

FAMIC

Incorporated Administrative Agency
*Food and Agricultural Materials
Inspection Center*

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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Fertilizer and Soil Improvement Materials Supervision

The safety and quality of fertilizers are ensured by “the Act on the Quality Control of Fertilizer” in order to provide safe agricultural products stably.

FAMIC implements various operations related to the Act under the directions of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).



Review of applications for fertilizer registration

The production, imports, and sales of fertilizers are allowed only after the approval of the relevant registration or notification.

FAMIC reviews applications for the registration submitted by manufacturers, and conducts laboratory analyses and field tests on sample fertilizers in order to determine whether they meet the standards required by the Act.

Table 1. Achievement of Fertilizer Registration Application Review

	FY 2023
Number of Fertilizer Registration Application Reviews Reported to MAFF	590
Number of Inquiries Received regarding Change of Raw Materials or Production Processes	1,600

On-site inspections of fertilizer manufacturers

FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of fertilizer manufacturer's facilities such as plants and storehouses to examine their production records and other documents.

We also collect fertilizer samples from manufacturers in order to analyze and determine whether they meet the standards required by the Act.

Table 2. Achievement of Fertilizer Manufacturer On-Site Inspection

	FY 2023
Number of Fertilizer Manufacturer On-Site Inspections	219
Number of Collected and Analyzed Samples	141



Sampling of fertilizer at on-site inspection

Setting official fertilizer standards

FAMIC confirms the safety and efficacy of fertilizers for providing scientific findings, necessary for establishing new official standards or revising existing ones.

Table 3. Achievement of Surveys Conducted for Establishing Official Fertilizer Standards

	FY 2023
Number of Surveys Conducted for Official Fertilizer Standards	No Request Received from MAFF



Cultivation test

On-site inspections of soil improvement materials

Under the Soil Fertility Enhancement Act, FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of manufacturing sites of soil improvement materials, as well as their products, raw

materials, and account books. FAMIC also confirms if the labeling of soil improvement materials is appropriate.

Table 4. Achievement of On-Site Inspections of Soil Improvement Materials

	FY 2023
Number of On-Site Inspections	26
out of which Technical Advice was Provided	5
Number of Collected and Analyzed Samples	23

Agricultural Chemicals Supervision

Although agricultural chemicals are indispensable for stable agricultural production, chances of their negative impact on human health and the environment cannot be ruled out.

In Japan, agricultural chemicals are regulated by the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act so that only those effective on plant pests and diseases and safe for humans and the environment, if applied in accordance with the label instructions, are manufactured, sold and used. FAMIC provides various services related to the Act under the directions of MAFF.



Evaluation of agricultural chemicals for registration

The manufacture and import of agricultural chemicals are permitted only after the approval for the relevant registration. FAMIC reviews applications for the registration of agricultural chemicals under the Act.

The application data include test results of the efficacy/phyto-toxicity of agricultural chemicals, as well as residues in/on crops, the toxicity to humans and animals, and effects on the environment.

FAMIC also gathers scientific knowledge and information on safety evaluation of agricultural chemicals in order to improve the review process as necessary. All registered agricultural chemicals shall be reassessed at certain intervals in the light of the most up-to-date scientific knowledge and information.

Table 5. Achievement of Registration Application Review/ Re-evaluation of Agricultural Chemicals

		FY 2023
Number of Agricultural Chemicals Registration Application Review	For Reference Value Setting	87
	For Non-Reference Value Setting	743
Number of Agricultural Chemicals Re-evaluation		– (Re-evaluation in progress:1,208)

On-site inspections of agricultural chemicals manufacturers

FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of manufacturing plants of agricultural chemicals.

