Missions of FAMIC
FAMIC contributes to food safety through inspections of food and agricultural materials:
- Ensuring the quality and safety of fertilizers, soil improvement materials, agricultural chemicals, animal feeds, and food additives
- Improving the quality and labeling of agriculture, forestry, and fishery products

Our inspections are based on the nine laws:
- Fertilizer Control Law
- Soil Fertilizer Enforcement Law
- Agricultural Chemical Law
- Agricultural Chemical Registration Law
- Food Safety Law
- Cartelization Law
- Food Product Safety Law

Contribution as a government agency:
As governmental officials, we are authorized to conduct on-site inspections of manufacturing plants of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, foods, and foods, as well as other related facilities.

Review of applications for registration of fertilizers
Manufacturing, import, and sales are only allowed to registered fertilizers which meet the official standards established by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF).
FAMIC reviews applications for registration submitted from manufacturers, and conducts technical analysis and field tests on sample fertilizers in order to determine whether they meet the standards required by Fertilizer Control Law.

On-site inspections of fertilizer manufacturers
FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of the facilities such as manufacturing plants and storerooms of fertilizers to examine their production records and other documents.
We also collect samples of fertilizers from manufacturers in order to analyze and determine whether they meet the standards required by Fertilizer Control Law.
FAMIC reviews the revision of standards based on the latest scientific findings, and on the requests from the fertilizer manufacturers.

On-site inspections of food and feed additive manufacturers and importers
FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of food and feed additive manufacturers and importers, and examine their production / import records and other documents to confirm that they are produced in accordance with the standards and the guidelines established by MAFF.
FAMIC also collects samples of food and feed additives for laboratory analysis to confirm that the amount of food additives and harmful substances are kept at the defined level or below the maximum acceptable level.
FAMIC also conducts on-site inspection of manufacturers of antimicrobial feed ingredients for the purpose of preventing Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

Official assay of food additives
Manufacturers and importers of specified food additives such as antimicrobial food additives are obliged to have an official assay conducted by FAMIC before they offer their products to the market. However, they will be exempted from the assay if their products are registered as GMP-compliant products.

FAMIC is in charge of the examination of manufacturers of feed additives in order to verify that their products conform to GMP.

On-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers
Under the Pet Food Safety Law established in June 2009, FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers to examine related documents such as production records and import records, and confirm that their products are in conformity with the standards set by MAFF and the Ministry of the Environment.
FAMIC collects samples of pet foods to confirm that the amount of additives and harmful substances are kept at the defined level or below the maximum acceptable level.

For safety of agricultural chemicals
Evaluation of agricultural chemicals for registration
FAMIC reviews applications for registration of agricultural chemicals under Agricultural Chemicals Registration Law. The application also includes the tests for evaluating the efficacy of agricultural chemicals, as well as residual effects, etc. to humans and animals, and adverse effects on the environment including soil, water, and ecosystems.
Samples are also supplied to FAMIC for detailed verification of the application data.

GLP inspection of laboratories
The Japanese government adheres to the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Guidelines for conducting GLP-compliance monitoring of test facilities which generate data for registration of agricultural chemicals.

On-site inspection of agricultural chemical manufacturers
FAMIC conducts on-site inspections on agricultural chemical manufacturing plants, and examines their production records and other documents to confirm that agricultural chemicals are properly produced. FAMIC also collects samples of agricultural chemicals for laboratory analysis.

For safety of animal feeds
Receiving and examination of applications for registration of animal feeds
FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of animal feed additive manufacturers, and examines their production / import records and other documents to confirm that they are produced in accordance with the standards and the guidelines established by MAFF.

FAMIC also collects samples of food and feed additives for laboratory analysis to confirm that the amount of food additives and harmful substances are kept at the defined level or below the maximum acceptable level.

FAMIC also conducts on-site inspection of manufacturers of antimicrobial feed ingredients for the purpose of preventing Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

Sampling of feed as a compulsory feed ingredient
FAMIC is in charge of the examination of manufacturers of feed additives in order to verify that their products conform to GMP.

For safety of pet foods
On-site inspection of pet food manufacturers and importers
Under the Pet Food Safety Law established in June 2009, FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers to examine related documents such as production records and import records, and confirm that their products are in conformity with the standards set by MAFF and the Ministry of the Environment.
FAMIC collects samples of pet foods to confirm that the amount of additives and harmful substances are kept at the defined level or below the maximum acceptable level.

For proper food labeling
Aiding in the establishment of the system to aid in food labeling
FAMIC purchases food samples from the market for laboratory analysis, and verifies descriptions on the labeling which include place of origin, variety, and composition of substances (e.g., in the case of labeling on wine, nooks, or sake: ratio of yield/weight and yield/weight).
When the results of analysis indicate possible falsification of labeling, the inspection will be conducted by FAMIC and MAFF officials.
We provide a hotline for consumers to collect information of foods with inappropriate or false labeling.

Certification and audit for maintaining proper JAS system
The JAS standards for food and glassware/ceramic wares are set by MAFF under MAFF in order to improve quality of agricultural and forestry products, and rationalize their production and consumption. Organizations who have been certified by the recognized certifying bodies are to put the JAS mark logo on their products under the condition that the products meet the JAS standards.

Auditing the certifying bodies
FAMIC conducts reviews of applications from organizations seeking for registration as a certifying body, and regular audits of the registered certifying bodies.
At the same time, documents and examinations on the on-site inspections are conducted based on the requirements of IEC 70011 to determine whether the organization meets the criteria for registration.

Researches and studies on JAS standards for future revision
The JAS standards are to be reviewed within five years after their establishment in order to meet the needs of society. FAMIC conducts researches and studies related to the review based on the request of MAFF.

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For safety of pet foods
On-site inspection of pet food manufacturers and importers
Under the Pet Food Safety Law established in June 2009, FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers to examine related documents such as production records and import records, and confirm that their products are in conformity with the standards set by MAFF and the Ministry of the Environment.
FAMIC collects samples of pet foods to confirm that the amount of additives and harmful substances are kept at the defined level or below the maximum acceptable level.