Mushrooms and Wild Plants

Measures to Ensure Safety of Mushrooms and Non-Wood Forest Products

- Introduce safe production materials in order to reduce radioactive contamination
- Provide information on gathering of wild plants and mushrooms

Specific measures

- Secure safe mushroom logs
 (Support for the purchase of mushroom logs and bed logs, matching of supply and demand of mushroom logs)
- Decontaminate mushroom logs and bed logs and introduce makeshift greenhouses, etc.
- Disseminate cultivation management in line with the guideline and give guidance therefor
- Disseminate cultivation technology to reduce radioactive contamination
- Provide information using the website and pamphlets and conduct guidance tours







Prepared based on the "Inspection Results Concerning Radioactive Materials in Foods" by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

MAFF

Other than wild plants and mushrooms for which cultivation management is impossible, shiitake mushrooms, etc. cultivated using mushroom logs show variation in radioactivity concentrations.

Therefore, measures to reduce contamination are being taken, such as implementing cultivation management in line with the "Guideline on Cultivation Management of Log-cultured Mushrooms to Reduce Radioactive Materials" for the purpose of ensuring that log-cultured mushrooms do not contain radioactive materials exceeding the standard limit for foods, and developing bed log washing machines necessary for cultivating safe mushrooms, etc.

In order to prevent distribution of wild plants and mushrooms with radioactivity concentrations exceeding the standard limit, each local government imposes distribution restrictions on producers and farmers markets and provides them with inspection results or other information.

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Provisional Safety Standards for Mushroom Logs, etc. [Reference]

- Mushroom logs and beds may be distributed nationwide.
- In order to ensure the safety of supplied mushrooms, provisional safety standards for radioactive cesium concentrations for mushroom logs and beds were established.

Provisional safety standards (from April 2012)	
Mushroom logs and bed logs	50 Bq/kg
Culture media for beds and mushroom beds	200 Bq/kg

Bed logs: Mushroom logs wherein mushroom fungi are planted

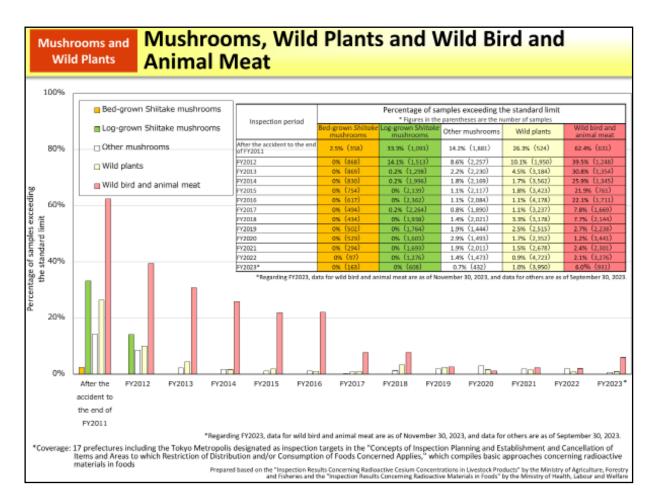
Mushroom beds: Culture media mixed with sawdust and nutrients wherein mushroom fungi are planted

Prepared based on the "Responses at Farmland" by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

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Mushroom logs and beds may be distributed nationwide in the same manner as livestock feeds. Therefore, in order to cultivate safe mushrooms, provisional safety standards for radioactive cesium concentrations were set at 50 Bq/kg for mushroom logs and bed logs and at 200 Bq/kg for mushroom beds, and they are managed properly so that contained radioactive materials do not exceed those standards.

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Regarding mushrooms, for which cultivation management is possible, thanks to efforts for securing safe logs and the introduction of makeshift greenhouses, etc., radioactive contamination has been reduced through the use of production materials in conformity to the standards. The percentage of mushrooms with radioactive concentrations exceeding the standard limit is decreasing. This standard limit refers to 100 Bq/kg, which has been applied since April 2012 (in FY2011, provisional regulation values were applied, but tabulation is based on the current standard for the purpose of comparison with the results in and after 2012).

■ Provisional safety standards regarding radioactive cesium for mushroom logs, bed logs, culture media for beds and mushroom beds

Mushroom logs and bed logs: 50 Bq/kg

Culture media for beds and mushroom beds: 200 Bg/kg

Radioactive concentrations exceeding the standard limit are still detected in some wild mushrooms and wild plants, for which cultivation management is difficult. Therefore, their shipment is thoroughly controlled continuously.

Wild bird and animal meat, such as boar meat and deer meat, still show radioactive concentrations exceeding the standard limit, although the number of such cases is on a decline. Feeding management like that for livestock animals is difficult for wild birds and animals that move around freely. Therefore, shipment of wild bird and animal meat is restricted by each prefecture in principle, and in some cases, only meat managed based on shipment and inspection policies formulated independently by respective local governments is permitted to be shipped out.

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