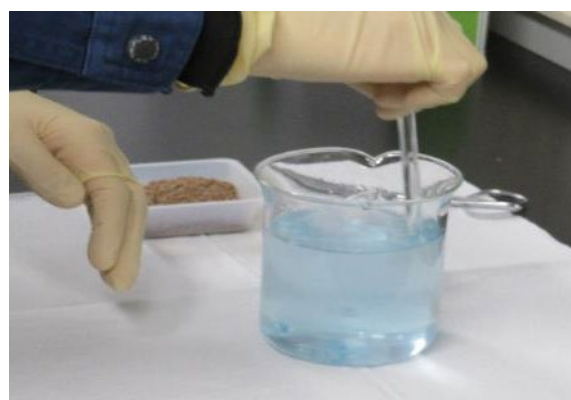
FAMIC confirms their production records and other related documents. In addition, FAMIC also inspects the quality and labels of the products collected from the sites.

Table 6. Achievement of Agricultural Chemicals Manufacturer On-Site Inspection

	FY 2023
Number of On-Site Inspections of Agricultural Chemicals Manufacturers	40
Number of Collected and Analyzed Samples	4



Application of pesticides in the supervised trial



Examination of the dissolution rate of water soluble bags of pesticides

GLP inspection of test facilities

The Japanese government adheres to the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) principles established by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

FAMIC is the responsible authority for GLP compliance monitoring program of agricultural chemicals in Japan.

Table 7. Achievement of GLP Inspections

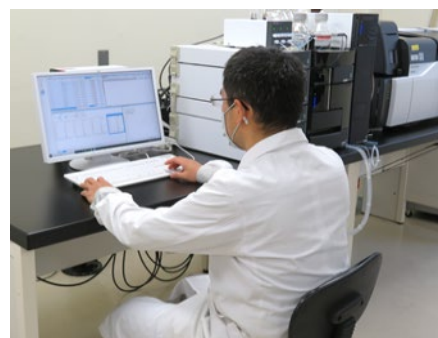
	FY 2023
Number of Laboratories Subject to GLP Inspection	20

Surveys on the current status of use and residue levels of agricultural chemicals at agricultural production sites

FAMIC conducts surveys on the current status of agricultural chemical use and their residue level in/on agricultural products collected at production sites.

Table 8. Details of Surveys on the Use and Residue Levels of Agricultural Chemicals

	FY 2023
Number of Samples Tested for Residue Levels of Agricultural Chemicals	475
Fruit and Vegetables	415
Rice	60



Scene of Agricultural Chemical Residue Analysis

Feed and Feed Additives Supervision

The safety and quality of feed and feed additives are ensured by the Feed Safety Act in order to prevent the production of harmful livestock products that may cause health problems due to the use of unsuitable feed etc.

FAMIC implements various operations related to the Act under the directions of MAFF.



On-site inspections of feed and feed additives manufacturers and importers



FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of feed and feed additives manufacturers and importers, and examines their production / import records and other documents to confirm if they are produced in accordance with the standards and the guidelines established by MAFF. FAMIC also collects samples of feed and feed additives for laboratory analyses to confirm if the amount of feed additives and harmful substances is kept at the defined level.

Table 9. Number of On-Site Inspections of Feed/Feed Additives Manufacturers/Importers

	FY 2023
Number of On-Site Inspections	294
Number of Collected and Analyzed Samples	258
out of which Technical Advice was Provided	4

Work related to prevention of BSE

FAMIC also conducts on-site inspections of manufacturers of animal-derived feed ingredients for the purpose of preventing Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

Table 10. Number of BSE-Prevention-Related On-Site Inspections

	FY 2023
Based on MAFF Ordinance	94
Based on MAFF Notification	32

On-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers

Under the Pet Food Safety Act, FAMIC conducts on-site inspections of pet food manufacturers and importers to examine their related documents such as production records and import records, and confirms if their products are in conformity with the standards set by

MAFF and the Ministry of the Environment.

FAMIC collects samples of pet food to confirm if the amount of additives and harmful substances is kept at the defined level.

