

Summary of the Revision of the Pesticide Registration System

I Background

The Agricultural Chemicals Control Act (Act No.82 of 1948), sets out the process of the pesticide registration system in Japan, such as:

- Only registered pesticides under the Act can be produced, sold and used.
- Evaluation on efficacy, phytotoxicity and effect on humans and the environment are conducted when pesticides are registered.

To enhance safe use of pesticides, we are planning the revision of the pesticide registration system, and the outline of the revision was determined on 15 June 2018 in the revision of the Act (Act No53 of 2018).

II Regulations to enter into force in 2018 (scope of notification)

- 1) Based on the Act, the following changes are to be introduced.
 - All pesticides registered are to be periodically re-evaluated.
 - The data requirements for re-evaluation are the same as those required for new registration at the time of re-evaluation application.
 - The GAP may be changed or the registration is revoked based on the re-evaluation.
 - Specifications for technical grade active ingredients shall be established at the time of first registration and re-evaluation.
- 2) The implementation of the re-evaluation system is proposed as follows:
Every registered pesticide shall be subject to the periodic re-evaluation every 15 years. The application for re-evaluation will start to be accepted in 2021. Active ingredients to be re-evaluated will be announced about 2 years before the deadline for application.
- 3) In addition to the periodic re-evaluation, the registrants shall report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) newly available information on the safe use of their registered pesticides once a year, e.g. the information on accidents by the use of pesticides, revocation or changes of registration in countries outside Japan, and scientific papers concerning the safe use of the pesticides. The first report is to be submitted to the MAFF by October 2019.

III Regulations to enter into force in 2020 (under consideration and to be notified)

Based on the Act, the following changes are to be introduced.

- Evaluation of risk on pesticide operators is to be introduced.
- Terrestrial animals and plants are to be added to target species, in addition to the current “aquatic animals and plants” (fish, algae and crustaceans).