

2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Measures for feed (Provisional tolerance values for radioactive Cs)

Feed for:	Set on 14 Apr. 2011	Revised on 1 Aug. 2011	Revised on 1 Apr. 2012
Cattle	300 Bq/kg ^{*1}	300 Bq/kg ^{*2}	100 Bq/kg ^{*2}
Pigs	-	300 Bq/kg ^{*1}	80 Bq/kg ^{*2}
Chickens	-	300 Bq/kg ^{*1}	160 Bq/kg ^{*2}
Cultured fish	-	100 Bq/kg ^{*3}	40 Bq/kg ^{*3}

* Provisional tolerance values for feed set on a basis of feed consumption and provisional transfer coefficients by:

*1 Referring the IAEA documents.

*2 Using the results of the transfer studies on dairy cattle, pigs and hens conducted by MAFF in Japan after the accident.

*3 Using the result of the cultured fish transfer study conducted by MAFF in Japan after the accident and previous studies.

2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Feed management in accordance with tolerance values

1 Thorough enforcement of appropriate feed management by pastures and others under the provisional tolerance values.



2 Decontamination by deep plowing and others can lead to pasture production under provisionally tolerated level.



2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Measures for materials used for the cultivation of edible fungi (Reference values for radioactive Cs)

Material	Set on 6 Oct. 2011	Revised on 1 Apr. 2012
Wood logs (for Shiitake)	150 Bq/kg	50 Bq/kg
Cultivation media	150 Bq/kg	200 Bq/kg

2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Measures for the cultivation of edible fungi

- ❑ Introduction of safe production materials, and reduction of pollution due to radionuclides
- ❑ Information related to collection of wild edible fungi and wild edible plants

Efforts

1. Securing safe wood logs (wood logs procurement support and supply-demand matching for wood logs)
2. Support for decontamination of wood logs and introduction of pollution control facilities including simple greenhouses
3. Establishment and dissemination of wood log fungi cultivation management guidelines for radionuclides reduction
4. Dissemination of cultivation technology that reduces pollution from radionuclides
5. Transmission of information via websites and pamphlets, on-site traveling guidance



2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Measures for materials used as fertilizers, soil conditioners, and nursery soils (for radioactive Cs)

Material	Value	Note
Sludge for manure	200 Bq/kg	Standard value set on 24 Jun. 2011
Fertilizers (including those from leaves), soil conditioners, nursery soils, etc.	400 Bq/kg	Provisional tolerance value set on 1 Aug. 2011

2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Measures to reduce radionuclides of fruit trees

The levels of radioactive Cs deposited onto above-ground parts of fruit trees have been reduced by cleaning the surface of bark with high-pressure water.