Table 11. Number of On-Site Inspections of Pet Food Manufacturers/Importers

	FY 2023
Number of On-Site Inspections	62
Number of Collected and Analyzed Samples	110
out of which Technical Advice was Provided	0

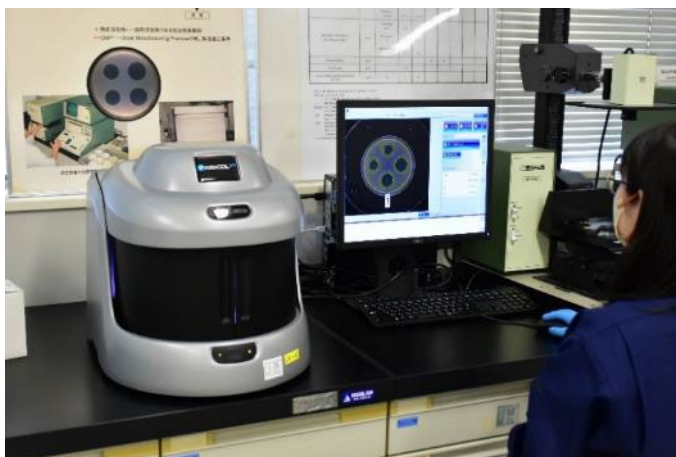
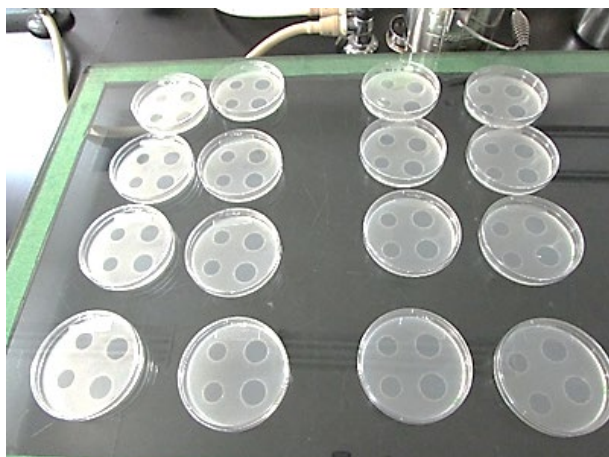
Official assay of feed additives

Manufacturers and importers of specified feed additives such as antibiotics are obliged to take an official assay conducted by FAMIC before they offer their products to the market. They will be exempted from the assay only if their manufacturing facilities have been registered by MAFF.

In response to the applications from feed additives manufacturers, etc., FAMIC conducts lot-based inspections and provides verification stickers to conforming additives.

Table 12. Number of Official Assays Conducted for Feed Additives

	FY 2023
Number of Official Assays Conducted for Feed Additives	103



Titer testing of antibiotic agents

Confirmation of GMP conformity of feed and feed additives

In response to applications from businesses such as feed production, FAMIC confirms the compliance of feeds with GMP guidelines by on-site inspections, and issues confirmation certificates if their conformity is verified.

Table 13. Number of GMP Conformity Assessment

	FY 2023
Number of GMP Conformity Assessment	97

Food Labeling Surveillance

The Food Labeling Act requires that all the food products on sale carry the proper food labeling according to the Food Labeling Standards.

Making use of scientific technology, FAMIC closely monitors food labeling in cooperation with MAFF.



Food labeling surveillance

FAMIC conducts scientific inspections on questionable food items, in response to the advice from consumers, to verify the authenticity of descriptions of labeling. The inspection methods include DNA analysis, element analysis, and stable isotope ratio analysis, etc. with reference to the label-described place of origin of food, species and variety of ingredients.

In the case of high possibility of false labeling, on-site inspections will be conducted by FAMIC under the instruction of MAFF.

FAMIC also develops the technologies for determining the geographical origin of ingredients in collaboration with research institutions.

Table 14. Achievement of Food Labeling Surveillance

	FY 2023
Number of On-Site Inspections instructed by MAFF	15
Number of Voluntary On-Site Inspections at the Request of MAFF	15
Number of Scientific Inspections of Food Labeling	5,680※
out of which place-of-origin cases	2,521
out of which GM food cases	258

※Of the total number of scientific inspections of food labeling, 74 were dubious.



