Air dose rates across Fukushima Prefecture are determined by the spatial distribution and depth profile of radiocesium in soil. We have developed a tool to model these variables and predict dose rates. Overall the predictions correlate well with measurements from within the Prefecture. Individual predictions are on average within 50% of the measurements.

**Keywords:** air dose rate, $^{134}$Cs, $^{137}$Cs, soil activity, gamma, simulation

1. **Introduction**

To understand future changes in dose rates in Fukushima Prefecture and the performance of decontamination, it is necessary to understand the relationship between the radiocesium distribution within the environment and the air dose rate.

2. **Methods**

The tool splits the ground up into numerous volumes of soil. The $^{134}$Cs and $^{137}$Cs activity concentration is entered for each volume of soil – Fig. 1. Conversion factors derived with the PHITS Monte Carlo code [1] are multiplied by each of the activities to find the contribution of $\gamma$-rays from that volume of soil to the air dose rate. The tool was used to make predictions for the air dose rate by inputting soil activity measurements from Fukushima Prefecture [2]. The predicted dose rates were compared against dose rates measured in the field with handheld survey meters.

3. **Results and Conclusion**

The predictions correlate well with the measured dose rates from uncontaminated (~0.05 µSv/h) to highly contaminated (~20 µSv/h) land – Fig. 2. In the worst cases individual predictions were a factor of three higher or lower than the measured dose rates. These errors were mainly caused by the uncertainty in using a small soil sample to represent the activity of the large volume of soil that contributes to the dose rate. More accurate predictions were obtained by modeling spatial variations in the Cs distribution than assuming a uniform distribution. It is possible to use modeling methods like this to calculate the effects of decontamination and changes in $H'(10)$ due to Cs migration in soil.

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