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# **Report Name:** Japan Exempts Genetically Engineered Soybean with Familiar Trait from Domestic Field Trial Requirements

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies, Biotechnology - Plants and Animals

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**Report Highlights:**

On September 19, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan (GOJ) announced the exemption of domestic field trial requirements for genetically engineered (GE) soybean with familiar trait.

On Monday, June 24, 2024, Japan's MAFF opened a public comment period for the proposal of the exemption of domestic field trial requirements for GE soybean with traits of sufficient familiarity (JA2024-0034). After the public comment closure on July 23, and a comment review on September 19, MAFF announced the exemption of domestic field trial for genetically engineered (GE) soybean with familiar trait (term defined below).

Previously, MAFF has excluded its mandatory field trial requirement for two other GE crops. In December 2014, MAFF excluded mandatory domestic field trial requirements for corn, which does not have wild relatives in Japan, and with traits of sufficient familiarity (i.e., herbicide tolerance, insect resistance). In addition, in March 2019, MAFF excluded domestic field trial requirements for cotton with traits of sufficient familiarity (JA2019-0219).

The official notification of the revision can be found at MAFF's site (in Japanese).

- The application for the approval of Type 1 Use of genetically engineered plants (last revision: September 19, 2024, in Japanese)
  https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/nouan/carta/c_about/pdf/reg_2-29.pdf

**Familiar Trait Defined**

When a GE organism meets both conditions below MAFF considers it a familiar trait:

1. Those recognized as having a clear mechanism of action based on publications of peer-reviewed journals and/or the consensus among multiple experts at relevant government's review committees; and,

2. The extent of potential biodiversity impacts caused by the characteristics conferred by the introduced nucleic acids, or their replicas, is recognized as being equal to or less than the biodiversity impacts of genetically modified plants that have already received approval of environmental release, provided that they share the same host.

## Attachments:

No Attachments.