Identifying place of origin of food ingredients using DNA analysis

Contribution to Japanese Agricultural Standards

In the "JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standard) system" based on the JAS Act, JAS marks can be put on agricultural, forestry and fishery products conforming to the JAS.

Businesses that want to display the JAS mark must obtain confirmation from accredited certification bodies that they comply with the standard. Producers and manufacturers can propose standards related to their business to MAFF in the system. In addition to the spread of JAS system, FAMIC conducts various tasks related to the system.



Development of JAS (enactment, amendment, confirmation, abolishment)

FAMIC encourages producers and manufacturers to propose ideas for JAS. The JAS are to be reviewed within five years after their enactment or previous

review in order to meet the changing needs of society.

FAMIC conducts and supports researches and studies related to review of the JAS.

Table 15. Contribution to JAS

	FY 2023
Cases where New or Revised Version of JAS were Drafted	71

Assessments of accredited certification bodies

FAMIC conducts assessments of applications submitted by domestic and overseas organizations seeking for accreditation as certification bodies, and reassessments of accredited certification bodies.

In addition, FAMIC audits their post-accreditation performance. The assessments and audits (e.g. document assessments, witnessing, on-site assessments) are conducted based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011.

Table 16. Achievement of Inspections of JAS Accredited Certification Bodies and Testing Business Operators

		FY 2023
Number of Surveys for Accreditation of Certification Bodies and Testing Business Operators	Survey for Accreditation & Renewal	11
	Survey for Changes	138
Number of Inspections Based on JAS Act	Number of On-Site Surveys for Accredited Certification Bodies	69
	Number of Surveys for Accredited Certification Bodies in Foreign Countries	14
	Number of Competence Surveys for Accredited Certification Bodies	325



A



B



C



D

Types of JAS Marks:

(A) General JAS (B) Organic JAS (C) Specific JAS (D) Testing Method JAS

JASaff's Accreditation Service

Japan Accreditation Service for agriculture, forestry and fisheries (JASaff) performs accreditation for product certification bodies in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as testing laboratories in the field of food complying with ISO/IEC 17011.



Table 17. Achievement of JASaff's Accreditation

	FY 2023
Number of Assessments of Certification Bodies or Testing Laboratories	5



2023 APAC Annual Meeting

Promotion of Export of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Food

The Act on Facilitating the Export of Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Products and Food plays a key role in the export of those products from Japan.

Based on the Act, FAMIC assesses (evaluates) applications submitted by organizations that seek for registration and their renewal.

In addition, FAMIC audits their post-registration performance through document assessments, witnessing and on-site inspections.

Table 18. Achievement of Inspection of Registered Certifying Bodies under the Act on Facilitating the Export of Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Products and Food

		FY 2023
Number of Surveys for Registration of Certifying Bodies	Survey for Registration & Renewal	0
	Survey for Changes	27

Analysis of Chemical Hazards to Facilitate Food Safety Risk Management

Risk management is an approach taken by MAFF to improve food safety and ensure consumers' health protection from chemical and microbiological hazards in food.

As an accredited testing laboratory under ISO/IEC 17025 for chemical hazard analysis, FAMIC conducts internationally reliable analytical tests and reports the results to MAFF.



Photo from MAFF

Analysis for risk management

Based on the “Surveillance/Monitoring Program” of MAFF, we conduct analytical tests of traces of chemical hazards such as heavy metals and mycotoxins in agricultural

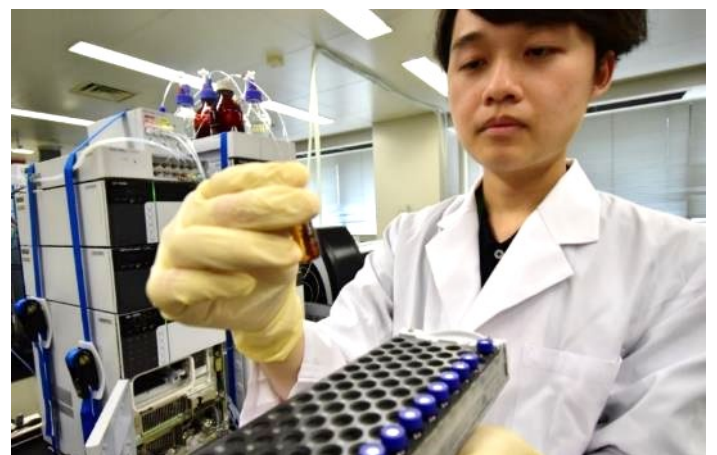
products and feed for their risk management, and report the results to MAFF.

