

Sustainability Report 2023

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Sustainability

Wellness Stories



Making Japan's Dairy Industry More Sustainable. Meiji Group Calculates Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Milk Production



Awards Honor Employees Exemplifying Meiji's Pursuit of Unique Ideas for Wellness



Revolutionizing Nama Chocolate for Convenient Delight



Reviving Traditional Yogurt with Modern Fermentation Technology



New Extract Adds Color to the Cocoa Experience



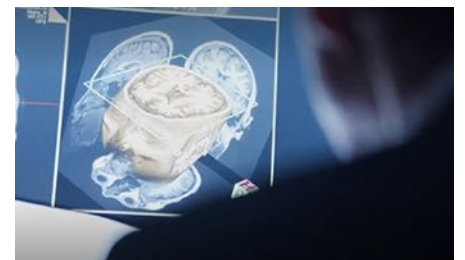
Simulation Technology for the Joy of Eating at Any Age



Bridging the Gap: Going Overseas to Ensure a Stable Supply of Generic Drugs in Japan



Vaccine Basics (Part 1): What Are Vaccines?



Visualizing the Mind: To Prevent and Treat Depression in a New Way



Towards a Society Free of Period Stigma



Weighing in on Protein Intake



Hope for Patients with Dravet Syndrome



Decoding the Human Microbiome



COVID-19: Hope for an Inactivated Vaccine



Sustainable Cocoa Means Knowing Your Growers



The Hidden Health Crisis of AMR



Nutritional Advice for Growing Economies



The Right Formula for Effective Care

Sustainability Vision



CEO Message

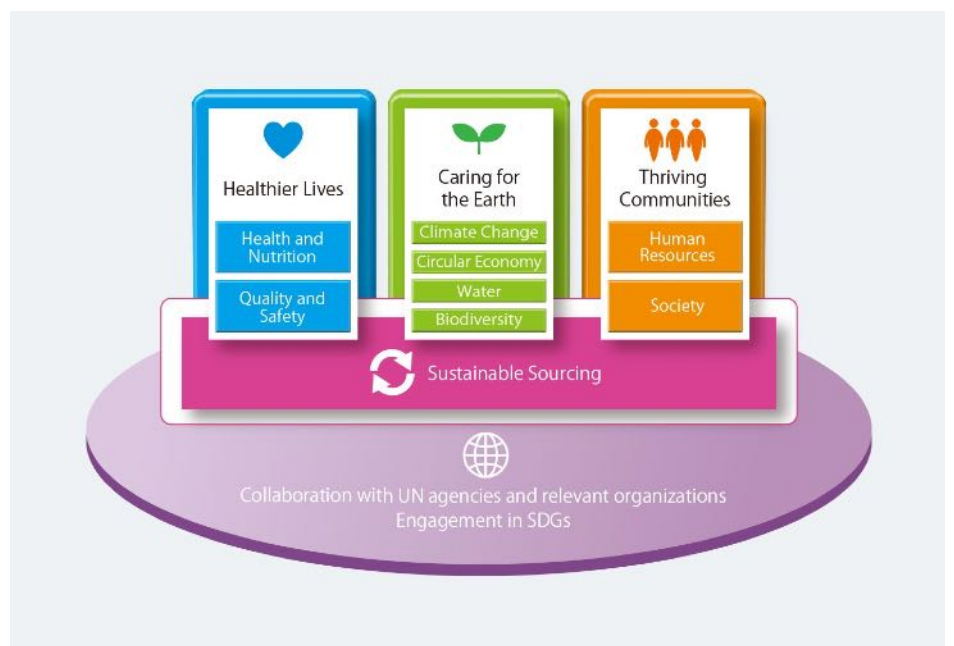
With a vision for the next 100 years of the Meiji Group's history, we are aiming to contribute to the health and happiness of people around the world.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Sustainability 2026 Vision

A vision is nothing without action. Our management structure puts our sustainability vision into practice on a day-to-day basis.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Actions for Sustainability

Healthier Lives

A healthy society starts with healthy minds and bodies.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Caring for the Earth

In everything we do, we aim for harmony with the environment.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Thriving Communities

Looking after everyone, from employees to society's most vulnerable.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Sustainable Sourcing

Considering human rights and the environment throughout our supply chain.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Collaboration

Our active support for international organizations and frameworks.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Governance

Sustainability is central to our corporate system and policies.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Sustainable Finance

[LEARN MORE](#)

ESG Index

[LEARN MORE](#)

ESG Data

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Report

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Sustainability Video

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Make Sustainable Cocoa Beans

[LEARN MORE](#)



Make Sustainable Dairy Industry

[LEARN MORE](#)

Download the Meiji Group's sustainability reports and ESG data

SEARCH DOCUMENTS



News & Topics



Setting additional targets for Meiji Cocoa Support
Establishing traceability to farms, striving for zero child labor and zero deforestation

SUSTAINABILITY

Jan 10, 2024



A new wellness story "Making Japan's Dairy Industry More Sustainable. Meiji Group Calculates Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Milk Production" has been posted.

SUSTAINABILITY

Dec 15, 2023



ESG Meeting

SUSTAINABILITY

Dec 13, 2023



First-Time Selection to the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index

SUSTAINABILITY

Dec 12, 2023



Meiji Group Completes 100% Switch to RSPO-Certified Palm Oil to Promote Human Rights and Eco-Friendly Raw Material Procurement

SUSTAINABILITY

Oct 27, 2023

meiji

Integrated Report 2023

CORPORATE

Oct 12, 2023

meiji

Selected as a Constituent of Morningstar Japan Gender Diversity Tilt Index and MSCI Japan Empowering Women Index (WIN) for the First Time

CORPORATE

Sep 22, 2023

meiji

- Promoting Smart and Sustainable Dairy Farming
-Meiji Holdings Invests in Farmnote Holdings, A Startup for DX in Dairy Farming

CORPORATE

Aug 2, 2023



Meiji Group's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets "SBT 1.5°C" Approved by SBT Initiative Realizing the Meiji Group Long-term Environmental Vision, we will contribute to a healthy future, for people, and for the earth.

SUSTAINABILITY

Jul 27, 2023



Announcing the Meiji Nutritional Profiling System (Meiji NPS) Evaluating nutrients in food items and apply results to develop products that help consumers choose foods that offer higher nutritional value

FOOD

Jun 30, 2023



A new wellness story "Towards a Society Free of Period Stigma" has been posted.

SUSTAINABILITY

Jun 30, 2023



We release ESG Data FYE 3/2023.

SUSTAINABILITY

Jun 16, 2023

You may also be interested in



Year in Review

Meiji Holdings is a TSE-listed company that delivers long-term growth and stakeholder returns. View business results and investor performance from our most recent financial year.

LEARN MORE



2023 Medium-term Business Plan

Meiji Holdings' 2023 Medium-term Business Plan aims for the right balance of profit and sustainability. Read more about the Medium-term Business Plan here.

LEARN MORE



History

For more than a century, Meiji products have enriched people's daily lives while benefiting their health. Learn more about the Meiji Group's history on this page.

LEARN MORE

CEO Message



The Meiji Group signed on to the United Nations Global Compact¹ in 2019, supporting the Ten Principles related to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. We pursue sustainability management through a wide range of initiatives.

In 2021, we adopted a new slogan -Now Ideas for Wellness. This slogan appeals to the unique value offered by Meiji and our business in food and pharmaceuticals. This slogan expresses our desire to be a sustainable company that solves global social issues through the lens of health.

Putting this slogan into practice, we established Meiji ROESG^{®2} as our top management goal under our 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan, which we launched in FY2021. Our aim is to deepen sustainability management by evaluating the value created by the Group in terms of ROE (economic value) and ESG (social value).

Our ESG evaluations improved significantly in terms of non-financial value (social value)—the result of greater efforts under 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan. In the future, we will need more concrete strategies for linking sustainability activities to improved ROE. We recognize that the health value the Meiji Group provides is indispensable to solving social issues which include new nutritional profiling system to promote nutritional value in food. Our health value also includes the domestic development of vaccines and

domestic manufacturing of antibacterial agents, for which the COVID-19 pandemic revealed their needs. We believe these sustainability activities will lead to higher ROE.

FY2023 represents the final year of our 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan. We intend to evolve Meiji ROESG^{®2} as we become a company whose sustainability story contributes solutions to social issues. The Meiji Group will work as one in cooperation with our stakeholders in Japan and overseas to create a future society in which people around the world live healthy, happy lives.

June 2023

1. Click here for more

[UN Global Compact Comparison Table](#)

2. ROESG is a registered trademark for a management indicator developed by Kunio Ito, a professor at Hitotsubashi University.

CSO Message



Toward 2026 Medium-Term Business Plan

The Meiji Group is currently executing our 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan. The main concept of this plan is to contribute solutions to social issues through our food and pharmaceuticals businesses, while raising economic value and social value at the same time. We have already largely achieved the eight FY2022 materiality targets under this medium-term business plan. In particular, we began taking on challenges in the environmental field, calculating our carbon footprint and reducing GHG emissions on our dairy farms. In the field of human rights, we accelerated our due diligence efforts through guidelines for the employment of foreign workers. In addition, we initiated stronger cooperation with overseas Group companies in new global meetings to discuss the development of global sustainability activities—an initiative that had been delayed until now. At the same time, we see accelerating sustainability activities around the world, a broadening scope of initiatives, and more strident demands to raise the quality of efforts. The Meiji Group must be sensitive to these and other global trends, acting quickly and effectively. As we maintain a global perspective, we also know that the Meiji Group must step up our efforts if we are to be the frontrunner in Japanese sustainability activities. We view FY2023 as an important year to review materiality and formulate a strategy to make a major leap forward in sustainability activities. This year is also one in which we will finalize our 2026 medium-term business plan, which represents the final step toward achieving our 2026 Vision.

The Challenge to Improve Quality in Environment-Related Measures

Three key ideas of particular importance to Meiji Group environmental activities are carbon neutrality, nature positive, and circular economy. These ideas are interrelated and can even be considered a trinity of sorts. Carbon neutrality is one specific initiative we are addressing with greater emphasis. The major challenge here is to reduce Scope 3 emissions. This we cannot do alone, but only through cooperation with our suppliers. In FY2022, we first calculated the carbon footprint of two mainstay products to understand where and to what extent our products involve CO₂ emissions. We found that approximately 90% of CO₂ emissions are generated upstream (raw materials procurement) in the product value chain. This result means that efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions must focus on raw materials procurement in particular. We are looking into specific measures toward carbon neutrality by expanding the use of J-Credits at dairy farms in collaboration with other companies and by establishing new mechanisms, including carbon farming.

Meiji as a Sustainable Brand

In FY2021, we began holding Meiji Group ESG Advisory Board meetings to solicit opinions from outside experts. Since then, we have received a variety of opinions from outside experts, one of which was that the Meiji Group should seek to be the leader in sustainable branding. We understand that a sustainable brand is a product or corporate brand that holds sustainability as a central concept, and that customers and other stakeholders recognize sustainable brands as a positive value. We plan to investigate specific strategies to develop products that appeal to sustainability unique to Meiji, leveraging sustainability as a driver of business growth for the Meiji Group.

Meiji ROESG^{®*}: An Evolution of Sustainability Management

The approach to CSR used to be largely “defensive” for most companies. With the recent focus on sustainability, companies are becoming more active, playing offense to enhance corporate competitive capabilities. As sustainability and ESG become mainstream management issues, MEIJI ROESG^{®*} serves as an indicator that truly embodies the principles behind these concepts. I believe the essential value of the Meiji Group will be tested by how well we link ESG and ROE in our business activities. In 2026 medium-term business plan, we intend to evolve Meiji ROESG^{®*} further, making significant advances in sustainability management.

June 2023

* ROESG is a registered trademark for a management indicator developed by Kunio Ito, a professor at Hitotsubashi University.



Sustainability 2026 Vision

The basis of "the Meiji Group's Approach to sustainability" is to fulfill sustainability by putting the Group Philosophy into practice on a day-to-day basis in mainstay businesses and by remaining a corporate group society needs. Each Meiji Group employee will advance activities based on the Corporate Behavior Charter to meet stakeholders' expectations and continue fulfilling social responsibilities.

The Meiji Group's Mission in Sustainability Activities

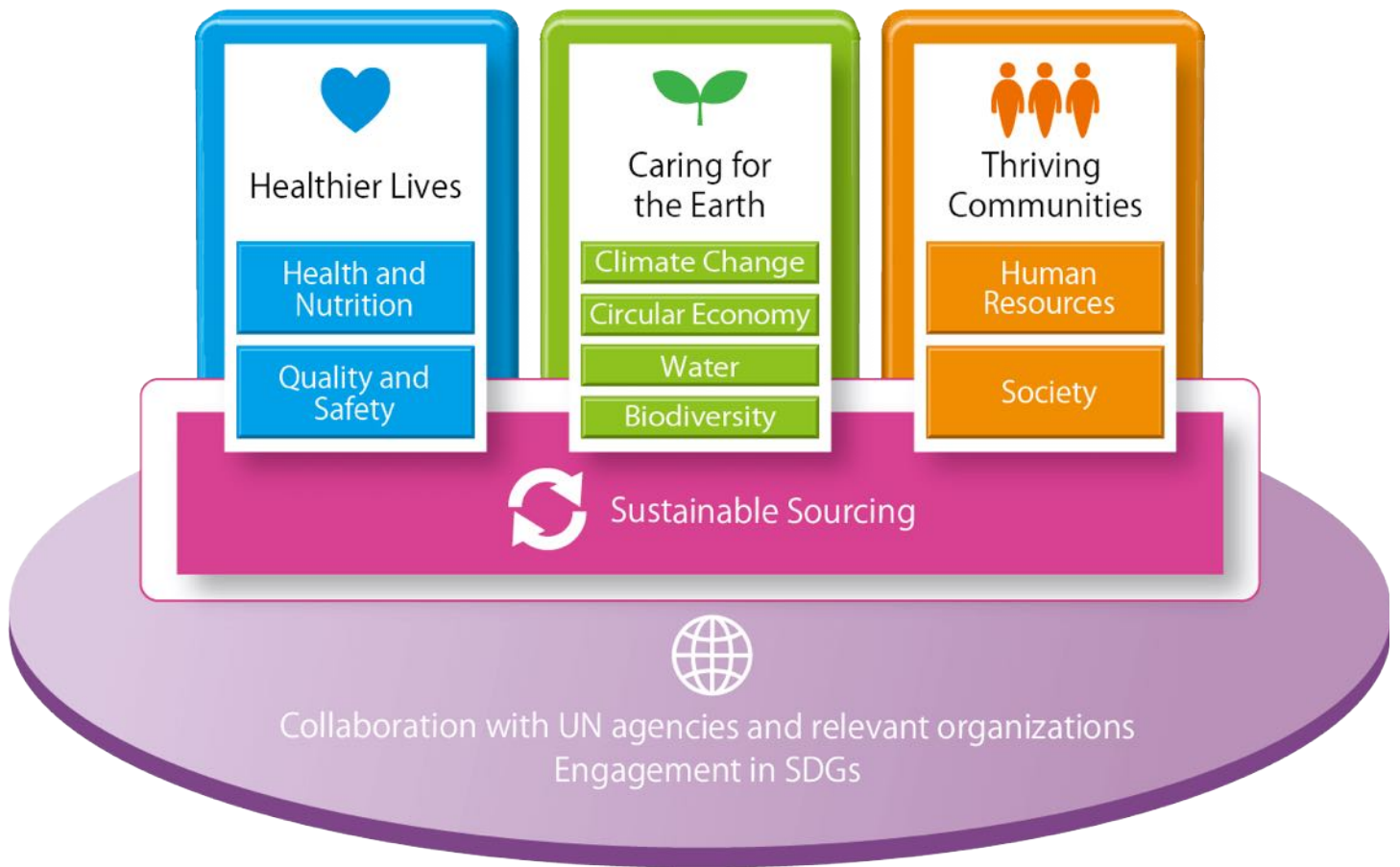
Toward the Meiji Group's Next 100 Years, Designing a Future Where Everyone Around the World is Happy and Healthy.














The Meiji Group will mark the 110th anniversary of our founding in 2026. We must reconstruct our foundations with a view to the next 100 years to further enhance the Group's corporate value. Currently, society is at a major turning point. Companies are required to not only expand their business scale but also contribute to solving social issues through their business activities. We will once again review the significance and role of our business activities in society and strengthen activities unique to the Meiji Group that originated from the idea of solving social issues.

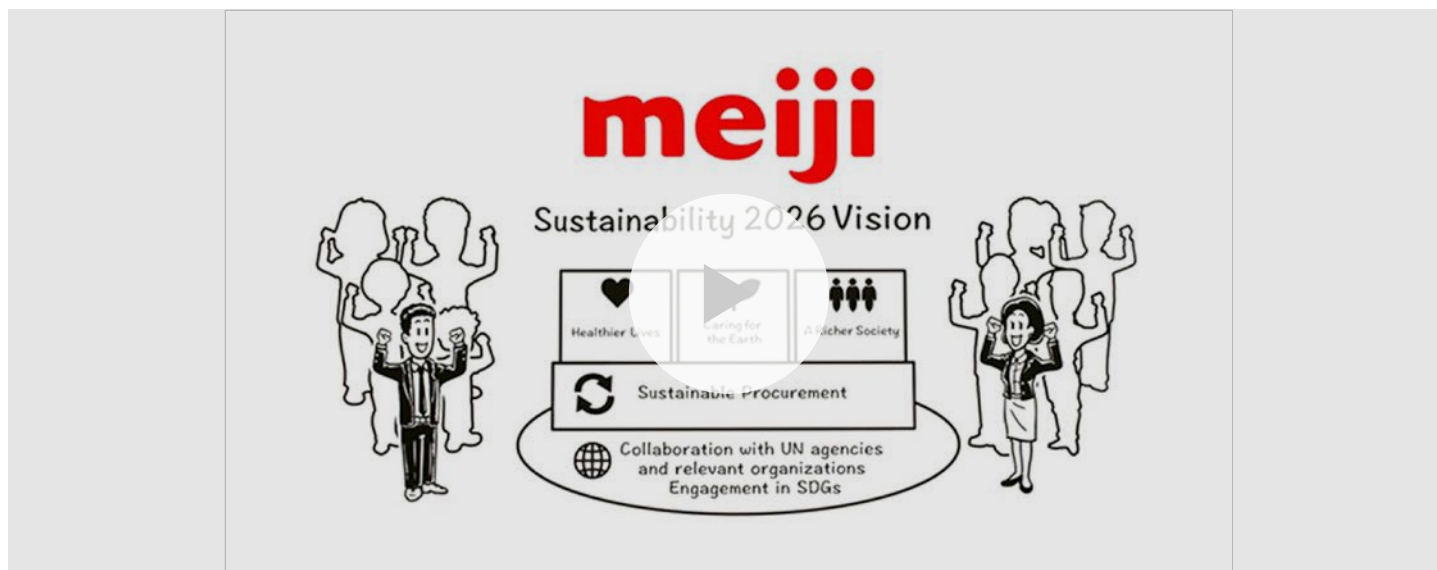
The Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision

As Food and Health Professionals, We Contribute to Addressing Social Issues through Our Business Activities, and to Realizing a Sustainable Society for People to Live Healthy, Peaceful Lives.

The Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision is broken down into three themes: Healthier Lives, Caring for the Earth and Thriving Communities, plus the shared theme: Sustainable Sourcing. Here, we identify and set materiality issues and KPIs. Based on this framework, shown in the figure, we promote specific sustainability activities and address social issues.



Themes	Domains			
 Healthier Lives	 Health and Nutrition	 Quality and Safety		
 Caring for the Earth	 Climate Change	 Circular Economy	 Water	 Biodiversity
 Thriving Communities	 Human Resources	 Society		
 Sustainable Sourcing				
 Collaboration with UN agencies and relevant organizations Engagement in SDGs Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision				



Creating our Vision

When laying out our sustainability vision, we took a long-term view and set out the activities we believed that Meiji Group should engage in. Our Group Sustainability Committee will evaluate our progress with the KPIs we have established, and publicly disclose this information.

STEP 1

Identify issues and select activities



Select activities tailored for the Meiji Group considering business initiatives, community requests and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

STEP 2

Identify materiality and set the KPIs



Set the KPIs. Confer with experts outside of the company regarding the selected activities, identify materiality (material issues).

STEP 3

Obtain approval from management

Sustainability secretariat and the Group Sustainability Committee discusses, and the Board of Directors makes a decision.

2017

- **Began discussions to establish vision**
Mr. Peter David Pedersen, Mr. Hidemi Tomita



2018

- **Established vision**
- **Identify materiality**
- **Revised how the vision's activities in each area are related to the SDGs**



2019

- **Joined UN Global Compact**
- **Discussions with outside experts**
Mr. Peter David Pedersen
- **Established Sustainable Management Department at Meiji Holdings**
- **Revised human right policy and procurement policy, and established a new marketing policy**



2020

- **Established Water Resources Policy, Plastic Policy, and Social Contribution Activities Policy**
- **Established Long-Term Environmental Vision "Meiji Green Engagement for 2050"**
- **Discussions with outside experts**
Prof. Takeshi Mizuguchi at Takasaki City University of Economics
We exchanged opinions on medium-term management targets for sustainability activities and information on the wide-ranging sustainability activities unique to the Meiji Group that span food to pharmaceuticals.



2021

- **Newly established the Farm Animal Welfare Policy and the Diversity and Inclusion Policy**
- **Newly established the Meiji Group ESG Advisory Board, holding meetings twice a year**
External Experts
Takeshi Kamigochi
Senior Managing Executive Officer, Vice General Manager,
Oil & Fats Business Unit, J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mari Kogiso
CoCEO, SDG Impact Japan

Peter David Pedersen
Representative Director, NPO NELIS



2022

- **Newly established the Guidelines for Employment of Foreign Workers, the Pollution Prevention Guideline, and Soybean Procurement Guideline**
- **Meiji Group ESG Advisory Board held twice a year**
External Experts
Takeshi Kamigochi
Director, Senior Managing Executive Officer General
Manager, Oil & Fats
Business Unit, J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mari Kogiso
CoCEO, SDG Impact Japan

Peter David Pedersen
Representative Director, NPO NELIS
- **Sustainability meetings for overseas group companies started**

Approach to Sustainability Activities under the 2023 Medium-term Business Plan

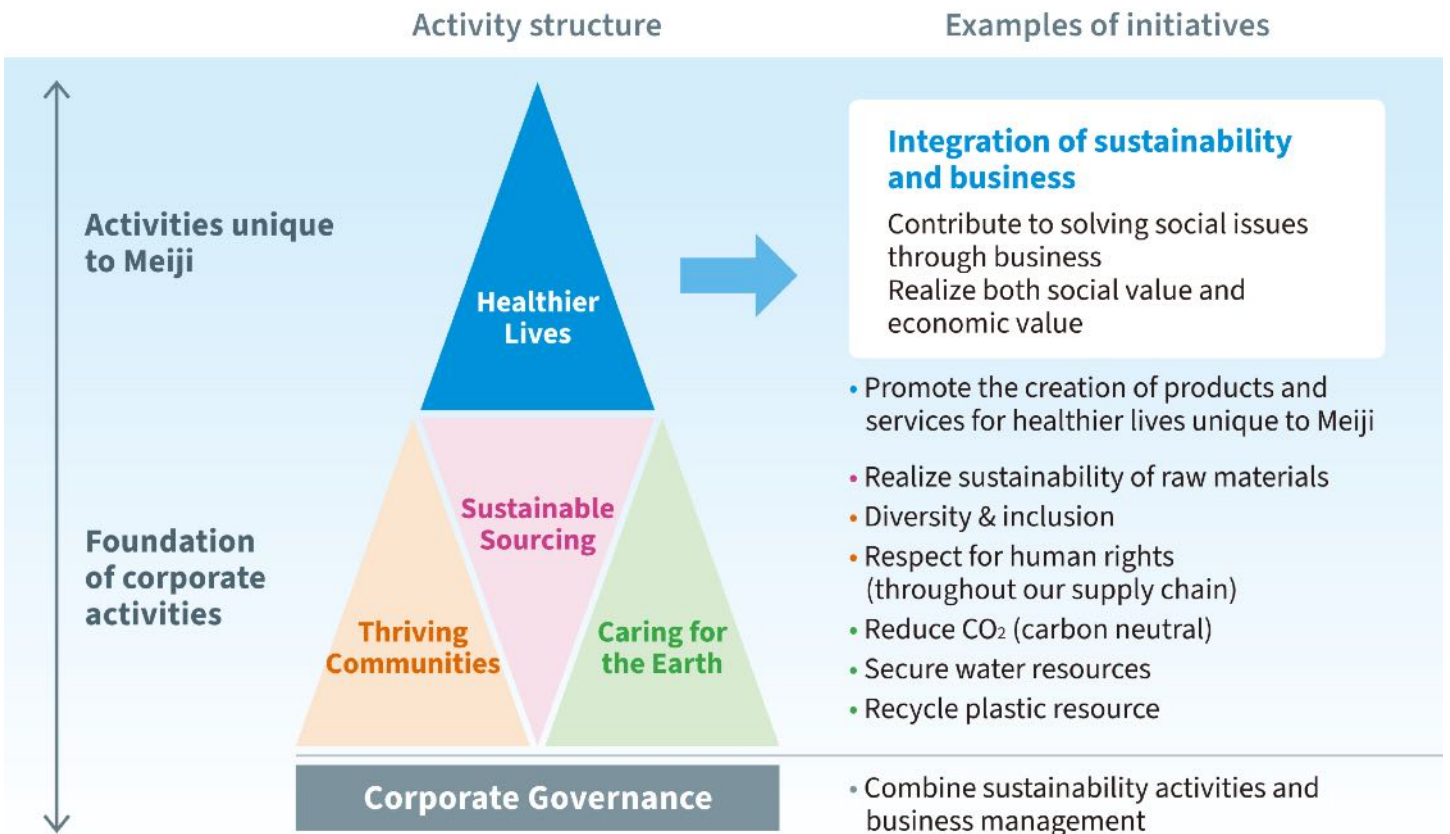
The 2023 Medium-term Business Plan sets out the concept of realizing both profit growth and sustainability activities. The significance of sustainability has thus increased in business management. We will strengthen our activities so that by FY2023, the Meiji Group will become a company that is highly evaluated internally and externally as an advanced sustainability company in Japan.

Outline of Activity Plan

Promote the Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Provide products and services unique to Meiji that address social issues2 Strengthen initiatives to realize a decarbonized society<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain Science Based Targets (SBT) certification, promote the use of renewable energy, eliminate the use of specified fluorocarbons3 Promote sustainable sourcing activities<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achieve 100% sourcing of environmentally friendly paper, certified palm oil, and sustainable cocoa beans• Develop a responsible supply chain
Integrate sustainability and business management	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Improve ESG evaluations in line with the Meiji ROESG Management2 Encourage employees to have a sense of ownership over sustainability through the establishment of a Meiji Brand Promotion Leader system3 Operate a framework for ESG investing (30 billion yen/3 years)

Structure of the Meiji Group' Sustainability Activities

There is a wide range of sustainability activities. We have organized them into initiatives that exhibit the Meiji Group' uniqueness and initiatives that form the foundation of corporate activities. In particular, we consider that the domain unique to the Meiji Group is centered on "Healthier Lives." Japan faces the issues of a declining population and aging society with a decreasing birthrate, and extending healthy life expectancy is a critical social issue. The Meiji Group aims to contribute to solving these social issues with our Food and Pharmaceutical businesses and to realize both economic value and social value.

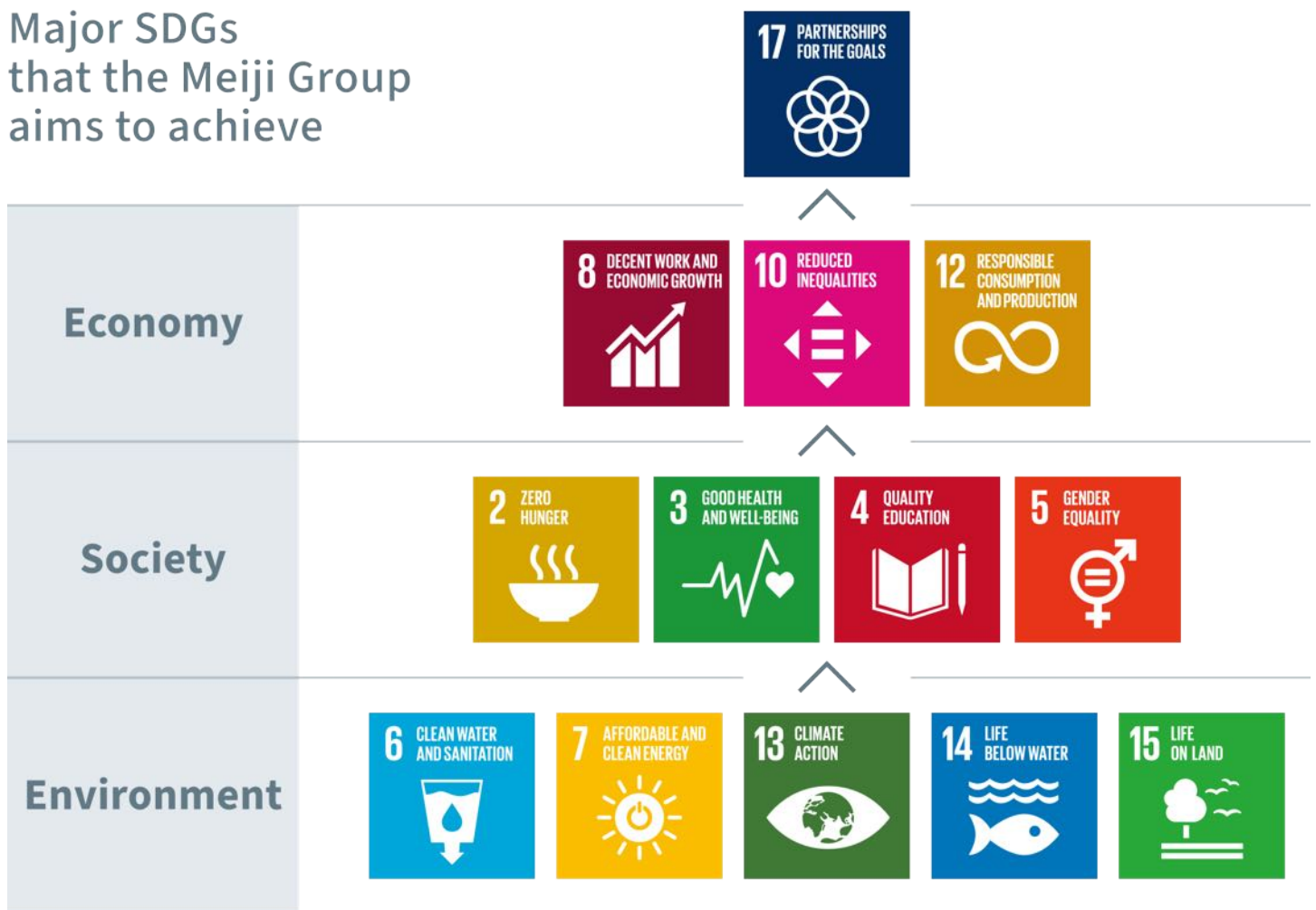


Approach toward SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of the 17 goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 for the year 2030. In our endeavors, we have identified 13 primary goals that will contribute to society in the Meiji Group' business activities. Recognizing that FY2021 marks the beginning of "the Decade of Action"* to address the SDGs, we are working to achieve the SDGs through the Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision.

* In January 2020, the United Nations defined the decade up to 2030—the deadline for the achievement of the SDGs—as "the Decade of Action" and called for countries around the world to accelerate and expand their initiatives.

Major SDGs that the Meiji Group aims to achieve



[See how our sustainability themes link to the SDGs](#)



Sustainability Management

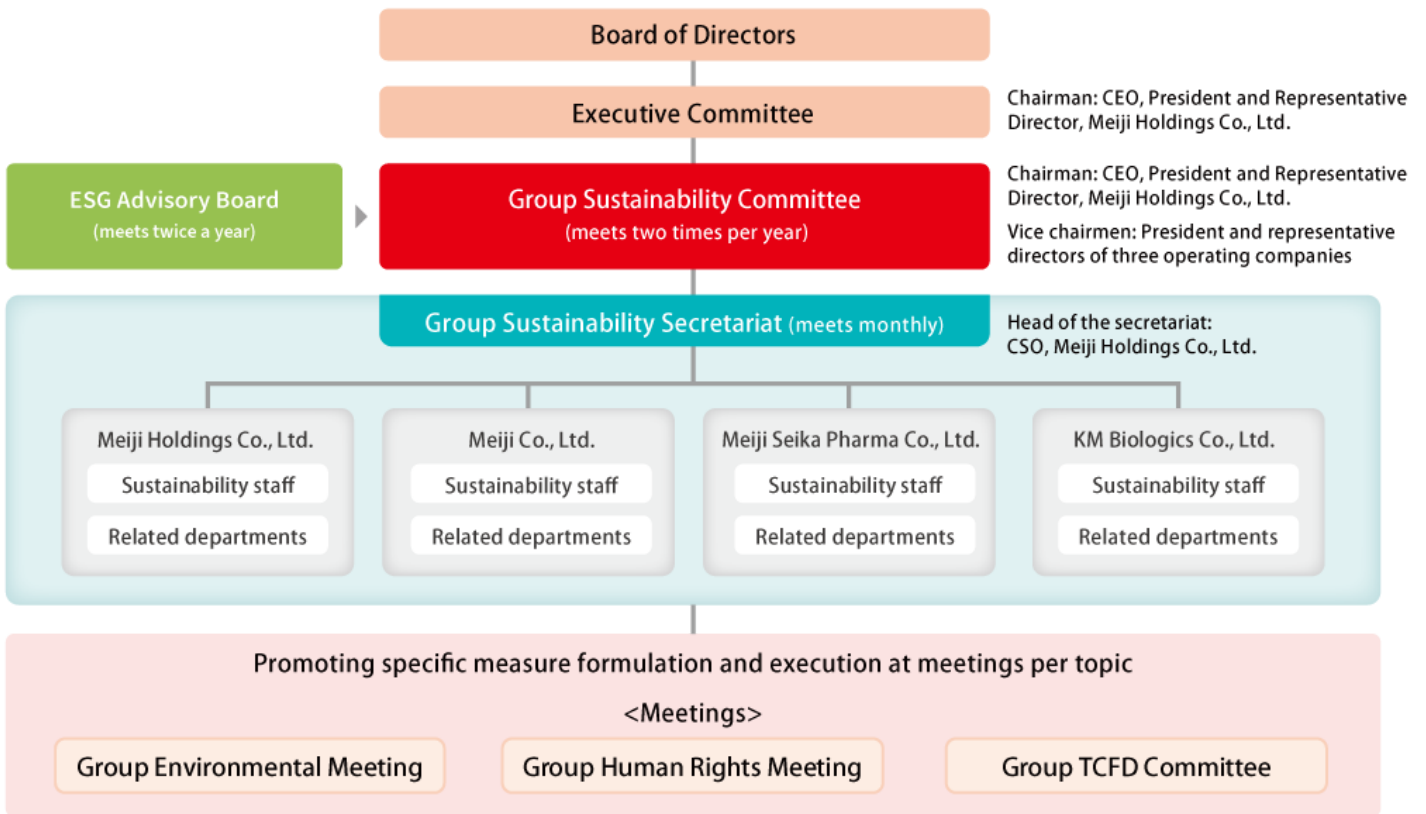
Group Sustainability System

We have established the Group Sustainability Committee with the CEO, President and Representative Director of Meiji Holdings at its helm.

