

Food Processing Industries Have to Solve Several Problems Came to the Surface in 2007.

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< Summary >

In 2007 Food processing industries including distribution involved in some problems which contain the intentional sham foods, ingredients indications, date marking etc. Such sham problems extended also to construction industries. Therefore, as the key word of 2007 in Japan “imitation or sham” was selected by mass communications. In this small article I’d like to describe about three problems, namely 1) to prevent the intentional sham foods, ingredients indications, 2) practice of pasteurization and sterilization of foods by γ -irradiation, especially spices, 3) question marks to the bio-energy.

Last year intentional sham foods from several famous food companies became obvious in Japan. In such events date marking, ingredients indications, intentional mistakes of labelling rules are contained. Although use of adulteration is known from the old days, extremely famous companies in Japan were contained in these problems. So, the Japanese government is struggling to resolving this problems, also to restore confidence of Japanese nation, and to establish new rules.

Because mental atomic allergy in Japan is quite large, irradiation of foods was not realized except prevention of sprouting of potatoes. We must introduce irradiation techniques to several foods, especially spices from tropical zone. γ -Irradiation methods are already applied in many countries including Korea and China. Then, we have many experiences about this technology, and its safety has been established. Also, the advance of recent analytical technology is possible for the detection of γ -irradiated foods. So, first step for irradiation is to be sterilization of spices and then enlarges other foods, removing the mental allergy about irradiation of Japanese nation.

Depend upon the shortage of petroleum and jump up of in crude oil price, the trend of use of bioenergy such as ethanol from corn starch and vegetable oils are common. But, many peoples in world are still fasting. In such situation to use foodstuffs as bioenergy is right selection? I’m doubtful these trends in the world. Foods and foodstuffs should be used for human being including animal feeds. On the energy for cars other selection is better considering worldwide food shortage and fasting people in developing countries.