Table 19. Analytical Tests Conducted for Surveillance and Monitoring

		FY 2023
Number of Tested Items	Mycotoxins in Wheat and Barley	850
	Pyrrrolizidine Alkaloids in Suizenjina	660
	Fungicide component in dried bonito, etc.	15
	3-MCPD fatty acid esters and glycidol fatty acid esters of edible vegetable oils and fats, infant formula, etc.	95



**Suizenjina (Okinawan spinach;
Gynura bicolor)**



Analysis by using LC-MS-MS

International Relations Work

FAMIC serves as a national mirror committee for International Organization for Standardization (ISO). We implement operations related to international harmonization of registration systems for agricultural chemicals.

Furthermore, we provide international cooperation to foreign countries.



National mirror committee for ISO

As a national mirror committee for the Technical Committees (TC) and Sub Committees (SC) of ISO shown in the table, FAMIC incorporates Japanese perspective and comments to have them reflected to ISO standards. We also attend meetings as a part of the Japanese delegation.

ISO/TC34	Food Products
ISO/TC34/SC10	Animal Feeding Stuffs
ISO/TC34/SC12	Sensory Analysis
ISO/TC34/SC16	Horizontal Methods for Molecular Biomarker Analysis
ISO/TC34/SC17	Management Systems for Food Safety
ISO/TC89/SC3	Plywood
ISO/TC218	Timber

Table 20. Achievement in International- Standard-Related Activities

	FY 2023
Number of ISO Japanese Mirror Committee Meetings Convened	4
Number of ISO Projects FAMIC is Participating in Their Development and/or Revision	42
out of which Already Published as ISO Documents	10
Number of Participated ISO Meetings (incl. Web Meetings)	19 Times
Participation in Codex Japanese Meeting	12 Times

International effort on the proper management of agricultural chemicals

FAMIC participates in OECD meetings and contributes to the international harmonization of registration systems for agricultural chemicals.

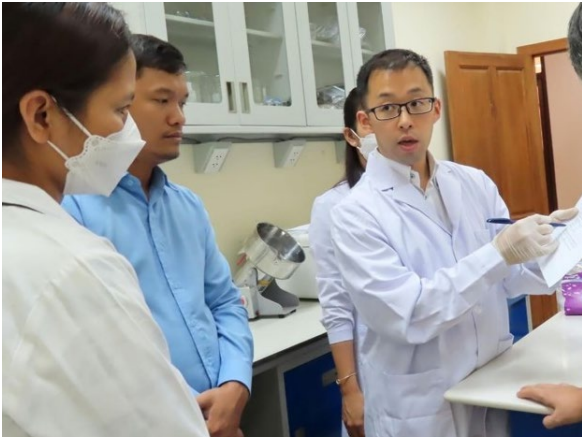
We also take part in the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residue (CCPR) to work on the establishment of maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticides in foods and animal feed.



Meeting of OECD Working Group on GLP

FY 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · FAMIC reviewed the draft of OECD Guidance Document on Agricultural Chemicals from technical viewpoints, and forwarded the result to MAFF in FY 2023. · Four FAMIC staff members attended the 8th OECD Expert Group on Biopesticide (EGBP) meetings to discuss issues related to international harmonization of testing requirements for biopesticides. · FAMIC fielded two staff members to the annual meeting of Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council Limited (CIPAC) to discuss on international harmonization regarding the establishment of pesticide standards, formulation analytical methods, etc. · Invited by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), one FAMIC staff member was dispatched to a workshop on the implementation of the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) System hosted by APEC. The staff member shared with workshop participants an overview of the GLP system for pesticides and the advantages of participating in the MAD system.

