

FSC opinion exchange meetings

Previously, FSC has held 386 opinion exchange meetings (March 2010, occasionally co-hosted with other agencies).

Followings are the key themes of past meetings:

- BSE countermeasures in Japan,
- Methylmercury in seafood,
- Genetically modified foods (GMO),
- Cadmium consumption from food,
- Food-borne pathogenic microorganisms,
- 'Foods for specified health uses' with soy-isoflavones,
- Food derived from somatic cell cloned livestock,
- Beef/beef offal imported from countries with no BSE reports.



Science cafe

○ Opinion exchange meetings co-hosted by FSC and local governments

Some opinion exchange meetings are held by co-host of FSC and other agencies including local governments. Under this scheme, FSC has held workshops and small casual meetings. In fiscal 2009, partly supported by local governments and local risk communicators who completed specialized lectures given by FSC. In addition, FSC sends Commissioners as a lecturer to local governments or other stakeholders' meetings to give seminars about roles and basic idea of risk assessment by FSC.

○ Food Safety Hotline

Food Safety Hotline was set up as a tool for general public to gain information on or express their opinions about food safety. Among the information communicated through this hot line, frequently asked questions and their answers are gathered and posted on the website to help the understanding of general public. In fiscal 2009, a total of 655 calls were made through this hot line. Among the received questions, the major topics included somatic cell-cloned cattle and edible oil containing high diacylglycerol.

○ Food Safety Monitors

This monitor system was created by FSC to gather wide variety of food safety-related information through daily lives of 470 citizens chosen as 'food safety monitors'. Their tasks include submitting comments on risk management policies of their living areas, periodically answering to the monitoring questionnaire by FSC, and communicating important information from FSC to their locals. Through this system, FSC can generally recognize public awareness of and concerns about food safety. Calls for new monitors are annual basis and made commonly around January through February.