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Voluntary Public

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Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Immediately following the **Great East Japan Earthquake** on March 11, 2011, FAS/Japan prepared a series of reports on Japan's rapidly evolving food and agricultural situation. These reports were designed to disseminate vast amounts of information to a broad audience of policy makers and private sector actors as quickly as possible. Topics covered in these reports include; food safety, soil toxicity, port damages, disaster assistance, feed supply infrastructure, commodity prices, retail trends, consumer psychology, and many other food and agricultural topics. As the post-quake series of reports were prepared quickly, often from Japanese translations, some liberties may have been taken with grammar and writing style.

TODAY'S OVERVIEW

The word of the day is water. In the early afternoon on Wednesday, March 23, the Tokyo Municipal Government announced that 210 Bq/liter of iodine was detected in water at a water filtration plant in north-eastern Tokyo. This level exceeded MHLW's guideline for infant intake, which suggests a threshold of 100 Bq/liter. Upon the announcement, the municipal water authority urged residents in Tokyo to use bottled water for infant formula, which created an immediate panic as Tokyo residents rushed out to buy bottled water. Beverage shelves at most supermarkets and convenient stores went empty within hours. Convenience stores put in place purchase limits, as consumers started buying everything in stock. Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano asked consumers to not hoard bottled water, stressing that Tokyo water is completely safe to drink for everybody except infants. The crisis ended on the afternoon of March 24, when the Tokyo Metropolitan Government lifted the ban on tap water for infants, and reported that the morning's iodine 131 reading at a water purification plant in Katsushika plunged sharply. The return to rational water purchasing behavior was almost immediate, though the near daily health and safety scares have obviously taken a serious psychological toll on the Japanese consumer.

The water problem is not exclusive to Tokyo. Water samples collected at a number of locations in Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tokyo, Saitama, and Chiba over the past several days have registered abnormal levels of iodine 131, exceeding safe levels for infants. The highest iodine level was recorded at a location in Fukushima, with 965 becquerels/kg on March 20. Today, however, contamination levels at a few places declined to within the safe 100 becquerels/kg threshold. Water authorities are planning to check the contamination levels daily so as to make the data available to the public.

Adding to this unsettling news was a statement by GOJ Industry Minister Banri Kaieda, who said he is considering increasing the number of wards in Tokyo subject to the ongoing rolling blackouts, to correct what he called the "unfairness" of the current program. Currently many of the capital's 23 central wards have been unaffected by rolling blackouts. The blackouts, which are expected to last at least through April, have drawn complaints from business leaders who point out that the current power rationing may have adverse effects on the economy. A TEPCO official told Asahi News that the company expects to continue rolling blackouts in the Kanto region for at least a year.

BACKGROUND

A massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent Tsunami hit Japan's north east pacific coastal region on March 11, 2011. The catastrophe devastated cities, towns, and villages of the prefectures located along the coast line. The most affected prefectures are Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, and Ibaragi. The National Police Agency announced that 9,523 people had been confirmed dead, 2,755 were injured, and 16,067 had been reported missing as of 09:00 on March 24.

PORTS

Traders continue to be vexed by bottlenecks in the ports. At several ports boats cannot pass through channels because of debris in the shipping lanes (cars, etc). Many feed grain silos at ports are full, as the supply chain has been severely interrupted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

On March 22, 2011, in order to complement the measures taken by the Government of Japan and to strengthen the global food safety net regarding certain products, FDA issued Import Alert 99-33 regarding the importation of all milk and milk products and fresh vegetables and fruits produced or manufactured from the four Japanese prefectures of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma.

All milk and milk products and vegetables and fruits produced or manufactured from the four Japanese prefectures of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma will be detained upon entry into the United States. They will not be allowed to enter the U.S. food supply, unless shown to be free from radionuclide contamination, with the exception of the specific products restricted by the Government of Japan (spinach and kakina from the four prefectures, and milk from Fukushima only). Those products will be refused admission into the US.

Other food products from this area, including seafood, will be diverted for testing by FDA before they can enter the food supply. FDA will also be monitoring and testing food products, including seafood, from other areas of Japan as appropriate. The FDA public health advisory and import alert can be accessed through the links below.

http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm247403.htm?sms_ss=twitter&at_xt=4d83700a725d7eb5.0

http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cms_ia/importalert_621.html

Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Australia, among other countries, have implemented similar import controls on milk products, fruits and vegetables from the four prefectures of Japan affected by the ongoing nuclear crisis.