High-pressure washing of peach trees



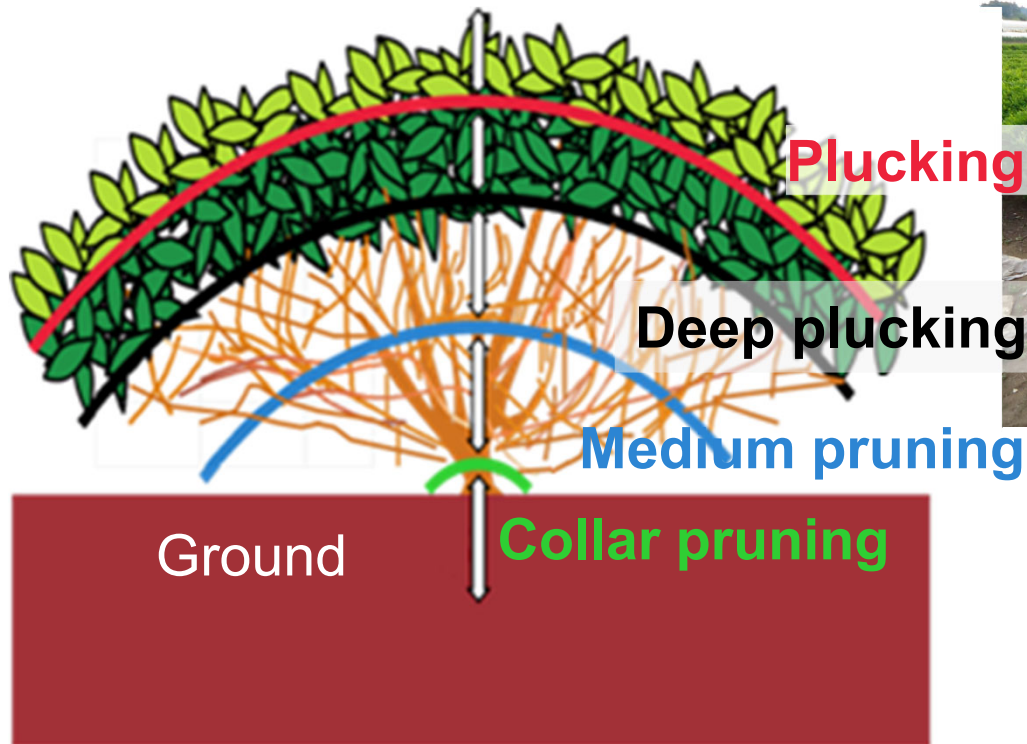
Scraping bark for pear



2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Measures to reduce radionuclides of tea trees

To prevent the transfer of radioactive Cs from leaves and branches to new leaves, leaves and branches were plucked or pruned further than in usual practice.



Before pruning



After pruning

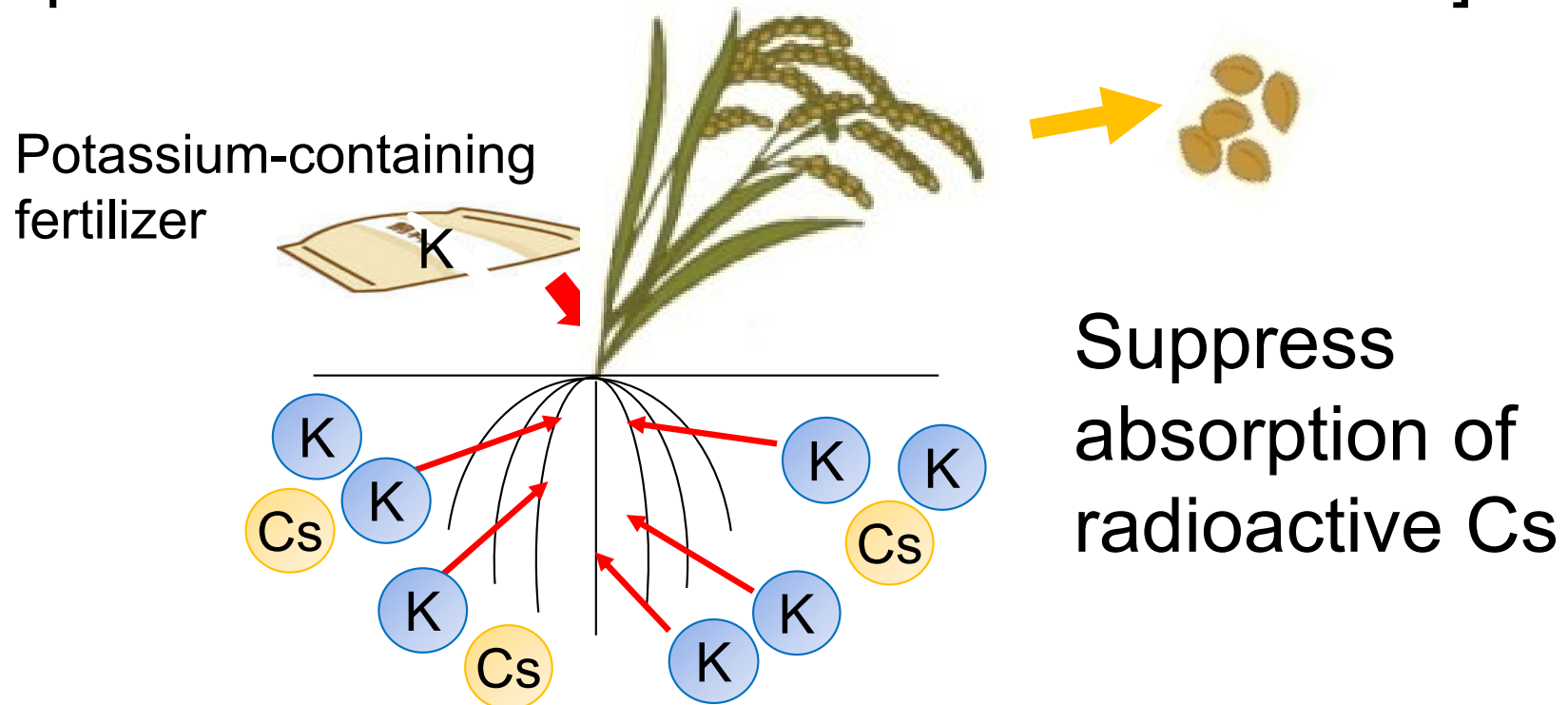


2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Absorption control through potassic fertilization to rice

