

Food Safety Commission of Japan (FSCJ) Annual Work Program for Fiscal Year 2025

March 2025

1. FSCJ's Administrative Policy for FY2025

The Food Safety Commission of Japan (hereinafter referred to as “FSCJ”) remains dedicated to fulfill its mission by prioritizing public health protection within its jurisdiction, adhering to the basic principles and policy direction outlined in the Food Safety Basic Act (Act No.48 of 2003) and “Basic matters stipulated under Article 21, paragraph (1)” (the Cabinet Decision on June 29, 2012). The FSCJ continues to enhance its operations.

2. FSCJ's Key Activities

(1) Commission meeting

As a standard practice, the FSCJ holds weekly committees in public on a date determined by the FSCJ Chairperson in consultation with other commissioners. Additionally, extraordinary meetings shall be held for urgent and high-priority matters.

(2) Expert Committee: Planning and Retrospective review

The Expert Committee shall be held to discuss FSCJ's FY2024 achievements and FY2026 plan. The discussion schedule is as follows.

● June, 2025

- FSCJ **FY2024 Annual Report**
- Selection process of FY 2025 “Self-tasking” risk assessments

● November, 2025

- **Progress report** of activity performance described in **FY2025 Annual Work Program**
- Selection of candidates of FY2025 “Self-tasking” risk assessments (First)

● January, 2026

- FSCJ **FY2026 Annual Work Program**
- Selection of candidates of FY2025 “Self-tasking” risk assessments (Second-Final selection)
- Effectiveness of FY2025 Food Safety Emergency drill

FY2026 Food Safety Emergency drill plan

(3) Expert Committee: Risk assessment

Expert Committee is held to conduct risk assessment.

To enhance research and discussions for addressing topics that exceed the scope of existing expert committees and require the involvement of other expert committees, the following measures are taken:

- i. Under the FSCJ, Working Groups will be set up as equivalent to the Expert Committees on relevant issues.
- ii. Expert committees and other relevant meetings may invite members from other expert committees for research and discussion process.
- iii. Joint-expert Committees and other relevant meetings can be convened to address cross-sectional topics.

(4) Enhancing cooperation between the commissioners and Expert committees

To facilitate efficient research and discussions in the Expert committees and other relevant meetings, commissioners attend all Expert Committee meetings as a general rule to provide information and advice.

(5) Enhancing cooperation with risk management organizations

In light of the transfer of food sanitation standards administration from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) to the Consumer Affairs Agency in April 2024, cooperation with relevant risk management organizations¹ will be strengthened through liaison conferences. The goal is to maintain harmonized food safety measures across these organizations.

(6) Steps taken by the FSCJ to promote digital transformation (DX)

In order to contribute to the efficiency of risk assessment process and the improvement of assessment methodologies, the FSCJ will promote developing a database of food safety risk assessment reports and toxicity assessment results, based on the research on data items.

¹ Risk management organizations include the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA).

To streamline the information collection process through digital technology, the FSCJ will advance the practical application of machine translation such as AI in line with the results of demonstration studies undertaken in FY2024.

Additionally, the Government Solutions Service (GSS), introduced to the Cabinet Office in FY 2023, will be leveraged to improve operational efficiency for diet affairs and risk assessment report.

(7) Enhancing FSCJ's Governance

To facilitate risk assessment process, necessary financial/human resources and organizational structure will be [optimized](#).²

3. Conducting Risk Assessment

3.1 Consistent performance of risk assessments in response to requests by risk management organizations

The FSCJ conducts risk assessments in an objective, neutral and impartial manner, drawing upon the most current scientific knowledge.

(1) Risk assessments requested to the FSCJ from risk management organizations

The FSCJ will promptly conduct scheduled research and discussions and publish risk assessment reports based on the content of evaluation requests, unless additional information for evaluation is required due to other specific reasons.

Specifically, in response to the reevaluation request on **pesticides initiated in October 2022**, the FSCJ will conduct evaluations based on the latest scientific standards. These evaluations will cover a variety of test data and references from published scientific literature.