Accordingly, we are promoting sustainability activities following the directions of this Committee. The Committee meets twice annually. It monitors the progress of activities to achieve KPIs in the Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision and establishes sustainability policies. The Committee shares outcomes of activities conducted by each operating company and reports twice annually to the Board of Directors. We have established a Sustainability Secretariat that meets monthly and its members are sustainability staff from Meiji Holdings and the operating companies. In FY2019, we established the Group Human Rights Meeting and the Group TCFD Committee alongside the Group Environmental Meeting, which is linked to the Sustainability Secretariat. We strengthened our systems for considering concrete measures and launched a number of initiatives including scenario analysis based on TCFD recommendations and conducting human rights due diligence.

Additionally, in October 2019 we established the Sustainability Management Department at Meiji Holdings in order to further accelerate our sustainability activities across the Group. As well as this, in June 2020 we appointed a Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) as the top person responsible for sustainability in Meiji Group. Under the leadership and supervision of the CSO, we will promote integration of our business and sustainability activities.

Group Sustainability System



Establishment of the ESG Advisory Board

In FY2021, we evolved the dialogue with outside experts, which had been held once a year, and established the ESG Advisory Board, which meets twice a year.

Recognizing the ever-accelerating pace of corporate sustainability activities, the Meiji Group has set a new target of Meiji ROESG^{®*} and is working to further strengthen its activities. At the same time, in the final year of the 2023 Medium-term Business Plan, we aim to be recognized as one of Japan's leading sustainability companies.

The main purpose of establishing the ESG Advisory Board is to grasp the demands and expectations of diverse stakeholders and appropriately respond to them as we strive to contribute to the sustainable development of society and become a trusted corporate group through our business activities.

We aim to further invigorate the sustainability activities and improve performance of the Meiji Group as a whole while exchanging opinions between external experts and internal member including CEO and CSO.

* The ROESG performance indicator was created and registered as a trademark by Professor Kunio Ito of Hitotsubashi University.

Stakeholder Dialogue Sessions

Advisory Board Members

Experts

Takeshi Kamigochi
Member of the Board, Executive Officer, Senior Vice President & COO,
J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mari Kogiso
Co-CEO, SDG Impact Japan

Peter David Pedersen
Representative Director, Next Leaders' Initiative for Sustainability
(NELIS)
Independent Outside Member of the Board, Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd.

Internal Members

Kazuo Kawamura
Chief Executive Officer, President and Representative Director

Jun Furuta
Chief Sustainability Officer, Member of the Board and Senior Managing
Executive Officer

Shinji Matsuoka
Executive Officer, Sustainability Management Dept.

Yuhei Matsumoto
Chief Human Resource Officer, Executive Officer, Group HR Strategy
Dept.

Youichirou Yamagata
General Manager, Corporate Development Dept.



Takeshi Kamigochi

Member of the Board, Executive Officer, Senior Vice President & COO, J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mr. Kamigochi has been involved in global management in the consumer goods business and distribution channels at Unilever Japan K.K., Walmart Japan K.K., and Sunstar Suisse S.A. He gained experience in finance and supply chain functions, followed by 12 years of experience as CEO at three companies. He also has more than 15 years of experience in overseas posts, including the United Kingdom, Singapore, and Switzerland. Since July 2021, he has served at J-Oil Mills, Inc., developing strategies for structural reform and growth. Since July 2023, Mr. Kamigochi has been leading the promotion of the Medium-Term Business Plan in his current position.



Mari Kogiso

Co-CEO, SDG Impact Japan

Mari is an impact investing leader with extensive background in sustainable finance and social entrepreneurship. Mari cofounded SDG Impact Japan in 2021 and developed the ESG engagement fund to promote sustainable conduct of Japanese medium and small sized public companies. In 2017, she led the establishment of the Asia Women Impact Fund (\$100 million) at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the first gender lens investment fund in Japan. Previously Mari held several senior positions at the World Bank Group in Washington DC and Tokyo including the representative of MIGA (the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency) in Tokyo. She also served as the global head of diversity and human rights of Fast Retailing Group, and Japan Representative of Dalberg. She currently serves as an outside auditor of Mitsubishi Corporation, an expert advisor on JICA's Overseas Investment Review Committee; and a member of the Advisory Board of the CIO office, Nikko Securities. Mari holds a BA in Economics from Tokyo University and an MA from the Fletcher School, Tufts University.



Peter David Pedersen
Representative Director, Next Leaders' Initiative for Sustainability (NELIS)

Born in Denmark in 1967, Mr. Pedersen has lived in Japan over 30 years.

He has been involved in sustainability management since 2000, and has assisted many Japanese companies with their sustainability strategies. Since 2015, Mr. Pedersen has served as representative director of the Next Leaders' Initiative for Sustainability (NELIS), which fosters young next-generation leaders around the world. He was named outside director of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. in June 2022, and he serves concurrently as an outside director at Marui Group Co., Ltd.

Informing Employees

We believe it is extremely important for our employees to understand our sustainability policies and activities. Sustainability is one of the regular topics in domestic and overseas group newsletters, including introductions of key terminology and examples of timely, relevant sustainability activities are.

Additionally, in April 2020 we began a sustainability-focused E-learning program for employees in Japan, at a pace of one session every two months.

Also in April 2021, we installed the Meiji Brand Promotion Leaders system, selecting leaders from each workplace to embody our new group slogan "Now ideas for wellness" and spread further understanding of our sustainability activities.

Furthermore, in April 2022, we launched the Meiji Sustainable College as a comprehensive framework for various initiatives (online courses, e-learning, sustainability communications, etc.) as part of promoting a sense of ownership. Through these initiatives, we will further strengthen our efforts to make sustainability the norm for each and every one of our employees.

Working to realize a sustainable society

KPIs for Meiji's global group-wide sustainability activities

Various KPIs are set in Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision. Among those, here's our global group-wide KPIs.

Caring for the Earth

Climate Change

Social Issues
Reduce CO₂ emissions volume

- 1 Reduce group-wide CO₂ emission volume (Scope 1 and 2*) by at least 40% compared with FY2015 baseline by FY2030
- 2 Increase the share of renewable energy to at least 50% of group-wide power usage by FY2030

* Scope 1: Direct emissions, emissions from operations that are owned or controlled by the reporting company. Emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, incinerators, non-ferrous metal smelting, etc. (excluding non-ferrous metal smelting on shared or controlled sites accounted).

* Scope 2: Indirect emissions, Emissions from the generation of purchased or acquired electricity, steam, heating, or cooling consumed by the reporting company. Use of purchased electricity, steam, heating, or cooling.

case 1

Reducing CO₂ emissions by installing solar panels

A large number of solar panels are installed in the Meiji America Inc. Santa Ana Plant in the U.S. and which have been providing the plant with renewable energy.



Caring for the Earth

Biodiversity

Social Issues
Protection of local biodiversity

- Engage in biodiversity conservation activities at all domestic plants by FY2020 and all global plants by FY2023**

case 2
Tree planting activities

PT. Meiji Indonesia plants productive trees in water catchment areas on the mountain slopes around the Palsauran regency.



Work constantly thinking of achieving KPIs

Contributing to solving social issues is an important theme in the Meiji Group 2026 Vision (the Vision). The Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision was formulated as a concrete measure to realize the Vision. Hence we specified materiality and KPIs in the Sustainability 2026 Vision. They are important activities and targets

Healthier Lives

Quality and Safety

3 Reduce
12 Ensure
100 Ensure

Social Issues
Ensure product quality and safety

Obtain third party Global Food Safety Initiative* (GFSI) certification, which includes HACCP, at all domestic food plants by FY2020 and all global food plants by FY2021

* GFSI approved standards: FSSC22000, BRC, SQF, IFS, etc.

Sustainable Procurement

Social Issues
Procure raw materials with consideration for human rights and the environment

- 1 Increase procurement ratio of sustainable cocoa beans* to 100% by FY2026
- 2 Use 100% RSPO-certified palm oil globally by FY2023

* Cocoa beans obtained via agreements with Cocoa Support for the environment

case 4

Expanding the Meiji Cocoa Support Program

We are expanding the activities of Meiji Cocoa Support, a program that supports cocoa farmers to produce high-quality and sustainable cocoa beans, and deepening partnerships with them.



Caring for the Earth

Water

Social Issues
Secure water resources

- Reduce group-wide water consumption volume (per unit of sales) by at least 20% compared with FY2017 baseline by FY2030**

case 3
Using Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water* recycling systems are installed in some plants of KAO Biologicals Co., Ltd. As the primary use, reusable water is collected and used as cooling towers feed water. As the secondary use, water discharged from the cooling towers is filtered and sterilized, and then used as flushing water for toilets. Overall, approximately 30,000 m³ of water is reused in the plants annually.

* Reclaimed water: Non-potable water that can be reused for industrial and other purposes.



for us to accomplish.

In October 2019, the Sustainable Management Department was created in Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., and a Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) was appointed in June 2020. Accordingly, we are accelerating and promoting our sustainability program. Because one of our key

strategies is to build a foundation for growth in overseas markets we have set our global KPIs.

We should strive to create a sustainable society through our business activities. Thus it is important for each and every one of us to work constantly thinking of achieving these KPIs.

Stakeholder Dialogue Sessions



5th ESG Advisory Board (2023)



4th ESG Advisory Board (2023)



3rd ESG Advisory Board (2022)



2nd ESG Advisory Board (2022)



1st ESG Advisory Board (2021)

5th ESG Advisory Board (2023)



Date: August 23, 2023

Participants:

[Experts]

Takeshi Kamigochi

Member of the Board, Executive Officer, Senior Vice President & COO, J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mari Kogiso

Co-CEO, SDG Impact Japan

Peter David Pedersen

Representative Director, Next Leaders' Initiative for Sustainability (NELIS)

Independent Outside Member of the Board, Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd.

[Internal Members]

Kazuo Kawamura

Chief Executive Officer, President and Representative Director

Jun Furuta

Chief Sustainability Officer, Member of the Board and Senior Managing Executive Officer

Shinji Matsuoka

Executive Officer, Sustainability Management Dept.

Yuhei Matsumoto

Chief Human Resource Officer, Executive Officer, Group HR Strategy Dept.

Youichirou Yamagata

General Manager, Corporate Development Dept.

* Company names and titles are as of August 2023.

Themes:

Topic Identifying materialities for our next vision

Topic Identifying materialities for our next vision

What materialities are we uniquely suited to answer as a united Meiji Group? Looking beyond the identification of materialities to strategic planning.

Expert opinions

- Identified materialities should be presented in a creative way. One example would be to classify materialities into three categories: (1) Positive contributions through businesses; (2) Responses to negatives associated with businesses; and (3) Fundamental activities. Or the group could organize materialities into items specific to each business area and items common across all businesses.
- Meiji has included many challenging materialities. I believe the company should organize these materialities by strengths and weaknesses, maintaining the ideal while considering relevance to Meiji Group businesses and time frames, etc.
- I think the Meiji Group should consider materialities to be business activities that solve social issues in ways unique to the Meiji Group. The group should express these materialities in a way that is easily understood and sympathetic to both customers and employees.
- Beyond identifying materialities, the Meiji Group should develop a winning sustainability strategy. It is important to communicate a Meiji-like trade-on strategy to improve corporate value.

Once we have created a materiality matrix based on the advice we received, we will consider the uniqueness of the Meiji character and the resonance among employees and customers as we proceed to identify our final selection of materialities. We will then use these materialities to build a winning sustainability strategy, define specific actions, and set KPIs.



4th ESG Advisory Board (2023)



* Mari Kogiso participated remotely.

Date: January 25, 2023

Participants:

[Experts]

Takeshi Kamigochi

Director, Senior Managing Executive Officer General Manager, Oil & Fats Business Unit, J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mari Kogiso

Co-CEO, SDG Impact Japan

Peter David Pedersen

Meiji Holdings Independent Outside Member of the Board

Representative Director, NPO NELIS

[Internal Members]

Kazuo Kawamura

Chief Executive Officer, President and Representative Director

Jun Furuta

Chief Sustainability Officer, Member of the Board and Senior Managing Executive Officer

Shinji Matsuoka

Executive Officer, Sustainability Management Dept.

Yuhei Matsumoto

Executive Officer, Group HR Strategy Dept.

Youichirou Yamagata

General Manager, Corporate Development Dept.

* Company names and titles are as of January 2023.

Themes:

Topic 1 Approach to materiality ahead of drafting the 2026 Medium-Term Business Plan

Topic 2 Increasing employee sustainability engagement

Topic 3 Creating a Meiji NPS (Nutritional Profiling System)

Topic 1 Approach to materiality ahead of drafting the 2026 Medium-Term Business Plan

Increasing corporate value by fusing sustainability and business, outline materiality that is linked to business strategy.

Expert opinions

- Sustainability has become a part of materiality for management. To strive for the company's vision, a consistent story is needed that sets materiality after presenting a strategy for how the company will allocate resources to achieve that vision.
- I think the Meiji Group's materiality is defined somewhat narrowly. In particular, for the materiality of "Healthier Lives," the company can strengthen its competitiveness in sustainability by refining that definition. This includes expanding the scope to encompass products that have been ethically procured. European companies are promoting such products as sustainable products.
- Regarding materiality for human resources, Meiji should look to broaden its perspective, and not just focus on gender. At the same time, there is also the view that women's active participation plays a role as a symbolic metric when considering the training, investment in human resources, work style reforms, etc. being implemented to ensure all employees can reach their potential.
- Investors want to know how materiality affects business performance. It would be easier to understand if there is a materiality map regarding the impact on society and the impact on business.

The Meiji Group recognizes that we are now entering a stage where the fusion of sustainability and business will be expected. We will formulate a materiality map that shows the relationship with business and presents a sustainability story that is integrated with our business strategy. We will also evaluate sustainable product creation.



Topic 2 Increasing employee sustainability engagement

It is important to make it evident that daily initiatives are linked to social and the future.

Listen to the opinions of younger generations and create contact points that increase engagement in sustainability.

Expert opinions

- When products and sustainability are linked, the employees involved in them also feel that they are making the world a better place and creating something for the future. There is the approach of promoting engagement through product brands.
- Understanding what the company is aiming for in its sustainability vision is the first step to increasing engagement. It is important to continuously convey your message in an easy-to-understand manner. It takes more than just saying it once.
- Specific methods include creating a slogan that makes sustainability feel familiar, hiring CFOs (Chief Future Officers) from among younger generations, and holding a Sustainability Week and other events in which people can easily participate.
- Rather than focusing on the word "sustainability" itself, the realization that your everyday work is connected to customers and society leaves a lasting impression. The accumulation of these minor successes is important.

In promoting sustainability, only the departments involved were ahead of the curve, which left some employees behind. We received suggestions to incorporate entertaining elements that are fun and interesting, and ultimately encourages employees to take action freely. While incorporating the perspectives of future generations and younger generations of employees, we will consider approaches to sustainability that feel more familiar.



Topic 3 Creating a Meiji NPS (Nutritional Profiling System)

Linking NPS to our vision and products, and creating a story are critical. In addition to evaluating and improving products, we will drive innovation that contributes to customer health, including raising awareness of nutrition suitable for each life stage.

Expert opinions

- Rather than treating NPS as a new metric, it should be established as a story by applying it to existing frameworks and linking it with products. For example, linking it to the care and cures Meiji Group can provide towards goal achievement.
- Meiji should apply its uniqueness to serve as a leader while collaborating with initiatives undertaken by the government and industry groups.
- Different life stages require different nutrients. I would like to see proposals for the elderly and for women's health. I would like you to create easy-to-understand nutrient standards and educate customers about nutrition.

We believe that NPS is an advanced initiative for the Japanese food industry. We will use NPS as an axis by which we evaluate and improve products. We will also evaluate different types of nutrition for various life stages. This will lead to the creation of innovation that contributes to customer health.



3rd ESG Advisory Board (2022)



* Takeshi Kamigochi participated remotely.

Date: August 31, 2022

Participants:

[Experts]

Takeshi Kamigochi

Director, Senior Managing Executive Officer General Manager, Oil & Fats Business Unit, J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mari Kogiso

Co-CEO, SDG Impact Japan

Peter David Pedersen

Meiji Holdings Outside Director,

Representative Director, NPO NELIS

[Internal Members]

Kazuo Kawamura

Chief Executive Officer, President and Representative Director

Jun Furuta

Chief Sustainability Officer, Member of the Board and Senior Managing Executive Officer

Shinji Matsuoka

Executive Officer, Sustainability Management Dept.

Yuhei Matsumoto

Executive Officer, Group HR Strategy Dept.

Youichirou Yamagata

General Manager, Corporate Development Dept.

* Company names and titles are as of August 2022.

Themes:

Topic 1 Meiji Group Integrated Report 2022

Topic 2 Carbon neutrality, building a roadmap

Topic 3 Future global expansion

Topic 1 Meiji Group Integrated Report 2022

How to link sustainability to business value

Establishing a story of value creation incorporated into business unique to Meiji

Expert opinions

- It is good that the word sustainability is not used often. This represents that non-financial and financial information have been well integrated.
- Issues still remain regarding how to present the fusion of sustainability and business. It would be good to outline a story so that it is easy to understand at a glance how the Meiji Group views the future, its ideal vision, and its value creation story.
- There is nothing that links to the faces of employees. It would be good if there were examples of what kinds of people are active and in what ways.
- As for what Meiji-style health value and Meiji ROESG^{®1} represent, it would be good if employees could come up with ideas and if the company includes that process of innovation and creation. This would give it more energy and better represent Meiji.
- Not a single female employee is presented so I do not have the impression that women are playing an active role. There is no denying that Meiji lags behind other companies in terms of diversity. We will look forward to seeing the company strengthen its efforts in the future.

Thus far, we have mainly been conscious of our message to investors, but moving forward, we will also consider storytelling and expressions that better present our employees. Efforts in cocoa and dairy farming are progressing, and these could become themes that lead to business reforms. These initiatives bring us closer to our original aim of contributing to ROE improvement through ESG. Management and employees will work together towards the challenge of achieving outcomes that are unique to the Meiji Group.

1 ROESG is a registered trademark for a management indicator developed by Kunio Ito, a professor at Hitotsubashi University.



Topic 2 Carbon neutrality, building a roadmap

Convey the Meiji Group's vision of the future and aim for carbon neutrality with business partners and customers as well.

Expert opinions

- In general, CO₂ reduction efforts are very difficult to understand. It is effective and very beneficial to explain using a video as you did this time.
- Scope 3 carbon neutrality cannot be achieved by the company alone. Achieving the 2030 and 2050 visions will require sharing values with business partners.
- The Meiji Group should promote CO₂ reductions for dairy farms and cocoa production areas with the intent to serving as an industry leader.
- Going carbon neutral is costly. Another important point is how to share that as added value for our customers.
- Through these initiatives, I hope consumers will come to like Meiji even more. To that effect, it is important to express the Meiji Group's vision of the future through your products. It is also interesting to outline a future story through initiatives geared towards children.

We believe that efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions need to be made not only by our company, but across our entire supply chain in cooperation with our business partners. First, to visualize emissions in each process of the supply chain, we will introduce carbon footprint (CFP) assessments and calculate CO₂ emissions for each product. The Meiji Group is particularly focused on supporting producers, and so we will strengthen efforts to achieve a win-win relationship with producers and for the global environment.

[CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050 \(video\)](#) ↗



Topic 3 Future global expansion

Strengthening engagement with the leaders of overseas Group companies to achieve global sustainability and profit growth

Expert opinions

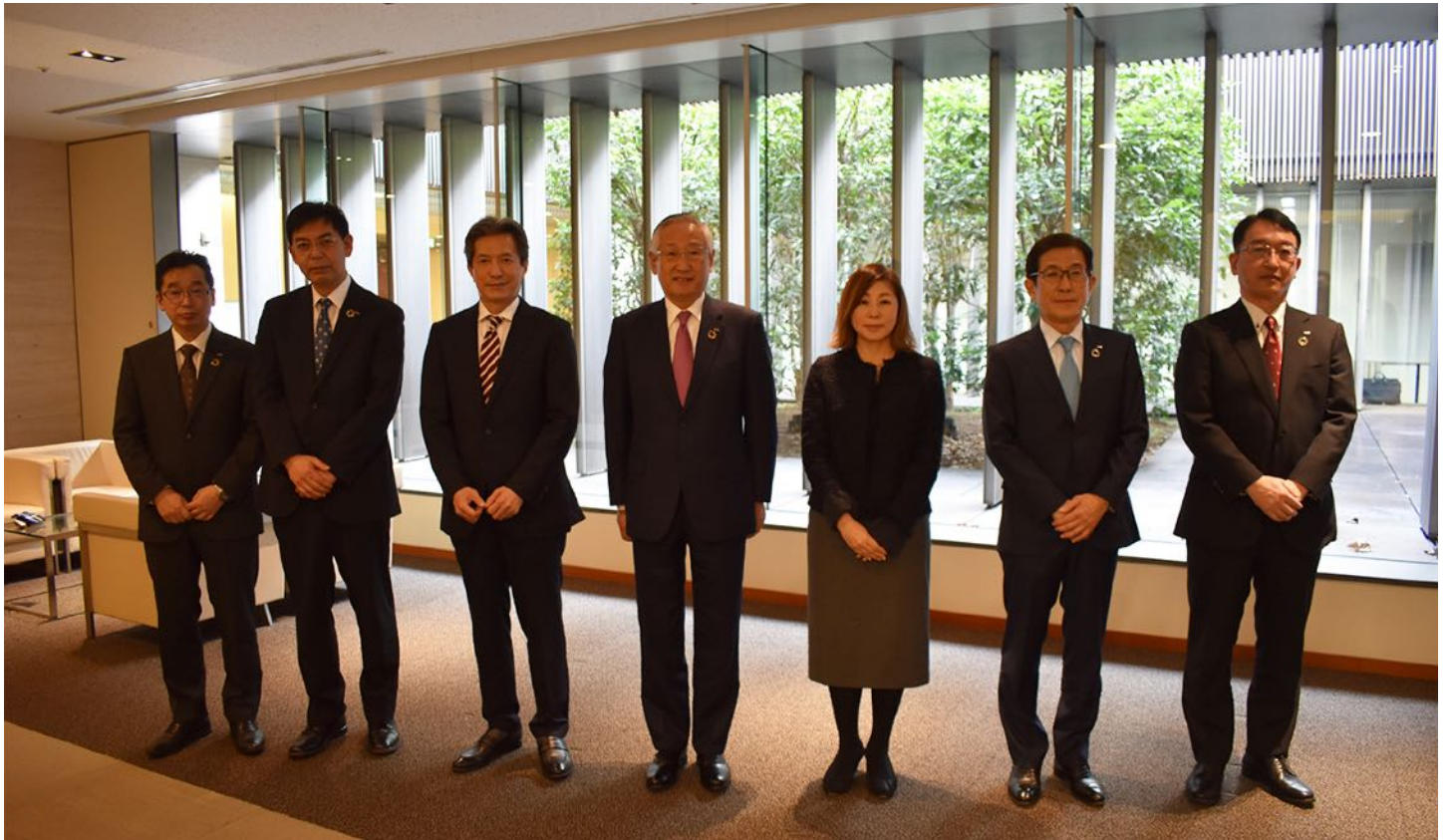
- Overseas employees account for 30% of the Meiji Group workforce, so the global adoption of sustainability activities needs to be accelerated.
- Sustainability is the common language of the non-financial world. It is important to engage with management at each overseas group company and ensure that goals are aligned.
- The Global Sustainability Meeting planned for this fiscal year will be an important opportunity to motivate employees towards taking action. This includes efforts such as sharing the Meiji vision and strategies. I hope that it will be held regularly in the future.
- It would be a good idea to build a framework that allows each company to self-assess the level of its own sustainability efforts and formulate future action plans.

Overseas Group companies have so far focused on business expansion. However, moving forward, we will treat sustainability a common language and align the vector of values with management in order to strengthen and accelerate initiatives on a level similar to efforts in Japan.



2nd ESG Advisory Board (2022)

In FYE March 2022, Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. established an ESG Advisory Board in order to ascertain the demands and expectations of diverse stakeholders, and to ensure our ability to respond appropriately. The first meeting was held in August 2021 and this is the second meeting of the Board. This time, the Board exchanged opinions on three topics: the Integrated Report, ethical consumption, and promoting D&I.



* Peter D. Pedersen participated remotely.

Date: January 27, 2022

Participants:

[Experts]

Takeshi Kamigochi

Senior Managing Executive Officer, Vice General Manager, Oil & Fats
Business Unit, J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mari Kogiso

Co-CEO, SDG Impact Japan

Peter David Pedersen
Representative Director, NPO NELIS

[Internal Members]
Kazuo Kawamura
Chief Executive Officer, President and Representative Director

Jun Furuta
Chief Sustainability Officer, Member of the Board and Senior Managing Executive Officer

Shinji Matsuoka
Executive Officer, Sustainability Management Dept.

Yuhei Matsumoto
Executive Officer, Group HR Strategy Dept.

Katsushi Nagamori
General Manager, Corporate Development Dept.

* Company names and titles are as of January 2022.

Themes:

- Topic 1 Meiji Group Integrated Report 2021
- Topic 2 The current status and future of ethical consumption
- Topic 3 Promoting diversity & inclusion

Topic 1 Meiji Group Integrated Report 2021

Shifting focus from output to outcomes, increasing our storytelling, and value creation unique to Meiji

Expert opinions

- The message being delivered by management is strong and being conveyed clearly.
- The company has established a solid framework.
- Meiji ROESG¹ is an advanced initiative that is highly praised in the industry.
- Providing expansive information is good but it seems too all-encompassing.
- The company is focused on output with a lack of focus on outcomes. Also lacking a story.

1 ROESG is a registered trademark for a management indicator developed by Kunio Ito, a professor at Hitotsubashi University.

We will work to improve how we express ourselves in the Integrated Report 2022 by delving into the topic of how we identify the value that Meiji provides. We will narrow themes and use outcomes to build stories and strengthen the elements that are unique to Meiji.



Topic 2 Current status and future of ethical consumption

Leading the ethical consumption movement as a leading food company

Expert opinions

- Europe is highly environmentally conscious. Overall awareness in Japan is still not very high but children are learning about SDGs at school and are more conscious than their parents. Moving forward, it will be important to find ways to capture demand from consumers with a high level of interest.
- What will Meiji leave for the next generation? Instead of passing costs on through price increases, the company must work to make ethical a mainstream concept.
- As a leading food company, Meiji needs to make this a movement for the entire industry.

As education about the SDGs spreads among younger generations in Japan, as seen in Europe, it is expected that changes in awareness towards ethical consumption will accelerate moving forward. The Meiji Group is committed to management that incorporates sustainable initiatives. We evaluate what will we leave behind for future generations and will continue to strengthen enlightenment activities so that the social value of sustainable products becomes added value also for our customers.



Topic 3 Promoting diversity & inclusion

Transforming both awareness and systems to further accelerate D&I

Expert opinions

- Promoting D&I with first requires that individuals understand and recognize the importance of these efforts.
- Meiji must start by fostering a culture of psychological safety for employees in the workplace.
- Gender equality is still a top priority in Japan. Solving this will be addressing the way men work. This must not be a single company, but something that must be addressed by Japan as a whole.
- It is difficult to change mindsets. Changing the system will change people's awareness, making it easier for D&I to succeed.
- It is important to not only set targets, but also to identify bottlenecks and raise sensitivity to promote systemic reforms.

Meiji Holdings will establish a Group Human Capital Committee in April to promote D&I. Utilizing human resources is the most important issue for a company. By increasing our understanding of diversity by repeatedly engaging in internal dialogue, we will integrate not only visible diversity such as women's empowerment and foreigners, but also invisible diversity in the form of values, corporate culture, and workstyles. This will lead to the creation of new value.



1st ESG Advisory Board (2021)



Date: August 25, 2021

Participants:

[Experts]

Takeshi Kamigochi

Senior Managing Executive Officer, Vice General Manager, Oil & Fats
Business Unit, J-OIL MILLS, INC.

Mari Kogiso

Co-CEO, SDG Impact Japan

Peter David Pedersen

Representative Director, NPO NELIS

[Internal Members]

Kazuo Kawamura

Chief Executive Officer, President and Representative Director

Jun Furuta

Chief Sustainability Officer, Member of the Board and Senior Managing Executive Officer

Shinji Matsuoka
Executive Officer, Sustainability Management Dept.

Yuhei Matsumoto
Executive Officer, Group HR Strategy Dept.

Katsushi Nagamori
General Manager, Corporate Development Dept.

* Company names and titles are as of December 2021.

Themes:

Topic 1 Meiji Group human rights initiatives

Topic 2 Environmental initiatives

Topic 3 General overview of Meiji Group sustainability activities

Topic 1 Meiji Group human rights initiatives

The basis of human rights to respect and care that acknowledges all people

Matsuoka

The Meiji Group has advanced and enhanced its human rights initiatives since 2018, when we drafted our Sustainability 2026 Vision. In 2019, we established the Meiji Group Human Rights Meeting and started conducting human rights due diligence. Some of the priority issues we first identified were human rights related to our raw material sourcing and foreign laborers. In 2020, we drafted a Supplier Code of Conduct and evaluated 74 primary suppliers using surveys created by EcoVadis as well as original surveys created internally at Meiji. In addition to promoting improvements at suppliers that were below criteria, moving forward we plan to expand these evaluations to include the suppliers of Japanese Group companies as well as overseas Group companies.

Pedersen

Does your foreign labor workforce include foreign technical intern trainees?



Matsuoka

There is one company within the Meiji Group in Japan that does hire technical intern trainees. As a result of interviews with the company, we confirmed there to be no particular issues. We also are aware of the fact that a number of manufacturing contractors also hire technical intern trainees, so we are conducting evaluations concerning the status of employment.

Pedersen

The global view of technical intern program in Japan is that it treats people like pieces in an economic game, and such programs are also in violation of Goal 8 of the SDGs. I believe you must go beyond implementing simple checks, and that you must disseminate to all your stakeholders that your approach to foreign workers is based on the tenets of respect and care.

Kogiso

I think it is excellent that you are directly conducting interviews concerning the status of hiring for foreign laborers. Moving forward, you may also want to consider establishing a hotline for foreign workers.



Kamigochi

I think a hotline is certainly a good idea. At Walmart, where I previously worked, they had created hotlines across the globe that provided 24-hour accessibility and ensured information reached the corporate heads in each country very quickly. Follow-up was also perfect. They had a corporate culture of respecting all people, and they responded to even the smallest things. This respect extended to employees as well as customers. Even now I remember their four pillars: respect for the individual, service to the customer, strive for excellence, and act with integrity. Establishing a culture is important. I hope for something that results in people naturally taking action. This is why choosing memorable keywords is necessary. Walmart chose the simple expression of “respect all people,” and this is something that stays in the minds of more than two million employees. That is what was amazing about Walmart. I think it is important to consider viability as a message.



Topic 2 Environmental initiatives

The major issue for corporations: Discovering “trade-ons” through TCFD.

Matsuoka

As TCFD initiatives, we started conducting analysis in 2019, with this year marking the third time. We analyzed a total of four patterns, 4°C and 2°C scenarios for 2030 and 2050, for dairy raw materials, infectious disease products (antibacterial drugs, vaccines), and cocoa. We confirmed that the risks that could have a major impact were issues that are common to all business domains. There were four key points: losses due to flood damage, cost increases due to the adoption of carbon pricing, cost increases for purchasing electricity, and cost increases for raw material sourcing. In particular, we anticipate cost increases for major raw materials could have an impact on raw material sourcing. This includes factors such as reduced cocoa bean harvests due to climate change and increased costs for farmers to implement heat mitigation measures. While we can evaluate absorbing cost increases by increasing the added value of products, optimizing our portfolio, and implementing price revisions, it will also be critical that we strengthen support for farmers in order to address future threats to stable sourcing.



Furuta

Recently, there has been an increase in buy-side ESG analysts. They have a solid understanding of TCFD and we are seeing a significant increase in requests for quantitative data. As a result, we also decided to disclose the impact of adopting Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon pricing.



Kawamura

I think that, if TCFD shows that sourcing costs will increase for major raw materials, then it is necessary to change operating strategies. Only maintaining the status quo will eventually lead to losses. It is necessary to consider how to change the framework of our business.

Pedersen

Exactly. No matter how excellent your analysis is, simply controlling risks will not be enough to garner a positive evaluation from investors. Management needs to tell a story. I think the level of the company's risk analysis is superb, but I also think there is a need to evaluate how to create new future opportunities. If only resulting in cost increases, sustainability initiatives will be seen as a burden. This is what investors are most concerned about.

Kawamura

In other words, this means establishing a fixed relationship between TCFD analysis and business strategy. This is something we are seriously evaluating, including for operating companies. At the same time, I do not think it is difficult to search for opportunity within TCFD analysis. Recent examples of directly turning efforts to resolve social issues into business opportunity include the vaccine-related business opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Pharmaceutical companies are posting significant sales. We too should be able to discover opportunities by shifting our way of thinking.

When you look at chocolate, for example, the main ingredient is the cocoa, but only the seed at the center of bean is used, with the majority of the remained being thrown away. However, that waste contains useful components such as fiber. I think it would be interesting if we can create new proposals for using the portions of materials that previously we did not use.

Pedersen

For sure, agricultural waste is garnering attention worldwide. I think there is potential to link such waste to new opportunities. Challenging yourselves to new domains while continuing to generate profits in existing domains. There are various possibilities.