- ❑ Soil in paddy fields where rice with high-level radioactive Cs was produced tend to contain low-level potassium
- ❑ Having similar chemical characteristics to Cs, potassium in soil can suppress absorption of Cs by root uptake

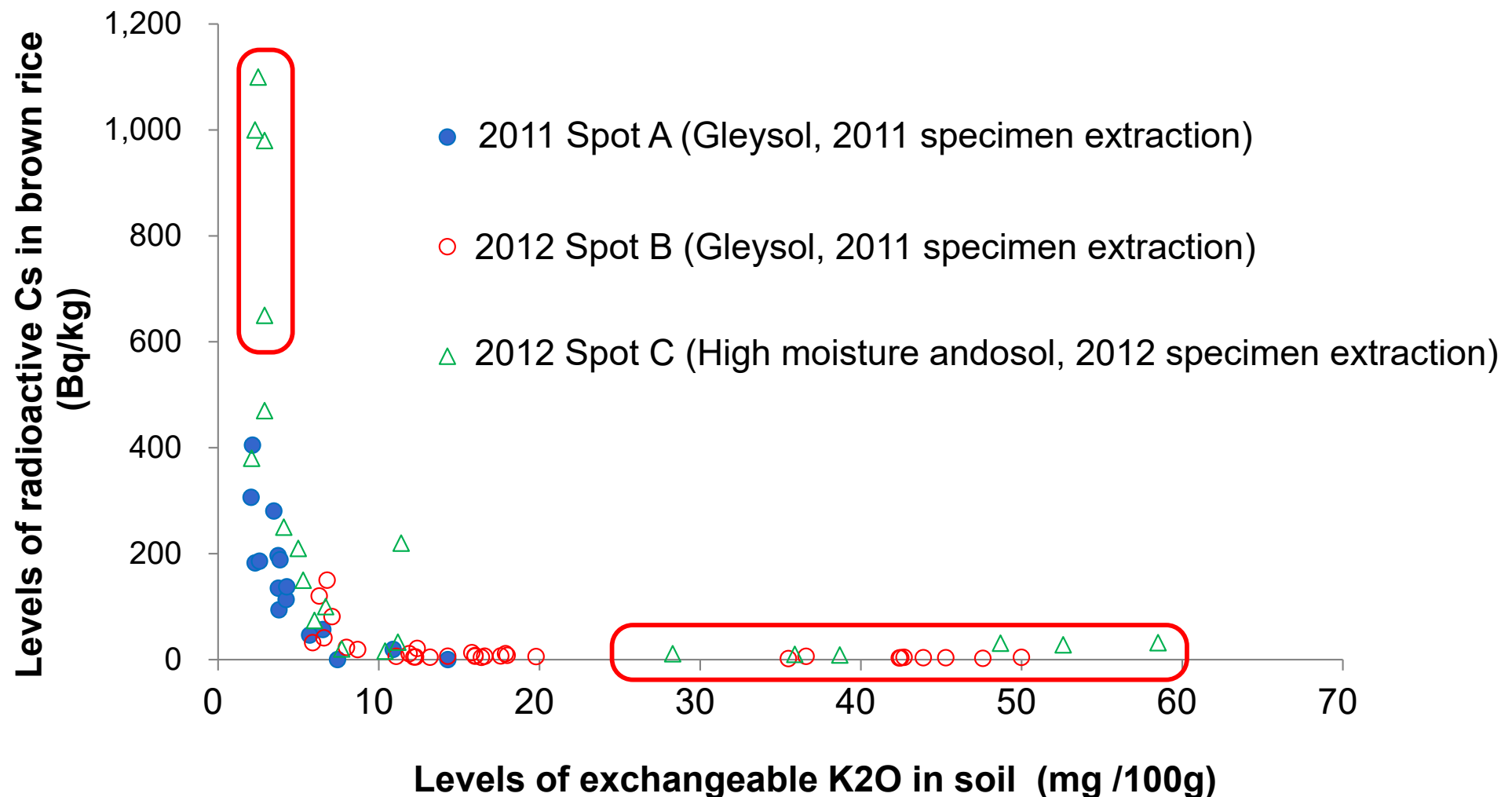
[If potassium concentration in soil is suitable]