EMERGENCY FOOD AID

There are roughly 10,000 U.S. military personnel playing a role in transporting relief supplies to those affected by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. A total of 20 U.S. military vessels, including the USS Ronald Reagan and the USS George Washington, and 140 military aircraft are also taking part in the operation.

GRAINS AND OILSEEDS

Transportation woes, and now a food safety scare, continue to create problems for feed millers and distributors. MAFF released a notice alerting livestock farmers to be cautious and to not feed radioactive-material-contaminated hay, roughage, silage and water to livestock. MAFF also recommended keeping livestock indoors, to the extent that that is possible. Feed millers in Hokkaido, Chukyo, Kansai, and Kyushu have been working around the clock to ensure that sufficient supply of

animal feed is available in the damaged area. With more roads improving and available for use there is now some hope that the feed supply situation will continue to improve, and eventually return to normal.

Feed mills in Hachinohe are reportedly planning on restarting production within the next few days. There are mixed reports from feed mills in Ishinomaki. Generally speaking, mills located behind silo bins were damaged less than others. Mills in Kamaishi report that they might need a year for full recovery. Mills in Kashima have started operations, though productivity varies. With shortage in water supply, steam flakes and pellets are not being produced.

According to the Natto Association, natto manufacturers have suspended operations (fermentation/maturing) due to the planned power outages. Consequently, natto is not available at supermarkets.

Showa-Sangyo's soybean crushing plant in Kashima suffered the most serious damage by the earthquake and tsunami. J-Oil Mills suffered minor damages at the Chiba and Yokohama plants. The Nisshin OilliO storage facility in the Isogo plant suffered serious damage. The industry's stock and sales points have been significantly affected in the Tohoku area. J-Oil Mills and Nisshin OilliO may restart their operations this week dependent upon the power situation.

SEAFOOD

TEPCO announced that radioactive iodine was found to be 147 times higher in seawater near nuke plant. It is too early to tell what impact, if any, this will have on the fishing industry.

The tables below show are preliminary assessments of the damages to the Japan fishing industry. Sources indicate that these numbers are expected to increase significantly after further investigation.

Prefecture	Fishing boat number	Damaged boat number (reported from prefectures)
Hokkaido	16,293	714
Aomori	6,990	417
Iwate	10,522	Devastating damage, no reported number.
Miyagi	9,717	Devastating damage, no reported number.
Fukushima	1,068	855
Ibaraki	1,215	94
Chiba	5,640	253
Others		No reported number.

Note: This number is based on a number of power fishing boat which has fishing insurance. The tsunami severely damaged port facilities from Hokkaido to Chiba. The table below shows damages currently reported from prefectures. It is expected to increase significantly after further investigation.

Prefecture	Number of fishing port	Number of damaged fishing port
Hokkaido	282	20
Aomori	92	16 investigated
Iwate	111	Devastating damage, 55 investigated
Miyagi	142	Devastating damage, no reported number.
Fukushima	10	Devastating damage, 10 investigated
Ibaraki	24	14
Chiba	69	10

Information regarding the damages sustained by other fishery facilities as of March 22 is shown in the table below. The information is not obtainable from severely devastated Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures.

Prefecture	Damage situation
Hokkaido	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 26 fishing co-op have damage (scallop: 11 co-op, kelp: 4 co-op, wakame seaweed: 1 co-op, oyster: 3 co-op, sea urchin: 5 co-op, tsubu shellfish: 1 co-op, herring: 1 co-op), the amount of damage 16.6 billion yen. - The scallop cultivation got catastrophic damage in the whole area of the Uchiura-wan bay. The oyster cultivation raft is damaged in Akkeshi.
Aomori	The damage of the cultivation facilities in four municipalities.
Ibaraki	Under investigation
Chiba	70-80% nori sea weed cultivation facilities got damage. Details are being investigated.
Kanagawa	Wakame seaweed cultivation facilities in Miura peninsula. Details are being investigated.
Mie	Toba City-Shima City-Minami Ise-cho got catastrophic damage. Additionally, a lot of damage also in Kaizan-cho. There are great damage in the raft of the pearl farming, the fish cultivation, and the oyster cultivation.
Wakayama	The red sea bream cultivation facilities and the shellfish culture facilities got damage. The amount of damage 80 million yen.
Kochi	Damage has occurred to the fishes cultivation in Kochi Prefecture and the Suzaki city, etc. The fish stock is a great amberjack, and a red sea bream, etc.