Kawamura

With raw milk, there are issues of the methane produced by cows and the nitrous oxide emitted from cow manure. If those problems can be resolved, it will mean offering environmentally friendly raw milk. Such proposals would help increase the added value of milk and make positive contributions to people's health.

Kamigochi

What can you offer and what is the purpose of being for the company? There's no meaning if TCFD disclosures become the objective and the company loses its true purpose of being. There is a need to carefully look at methods and objectives.

Pedersen

Climate change is an issue that companies must work to resolve but it is up to management to find trade-ons. Settling for trade-offs cannot be considered business management. The strategy moving forward must include identifying how to use TCFD analysis to find trade-ons. This is the true responsibility of management.

Kawamura

I completely agree. TCFD must be seen as something that simultaneously includes a strategy for achieving trade-ons. We have opportunities to engage with people in agriculture, such as dairy farmers and cocoa farmers. Agriculture is traditionally an off-set industry so it is possible that being able to propose new businesses would lead to new value creation. Thinking from this perspective is also necessary.

Pedersen

Having these occasions over the past few years, I think that the Meiji Group has made amazing advancements. You have a solid foundation for action. Moving to the next stage will require groupwide initiatives. I believe your next stage is to discover business innovation through group collaborations.

Kogiso

Recently, I have had opportunities to discuss issues related to foodtech and agritech with the Meiji Group. This is a domain that has seen a rapid influx of capital recently. With growing attention on finding opportunities while working to resolve climate change, I think you will see many startups that are eager to work with the Meiji Group once you begin working these trends into your initiatives.

Topic 3 General overview of Meiji Group sustainability activities

Engaging in sustainability activities that incorporate the appeal of the Meiji Group

Kamigochi

It is not necessary to go it alone on every initiative. I think it is very important that you utilize the appeal of the Meiji Group as you incorporate various ideas. Our company presses soybeans, and currently we are increasing our focus on the byproducts of that pressing process. We created a new team that is working to shift our thinking. These efforts resonate with both employees and investors. In this way, I hope we can work together on resonance marketing.

Kogiso

The people working in sustainability departments sincerely struggle with whether to prioritize costs or profits. Even if they receive directives from above, it can be difficult to gain understanding from the people in the trenches. Developing trade-ons is important but, at the same time, sharing value recognition is very difficult so I think things will improve if companies can create opportunities for discussions about these issues as it relates to various processes, and also work to disseminate values.

Pedersen

Sustainability is the 5th pillar of competition. The first pillar is self-reform; the ability to reform your business model in a way that is aligned with the current times. Then, the other pillars are market share, price, and quality. Thus far, companies have competed based on these four pillars. Moving forward, we are entering an age in which competitiveness will be swayed by how companies handle this 5th pillar of competition, sustainability. Linking sustainability to competitiveness is an issue for everyone participating in this meeting today. The businesses that accomplish this will become the winners of the future.

Kawamura

Rather than an ESG Advisory Board, this feels more like a management meeting. Your comments are a great source of courage.

Furuta

Thank you for your time today. This was our first Advisory Board meeting but it was a source of many valuable opinions. On the issue of human rights, the idea of making it a part of the culture is something that I want to take away from this meeting. With TCFD as well, I agree with the assessment that we have not sufficiently discovered new opportunities. Next year, I want to make proposals for how we can capture such opportunities. I look forward to future meetings.

Healthier Lives

The Meiji Group's business activities contribute to healthier minds and bodies.



Health and Nutrition

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- [Meiji's Nutritional Commitments](#)
- [Contribute to Healthy Diets](#)
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Health and Nutrition



Health- and Nutrition-Related Targets

Targets of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective until March 31, 2024)

[] Scope of KPI

Meiji: Meiji Co., Ltd.

MSP: Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd.

KMB: KM Biologics Co., Ltd.

KPI	Base Year	Results		Targets
		FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024
Increase sales growth of health-conscious products, nutrition-enriched products, products that contribute a super-aged society by at least 10% in FYE 3/2024, compared with FYE 3/2021 baseline [Meiji, consolidated (domestic)]	FYE 3/2021	-3.1%	-3.1%	Increase sales by 10% or more
Enroll a total of 700,000 participants into nutrition and healthy diet education within three years from FYE 3/2022 to FYE 3/2024 [Meiji, unconsolidated]	-	188,000 participants	A total of 443,000 participants (FYE 3/2023: 255,000 participants)	A total of 700,000 participants
Achieve a volume share of at least 50% in five ¹ Key drugs ² by FYE 3/2024 [MSP, consolidated (domestic)]	-	32.4% ³	35.2% ³	50% or more
Aim for launch of COVID-19 vaccines by FYE 3/2024 [MSP, KMB, unconsolidated]	-	Currently taking steps to aim for launch in FYE 3/2024		Release a vaccine

1 Among the 10 ingredients selected as Key Drug in 2019, the number of antibacterial drugs marketed by Meiji Seika Pharma.

2 Representative antimicrobial drugs for the treatment of infectious diseases whose stable supply is essential, selected by infectious disease-related societies.

3 Copyright © 2023 IQVIA./JPM Calculated based on Apr 2021-Mar 2023/Reprinted with permission

Meiji's Nutritional Commitments

Since its founding more than 100 years ago, the Meiji Group has sought to contribute to society through nutrition, working to widen the world of “Tastiness and Enjoyment,” and to meet all expectations regarding “Health and Reassurance.” For the Meiji Group, “nutrition” means contributing to the resolution of health issues faced by all, and recognizing the importance of the happiness and the sense of fulfillment that eating tasty food can bring.

What does nutrition mean at Meiji? This important concept has now been enshrined in the Meiji Nutrition Statement, so that we can go on contributing to society for another 100 years. More specifically, we have made the following three commitments:

- Using milk, cocoa, and other natural ingredients, we provide nutrition that supports everyday good health.
- By adding value, we provide nutrition that satisfies deeper needs.
- Through nutrition, we will help to enrich the lives of consumers worldwide.

[Our Nutrition Initiatives](#) ↗

Contribute to Healthy Diets

Initiatives to combat micronutrient deficiencies and undernutrition

Today, societies around the world are facing two seemingly contradictory problems. On the one hand, there is a rise in non-communicable diseases¹ associated with overweight and obesity, which stem from overeating and unbalanced diets. On the other hand, there are increasing concerns about stunted growth, malnourishment, and frailty², which stem from a lack of protein, dietary fiber, vitamins, and other nutrients. If we wish to resolve such issues, it is vital that we make it easier for people to maintain nutritionally balanced diets. For this reason, we at the Meiji Group are developing products that contribute to the resolution of health and nutritional issues. At the same time, we are promoting initiatives aimed at using the Meiji Nutritional Profiling System to improve our products and provide information to our customers.

- 1 A "non-communicable diseases (NCDs)" is a chronic, non-transmissible disease that can have a variety of causes, including unhealthy diets, lack of exercise, smoking, excessive drinking, and air pollution; examples of NCDs include cancers, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, and mental health issues.
- 2 "Frailty" is a term used for the decline in physical and mental health associated with aging, such as muscle weakness and cognitive decline.

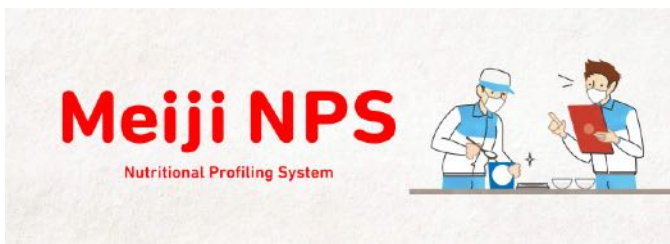
Formulating the Meiji Nutritional Profiling System (Meiji NPS)

In June 2023, the Meiji Group formulated the Meiji Nutritional Profiling System (Meiji NPS) after referring to international Nutritional Profiling System (NPS)³.

We aim to improve the nutritional value of our products by using Meiji NPS. We also aim to provide customers with clear information about these nutritional values to help them maintain even healthier diets.

- 3 We referred to Health Star Rating, Nutrient-Rich Food Index 9.3, and other NPSs

“Meiji Nutritional Profiling System (Meiji NPS)” [↗](#)



Develop Health Conscious Products

In response to the health needs of today's diverse consumers, the Meiji Group released 46 health-conscious products in FYE 2023/3. It developed these products by leveraging the strengths of its Food and Pharmaceuticals businesses while making the most of its advanced expertise in nutrition and pharmaceuticals.

About health-conscious products

The Meiji Group defines health-conscious products as those that contribute to bodily health. They include products that utilize healthy ingredients, such as lactobacillus and cocoa, contain added amounts of healthy ingredients designed to enhance health, or meet current consumer needs for reduced sugar, fat, or calories.

Main Products Released in FYE 3/2023



Meiji Anti-fat yogurt

Use lactobacilli with the function of reducing belly fat in people getting obese



Meiji Female Care Food α-Luna

A lineup of products that support women's specific health issues in a delicious way



Meiji Absorption Support Drink-type yogurt taken with vegetables

Use lactobacilli that effectively support the absorption of vegetable-derived nutrients

Product Development by Utilizing Healthy Lactobacillus and Cocoa Ingredients

The Meiji Group is developing new products made with probiotics, particularly lactobacillus, and plans to expand its lineup of high cocoa-content chocolate products that offer healthy cocoa polyphenols.



Meiji Bulgaria Yogurt



Meiji Probio Yogurt LG21



Meiji Probio Yogurt R-1



Meiji Probio Yogurt PA-3



Chocolate Kouka Cocoa 72%

Promoting Healthy Yogurt Drinks Made with Lactobacillus in China

The Meiji Group began selling Meiji Probio Yogurt R-1 and Meiji Probio Yogurt LG21 in China in April 2021. This was the first time for these yogurt drinks to be sold outside Japan.

In 2023, Meiji Probio Yogurt LG21 was awarded the first "Nutrition Innovation Award" at the Shanghai Nutrition Innovation Health Forum in China. From the viewpoint of technological innovation, the company

developed and commercialized products using selected special lactobacillus based on its own research, and was recognized for its unique focus on "stomach health" as well as the intestinal regulating effects of lactobacillus. In addition, the company's accumulated knowledge from many years of lactobacillus research and its dissemination of evidence-based scientific knowledge were also highly evaluated.

Products with Reduced Sugar, Fat, and Calories

We will effort to develop and offer products that meet modern health needs, such as low-sugar, low-fat, and low-calorie products.



Meiji Bulgaria
Yogurt
Zero fat



Meiji Probio Yogurt
LG21
Reduced fat



Meiji Probio Yogurt
R-1
Reduced sugar and
calories



Meiji Oishii Gyunyu
low fat



Meiji Offstyle
Low-fat margarine

[Click here for the results of our efforts to control overnutrition through our products \(to ESG data\)](#)

Products that support portion size control

The Meiji Group offers a variety of products in different portion sizes (the same content in multiple amounts) to make it easier for customers to adjust the amount of food they eat at one time to suit their own needs. By expanding the range of product choices with the addition of the small-volume product lineup, we will contribute to the realization of a healthy lifestyle for our customers by curbing excessive intake.

[Click here for the results of that support portion size control \(to ESG data\)](#)

Develop Nutrition-enriched Products

Amid growing consumer awareness of the importance of getting essential nutrients and improving nutritional balance, the Meiji Group released 41 nutrition-enriched products in FY2022. The Group applied its proprietary research on nutrition and related technologies to ensure that these products provide a good balance of nutrients that people need. Besides the product contents, all other aspects of the products were considered at the development stage, including volume, shapes, and packaging.

About nutrition-enriched products

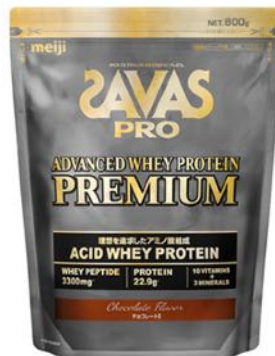
The Meiji Group defines nutrition-enriched products as those that provide nutritional support to infants, athletes, sports enthusiasts, and the elderly, or as high-added-value products that provide a good balance of essential nutrients based on the Group's proprietary research on nutrition and its nutrient design technologies.

Main Products Released in FYE 3/2023



Sports nutrition

SAVAS Protein Bar Chocolate Flavor/
Soy Protein Bar Bitter Chocolate Flavor



Sports nutrition

SAVAS Pro Advanced Whey Protein
Premium Chocolate Flavor



Chocolate

TANPACT Milk Chocolate

Meiji TANPACT to Overcome Reduced Protein Intake

Poor nutrition is an issue not only in emerging countries but also in developed countries. Currently, reduced protein intake is a problem in Japan. All generations are experiencing insufficient nutrition, for example, women who are dieting excessively and the elderly who are eating and exercising less. In fact, the average daily protein intake per person in Japan has fallen to that of the 1950s. For more than 65 years, we have been developing protein products and successfully expanding the value of protein through products such as milk formula, yogurt and sports supplements. Using that knowledge, we developed Meiji TANPACT, containing a good balance of essential amino



acids that people consume milk protein in their daily lives. We will continue to address poor nutrition by promoting the enjoyment of food and offering many Meiji TANPACT products. Consumers enjoy milk protein anytime and anywhere throughout the day.

Nutritional and Medical Products for Infants, Seniors, and Sports Enthusiasts

The Meiji Group draws from its research on nutrition and related technologies to develop high-value-added products that provide a good balance of essential nutrients. These products offer nutritional benefits to people of all ages, from infants to the elderly, as well as to athletes and sports enthusiasts.

Main Products



Infant formula

Meiji Hohoemi Raku Raku Cube



Liquid infant formula

Meiji Hohoemi Rakuraku Milk



Sports nutrition

SAVAS Whey Protein



Sports nutrition

VAAM Athlete



Nutritional products

Meiji Mei Balance

[Click here for the results of efforts to improve nutritional deficiencies through products \(to ESG data\)](#)

Contributing to Healthy Growth with Our Infant Formula Featuring More Added Value

Since first launching in Japan a vitamin B1 fortified infant formula in 1923, the Meiji Group has been committed to the infant and toddler nutrition business to promote their healthy growth. We are currently supporting health in babies and toddlers by focusing on Meiji Hohoemi, which can be used as a breast milk replacement for infants, and on Meiji Step, which helps provide suitable nutrition for toddlers up to age three. In addition, we developed the world's first infant formula in cube form to help in the child rearing process. It is designed for anyone to prepare the infant formula easily even for late night feedings, so that everyone in the family can participate in child rearing. In March 2019, we also launched a formula in liquid form that can be stored and fed at room temperature and offers a long shelf life. This is not only convenient when feeding outside of the home but gives mothers peace of mind as an emergency supply in the event of a

disaster or emergency situation. In August 2020, this product became the first product for infants to acquire Phase Free certification* as a product that is useful both in "daily life" and in "emergencies" such as disasters. And in April of the following year, the best-before date of this product was extended to 18 months. It supports hygienic feeding of infants on a daily basis when out and about or at night, and in emergencies with its sturdy steel can and special attachments.

* A concept that seeks to ensure an appropriate quality of life regardless of the "everyday" and "emergency" phases (state of society).

Access to nutrition

Home delivery service

The Meiji Group provides home delivery services for drinking milk and dairy products through a network of some 3,000 distributors nationwide, delivering directly to customers in nearly 2.4 million households. This home delivery service features numerous delivery-exclusive products that are not available in stores, including small-volume functional beverages developed to enable convenient daily consumption of products that promote health, as well as products such as cheese and curry designed to support the formation of good eating habits.

We value direct communication with our customers. We make efforts to engage with customers during deliveries and, in certain communities, also participate in neighborhood watch activities. The Meiji Group is making a shift from our previous function as delivery centers towards becoming wellness centers. We will go beyond offering products and expand our services to proposals for basic exercises as we work to extend healthy life expectancy for our communities.



Meiji Probio Yogurt R-1



Meiji Probio Yogurt LG21



Meiji Dairy Five Stars



Meiji Glucosamine 1500 & Collagen 3000

Promote Healthy Diets and a Healthy Food Culture

As a company that supports customers' healthy diets, the Meiji Group strives to popularize and raise awareness by providing products and disseminating information about healthy diets and dietary cultures.

Expanding Nutrition and Healthy Diet Education Activities

Results of nutrition education initiatives

(Unit: 10,000 participants)

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Japan	19.6	21.2	9.7	18.8	25.5

Nutrition Education Initiatives in Japan

The Meiji Group began offering nutrition education in 2006, one year after Japan enacted a law concerning food and nutrition education. By explaining the value of nutrients, how food is produced, and the challenges faced by producers of milk, chocolate, and other products, the programs aim to encourage people to develop healthy eating habits and foster an appreciation and understanding of food.

In recent years, the Group has been targeting a broad range of age groups through its numerous education programs held at events it sponsors and at high schools, universities, workplaces, and public facilities for senior citizens. The programs focusing on health management, which has been attracting attention recently, have been especially popular among participants.

From FY2020, food and nutrition seminars were held online due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and attracted large numbers of participants. The online format also enabled greater coverage across Japan, including its island communities. Having received very positive feedback from participants of all age groups, the Group plans to offer even more seminars about food and nutrition as way to promote good health and well-being.

Overview of Activities

- Head office and seven workplaces around the country (in the cities of Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka)
- Nationwide organization with a staff of about 60 in charge of its nutrition education activities
- Participating students: 144,197 from 1,394 elementary and junior high schools (FY2022)
- Participating students: 122,917 from 1,253 elementary and junior high schools (FY2021)
- By the end of FY2020, lessons were held at over 10,000 elementary and junior high schools with more than one million students participating.



Supervisors for our programs

1. For cooking recipes: Eiko Egami, President, Egami cooking school
2. For dairy nutrition: Tadao Saito, Professor Emeritus, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tohoku University
3. For physiology: Hiroshi Nose, Professor, Department of e-Health Science, Shinshu University Graduate School of Medicine

Nutrition Education Initiatives in Overseas

In China, Meiji Dairies (Suzhou) implements a nutrition education program for children focusing on yogurt. Through fun hands-on activities, the program teaches kids about dairy cows, milk, yogurt, and nutrition.

Supporting Nutrition through Sports

The Meiji Group organizes sports nutrition seminars across Japan to help young people improve their physical fitness and enhance their individual performance. The seminars teach aspiring athletes about which foods are preferable and how to effectively use supplements so that they can develop healthily from a young age.

By providing these seminars nationwide, the Group hopes to help young athletes realize their abilities and potential while also supporting coaches at the forefront of sports nutrition.



Participants in Sports Nutrition Seminars

(Unit: 10,000 participants)

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Number of participants in sports nutrition seminars	7.2	6.4	2.6	3.6	5.0

Communicating Information about Milk, Lactobacillus, and Cocoa

We publish and present the results of research on milk, Lactobacillus, and cocoa (raw ingredients in our products) in white papers and at conferences. We explain healthy effects of milk, Lactobacillus, and cocoa to our customers through nutrition and healthy diet education and plant tours. We will continue to pursue our mission of educating the world about health and nutrition.

Nutrition policies and related measures

We at the Meiji Group are developing measures based on various policies including the Meiji Group Food Nutrition Labeling Policy and the Marketing Communication to Children Policy, which were established in accordance with international guidelines.

[Meiji Group Food Nutrition Labeling Policy](#)

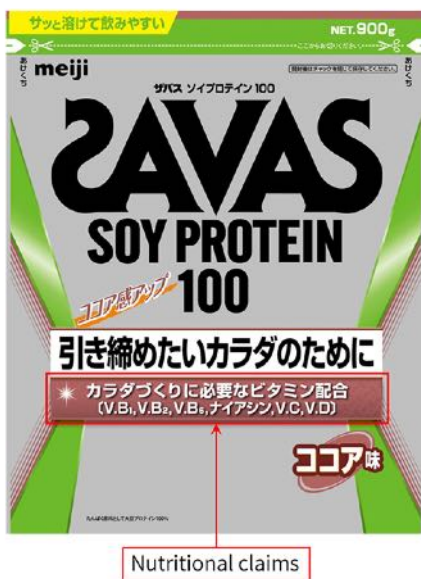
[Meiji Group Marketing Communication to Children Policy](#)

Product Package Labeling

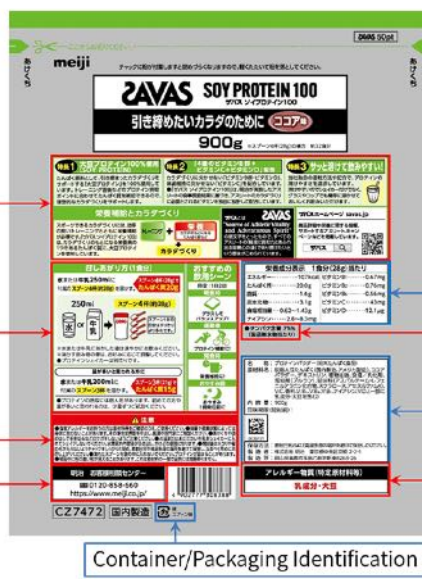
The Meiji Group provides clear and accurate information in accordance with the "Meiji Group Food Nutrition Labeling Policy" on product packages to help customers choose the correct products and lead healthy lives. Product packages include mandatory labeling such as nutritional information and packaging information in compliance with the labeling regulations of each country and region where the product is sold, as well as information necessary for customers to make the correct choice.

Packaging of "SAVAS Soy Protein 100" in accordance with the Meiji Group Food Nutrition Labeling Policy

Front of Package Labeling (FOPL)



Labeling on back package (BOP)



- Product Features
- Serving Instructions
- Precautions for use
- Customer Inquiries

- Nutrition Facts Label
- Voluntary Labeling
- Aggregate Labeling
- Allergy Supportive Labeling

Mandatory labeling

- Aggregate Labeling
Information on the name (product name), ingredients, content, best-before date (before opening), storage method, manufacturer, and place of manufacture are listed. In particular, many products are laser-engraved with a best-before date that cannot be altered.
- Nutrition Facts Label
Calories (energy), protein, fat, carbohydrates, and salt equivalents are shown. In addition, when nutritional ingredients specified in the Food Labeling Standards are claimed to customers on the container label, the content of the nutritional ingredients is also shown.
- Container/Packaging Identification Label
"Identification Mark" is displayed in accordance with the Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources.

Labeling to help in product selection

- **Nutritional claims**
In order to help customers correctly select Meiji Group products, the nutritional ingredients that are specifically added to our products are displayed in an easy-to-understand manner.
- **Voluntary Labeling**
Depending on the characteristics of the product, information on ingredients considered necessary for customers is displayed near the Nutrition Facts label.
- **Allergy Supportive Labeling**
In addition to the mandatory allergy labeling, the Meiji Group also provides a separate "Allergy Supportive Labeling" column to increase visibility. The specified raw materials and items equivalent to specified raw materials stipulated by the Consumer Affairs Agency are shown.
- **Product Features**
Information on how the product can help customers lead healthy daily lives.
- **Serving Instructions**
To make it easy for customers to enjoy the food, various ways of consuming the food are shown.
- **Precautions for use**
The contents and notes of inquiries and anticipated events received from customers are shown.
- **Customer Inquiries**
By making product package labeling highly visible and eye-catching, we strive to gain customer satisfaction and trust through the development and improvement of diet and nutrition, products and services.

Employee education on marketing and advertising (food business)

In order to promote responsible marketing, we provide educational programs for employees involved in promotion and public relations, as well as to those who wish to do so.

We will further expand the content of our educational programs to ensure that our employees can provide the right information to customers about our products.

Educational Program Content and Results

Educational Program Content	(Units: Persons)	
	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Meiji Group Marketing Communication to Children Policy	—	130
Rules regarding the use of SDGs logos and icons in the Meiji Group	29	156

Respond to a Super-Aged Society

Develop Products That Contribute to a Super-Aged Society

Through original research and nutritional design, we offer products for consumers to take in the nutrient content and energy they require.

Developing Delicious, Easy-to-Use Nutrition and Liquid Foods for the Elderly

As people grow older, they may have trouble eating and digesting solid foods, which could result in insufficient intake of nutrients and water. In such cases, they must make sure to get enough nutrition. To meet their needs, the Meiji Group develops good-tasting and easy-to-use nutritional food products, liquid food, and nursing care food. All aspects of these products are developed, including volume, shapes, and packaging, with consideration given to the increasingly diverse lifestyles of senior citizens. The Group released eight products that benefit the health of elderly consumers in FY2022.

Main Products



Nutritional products

Meiji Mei Balance Mini-cup



Nutritional products

Meiji Nutrition up paste



Enteral formula

Meiji Mei Balance R



Enteral formula

Meiji Inslow



Slurry Preparation Food

Meiji Easy Toromake

Conduct Educational Activities Aimed at Preventing Malnutrition

Malnutrition among the elderly has emerged as a health problem in Japan. In response, the Meiji Group is carrying out educational initiatives to help senior citizens acquire enough nutrition and lead more active lives.

We conduct educational activities focused on malnutrition and malnutrition prevention. Our goal is for the elderly to avoid malnutrition and lead active daily lives. We hold seminars about malnutrition and malnutrition prevention, targeting healthcare professionals at in-home-care support centers, drug store employees, and the elderly. Specifically, we provide information about nutrition and meals recommended for the elderly. We also discuss the preparation of meals that are easier to eat for elderly people who have difficulty swallowing.

Improve Nutrition in Emerging Countries

Communicate Information on Nutrition Improvement in Emerging Countries

Many people in developing countries and emerging economies suffer from nutritional deficiencies and malnutrition.

As a company in the food business, we want to help solve these issues, working with groups that encourage nutrition improvement to raise awareness about diet and nutrition through educational activities.

Participation in the Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform

Meiji is a member of the Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform, an organization that facilitates joint initiatives in the private and public sectors to improve nutritional intake in developing countries. The platform was established following the Japanese government's declaration to step up efforts to improve nutrition worldwide. As a member, Meiji has been participating in initiatives for improving people's health and livelihoods and for ending hunger, a goal of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

[Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform \(NJPPP\)](#) ↗

Providing 650,000 female factory workers with nutrition education by 2030

In recent years, malnutrition among women has become a social issue in Vietnam.

Pregnant women, nursing mothers, and female workers in particular face the issue of their nutrition improvement. To contribute to solving this issue, we are working on a program to improve nutrition among female factory workers. The program is aimed at improving the nutritional conditions of women working at factories by nutritionists from MEIJI FOOD VIETNAM CO., LTD. providing them with nutrition education and nutritionally-fortified milk. Up to this point, we have conducted nutrition improvement seminar at factories of several major Japanese manufacturers, attracting the participation of a total of 370 female workers.

The nutrition research that we conducted in collaboration with Hanoi Medical University has proved that nutrition education and dietary guidance help improve health conditions, including increasing levels of iron, zinc, and calcium in the blood.

The research results were presented by Nguyen Thuy Linh, a Doctor of Nutrition at Hanoi Medical University, at an international symposium marking the university's 60th anniversary. In the future, we will expand our nutrition improvement initiative based on this evidence. Our aim is to provide nutrition education to 650,000 female factory workers by 2030.



Nutrition improvement seminar conducted by a MEIJI FOOD VIETNAM CO., LTD. nutritionist



The nutritionally-fortified milk MEILIFE provided along with a nutrition improvement seminar

Sustainable Supply of Pharmaceuticals

Efforts to Stable Supply

Our Pharmaceuticals business has developed an infrastructure to ensure a reliable, stable supply of drugs in Japan and throughout the world. The business has conducted a risk assessment, preparing a supply network capable of responding flexibly to any unforeseen circumstances.

Optimization of Production Site Allocations in Japan and Overseas to Ensure Stable supply

We have optimized our production site allocations in Japan and overseas (Thailand, Indonesia, and India) to form a network ensuring the stable supply.

Strengthening Stable Supply System for Five Key Drugs

Production troubles at overseas pharmaceuticals manufacturers resulted in the disruption of cefazolin shipments to Japan. Now, many medical institutions in Japan have become concerned about the stable supply of infectious disease drugs (antibacterial agents). Since a stable supply of antimicrobial agents is essential for treatment of infectious diseases, five academic societies¹ having profound knowledge of infectious diseases have been increased the list of clinically important drugs (key drugs) for which a stable supply is essential. As of March 2022, the number of key drugs have expanded to thirty two, thirteen² of which are supplied by Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd.



To meet our social responsibility and to accomplish a central role in the treatment of infectious diseases, we intend to continue our efforts to ensure quality, to optimize our production bases, and to strengthen the stability of our supply system.

1. The Japanese Society of Chemotherapy, the Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases, the Japanese Society for Clinical Microbiology, and the Japanese Society for Infection Prevention and Control, and the Japanese Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases
2. Penicillin G Potassium, Sulbactam Sodium/Ampicillin Sodium, Tazobactam Sodium-Piperacillin Sodium, Meropenem Hydrate, Vancomycin Hydrochloride, Cefditoren Pivoxil, Amikacin, Amoxicillin, Ampicillin, Clarithromycin, Micafangin Soduim, Kanamycin, Levofloxacin

Stable supply of antimicrobials

Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. is preparing to produce 6-APA, a common raw material for penicillin antibacterial agents, at its Gifu Plant. Domestic production of this raw material will enable us to secure a stable supply of 6-APA, which currently depends on supplies from overseas. Production at Gifu Plant is scheduled to start in 2025.



Establish a vaccine production system in preparation for an infectious disease pandemic outbreak

KM Biologics Co., Ltd. has received funding through a project launched by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare to ensure the development and production of vaccines for new strains of influenza. In the event of an influenza pandemic, the company is responsible for manufacturing and supplying influenza vaccine to 57 million people (almost half the population of Japan). In addition, since the project has been selected by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) for the "Project of Developing Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Sites to strengthen Vaccine Production," we will establish a vaccine production facility in preparation for an infectious disease pandemic outbreak. This development will enable the establishment of a system that can smoothly produce vaccines domestically in the event of an emergency.

Sole Supplier of Drugs

KM Biologics Co., Ltd. is the sole manufacturer and supplier of various products in Japan, including antivenoms for poisonous snakes (Mamushi and Habu), a vaccine for hepatitis A, an anthrax vaccine for livestock, and various diagnostic agents.

Manufacturer and Supplier of Orphan Drugs

The Meiji Group has received 13 orphan drug* designations for 10 products in total, and nine out of 10 indications (one indication/product in NDA) have been approved, which contribute to treatments of diseases with limited treatment options (As of the end of August 2023).

* Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare designates orphan drug as treatment of a rare disease that affects less than 50,000 patients, and which requires relatively high levels of medical care.

Major orphan drugs

Refractory epilepsy: In 2012, Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. launched DIACOMIT[®], a treatment for Dravet syndrome, a refractory epilepsy syndrome, which develops in infancy and is estimated to occur in one in 40,000 people. In 2011, DIACOMIT[®] received an orphan drug designation for the disease, and was launched in November 2012.

Brain tumors: In the treatment of malignant brain tumors, which are characterized by invasive growth into normal brain tissue, the issue has been how to selectively damage tumor cells. Photodynamic therapy (PDT) is known as a less invasive treatment that has less impact on normal tissues. "Laserphyrin[®] 100mg for Injection", a photodynamic therapy agent, received orphan drug designation in August 2013 for the indication of malignant brain tumors, which was approved in September 2013.

Esophageal cancer: In esophageal cancer, there has been a desire for a treatment for local residual or recurrent tumor after chemoradiation therapy (CRT) or radiotherapy (RT). "Laserphyrin[®] 100mg for Injection", a photodynamic therapy agent, was designated as an orphan drug in March 2014 for this indication as well, and received approval in May 2015.

Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD): Chronic graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) is a complication with limited-treatment option, which occurs after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for hematologic cancers, such as leukemia. ME3208 (belumosudil mesilate) is expected to be effective against this disease by exerting immunomodulatory effects through a new mechanism of action, and was designated as an orphan drug in May 2023. A New Drug Application for ME3208 was submitted in Japan in June 2023.

Purpura fulminans: Patients who have a congenital deficiency of a protein called protein C may develop purpura fulminans, a serious disease characterized by recurrent subcutaneous bleeding and hemorrhagic necrosis.

"Anact[®] C Injection 2500 units" is a preparation of purified and activated protein C from donated blood plasma, used for the treatment of purpura fulminans.

This drug has been designated as an orphan drug since November 1993.

Hemophilia with inhibitors: Hemophilia patients, both hemophilia A and B, who develop antibodies (inhibitors) against Factor VIII and Factor IX involved in blood coagulation reaction may experience bleeding in joints and muscles due to impaired clotting function.

"Byclot[®] Combination I.V. Injection" is a preparation containing activated Factor VII and Factor X, purified from donated blood plasma, used for hemostatic treatment and bleeding prevention in hemophilia patients with inhibitors.

This drug has been designated as an orphan drug since May 2014.

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS): It is a neurological disorder in which the autoimmune system damages the peripheral nerves, resulting in paralysis of the hands and feet.

"Kenketsu Venilon[®]-I Intravenous Injection" is a preparation of purified immunoglobulin from donated

blood plasma, used for the treatment of acute exacerbation of Guillain-Barré Syndrome. This drug has been designated as an orphan drug since April 1996.

Access to Medicine

We collaborate with certain organizations to improve access to medicine in developing and emerging countries.

Medreich Contributes to Medicine Access through UNICEF

Medreich Limited conducts pharmaceutical-manufacturing business, including CMO (contract manufacturing organization) and CDMO (contract development and manufacturing organization), in India. The company manufactures generic drugs and sells them to markets worldwide, including Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. Its U.K.-based subsidiary, Medreich plc, sells pharmaceutical products manufactured by Medreich Limited to the EU and other markets. Medreich plc supplies the antibiotic Amoxicillin to UNICEF. Medreich will continue improving children's access to medicine through UNICEF.

[Medreich Limited](#) ↗

[UNICEF](#) ↗

Measures Against Infectious Diseases

Efforts to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

The Meiji Group's pharmaceutical business has been developing, manufacturing, and selling therapeutics for infectious diseases, particularly ethical pharmaceuticals, since it began producing penicillin in 1946. Besides supplying antibiotics for various infectious diseases, the business provides information for dealing with peaks of epidemics, and informs medical institutions about the proper use of antibiotics.

Providing Information on the Proper Use of Antibiotics

The Meiji Group actively carries out public awareness campaigns about medical and health issues in partnership with related organizations. For example, the Group is a member of the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association's stewardship project that aims to help stop antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The Group requests medical organizations to display posters and show educational videos produced through the project, provides information on drug tolerance, and promotes initiatives taken by the association's members. The Group also raises awareness of One Health, an approach through which organizations work together to address issues related to the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health, which is essential for combatting AMR.



Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Survey in Industrial Animals as a “One Health” Approach

Infectious diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans and from humans to animals (zoonosis) account for about half of all infectious diseases. These infections are not limited to those engaged in medical and veterinary medicine, but can easily enter the general public through the environment and food, and spread internationally.

Proper use of antimicrobials in livestock farms is strongly sought to prevent the worldwide spread of drug resistance in veterinary and human medical settings. Meiji Animal Health is conducting joint research on drug-resistant bacteria in industrial animals at AMR Surveillance Laboratory (AMRSL) in Azabu University. AMRSL collects specimens from infected livestock and breeding environments nationwide, drug susceptibility and prevalence of resistance genes in the isolated strains are investigated. By accumulating these basic data and overall profiling the susceptibility of the strains to various drugs, we will seek measures to suppress the emergence of AMR.

Appropriate Use of Antibiotics Efforts to Control Infectious Diseases Caused by Vancomycin-resistant Bacteria

The risk of infectious diseases caused by drug-resistant bacteria* is globally increasing partly due to inappropriate use of antibiotics. One such example is the infectious diseases caused by vancomycin-resistant bacteria. Vancomycin resistance increases in appropriate use of Vancomycin for MRSA infections.

To prevent the spreading of these drug-resistant bacteria, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), the Japan Antibiotics Research Association and pharmaceutical companies established the Vancomycin Study Group. Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. has worked as the organizer of the Association since it

was established in 2002, leading many efforts to achieve appropriate use of vancomycin. Collaborating with relevant organizations, the Study Group continues to monitor drug quantities used in order to check and understand changes or any signs of increase in drug resistance. The Study Group reports survey results to the MHLW and provides that information to medical institutions.

* Bacteria that have become difficult to control or kill with antibiotics

A Novel β -lactamase Inhibitor for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Overcoming Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is now an important issue, we should tackle globally and was discussed at the G7 Hiroshima Summit and the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting in Nagasaki held in May 2023. In Japan, the "National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)" has been formulated, and research and development of new preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic methods against infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria is being promoted. Against this backdrop, OP0595, a novel beta-lactamase inhibitor, developed by the Meiji Group, has been selected for development under a national project (CiCLE: the Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment) that aims for innovation in R&D and drug discovery through industry-academia-government collaboration. OP0595 is expected to be an effective treatment against multidrug-resistant bacteria because of its unique mechanism that are not found in conventional beta-lactamase inhibitors. A global Phase III clinical trials are underway from April 2023 in Japan, Asia (including China), Europe and the Middle East (total of 17 countries planned).

Research and development of new drugs and vaccines

In the pharmaceutical business, we are proceeding with research and development so that products can be delivered to patients as soon as possible. In addition, as a company involved in the field of infectious diseases, we will implement infectious-disease countermeasures including prevention and drug resistance.

Efforts to COVID-19

Developing an Inactivated Vaccine in Japan

We have been developing an inactivated vaccine¹ (KD-414) against novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19) since May 2020 in collaboration with a national research institute², utilizing knowledge accumulated through many years of vaccine development. The clinical trials are underway since October 2021.

The multi-regional phase III clinical trials in adults under 40 years of age were started in April 2020, and the domestic phase III clinical trials in children of 6 month to less than 12 years of age were started in January 2023, respectively. In addition, in order to verify the efficacy of KD-414 against the Omicron subvariants,

including XBB.1.5, we started another domestic phase III clinical trials in children of 6 months to less than 13 years of age.

Vaccines 

[Wellness Stories/ COVID-19: Hope for an Inactivated Vaccine Pipeline](#)

On the other hand, we have an approval for manufacturing and sales of prototype vaccines³ prepared for potential new strains of influenza that could cause a pandemic like that of COVID-19, so that we can quickly provide such vaccines in case of pandemic in the future. We are now examining, based on the scientific findings, whether such system can be applied to an inactivated COVID-19 vaccine and whether it can be approved as a prototype vaccine against COVID-19 variants.

We will accelerate the development of domestically produced vaccines so that they can be supplied to the domestic market as soon as possible and strive to realize a society in which people can live in peace.

1. A vaccine made from viral pathogens or their components and treated with chemicals to destroy their infectivity and toxicity following the collection and purification of bacterial cells and viral particles from bacteria and viruses cultivated in large quantities
2. National Institute of Infectious Diseases, The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, and National Institute of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition
3. A vaccine developed and produced in advance of a pandemic using a virus that functions as a model for vaccine production, based on the premise that the produced strain could be modified as necessary during a pandemic

[Our initiatives for the development and supply of COVID-19 vaccines](#)

Toward the provision of KOSTAIVE™, a self-amplifying mRNA vaccine against COVID-19

“Kostaive™ for Intramuscular Injection” is a self-amplifying mRNA vaccine that can induce non-inferior immune response even in lower doses compared to a conventional mRNA vaccine, as well as expectation for the longer duration. In November 2023, we have received approval for the manufacturing and marketing in Japan from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). This is the world’s first approved product applying self-amplifying mRNA technology. KOSTAIVE™ is currently indicated for prevention of COVID-19 by primary immunization (2 doses) and booster immunization in adults.

In September 2023, we started another domestic phase III clinical trials in adults for booster vaccination (ARCT-2301), aiming for adapting the vaccine to the latest variants of COVID-19 and provide it for the autumn/winter vaccination 2024.

At the same time, we are collaborating with ARCALIS, Inc. to establish an integrated capability for manufacturing mRNA vaccine from drug substance to drug product in Japan. ARCALIS is building a manufacturing facility in Minami-soma City, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.

[Our initiatives for the development and supply of COVID-19 vaccines](#)

Creating ground-breaking therapeutics by using next-generation ivermectin derivatives and building a foundation for antiviral drugs

Preventing aggravation is also a major issue in COVID-19 infection, and the development of safe and highly effective therapeutic agents is needed. Since May 2021, Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. and the Kitasato Institute have been conducting a joint-R&D project to discover ground-breaking COVID-19 therapeutics using next-generation derivatives of ivermectin, and to establish a platform for antiviral agents. Ivermectin derivatives are known to have anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects, and are also expected to be applied to the aftereffects of infection. The project was selected by the Japan AMED (Agency for Medical Research and Development) as an R&D project in its CiCLE (Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment) program in 2020.

Developing a Novel Vaccine for Dengue

KM Biologics Co., Ltd. is developing a novel vaccine (KD-382) for dengue which is wider spread in tropical and sub-tropical climates worldwide, including the developing nations. KD-382 is a live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine containing each live attenuated dengue virus for four dengue serotypes 1 to 4 (DENV1-4) as the active ingredient and is expected to provide preventive effect against dengue. KD-382 has shown good immunogenicity and protective efficacy for all four serotypes with a single dose administration in the non-clinical studies.

The Phase I clinical study was conducted to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of the KD-382 vaccine in 60 healthy adults in Australia, which is a non-dengue endemic country, by administering the KD-382 vaccine subcutaneously once or twice with a four week interval. The results show that the KD-382 vaccine is safe and well-tolerated by healthy adults. Moreover, KD-382 showed 100% seroconversion at an early stage and elicited long-lasting and neutralizing antibody response for all four serotypes in most subjects over a one year follow-up, despite the single-dose administration.

Quality and Safety



Ensure Product Quality and Safety

Safety System Initiatives for Trusted Quality, Brand Recognition (Food Segment)

Quality Policy

Meiji Co., Ltd. has established its own quality management system, Meiji Quality Communication ("Meiji Quality Comm"). This system is founded in the Meiji Group's System of Principles, and we are strengthening our quality initiatives on a daily basis.

Meiji Quality Comm has issued a Quality Policy, which provides Meiji's principles and guidelines as they pertain to quality management.

Meiji's Quality Policy

At Meiji, we pursue "Tastiness and Enjoyment" and strive to meet the expectations of our global customers for wellness, safety, and reassurance. As "Food and Health" professionals, every employee at Meiji works to fulfill the following duties.

1. Engaging in quality assurance activities within all organizations, including development and design, sourcing, production, logistics, sales and communication.
2. Providing customers with accurate information, sincerely listening to customer feedback and applying those opinions towards improving our products and services.
3. Acting based on a constant awareness of legal compliance and the commitment to providing safe products.

Quality Management System

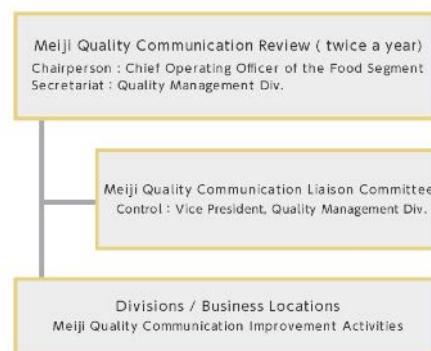
Our Quality Assurance Regulations, founded in our Quality Policy, clearly stipulate important items with regard to safeguarding quality in a range of duties for our functional divisions, from development and design, to sourcing, to production, to logistics, to sales and communication. In addition, our Quality Assurance Standards provide detailed specific duties, procedures and criteria. Through these, we continue to make improvements via the management cycle in all functional areas, from development and design to sales and communication, in order to gain the trust and satisfaction of our customers. Our top management also reviews these activities in assessment of our quality activities.



Meiji Quality Comm serves as Meiji Co., Ltd.'s shared posture in pursuit of customer satisfaction.

Quality Management Structure

We promote quality activities centered on the Meiji Quality Communication Review, a biannual meeting chaired by the Chief Operating Officer of the Food Segment. At this meeting, we check the progress of our quality-related initiatives and discuss measures to resolve any issues that may be present. In addition, we have established the Meiji Quality Communication Liaison Committee, headed by the Vice President, Quality Management Div., to plan and promote Meiji Quality Communication Advancement Activities.



Meiji Quality Comm: Overview by Process

1. Development and Design Functions

Our Meiji Quality Comm quality management system is engaged in various processes beginning in the product development stage. This system asks, how can we create products offering value to our customers? To answer that question, we are diligently conducting a series of studies into markets and their consumers, meanwhile consistently advancing research and development founded in our accumulated expertise. Crafting a concept for our product becomes a key driver affecting all downstream functions, such as manufacturing and distribution.

2. Sourcing Function

When selecting raw materials, safety and consistency are key. While safety is a naturally essential element, even a good raw material must be consistent in its availability in order for us to also be consistent in manufacturing the resulting products. Therefore, we must ensure that we can consistently secure raw materials meeting the applicable standards. In order to achieve this, trust and communication with suppliers is extremely important.

3. Production Function

Within the various production processes ongoing in our plants, we have established a system to ensure safety and to build quality into our products. In order to enable production with consistent product quality versus initial designs, we provide a detailed set of instructions for each product, such as raw material mixing, process conditions, and check points. In addition, we carry out inspections and monitoring at each process step, from receipt of raw materials to mixing and filling, and a control system is in place to verify that production follows the process conditions laid out in the initial design.

4. Logistics Function

Our logistic teams are tasked with delivering finished products from our plants to distribution centers used by dealers, wholesalers, and mass retailers. When practicing quality control, there are five key words: The five key words in practicing quality control are "product," "quantity," "freshness," "time," and "behavior." These are the "Five Promises," areas of key attention we have established to satisfy our customers and ensure that they can enjoy our products' deliciousness. We provide quality assurance through each and every one of us maintaining a keen awareness of these promises.

5. Sales and Communication Functions

The major role of these functions is to provide a clear, accurate picture of the value of our products to the customer in a way that shares the consumer viewpoint, as well as to share that value with them. The mission for these functions is to communicate the high quality that we have built up through the functions from development and design, to sourcing, to production, to logistics. These teams are the final runner in our quality relay race, helping customers select our products knowing their value.

Food Safety Efforts

As part of our food safety efforts, we have introduced HACCP at all of our plants. In addition, in FYE March 2021, we achieved 100% acquisition worldwide of standards recognized by GFSI, a global food safety management organization.

Obtaining Anti-doping Certification for Sports Nutrition Products

The Meiji Group has obtained Informed Choice certification, a global anti-doping certification program, for the majority of our sports nutrition products. Based on the program, through analysis using advanced technologies and manufacturing process audits, products are checked to ensure they are not contaminated with any banned substances. We will continue providing certified products for athletes so that they can consume without concern as they strive to achieve their goals, and also for sports lovers.



SAVAS Advanced Whey Protein 100 (cocoa flavor), with Informed Choice certification

Genetically Modified Ingredients

The Meiji Group makes appropriate decisions regarding the use and labeling of genetically modified ingredients in its products in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country concerning the use and labeling of genetically modified ingredients in food products, and does not use any raw materials that are subject to mandatory labeling under the genetically modified labeling system.

Initiatives regarding the Use of Food Additives

The Meiji Group uses food additives whose safety has been confirmed in accordance with the standards of each country, and when using such food additives, we clarify the purpose of use and make appropriate decisions on the amount and method of use.

In addition, a Food Safety Committee with external members has been established within the company to appropriately respond to consumer interest in food safety and trends in food safety administration.

Employee Training on Quality and Labeling

To further improve the quality level and comply with the Food Labeling Act, we conduct quality and labeling related training for employees in charge of development, manufacturing, and sales.

We will continue to conduct employee training and strive to provide customers with information on product quality, safety, and security.

Educational Program Content and Results

Educational Program Content	Unit: Persons	
	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Employee training on quality	8,186	9,001
Quality training for sales representatives (Calculated as the cumulative number conducted twice a year)	2,921	2,921
Basic lecture series on quality control for plant employees	6,200	6,000
Quality assurance meetings for section managers at plants	86	80
Employee training on the Food Labeling Act	230	334
Workshops for new employees	40	91
Periodic workshops for technical employees	190	190
Workshops on a particular topic	-	53

Conduct supplier audits and training in quality control

In the food business, we regularly conduct annual audits and training of suppliers, focusing on food safety and quality control systems, based on the criteria to ensure a stable supply of raw materials and packaging materials in conformance with relevant laws and regulations and our own standards.

Number of Supplier Audits

	Unit: Cases				
	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Meiji	98	80	41	82	66

Quality Management Based on Reliability Assurance Systems (Pharmaceutical Segment)

Reliability assurance system (Meiji Seika Pharma)

Meiji Seika Pharma has established a system for the research, development, and stable supply of world-class products, as well as a system to collect safety information and provide information on proper use. Through this reliability assurance system, we will contribute to society by earning the trust of patients and healthcare professionals.

Meiji Seika Pharma Reliability Assurance Policy

Meiji Seika Pharma has established its Meiji Seika Pharma Reliability Assurance Policy, as follows. We conduct our business with the full recognition of the meaning and the role of this policy.

Meiji Seika Pharma will make efforts to be trusted by patients and healthcare professionals and contribute to society.

In the areas of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, we conduct our business activities with the aim of contributing to society by developing useful and high-quality products; ensuring production and stable product supplies to patients and healthcare professionals and providing necessary and prompt product information to them.

To achieve this aim, we thoroughly comply with applicable regulations and standards, as well as other social or ethical requirements, and act ethically and morally as persons involved in a life-related industry.

All of us will continue to make sincere and humble efforts to offer safe use of products and information to patients and healthcare professionals.

To work together, we ask our business partners to understand the aforementioned attitude.

With this policy for business activities to assure the reliability of our products and information provided to patients and healthcare professionals, we will continue to make efforts to have their trust and contribute to society.

Reliability Assurance Guideline

Product Initiatives

Meiji Seika Pharma is taking actions to improve the reliability of its products. Here, we define "products" to include not only the products themselves (pharmaceuticals and medical devices, hereinafter collectively "pharmaceuticals, etc."), but also data obtained through development, clinical trials, and other processes, as well as information on proper use after launched. The Meiji Seika Pharma Reliability Assurance Guideline form the foundation of these actions.

With the underlying policy (Meiji Seika Pharma Reliability Assurance Policy) of "earning the trust of patients and healthcare professionals, and contributing to society," we have established the Meiji Seika Pharma Reliability Assurance Guideline and take actions to ensure the reliability of our products.

In addition, regulatory authorities have set rigorous standards for pharmaceuticals, etc., from development to manufacturing, shipment, collection of information on adverse events, and provision of information on proper use. Based on these standards, we have established in-house standards and procedures to ensure tests are executed properly and test data is accurately collected, and we are working to improve the reliability of our data and information. These guidelines are also applied to Group companies*.

* (Domestic) OHKURA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd./ Me Pharma Co., Ltd.
(Overseas) Meiji Pharma (Shandong) Co., Ltd./ Shantou SEZ Meiji Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd./ PT. Meiji Indonesian Pharmaceutical Industries/ Thai Meiji Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd./ Medreich Limited /Meiji Pharma Spain, S.A.

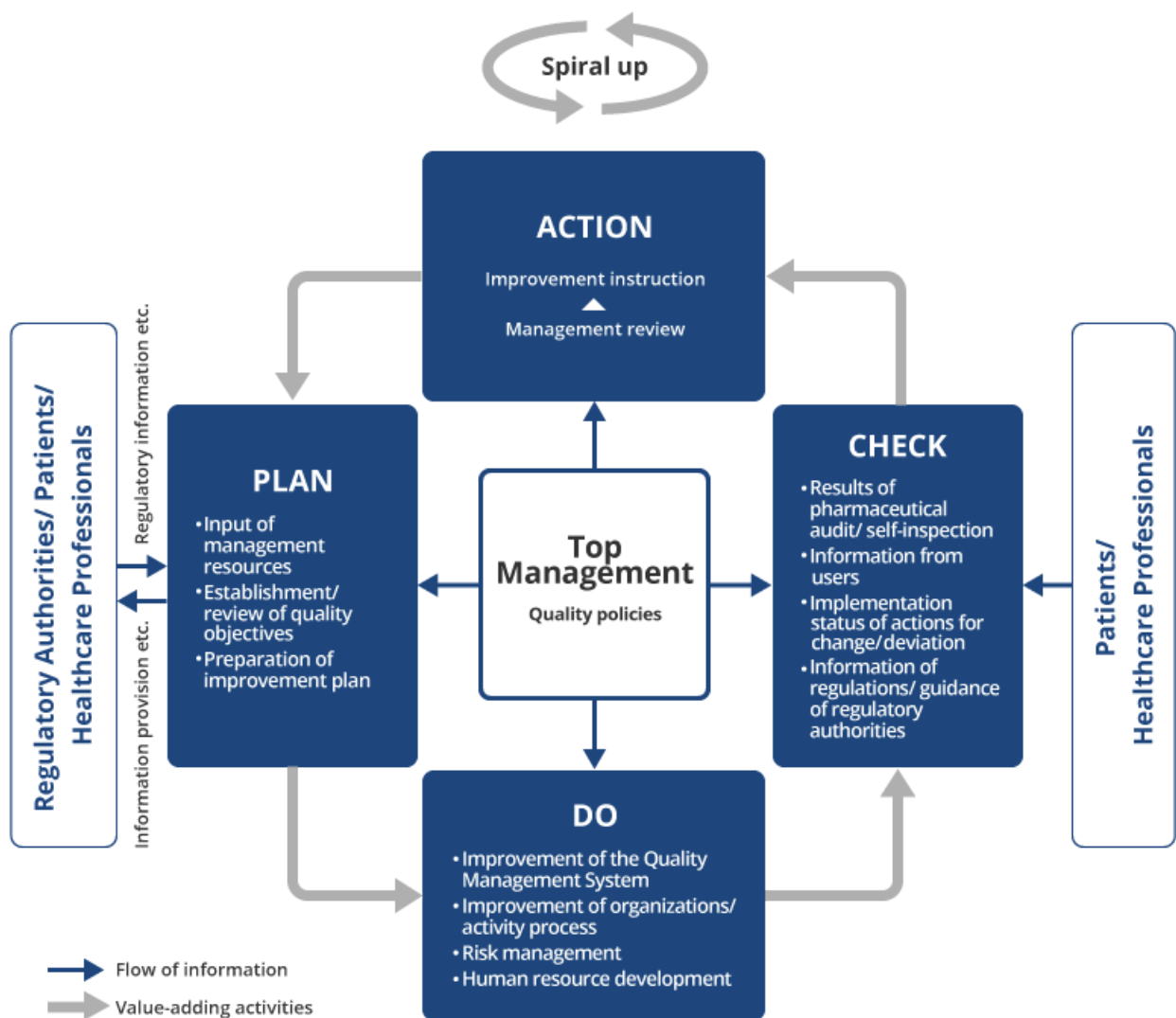


GCP: Good Clinical Practice
GMP: Good Manufacturing Practice
GQP: Good Quality Practice
GVP: Good Vigilance Practice
GPSP: Good Post-marketing Study Practice
QMS: Quality Management System
GDP: Good Distribution Practice

Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) Cycle

Based on these guidelines, the Reliability & Quality Assurance Division serves to investigate and provide guidance to all Group companies regarding their compliance status with laws, regulations, and various standards concerning of the development, production, supply and pharmacovigilance of our pharmaceuticals, thereby promoting product reliability assurance. The Reliability & Quality Assurance Division operates independently of our development, production, and sales divisions, creating a system ensuring reliability based on objective judgment. Furthermore, in order to not only ensure but also improve the reliability of our products, we have established the Operational Rules of Quality Management Review as a tool to make continuous improvements while utilizing the PDCA cycle.

In order to improve the reliability of our products, the Operational Rules of Quality Management Review stipulate that each division shall set its own quality policies and targets to achieve, and that the management team shall be the core driver in periodically reviewing how well these targets have been achieved continuously improving quality through the PDCA cycle.



Quality Assurance System

As well as complying with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) in Japan, Europe, and the United States, Meiji Seika Pharma has established its Quality assurance policy, a policy for quality of products sold under the Meiji brand name and existing under the Meiji Seika Pharma Reliability Assurance Guideline. This policy is also applied to our products other than pharmaceuticals(ex, medical devices). By sharing this policy with Meiji Seika Pharma's fellow Group companies, we will reduce potential risks related to product quality at each stage of production (manufacturing control and quality control) and implement a global-standard quality system by practicing continuous quality improvement.

Furthermore, we are advancing consistent quality assurance activities based on our Quality assurance policy throughout the entire supply chain, from raw material sourcing to production, distribution and other operations. For example, in order to safeguard product quality, we conduct audits not only at our in-house plants, but also at contract manufacturers and raw material suppliers in Japan and overseas, and provide risk reduction guidance on a regular basis.

In addition, when shipping pharmaceuticals to the market, our quality assurance managers check all manufacturing records in accordance with the law before approving their shipment. This system is in place so that we can deliver pharmaceuticals that patients and healthcare professionals can use with peace of mind.

Safety Management System

Meiji Seika Pharma strives to minimize safety risks by collecting safety information (e.g., information on adverse events) from Japan and overseas related to the pharmaceuticals, medical devices delivered to customers, objectively evaluating and reviewing this information, and promptly providing the information necessary for the proper use of its products.

In addition, we are working to improve the safety and reliability of our products by providing information on post-marketing use results surveys to medical professionals.

Quality Improvement and Personnel Development

We foster the ability of our employees to improve operations proactively. We hold meetings to share and discuss the achievements of quality improvement activities and engage in other activities to develop our personnel.

Response to Quality-Related Incidents

If a quality-related incident occurs, our head office collects quality information from plants, affiliated companies, and the respective divisions involved. This information is summarized and shared with senior management. We take any necessary measures and implement preventive measures as promptly as possible.

Concerning Response to Business Improvement Order

During the process of the investigation of the Kobayashi Kako itraconazole contamination incident that occurred in December 2020, it was discovered that the stability test data used in the registration application for rosuvastatin tablets, which were developed jointly with Kobayashi Kako and registered by Meiji Seika Pharma, had been modified.

As a result, a Business Improvement Order was issued by the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) in May 2021. In response, we issued a business improvement plan in June 2021.

Subsequently, in accordance with the business improvement plan, we created a business procedure manual for joint development partners, conducted education and training to ensure comprehension of those procedures, improved the details of joint development agreements, and reinforced reliability audits for registration application materials. We take this Business Improvement Order extremely seriously and will work to restore our credibility.

Reliability assurance system (KM Biologics Co., Ltd.)

Quality Assurance Training for Employees

Meiji Seika Pharma provides ongoing quality and safety-related education, including GVP, GMP and QMS, to all employees. Since the revision of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in August 2021, we have been providing training (including GVP, GMP, and QMS) to ensure compliance with laws and regulations related to pharmaceutical affairs.

<FYE 3/2023 Training Activities>

- Training (e-learning) for all employees to ensure compliance with pharmaceutical laws and regulations:
Conducted 12 times a year, number of attendees 2,100 (100% attendance rate)

KM Biologics holds lectures on GMP compliance annually for all employees, and holds training regarding our pharmaceutical quality management system. Our aim is to help each and every employee realize that paying close attention to how to best manage quality at each worksite leads to quality improvements overall.

<FYE 3/2023 Training Activities>

- GMP compliance training for all employees: held annually (number of attendees: approximately 2,000)
- Quality and safety training (e-learning) for all employees: held annually (number of attendees: approximately 2,000)

Supplier Audits

In the pharmaceutical business, we check that suppliers have effective quality systems in place based on GQP and GMP, the status of their manufacturing and quality controls, the status of their facilities and equipment management, and the status of their employee education.

Number of Supplier Audits

	Unit: Cases				
	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Meiji Seika Pharma	314	372	368	252	284
KM Biologics	45	41	25	21	31

Caring for the Earth

We are fully aware that our business operations depend upon the bounty of nature. The Meiji Group strives to preserve and maintain harmony with nature around the globe. We work towards this goal through our climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and in our constant efforts to make more effective use of the resources we have—that is, by focusing on reducing, reusing, and recycling.



Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management

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Click on a topic area to learn more.

- [The Meiji Group Long-Term Environmental Vision](#)
- [Environmental Management](#)

Climate Change

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- [Position on Climate Change](#)
- [Participation in trade associations and Initiatives](#)
- [Our Climate Change Targets](#)
- [Reduce CO₂ Emissions](#)
- [Eliminate Specific CFCs](#)

Circular Economy

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Water

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- [Position on Water Resources](#)
- [Secure Water Resources](#)

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- [Targets for Biodiversity Conservation Activities](#)
- [Approach to Biodiversity](#)
- [Biodiversity Conservation Activities Policy](#)
- [Relationship between Our Business Activities and Biodiversity](#)
- [Effect of Business Activities on Biodiversity](#)
- [Analysis of Dependency/impact of Business Activities on Nature in Line with TNFD \(LEAP Approach\)](#)

Pollution Prevention

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- [Position on Pollution Prevention](#)
- [Establishing of Pollution Prevention Guideline](#)
- [Chemical Substance Management](#)
- [Preventing Water Pollution](#)
- [Preventing Air Pollution](#)
- [Preventing Soil Pollution](#)

Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management

The Meiji Group Long-Term Environmental Vision

The Meiji Group Long-Term Environmental Vision "Meiji Green Engagement for 2050"



A Healthy Future. For People. For the Earth

The Meiji Group relies on the bounty of nature, including raw milk, cocoa, lactobacillus and microorganisms. We believe it is our duty to live in harmony with the environment and coexist with nature. However, issues

such as climate change threaten the sustainability of global environment. The biodiversity provides us the bounty of nature we enjoy, now it is in a crisis. To respond to such crisis we formulated a long-term environmental vision. We are committed to achieving coexistence with nature by engaging in global environmental issues.

The Meiji Group places the importance on delivering health through food and pharmaceutical, creating even more smiles for all. We continue creating value that goes one step further to realize a healthy future for people and the Earth.



Climate Change



Water



Circular Economy



Pollution Prevention

Climate Change

Society has become more concerned about the impact of global warming on the intensity of natural disasters and damage to biodiversity. Businesses are being asked to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help build a decarbonized society. The Paris Agreement, an international framework for addressing climate change, requires efforts to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial revolution levels.

The Meiji Group aims to further mitigate its impact on the global environment, considering the aspirational target of the Paris Agreement to keep the temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Accordingly, we have set a goal to become carbon neutral by 2050, eliminating all greenhouse gas emissions throughout our entire supply chain.

Climate Change

Our goals

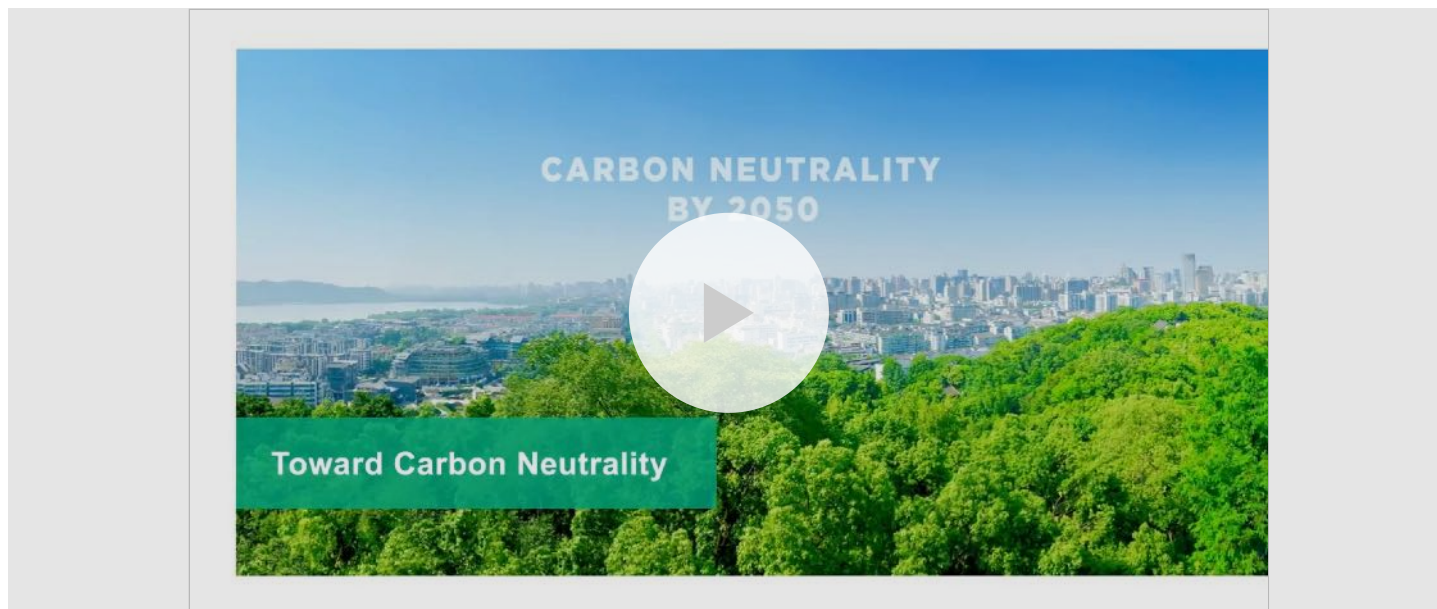


Eliminate all CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions throughout our entire supply chain by 2050 (carbon neutral)



Use 100% renewable energy in facilities by 2050

CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050



Water

The world's population is estimated to reach 9.7 billion by 2050.¹ Consequently, the demand for water is likely to increase by some 55%² to keep up with the demand due to increase in food production and economic activities as a result of population growth. A total of more than 40%² of the global population may lose adequate access to enough water due to climate change and the resulting chronic water shortages.

Water is a finite resource. To ensure the sustainability of this limited resource, the Meiji Group aims to become water-neutral. To accomplish this goal, we will engage in initiatives that include reducing water use intensity per sales unit by half and cultivating water resources.

1. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Population Prospects 2019 (Medium Variant)
2. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050

Water

Our goals

<p>By 2050 Water use intensity per unit of sales</p>  <p>1/2</p> <p>Reduce water use intensity per unit of sales by 50% by 2050 compared with FYE March 2018</p>	<p>By 2050 Water used as raw material for products</p>  <p>100</p> <p>Restore 100% of the water used as raw material for products by 2050 (water-neutral)</p>	<p>Initiatives to Resolve Water Risk</p>  <p>Address to reduce water risks in and around facilities and where we procure raw materials</p>
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Circular Economy

Although the natural capital of the earth is finite, we have wasted and discarded them for a long period. These negative activities have led to climate change, deforestation, marine plastic pollution, and numerous other environmental issues. The world must improve the sustainability of natural capital. Because the Meiji Group enjoys the bounty of nature and uses natural capital in products and packaging, we must transition to a circular economy.

To achieve this goal, we should minimize the usage of natural capital by recycling and reusing resources, not to mention achieving zero waste. We will take on the challenge of reducing our environmental impact as close to zero as possible all the way through product design to disposal.

Circular Economy

Our goals

Waste in the manufacturing process



Achieve zero waste in the manufacturing process

Minimize the use of natural capital



Use recycled materials in containers and packaging to minimize the use of natural capital

Pollution Prevention

As a result of prioritizing economic growth over the global environment, modern society suffers from air, water, and chemical pollution. As we are breathing polluted air and consuming contaminated food in our daily lives, the health risks are increasing.

The Meiji Group delivers health to the people in the world, and we believe we can build a world that doesn't suffer from pollution. Thus, we are committed to achieve zero pollution throughout the Meiji Group supply chain.

Water

Our goals

Pollution caused
by chemical substances



Strive to achieve zero pollution due to chemical substances originating from our business activities

Initiatives to resolve environmental
pollution-related issues



Strive to resolve environmental pollution-related issues throughout our supply chain

Environmental Management

Environmental Management System

There is The Group Environmental Meeting, which is made up of representatives from our Food segment and Pharmaceutical segment as well as the sustainability representatives from Meiji Holdings. Under this system, the Meeting sets a long-term vision, plans specific measures as well as carries out risk management, and essentially oversees the environmental management for the whole Group.



Past Environment-Related Deliberation Topics at the Group Sustainability Committee

- Progress toward CO₂ reduction targets
- Identifying the state of water risks in Japan and overseas, and exploring prioritization of areas to be addressed
- Checking progress toward achieving water consumption reduction targets

Environmental Data Management System

In October 2019, Meiji Group introduced a cloud-based environmental data management system to identify the integrated environmental impact in overall operating sites of the domestic Meiji Group and accurately and quickly track our performance against targets. Using this system we can reduce input errors and thus collect and calculate data efficiently. Accordingly, we have introduced the system in our overseas operating bases from October 2020.

Certification Status of ISO14001 (As of December 4, 2023)

Meiji Group is promoting attainment of the ISO14001 environmental management certificate for its production sites. We have attained for multi-site certification across all production sites in Japan at FY 2021.

