

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: MAFF Releases Interim Report on Green Food System Strategy

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Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

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Report Highlights:

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) is developing a green food system strategy for agricultural, forestry, and fishery supply chains, with a 2050 timeline for implementation. Through the initiative, MAFF aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to zero, reduce pesticide and fertilizer use, convert 25 percent of arable land to organic production, and achieve a number of other sustainability targets. The strategy also calls for importers, both government and private sector, to prioritize suppliers that account for sustainability in their supply chains. MAFF recently published an interim report summarizing implementation strategies and key targets, but plans to roll out additional information throughout 2021, including at the United Nations Food Systems Summit in September.

Green Food System Strategy

On March 29, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) released an interim report on its sector-wide initiative to improve environmental, social, and economic outcomes throughout supply chains by 2050. Following a public comment period between March 30 and April 12, MAFF will finalize and publish the final report in May 2021. In December 2020, MAFF established the Green Food System Strategy Headquarters, led by the MAFF Minister, to formulate and implement this effort.

The strategy, "MeaDRI¹" (Measures for Achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation) includes targets for carbon dioxide emission reduction, chemical fertilizer and pesticide application reductions, expansion of organic production, and enhancing the productivity of food manufacturers (See Table 1). MeaDRI also calls for the government and private sector importers to identify and source, changing suppliers if necessary, imports of sustainably produced ingredients. The MeaDRI strategy includes a road map for developing innovative technologies and production systems by 2040, with implementation scheduled for 2050.

Implementation of MeaDRI will also advance two other goals set out by Prime Minister Suga, for Japan to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to increase food and agricultural exports by 500 percent by 2030, for more on exports see [JA2020-0201](#). MAFF plans to present MeaDRI as a sustainable food system model for the Asia Monsoon Region at the United Nations Food Systems Summit in September 2021.

MAFF has not announced associated funding for MeaDRI but has indicated it will expand current and introduce new support payments to achieve these outcomes starting with the Japan Fiscal Year (JFY) 2022 annual budget. MAFF's 2021 budget includes 138.7 billion yen (USD \$1.28 billion) for climate change related research and support payments for the agricultural, forestry, and fishery sectors.

MAFF will work towards the "greening of policy measures" through MeaDRI, including a prioritization of support payments for farmers, foresters, fishermen, and food manufacturers that implement carbon neutral and sustainable practices. By 2040, MAFF will require implementation of sustainable practices as a condition for receiving support payments.

Industry Support

Prior to the release of the MeaDRI interim report, MAFF held feedback sessions with 20 stakeholder groups, including JA Zenchu (Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives), Zen-Noh (National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations), Japan Agricultural Corporations Association, individual farmers, food manufacturers, fertilizer and pesticide manufacturers, agricultural machinery makers, organic farming groups, fishermen's group, and forestry groups. In general, stakeholders expressed support for MeaDRI as an initiative for setting a course for Japanese agriculture and expressed their intention to work towards meeting the MeaDRI goals in their respective sectors.

¹ – Pronounced *midori*, which means green in Japanese. MAFF also refers to this initiative as the Green Food System Strategy.

Table 1: MeaDRI Targets and Implementation Technologies for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery Sectors

Subject	2030 Targets	Implementation Measures
Food Loss	50% reduction in food loss from the food industry (from 2000 levels)	Information and Communication Technology to better understand market demand; New ingredients.
Food Production	30% increase in productivity of food production (from 2018 levels)	Increase automation in food production with AI and robots.
Food Ingredient Imports	Food producers import sustainably produced ingredients	Government and private sector promote changes to suppliers who supply ingredients in consideration of sustainability; Promote Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investment.
Food Distribution	10% reduction in distribution costs for food and drinks wholesalers	Streamline distribution systems, consolidate stock points, and promote shift away from carbon intensive transportation.
Maximize Timber Carbon Storage	Planting of elite tree seedlings to account for 30% of forests by 2030 (90% by 2050)	Establish construction technologies for high-rise wooden structures; Promote use of wood and wood biomass.
Fish Catches	Increase fish catches to 4.44 million MT (equivalent to 2010 levels)	Improve research and assessment of fish resources and promote Total Allowable Catch (TAQ) and Individual Quotas (IQ).
Agricultural Machinery	Develop electric/hydrogen powered heavy machinery (2040 Target)	Electric/Hydrogen tractors; Affordable rechargeable batteries and fuel cells.
Subject	2050 Targets	Implementation Technologies
GHG Emissions	Zero carbon dioxide emissions	Solar power generators; Energy-efficient horticultural facilities.
Chemical Pesticides	50% reduction in application	Precision application; RNA-interference pesticides.
Chemical Fertilizers	30% reduction in application	Soil health analysis using AI; Improved fertilizer efficiency.
Organic Agriculture	25% of total arable land (1 million hectare)	Pest control system using lights and sounds; Improved disease resistance.
Horticultural Facilities	Eliminate fossil fuels in greenhouses	High-speed heat pumps; Efficient heat storage.

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Attachments:

No Attachments.