Oita	40 rafts of the fish cultivation in Saeki City got damaged. Details are being investigated.
Miyazaki	Four cultivation fish got damage. Details are being investigated.

There is a great damage to loading areas, gas stations for fishing boats, cold storage and hatcheries. Details are being investigated.

WOOD PRODUCTS

Chugoku Mokuzai's Kashima mill; the largest Douglas fir sawmill in Japan, is currently examining damage to the facility. The company expects to conduct operational testing at the manufacturing lines for baby squares and side cuts this week. There is no major damage to machinery or the foundation of 80 Kira Dryers. The mill is planning to restart operation from April under rolling blackouts to meet the demand of 90mm squares for emergency housing.

POULTRY, MEAT, DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK

Milk produced in Fukushima was the subject of a major recall, and the government has prohibited the commercialization and shipping of Fukushima milk.

Supply outages and limited supplies of fuel continue to have a large impact on poultry producers, making it difficult for farmers to raise eggs, and heat and light hatcheries. Chiba and Ibaragi are the largest and second largest egg producing prefectures, therefore egg and pork prices have gradually increased since March 14 market.

Date: March 15, 2011					
Livestock and Poultry Operations and Animal/Bird Numbers in Earth Quake Hit Prefectures					
<u>Number of Farms</u>					
	Broiler	Layer	Pig	Beef Cattle	Dairy
Iwate	247	32	154	7,690	1,430
Miyagi	58	66	247	5,860	773
Fukushima	45	64	136	4,480	590
Ibaragi	46	160	537	881	567
Four Prefecture Sub Total	396	322	1,074	18,911	3,360
All Japan	2,392	3,110	6,890	77,300	23,100
Livestock and Poultry Operations and					

Animal/Bird Numbers in Earth Quake Hit Prefectures					
<u>Number of Farms (% Share to All Japan)</u>					
	Broiler	Layer	Pig	Beef Cattle	Dairy
Iwate	10%	1%	2%	10%	6%
Miyagi	2%	2%	4%	8%	3%
Fukushima	2%	2%	2%	6%	3%
Ibaragi	2%	5%	8%	1%	2%
Four Prefecture Sub Total	17%	10%	16%	24%	15%
All Japan	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<u>Number of Animals/Birds Raised</u>					
	Broiler	Layer	Pig	Beef Cattle	Dairy
	1,000 birds	1,000 birds	Head	Head	Head
Iwate	15,409	4,903	473,500	116,000	47,700
Miyagi	1,751	5,176	240,900	97,700	24,900
Fukushima	1,109	5,698	200,400	83,700	17,900
Ibaragi	1,233	12,598	659,200	57,900	31,100
Four Prefecture Sub Total	19,502	28,375	1,574,000	355,300	121,600
All Japan	107,141	178,208	9,899,000	2,923,000	1,500,000
% Share					
<u>Number of Animals/Birds Raised (% Share to All Japan)</u>					
	Broiler	Layer	Pig	Beef Cattle	Dairy
	1,000 birds	1,000 birds	Head	Head	Head

Iwate	14%	3%	5%	4%	3%
Miyagi	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Fukushima	1%	3%	2%	3%	1%
Ibaragi	1%	7%	7%	2%	2%
Four Prefecture Sub Total	18%	16%	16%	12%	8%
All Japan	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Source: The Meat Statistics in Japan, October 1, 2010 (Table produced by FAS/Tokyo)					

TOXICITY

Radioactive Materials in Tap Water

Radioactive materials were found from tap water (and water from a filtration station) in Tokyo, Chiba, Fukushima and Ibaraki Prefectures by March 23. The range of detection varied from 32 Bq/kg (Tokyo, Kosaku Filtration plant) to 210 Bq/kg (Iodine-131, Tokyo Kanamach Filtration Plant on 3/23) and 248 Bq/kg (Iodine-131, Ibaraki, Suifu area, 3/22) and 450 Bq/kg (Iodine-131, Fukushima, Iidate area, date not specified but sampled between 3/16 and 3/19). One test result in Tokyo exceeded 100 Bq/kg (Iodine-131), which is the Japanese provisional limit for milk and dairy products for infants. The provisional limit of water for adults is 300 Bq/kg. MHLW and local governments are advising parents not to give tap water to infants in areas below.

