



By Fruitnet.com Staff

Thursday 3rd December 2020, 6:06 GMT

Japan passes bill to protect IP control for fruit

Bid to crackdown on illegal outflow of Japanese cultivars improved following passing of bill in National Diet



A bill aimed at protecting the intellectual property control over Japanese fruit and vegetable cultivars has passed in the National Diet, in a move that producers hope will stop the illegal outflow of cultivars developed by the country's plant breeding.

Japan Times reports the revised seed and seedling protection law, expected to take effect in April 2021, will allow plant breeders to designate areas where their varieties can be grown and export destinations when they register their species.

Developers of such registered species will be able to seek an order to stop the production of their cultivars outside designated areas or exports without authorization.

The reproduction of registered varieties using seeds collected from their harvest will also be prohibited without consent of the developers.

Individuals who illegally take seeds and

saplings abroad face prison sentences of up to 10 years or a fine of up to ¥10m (US\$95,739).

Seeds and seedlings of several dozen Japanese-developed plant varieties, including Benihoppe and Sagahonoka brand strawberries and Shine Muscat grapes, have been grown and sold without permission in countries such as China and South Korea, according to Japan Times.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry initially submitted the bill to the Diet in March 2020, but deliberations took longer than expected after concerns grew about the possibility of farmers paying high license fees.

The revised law also calls for reducing the risk of seeds and saplings being given to a third party by introducing a permission system for the use of seeds that domestic farmers collect from new varieties they harvest for next season's planting.

During deliberations on the bill,

opposition parties objected to the permission system, out of concern that high permission charges may weigh on farmers' businesses.

Hoping to address such concern, the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries passed an additional resolution asking the central government to implement measures to ensure stable supplies of seeds and saplings at reasonable prices, so that the restrictions on farmers' use of seeds collected from their own harvest will not squeeze their business operations.

A farm ministry official said in Diet deliberations that developers, many of whom belong to public institutions, rarely charge high royalties on plant varieties they breed because their goal is to help promote domestic farming.

Enjoyed this free article from Asiafruit Magazine and its team of editors? Don't miss out on even more in-depth analysis, plus all the latest news from the fresh produce business. Subscribe now to [Asiafruit Magazine](http://www.asiafruit.com).

<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

© Copyright Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com 2014. The copyright on this article and all content published on Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com is held by Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com Limited, a joint venture between Market Intelligence Limited and Dr Rolf M Wolf Media GmbH. All rights reserved. Neither this article nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form, including print-outs, screen grabs and information retrieval systems, without the prior permission of the copyright owners.

<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

© Copyright Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com 2014. The copyright on this article and all content published on Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com is held by Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com Limited, a joint venture between Market Intelligence Limited and Dr Rolf M Wolf Media GmbH. All rights reserved. Neither this article nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form, including print-outs, screen grabs and information retrieval systems, without the prior permission of the copyright owners.

FRUITNET.COM