Food Segment

Japan: 25 Plants and 10 Group Companies

Overseas: 2 Group Companies

Pharmaceutical Segment

Japan: One Plant One Research Center and Three Group Companies

Overseas: One Group Company

List of Certification Status of ISO14001 and ISO45001

Response to environmental laws and accidents

At the Meiji Group, there were no violations, fines related to environmental laws and regulations during FY2022.

Number of environmental accidents and regulation violations

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Number of environmental regulation violations	0	0	0	0	0
Number of major environmental accidents	4	2	2	1	0

Approach to climate change and TCFD initiatives

The business of Meiji Group is based on the abundant gifts of nature, so natural capital is an important management resource for us. We also recognize that climate change has a significant long-term impact (risks and opportunities) on our business activities and that it is an important management issue for the Group. At the same time, international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are calling for increased efforts to address climate change. We are therefore implementing climate change initiatives to contribute to these international efforts by helping to realize a decarbonized society in line with our Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision.



Meiji Group agreed to join the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), which was established by the Financial Stability Board* in 2019. We also joined the TCFD Consortium, which was established by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Financial Services Agency as a place for collaboration among supporting companies, financial institutions and others. We also established the Group TCFD Committee, which comprises relevant divisions from Meiji Holdings and its Group companies Meiji, Meiji Seika Pharma and KM Biologics, and started implementing TCFD initiatives from 2019. The purpose of this committee is to reflect climate change-related long-term risks and opportunities in our business activities, as a member of the TCFD scenario analysis project organized by the Ministry of the Environment.

The Group TCFD Committee analyzes climate change related risks and opportunities, develop countermeasures, and manage progress of each initiative

The Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Group Sustainability Committee discuss the results of these analyses and we strengthened our systems for reflecting the results in our business activities.

In FY2021 the newly established Risk Management Department took part in the Group TCFD Committee. Their efforts strengthened Meiji Group's governance, as well as our institutional ability to respond to important climate change related risks and opportunities.

With regard to scenario analysis, in FY 2020 they performed analysis of the following key areas: dairy ingredients, cocoa, antibiotic drugs (5 Domestic Key Drugs), and vaccines. At the same time, they expanded the scope of analysis to include the entire Meiji Group, further improving our resilience to climate change.

In FY2021, the Risk Management Department took part in the Group TCFD Committee. Their efforts strengthened Meiji Group's governance by helping to establish institutions to respond to important climate change related risks and opportunities.

In addition to the 2°C and 4°C scenarios, in FY2021 we conducted a new 1.5°C scenario analysis, strengthened our analysis of impact for major raw materials, and deeply probed opportunities to further enhance our resilience to climate change. In FY2022, we have begun specific initiatives based on the analysis conducted last year.

TCFD related initiatives at Meiji Group in FYE 3/2021

Climate Change-related Group Sustainability Promotion System

Climate Change-related Group Sustainability Promotion System



* An international organization of representatives of central banks, financial supervisory agencies, and finance ministries.

[FY2022 The Meiji Group TCFD Initiative](#)

[FY2021 The Meiji Group TCFD Initiative](#)

[FY2020 The Meiji Group TCFD Initiative](#)

[Aug–Oct 2019: Practical guide for Scenario Analysis in line with the TCFD recommendations, a Ministry of the Environment support program for companies to analyze their own climate risks and opportunities in line with the TCFD recommendations \(PDF 27MB\)](#)

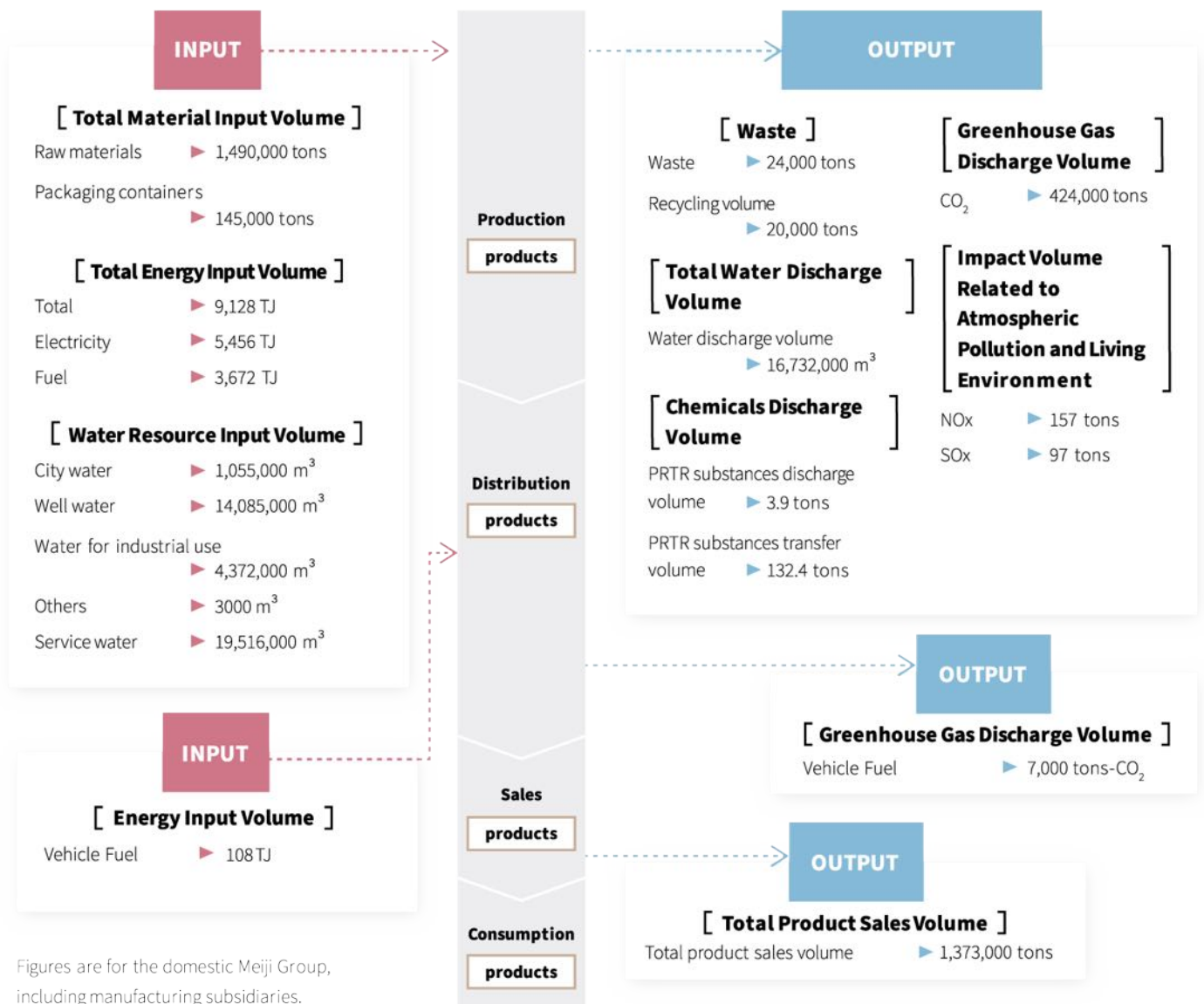
[Water Risk Survey Results](#)

Adopted an Internal Carbon Pricing System

Meiji Group has adopted internal carbon pricing (ICP) system in fiscal 2021 for the Meiji Group's capital investments in energy-saving equipment and other equipment that contribute to reducing CO₂ emissions. We have set our internal carbon price at (5,000 yen/t-CO₂).

An internal carbon price will be applied to estimate the cost of CO₂ emissions. We will use the calculated costs as one of the decision criteria for capital investment plans that entail an increase/decrease in CO₂ emissions. By adopting this system, we can now measure financial impact and reduce CO₂ emissions.

Material Balance (FYE 3/2023)



Establishment of the framework for ESG investment of 30.0 billion yen (plans for FYE 3/2022 ~ FYE 3/2024)

Priorities	Details of Investment
Reduction of CO ₂ emissions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of or updating to highly-efficient energy-saving equipment 2. Installation of solar panels, etc.
CFC Reduction Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of or updating to CFC-free refrigerators and freezers, etc.
Reduction of Plastic Usage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduction in weight of packaging, introduction of equipment enabling reuse 2. Introduction of environmentally conscious packaging equipment
Securing Water Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction of equipment to reuse the water used for washing in production process 2. Improvement of water quality, introduction of equipment for making use of rain water, etc.

Climate Change



Position on Climate Change

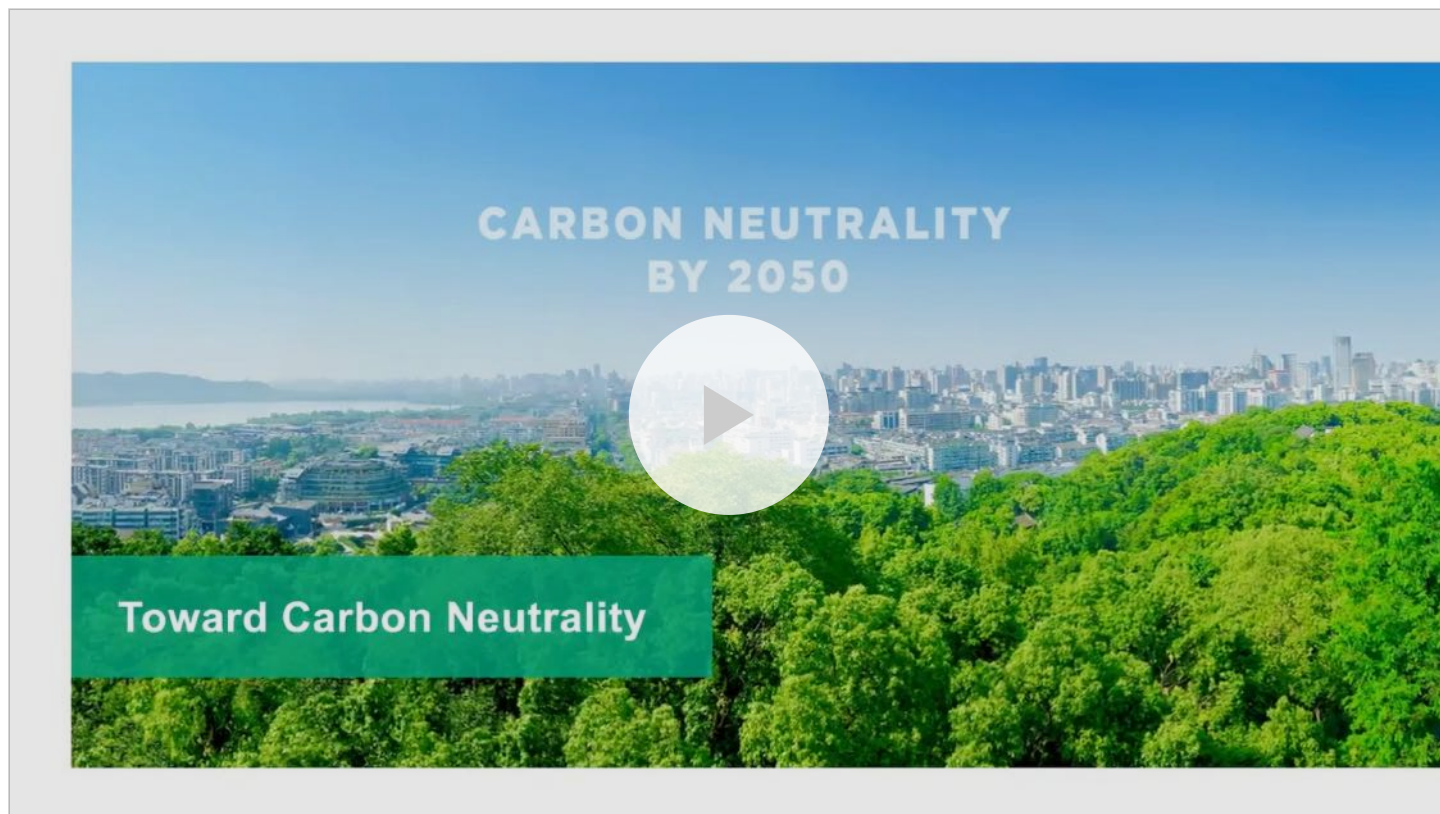
The impact of global warming from climate change has resulted in a number of abnormal weather phenomena, including heat waves, dry spells, and concentrated heavy rains. These have caused great damage to the natural environment, including droughts and flooding. The Meiji Group recognizes climate change as a crucial social issue that must be resolved. This is because the Group's business operations originate from the bounty of nature through our value chain.

In light of the IPCC-issued Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the Meiji Group has realigned its reduction targets of the entire value chain (Scope 1, 2, and 3) for CO₂ emissions by 2030 in accordance with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), and is acquired its certification in September 2021.

The Meiji Group supports the Paris Agreement, and Japanese laws pertaining to climate change, such as the Act on the Rational Use of Energy and the Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures, and reports on its progress toward achieving medium- and long-term targets for greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption every fiscal year.

To encourage greater CO₂ reductions, we introduced an internal carbon pricing system in October 2021. Looking to the future, our efforts to mitigate climate change will continue, and we will focus on introducing energy-saving measures, making use of solar power technology, and purchasing electricity from renewable sources and reducing Scope 3 emissions through collaboration with suppliers and production sites. Meiji Group's target is to attain carbon neutrality by 2050, and we will continue to work towards further reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050



Participation in trade associations and Initiatives

Meiji Group participates in international initiatives involving government to support national climate change strategy.

We also support the formulation of national policies by expressing our support for the proposals for decarbonization issued by some of the initiatives.

We review the strategy on Climate Change of each initiative to ensure that it is consistent with our own climate change strategies.

We regularly review our participation in such initiatives, and in cases where our policies do not match those of trade associations and initiatives, we confirm the details with the relevant associations and consider how to respond internally.

Our Climate Change Targets

Targets of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective until March 31, 2024)

KPI	Base Year	Results		Target		
		FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024	FYE 3/2031	FYE 3/2051
Reduce company-wide CO ₂ emissions (Scope 1, 2) by at least 50% by FYE 3/2031 (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated subsidiaries of Meiji Group)	FYE 3/2020	11.3%	14.9%	19% or more	50% or more	
Reduce CO ₂ emissions (Scope 3 from purchased goods and services, upstream and downstream transportation and distribution, and end of life treatment of sold products) by at least 30% by FYE 3/2031 (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated subsidiaries of Meiji Group) ¹	FYE 3/2020	-	6.7%	11% or more	30% or more	Achieve Carbon Neutral
Reduce CO ₂ emissions (Scope 3 from purchased goods and services) by at least 30% by FYE 3/2031 (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated subsidiaries of Meiji Group) ¹	FYE 3/2020	-	5.7%	11% or more	30% or more	
Expand renewable energy usage to make up at least 50% of total company-wide usage by FYE 3/2031 (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated subsidiaries of Meiji Group)	-	5.3%	9.5%	15% or more	50% or more	100%
Total abolition of CFC-using refrigeration, freezer, and other equipment at all production sites by FYE 3/2031 (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated subsidiaries of Meiji Group)	FYE 3/2021	48.6%	57.0%	Reduce equipment over 35%	Achieve total abolition	-

1. Data for the base year

Data for the base year is calculated according to the method for FY2022; Scope 3 Category 1 is calculated based on the weight of purchased raw materials from FY2022. The amount of price of purchased raw materials was used to calculate Scope 3 Category 1 until FY2021.

Reduce CO₂ Emissions

Energy Usage¹

	Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Energy consumption volume	oil:10,000 kℓ	24.6	26.0	24.8	24.0	23.5
	TJ	9,845	10,714	9,766	9,424	9,198
Per unit of sales	TJ/hundred million of yen	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Electricity usage	MWh	534,616	569,049	631,404	772,659	760,199

CO₂ Emissions (Scope 1, 2)²

	Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Japan	10,000 tons-CO ₂	51.0	50.2	46.9	43.7	42.4
Overseas	10,000 tons-CO ₂	11.3	10.2	9.4	9.9	9.1
Total ¹	10,000 tons-CO ₂	62.3	60.4	56.3	53.6	51.5
Per Unit of Sales ¹	t-CO ₂ / 100 million yen	49.7	48.2	47.2	52.9	48.5

Scope 1²

(Unit: 10,000 tons-CO₂)

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Japan	22.8	22.2	21.5	22.1	20.5
China	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asia (Excluding Japan and China)	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
North America and Europe	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Total	25.5	24.8	23.9	24.5	22.8

Scope 2²

(Unit: 10,000 tons-CO₂)

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Japan	28.2	27.9	25.4	21.6	21.9
China	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.7	1.8
Asia (Excluding Japan and China)	5.2	4.7	3.6	3.9	4.1
North America and Europe	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Total	36.8	35.6	32.4	29.0	28.7

Scope 3³

(Unit: 10,000 tons-CO₂)

Category	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Scope 3 Total (Domestic)	318.9	303.5	294.8	302.7	347.0
Scope 3 Total (Global)	-	325.3	313.5	322.7	389.1

1. The accounting standard for revenue recognition is not applied to sales used in the calculation of the per sales unit.
2. Applies to the Meiji Group (the domestic Meiji Group and 12 overseas production plants <13 plants in FYE 3/2021,14 plants in FYE 3/2022>). The Kumamoto Plant of KM Biologics Co., Ltd. was included in the calculation from FYE 3/2019, and all of the company's sites were included from FYE 3/2020. Since FY2021,The accounting standard for revenue recognition is applied to sales used in the calculation of the per sales unit.
3. Values for categories 1 to 15 include data from the domestic Meiji Group. The Kumamoto Plant of KM Biologics was included in the calculation from FYE 3/2019, and all of the company's sites were included from FYE 3/2020.

[Click here for the CO₂ emissions \(to ESG data\)](#)

Promotion of calculation of the carbon footprint of product(CFP) ¹

The Meiji Group calculates and visualizes GHG emissions in each process to help prioritize initiatives.

As specific initiatives for the dairy sector, we used methods unparalleled within the Japanese dairy industry to calculate CFP (for Meiji Organic Milk). In addition to referencing the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), a program operated based on international standards, and guidelines issued by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) global Carbon Footprint standard for the dairy sector, we also used actual data from dairy farmers. In the confectionery sector, Meiji participated in the Ministry of the Environment's model business the for carbon footprint initiatives of product and services.

As part of those initiatives, we calculated our CFP for Meiji Milk Chocolate (50g) based on ISO14067.

Moving forward, we will expand CFP calculations to other products and make efforts to reduce GHG emissions with the knowledge gained from these initiatives.

1 The calculation and disclosure of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions throughout the life cycle of products and services.

The IDF global Carbon Footprint standard for the dairy sector



Meiji Organic Milk



Meiji Milk Chocolate (50g)

Meiji Begins Initiatives to Visualize CO₂ Emissions from Meiji Milk Chocolate Started to Calculate the Carbon Footprint of Milk Production, the First Effort in Japan

Energy-Saving Measures

In order to help fight climate change, we are employing energy-saving measures throughout our entire business operation. Our production sites are continuing efforts to make use of and introduce new low-CO₂ emission fuels and high-efficiency equipment.

Introduction of Highly Efficient Energy-Saving Equipment

In order to mitigate the impact on the global environment, we are working on energy saving. As part of the initiatives, we are installing highly efficient energy-saving equipment at some of our production plants. Additionally, along with the modification in how we use our equipment, we are aiming for improvements to our operational efficiency, as well as even greater future energy savings.



Energy-efficient transformer at Meiji Seika Pharma's Gifu Plant

Eco-Friendly Logistics Initiatives Such as the Introduction of Modal Shift

Meiji Group is aiming to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions by increasing the efficiency of its delivery vehicles.

For urban areas, this involves working to increase the carrying capacity of our trucks. For rural areas, we are working to increase delivery efficiency by sharing deliveries with other manufacturers.

In addition to this, we are focusing on carrying out a transportation modal shift. By moving away from truck-based transportation and towards railway and maritime transportation for our deliveries from Hokkaido to the Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka areas, we achieved a modal shift rate of 16% in FY2021. Thanks to these initiatives, in FY2021 the CO₂ emissions of our transportation is down to 97% of the previous year.

We are working to reduce electricity consumption at Meiji Group transportation centers and distribution warehouses by switching from mercury lighting and fluorescent lighting to LED technology.

Additionally, we are aiming at a reduction in energy usage through switching from CFC refrigerants in our refrigerated warehouses, in favor of highly efficient natural refrigerants, as well HFCs.

Changeover to Low-Emission Vehicles; Fleet Reductions

We began changing our delivery trucks and sales vehicle fleets to eco cars in FY2012. We have also cut down the size of our sales vehicle fleet.

[Click here for the Use of eco-friendly car \(to ESG data\)](#)

Reduction of Scope 3 Emissions

It will be difficult to achieve carbon neutrality through initiatives of the Meiji Group alone, so we will work together with suppliers and producers to reduce CO₂ and other GHG emissions. At present, we are engaging with some ten primary suppliers with whom we have set CO₂ reduction targets and have established a system for ascertaining the status of initiatives. Additionally, we are also working with producers upstream in the supply chain.

Action for raw milk and dairy ingredients

The Meiji Group is striving to achieve sustainable dairy farming by working to improve social issues impacting the dairy industry. The GHG emissions resulting from dairy farming (the methane and nitrous oxide (N₂O) resulting from cow belching and cow manure) are a social issue. In addition to promoting reductions in GHG emissions, we are aiming to link initiatives to sustainability in the dairy farming industry by positioning reduction initiatives as a new revenue source for dairy farmers.

As part of those efforts, we launched initiatives aimed at reducing N₂O derived from manure produced during dairy farming and maintaining the livelihoods of dairy farmers using amino acid-balanced feed, one of the methodologies defined in the J-Credit Scheme¹.

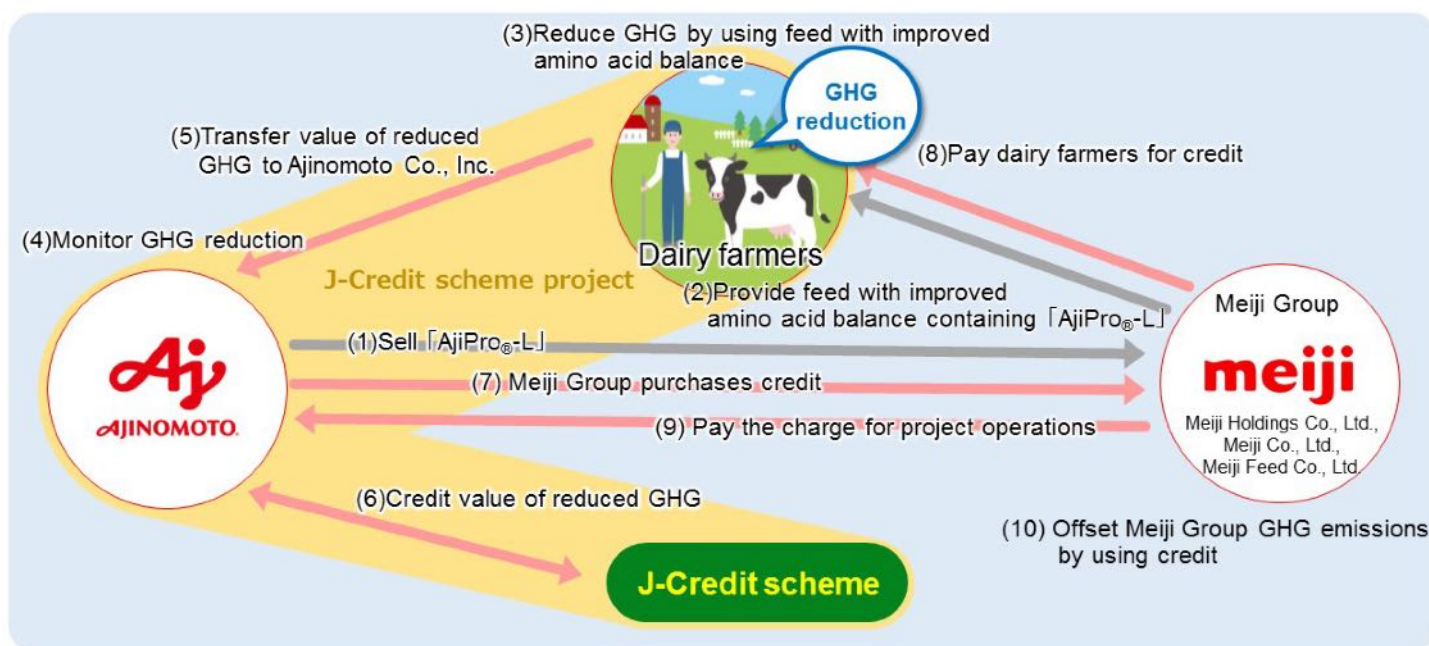
1 A national program for recognizing credits based on CO₂ emission reductions through the installation of energy-saving facilities and the adoption of renewable energy as well as CO₂ absorption achieved through appropriate forestry management.

Overview of initiatives

From March 2023, we are collaborating with Ajinomoto Co., Inc. to launch a project aimed at reducing N₂O derived from manure produced during dairy farming via the J-Credit methodology. Using amino acid-balanced feed enables dairy cows to absorb nutrients more efficiently than conventional feed, limiting the N₂O emitted from manure due to the excess nutrients. The reduced GHG emissions will be converted to Credits and purchased by the Meiji Group. We will connect the credits to new revenue sources for dairy farmers and offset GHG emissions related to dairy farming along our entire value chain. We will use these initiatives as a opportunity for expanding future collaborations and promoting GHG reductions.

In August 2023, we participated in the "Doto Carbon Farming Study Group" which promotes carbon farming¹ in Betsukai Town, Japanese largest milk producer, as a verification field to reduce GHG emissions in dairy.

1. An agricultural method that aims to reduce GHG emissions by capturing CO₂ from the atmosphere into the soil and improving the quality of soil. In 2021, the European Commission announced the results of a two-year research study conducted from 2018 on the creation of a scheme to promote carbon farming, which has attracted attention as an activity to reduce GHG emissions reduction and absorption activities in the agriculture, forestry, and livestock industries.



<Business model based on the J-Credit Scheme>

The Meiji Group and Ajinomoto Co., Inc. started a collaboration to realize sustainable dairy farming

<The activities of the Doto Carbon Farming Study Group>

The Meiji Group has established the "Doto Carbon Farming Study Group" (hereinafter referred to as "Doto CF Study Group") with General Incorporated Association Doto SDGs Promotion Council¹ in order to promote initiatives that lead to GHG emissions reduction in dairy. The Doto CF Study Group will promote evaluation, research, and practice of "Carbon Farming" in Betsukai Town, Hokkaido, the largest milk producer in Japan. The Doto CF Study Group will contribute to the realization of sustainable dairy by increasing GHG storage in soil. This will be the first initiative in Japan in which the local community, local residents, and dairy manufacturers will collaborate to experiment with carbon farming from the dairy and propose to society how the dairy should be in the future. In September 2023, we will start a survey of carbon sequestration in the soil at the farms of members of the General Incorporated Association Doto SDGs Promotion Council.

The members of the Doto CF Study Group, including the Meiji Group, also participate in the "Hokkaido Carbon Farming Promotion Council" established (May 25, 2023) by the Department of Agriculture, Hokkaido Government as a forum for information exchange and collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders, including producers, industry, academia, government, and financial institution, with the aim of decarbonizing agriculture in Hokkaido. Through this council, the spread of carbon farming is expected to expand throughout Hokkaido.



Kick-off meeting at Betsukai Town Hall on July 14, 2023

1. Established in 2018 in the East Hokkaido area, which holds the key to Japan's dairy production, as a voluntary organization of volunteers who are working on spreading awareness of the SDGs in the region.

- Address: 307-2, Nakaharubetsu, Betsukai-cho, Notsuke-gun, Hokkaido

- Representative: Chairman: Katsushi Nakayama (Representative Director and Chairman, Nakayama Farm CO., Ltd.)

Secretary General: Teruji Yamamoto (Owner, CEO, Yamamoto Farm)

- Established: June 2023

Action for Cocoa

We participate in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, a global partnership for the protection and restoration of forests, and work with the government of Ghana and related organizations to aid forest conservation. In addition, we are working with cocoa farmers in Tomé-Açu, Brazil, to promote agroforestry farming*, a form of agriculture that creates forests, in our forest conservation work.

In Meiji Cocoa Support, an independent Meiji activity supporting cocoa farmers, we donate wells, distribute free seedlings, and provide guidance on farm management, activities leading to the conservation of forests that will sequester CO₂.

*"Agroforestry farming:" A combination of the words "agriculture" and "forestry." This is an agricultural method in which a diverse set of agriculture and forestry is cultivated in keeping with the natural ecosystem on land after trees have been harvested.

Action for Palm oil

Promoting replacement to RSPO-certified palm oil

We are taking action toward 100% replacement to palm oil certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) by FY2023. This helps prevent deforestation, thereby promoting CO₂ capture.

Action for Plastic

By reducing the weight of plastic containers and packaging, we are working to reduce CO₂ emissions during product manufacturing, delivery, and disposal. We are also working with suppliers and others to switch their container and packaging raw materials from fossil fuel-derived plastics to recycled plastics and bioplastics, which have a smaller environmental impact, while still ensuring product quality.

Launched switch to a bioplastic mix for containers in 2021

In February 2021, we began blending bioplastics into straws, plastic cups, and other containers and packaging. Furthermore, from July 2022, we will gradually switch to bioplastics for use in the caps of Meiji Oishii Gyunyu and other products. As a result, we aim to reduce CO₂ emissions from containers by approximately 10% to 15%* compared to conventional methods.

*Our CO₂ reduction rate is certified by Carbon Trust.

Action for paper raw materials

By FY2023, we will switch 100% of product containers and packaging materials to eco-friendly paper raw materials (FSC® -certified or other forest certified paper, including recycled paper). This helps prevent deforestation, thereby promoting CO₂ capture.

*FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®): An NPO for global forest management, dissemination, and certification

Promotion of Renewable Energy

Renewable power sources like solar, wind, and biomass power not only help reduce consumption of non-renewable resources like petroleum, they also help us curtail emissions of greenhouse gases like CO₂. Meiji Group is helping to fight climate change through various energy-related initiatives.

Introduction of renewable energy generation facilities, including solar generators

We are working to reduce our CO₂ emissions by installing renewable energy generation facilities, such as solar panels. As of March 31, 2023, 13 sites in Japan and overseas are using electricity from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power generation. The annual reduction in CO₂ emissions from solar power generation facilities will amount to 2,351 t-CO₂. (in FY2022) We are planning further installation of renewable energy generation facilities in the future, both in Japan and abroad.

Sites Fitted with Solar Power Generating Equipment in FY2022



Eniwa Plant(April 2022 operation)

Purchase of electricity from renewable sources

We are also systematically purchasing electricity from renewable sources.

From 2018, Medreich Limited (India) has been purchasing electricity generated by solar technology.

From 2019, Medreich PLC (United Kingdom) has been purchasing 100% of its electricity from wind-power generated sources.

From April 2021, Aichi Plant of Meiji, and from April 2022, Tokai plant began purchasing 100% renewable electricity.

[Click here for the CO₂ emission reduction by use of solar power \(to ESG data\)](#)

Use of bioenergy

Sakado Plant of Meiji and Meiji Chewing Gum make use of methane biogas as fuel, for example in its boilers.

Improved Environmental Data Management

We continue to improve our environmental data management system, which provides evidence of our initiatives dealing with climate change and global warming. In addition to consolidated group data collection and disclosure, we have an independent entity draft group management standards and perform audits to verify our environmental management system operations, as well as improve our data transparency and reliability.

CO₂ emission levels third party verification

Meiji Group's Integrated Report 2022 contains a report of our FYE 3/2022 domestic CO₂ emissions. In order to improve the reliability of the data obtained, we have obtained the independent practitioner's assurance for domestic CO₂ emission volume (Scope 1, Scope 2, Scope 3 category 1) from Deloitte Tohmatsu Sustainability.

[FYE 3/2022 Independent Practitioner's Assurance Report](#)

[FYE 3/2022 domestic CO₂ emission results \(Scope 1, Scope 2, Scope 3 category 1\)](#)

Eliminate Specific CFCs

Promotion of Converting from CFCs to Natural Refrigerants, As Well As HFCs

The use of CFCs has become an important issue, due to their ability to trigger ozone depletion, thus greatly speeding up climate change.

Following the guidelines of the Montreal Protocol, we perform periodic inspection of facilities that make use of CFCs, in order to reduce the risk of CFC leakage. At the same time, as part of our climate change initiatives, we are continuing to switch over from CFCs to natural refrigerants.

We are working to completely eliminate CFC-using equipment by FY2030.

Cases of Switching to Natural Refrigerants

Meiji Group is aiming to further reduce CO₂ emissions by introducing new energy-saving machines that use natural refrigerants. We are actively making use of subsidies from the Ministry of the Environment for this purpose.