Ibaraki; Tokai Village, Hitachiota City

Fukushima; Date City, Kawamata Town, Cities of Kooriyama, Tamura, Minami-Soma and Iwaki

Tokyo; 23 Wards, Cities of Musasino, Machida, Tama, Inashiro and Mitaka

Chiba; Cities of Matsudo, Urayasu, Ichikawa and Funabashi

It has been only several days since the first detection of radioactivity in tap water. As such, there is no long-term monitoring data to indicate chronological changes of radioactive substances. Under the current situation, the tap water from Tamura City Office of Fukushima has been monitored everyday between 3/16 and 3/21. The detection level has been decreasing since the peak on March 17.

3/16 81.7 (Bq/kg)

3/17 348

3/18 317

3/19 161

3/20 72.2

3/21 52.3

Also, a test on March 24 in Tokyo revealed that the radioactivity level is below 100 Bq/kg, the provisional limit for infant formula. Since Japan's terrain is small and mountainous, the river system is relatively steep, so water reaches the ocean faster than in large continents such as North America. Therefore, radioactive contaminated water could be washed off from the river system in a relatively short period of time. Other factors (e.g., remaining radioactive particles in underground water, soil and etc) have to be considered.

The Food Safety Commission provided a comparison of possible exposure from tap water to other events (Original Japanese chart can be found in last page of following link, http://www.fsc.go.jp/sonota/emerg/emerg_genshiro_20110316.pdf).

- 0.0007 mSv – Exposure from the consumption of 100 gram contaminated vegetables (500 Bq/kg, Cesium-137)
- 0.007 mSv – Exposure from the consumption of 1 kg contaminated water (300 Bq/kg, Iodine-131)
- 0.1 mSv – Exposure by airplane flight from Tokyo to New York (one-way)
- 0.6 mSv – Exposure by a X ray in stomach
- 1 mSv – Limit to non-natural radioactive exposure for general public per year (excluding medical purpose)
- 2.4 mSv - Average natural exposure per year (world average)
- 6.9 mSv – CT scan (one time)
- 10 mSv – Natural radiation at high altitude (Brazil, Garapari)
- 250 mSv – Exposure limit for emergency workers

Based on the information, drinking 1 liter (i.e., 1 kg) of contaminated water (300 Bq/kg by Iodine-131) every day for 1,000 days (7 mSv) will give the radioactive exposure similar to one time CT scan (6.9 mSv).

Food Safety Commission's Risk Assessment of Radioactive Materials in Diet

The Food Safety Commission held a public meeting on March 23 to discuss how to proceed with the risk assessment of radioactive materials in food. In order to complete the work as soon as possible, they agreed to conduct the assessment as below.

1. Use the recommendation from International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). FSC cited two recommendation from ICRP, one released on 1990 (Pub. 60) and the other on 2007 (Pub. 103).
2. Target Radionuclides for the assessment are Iodine-131 and radioactive Cesium.
3. Use dietary intake data as much as possible as reference.

Note - Some ICRP papers were used by FDA to decide the U.S. limits.

Testing of Food and Agricultural Products

Test results by prefectures had no above limit radioactive in vegetables. However, five of 36 raw milk samples showed above limit radioactivity of Iodine-131. The highest value was 2600 Bq/kg.

On March 23, MHLW issued a press release and request for increased radiological testing. The request was sent to the governors of Miyagi, Yamagata, Saitama, Chiba, Niigata and Nagano, the prefectures abutting the original four whose produce has been contaminated by radiation.

The press release and notice are below.

Press Release

March 23, 2011

To Members of the Press:

Testing of Radioactive Substances in Agricultural Products
Relating to Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants Accident

Subsequent to the Prime Minister's instruction to the governors concerned to restrict the shipments of affected agricultural products from Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma based on the provisions in the Counter Nuclear Disaster Measures Acts, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has instructed the adjacent prefectures (i.e. Miyagi, Yamagata, Saitama, Chiba, Niigata and Nagano) to test for radioactive substances in agricultural products produced in these prefectures.

In the case where local governments face difficulty in testing due to a lack of testing machines/devices, national laboratories will make accommodations for filling the discrepancy in testing capacity.