2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

(Reference) Application of potassium

(Test results in farmlands with over 500 Bq/kg)



2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Decontamination of farmland (Removal to topsoil)

Remove the surface soil to remove the nuclides in soil surface



Results of removal of topsoil (2011, Iitate-mura)

Removal of topsoil

Before: 10,370 Bq/kg

After: 2,599 Bq/kg (**75% reduction**)

Ambient dose level (Surface)

Before: 7.1 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$

After: 3.4 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ (**52% reduction**)

After harvest: 1.9 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$

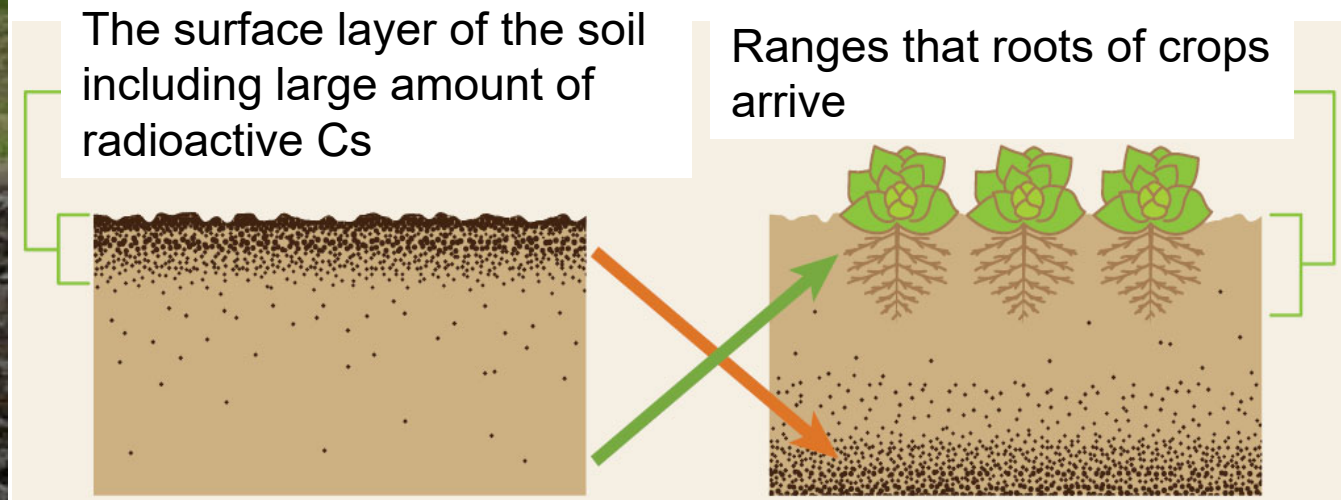
2 Measures to reduce radionuclides migration

Decontamination of farmland (Deep plowing)

Deep plowing to replace top soil with subsoil to be kept the most of fallen radionuclides deeper than the range of plant root