International cooperation



Technical support for agricultural chemical residue analysis in Cambodia

In response to the requests from MAFF, etc., FAMIC sends its staff overseas as technical experts, and receives trainees from foreign countries.

Table 21. Record of Dispatch and Acceptance of Personnel

	FY 2023
Requests from MAFF or other organizations to assign FAMIC staff or receive trainees from foreign countries	Dispatched one expert, received trainees from foreign countries two times

Collaborating Centre for WOA

FAMIC has been designated as the world's first Collaborating Centre of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) in the field of feed safety and analysis, and has been contributing to their activities through the provision of expertise, and supporting the development of standards in the field of animal feed safety and analysis.

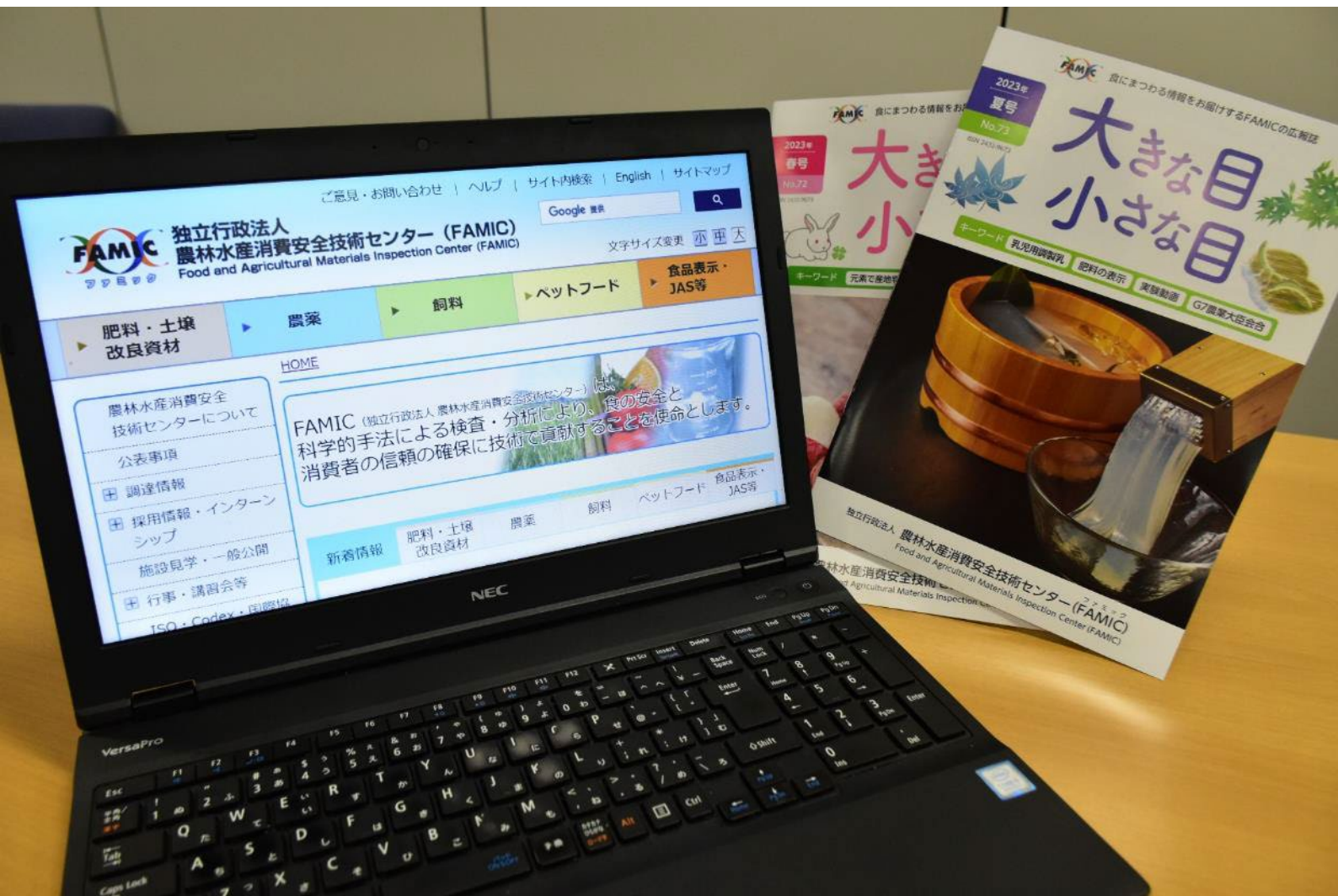


FY 2023

In FY2023, FAMIC published the summary of its feed research reports as well as test results of specified feed additives in Japanese and English on its website. In addition, FAMIC requested reports on the status of feed testing in each country from member countries of the laboratory network and compiled the results. FAMIC summarized its activities in 2023 in an annual report, and submitted it to WOA.

At the request of National Agricultural products Quality Management Service of Korea, FAMIC explained and exchanged opinions on the safety and quality control of Japanese feeds and FAMIC's role in these matters, as well as the procedures for confirming the safety of genetically modified feeds in Japan.

Others



Communicating the information of food and agricultural materials