(2) Risk assessments requested to the FSCJ via risk management organizations in response to applications submitted from industries

Research and discussions will take place as scheduled so that risk assessment results can be notified within the standard processing period (one year excluding the time required for submission of

² [Food Safety Commission of Japan \(FSCJ\)](#) will be relocated from Akasaka to Toranomom in December, 2025.

additional data) based on the “Standard Processing Period for Risk Assessment of the Effect of Food on Health Regarding Applications Submitted from Industries” (FSCJ decision dated July 16, 2009).

(3) Risk assessments in accordance with the introduction of “Positive List” of apparatus, containers and packaging

The FSCJ will plan research and discussions in accordance with the “Guideline for the Risk Assessment of Food Apparatus, Containers, and Packaging”(FSCJ’s decision of May 28, 2019, published in English) and the “Basic Principles for Risk Assessment of Existing Substances of Food Apparatus, Containers and Packaging” (FSCJ’s decision of March 1, 2025).

(4) Application of the Benchmark Dose methodology and (Quantitative) Structure Activity Relationship ((Q)SAR))

In FY2024, the FSCJ established the assessment support teams for the application primarily by the assessment methodology planning working group members and will undertake research and discussions in close cooperation with each expert committee leveraging the teams.

3.2 Formulating Guidelines for Risk Assessment

Guidelines (assessment procedures and methodology) will be developed and periodically revised to ensure consistency across risk assessments and to enhance transparency and efficiency of the research and discussion process.

In accordance with the approach discussed at the assessment methodology planning working group held in August, 2024, the FSCJ will continue to examine long-term issues related to risk assessments and policies to respond to the new assessment methodologies. Furthermore, the FSCJ will sort out the issues related to exposure assessment of chemical substances through food and create technical document aiming at appropriate exposure assessments in compliance with international standards.

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3.3 Promotion of “Self-tasking” Risk Assessment

(1) Selection of candidates for the “Self-tasking” risk assessment

Candidates for the FY2025 “Self-tasking” risk assessments will be selected based on the criteria outlined in the “Items required for documents submitted to the Expert Committee for Self-tasking Risk Assessment” (FSCJ decision dated May 27, 2004) and the “Stance of the Expert Committee on Planning and Coordination for selecting candidates of hazard items for Self-tasking risk assessment by the FSCJ” (FSCJ decision dated June 17, 2004). The selection schedule is as follows.

- June 2025: Discussion at Expert Committee – Selection process of “Self-tasking” risk assessment activities
- July 2025: Request opinions from the general public via web
- August – October, 2025: Listing candidate activities for “Self-tasking” by FSCJ secretariat
- November, 2025: Discussion at Expert Committee (First selection)
- January, 2026: Discussion at Expert Committee (Second selection) -Decision of candidates
- February, 2026: Discussion at the FSCJ – candidate activities for “Self-tasking”, other decision (i.e. information dissemination)
- March, 2026: Discussion at the FSCJ – Decision of “Self-tasking” activities referring to the collected opinions and information.

(2) Publication of “Self-tasking” risk assessment outcomes

Once “Self-tasking” risk assessments are completed, the FSCJ will provide relevant information to the public through suitable channels, including opinion exchange meetings and online platforms such as Facebook, tailored to specific recipients.

Information will be shared through FSCJ’s website, Facebook, or other channels based on decisions made (grounded in relevant data) during the selection process of “Self-tasking” risk assessments.

4. Monitoring Risk Management Strategies

4.1 FSCJ’s monitoring on actions taken by risk management organizations (MHLW, MAFF, CAA)

The FSCJ notifies its results of risk assessments to risk management organizations. Referring to such results, those organizations should review their current strategies to update necessary measures on food safety. In order to monitor the organizations’ actions, the FSCJ will plan research in **October, 2025** for the risk assessment results notified from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

4.2 Activity reports from monitors on food safety

The FSCJ will request food safety monitors to provide their opinions and suggestions of the risk management strategies that were developed based on the results of risk assessments. Their reports will be used as reference materials to formulate recommendations and opinions to the risk management organizations.

Additionally, a food safety awareness survey will be implemented to monitors, around **February 2026**.