Inspection and Safety Division
Food Safety Department
Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

Food Safety: 0323 #1

March 23, 2011

Governor of:
Miyagi,
Yamagata,
Saitama,
Chiba,
Niigata, and
Nagano

Re: Testing of Radioactive Substances in Agricultural Products (Request)

For the purpose of assuring food safety, based on the Food Sanitation Law, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare established provisional tolerance levels for radioactive substances in food and beverage on March 17, following the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

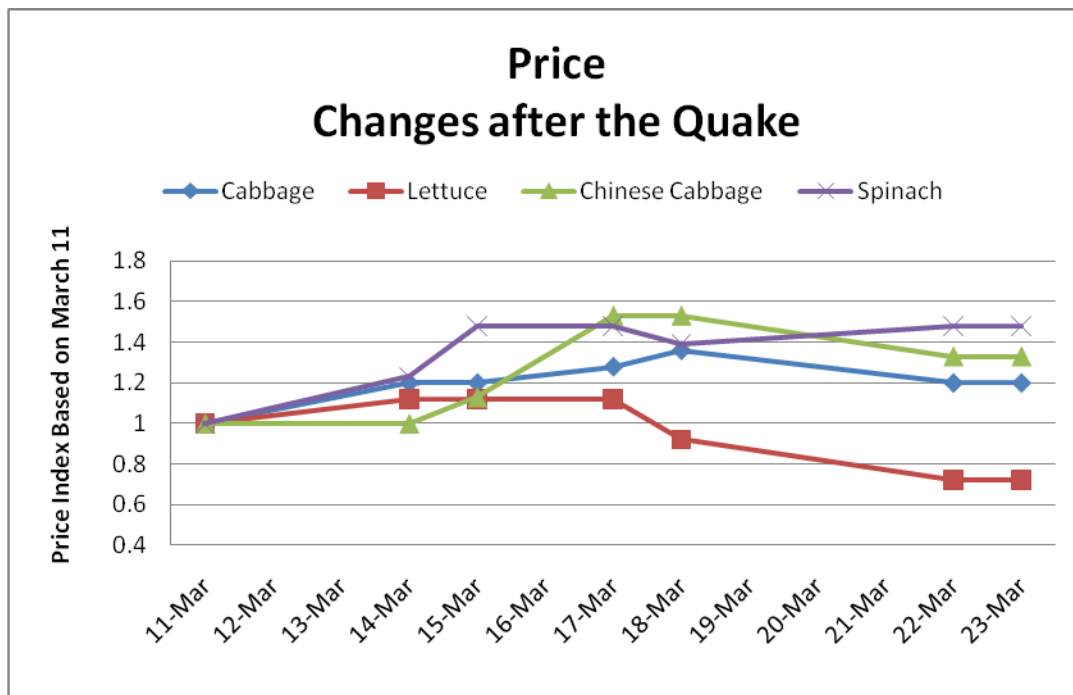
Until March 21, 185 samples have been tested and 44 cases showed above tolerance levels of detection. Consequently, the Prime Minister instructed the governors concerned to restrict the shipments of affected agricultural products from Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma based on the provisions in the Counter Nuclear Disaster Measures Acts.

Due to growing concern/request to implement testing of radioactive substances in agricultural products in adjacent prefectures, the Ministry requests that equivalent level of testing implemented in the above listed prefectures be conducted in your prefecture.

In the case where local governments face difficulty in testing due to a lack of testing machines/devices, national laboratories will make accommodations for filling the discrepancy in testing capacity.

Director General of the Food Safety Department
Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS



Fresh vegetable prices in the Tokyo Wholesale Market started falling on March 18, a week after the earthquake. The fear of radioactive contamination has discouraged consumers from purchasing fresh vegetables in general, driving prices lower. Vegetable supplies to the market have also diminished significantly in the last several days. Notably, the price of fresh spinach has stayed relatively high. This is primarily due to the limited supply on the market. According to traders, spinach shipments to the market this week have declined to one third of the normal level.

WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND DISTRIBUTION

TV reports regarding iodine radiation in the Tokyo water supply essentially caused every available bottle of water from every supermarket to be sold yesterday. Point of Sales system (POS) data in Kanto and Koshin-etsu region indicated a rush to buy at 3:00 p.m. on March 23, right after the GOJ released the news through TV programs. Shops were empty in a few hours.

Supermarkets in Kanto region have begun to resume regular operation with plenty of food products. However, retailers are still facing difficulty procuring canned products and retort foods due to shutdown of Toyo Seikan factory, one of biggest can makers, and other package manufactures in Tohoku region.