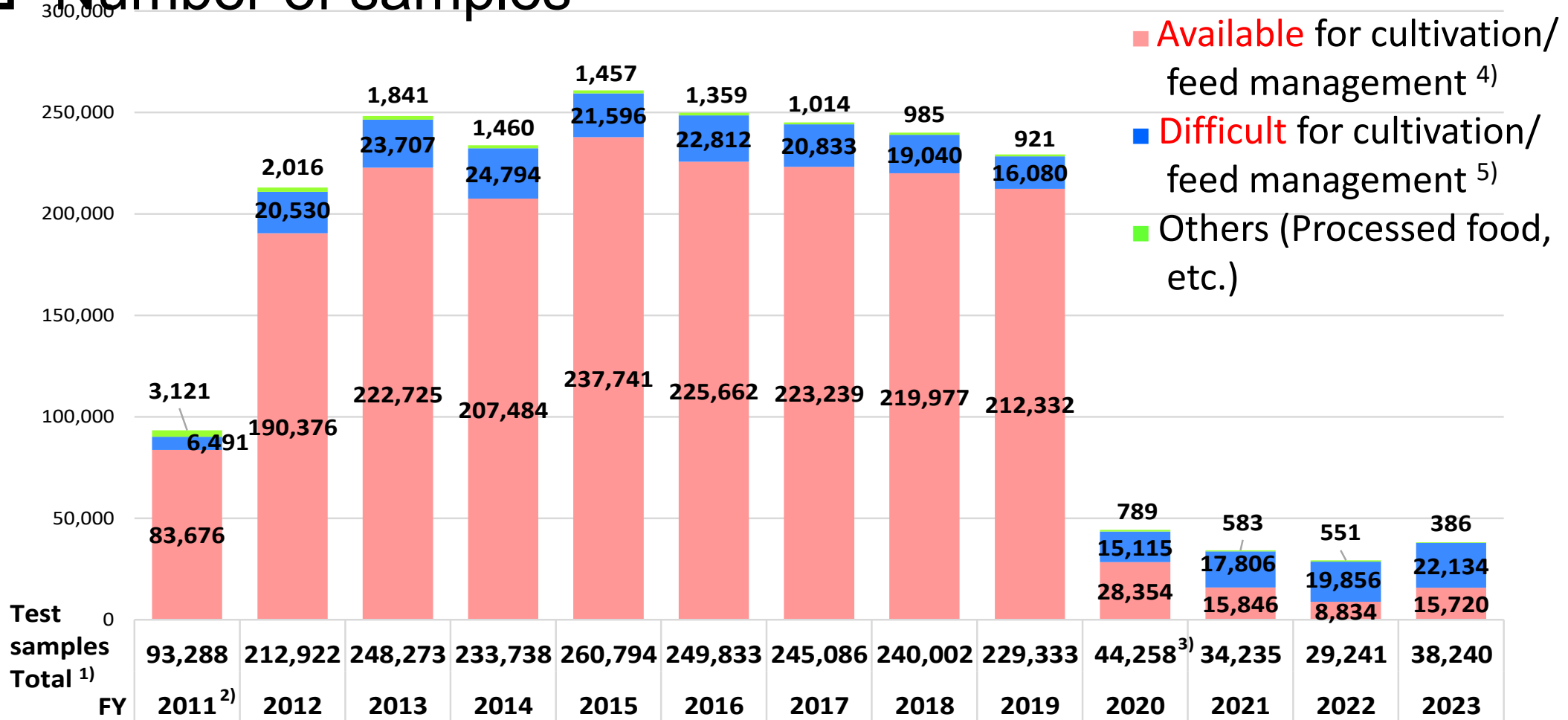


**Deep plowing
(30 cm)**



3 Test Results

□ Number of samples



1: Prefectural product pre-shipment test samples in 17 prefectures (Aomori, Iwate, Akita, Miyagi, Yamagata, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Chiba, Saitama, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Niigata, Yamanashi, Nagano, Shizuoka)

2: Including March 2011

3: Since 2020, inspections of beef were streamlined based on the radionuclide inspection results before 2019. Number of beef items was reduced from approx. 200,000 to approx. 20,000 in 2020.