5. Promotion of Study and Research Projects to Ensure Food Safety

Studies and research will take place sequentially in alignment with the “Strategic direction for promoting study and research to ensure food safety” (FSCJ decision dated December 16, 2010) (hereinafter referred to as “the Roadmap”).

Under the revised “the Roadmap”, study and research will be implemented focusing on the following three pillars for conducting more precise and consistent risk assessments as new hazards emerge and are recognized, and reasonable assessment necessary in the case of unconventional methodology such as new assessment indicators and lack of existing data:

- (1) Accumulation of scientific knowledge on characteristic and exposure of new and existing hazards for risk assessments
- (2) Establishment of a new assessment methodology based on the mechanism of health effects
- (3) Development of collaboration and infrastructure to support improvement of risk assessments of health effects

Given the above pillars, the FSCJ will implement study and research projects strategically as planned, and utilize their outcome for risk assessment of health effects.

5.1 Promoting study program for risk assessment on food safety

- (1) Implementing post-evaluation of study projects completed in **FY2024**

A post-evaluation will be implemented for study projects completed in the previous fiscal year.

Additionally, a study results presentation meeting will be held, and the findings will be published on the FSCJ website.

- Implementation of Post-evaluation (July -September, 2025)
- Reporting to the FSCJ (September, 2025)
- Presentation of study results (December 2025– March 2026)

(2) Study projects for FY2025

The mid-term evaluation of study projects for FY2025 will be carried out.

In line with this mid-term evaluation, the advice should be given to the chief researchers to modify the study plan as required.

- Submission due for outcome of study projects (mid-term report) (November, 2025)
- Implementation of mid-term evaluation (December, 2025)
- Decision of the FSCJ (February-March, 2026)

(3) Selection of study projects for risk assessment on food safety

Pertaining to the Study Projects for Risk Assessment on Food Safety for **FY2026**, the FSCJ will prioritize study subjects based on the Roadmap. The FSCJ will publicly solicit study subjects, followed by screening, according to the following schedule.

- Decision of priority study projects for FY2026 (September, 2025)
- Study project application (October, 2025)
- Screening of applications (November-December, 2025)
- Interview (January, 2026)
- Selection of study project candidates and coordination with research project
(January – February, 2026)
- Decision of the FSCJ to select new study projects (February- March, 2026)

This approach ensures selection of essential subjects that require risk assessment. Upon soliciting, the projects will be widely disseminated to researchers affiliated with relevant institutions including universities. The meeting proceedings for the selection will be disclosed.

Further, the FSCJ will work to select study projects in which young researchers play leading roles in accordance with the Roadmap.

(4) Ensuring appropriate accounting

In order to ensure proper fund management, the FSCJ will monitor research institutions' implementation status in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards)" (as determined by the Director-General of FSCJ, Cabinet Office, dated September 17, 2021).

(5) Collaboration with relevant ministries and organizations

The FSCJ will participate in meetings with officials responsible of relevant domestic ministries to exchange opinions about competitive fund management. The FSCJ will also review research regulations when necessary and organize the "Liaison Meeting to promote study for Food Safety" (arrangement between relevant ministries and agencies dated January 31, 2005) to enhance collaboration and policy coordination among relevant government organizations for efficient research.

5.2 Promoting research program to ensure food safety

(1) Selection of projects for the research program on food safety

Projects covered by the Research Program on Food Safety for FY2026 will be prioritized based on the Roadmap, ensuring that essential subjects for conducting risk assessments will be selected. The selection process will follow the schedule.

- Decision of priority research projects for FY2026 (September, 2025)
- Selection of research project candidates and coordination with study project

(January – February, 2026)

- Decision of the FSCJ (February 2026)

Additionally, public bidding shall be widely disseminated to research institutions.

(2) Implementation of the research program on food safety

Regarding the subjects selected for the Research Program on Food Safety, their implementation plans will be publicly notified and updated by posts on the FSCJ website and others. Their outcomes will be publicized, unless they contain information unsuitable for disclosure such as personal information or intellectual property.

