
Announcement Regarding the Japan's First Report of the Techniques for Domestic Commercial Cultivation of Licorice in Short Period

Oji Holdings Corporation (Oji) announces the first report in Japan that we succeed in a development of the original techniques for domestic commercial cultivation of licorice, which include 2% of glycyrrhizin in conformity with the Japanese Pharmacopoeia 17th edition, in 2 years from sowing seeds to harvesting. In near future, we make a target to sell the domestic cultivated licorice as raw material for medicines. Further, we will focus this issue as one of the pillar of our new business.

■Domestic cultivation of licorice

In Japan, the licorice roots are used as 70% of raw material for traditional medicine, furthermore for cosmetics, foods and toiletries widely. In present situation, the raw material depends on wild licorice, which is imported. On the other hand, as over harvesting wild licorice has been happened, the exhaustion of them feels misgivings. So, the wild licorice is regulated for exporting in China.

Oji has established Medicinal Plant Section since 2013, and started the research about not only licorice but also lots of medicinal plants. As the result of glycyrrhizin content/growth analysis of licorice in several cultivation conditions, we fixed the new techniques for producing licorice which includes over 2% contents of glycyrrhizin in short period (2years).

■Future

Oji believes that our developed techniques are contribute to become widespread for the cultivation within Japan and Japan's products as the raw material of traditional medicines.

In future, we make a target to sell the domestic cultivated licorice as raw material for not only medicines, but also cosmetics and toiletries. Further, we would spread a new business with the customers who think a great deal of safety and traceability.



Licorice Farm (Left: In Hokkaido) & Harvested Licorice Roots (Right: 2-years-old dried roots)

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