

Summary of the Revision of the Pesticide Registration System

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.

In relation to the revision of the Agricultural Chemicals Control Act (Act No.53 of 2018) to be effective in 1 April 2020 as announced in G/SPS/N/JPN/593, evaluation system on pesticides will be changed as follows;

- Risk assessment for pesticide operators
If risk assessment shows that the level of daily exposure for pesticide operator throughout a spraying season or incurred a single day is higher than the relevant toxicological reference value, provided that the pesticide is properly used according to the proposed label, the pesticide shall not be registered. The toxicological reference values, namely Acceptable Operator Exposure Level (AOEL) for longer term exposure and Acute Acceptable Operator Exposure Level (AAOEL) for acute exposure, for each pesticide will be established by risk assessment.
- Ecological risk assessment
For the environmental evaluation, the evaluation on aquatic vascular plants and birds, in addition to current test species (fish, algae and crustaceans), will be conducted.
- Risk assessment for honeybees
If risk assessment shows that a colony of honeybees is likely to be seriously damaged due to the exposure to the pesticide, provided that the pesticide is properly used according to the proposed label, the pesticide shall not be registered. Scientific data on toxicity of the pesticide to an individual bee as well as the effect of pesticide on a whole colony will be taken into account in the assessment.