Meiji

- FYE 3/2016: Kyoto plant, Gunma plant
- FYE 3/2018: Kyushu plant
- FYE 3/2019: Kyoto plant, Moriya plant, Tokai Meiji
- FYE 3/2020: Kanagawa plant, Moriya plant, Nagano depot, Tokai Meiji
- FYE 3/2021: Toda Plant, Tokai Plant, Shikoku Meiji(Kagawa Plant)
- FYE 3/2022: Moriya Plant,Nagano Cheese Plant
- FYE 3/2023: Osaka Plant, Gunma Nutritionals Plant, Kansai Plant,Kansai Ice Cream Plant,Kyoto Plant,Saitama Plant, Wakkanai Plant, Toda Plant

* Several location names appear repeatedly due to sequential conversion from CFC refrigerants to natural refrigerant-using machines

Meiji Seika Pharma

- No cases after FY2015

KM Biologics

- FYE 3/2016: Kumamoto plant
- FYE 3/2022: Kumamoto Production Center,Kikuchi Reserch Center,Koshi Production Center,Aso Production Center
- FYE 3/2023: Kumamoto Production Center,Kikuchi Reserch Center,

[Click here for the Reduction of CFC-using \(to ESG data\)](#)

Circular Economy



Circular Society Targets

Targets of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective until March 31, 2024)

KPI	Base Year	Results		Target			
		FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024	FYE 3/2031	FYE 3/2051	
Consolidated domestic recycle rate 85% or above by FYE 3/2024 [Meiji G, consolidated (domestic)]	-	80.5%	86.1%	85% or more	-	-	zero emission
Reduce product waste in our domestic food business by 50% by FYE 3/2026 (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated domestic subsidiaries of Meiji Group)	FYE 3/2017	34.1%	31.5%	42% or more	50% (by FYE 3/2026)	-	
Reduce domestic plastic usage (packaging, etc.) by at least 25% by FYE 3/2031 (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated domestic subsidiaries of Meiji Group)	FYE 3/2018	16.0%	18.3%	15% or more	25% or more	-	Minimize the use of new natural capital
Ensure 100% effective use of materials used by our logistics division (pallets, crates, and stretch film, etc.) by FYE 3/2031, through reuse and recycling. (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated domestic subsidiaries of Meiji Group)	-	100%	100%	-	100%	-	
Expand usage of bioplastics and recycled plastics (Scope of aggregation: Consolidated domestic subsidiaries of Meiji Group)	-	Newly used for Kaju Gummy packaging	Newly used for Meiji Oishii Gyunyu packaging	-	-	-	

Reduce Environmental Impact

Waste Amount¹

		Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Total Waste ²	Japan	10,000 tons	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.4
	Japan (Per unit of sales)	Ton/100 million yen	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.5
	Global	10,000 tons	-	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7
	Global (Per unit of sales)	Ton/100 million yen	-	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.5
Hazardous Waste		10,000 tons	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1
Recycled material ³		10,000 tons	2.4 ²	2.3 ²	2.0 ²	2.0 ²	2.0 ²
Final Disposal Volume (Landfill)		10,000 tons	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.1
Food product waste reduction rate		%	21.9	25.1	29.3	34.1	31.5
Plastic usage reduction rate		%	8.2	9.8	11.7	16.0	18.3

1. Environmental data includes data from consolidated domestic subsidiaries of Meiji Group.
2. Covers only industrial waste in production plants from FYE 3/2019. The Accounting Standard for Revenue Recognition (ASBJ Statement No. 29, March 31, 2020) and other standards have been applied to net sales used in the per unit calculation from FYE 3/2023.
3. includes KM Biologics from FYE 3/2019

[Click here for Circular Economy \(to ESG data\)](#)

Independent Practitioner's Assurance of Industrial Waste

Meiji Group's Integrated Report 2022 contains a report of our FYE 3/2022 domestic industrial waste. In order to improve the reliability of the data obtained, we have obtained the independent practitioner's assurance for domestic industrial waste from Deloitte Tohmatsu Sustainability.

[FY2022 Independent Practitioner's Assurance Report
Results of the Domestic Industrial Waste in FYE 3/2022](#)

Reduce Final Disposal Volume

We aim to protect the environment, and help realize a sustainable, circular society. In order to do this we are working to make effective use of limited natural resources, and further reduce final disposal volume. For example, by controlling production of waste materials, collecting and separating materials for recycling, and reducing the volume and thickness of containers and packaging.

Reduction of Waste Generated at Factories

The entirety of Meiji Group is focused on taking action to reduce the amount of waste generated. Meiji has reduced production waste by 24 tons annually by modifying the pan release oil-spraying nozzle* used in Galbo chocolate production to change continuous operation to intermittent operation.

* pan release oil: an (edible) oil used to prevent dough from sticking to molds during production

Position on Packaging

Packaging plays an important role in protecting the quality of food and pharmaceutical products, as well as in providing product information to consumers.

The Meiji Group designs the packaging in an environmentally friendly manner. To minimize the input of new resources, we reduce the amount of materials used and devise product packaging that is easy to recycle. In addition to the 3Rs (Three Rs), we work actively to utilize recycled materials and materials made from plant-derived sources and other renewable resources, pursuing “Renewable” as a fourth “R.”

We select plastics, paper, glass, aluminum, steel, and other optimal materials in conjunction with the nature of the product in question, striving to ensure all packaging are sustainable. We also pursue research and development to enhance the functionality of packaging and quality retention to extend shelf life and provide other benefits.

Further, we strive in collaboration with the government and other external parties to establish systems for collecting used packaging. In this way, we contribute to the creation of circular economy.

Containers and Packaging Recycling Initiatives

The Meiji Group consigned recycling of containers and packaging of sold products to the Japan Containers and Packaging Recycling Association under the Containers and Packaging Recycling Act in Japan

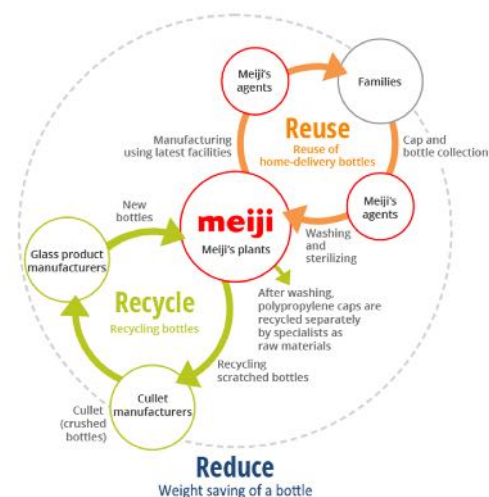
Domestic Container and Packaging Usage and Recycling Implementation Fee

	Unit	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Plastic	t	18,845	18,410	18,852
Paper	t	25,219	24,562	23,441
glass bottles	t	1,437	1,288	1,504
PET bottles	t	9,291	9,192	7,366
total	t	54,791	53,452	51,163
Recycling implementation fees	JPY million	600 ¹	605 ²	745 ³

1. Implementation fee based on FYE 3/2020 results
2. Implementation fee based on FYE 3/2021 results
3. Implementation fee based on FYE 3/2022 results

Bottle Reuse and Other Recycling Initiatives

Meiji reuses and recycles the delivery bottles used in our home delivery service. Meiji's agents collect delivery bottles after consumers have finished with the product, after which the bottles are cleaned at our factory for reuse. After cleaning, polypropylene caps are recycled into cushioning materials and other resources by a specialized company. In pursuit of these activities, we encourage consumers to participate in collecting bottles as an environmentally friendly activity. Of course, delivery bottles will become damaged during the cycle of use and reuse. These bottles are crushed and remolded to be recycled as new bottles*. Meiji is reducing the weight of delivery bottles, and we are also endeavoring to reduce the amount of glass used.



	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Collection rate for delivery bottles	98.2	97.7	99.5	99.3	99.7

* Our goal: Collect 100 % used delivery bottles

Plastic packaging Recycling Initiatives

Plastic packaging used exclusively for home delivery are made of 100% recycled plastic resin, and new plastic packaging are made from used plastic packaging.

Municipalities collect plastic packaging used for home delivery after use. Some of these packaging are crushed at a plastic packaging factory to become raw materials for new plastic packaging, which are then formed into plastic packaging and shipped to the Meiji factory. This approach reduces the use of petroleum resources and reduces CO2 emissions.



Paper packaging Recycling Initiatives

Meiji Group employees in Japan take part in our "Paper Packaging Recycling Campaign" twice per year. We collect and recycle our paper packaging.

Through this we are aiming to increase our employees' awareness of environmental issues.

Volume Reduction of Containers and Packaging

We are continuing to reduce the size and thickness of our packaging (while always ensuring quality is maintained), in order to avoid waste of precious resources. Focusing on tackling the problem of marine plastic pollution, we are also taking measures to reuse resources.

In July 2020 we established the Meiji Group Plastic Policy with the goal of reducing use of plastic by at least 25% by FY2030 (compared to FY2017). Here is one example of this initiative in action: we are reducing the weight of our products' plastic bottles, as well as reusing and recycling plastic appliances used in storage and transportation. We are also increasing the use of organic bioplastics and recycled plastics for straws and product packaging.

Meiji Group Plastic Policy

In January 2021 production of our protein brand Savas' plastic cap began progressively switching to a more environmentally-friendly mix of 10% bioplastics. The packaging now carries Japan Organics Recycling Association's "Biomass Mark."



Switching to a bioplastic mix for plastic straws attached to our products

Every year make use of around 650 million plastic straws for attachment to drink products. From February 2021 we began progressively switching to a mix of 5% bioplastics.



Examples of products with attached straws

Reduction of Food Loss

"Food Loss" refers to food that is still edible, but that is thrown away by manufacturers, retail, the food service industry, or by households. According to estimates in FY2020 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of the Environment, 5.22million tons of food is wasted domestically each year. Meiji Group is aware that food loss is part of a serious societal problem and is taking the following steps, in line with government guidelines and industry association policies.

Definition of Food Loss

The Meiji Group defines food loss as food waste including inedible portions that has been processed and disposed of by landfill, incineration, or other means, excluding those that have been converted into feed, fertilizer, methane, mushroom beds, fuel and reducing agents by carbonization, fats, oils and fat products. We are currently in the process of calculating the total amount of food loss. We will disclose the results from FY2023

Reduction of food loss

The Meiji Group is promoting to reduce food loss in various ways.

Reducing Food Losses through Recycling

The approximately 12,000 tons of food waste are generated by the production of confectioneries and dairy products by Meiji Co., Ltd. 90% of the food waste is recycled mainly as feed, fertilizer, or methane gas through methane fermentation. The food waste is converted into pig feed for pig farmers, but some is also used to feed cattle, chickens, and fish.



[Click here for Reduction of food product waste \(to ESG data\)](#)

Reducing Dead Stock via Improved Demand Planning

Our manufacturing and sales divisions are cooperating to put together demand plans, taking into account various data, such as past sales and upcoming sales promotions. We are into account various data, such as past sales and upcoming sales promotions.


Changes to Best Before Date Labelling

We are progressively changing our food labelling from "Year/Month/Day" to "Year/Month". We expect this switch to "Year/Month" labelling to enable greater coordination between production, delivery, and sales divisions. Thus, we are anticipating an improvement in logistical efficiency throughout our entire supply chain, leading to a reduction in food loss.


From February 2020, we have changed the best before date of around 120 shelf-stable products, including frozen products, with long-term (at least 1 year) expiration dates over to "Year/Month" labelling.

Extending Best Before Dates Without Sacrificing Quality

We are extending the best before dates of certain confectionaries, drinks, nutritional products, and prepared foods where scientific and sensory analysis has shown it will not affect quality. This will help us reduce waste from expired, but otherwise safe and edible products.

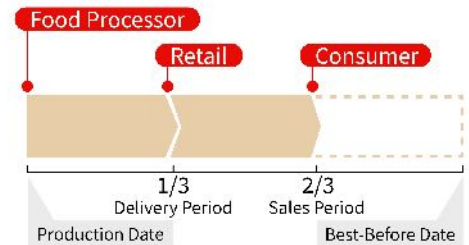
Products	Food Labelling (Best Before Dates)
Meiji Hohoemi Rakuraku Milk Liquid infant formula 	14 months → 18 months

Thanks to impeccable hygiene on the production line, and our new freshness-ensuring cartons (made from light-blocking materials, and filled to the brim), Meiji Oishii Gyunyu's best before date has changed as follows:

Products	Food Labelling (Best Before Dates)
Meiji Oishii Gyunyu 	15 days from date of production → 19 days from date of production

Working with the Distribution Industry to Review the "One-Third Rule"

Progressively changing our food labelling from "Year/Month/Day" to "Year/Month". We expect this switch to "Year/Month" labelling to enable greater coordination between production, delivery, and sales divisions. Thus, we are anticipating an improvement in logistical efficiency throughout our entire supply chain, leading to a reduction in food loss.



The "one-third rule" is a commercial practice that splits the time before a product's expiration date into three periods of equal length, split between manufacturer, retail, and finally consumer. This rule can lead to otherwise perfectly edible food being thrown away.

Meiji Group is working within industry associations to review time frames for product delivery. At this time we are working with retailers to relax the "one-third rule" to a "one-half rule". In the future, we will continue with this three-pronged approach: working to relax the "one-third rule", extending best before dates, and moving to "Year/Month" labelling.

Cooperation with Related Organizations

Cooperation with the All-Japan Food Bank Promotion Council

Working together with related organizations, we are continuing our efforts to reduce food waste. Specifically, in collaboration with food bank organizations through the All-Japan Food Bank Promotion Council, we have begun donating products such as confectionery, pouch curry, and jelly drinks to food banks from January 2019. From June 2019 we also began donating our emergency food supplies that are approaching their best before dates, for regular use at food banks.

Cooperation with the WFP

We have been a supporter of the United Nations World Food Programme's "Zero Hunger Challenge" campaign since October 2020. This initiative connects efforts to reduce food loss within Japan with food aid for developing nations.

Collaboration with the Consumer Affairs Agency

Meiji Co., Ltd. enlighten reducing food loss by placing on its product packaging our humorous poem that won a prize in the humorous poem contest which is the Consumer Affairs Agency's initiative to reduce food loss.

Water



Water Resources-Related Targets

Targets of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective up to March 31, 2024)*

KPI	Base Year	Results		Targets		
		FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024	FYE 3/2031	FYE 3/2051
Reduce company-wide water consumption per unit of sales by at least 15% by FYE 3/2031 (compared with FYE 3/2021) [Meiji G, consolidated]	FYE 3/2021	6.4%	13.4%	-	15% or more	50%
Replenish an amount of water to nature equivalent to 45% the amount used in our products by FYE 3/2031 [Meiji G, consolidated]	-	24.2%	41.3%	27% or more	45% or more	100% (Water Neutral)

* Scope of aggregation: Consolidated Meiji Group

Position on Water Resources

Global demand for water is expected to increase further due to improved living standards associated with population and economic growth. Predictions indicate that more and more areas will face water scarcity. Water is an essential resource for the Meiji Group's business activities.

For this reason, the Meiji Group recognizes securing water resources as one of its most key social issues. We have therefore established water resources targets, and making efforts to reduce environmental impact, such as through efficient use of water, and proper drainage management across the entire Meiji Group. We also conduct water risk evaluations at each of our business site both in Japan and overseas.

Further, the Meiji Group also works with its employees and stakeholders to cultivate water resources through forest and watershed conservation activities.

Secure Water Resources

Water Risk Survey Results

To understand the impact of water risk on our business continuity, we use Aqueduct and other tools to survey water risk at both Japan and overseas production sites and research facilities. We also conduct interviews at these sites. Aqueduct is a tool published by the World Resources Institute to evaluate global water risk by latitude and longitude.

Using Aqueduct survey results, alongside analysis of our own domestic and overseas production sites (quantity and quality of water used, and the products manufactured), we identified sites which face a high water risk.

We can see that water consumption in areas with relatively high risks to water resources* was about 3% of the total, according to the latest data (FY2021 results).

Looking towards the future, we will identify an order of priority, and a schedule for carrying out necessary water risk countermeasures, then implement them systematically.

* Using Aqueduct, we analyzed severity of stress on water resources (including Baseline Water Stress and Baseline Water Depletion), as well as Seasonal Variability. The term "areas with relatively high risks to water resources" above refers to areas where Aqueduct's risk analysis pointed to a high current or future risk.

Survey Results Based on Aqueduct*

	Drought Risk	Flood Risk	Water Quality Risk
Total (73 Business locations)	15% (11/73)	55% (40/73)	16% (12/73)
Japan (52 Business Locations)	0% (0/52)	58% (30/52)	0% (0/52)
China (5 Business Locations)	20% (1/5)	80% (4/5)	60% (3/5)
Asia (Excluding Japan and China) (13 Business Locations)	62% (8/13)	31% (4/13)	69% (9/13)
North America and Europe (3 Business Locations)	67% (2/3)	67% (2/3)	0% (0/3)

* The locally provided water hazard map information is incorporated in the flood risk results for Japan and the United States.

Gap analysis from Aqueduct survey results

In addition to survey results from Aqueduct, we conducted questionnaire surveys at all production sites in Japan and overseas. As a result, we discovered that some water-related complaints and other issues had occurred at some sites, though no disputes had occurred.

Assessing water risks for suppliers

In 2021, we conducted questionnaire surveys with 20 major suppliers to assess their water risks. Going forward, we will promote engagement with suppliers to avoid these risks.

Water Usage Volume Results

Water Extraction Volume*

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Extraction total (thousand m ³)	23,483	23,397	22,571	21,255	20,629
per unit of sales (m ³ per hundred thousand yen)	1.87	1.87	1.89	1.78	1.94
Japan (thousand m ³)	22,056	21,979	21,189	19,808	19,516
Japan (m ³ per hundred thousand yen)	1.89	1.89	1.92	1.83	2.07
China (thousand m ³)	878	903	845	879	514
Asia (Excluding Japan and China) (thousand m ³)	487	459	479	497	542
North America and Europe (thousand m ³)	62	56	58	71	57

* Domestic data is from domestic Meiji Group. Water consumption volume per unit of sales is calculated from domestic sales. Global data includes Meiji Group as a whole, including the domestic Meiji Group, overseas production plants, and (from FYE 3/2019 data onwards) KM Biologics. The Accounting Standard for Revenue Recognition (ASBJ Statement No. 29, March 31, 2020) and other standards have been applied to net sales used in the per unit calculation from FYE 3/2023.

Water Extraction Volume by Water Source*

	Unit	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Fresh water total	thousand m ³	23,397	22,571	21,255	20,629
	%	100	100	100	100
Tap water	thousand m ³	2,619	2,391	2,259	1,851
	%	11	11	11	9
Water for industrial use	thousand m ³	5,329	4,888	4,680	4,505
	%	23	22	22	22
Rivers, lakes and marshes	thousand m ³	0	0	0	0
	%	0	0	0	0
Ground water	thousand m ³	15,446	14,613	14,313	14,270
	%	66	67	67	69
Rainwater	thousand m ³	3	3	3	3
	%	0	0	0	0

* Including overseas Meiji Group

[Click here for the Water extraction volume \(to ESG data\)](#)

Water Drainage Volume*

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Drainage total	20,586	19,437	18,225	17,406	17,408
Japan	19,702	18,415	17,248	16,450	16,732
China	696	790	761	739	437
Asia (Excluding Japan and China)	141	180	162	178	208
North America and Europe	47	53	54	31	30

* Domestic data is from domestic Meiji Group. Global data includes Meiji Group as a whole, including the domestic Meiji Group, overseas production plants, and (from FYE 3/2019 data onwards) KM Biologics.

[Click here for the Water extraction volume \(to ESG data\)](#)

Water Drainage Volume by Destination*

	Unit	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Drainage total	thousand m ³	19,437	18,225	17,393	17,408
	%	100	100	100	100
Sewerage	thousand m ³	8,729	8,156	7,979	7,483
	%	45	45	46	43
Discharge into rivers	thousand m ³	10,614	9,991	9,324	9,845
	%	55	55	54	57
Discharge into ocean	thousand m ³	0	0	0	0
	%	0	0	0	0
Discharge into groundwater	thousand m ³	94	78	94	80
	%	0	0	0	0

* Including overseas Meiji Group

Specific Initiatives to Secure Water Resources

In an effort to solve the social issue of securing water resources, the Meiji Group conducted a survey on water risks at its production sites in Japan and overseas. We are taking specific actions based on the results of this survey. In areas with drought risks, we will strengthen measures to reduce water consumption by striving toward more efficient water use and installation of water-saving equipment. In areas with water quality risks, we will establish in-house standards for water quality as it pertains to water intake and discharge, and we will also strengthen our monitoring of these. At sites with flood risks, we will take measures from both hard and soft aspects. On the soft side, we are developing a business continuity plan (BCP) that takes into account flood risk. On the hard side, we are calculating estimated damages from risks and implementing a series of measures necessary to mitigate these, starting with sites deemed to face the greatest amount of damage.

Reduce Water Consumption by Introducing Water Saving Equipment

Meiji Group is working to increase the efficiency of its water use in all areas, including in locations that face high water risk. In FYE March 2023, we successfully took actions to cut water consumption by 2.1% across the entire Meiji Group (compared with FYE March 2018). For example, by stopping water flow outside of operation hours, coordinating dilution of discharged water, and by investigating and repairing sites of water leakage.

As a result, we are continuing to improve the efficiency of water consumption (per unit of sales) on an annual basis.

In the future, we will consider expanding the number of plants that make use of rainwater and other non-drinking water in bathrooms and similar facilities, as well as taking measures to reuse discharged water.

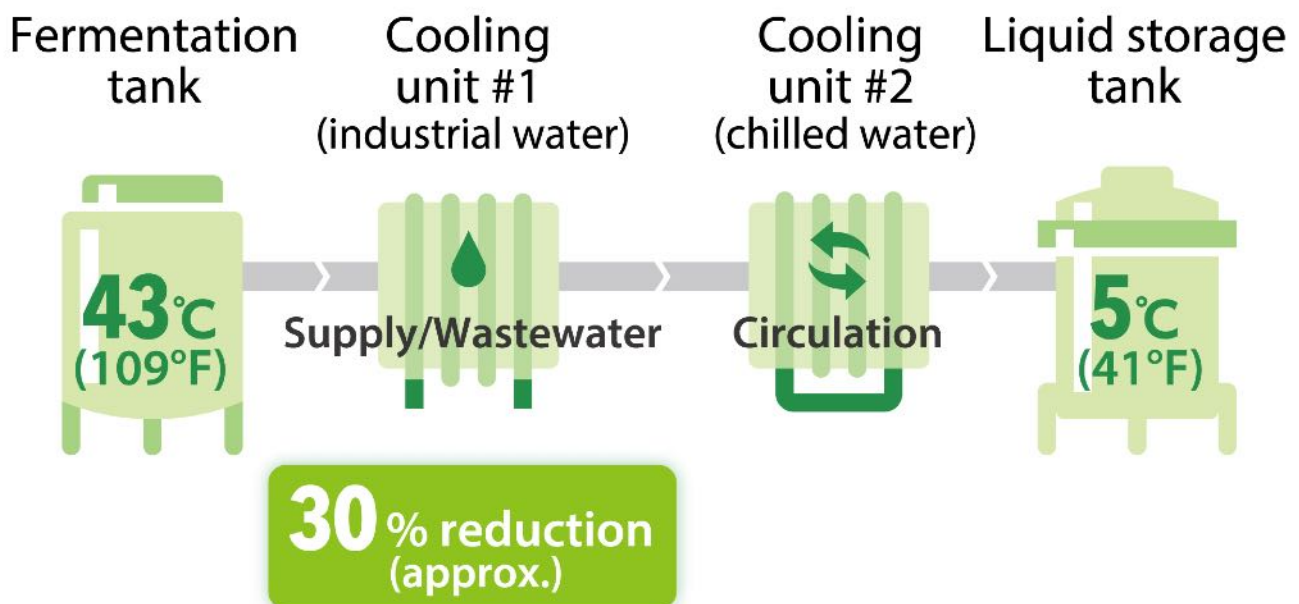
The Meiji Group is working to use water efficiently by installing water-saving nozzles at faucets at multiple factories. In addition, at the cheese production line at the Meiji Co., Ltd. Nagano Cheese Plant used a cooling water tank to lower the temperature of well water (potable water) used in the double piping for cooling cheese products. When the temperature of the water in the tank rose, more water was added, with the overflow drained off. By installing a chiller and circulating well water (potable water) for use in cooling, the plant has saved 12,000m³ in annual water consumption.



Chillers in Nagano Cheese Plant

At Meiji's Toda Plant, we examined various flow rates of industrial water used for cooling when transferring raw materials from fermentation tanks to liquid storage tanks and found an optimized flow rate, which reduced water usage by approximately 2,900 m³/month.

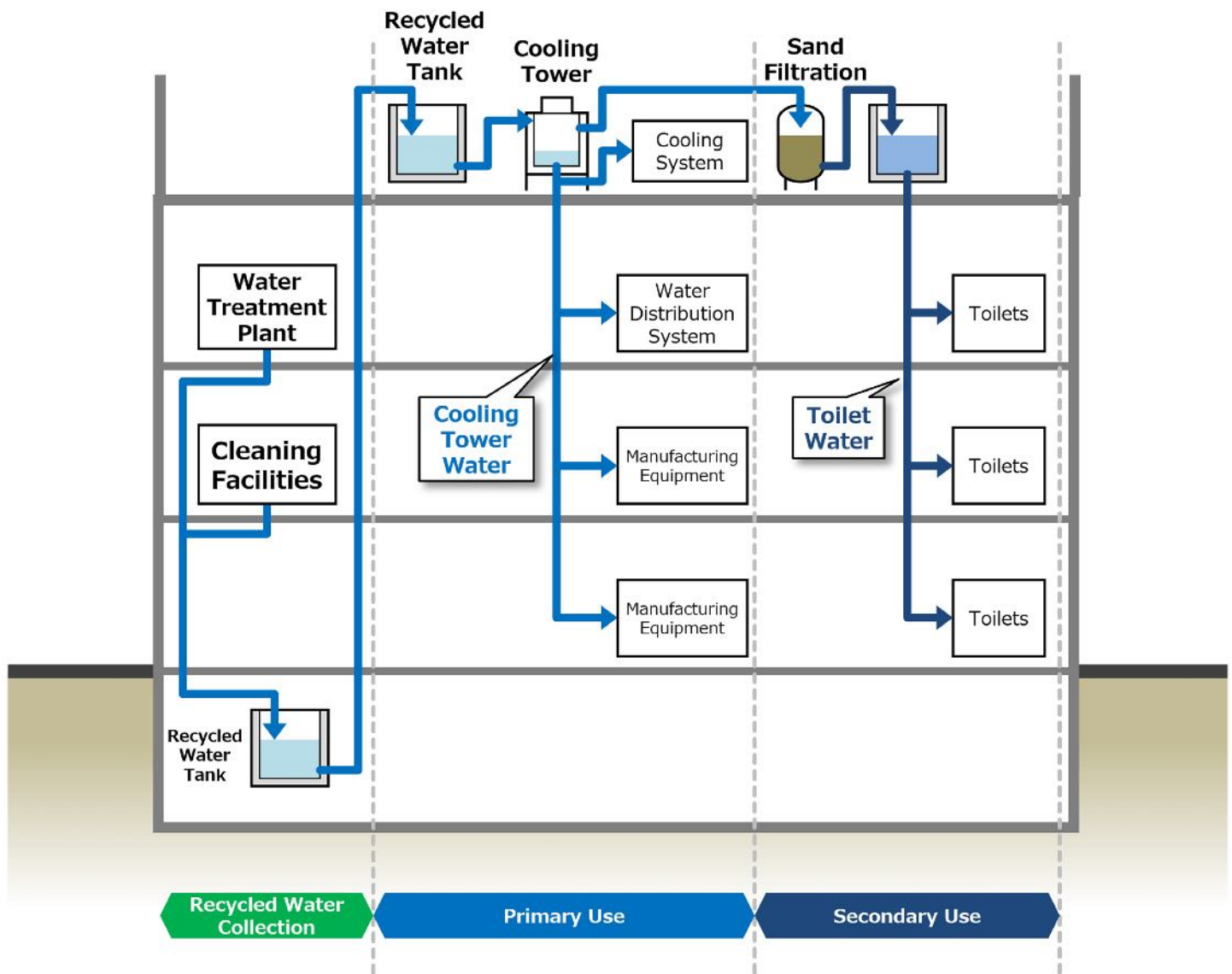
Water Saving at Meiji's Toda Plant by Optimizing the Flow Rate for Cooling Water



KM Biologics has installed greywater* recycling systems in four of its manufacturing buildings at its Kumamoto Production Center. These systems collect recyclable water for primary use from production facilities. This greywater is then used as makeup water in cooling towers. Water discharged from the cooling towers as secondary use water is first filtered and disinfected, and then used in toilets. Overall, approximately 30,000 m³ of water is recycled annually at the Kumamoto Production Center.

* Greywater: Non-potable water that is suitable for general and industrial use

Kumamoto Production Center greywater recycling system



Measures to Replenish Water Resources

Meiji Group is committed to replenish an amount of water to nature equivalent to 100% of the amount used in our products by 2050. With an eye to meeting this target, we have set the following milestones: increase to at least 27% equivalent of the water we use by FY2023, and increase to at least 45% by FY2030.

Field flooding project

KM Biologics uses groundwater for production and waterlogs fields (saturate the soil with water) as part of a program to reduce the impact on the environment. We replenish and recharge the groundwater by diverting water from the Shirakawa River nearby and flood the fields with water for about 3 months before planting crops. We have been doing this since 2005 and have been replenishing approximately 500 thousand tons of groundwater annually, which is more than what is used at the head office and the Kumamoto Plant. In FY2022 we replenished approximately 700 thousand tons of groundwater.



Participation in groundwater conservation group

KM Biologics joined the Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation in 2012 to work toward a healthy groundwater environment together with the local community. The Kumamoto Groundwater Foundation is a groundwater environment preservation group that has implemented effective groundwater preservation measures based on research results. As a member of this foundation, we conduct educational activities related to groundwater preservation through participating in groundwater preservation symposia and encouraging employees to purchase water-offset rice, i.e. rice grown in fields that engage in groundwater recharge. During FY2022, we contributed an estimated 36,500m³ of water conservation through water-offset rice initiatives.

In FY2021, the company applied for the organization's "Groundwater conservation award program" and received a "Gold" rating out of three ranks (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) for its efforts in groundwater conservation, including groundwater recharge, proper use of water, and employee education.

Initiatives on Quality of Intake Water

The Meiji Group is engaged in initiatives related to the quality of intake water.

Some of its plants have incorporated RO (reverse osmosis) membranes into their manufacturing lines, removing impurities and preventing flavor defects arising from input water quality, as well as maintaining a high standard of water quality. An RO membrane is a type of filtration membrane that can separate materials and is capable of removing ions and organic substances from aqueous solutions.

Quality Management of Discharged Water

We have set more stringent standards for discharged water than the legal standards in Japan, and we are working on preventing water pollution. In order to reduce our environmental footprint of discharged water, we install equipment that uses activated sludge treatment and methane fermentation at plants or for processes that discharge a lot of water.

As of FY2021, we can confirm that there have been zero breaches of laws and regulations concerning wastewater quality.



Methane fermentation process

[Click here for the COD emissions \(to ESG data\)](#)

Meiji's Unique *Bacillus subtilis* BN1001(BN1001) to Guarantee Wastewater Quality

Certain Meiji Group plants make use of BN1001—a microorganism discovered by Meiji, then subject to research and development. Using this bacteria's unique ability to break down oils and fats, as well as unpleasant odors, we are working to further improve wastewater management.



At Shikoku Meiji's Matsuyama Plant, the BN1001's unique properties are being harnessed to deal with a certain kind of oil waste known as 'oil balls.'

The BN1001 is a microorganism of natural origin, discovered in the late 1980s in the soil by a research institute, located at that time in Yokohama. At first, it was the subject of pharmaceutical research. However, when its exceptional ability to break down fats and oils was discovered, and its safety confirmed, it was put to work improving hygiene in areas like bathrooms and kitchens.

The BN bacillus is a helpful microbe with an outstanding ability to break down oils, and is classified as a substrain of the *Bacillus subtilis* (of the same classification as *Bacillus subtilis* var. *natto*). It was named ‘*Bacillus subtilis* BN1001’.

Initiatives to Combat Flooding

Nihon Kanzume, a Meiji Group company, suffered flood damage in 2016 as a result of a nearby river overflowing. Following this event, countermeasures were taken to combat future floods, including installation of a 3.5 meter-high water barrier, creating embankments, and so on.



Nihon Kanzume water barrier

In addition, at Meiji Seika Pharmatech Co., Ltd. , we have implemented provisional water stops and built new retaining walls for our power substations, and we are conducting comprehensive training programs for flooding countermeasures.

Going forward, and with consideration to BCP (business continuity plan), the Meiji Group has committed to taking further measures to progressively cover other locations facing high flood risks.



Provisional water stops in Meiji Seika Pharmatech Co., Ltd.

Independent Practitioner's Assurance of Water Use Volume

In order to improve the reliability of the data, we obtained the independent practitioner's assurance for the domestic water use volume of FYE 3/2022 by Deloitte Tohmatsu Sustainability indicated in our Integrated Report 2022.

[FY2022 Independent Practitioner's Assurance Report
Results of the Domestic Water Use Volume in FYE 3/2022](#)

Biodiversity



Targets for Biodiversity Conservation Activities

Target of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective until March 31, 2024)

KPI	Base Year	Results		Target
		FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024
Conduct biodiversity activities at all production sites worldwide by FYE 3/2024 [Meiji G, consolidated]	-	61.9%*	77.1%*	100%

* Impact of cancellation or postponement of plans due to the spread of COVID-19

Approach to Biodiversity

Due to the world's economic activities, we are facing a critical situation amid a rapid loss of biodiversity caused by disruption of habitats by deforestation and deterioration in habitat environments, including environmental pollution. As the businesses of the Meiji Group depend on the abundant gifts of nature, including raw milk, cocoa and lactobacillus, and microorganisms used for developing antibiotics, we recognize that loss of biodiversity is a significant social issue. We identify the impact and dependency of our business activities on biodiversity throughout the entire supply chain, from raw material procurement to waste disposal, preserving and regenerating biodiversity to ensure that we enjoy the abundant gifts of nature for years to come. We comply with treaties, laws and regulations related to biodiversity, and contribute to the creation of a society that coexists in harmony with nature.

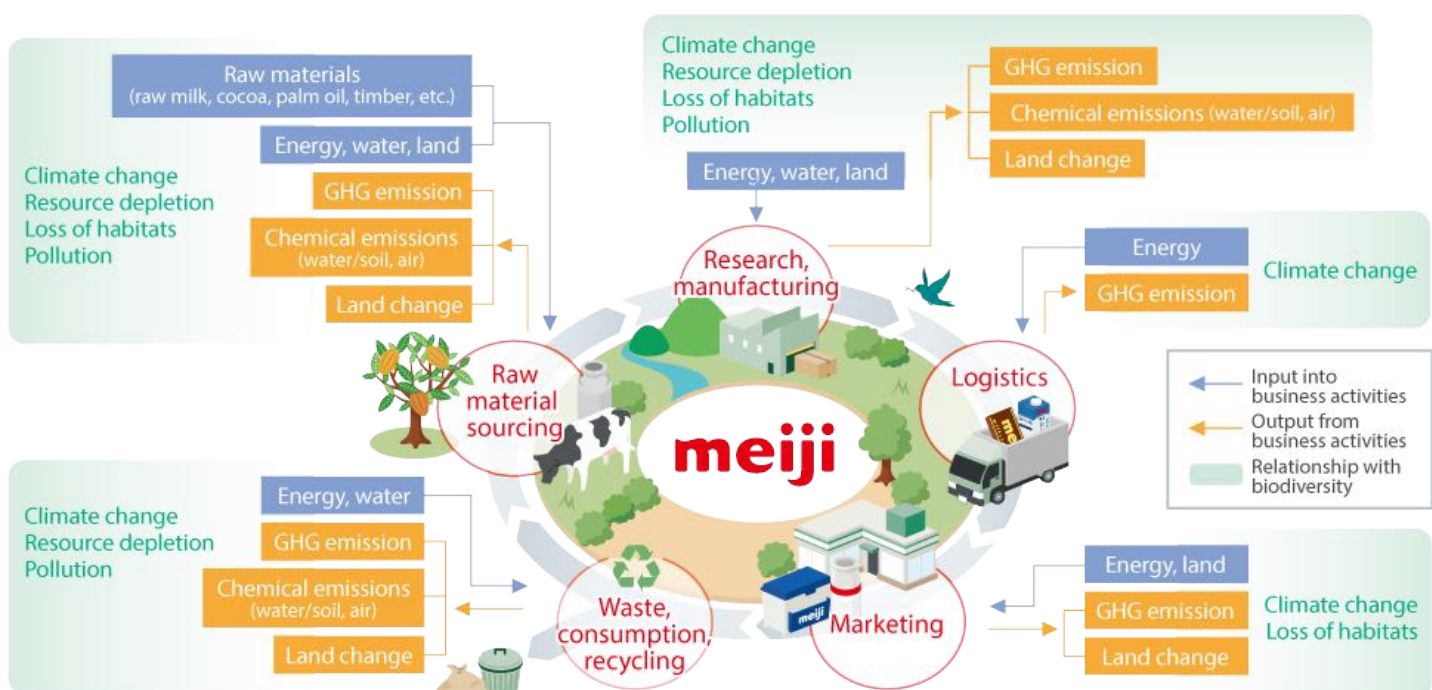
Biodiversity Conservation Activities Policy

In September 2022, we revised the Meiji Group Biodiversity Conservation Activity Policy. Amid ongoing loss of biodiversity, we intend to contribute to the creation of a society that coexists in harmony with nature throughout the entire supply chain, from raw material procurement to waste disposal.

