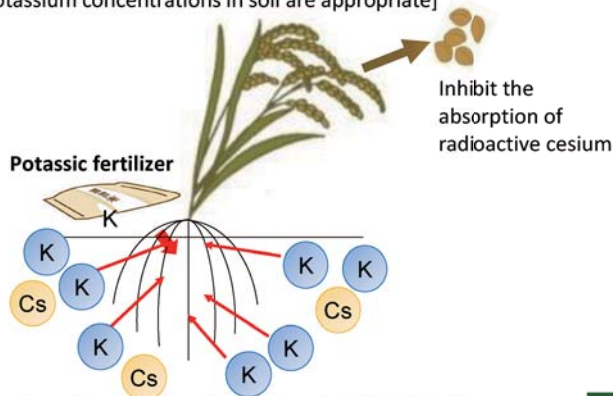


- In paddy fields where detected radioactive cesium concentrations in brown rice are higher, potassium concentrations in soil tend to be lower.
- Potassium in soil has similar chemical characteristics as cesium and proper use of potassic fertilizer can inhibit growing crops from absorbing cesium.

[When potassium concentrations in soil are appropriate]



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

MAFF

It is known that crops, such as rice, absorb more radioactive cesium when potassium concentrations in soil are lower.

Potassium and cesium have similar chemical characteristics, and when the soil contains sufficient potassium, less cesium is absorbed into crops. This is because a passage (transporter) on the root surface that lets some potassium through also lets cesium through. Recently, there is also a research report concerning rice plants that do not have such passage (unlikely to absorb cesium).

Therefore, at farmland where potassium concentrations in soil are low, a sufficient amount of potassic fertilizer is applied to increase potassium concentrations above a certain level to inhibit absorption of radioactive cesium into crops.

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