

## **Reports on spread of GM oilseed rape in Japanese ports as result of spilled imports**

### **Serious GM canola pollution in Kashima port, Ibaraki Prefecture From Bio Journal - August 2004**

Recent revelations show that imported GM canola seeds have been spilled around Kashima port in Ibaraki prefecture, and that the GM canola pollution has been spreading. The Japan Wildlife Research Centre and others have established 13 checking points near busy crossroads within a 5 kilometre radius of the port, at 3-5 points and at distances 50 metres times the width of the sidewalk. The tests were conducted for 2 years at a total of 48 locations.

According to the MAFF announcement on 29 June 2004, a May 2002 investigation revealed that western oil seed rape has been growing wild at 25 of 48 locations. 15 cases out of 16 were confirmed to be imported canola, the one exception not being analysable. Moreover, 7 out of 20 seeds and 2 out of 7 plants were shown to be GM varieties.

According to an investigation in February, 2003, western oil seed rape was confirmed at 23 out of 48 locations (2 locations were different from the previous year). There was possible GM canola reseeding at 17 out of 23 confirmed locations. Consequently, the investigation will continue due to difficulties involved with identification.

Currently, the Ministry of Environment is also investigating the case. Presumably, the GM canola pollution is spreading throughout the Kanto district, and GM plants are possibly growing wild around other unloading ports, such as Kobe port. MAFF said that it was assumed that a situation like this would occur, so it is not an issue.

<http://www5d.biglobe.ne.jp/~cbic/english/2004/journal0408.html>

### **GM rapeseed found around ports**

**The Japan Times: Nov. 21, 2004**

TSUKUBA, Ibaraki Pref. (Kyodo) Genetically modified rapeseed is proliferating around ports in Chiba, Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe, after its propagation was confirmed in other places such as Kashima port in Ibaraki Prefecture and Yokkaichi port in Mie Prefecture, activist groups said Saturday.

The spread of the rapeseed may damage conventional rapeseed and other agricultural products, said the groups, including Stop GM Seeds Network Japan.

They said they believe imported genetically modified rapeseed has dropped out of containers during unloading or transporting and has taken root.

Japan imports some 2 million tons of rapeseed annually, mainly as an ingredient for cooking oil.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20041121a9.htm>

### **GM corn, soybeans found growing wild**

**The Japan Times: Dec. 14, 2004**

TSUKUBA, Ibaraki Pref. (Kyodo) Genetically modified corn and soybeans have been found growing wild near Shimizu port in Shizuoka Prefecture, citizens' groups opposing GM foods said Monday.

The groups also said GM rapeseed has been found growing wild near Fukuoka's Hakata port.

Members of the groups suspect the plant was spilled during the transport process.

The discovery of GM rapeseed follows its detection at ports in Ibaraki, Chiba, Kanagawa, Aichi, Mie and Hyogo prefectures.

"Corn and soybean seeds are less likely to disperse than rapeseed, and it's amazing that they grow wild," said Masaharu Kawata, a lecturer of chemical biology at Yokkaichi University in Mie Prefecture. Groups including Stop GM Seeds Network Japan conducted the study by collecting the plants and testing them.

The GM corn includes genes that kill insects such as moth worms, while the GM soybeans are engineered to be more resistant to weed killer.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20041214a1.htm>

## **Genetically modified grain pollution by Monsanto aggravated Rapeseed, cone, and soybean grown wild in Shimizu Port in Shizuoka**

**By JCPRESS**

Citizens volunteer group "[GMO Information Service Japan](#)" that worried about the genetically modified announced on December 14 that it detected the rapeseed, the soybean, and the corn of the genetically modified in the vicinity of the wharf of the Shimizu port in Shizuoka Prefecture where the import grains are unloaded . The group executed the investigation on December 6.

The group detected the herbicide Roundup Tolerant Rapeseed three stocks of the US agri-chemical company the Monsanto Co. from the rapeseed that grew naturally the road sideward of the wharf according to the investigation result.

In addition, the group detected Roundup Tolerant Soybean of the Monsanto Co..

The group detected the protein made from the harmful insect resistance gene from corn.

However, the group was not able to specify the company that had manufactured the genetically modified corn.

The group is confirming the natural growth in Cashima of Ibaraki Prefecture, the Yokohama port in Kanagawa Prefecture, the Nagoya port in the aichi prefecture, the Yokkaichi port in Mie Prefecture, the Kobe port in Hyogo Prefecture, and the Hakata port in Fukuoka Prefecture over the GM rapeseed.

<http://www.jc-press.com/En/Latest%20News/200412/20041214Genetically%20modified%20grain%20pollution%20by%20Monsanto.htm>

## **GE crop continues to be found around ports all over Japan Spilled seeds during unloading and transportation have sprouted**

**Mainichi Shimbun, Japan, by Taku Nishika , 19.01.2005**

There have been several cases of imported GE crop seeds growing wild around port areas in many parts of Japan. It is suspected that such seeds were spilled during unloading and transportation and then sprouted. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) says they (GE crops growing wild) do not effect the ecosystem, however, the reality of GE crop imports, which started back in 1996, has now shown that it cannot be controlled.

The Ministry of Environment and local citizens groups embarked on checking ports all over Japan. Canola and soybean..... In June last year (2004), the MAFF announced a report about imported GE canola that are growing wild in Japan. According to the MAFF report, the herbicide resistant genes were detected in 2 samples (6 seeds) among 7 samples (20 seeds) of rapeseeds that were collected within a 5 km radius from the port in Kashima, Ibaraki Prefecture. After the MAFF announcement, a local group in Nagoya confirmed that there are GE canola growing wild near Yokkaichi port in Mie Prefecture.

Since then many citizens groups have checked around different ports, and confirmed that there are wild GE canola plants in Chiba port, Nagoya port, Shimizu port (Shizuoka Prefecture) and Hakata port (Fukuoka Prefecture). Moreover, in Shimizu port, citizens groups found herbicide resistant GE soybean plants and insect tolerant GE maize plants as well. The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) also conducted research on this issue between July and August last year, and found GE canola by a national road about 30 km away from the Kashima port.

There have not been any GE crops cultivated commercially on a large scale in Japan. For importing GE crops, both the MAFF and the Ministry of Environment have admitted that there are not any differences between NON- GE (conventional) crops and GE in terms of their ability to propagate in the environment. However, both Ministries agree and refuse to alter their position that "even if spilled GE seeds grow wild and cross with local varieties, such plants will have low fertility, and therefore there is no possibility that spilled GE seeds will spread and interfere with the native species".

<http://www.biotechinc.org/en/2005/01/3789.shtml>