

## **Plant quarantine in Japan: Protecting Japanese agriculture and forests**

**Masaru Satoh**

Research Division, Yokohama Plant Protection Station, MAFF, JAPAN

When plant pests and diseases (hereinafter “pests”) enter into a virgin area, they often cause unimaginably disastrous losses to crops and other agricultural resources. Because Japan is surrounded by the sea, a few pests invade Japan by themselves with the exception of some migrant insect pests. However, on arrival of the modern age, various pests slipped into Japan via cargo (e.g., agricultural products, seedlings, etc.) from overseas. As such pests seriously threatened agricultural production in Japan, plant quarantine started in 1914. Today, international trade is becoming increasingly active. And container-based marine distribution systems and air-transport networks as well as technologies for cold-temperature transport are becoming more developed. The development has enabled more varieties and quantities of crops to be imported into Japan, creating greater risk that pests may enter Japan. Especially, it has enabled the importation of vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, etc., within a short time; thus, an increased detection of field crop pests and minute pests such as aphids and mites occur in import quarantine. Plant Protection Stations function to protect Japan’s agriculture and plants. We prevent the infiltration of overseas pests that damage Japanese crops by conducting import quarantine at seaports and airport throughout Japan. All imported plants –whether they are cargo, hand baggage, or mailed- are subjected to quarantine regardless of quantity or purpose (i.e. commercial or private use). Plant Protection Stations also implement domestic quarantine. We work to prevent the spread of some locally distributed serious pests within Japan. And because when new pests are entered to an area, it is vitally important to detect them and to take immediate steps to eradicate them at an early stage, Plant Protection Stations and prefectural pest control stations conduct monitoring surveys to detect new pests at an early stage, and engage in emergency eradication. In this presentation, I will introduce Japanese plant quarantine system such as import quarantine, regulation of movement of some locally distributed serious pests, monitoring surveys and emergency eradication. Moreover, I will also introduce some major quarantine pests requiring precaution and some major exotic pests in Japan.

Corresponding Author:

Masaru SATOH

Research Division, Yokohama Plant Protection Station, MAFF

5-57 Kitanaka-dori, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 231-0003, JAPAN

e-mail: satouma@pps.maff.go.jp