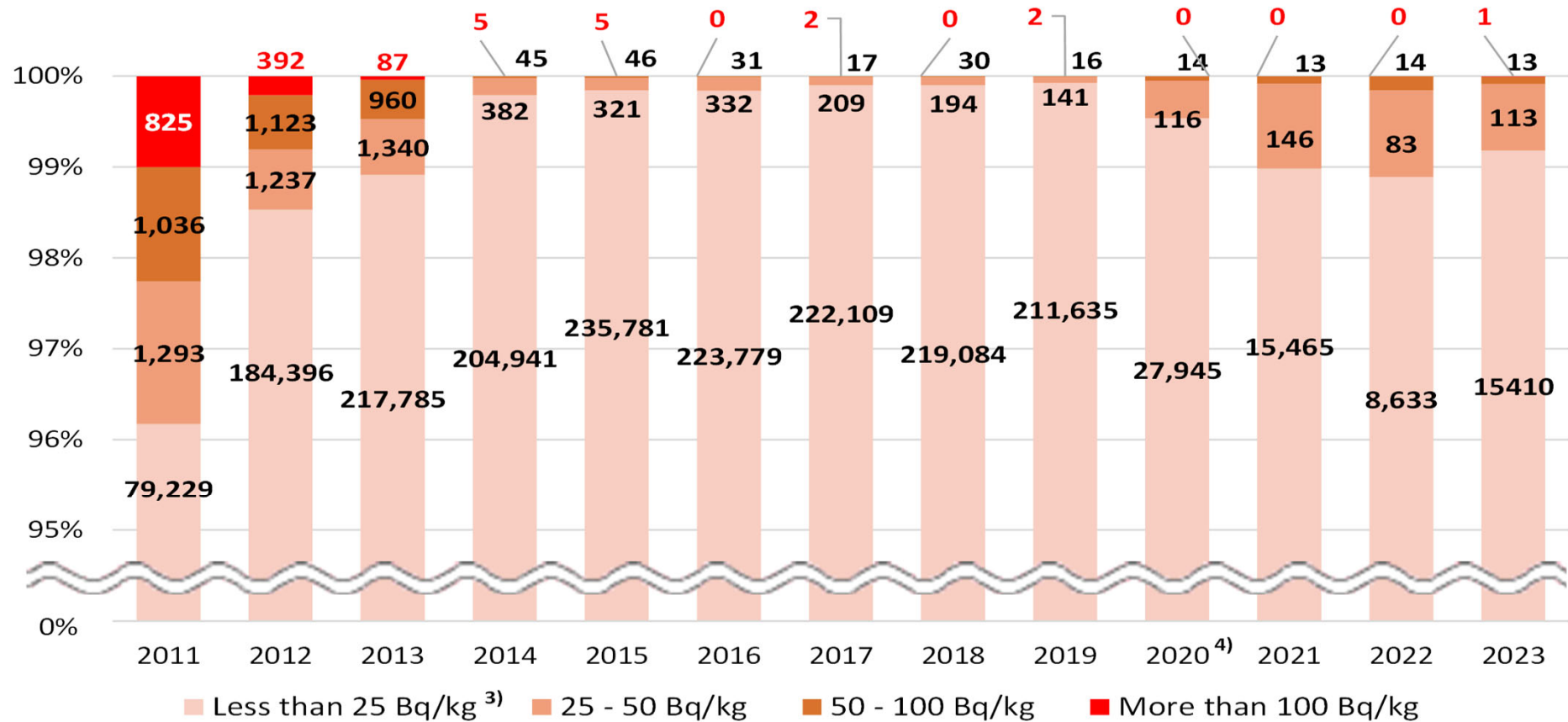
4: Vegetables, Tubes, Fruits, Seeds, Rice, Grains, Legumes, Cereals, Meat, Eggs, Fresh Milk, Tea(ready for consumption), Edible Fungi (cultivated), Wild Plants for Food (cultivated)

5: Wild edible fungi, Wild plants for Food (wild), Game meat, Fishery Products, Honey

3 Test Results

- Radioactive Cs concentration in food ¹⁾
(**Available** for cultivation/feed management ²⁾)

Vegetables, Tubes, Fruits, Seeds, Rice, Grains, Legumes, Cereals, Meat, Eggs, Edible Fungi (cultivated), Wild Plants for Food (cultivated)



1: Prefectural product pre-shipment test samples in 17 prefectures

2: Excluding fresh milk and tea, for which maximum levels differ from general foodstuffs

