



Incorporated Administrative Agency
Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center

FAMIC





Masaaki Yoshiba, President

FAMIC's missions:

- By conducting inspections at various stages of food chain,
- Ensure the quality and safety of fertilizer, soil improvement materials, agricultural chemicals, animal feed and feed additives;
 - Improve the quality and labeling of agricultural, forestry and fishery products.

FAMIC is engaged in inspections based on 8 laws:

- Fertilizer Control Law
- Soil Fertility Enforcement Law
- Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law
- Feed Safety Law
- Pet Food Safety Law
- Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) Law
- Food Safety Basic Law
- Cartagena Law

The status and the organization:

- FAMIC's staff members are government officials.
- FAMIC's staff members are authorized to conduct on-site inspections of fertilizer plants, feed plants, food manufacturers and other related facilities.

For safety and quality assurance of fertilizer

FAMIC examines application submitted for registration of fertilizer.

Manufacturing, importation and marketing of fertilizers are prohibited in Japan unless they meet official standards established and have been registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). FAMIC examines the applications submitted for the registration. Laboratory analysis and field application are conducted regarding the submitted specimens to confirm that the fertilizer meets the specification established under the Fertilizer Control Law.

FAMIC conducts on-site inspection of fertilizer manufacturers.

FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of fertilizer manufacturing plants, store houses, etc. to examine production records and other documents. FAMIC also takes samples of fertilizer, and carried out a laboratory analysis to ensure that they meet the standards established by the Fertilizer Control Law.

FAMIC also reviews the possible revision of standards based on the latest scientific findings and application by fertilizer manufacturers.



Sampling of fertilizer at a fertilizer plant



Analysis of fertilizer for lead and cadmium using ICP-MS



Growth experiment using an artificial climate chamber

FAMIC evaluates agricultural chemicals for registration.

FAMIC reviews registration applications of agricultural chemicals. Specimens (of active substances and end-use products) are submitted for laboratory analysis to verify the data. Then, FAMIC reviews not only the efficacy of agricultural chemicals but also the data of toxicity to human/animals, residues in/on crops/environment, and adverse effects to the environment including soil, water and, ecosystems.

For safety and quality assurance of agricultural chemicals

FAMIC conducts GLP inspection of laboratories.

The Japanese government adheres to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) principles. FAMIC is responsible for GLP inspection of test facilities on the GLP system to assure safety of agricultural chemicals.

FAMIC conducts on-site inspection of agricultural chemical manufacturers.

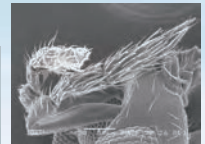
FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of agricultural chemical manufacturing plants, and examines production records and other documents to ensure agricultural chemicals are properly produced. FAMIC also takes samples of agricultural chemicals for laboratory analysis.



Application document and attached test results (complete set)



Examine application for registration of agricultural chemicals



Identification of natural enemy with scanning electron microscope

FAMIC conducts on-site inspection of feed and feed additive manufacturers.

FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of feed and feed additive manufacturers and examines production records and other documents to ensure that they are produced in accordance with the standards established by MAFF.

FAMIC also takes samples of feed and feed additive for laboratory analysis to ensure that they contain the acceptable amount of feed additives and harmful substances within the maximum tolerable limits.

FAMIC also conducts on-site inspection of feed manufacturers for the prevention of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

For safety and quality assurance of animal feed



Analysis of feed for mycotoxins using liquid chromatography mass spectrometer (LC-MS)

FAMIC tests specified feeds and feed additives.

FAMIC samples every production lot of specified feed and feed additives, and tests the samples before they are brought to market. Those manufacturers who seek registration from MAFF are authorized to market their products without pre-testing. FAMIC conducts inspections of the applicants to verify that they are compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).



Sampling of feed at a compound feed plant

In accordance with the Pet Food Safety Law implemented in June 2009, FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers, and examines production and import records, and other documents to ensure that the pet food products are produced in accordance with the standards established by MAFF.

