USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution **Date:** May 12, 2021

Report Number: JA2021-0073

Report Name: MAFF Updates Genome Editing Handling Procedures for Feed and Feed Additives Derived from Crossbred Progeny

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

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

Prepared By: Suguru Sato

Approved By: Zeke Spears

Report Highlights:

On April 20, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) amended the handling procedures for feed and feed additive products derived from the crossbreeding of genome edited varieties previously notified to MAFF with conventional varieties, other previously notified genome edited varieties, and genetically engineered products for which MAFF has granted feed safety approval. MAFF no longer expects developers of these products to undergo MAFF's consultation process for genome edited feed and feed additive products. MAFF made this revision following a public comment period that closed on March 5.

General Information

On December 23, 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries' (MAFF) Feed Committee approved a proposal by MAFF regulators to amend the language in the Feed Safety Guidelines for the Handling of Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives for varieties developed by crossbreeding already notified genome edited organisms with other allowed varieties. When first released in February 2020 (JA2020-0060), the Guidelines required developers of products derived from the crossbreeding of genome edited varieties previously notified to MAFF to undergo a consultation with MAFF prior to commercialization if the product fell into any of the below categories:

1. Properties that are newly acquired through genome editing techniques change in the crossbred progeny cultivars,
2. Progeny is a result of crossbreeding between subspecies; and/or
3. There is a change in the amount of ingestion, edible part of the plant, or processing method, etc.

On April 20, MAFF amended the Guidelines to eliminate the requirement for prior consultation and notification of these crossbred progeny products. For more see MAFF's website (in Japanese). The updated Guidelines are also attached to this report (in Japanese).

Comparison Table of MAFF Feed Crossbred Progeny Language (Provisional Translation)

Version	Crossbred Progeny Language in MAFF's Guideline
February 2020	6. Handling of Crossbred Progeny MAFF shall request notification for crossbred progeny products derived from genome edited plants bred through conventional breeding techniques with conventional varieties* if they fall into any of the three categories below: 1. Properties that are newly acquired through genome editing techniques change in the crossbred progeny cultivars, 2. Progeny is a result of crossbreeding between subspecies; and/or 3. There is a change in the amount of ingestion, edible part of the plant, or processing method, etc. * In addition to conventional cultivars, it includes, but not limited to, products notified to MAFF as genome edited, genetically engineered products granted with safety approval, etc.
April 2021	6. Handling of Crossbred Progeny No prior consultation or notification shall be required for crossbred progeny, which are crosses of conventional varieties, etc.* using traditional breeding methods, with varieties that have been notified as genome edited feed. * In addition to conventional cultivars, it includes, but not limited to, products notified to MAFF as genome edited, genetically engineered products granted with safety approval, etc.

References

MAFF's Announcement for the Amendment of Feed Safety Guidelines on the Handling of Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives (in Japanese)
http://www.famic.go.jp/ffis/feed/tuti/r3_49.html

MAFF's Amended Feed Safety Guidelines on the Handling of Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives (in Japanese)
http://www.famic.go.jp/ffis/feed/obj/r3_49_betten.pdf

Comparison Table for Partial Amendment of Feed Safety Guidelines on the Handling of Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives (in Japanese)
http://www.famic.go.jp/ffis/feed/obj/r3_49.pdf

Attachments:

Amended Feed Safety Guidelines on the Handling of Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives (in Japanese).pdf