

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Invites Public Comments on the Exemption of Domestic Field Trial for Genetically Engineered Soybean with Familiar Trait

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

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

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Report Highlights:

On Monday, June 24, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan (GOJ) opened a public comment period for its revision for domestic field trial requirements of genetically engineered (GE) crops. The revision proposes to exempt GE soybeans with familiar traits from domestic field trails. The comment period will be closed on July 23, 2024.

General Information

On Monday, June 24, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan (GOJ) opened a public comment period for its revision for domestic field trial requirements of genetically (GE) crops. In this revision, MAFF proposes GE soybean with traits of sufficient familiarity to be excluded from isolated field trials in Japan. The details of revision can be found at <https://public-comment.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=550003955&Mode=0> (in Japanese). The public comment period will be closed on 23:59, July 23, 2024 (Japan Standard Time).

The Japan Ministry of Environment (MOE) is also a competent authority in regulating biotechnology and has published the same announcement for public comment, which can be found at <https://public-comment.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=195240019&Mode=0>

Background

MAFF is the competent authority in regulating biotechnology for agricultural use in requirements related to environmental biodiversity. MAFF requires product developers of GE crops to perform isolated field trials in Japan to collect scientific data as part of the approval process for biodiversity. The domestic field trial is mandatory even if the developers have no intention of selling or distributing GE planting seeds in Japan. 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.

The GOJ governs its biotechnology regulations according to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which it ratified in 2003. In 2004, Japan adopted the “Law Concerning the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity through Regulations on the Use of Living Modified Organisms,” commonly referred to as the “Cartagena Law,” to implement the Protocol.

Attachments:

No Attachments.