5.3 Follow-up of FSCJ's study and research programs

Follow-up will be undertaken to make sure the significance of the projects, policy justification, and effective utilization of research and study programs on risk assessments.

6. Promoting Risk Communication and Disseminating Information

The FSCJ aims to build trust and understanding among diverse stakeholders, including consumers, government bodies, the media, industry and experts in the field. Additionally, the FSCJ seeks to enhance awareness of its role as a risk assessment organization by promoting risk communication and sharing relevant information through tailored channels for different audiences.

The actions 6.1 to 6.4 will be taken in line with the following pillars.

- Share relevant scientific information and exchange opinions concerning risk assessments conducted by the FSCJ with communicators involved in food safety, including media representatives, local government officials and food industry operators as appropriate.

(The FSCJ will further strengthen cooperation with the Consumer Affairs Agency and other risk management organizations. In particular, in line with the “Further strengthening cooperation between the Consumer Affairs Agency and the FSCJ to promote risk communication of food safety risk management” published in January 2025, the FSCJ will proactively cooperate and be involved in risk communication related to food safety risk management led by the Consumer Affairs Agency by providing scientific knowledge, and sending commissioners.)

- While clarifying the intended audience including pregnant women, parents of infants, elementary and junior/high school students and consumers in general, provide information with the materials designed for secondary use.
- Provide scientific data, diagrams and other materials that local governments can disseminate so that they can proactively communicate with local residents and businesses.

6.1 Disseminating information through multiple channels

The most appropriate channels are selected when sharing the latest scientific findings concerning food safety, including outcome of risk assessments and information abroad.

(1) FSCJ website

The FSCJ website is designed to serve individuals seeking food safety information via web searches or social media. Its content encompasses the results of FSCJ's risk assessments, schedules for the Commission meeting, the Expert Committee and opinion exchange meetings, and contains the latest discoveries related to food safety. Moreover, the website features tailored content aimed at specific target audience, including pregnant women, parents of infants, and elementary and junior/high school students. The website will undergo content reviews and structural updates to enhance readability and facilitate seamless access to the desired information.

(2) Social media and related channels

From the perspective of disseminating information about the FSCJ, a variety of communication platforms, including social media and online newsletters in Japanese are utilized. These platforms efficiently cater to different types of users and their optimal and combined use is designed to proactively share information.

i. Facebook

The FSCJ maintains an official Facebook account tailored for followers with an interest in and/or a certain level of expertise in food safety-related information. The content featured on this page includes updates on FSCJ's activities, health incidents that require intervention, and seasonal articles. These articles are crafted with the understanding that they may be widely shared with an audience beyond the account's existing followers.

ii. Online newsletter

For individuals who have registered for the online newsletter and possess a keen interest in food safety, the FSCJ newsletter provides updates on the Commission meeting, the Expert Committees

and opinion exchange meetings.

Additionally, timely and accurate information related to food safety is disseminated, particularly during emergency situations.

iii. Blog

For individuals seeking source information from links posted on search engines and X (formerly known as Twitter), the FSCJ blog provides access to detailed and in-depth information on food safety. Serving as an informational hub, the blog archives a wealth of food safety content on Facebook including date of posts. This stored information can readily be redistributed via X when the opportunity arises.

iv. YouTube

For individuals who frequently search for video and audio content, the search and recommendation functions on YouTube allow retention of viewership. FSCJ's video content, which includes recordings of opinion exchange meetings and popular short reels among consumers, will be stored on FSCJ's YouTube account. The information will be disseminated via X or Facebook.

v. X

X is a platform widely used for gathering information by many people, including members of the press, where the information is often spread. This platform leverages its advantage to disseminate information on preventing food poisoning, engaging food-related topics, timely subjects and urgent matters, while also raising awareness of FSCJ activities.

(3) Developing FSCJ's annual magazine, brochure, posters and educational materials

The FSCJ compiles its annual magazine called "Food Safety", which highlights FSCJ's activities throughout the year. This magazine is then disseminated widely to the public. Additionally, the FSCJ distributes published brochures "Food Safety Commission of Japan" and "Kids' Box Highlights" during opinion exchange meetings and events for kids.

