

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Recognizes 28 New EU Geographic Indications

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Oilseeds and Products, Country/Regional FTA's

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Report Highlights:

On February 1, Japan agreed to recognize Geographic Indication (GI) protections for 21 agricultural products and 7 alcoholic beverages from the European Union (EU) through the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. Japan has mutual GI recognition agreements with select trading partners and recognizes 245 GIs through these partnerships, 238 of which are from the European Union and United Kingdom. Newly protected products include cheeses, hams, sausages, and olive oils.

General Information

On February 1, the second anniversary of the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), Japan recognized an additional 28 geographical indication (GI) protections for products from the European Union (EU). In July 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) published the list of 21 proposed GIs for agricultural products ([JA2020-0141](#)) and the National Tax Agency (NTA) published the list of 7 proposed GIs for wine, spirits, and other alcoholic beverages ([JA2020-0143](#)) sought by the EU in Japan. MAFF and the NTA agreed to recognize the 28 new EU products after the conclusion of a public comment period and internal review.

Simultaneously, the EU granted GI protections for 25 Japanese agricultural products and 3 Japanese alcoholic beverages ([E42021-0018](#)). The Tsuruta Steuben, a sweet grape variety developed by Cornell AgriTech in New York State ([JA9031](#)) now has GI protection as a Japanese product in both Japan and the EU.

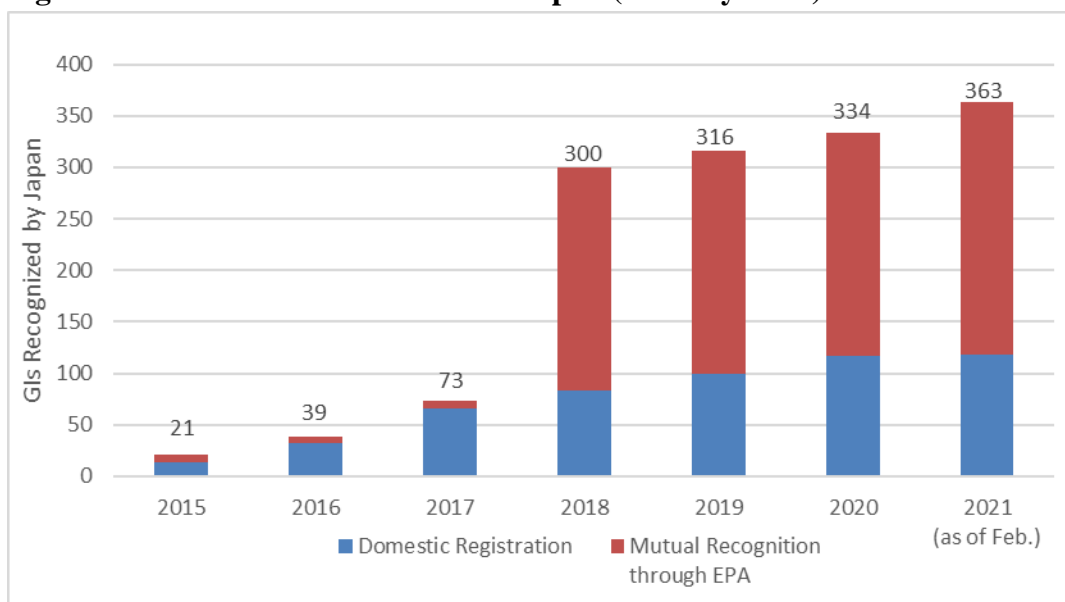
Use of Kalamata in GI and Variety Names

As reported in [JA7151](#), products with GI protection that share a portion of its name with a generic variety, will have the shared portion of its name excluded from GI protection. For example, use of “Kalamata” to describe the variety of olive is still allowed, as long as it does not create the misconception that the product is either Elia Kalamatas Olives or Kalamata Extra Virgin Olive Oil, both products that with GI protection in Japan.

GI Protections in Japan

As of February 10, through a domestic registration process, [MAFF](#) has designated GI protections for 104 agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and [NTA](#) has designated GI protection for 14 alcoholic beverages. In comparison, [MAFF](#) and [NTA](#) recognize GI protections for a total of 245 products through mutual recognition agreements with trading partners.

Figure 1: Growth in GI Protection in Japan (Total by Year)



Attachments:

No Attachments.