

Result of Questionnaire from the **No! GMO Campaign** to Flour Millers Concerning GM Wheat.

Soga Flour Milling Co., Ltd. is currently the representative organization for the National Flour Millers Association of Japan. Below are the answers to the questionnaire from the **No! GMO Campaign** from Soga Flour Milling Co., Ltd. (6 March 2004)

Q1. What has been your policy towards GM food up to now?

A1. Although our company is not in a position to make a definitive evaluation of the safety of GM food, we believe that gaining consumer understanding is a necessary factor in the distribution of GM food. We believe that GM food does not at present have the understanding of Japanese consumers.

Q2. What policies do you think you will be taking towards GM food in the future?

A2. Same as A1. Thus, even if GM wheat is commercialized in the future, we do not wish to use GM wheat unless the understanding of Japanese consumers is gained beforehand.

Q3. What have your policies been regarding domestically produced wheat?

A3. As our company is located in Gunma Prefecture, which is the main producer of domestic wheat, we have acted positively to use wheat grown locally. Our basic policy is to continue to manufacture products using locally grown wheat.

Q4. About how reliant are you on US and Canadian wheat?

A4. Our reliance on US and Canadian wheat is about 50% or perhaps a little less. Because we are able to use quite a lot of local Gunma wheat, I think our reliance on US and Canadian wheat is a bit lower than most flour millers.

Q5. What do you think can be done to diversify the risks inherent in the system of food supply that is heavily reliant on the USA and Canada?

A5. The USA and Canada are very reliable suppliers of wheat in terms of both quality and quantity, and it will be very hard for us to deal with a situation that makes wheat imports from these two countries impossible over a long period of time. I believe that we must maintain Japan's level of self-sufficiency in wheat in case such a situation should occur.