To enhance understanding of FSCJ's activities, posters illustrating the organization's risk analysis and assessment approaches are presented at academic conferences.

Furthermore, the FSCJ encourages professionals involved in education to utilize its materials at schools.

(4) Glossary of food safety

FSCJ's glossary on food safety, which provides definitions for technical terms and explanations of basic food safety concepts, will be periodically updated online.

This glossary is available both online and in paper booklet form, aiming to promote a better understanding of risk assessment.

6.2 Raising awareness on scientific knowledge of “Food Safety”

The following activities will be undertaken with the objective of raising awareness and understanding on scientific knowledge of food safety among consumers.

(1) Lecture FSCJ's risk assessment

The FSCJ will organize an open lecture titled “Advanced Lecture: Risk Assessment” for the purpose of gaining better understanding of risk assessment and risk profiles which serve as the foundation of effective risk management. The target audience are food-related business operators and administrative officials who are responsible for taking necessary measures to ensure food safety. Researchers in the field of food safety are also part of the intended audience.

(2) Opinion exchange meetings and dispatching lecturers

Meetings and seminars will be held with local governments, consumer organizations, academic institutions, professional associations, business groups and school stakeholders. The theme and format of these activities (dialogues, lectures and booth exhibits, etc.) will be determined based on the target audience, with a focus on disseminating scientific knowledge about food safety and enhancing understanding of risk assessments.

In addition, undertaking risk communication in cooperation with the Consumer Affairs Agency and other risk management organizations, the FSCJ will enthusiastically cooperate with them by providing scientific knowledge gained from the completed food safety risk assessments, sending commissioners and recommending professionals from networks of scientists in various respective fields of expertise.

(3) Accepting educational excursions

The FSCJ is open to receiving educational excursions for students interested in food safety system from elementary, junior and high schools as well as universities.

(4) Food safety dial

Information obtained from consumers via FSCJ's food safety dial, as well as hazard information received from food safety monitors, serves as primary information on risks, consumer opinions and concerns. These insights are shared with risk management organizations with the goal of securing food safety and improving risk communication. In addition, the FSCJ provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) from consumers on food safety dial through various channels, including the official website and Facebook.

6.3 Enhancing liaisons with related organizations

(1) Establishing liaisons with risk management organizations

As a standard practice, the FSCJ holds bi-weekly "Risk communication Liaison Conferences for Concerned Government Organizations." These conferences aim to exchange information and align viewpoints. They will ensure that all involved parties share a common understanding of food safety based on scientific evidence, which serves as the foundation to disseminate consistent information.

In addition, in light of the transfer of food hygiene standard administration to the Consumer Affairs Agency in April of 2024, the FSCJ will strengthen cooperation with this agency furthermore through providing scientific knowledge and sending commissioners to risk communication for food safety risk management led by the Consumer Affairs Agency.

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(2) Establishing liaisons with local governments

To enhance information exchange, the FSCJ will strengthen existing relationship with food safety personnels at local government levels. This strategic approach aims to facilitate the effective dissemination of scientific knowledge among stakeholders in both the education sector and food businesses (as referenced in above 6.2 (2)).

Furthermore, the FSCJ will facilitate effective risk communication by organizing liaison conferences with local governments, in which risk communication initiatives will be shared.

(3) Establishing liaisons with consumer, business and related professional organizations (setting up a system allowing efficient informational exchange)

The FSCJ will forge stronger connections with consumer, business and professional groups in the field of food safety, establishing a framework for efficient information exchange among these stakeholders.

Specifically, when dispatching lecturers, the needs and preferences of the hosts will be prioritized, facilitating food safety information exchange among broader stakeholders.

(4) Information exchange with members of the media

Through liaison conferences, the FSCJ will create a framework to strategically share scientifically grounded food safety information with the media to raise awareness of FSCJ's activities and deliver scientific knowledge to the public. Subsequently, ongoing dialogue with media personnel will be maintained.

(5) Liaison activities with academia

Strengthening academic connections is crucial for advancing food safety research in Japan, disseminating scientific knowledge, and further inviting experts to the FSCJ. Specifically, the FSCJ will organize lectures and participate in lectures and booth exhibits at academic conferences in the prioritized fields .