Relationship between Our Business Activities and Biodiversity

The Meiji Group is deeply involved in a variety of biological resources and ecosystems through our food and pharmaceutical businesses, and it has an impact on biodiversity throughout our entire supply chain, from raw material procurement to waste disposal. Based on this recognition, we pursue biodiversity-friendly activities, reduction in impact on biodiversity, effective use of biological resources and enhanced understanding of biodiversity among our employees.

Map of Relationship Between the Meiji Group and Biodiversity



* GHG: greenhouse gas

Effect of Business Activities on Biodiversity

Environmental Risks Related to the Meiji Group's Business Activities

\$\$: Risks of greater importance
 \$: Risks of great importance
 Blank: Risks of low importance or missing data

Segments	Categories	Land use change	Water resource use	Climate change	Air pollution	Water pollution, soil pollution	Waste
Food	Product manufacturing		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Pharmaceutical	Product manufacturing		\$	\$	\$	\$\$*6	\$
Food	Dairy	\$	\$\$	\$\$*3	\$	\$\$*7	
	Cocoa	\$\$*1		\$	\$\$*5	\$\$*8	
	Sugarcane	\$\$*1	\$\$*2	\$	\$\$*5	\$\$*8*9	
	Palm oil	\$\$*1		\$\$*4	\$\$*5	\$\$*8*10	
	Soy	\$\$*1		\$\$*4	\$\$*5	\$\$*8	
Pharmaceutical	Eggs	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Food / Pharmaceutical	Timber (paper)	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$

[Examples of Major Risks] *1 Conversion from forest to agricultural land *2 Irrigated cultivation of crops
 *3 Methane emissions from fermentation in digestive track *4 Peatland fire caused by slash-and-burn
 *5 PM2.5 emissions caused by slash-and-burn *6 Chemical substances contained in plant wastewater
 *7 Water pollution due to grazing *8 Use of highly toxic and lingering pesticides in developing countries
 *9 Water pollution from fertilizer application *10 Water pollution by palm oil plant wastewater

Impact of Water Risks on Yields of Main Raw Materials

Impact of Water Risks on Yields of Main Raw Materials

1: Low 2: Somewhat high 3: High 4: Extremely high

Main Raw Materials	Water stress		Drought risk	Flood risk	
	Future (2030)	Future (2040)	Present	Future (2030)	Future (2050)
Dairy	1	1	1	2	3
Dairy ingredients (overseas)	1	1	1	3	3
Cocoa	1	1	2	4	4
Sugarcane	2	2	1	3	3
Palm oil	1	1	2	3	3
Eggs	2	2	2	4	4
Timber (paper)	1	1	1	2	3

What are Water Risks?

Stress: Degree of demand for water

(supply-demand balance of water resources)

Drought risk: Likelihood and impact of drought

Flood risk: Likelihood of floods

Analysis of Dependency/impact of Business Activities on Nature in Line with TNFD (LEAP Approach)

Nature-related risk analysis and response in cocoa production using the LEAP approach

Utilizing the LEAP approach under the TNFD framework, we evaluated the dependency and impact of major Meiji Group cocoa production sites (13 sites) on nature, analyzed each location, and assessed risks based on the results. The results are described below. In the future, we will pursue efforts to avoid and mitigate nature-related risks by conducting gap analysis, etc., for production areas.

Relationships of dependency and impact on nature in cocoa production areas: Evaluate and Locate

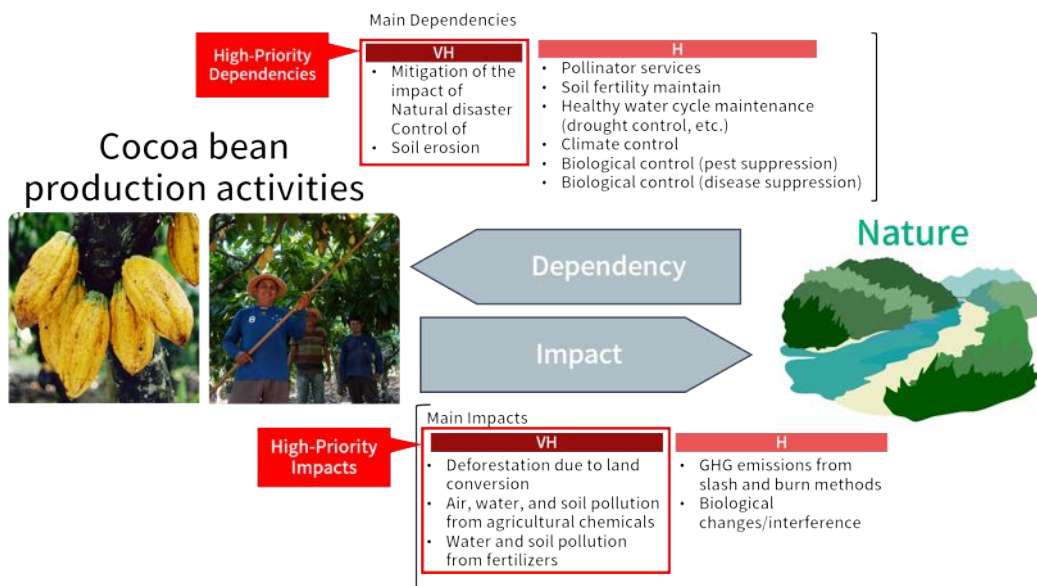


Figure Dependencies and Impacts in the Relationship Between Cocoa Cultivation and Nature

* We conducted assessments of dependency and impact on nature in cocoa bean production areas using ENCORE (Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure).

Risk analysis results by cocoa bean production area for priorities of impact/ dependency

Impact/ Dependency ¹	Impact			Dependency		
	Air pollution	Water pollution	Soil pollution	Mitigation of the impact of natural disasters	Control of soil erosion	
High priorities ²	Changes in terrestrial ecosystem usage					
Number of VH3-Assessed sites	4	1	1	1	2	2

1. We conducted an evaluation by production area using the following evaluation tools and indicators.
 - [Importance of Biodiversity]
 - Evaluation tool: IBAT (Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool)
 - Evaluation indicators: Proximity to areas of high biodiversity importance (KBA, Natura 2000, World Heritage, Ramsar, UNESCO MAB, IUCN Management Ia-IV)
 - Evaluation area: 5 km radius from the facility evaluated
 - [Tree Canopy Loss Rate]
 - Evaluation tool: WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter
 - Evaluation indicator: Forest canopy loss
 - [Eutrophication Potential of Coastal Areas].
 - Evaluation tool: Aqueduct
 - Evaluation indicator: Coastal eutrophication potential
 - [Water Pollution Index]
 - Evaluation tool: WWF Water Risk Filter
 - Evaluation indicator: Surface water quality index
 - [Ecosystem Integrity].
 - Evaluation tool: WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter
 - Evaluation indicator: Ecosystem Condition
 - [Frequency of Flooding]
 - Evaluation tool: WWF Water Risk Filter
 - Evaluation indicator: Estimated flood occurrence
2. Itemized evaluation indicators used were as follows. In cases where there were multiple evaluation indicators, we used the maximum value for each site.
 - Change in terrestrial ecosystem usage: Importance of biodiversity, canopy loss rate
 - Air pollution: Importance of biodiversity
 - Water pollution: Importance of biodiversity, eutrophication potential in coastal areas, water pollution index
 - Soil pollution: Importance of biodiversity
 - Mitigation of the impact of natural disasters: Ecosystem integrity, frequency of flooding
 - Control of soil erosion: Ecosystem integrity
3. Abbreviation for Very High; sites with high risk of impact and dependency

Examples of Meiji Group nature-related risks in cocoa production: ASSESS

Risk emergence and business approaches

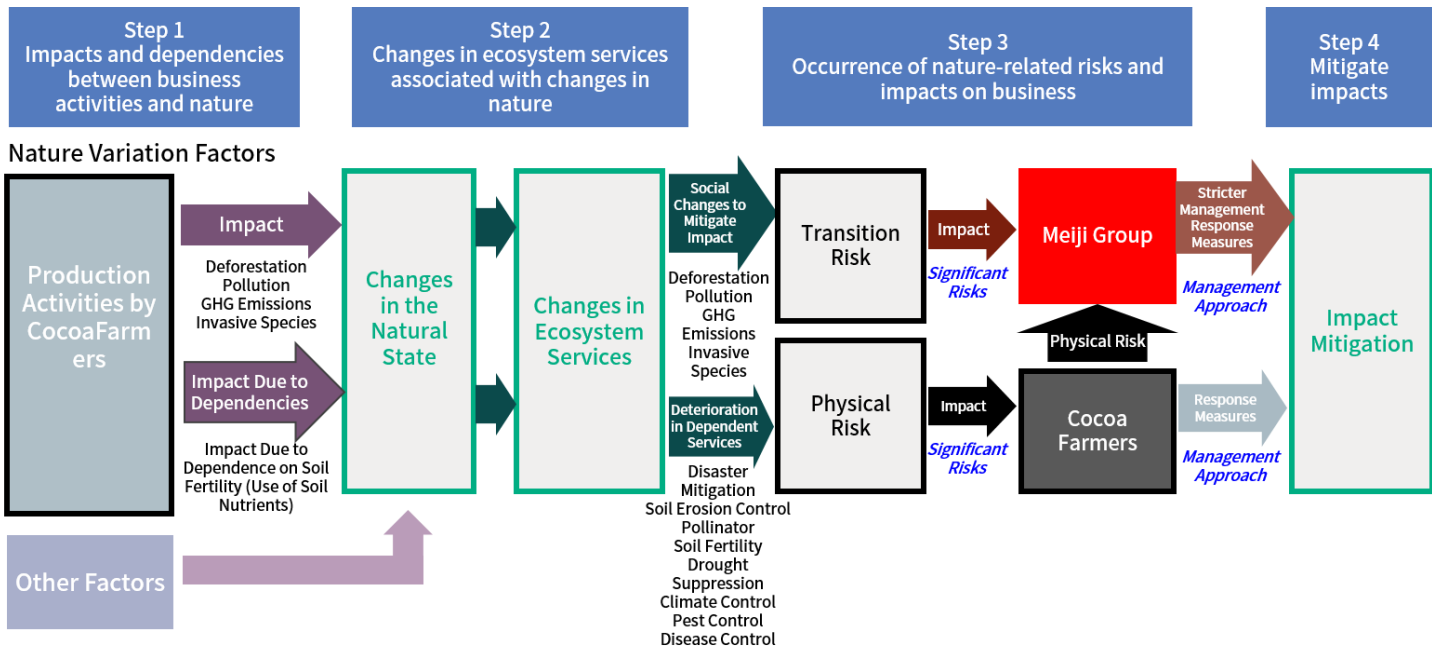


Table Linkages Among Nature-Related Dependencies, Impacts, and Risks

The relationship between risk emergence and business approaches is based on the TNFD Nature-related Risk and Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework Final Draft - Beta v0.4 (March 2023).

Impacts and dependencies in the production of cocoa beans may be a contributing factor, and the above steps may cause changes in natural conditions and ecosystem services. Such changes could create physical and transition risks that have a financial impact on the Meiji Group.

Examples of Meiji Group nature-related risks in cocoa production

Classification		Risk
Physical Risk	Acute/Chronic	Limitations on procurement due to lower yields
		Increased procurement costs due to higher costs resulting from lower yields
Transition Risk	Regulations	Restrictions on imports and exports due to stricter regulations
		Increased costs for procurement of environmentally friendly raw materials (certified lumber, etc.) due to stricter regulations
		Increased burden of complying with new regulations (compliance with disclosure requirements)
	Market	Increased ESG investment activity in response to changing investor preferences (leading to share price instability if the Company is removed from ESG investment indexes)
		Increased ethical consumption due to changing consumer preferences (decrease in sales if products are not eligible as ethical consumption purchases)
		Soaring procurement costs due to changes in the supply-demand balance
	Technology	Increased burden in adopting new technologies
	Reputation	Decrease in sales due to decline in brand value
		Lower recruiting and employee retention rates due to declining brand value

Classifications of nature-related risks selected in reference to the TNFD Nature-related Risk and Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework Final Draft - Beta v0.4 (March 2023).

Physical risks include the possibility that cocoa farmers may not be able to continue production activities as before, and cacao yields may decrease if ecosystem services, such as natural disaster mitigation and soil erosion control, undergo degradation. This risk could cause the Meiji Group to limit the amount of cocoa procured and experience increased procurement costs due to rising costs.

Transition risks include aspects such as tighter regulations, market changes, response to technological innovation, and reputation. Deforestation-related regulations are being implemented mainly in the EU, and considering the spread of such regulations to Japan and other factors, the Meiji Group cannot ignore potential market and reputation impacts. In addition, air, water, and soil pollution are emerging as problems in certain areas, and there are risks associated with future tightening of regulations and new rules.

Responding to the risks posed by impact and dependence on biodiversity: PREPARE

The Meiji Group established the following KPI (Meiji Sustainable cocoa Bean Procurement Ratio) for sustainable cocoa bean production. We continue efforts to avoid and reduce environmental impacts such as deforestation and pollution in cocoa production areas through Meiji Cacao Support.

At the same time, the evaluation of the importance of nature-related risks remains only a simplified study. In addition to this evaluation, we must continue to study the actual situation on the ground in production areas and conduct scenario analysis. In the event efforts fall short, we must implement additional

Measures to avoid or mitigate nature-related risks.

Targets for our Sustainable Sourcing Initiatives

Expanding the Meiji Sustainable Cocoa Bean Procurement Ratio

Reference: Measures to mitigate dependency /impact on biodiversity (examples)

The following represents a portion of our efforts to mitigate biodiversity loss in terms of avoidance, reduction, regeneration, restoration, and conversion. In the future, we must conduct more detailed analyses and engage in additional initiatives to avoid or mitigate nature-related risks, as we have done in cocoa production areas.

Mitigation (Avoid)	Procuring certified raw materials (support NDPE policy: No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation; adopting wider usage of RSPO certified palm oil, etc.) Sustainable Sourcing
Reduce	Reducing GHG emissions in dairy farming Make Sustainable Dairy Industry
Regenerate and restore:	Encouraging forest-building agriculture and agroforestry practices Forest Conservation

Activities at production sites and in the supply chain

Biodiversity risk assessments for land owned by the Meiji Group

We assessed the dependence and impact on nature related to Meiji Group-owned land from the standpoint of business continuity. For the 61 company-owned production sites we investigated various risks using the WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter (WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter) 1. For company-owned production bases, the physical risk² of company production sites scored higher than reputational risk³, making physical risk which

type demanding greater attention. In terms of physical risks related to company-owned production bases, the risk of exposure to natural disasters due to damage to biodiversity (landslides, wildfire hazard, plant / forest / aquatic pests and diseases, extreme heat, tropical cyclones, etc.) was rated particularly high. We intend to discuss countermeasures at future Group Environmental Meetings.

1. A tool released by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2023 to help companies implement science-based measures after identifying risks and opportunities related to biodiversity in their businesses and supply chains.
2. Driven by how dependent businesses are on nature, certain businesses may be affected by both natural and anthropogenic conditions on land and in the ocean.
3. Companies may face reputational risk if stakeholders and local communities perceive that the company is not operating in a sustainable and responsible manner with respect to biodiversity.

Activities in Meiji Group Sites and Surrounding Areas

We undertook studies of 61 production sites using the IBAT¹ biodiversity assessment tool to determine the potential impact of Meiji Group business activities on biodiversity. We surveyed an area within a radius of approximately 3 kilometers from the production sites (total area of 2826 hectares)² to determine proximity to areas of biodiversity importance (World Natural Heritage sites, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNESCO MAB, IUCN Categories Ia, Ib, II, III, IV, and V). Our results indicated 19 sites in close proximity, two of which had IUCN Red List species nearby that were listed as vulnerable (VU) or higher and facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. The Meiji Group established a Meiji Group Environmental Policy and a Meiji Group Biodiversity Conservation Activity Policy to ensure compliance with laws and regulations, reduce environmental impact, and conserve biodiversity. We recorded no violations of environmental laws or fines in fiscal 2022, and we have yet to identify any instances in which our operations cause direct damage to biodiversity in nearby biodiversity critical areas

Biodiversity risk assessments for land owned by the Meiji Group

Status as of end of March 2023

sites	Nature maintenance area, an important area of biodiversity								Areas where UCN Red List species were identified
	World Heritage Sites	Ramsar Convention wetlands	UNESCO MAB	IUCN Protected Area Categories					
				I a	I b	II	III	IV	
Worksites in Japan (43 sites)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	18	2
Worksites in China (6 sites)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia (Excluding Japan and China, 9 sites)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North America and Europe (3 sites)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total for all worksites (61 sites)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	18	2

1. IBAT (Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool): An assessment tool for environmental protection that makes use of the latest foundational data, which was developed by IBAT Alliance (the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), Conservation International (CI), and BirdLife International)
2. The area in which business activities at production sites directly affect biodiversity would seem to be smaller than a radius of 10 km, but in consideration of damage to biodiversity as a result of environmental accidents and other unexpected occurrences, the scope for the investigation has been set as within a radius of 3 km.

Activities in the Meiji Group Nature Conservation Area Kumamoto Sunlight Forest

We conducted research on the natural environment in Kumamoto Sunlight Forest (approx. 7 ha), land owned by KM Biologics from 2020. Kumamoto Sunlight Forest is a secondary forest consisting of Japanese cedar, cypress, Japanese chestnut oak and Konara oak. We confirmed the existence there of places where Satoyama-like natural environment has been preserved and of endangered wild plants and animals, including clusters of Kin-ran and Gin-ran, Ural owl, Marten, Montane brown frog and Jewel beetle, which are listed in the Red Lists of threatened species published by the Japanese government and Kumamoto Prefecture. We also found that the forest served as an important biotope, a green corridor, for the region, with rich ecosystems being preserved and a variety of migratory birds being observed all year round. We will endeavor to conserve biodiversity by promoting the recovery of forested lands that have been partially wasted and will carry out nature observation meetings and biodiversity conservation activities for our employees, their families and local residents. In doing so, we aim to increase our employees' understanding of biodiversity and to solve local ecosystems issues.

Kumamoto Sunlight Forest Biodiversity Conservation Activities

In July 2021, KM Biologics employees and their families (27 people in 10 groups) participated in a biodiversity conservation program (classroom lecture, insect observation, bamboo crafts using the bamboo that grows in the forest). We will continue these activities to deepen an understanding of the role of Kumamoto Sunlight Forest in the local ecosystem and the importance of biodiversity conservation, as well as to raise the environmental awareness of Meiji Group employees.

Status of Biodiversity Conservation Activities



Acquisition of the SEGES "Social and Environmental Green Evaluation System Excellent Stage 2"

On August 5, 2021, Kumamoto Sunlight Forest was certified as "Excellent Stage 2" under the SEGES "Social and Environmental Green Evaluation System". This recognition was based on survey results commending the value of Kumamoto Sunlight Forest a green space, its relevance to the local community, and the green space conservation management system. The natural environment survey of Kumamoto Sunlight Forest was conducted by the Organization for Landscape and Urban Green Infrastructure. SEGES is an objective system that evaluates and certifies the value of green spaces owned and managed by companies, and whether these efforts contribute to society and the environment.



Activities at Domestic Sites with Production Plants

We pursue activities for biodiversity conservation at domestic sites including Group companies with production plants (47 sites). * In FYE 3/2022, a large number of biodiversity conservation activities that we organize or participate in were cancelled due to COVID-19. Due to this, we are publishing information about our activities in FYE 3/2020.

Meiji

Sapporo Plant	Cleanup of Kotonihassamu River
Wakkanai Plant	Cleanup in-plant and neighbor plant
	Sakanoshita Beach Clean Strategy, Wakkanai City
Nemuro Plant	Nemuro Tree Planting, employees' volunteer activities
Nishi Shunbetsu Plant	Maintenance for Nishi Shunbetsu cherry-tree-lined road
Tokachi Plant	Clean Action Memuro
Honbetsu Plant	Cleanup of Toshibetsu River Basin (green belt zone)
Tohoku Plant	Simultaneous Cleanup of Hirose River
Gunma Plant Gunma Nutritionals Plant Gunma Pharmaceuticals Plant	Environmental Conservation for marshland in Oze National Park
Saitama Plant	Cleanup of Furutone River

Toda Plant	Planting Primroses in Todagahara
Sakado Plant	Cleanup of Oya River
Kanagawa Plant	Sagami River Beautification Council in Chigasaki District
Nagano Cheese Plant	Cleanup of Chikuma River
Tokai Plant	Cleanup of Seto River and Asahina River, Almond Festival
Shizuoka Plant	Miho Masaki Coast Cleanup, undergrowth mowing for protection of Miho black pines
Aichi Plant	Sukatani River Route Cleanup
Kyoto Plant Kyoto lactobacillus Plant	Cleanup of river neighbor plant
Kansai Plant Kansai Ice Cream Plant Kansai Nutritionals Plant	Kaizuka Port Beatification Enlightenment Campaign
Osaka Plant	Adopt-a-Forest Program
Kurashiki Plant	Sami Coast Cleanup, Simultaneous Clean Activities in Takahashi River Basin
Kyushu Plant	Forest Conservation by NPO Ganbariyoruyo Hoshino Village
	Empty Can and Bottle Collecting Campaign in Yame City
	Symposium on Yabegawa Wo Tsunagu Kai
Research Center	Rural Woodlands Conservation in Utsunuki Green Area
Donan Shokuhin Co., Ltd.	Cleanup of Kameda River
Meiji Sangyo Co., Ltd.	Cleanup river neighbor plant, Tree Planting Festival
Meiji Chewing Gum Co., Ltd.	River Environment Beautification Activities
Tokai Nuts Co., Ltd.	Shirafuji No Sato neighborhood cleanup
	Participation in Fujieda City No-Car Day
Tokai Meiji Co., Ltd.	Fukuroi City GreenWave Activities
Meiji Oils and Fats Co., Ltd.	Amanogawa (Milky Way) Clean & Walk
Chiba Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd.	Cleanup of Inage-no Hama, Chiba City
Kantou Seiraku Co., Ltd.	Forest Conservation Activities
Tochigi Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd.	Volunteer Activities by Tochigi Yume Daichi Supporters' Group
Shikoku Meiji Co., Ltd.	Kanokawa Cleanup and Forest Improvement Activities (hosted by Kagawa Plant)
	Saita River Cleanup, Forest Improvement Activities
	Takamatsu Airport Clean Strategy

Okinawa Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd.	Makiminato River Cleanup Strategy
	Coral Reef Recovery in Okinawa Prefecture
Okayamaken Shokuhin Co., Ltd.	Refresh Setouchi Kasaoka Coast Clean Strategy
Nihon Kanzume, Inc.	Participation in Memuro Townspeople's Tree Planting Festival
Asahi Broiler Co., Ltd.	Cleanup of Koaze River neighbor plant

Meiji Seika Pharma

Gifu Plant	Kitagata Town Beautification Movement Sponsor
Ashigara Research Center	Sakawa River Cleanup/Beautification
Meiji Seika Pharmatech Co., Ltd.	Odawara SDGs Partnership (Clean Sakawa)
Ohkura Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.	Uji City Environment Beautification Volunteer Activity

KM Biologics

Kikuchi Research Center	River and Sea Cleanup Activity (Kikuchi River)
	Kumamoto Sunlight Forest Biodiversity Conservation Activity
Aso Production Center	Noyaki on Mt. Aso

Activities at Overseas Sites with Production Plants

We pursue biodiversity conservation activities at the Group's overseas sites with production plants (20 sites).

PT. Meiji Indonesia plants productive trees in water catchment areas on the mountain slopes around the Pasuruan regency.



We at Medreich celebrated the world environment day with purpose and to create more awareness on the environment. Across the locations environment protection related banners were displayed.

Saplings were planted by employees to mark the importance of this very significant day. Posters were created, and employees were issued badges, environment tip cards. Employees were also encouraged to give environment related speeches to spread their knowledge on saving environments. Along with the above, employees took oath at every location for protecting environment.



Activities in Cooperation with Local Governments and NPOs

Biodiversity Conservation in the Nemuro Nature Conservation Area

Meiji carried out activities for the conservation of wild birds and biodiversity in collaboration with the Wild Bird Society of Japan from 2007 to 2019 on land (467 ha) that we owned in Nemuro City, Hokkaido. Through the activities, we confirmed that the populations of endangered wild birds, including Red-crowned crane and White-tailed eagle, have been maintained. Our employees provide volunteer work there twice a year, including planting trees, developing forests and watching birds, and this has helped to generate environmental awareness among employees. From 2010, the area had also been used for the environmental education of local children. We held nature observation meetings for local children and their guardians in collaboration with the Wild Bird Society of Japan and we actively participated in events with themes on wild birds held by Nemuro City.

Following the closure of a neighboring plant in 2020, we donated the natural environment conservation area to Nemuro City. However, will continue to work on biodiversity conservation activities in the area going forward in collaboration with the local society under the agreement we have concluded with Nemuro City, as we respect the significance of the activities we have engaged in.

In November 2021, we participated in a city-organized tree-planting festival in Nemuro City.

On the day of the event, we planted 50 larch seedlings from containers (good rooting ability and fast initial growth) inside the deer-proof fencing in the conservation area. We and also took care of the seedlings planted by employee volunteers in the past.

In October 2022, employee volunteers participated in planting 100 seedlings in the Makinouchi area of Nemuro City. Employees also participated in beach cleanup and invasive species removal activities at Shunkunitai Wild Bird Sanctuary, which is a Ramsar Convention-listed wetland.

Activities in Collaboration with Local Governments

The Meiji Group's sites and companies that have production plants pursue local biodiversity conservation by participating in such activities held by local governments. The Osaka Plant of Meiji participates in the "Adopt a Forest Program," hosted by Osaka Prefecture, where wasted forests, including neglected artificial and bamboo forests, are converted into broadleaf forests for the prevention of global warming and biodiversity conservation.

Shikoku Meiji, a group company of Meiji participated in the "Forest Matching - Joint Forest Development Project" hosted by the Kagawa Prefectural Government and concluded an agreement with Kagawa Prefecture, Mitoyo City and the Mitoyo City Kanda Property Ward Management Association in July 2014. They named a forest (1.1 ha) located in Yamamoto-cho, Mitoyo City as Shikoku Meiji Team Wanpaku No Mori and undertake forest development activities, including cutting bamboo and planting wild cherry trees.

Meiji's Gunma Plant, Gunma Nutritionals Plant and Gunma Pharmaceuticals Plant, and Tochigi Meiji Milk Products participated in the "work for installing fences to prevent the invasion of Sika deer in Oe Marsh in Oze" implemented by Minami-Aizu Branch District Forest Office in order to reduce the damage to alpine plants, including Broad dwarf day lily, from being eaten by Sika deer. In this way, we help to secure the living environment of species and biodiversity.



Participating in "Adopt a Forest Program" in Osaka Prefecture



Participating in "Forest Matching Project" in Kagawa Prefecture



Working for installing fences to prevent the invasion of wild deer in Oe Marsh in Oze

[Click here for the Implementation rate of biodiversity conservation activities at manufacturing sites \(to ESG data\)](#)

Pollution Prevention



Position on Pollution Prevention

In order to prevent environmental pollution resulting from our business activities, the Meiji Group is working to reduce the amount of pollutants released into the environment as well as strictly comply with environment-related laws and regulations.

Establishing of Pollution Prevention Guideline

In FY2022, Meiji Group established the Guidelines for Pollution Prevention to ensure that our production and R&D facilities in Japan and overseas work at a unified, high-level level to prevent pollution. The Guidelines consist of the following: Operation of voluntary Management standards, Monitoring, Measurement and recording, Facilities management, Training, Risk management, and Reducing of pollutant emissions.

In accordance with the Guidelines, the Group promotes compliance with environment-related laws and regulations and reduction of pollutant emissions into the environment.

[Meiji Group Pollution Prevention Guideline](#)

Chemical Substance Management

As we use a large number of chemical substance in our business activities, we are working to strictly control the amount used, ensure safe handling, and monitor the amount released into the environment.

We comply with the PRTR Law, which promotes the monitoring and management of chemical substances released into the environment. We are also improving our manufacturing methods to reduce the amount of chemicals used, replacing them with safer substances, and installing recovery equipment to reduce emissions into the environment.

(Unit: t)

		FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
PRTR emissions volume*	Japan	1.2	9.4	9.8	10.0	3.9
PRTR transfer volume*	Japan	291.8	56.4	394.6	64.2	132.4

* Dioxins is not included.

(Unit : mg-TEQ)

		FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Dioxins emissions volume	Japan	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.4
Dioxins transfer volume	Japan	3.0	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.3

PRTR emissions volume and PRTR transfers volume (ESG data)

Preventing water pollution

Wastewater treatment facilities are installed at production and R&D facilities, and wastewater treated at high levels is discharged into rivers and sewerage. We have set voluntary management standards that are stricter than legal standards, and manage wastewater treatment facilities appropriately.

(Unit: t)

		FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
BOD emissions volume ¹	Global	-	-	-	18.0	15.4
COD emissions volume ²	Japan	-	-	-	36.0	32.3
	Overseas	-	-	-	-	2.3

1 In FYE 3/2022, only domestic Meiji Group was included.

2 COD pollution load in Japan was measured using potassium permanganate as an oxidant. The overseas COD pollution load measured by the method using potassium dichromate as an oxidant.

Preventing air pollution

By properly managing combustion equipment, we comply with soot and smoke regulations and monitor total emissions of sulfur oxides (SOx) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). In addition, because many organic solvents are used in the production of pharmaceuticals, we are working to recover Chlorine-based organic solvents and reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) into the atmosphere.

(Unit: t)

		FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
VOC emissions volume*	Japan	-	-	561.7	101.9	118.3
NOx emissions volume	Japan	134.9	141.1	140.5	164.3	157.3
SOx emissions volume	Japan	63.6	69.4	66.1	95.9	97.1

* Emissions to the air

Preventing soil contamination

We monitor the groundwater content of hazardous substances specified by law at the plant with high risk of soil contamination. At present, we confirm that the groundwater content of hazardous substances are below environmental standards at all plants.

Thriving Communities

The Meiji Group supports various communities through communication and cooperation with stakeholders.



Human Resources

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- [The Meiji Group's Requirements for Human Resources](#)
- [Promotion of Human Capital Strategy](#)
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Human Resources



Diversity-Related Targets for Main Companies in Japan

Targets of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective until March 31, 2024)*

[] Scope of KPI

Meiji Holdings, Meiji, Meiji Seika Pharma, and KM Biologics

KPI	Base Year	Results		Targets	
		FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024	FYE 3/2027
Increase the ratio of female managers at least 10% by FYE 3/2027, compared with the FYE 3/2018 result of 2.6%	FYE 3/2018 (2.6%)	4.7%	5.6%	-	10% or more
Increase the number of female managers (including assistant managers) to at least 420 by FYE 3/2027 (approximately triple the number as in FYE 3/2018)	FYE 3/2018	237	256	-	420 or more
Raise the ratio of employees with disabilities above Japan's legal requirement of 2.3%	-	2.57%	2.53%	2.3% or more	-

The Meiji Group's Requirements for Human Resources

Under the "meiji way," the action guidelines set forth in the Meiji Group's Philosophy, we have established the ideal employee as "a human resource who sets creative and innovative challenges for himself/herself and carries them through by leveraging his/her outstanding expertise and organizational capabilities".

Requirements for Human Resources

A human resource who sets creative and innovative challenges for himself/herself and carries them through by leveraging his/her outstanding expertise and organizational capabilities



Promotion of Human Capital Strategy

Human Capital Strategy

Human capital is extremely important because it supports the Meiji Group's value creation. We believe that respecting employees' diversity and making individuals perform to the best of their abilities lead to the Group's sustainable growth. The Group is shifting its human capital strategy from internal equal treatment to competition with external competitors. We will strategically promote human capital development to create and deploy Meiji unique value for wellness globally.

Human Capital Strategy In the Meiji Group

Until now

Being fair and reasonable so that everyone in the Group treated equally (internal equity).

In a closed-off internal competitive environment, employees and culture become homogeneous, causing innovation to stagnate.

↓

In the future

Developing human capital that can overcome the intensifying competition and the rapidly changing external environment by not limiting itself to internal knowledge, skills, and human capital (competing with external competitors).

Ideal human capital strategy

Creating work environment where employees accept and maximize each other's diverse values, knowledge, and abilities

Group Human Capital Committee

The Group Human Capital Committee, chaired by the CEO, meets twice annually as an advisory body to the Executive Committee. In FY2023, we will discuss Diversity and Inclusion (D&I), Human Capital Development, Health and Productivity Management, and Occupational Health and Safety. We will then set up KPIs. We will promote the human capital strategy based on management strategy throughout the Group.

Mission

1. Enhancing Human Productivity and Value Creation Capabilities

From Human Resources to Human Capital

We view employees as capital, not resources. We will strengthen human productivity and the ability to create value through investments focused on improving quality.