Upon detection of higher-than allowed levels of radiation on spinach and milk, retail and food service chains have found alternate sources from the four prefectures, Fukushima, Tochigi, Ibaraki and Gunma. Ito-Yokado, including 7-11, has divided spinach and milk procurements, contracting with thousands farmers in the other prefectures. Inageya, with 124 outlets in Kanto region, shifted origin of spinach from Ibaraki and Tochigi to Saitama and other areas, and is planning import frozen vegetables.

Sukiya, a biggest beef bowl restaurant chains with 1,550 outlets, suspended use of spinach from Ibaraki prefecture. Skylark, the biggest family style restaurant chain, temporally halt use of all spinach for salad

and alternate it to lettuce and other vegetables. There are efforts to calm the situation down. For instance, the Japan Foodservice Association, with 600 member companies and 65,000 member restaurants, advised the members to avoid statements such as “no use of the restricted food at a restaurant” to help prevent rumors.

Osaka-Kobe area (Kansai)

Production

Food and beverage manufacturers are trying to expand production to meet increasing demand for ready-to-eat food, staple food, water, etc. However, many plants in Tokyo Metropolitan Area cannot run fully due to rolling blackouts or may have suffered some damage from the quake. Companies that have plants in Kansai are fortunate. Musashino, an onigiri manufacturer in Saitama (outside of Tokyo) whose main customers are convenience stores, has extended production hours at its Kobe and Higashi-Osaka plants and increased production by 15,000 units daily. Ishii Foods, a major manufacturer of shelf stable "meat balls" has increased production in Kyoto and Shiga to meet increased demand in quake/tsunami affected Kanto and Tohoku regions.

Food manufacturers in Kansai are gearing up production, especially for instant noodles and retort-pouched food appropriate for adverse environments. In addition, there are reports of short supply of ingredients for their food production as well. For example, House Food Corporation, Osaka, suffered damages at a factory in Kanto. It stopped the operation of the factory for a few days but now it is regaining its normal operation. The company has been increasing the overall production of report-pouched food by about 20% in order to respond to the sudden increase in the demand after the earthquake.

Another issue is packaging - Some food manufacturers may soon be affected by a disruption of supply chains for packaging materials from factories in Tohoku, and therefore, won't be able to manufacture certain items once their supply of packaging material runs out. One distributor says this may become visible in a few weeks and that we may begin to see alternate products in stores as a result.

Port-related information:

There are reports that some foreign airlines are diverting their cargos originally destined to Narita (Kanto) to Kansai after the earthquake. However, Kobe and Osaka customs are not releasing any information what percentage of the cargos have been diverted to Kansai. We were also informed that some distributors are already planning to relocate their distribution centers to Kansai due the damages on their core facilities in Tohoku and Kanto caused by the earthquake.

Kansai retailers:

Dairy products, water, batteries, and dry noodles are in very short supply as customers buy them not only for themselves but to ship them to friends and relatives in Tokyo and Tohoku. There are media reports predicting a tight supply of green products in Kansai as Kanto retailers use alternate sourcing due to radiation problems. That is not visibly evident now, but a Kansai distributor says he is seeing fewer import fruits products in Osaka as some importers place a higher priority satisfying demand in Kanto and Tohoku, i.e. bananas.

Distributors:

An Osaka distributor reports that the company has been notified by importers that their shipment of blueberries and raspberries would be delayed by a couple of days. Some air cargos that are bound for Narita have been diverted to Kansai Airport, causing some delay in customs in Kansai. For now, the company has not seen a major disruption, but he is concerned about the impact in a few weeks, when the company will start to handle a bigger volume in spring.

MEDIA

09:57 March 24, 2011 Thursday (Asahi: Chiba follows Tokyo in advising parents not to give tap water to infants): Asahi online reported that the Chiba Prefectural Government decided Wednesday to advise local residents not to give tap water to infants 12 months or younger, even though tap water within the prefecture has not yet shown any signs of abnormality in radiation levels. The prefectural authorities stressed that the advice will be issued as precaution.

08:30 March 24, 2011 Thursday (Mainichi, Yomiuri: Panic buying of bottled water): This morning's Mainichi reported that many consumers were desperately rushing to buy bottled water last night following the announcement by Tokyo water authorities about radiation contamination at a water purification plant in Tokyo. Beverage shelves at most supermarkets and convenient stores went empty soon after the announcement, with many consumers searching for bottled water in vain. Yomiuri said Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano on Wednesday asked consumers not to hoard bottled water, stressing that Tokyo water is completely safe to drink for everybody except infants.