FAMIC takes samples for laboratory analysis to ensure that they contain the acceptable amount of ingredients and harmful substances within the maximum tolerable limits.

For safety assurance of pet food

FAMIC keeps an eye on labeling of foods.

In order to let consumers choose on purchasing food, MAFF, in accordance with the JAS Law, sets out the standards of food labeling including: the name of the food, list of ingredients, storage instructions, and name and address of the manufacturer. FAMIC purchases food samples from the market for laboratory analysis to ensure the proper labeling of food, e.g.:

For assurance of proper labeling of foods



Purchase of food samples

- Geographic origin of production;
- Types of ingredients used (species and breed of varieties of animals or plants);
- Proportion of ingredients used (buckwheat flour vs. wheat flour in buck wheat noodles);
- Absence of genetically modified organisms.

Should any suspected mislabeling find as the result of the laboratory analysis, FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of manufacturers with MAFF officials. FAMIC has a telephone hotline with information provided by the public about suspected mislabeling food.



Identification of species and breed varieties using DNA analysis



Determination of geographic origin using ICP-MS



Analysis of fruit juice using stable isotope mass spectrometer

To improve the quality of agricultural products and make the production and its consumption more efficient, MAFF, in accordance with the JAS Law, sets out JAS standards for foods and wood products. Agricultural products which meet these standards are entitled to have a JAS label. Operators certified by a registered certifying body are authorized to put a JAS label on their products.

For proper maintenance of the JAS system



Name of the Certifying Body



Name of the Certifying Body



Name of the Certifying Body



Name of the Certifying Body

JAS labels, Ordinary JAS (A), Specified JAS (B), Organic JAS (C) and production information JAS (D)

Assessment and surveillance of certifying bodies

FAMIC assesses potential certifying bodies based on the application of registrations, and surveys registered certifying bodies. Documents submitted by the applicants and registered certifying bodies are reviewed and carried out the on-site assessment by FAMIC in a manner consistent with international standards (ISO/IEC17011) to determine whether the applicants and registered certifying bodies meet the registration criteria.



Witnessing to the RCB certification



Quality fact-finding of wooden material

Research and study on the revision

The JAS standards are reviewed regularly within 5 years. FAMIC conducts researches and makes studies on the revision of the JAS standards by request from MAFF.

FAMIC serves as domestic organization of ISO committees.

Acting as the following domestic organization of committees of the International Standard Organization (ISO), FAMIC participates in the technical committee meetings, and coordinates the domestic opinions so as to be reflected opinions in developing the ISO standards.

- ISO/TC34: Technical Committee for Food Products
- ISO/TC34/SC10: Subcommittee for Animal Feed
- ISO/TC34/SC12: Subcommittee for Sensory Analysis
- ISO/TC34/SC16: Subcommittee for Horizontal Methods for Molecular Biomarker Analysis
- ISO/TC34/SC17: Subcommittee for Management Systems for Food Safety
- ISO/TC89/SC3: Subcommittee for Plywood
- ISO/TC218: Technical Committee for Timber

For international co-operation



Meeting of Working Group on GLP

International harmonization of registration system and maximum residue limits (MRLs) of agricultural chemicals

FAMIC participates in OECD meetings, and contributes to the international harmonization of agricultural chemicals registration system. FAMIC also participates in Codex Committee on Pesticide Residue (CCPR) for the establishment of MRLs of agricultural chemicals in foods.



FAMIC is an OIE Collaborating Centre.

FAMIC designated as a Collaborating Centre of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in May 2009 contributes standardization and dissemination of techniques in the field of animal feed safety and analysis.

FAMIC provides information on food and agricultural materials through seminars, training courses, and consultation activities.



Seminars

For provision of information

FAMIC is involved in research to develop and improve methods used for analysis of fertilizer, feed, food and other agricultural materials, in collaboration with other research institutes.