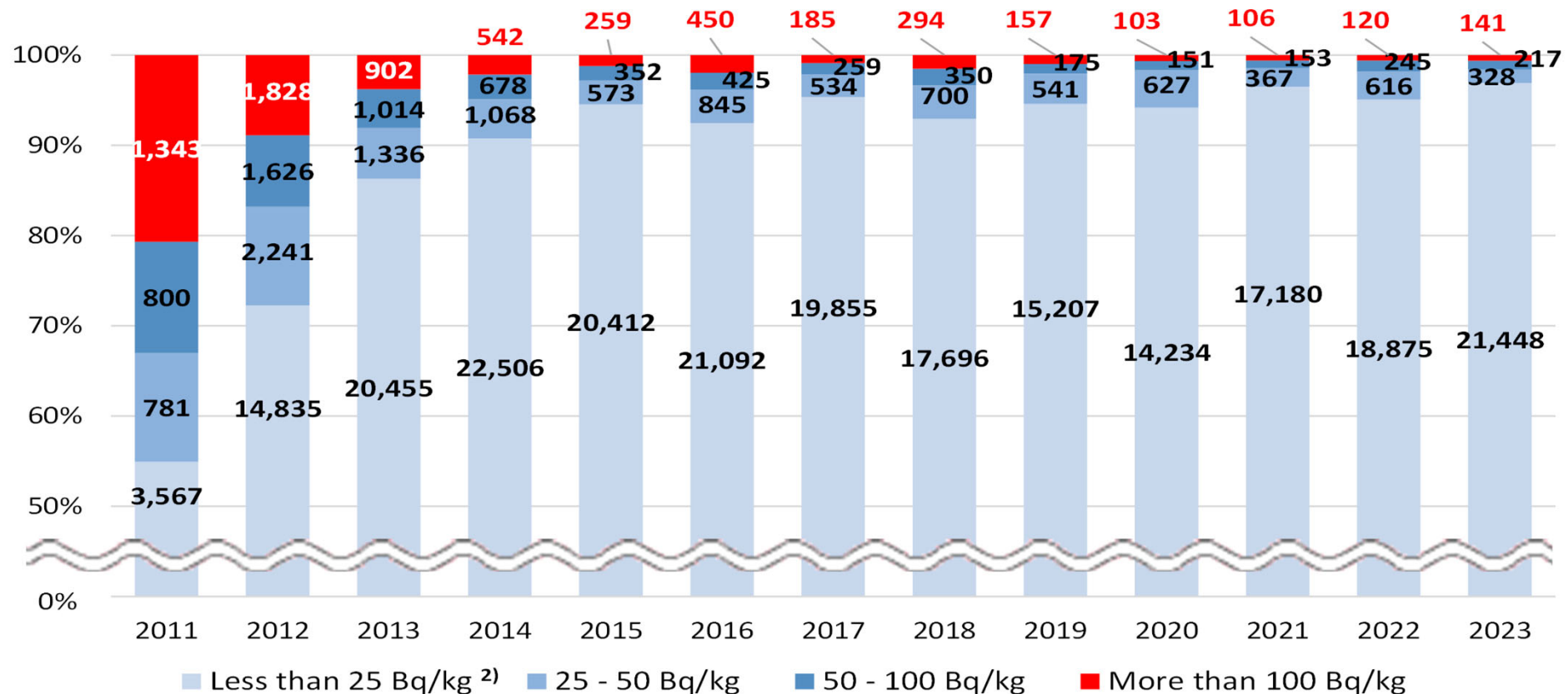
3: Items below detection limit are grouped together and counted as less than 25 Bq/kg

4: Since 2020, the number of items more than 25 Bq/kg has not increased while the proportion has apparently increased, for the reason the number of inspections reduced and the denominator became smaller.

3 Test Results

- Radioactive Cs concentration in food ¹⁾
(Difficult for cultivation/feed management)

Wild edible fungi, Wild plants for Food (wild), Game meat, Fishery Products, Honey



