

Others

Comprehensive Efforts toward Regeneration of Forests and Forestry in Fukushima

○ In order to ensure safe and secure lives of the residents and regenerate forests and forestry in Fukushima, relevant ministries and agencies carry out the following measures comprehensively in collaboration with the prefecture and municipalities, while obtaining the understanding of the people in Fukushima.

I. Efforts toward regeneration of forests and forestry

1. Efforts for ensuring safe and secure living environment

- Steadily continue decontamination work for forests near people's houses, etc.
- For residential areas surrounded by forests on three sides, taking measures as necessary, such as decontaminating forests 20m or further from the border or installing barriers to prevent soil runoff

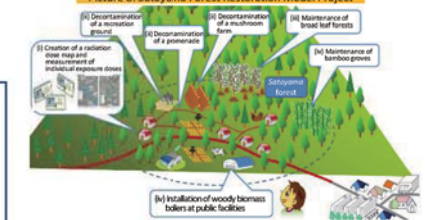
3. Efforts for regenerating forestry in mountainous areas, etc.

- Promote a project to conduct tree thinning or other forest maintenance work together with measures concerning radioactive materials, and a demonstration project aiming for regeneration of forestry
- Newly prepare a guidebook on radiation safety that is easy to understand for workers

2. Efforts for restoring *Satoyama* forests close to residential houses

- Based on needs of local people, decontamination was conducted properly at places in the forest where residents enter for recreation or daily use; Make efforts for regenerating forestry in broad leaf forests and bamboo groves, etc.
- Select model districts in and around Areas under Evacuation Orders (including areas where evacuation orders have been lifted), comprehensively promote efforts for restoring *Satoyama* forests in those model districts, and reflect the outcomes of such efforts in carrying out further appropriate measures.

Picture of *Satoyama* Forest Restoration Model Project



II. Future-oriented efforts for research and studies

- Continuously engage in research and studies for monitoring radiation doses in the forest, understanding behavior of radioactive materials and reducing radiation doses; Continue efforts for regeneration of forests and forestry into the future while utilizing the outcomes of such research and studies in formulating further measure

III. Information provision and communication

- Meticulously provide the latest information regarding knowledge on radioactive materials in forests and the national government's efforts toward regeneration of forests and forestry, using such media as relevant ministries' websites and PR magazines
- Continue efforts for ensuring safe and secure lives of the people in Fukushima through maintaining good communication, including dispatching experts

Prepared by the Ministry of the Environment

In addition to decontamination, comprehensive efforts for regenerating the forestry industry and ensuring safe and secure lives of the residents are indispensable for the regeneration of forests and forestry in Fukushima Prefecture. Based on the guideline, "Comprehensive Efforts toward Regeneration of Forests and Forestry in Fukushima," which was compiled by the Reconstruction Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of the Environment in March 2016, relevant ministries and agencies have been carrying out measures comprehensively for those purpose, while obtaining the understanding of the people in Fukushima. In November 2020, the outcome of the *Satoyama* Forest Restoration Model Project, which had been conducted in 14 districts based on the guideline, was compiled and published. In FY2020 onward, efforts for restoring *Satoyama* forests will be continued by expanding the coverage as the *Satoyama* Forest Restoration Project.

According to the knowledge obtained at the Environment Restoration Panel established in the Ministry of the Environment, it is found that removal of sedimentary organic materials at locations 20m or further from the border of the forest adjacent to houses and farmland, etc. has little effect in reducing ambient dose rates at the forest border. Also, broad removal of sedimentary organic materials in forests may even make things worse, in ways such as increasing bad effects on trees due to causing erosion of dirt, etc. containing radioactive cesium or impoverishing the soil. Accordingly, under the basic policy to prioritize areas especially necessary from the perspective of protecting human health, decontamination of forests has been conducted within approx. 20m from the borders of the forests adjacent to houses or farmland, etc., in principle.

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