

Measures to Regenerate Mushroom Log Plantations

Since the reactor accident, mushroom log plantations exceeding the index value for mushroom logs have been found even in regions with relatively low impact from radioactive substances, so production of mushroom logs is stopped even in those areas.

In FY2014, Fukushima Prefecture began its “Hardwood Forest Regeneration Project” to regenerate the hardwood forests that provide the next generation of mushroom log plantations for the stable future supply of mushroom logs. Specifically, the following efforts are made to provide stable supplies of mushroom logs from existing mushroom log plantations.

- Checking for exceeded index values before project implementation (mushroom log measurement)
- Follow-up survey of radioactive cesium concentration in



[Photo 1] Landscape after Harvesting (Minami Aizu Town)

Reference : Fukushima Prefecture “Summary of Hardwood Forest Regeneration Project in Fukushima Prefecture”

- sprout branches after harvesting (three years)
- Measurement of air dose rate levels (before and after cutting)
- Measurement of radioactive cesium concentration litter layer and soil

The timber cut by this project is never used for mushroom bed logs or for firewood for cooking, but it provides the necessary care for areas that have been cut, to encourage growth as a mushroom log plantation for bed logs.

The project implemented areas are expanding every year, from 10.51ha in FY2014 (one forestry cooperative in three municipalities) to 28.76ha (two forestry cooperatives in five municipalities) in FY2017.



[Photo 2] A Follow-up Survey of Radioactive Cesium Concentration of Sprout Branches Are Conducted after Harvesting (Minami Aizu Town)

Stable Supply of Mushroom Logs

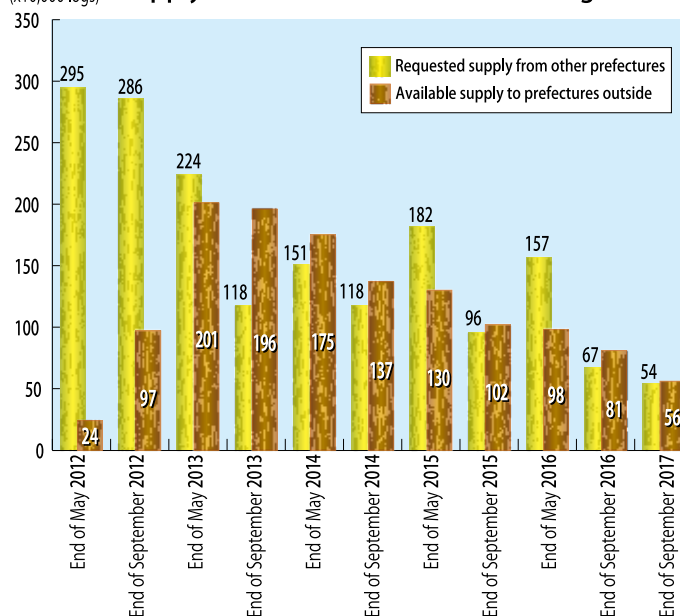
Many mushroom logs from before the Great East Japan Earthquake were supplied from Fukushima Prefecture, so the nuclear accident had an impact on stable procurement of mushroom logs in many prefectures.

Since 2011, the Forestry Agency has been tracking the state of supply and demand for mushroom logs nationwide, and helping to match users and suppliers so that mushroom producers can continue the production.

As a results, since September 2013, the amounts of mushroom logs that forest owners are able to supply has surpassed those of mushroom logs required by mushroom producers etc., and the matching of mushroom logs appears to be making good progress. However, at the end of September 2017, the demand for konara oak accounted for about 90% of the 540,000 logs of desired amount, while around 90% of the 560,000 logs of potential supply was mainly consisted of sawtooth oak, so there was a mismatch in terms of tree types.

The Forestry Agency will continue to find potential supply volume, mainly of konara oak, for which the demand volume is large, and work on mushroom logs matching.

(x10,000 logs) Supply and Demand for Mushroom Logs



[Figure] Supply and Demand for Mushroom Logs

Reference : Forestry Agency (2012) “Promotion of Action for Stable Supply of Mushroom Logs” (2012), Forestry Agency “Forests and Forestry White Paper 2017”