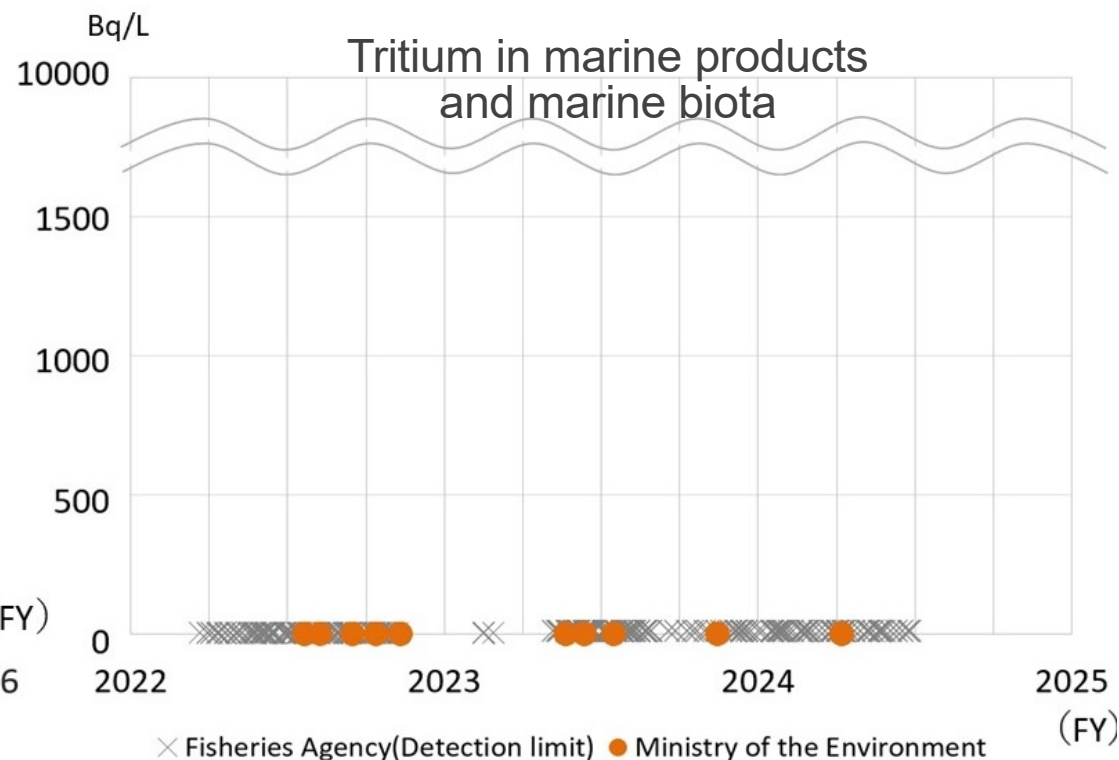
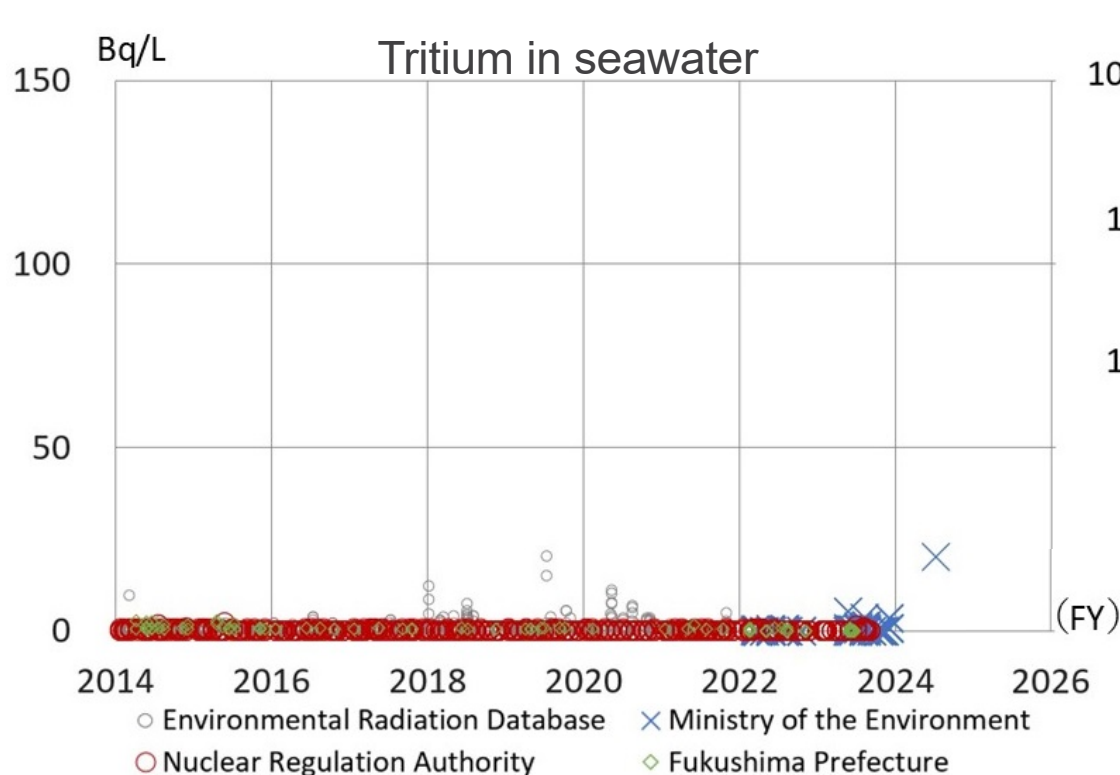
1: Prefectural product pre-shipment test samples in 17 prefectures

2: Items below detection limit are grouped together and counted as less than 25 Bq/kg

Note: Tritium analysis results

□ Overview of results from conducted so far

- ✓ Concerning **tritium in seawater**, the results of conducted at locations throughout Japan that are stored in the Environmental Radiation Database and the results of conducted Fukushima Prefecture by the Nuclear Regulation Authority, Fukushima Prefecture, and the Ministry of the Environment are summarized.
- ✓ The results of concerning **tritium (free water tritium) in marine products and marine biota (fish)** conducted by the Fisheries Agency and the Ministry of the Environment are summarized.



All of the results of analyses conducted by the Fisheries Agency are below the lower limit of detection. However, they are plotted to the respective values of limit detection for the purpose of convenience.