Unapproved LM Canola discovered

1. Summary

From March to June 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affair (MAFRA)s has conducted inspections on LM canola exposure, targeting major local festival sites and landscape preservation regions. According to results, unapproved LM canola (GT73) were discovered for the first time at a festival site in Taebaek, Gangwon Province.

MAFRA disposed of the LM canola, and conducted an investigation of a relevant trading company. MAFRA conducted a complete enumeration of 79.6 tons of rapeseeds from 10 companies that were purchased from China in January 2016 and destroyed unapproved LM canola seeds and unapproved planted LM canola.

MAFRA conducted two environmental monitoring of regions where unapproved LM canola have been discovered and plan to continue environmental monitoring for next 2 years

1. Initial discovery

Upon conduct of a simple examination of a sample extracted from a rapeseed festival site in Taebaek, LMO-positive was confirmed, and the National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service, Korea Seed and Variety Service, and the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency jointly conducted a PCR inspection to confirm that they were the GT73 canola of Monsanto (May 15).

Unapproved LM canola was found to have come in from China through the investigation.

\* In Korea, GT73 may be imported as food or feed, but are not approved for planting purposes.

3. Measures taken

1) A LM canola planting site in the city of Taebaek was confirmed, and an order was made for separated packaging and destruction (May 15).

2) From January 2016 to present, inspection has been conducted on a complete enumeration of 79.6 tons of rapeseeds from 10 companies that were purchased from China in January 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inspection | | Distribution Company and Retailer | Rapeseed Festival | Farm |
| Total(case) | 6,044 | 208 | 72 | 5,764 |

Among them, 19 tons of unapproved LM canola seeds and non-approved planted LM canola were discovered, upon which the entirety was destroyed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LM canola | | Seeds | Cultivation |
| Total(tons) | 19 | 14.2 | 4.8 |

3) MAFRA requested to the Chinese government to conduct an investigation on the export of LM canola and to hold an expert meeting

4) MAFRA held two meetings of related ministries to share the current situation and to prepare a joint response plan

5) MAFRA decided to conduct quarantines through complete enumeration of all seeds coming in from China since 1st June, 2017

6) MAFRA conducted two environmental monitoring of regions where unapproved LM canola have been discovered and plan to continue environmental monitoring for next 2 years

7) MAFRA held conferences and educations for rapeseeds importers