08:01 March 24, 2011 Thursday (Asahi: 27 embassies shut down Tokyo operations temporarily): This morning's Asahi reported on the MOFA revelation on Wednesday that a total of 27 countries have closed Tokyo embassy operations temporarily following the 3/11 earthquake, with some of them, including Germany, Finland, and Switzerland, moving functions to Kansai or other areas in the Western Japan.

03:35 March 24, 2011 Thursday (Indonesia requires radiation-free certificate for food from Japan): Weekly Indonesian economic newspaper Kontan reported that the country's food and drug administration agency began requiring a nuclear-radiation-free certificate for processed foods from Japan, and the Ministry of Agriculture also decided to impose a similar policy for Japanese fresh produce. Head of the Quarantine Agency for the Agriculture Ministry Banun Harpini explained that the new policy will apply to fresh fruits and vegetables, including shitake mushrooms, sprouts, fresh soybeans, cashews, frozen spinach and sweet potatoes, which are all imported from Japan. Once the decree is in place, all fresh produce from Japan must undergo nuclear screening and be accompanied by a certificate before entering the Indonesian market. Harpini added, "the radiation-free certificate may also come from Japanese authorities."

02:35 March 24, 2011 Thursday (Hong Kong halts Japanese agriculture imports): CNN reported that Hong Kong has suspended food and milk imports from five prefectures in Japan after radiation was detected at the city's international airport. The government banned products that include milk, milk powder, vegetables and fruits produced and harvested from Chiba, Tochigi, Ibaraki, Gunma and Fukushima prefectures, according to the Hong Kong Food and Health Department. Japanese meats and

seafood imports have also been suspended "unless there is official evidence stating that these products are in compliance with safety rules," the department said. The move comes on the heels of a similar decision by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday.

05:05 March 24, 2011 Thursday (Farm products discarded): NHK broadcasts footage of pouring milk literally down a drain. The broadcaster also visited a spinach farm, where although the spinach was grown inside a greenhouse it will likely be thrown away due to fears of radiation contamination. BBC reports that the government has said TEPCO will have to compensate farmers for their lost livelihoods.

DONATIONS

Japanese officials are reportedly impressed by offers of support for earthquake victims expressed by countries which themselves have been hit hard by natural disasters or internal conflicts, including Haiti, Tunisia, and Afghanistan. Pledged donations from these countries included canned tuna and cash.

U.S. food and agriculture firms continue to generously donate to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami. NAEGA reports the following donations from several of its members:

- 1 . ADM 3/15/2011 Archer Daniels Midland Company (NYSE: ADM) today announced that the company is donating \$250,000 to the American Red Cross to help aid those in Japan impacted by the recent earthquake and tsunami. ADM will also match all employee contributions of \$25 or more to the American Red Cross Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami Relief Fund through April 30, 2011. The contributions are being made through ADM Cares, the company's social investment program.
2. CARGILL -- MINNEAPOLIS, March 22, 2011 — /PRNewswire/ -- Cargill today announced that it has made a donation of \$250,000 to Second Harvest Japan, a Tokyo-based food bank that is delivering truckloads of food and other needed items to the Tohoku region to provide nourishment to survivors of the earthquake and tsunami. Cargill's donation will be used to help the organization procure and deliver food and other supplies to those in need at evacuation centers and welfare agencies. In addition to the grant to Second Harvest Japan, Cargill is matching employee contributions to the Red Cross. Cargill business units also have contributed approximately \$125,000 to the Japanese Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations responding in Japan.
3. CHS Inc. - ST. PAUL, Minn., March 21, 2011 /PRNewswire/ — The CHS Foundation announced today it will contribute a total of \$75,000 to the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF) and the American Red Cross International Disaster Relief Fund in support of Japan relief efforts. The foundation will also match up to \$37,500 in CHS employee donations to the two designated organizations for a potential total contribution of \$150,000.

The Weyerhaeuser Community Fund Contributed \$500,000 to Aid Recovery Efforts in Japan through the American Red Cross. In addition to today's contribution, Weyerhaeuser businesses are working with their customers to develop plans for longer-term recovery support when the rebuilding process begins.

Approximately 10 percent of Weyerhaeuser's sales are to Japan. The company sells pulp, liquid packaging board, logs, lumber and wood chips to Japan. Weyerhaeuser started selling lumber to Japan in 1923 following the Great Kanto earthquake that devastated Tokyo and Yokohama.