6.4. Others

The FSCJ will undertake preliminary research to establish measures for grasping the changes of public awareness for food safety. This will contribute to promoting evidence-based risk communication

7. Emergency Response

7.1 Emergency response

In the event of food safety emergencies, the FSCJ collaborates closely with relevant governmental organizations, to promptly share accurate scientific findings regarding the toxicity of hazardous substances. This information is provided to relevant ministries, organizations and the public in accordance with the “Guidelines for FSCJ’s Emergency Response” (FSCJ decision dated April 21, 2005).

7.2 Preparedness in response to food safety emergencies

The FSCJ prioritizes preparedness for food safety emergencies by maintaining information sharing system, gathering and organizing scientific data and conducting emergency training in accordance



with the aforementioned emergency response guideline. Additionally, the Expert Committee reviews post-incident response management through scrutinizing actual measurers for emergency and internal emergency training exercises. Lessons learned (issues and suggestions for improvement) from these measures and exercises may be incorporated into the emergency response guideline.

7.3 Food safety emergency drill

The FSCJ will conduct a emergency response training providing the basic procedure knowledge to field-level personnel sometime between **April and November**. Additionally, in collaboration with the Consumer Affairs Agency, which oversees emergency response management, an emergency drill will take place around **December**. The goal is to verify the effectiveness of the emergency response plan and to enhance the hands-on skills of those in charge.

8. Collecting, Organizing and Utilizing Food Safety Information

The FSCJ provides science-based information on food safety to the **Japanese** public. This information is collected from publications of international organizations, domestic and overseas governmental agencies and academic journals on a daily basis. This is also promptly shared with risk management organizations and accumulated in the “Integrated Information System on Food Safety,” a database on the FSCJ website.

From a mid- to long- term perspective, in order to find future issues related to food safety in Japan as early as possible, the FSCJ will work to improve the classification of information and will deepen discussions with the aim of clarifying the necessary perspectives and information to conduct risk assessments.

Additionally, to maximize expertise on food safety particularly in risk assessment and emergency response, the FSCJ will strengthen its relationship with experts and professional organizations to enhance information exchange.

9. Promoting International Collaboration and Disseminating FSCJ’s publications overseas

The FSCJ will undertake the following activities to contribute to the global community, advance scientific knowledge and strengthen its ties and cooperation with overseas organizations.

9.1 Sending FSCJ commissioners and secretariat staff to attend international meetings

FSCJ’s commissioners, Expert Committee members, and secretariat staff will participate in the following meetings (including online meetings):

June 2025	The 18 th Session of Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)
July	Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP 2025)
September	Global Summit on Regulatory Science (GSRS2025)
February 2026	The 41 th Session of the OECD Pesticide Working Group
March	Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology (SOT)

In addition to those listed above, commissioners may be dispatched to international meetings including the subcommittees of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

9.2 Inviting researchers from abroad

The FSCJ will invite researchers and experts engaged in food safety from abroad to enhance the scientific knowledge necessary for food safety policies. Additionally, information exchange will be promoted by online conferences, etc.

9.3 Strengthening ties with food safety organizations abroad

To enhance cooperation with international organizations focused on food safety, the FSCJ will engage in information exchange related to risk assessment through online conferences and e-mails. Additionally, both online and offline meetings will be held as needed to strengthen collaboration with partners such as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority (ASAE), the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). The FSCJ also aims to establish information exchange and cooperation with other foreign government agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as food safety agencies in Asian countries.

The FSCJ will work together to provide trainings for overseas government officials as part of its international contribution.

9.4 Disseminating information abroad

The FSCJ posts on its website the Japanese-to-English translations of its **risk assessment abstracts** as well as outcomes of its **research and studies on Food Safety**.

Additionally, the FSCJ publishes research papers on food safety and risk assessment reports in its quarterly English journal, “Food Safety-The Official Journal of Food Safety Commission of Japan.” This journal is also available on PubMed Central (PMC) to disseminate relevant information both domestic and abroad.