For development of analysis methods



DNA extraction from genetically modified organisms



Minimum inhibitory concentration test for detection of antimicrobial resistant bacteria



Test of residue in crops (Pesticide application)

To certify the competence of calibration and testing laboratories, FAMIC has acquired ISO/IEC17025 accreditation for qualitative test on the DNA of genetically modified soy beans.



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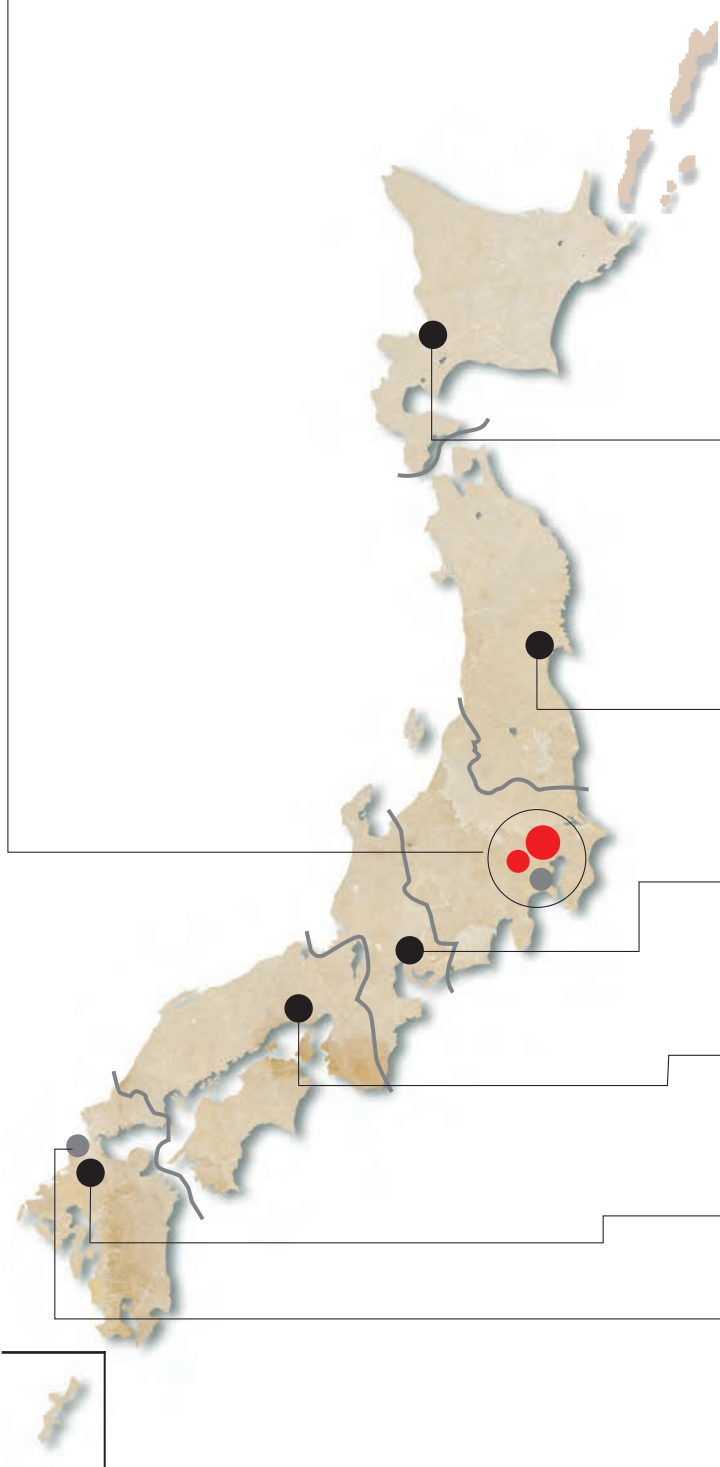
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