

Deficits on risk management of radioactive substances in food.

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Japan government decided on the interim regulatory limits in food on March 17 2011 after the nuclear power plant accident on March 12-14. The deficits on risk management were swelling of the distrust of governmental risk management, victims' discrimination, and harmful rumors to many foods in disaster area. The people's disaffections to food safety were that (1) government did not inspect cesium contamination in "all food", and that (2) regulatory limits appeared to be too high.

The disaffection (1) was attributed to that the purpose of food inspection was not understood for both public and risk manager, and that the magnitude of health risk was not assessed. Moreover, the lack of risk assessment was caused by the lack of cooperation between risk assessment and management organizations, and by the segmentation between management organizations of internal exposure and external exposure.

The disaffection (2) was attributed to that people felt that the regulatory limits were raised suddenly after the accident. Although that was not right in fact because there were no regulatory limits in food previously, the radiation tolerance limit (2 mSv/year for ^{131}I and 5 mSv/year for $^{134,137}\text{Cs}$) seemed to have been raised suddenly compared with the 1 mSv/year at the ordinary situation. It was hard to understand the difference between ordinary situation and emergency situation. Furthermore, the disaffection (2) was attributed to that government failed to explain reasonably the basis of regulatory limits at the emergency situation. The basis of deriving regulatory limit was highly complicated and differed from other field of deriving regulatory standard such as pesticide residue, heavy metals in food, and chemicals in drinking water. That is, proper risk communication was difficult under the present risk management system.

I will discuss above factors of risk management deficit by reference to the IRGC report "Risk Governance Deficits".