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Identification and characterization of new high stearic acid soybean mutant induced by gamma-ray irradiation

*Sanghun Kim**, Chonnam National University, Gwanju, Republic of Korea

Juhyun Im, Chonnam National University, Gwanju, Republic of Korea

Woon Ji Kim, Chonnam National University, Gwanju, Republic of Korea

Ryuli Gang, Chonnam National University, Gwanju, Republic of Korea

Soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Marr.] seeds are the most valuable sources of vegetable oil.

However, the partially hydrogenated soybean oil desirable for solid fat baking applications creates *trans* fats associated with negative health effects on blood lipids.

The chemical hydrogenation can be reduced by increasing stearic acid content that is a saturated fatty acid and neutral effect on cholesterol level. This study identified new mutant genotype containing ~17% stearic acid. This mutant genotype was developed from gamma irradiation treatment with original cultivar, Ilmi containing ~3% stearic acid.

The mutant contained a three base pair deletion in the 1st exon of stearyl-acyl-carrier protein desaturase (SACPD-C) gene. The deletion of three bases resulted in a protein that is missing one amino acid. This mutation could affect the function of SACPD-C gene and elevate seed stearic acid levels.