FAMIC provides the information of food, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and feed via seminar, website, telephone consultation, public relations magazine and mail magazine.

We also accept visitors for our guided facility tours throughout the year, and introduce FAMIC's work outlines to them.

Table 22. Information Service

	FY 2023
Information Provision through Website, etc.	462,887 Accesses
Assignment of Lecturers in Response to Requests from Businesses, etc.	54 Assignments
Organization of Seminars, etc.	16 Times



Ensuring Reliability

Based on the concept of ISO/IEC 17025, FAMIC adheres to the inspection and technical management conformed to the standard documents. FAMIC has established the quality assurance system appropriate for the purpose of its analysis work.

Furthermore, in order to ensure the viability of such system, FAMIC has been working on the application for the third party accreditation of ISO/IEC 17025 and the self-declaration of conformity by FAMIC itself.

Table 23. Ensuring FAMIC's Inspection and Analysis Reliability

	FY 2023
Participation in External Proficiency Tests	11 Times

FAMIC maintained the following laboratory accreditation in FY 2023:

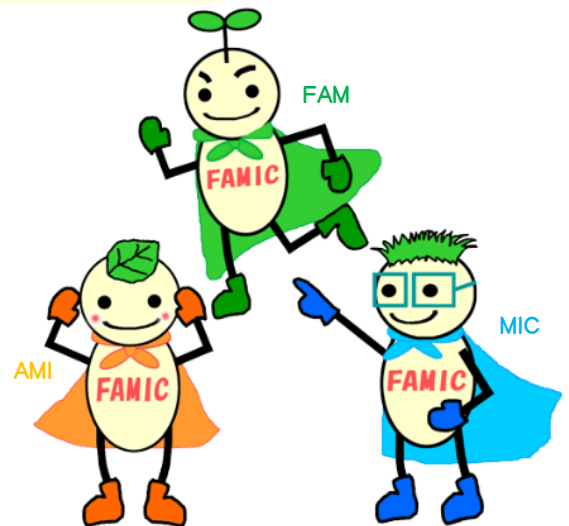
- LC-MS/MS-Based Quantification Test of Fusarium Toxins in Wheat and Barley
- Qualitative Test of Recombinant DNA in Soybeans and Soybean-Processed Products
- Quantitative Test of Mycotoxins (16 Varieties) in Corn by LC-MS/MS
- Detection Test of Mammal-Derived DNA, Ruminant-Derived DNA, Bovine-Derived DNA, Cervid-Derived DNA in Feed using Thermal Cycler based on Chapter 16 of Feed Analysis Standard

FAMIC Poster Children

Close trio from Saitama City

FAM **AMI** **MIC**

They represent the image of FAMIC that ensures food safety and consumers' reliance.



/FAMIC Official Facebook



/FAMIC Official X



FAMIC Official YouTube channel