2. Creating a Culture and Structure Essential for Sustainable Growth

From Human Resource Strategies to Management Strategies

We will consider the ideal state of the Group's human capital and develop a system where employees perform to the best of their abilities to realize the Meiji Group 2026 Vision. In particular, we will promote a strategy that emphasizes the development of core human capital to lead management strategies.



Promoting diversity and inclusion

People's values are diversifying in both the consumer and labor markets. We should promote D&I to sustain growth in such an environment. We will accelerate diversity in our core human capital by hiring and promoting women, Personnel capable of working globally, and experienced personnel from outside the company. Also, we will strengthen our competitiveness by creating diverse career options including senior human capital.

Meiji Group Diversity & Inclusion Policy

We established the Meiji Group Diversity & Inclusion Policy in December 2021 to promote D&I toward realizing the Meiji Group 2026 Vision. We will promote D&I to provide customers in Japan and around the world with progressive values in food and health.

1. Promoting the performance of diverse human capital

We will develop a work environment where human capital with diverse backgrounds* performs to the best of their abilities and play an active role in various positions.

2. Accepting and maximizing each other's diverse values

We will accept and maximize each other's diverse values, knowledge, and abilities to create innovation and new value, which lead to corporate growth.

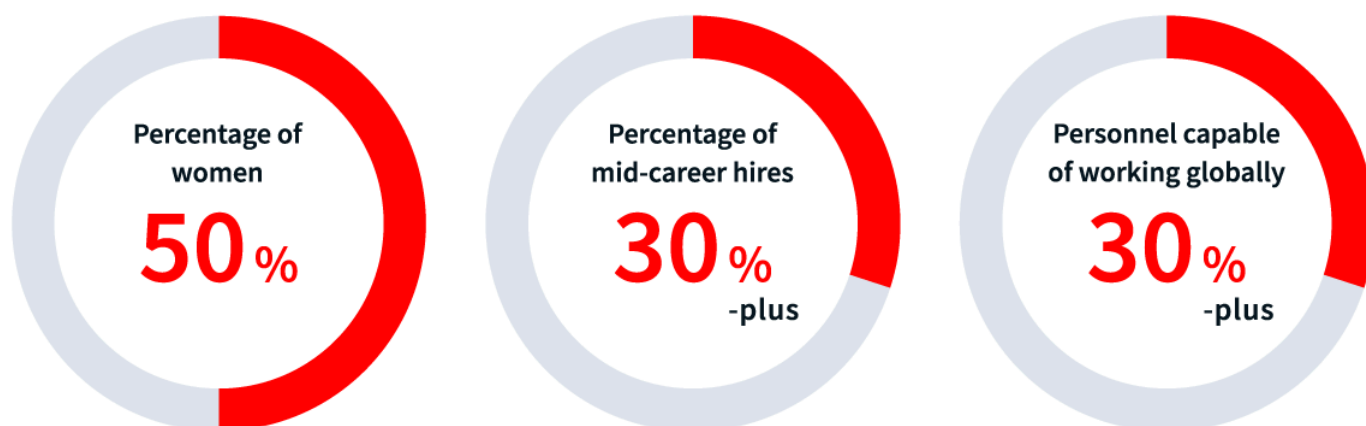
* Gender, sexual orientation/gender identity, career, age, nationality, disability, employment status, during childcare/caregiving, etc.

We will recruit, train diverse human capital and improve working environments to enhance sustainable corporate competitiveness. For this, we will establish a D&I promotion system and set numerical targets for core human capital.

Meiji Group Diversity & Inclusion Policy

The Meiji Group Vision for 2050 - Directors, Managers, and Career-Track Employees -

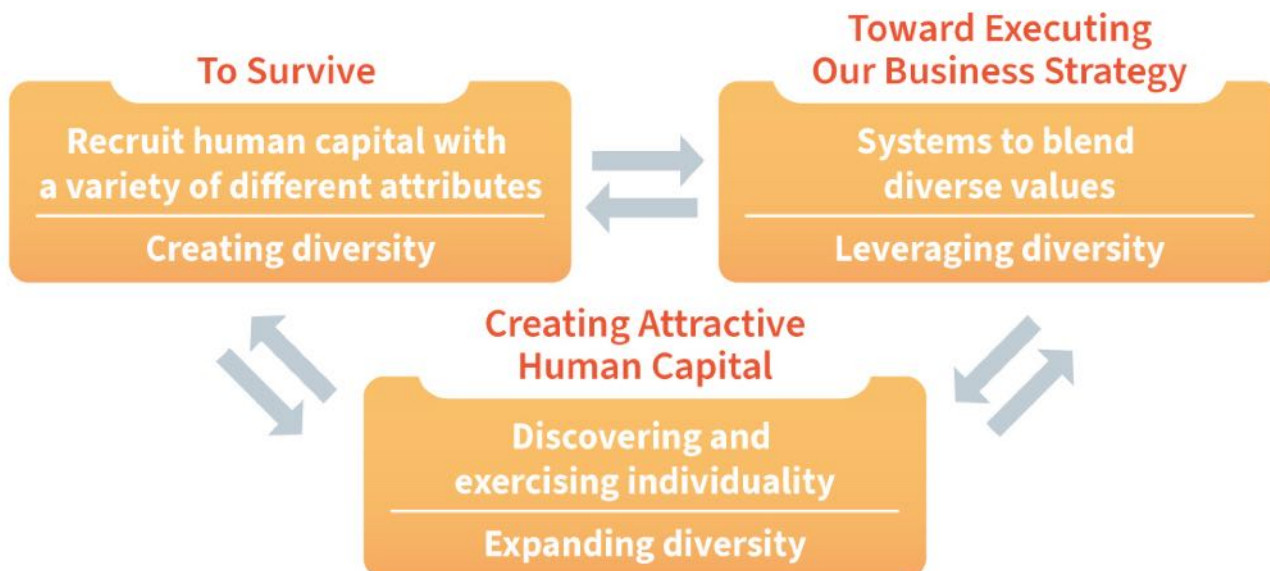
*Meiji Co., Ltd., Meiji Seika Pharma, and KM Biologics unconsolidated



Three Approaches to Promoting D&I

The Group promotes D&I through three approaches: creating diversity, leveraging diversity, and expanding diversity. Through these three complementary approaches, we promote D&I and foster the Group culture.

Complementary Approaches to Promote D&I and Foster the Group Culture



Initiatives to Improve Corporate Strength by Maximizing the Individuality of Each Employees

In promoting Diversity & Inclusion (D&I), Meiji Co., Ltd. is promoting DIAMOND Project, which is named using the acronym for Diversity & Inclusion Activities: Meiji's Open & New Directions. Just as small diamonds sparkle brightly when they are put together, we aim to solve social issues and realize a wellness society by creating great innovations from the fusion of diverse human resources.



Encouraging male employees to take childcare leave

Meiji Co., Ltd. is a member of the initiative to develop supervisors who support individual careers. In 2022, we held a lecture for executives and distributed it in an archival manner so that all employees can view it. Going forward, we will continue to strive to create a workplace environment that makes the most of the values and skills of our diverse human resources, including the use of childcare leave by male employees.

Promoting Female Participation

Our first step toward D&I is to encourage women to play a more active role in our organization. To this end, senior management has committed to promoting more women to management positions, conducting unconscious bias training and career training for female employees. Further, to create organizations and workplaces in which every employee, regardless of gender, performs to the best of their abilities, we strive to offer more robust support systems that respects work-life balance. We provide regular training for managers who supervise female employees and employees in their child-rearing years, and we communicate throughout the Meiji Group to raise awareness.

[Click here for the rate of female managers and number of female managers \(to ESG data\)](#)

- [Meiji Holdings Joins 30% Club Japan, a Campaign to Increase the Proportion of Female Corporate Executives](#)
- Meiji Co., Ltd. The company acquired the Two-Star Eruboshi Certification for the first time. The Eruboshi Certification is awarded to companies that seek actively to empower female employees.

Group Joint Networking Event for Women in Management

In March 2023, we held a groupwide networking event for women in management in conjunction with International Women's Day. A total of 50 female managers participated in the event. Women in executive roles and serving as department heads held panels and roundtable discussions, leading efforts to foster a perspective oriented toward senior management and to build a management pipeline for women.



Groupwide Training for Employees in Their Childcare Years

As a group initiative, we provide training for employees who are in the process of raising children. During FY2022, approximately 170 employees participated in the program. Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. and KM Biologics Co., Ltd. offered training for employees engaged in childcare and their supervisors. The training encouraged a mutual understanding of the work situation between managers and subordinates. Employees engaged in childcare learned how to communicate better and involve others, while supervisors learned the importance of individual management and activity support.



Training sessions to build a network of female employees

Meiji Co., Ltd. holds training sessions to help each woman work positively and vigorously in her own way through networking among female employees, and to create innovation by utilizing the power of women. The monthly training includes career sharing, seminars on women's specific concerns (such as menstruation and menopause), discussions on how to resolve company issues, and monitoring of new products.

Mid-Career Recruitment

In addition to hiring new graduates, the Meiji Group is also actively recruiting people with careers at other companies to incorporate a wide range of knowledge. In addition, we have introduced a "come-back system" that enables employees who have resigned the company to re-enter. By rehiring resigned workers who possess the know-how and expertise gained in the Meiji Group and who have developed diverse experience and knowledge after resignation, we aim to further revitalize the company and create new value.

[Click here for the percentage of mid-career workers as full-time employees \(to ESG data\)](#)

Supporting Employees with Disabilities

The Meiji Group employs people with disabilities at over 40 workplaces across Japan, and aims to maintain its ratio of employees with disabilities above the country's legal requirement of 2.3% for large companies. These workplaces have installed barrier-free restrooms and wheelchair ramps to create comfortable work environments for all employees.

[Click here for the ratio of employees with disabilities \(to ESG data\)](#)

Maintaining accessible workplaces for all members

At the Meiji Group, at the initiative of an employee with a disability, there is a growing movement among workers to display a card on their chest informing them of their disability. These cards can be used by those who wish to use them in accordance with their disabilities, leading to the formation of better communication. In addition, Meiji Co., Ltd. actively promotes the acquisition of qualification of vocational counselor for the disabled, and provides basic knowledge training on disability for all employees. By deepening understanding of disabilities, we are striving to create an environment that is easy for everyone to work in.

Rehiring Employees after Retirement

The Group has put a program in place to rehire employees who wish to continue working after reaching the retirement age of 60. The program allows these employees to not only apply the skills they have acquired over many years but also to guide and mentor younger colleagues.

In addition, Meiji Co., Ltd. launched career development support measures for senior employees (career design training for those in their 50s, career design interviews for those in their 50s, and reskilling) in order to assist individuals in their career development and support their ability development, so that seniors can work actively and autonomously.

[Click here for the number of retirement-age employees requesting re-employment \(to ESG data\)](#)

Strengthening International Bonds Group-Wide

With the aim of further expanding its overseas business, the Meiji Group actively recruits outstanding local human resources at overseas Group companies in order to develop businesses that are suited to local cultures and needs. The Meiji Group believes that hiring local human resources contributes to the sustainable development of each country and region. To encourage locally hired employees to work enthusiastically, and to strengthen cooperation among Group companies, we publish in-house magazines (in Japanese, English, and Chinese), promote human resource exchanges between Japan and abroad, and hold learning workshops.

[Click here for the number of employees by country of main operations \(to ESG data\)](#)

Supporting Sexual Minorities in the Workplace

As part of our efforts to encourage diversity, the Meiji Group began LGBTQ+ initiatives in FY2018.

Specific initiatives

- Promoting understanding of LGBTQ+ issues in each company's human rights training
- Switching the display of restroom for the disabled and multipurpose restroom to the display that can be used regardless of gender
- Establishment of LGBTQ+ consultation service
- Conducting seminars for hiring managers in order to promote understanding of LGBTQ+ issues
- Application of welfare benefits to same-sex partners
- Implemented bottom-up activities through its employee Ally (Alliance) network, which is a group of people who understand and support LGBTQ+
- Product development and marketing that embraces diversity

These efforts of Meiji Co., Ltd., Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. and KM Biologics Co., Ltd. have led to the highest rating of Gold in PRIDE Indicator 2023, an evaluation index for LGBTQ+ initiatives in the workplace. Meiji Co., Ltd. has also been awarded the Rainbow Certification, which recognizes companies that promote collaboration beyond sectors including the national government, local governments, academic institutions, NPOs/NGOs, and other organizations.

Strengthening Human Capital Development

We believe that respecting the diversity of organizations and individuals and maximizing the vitality and capabilities of each employee will contribute to the sustainable growth of the Meiji Group, and we are focusing on human resource development.

Meiji Group Human Resources Development Policy

The Meiji Group has created a basic policy concerning skills development, and the company provides a skills development structure to foster human resources.

To achieve the Long-term Vision laid out in the Meiji Group 2026 Vision, we will:

1. Develop personnel who have the proactive mindset, as well as the expertise, creativity, and practical skills, needed to take on and achieve ambitious targets
2. Spur group expansion by growing individuals and developing independent-minded personnel who raise groupwide capabilities
3. Develop personnel who fully understand the Group Philosophy and put the meiji way into practice at an advanced level

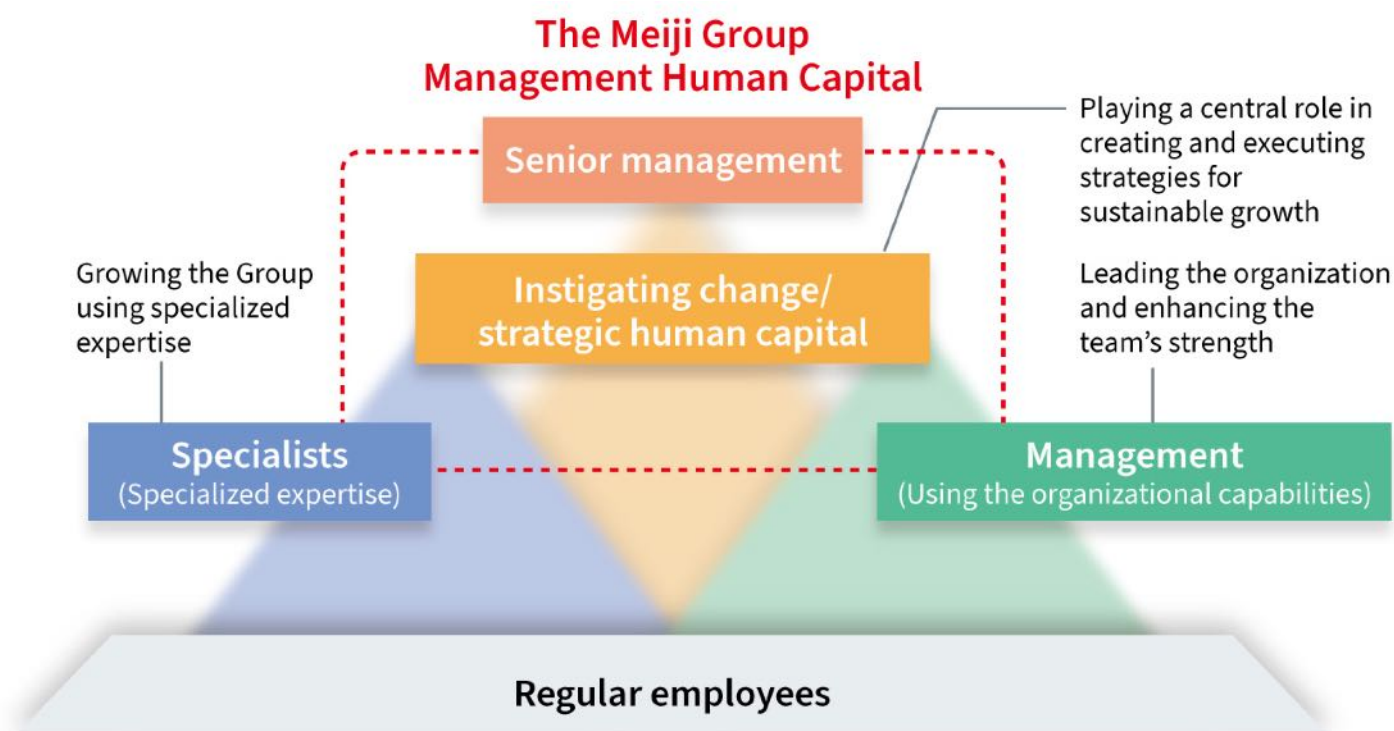
Identify and develop human capital for group management

The figure below shows three characteristics of the Group management team: instigating change/strategic human capital, management, and specialists. Our management team should consist of members whose strengths are at least one of the three characteristics.

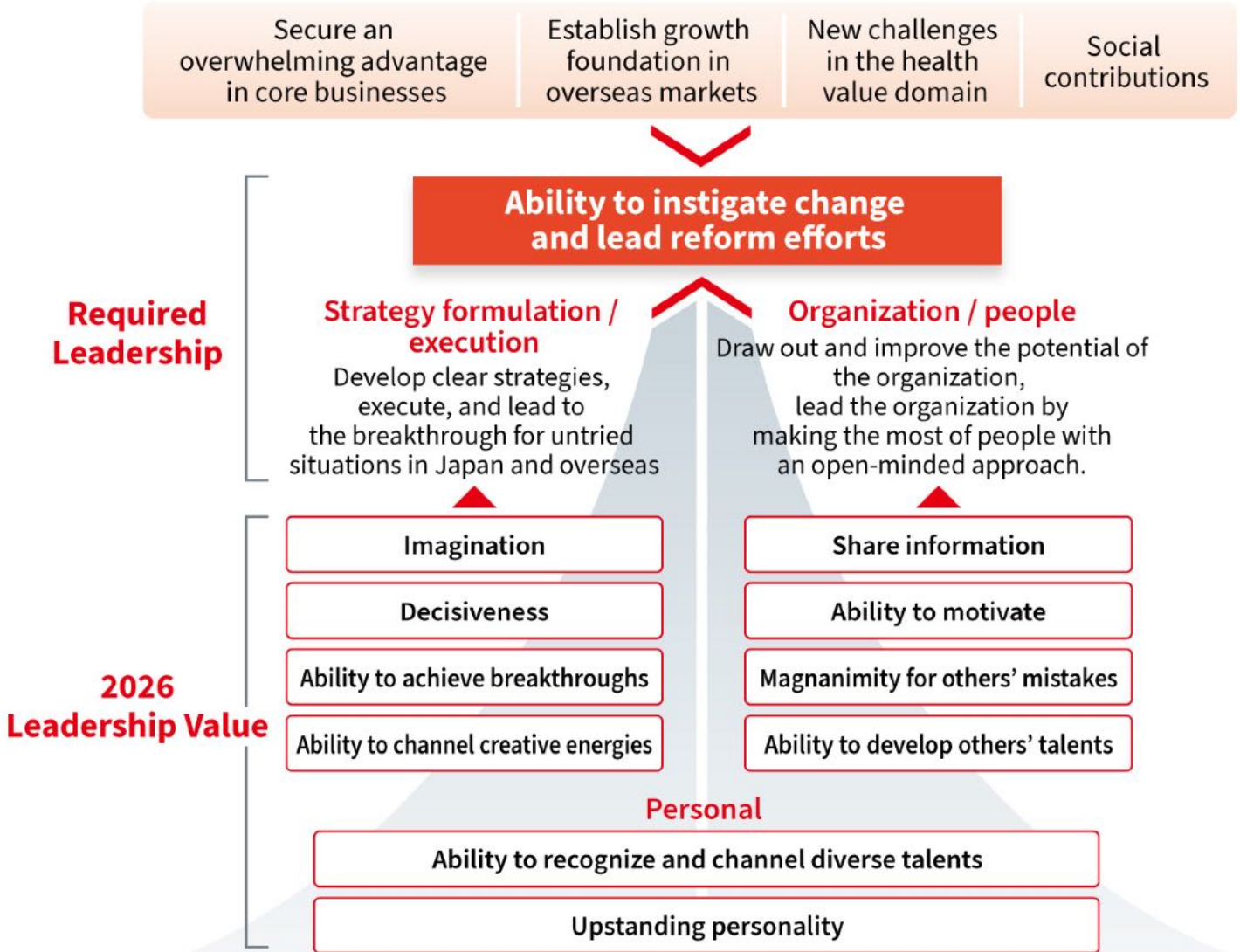
Of the three characteristics of management human capital, development of “instigating change/strategic human capital” is critical to further strengthening the Group management. If such human capital takes the initiative in developing and implementing progressive strategies, we can compete with external rivals and survive in the future. In FY2021, we launched the Group Management Human Capital Development Program for executive officers and candidates. Through this program, we identify and develop promising individuals who could perform as future managers in the group.

We encourage every individual to bring their strengths and individuality to the job. At the same time, we develop future managers through measures that promote characteristics (leadership values) and growth, which serve as the foundation of succession management.

Required Abilities for Managers who Drive the Meiji Group Forward



The Meiji Group 2026 Vision



Group Manager Development Programs "Meiji Juku" and Management Meetings

These human capital development programs are chaired by the CEO and conducted for executive officers and candidates. Program content focuses on self-development plans to reaffirm abilities, skills, and competencies, as well as reports to the CEO regarding the individual's self-directed management reform activities. Through these programs, we cultivate perspectives and views as group managers, identifying group manager candidates in the process of transforming mindsets among future corporate reformers.

Skills Development Structure

Based on the Meiji Group Skills Development Policy, we have established a skill development system that facilitates the growth and career development of each employee.

	New employees	Mid-career employees	Managers	Objectives
Rank-based training	Training for new employees	Training for promoted employees Training for career track employees Training for clerical workers	Training for newly promoted managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train young employees • Develop promoted employees • Develop management skills
Global training Diversity management		Global training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language training • e-learning • Training through overseas assignments Support to create individual career paths for women	Training for managers with female subordinates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop personnel to work overseas • Strengthen diversity management
Developing next-generation leaders		Training for next-generation leaders Training at business school and external venues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management school • Interaction with and exposure to other industries • Developing managers 	Training for top management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering innovation • Developing next-generation leaders • Developing next-generation managers
Division-specific and group company training such as self-development	Division-specific training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D • Quality • Manufacturing technologies • Logistics • Sales • Marketing 		Training for Group company employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New employees Business management (fundamentals and practice) Self-development support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-learning, Open college, Distance learning, Video archives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the level of expertise specific to a division • Strengthen group companies • Self-development support

Rank-specific training, business skills training at each career stage

Systematic training for Meiji Group employees starts with new-employee training, where employees learn the basic knowledge, behavior, and attitudes they need for work at Meiji. Next, employees receive training in logical thinking, follow-through, team-leadership skills, and the qualities and capabilities of a business leader. Managers receive training at each relevant stage, helping them reflect on their management style and strengthening their ability to foster their subordinates. Training for upper management is designed to enhance management skills to make the workplace more dynamic and to cultivate an awareness of self-reform as participants seek to become management leaders.

Training program for the development of personnel capable of working globally

We provide a wide variety of training programs to develop personnel capable of working globally.

1. Self-development language courses
2. Language training in English- and Chinese-speaking countries for effective language-learning and understanding of different cultures
3. Programs sending selected personnel to business language schools to acquire practical language skills
4. Programs to instill perseverance, understanding of diversity, and mental toughness by sending personnel overseas to gain first-hand experience in business customs under challenging conditions

Manager development

Directors, Audit & Supervisory Board members, and executive officers receive opportunities to better understand their roles and duties. This training includes legal responsibilities, corporate governance, compliance, and risk management. If necessary, these individuals are provided with information about Meiji Group businesses, organizations, financial status, and so on.

Outside directors and outside Audit & Supervisory Board members are given information about Meiji Group management strategy and the nature and status of the company's businesses. These individuals are provided opportunities to observe factories, research centers, and other facilities.

Newly appointed executives receive necessary training from external organizations.

Grooming future leaders

The Meiji Group offers a broad range of training programs for its young members to equip them with the leadership qualities and management skills needed by the leaders of tomorrow. Training focuses on developing strategic thinking, reasoning, decision-making, and communication skills. They are also given educational and training opportunities outside the Group, such as at business schools and cross-industry events, to help them develop a wider range of skills and perspectives.

Providing opportunities for self-development

Aspiring employees can apply to various self-development programs offered by the Meiji Group, including college and distance learning courses. To encourage employees to grow into the kind of career they envision for themselves, Meiji follows a training system that provides employees with more opportunities to be self-motivated in their training. We accelerate the development of autonomous human capital by encouraging employee learning autonomy, moving away from corporate-mandated training and toward self-directed training.

[Click here for the employee training expenses and time \(to ESG data\)](#)

FYE March 2023 Training Results

	Program Objectives		Number of attendees	Average attendance time (hours)	Average Education and training expense (unit:thousand of yen)
Rank-based training	Acquire skills necessary at each stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the ability to nurture subordinates and junior staff Improve management skills to inspire teams and organizations Foster a sense of self-innovation for the next generation of management leaders 	managers	806	10.1	23.9
		non management employees	1,259	25.3	49.1
Global training Diversity management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop personnel capable of working globally who is able to deliver results on the front lines around the world Foster a culture in which diverse human capital feels free to play active roles 	managers	704	6.6	21.5
		non management employees	705	2.7	25.5
Developing next-generation leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivate human capital with broad perspectives and high vision Develop strategic thinking, judgment, decision-making, and communication skills 	managers	43	39.4	691.6
		non management employees	38	40.5	244.3
Division-specific and group company training such as self-development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire business skills necessary for each responsibility Encourage self-directed learning among employees and develop self-motivated human capital 	All employees	23,501	11.8	6.3

Facilitating career planning through self-assessments

The Group has established a self-assessment system for employees to plan their careers in consultation with their supervisors. The self-assessment reports create opportunities for employees to reconsider their work practices and career paths, and also provide useful information for management to develop necessary training programs and help employees thrive in the workplace.

Evaluation System for Employee Growth

For employees to achieve high performance, they must develop professional skills, gain enriching work experiences, set challenging work goals, and push themselves to meet those goals. Given this approach, the Meiji Group adopted a system of management by objectives (MBO) for regular employees. Under this system, half-yearly or annual evaluations are conducted and the degree of achievement of goals are reflected in compensation.

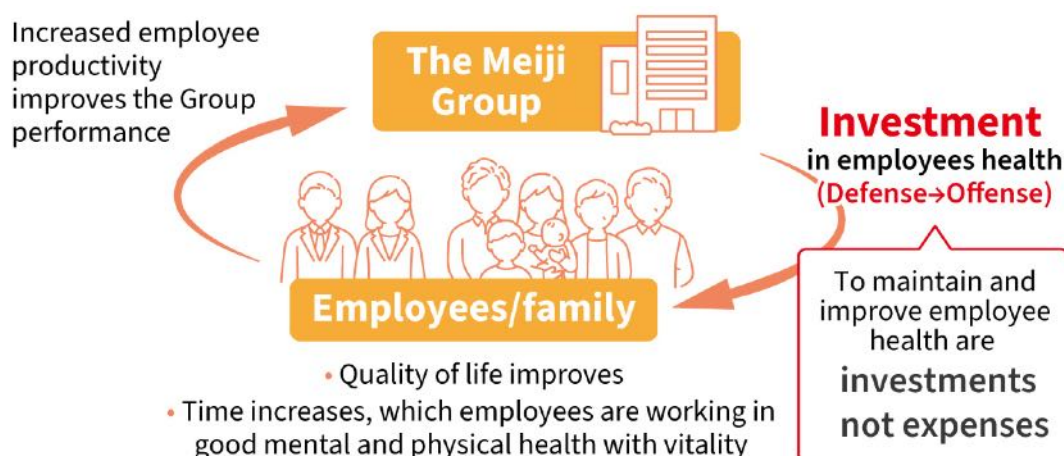
We also conduct yearly 360-degree evaluations for managers at certain operating companies, using this multifaceted feedback to develop managers.

Employee-Friendly Workplaces

Promoting Health Management

We strive to improve productivity by grasping the mental and physical health of employees from a managerial perspective and strategically investing in maintaining and promoting such health. As a company embodying the Group slogan “Now ideas for wellness”, we believe it is crucial for our employees to remain healthy and vigorous. To achieve this goal, we have formulated and disclosed the Meiji Group Health Management Strategy Map.

We have selected healthy lifestyle habits (diet, exercise, quit smoking) as key to preventing obesity. We have set KPIs and are promoting measures accordingly.



In 2018, the Meiji Group made an official commitment to help employees effectively manage their health and to promote wellbeing in the workplace. This commitment provides the basic principles of the Group's health management systems.

Meiji Group Commitment to the Health of Employees

The Meiji Group recognizes the fundamental importance of good physical and mental health for its employees to lead productive lives and reach their full potential. Therefore, the Group is committed to the following three activities.

1. Measures shall be taken to encourage employees to responsibly manage their own health as well as the health of their family members.
2. Programs shall be put in place to support the efforts of employees to manage their health and to enhance their ability to do so.
3. Steps shall be taken to ensure that workplaces provide comfortable and safe working environments for all of their members.

Health management challenges and goals

We have formulated and are implementing a Health Management Strategy Map that clarifies the link between investing in Health Management and the effectiveness of measures. To address the management issue of realizing a company in which employees can work comfortably and are healthy and energetic in both their mind and body, we are aiming to achieve this goal by improving the lifestyle habits of "meals," "exercise," and "smoking," with the aim of "reducing the number of obese people to prevent lifestyle-related diseases." Through internal communications using Health Management Strategy Map, we will promote awareness of Health Management promotion activities for employees and their families.

Health Management Targets

Approach to Health Issues	Key Targets
Strengthen initiatives to reduce lifestyle-related diseases (high-risk individuals)	Percentage of regular health checkups received: 100% Follow up rate of employees subject to secondary health checkups ¹ : 100%
Improvement of dietary habits	Increase the ratio of people with healthy eating habits (reduction in the number of people who skip breakfast and eat before bedtime)
Encouraging Exercise	Increase participation rate of walking campaigns ² to 70% by FY 2023
Prevention of Passive Smoking and Encouraging Quit Smoking	Ensure no smoking during working hours Encourage employees to quit smoking and support employees who wish to quit

1. Follow up rate: To ascertain the status of the individual through medical institution examinations, interviews with industrial physicians and public health nurses, and personnel interviews
2. Walking Campaign Participants/All Employees

[Click here for the employee health indicators \(to ESG data\)](#)

Shifting to smoke-free workplaces

The Meiji Group's workplaces have been steadily placing prohibitions on smoking and second-hand smoke in order to maintain healthier and more comfortable working environments. Workplaces have set up completely separate smoking areas, banned smoking onsite during work hours, and are providing support to employees who are trying to quit smoking.

Zero Smoking Declaration for Company Officers

The Meiji Group set a goal to reduce smoking among employees to as close to zero as possible. As a first step, we declared that all current company officers who smoke will "graduate" from the habit by the end of FY2023.

Implemented Breakfast Reform Seminar at sites nationwide

In order to improve "breakfast-free," which is a lifestyle issue for Meiji Group employees, we held a "Breakfast Reform Seminar" jointly with the Shokuiku Team of the Meiji Public Relations Department at all of our business sites nationwide. In addition to learning about the importance of breakfast consumption with an awareness of protein, which makes body, we distributed our own protein-containing beverages and promoted the motivation to make breakfast a habit.

Mental Health Initiatives

As part of our efforts to address employee mental health, the Meiji Group conducts stress checks once a year at each of our operating companies. We also have a system in place for employees to meet with an industrial physician, if so desired. In addition to stress checks, we pursue mental health-related initiatives that include self-care training for employees to become aware of their own mental health issues and line-care training for managers who supervise others.

Recognized for outstanding health and productivity management

In 2023, Meiji Holdings, Meiji, and Meiji Seika Pharma were recognized for their outstanding health and productivity management for the seven consecutive year through a certification program operated by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The program evaluates companies based on their employee health activities, such as provision of regular checkups, healthcare guidance, counselling, and fitness programs. KM Biologics Co., Ltd. was certified as an excellent Health and Productivity Management corporation for the third consecutive year.

Also, Meiji Holdings Corporation has been selected for the first time for the "2023 Health and Productivity Issues Selection" jointly conducted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Tokyo Stock Exchange

Infection Control Measures

To protect the health and safety of our employees worldwide, we provide expatriates and overseas business travelers with up-to-date information on the outbreak of infectious diseases including malaria, TB and HIV in each country, as well as preliminary guidance and support, including necessary immunizations and the provision of information from local medical institutions. In addition, we are taking all-out measures to prevent infection in the workplace, including the implementation of in-house mass vaccination for all employees in Japan as a countermeasure against seasonal influenza.

Workstyle Reform

We believe it is our corporate responsibility to create a safe and healthy environment at the workplace. To achieve this, we are creating a positive and comfortable work environment to promote a good work-life balance.

Providing Flexible Work Arrangements

The Meiji Group has introduced telecommuting and flextime systems for employees who need more flexible work arrangements. It also allows employees to continue fulfilling their work responsibilities when dealing with major life events. For example, employees can opt to work shorter work hours following a childbirth, and male employees are encouraged to take paternity leave.

We have created an environment in which employees can maximize their capabilities at their respective life events.

- Introduction of a telecommuting system
- Introduction of a flexible work hours system
- Support for male employees to take childcare leave
- Thorough implementation of employment continuity support system for employees at life events
- Childcare and nursing care programs

Systems for childcare and long-term care

Childcare Nursing care	Pregnancy leave	Pregnancy to 46 days before childbirth
	Maternity leave	45 days before childbirth to 56 days after childbirth
	Childcare leave	Can be taken until the child reaches three years of age
	Shortened work hours for childcare	Shortening/staggering of work hours, exemption from overtime/late night work, application of flextime system
	Nursing care leave	5 days per year per eligible family member
	Nursing care leave	Total of 365 days per eligible family member
	Nursing care: Measures to shorten work hours, etc.	Shortening/staggering of work hours, exemption from overtime/late night work, application of flextime system
Allowances, etc.	Childbirth and childcare support	At the time the employee or spouse gives birth (childbirth gift money and childcare goods)
	Next generation cultivation allowance	Monthly Allowance for Dependent Children
	Mutual aid system	Childbirth gift money, subsidy of 50% of babysitting expense (within 30 days), school entrance gift money, orphans' scholarships, etc.

[Click here for the date of childcare and nursing-care \(to ESG data\)](#)

Encouraging employees to take paid holidays

Through awareness-raising activities for employees and workplaces, we foster a culture that encourages employees to take annual paid leave and promoting the use of annual paid leave.

- Encourage employees to take consecutive annual paid vacations (five days)
- Raise awareness by broadcasting messages from the president regarding the use of annual leave
- Set annual leave schedules at the beginning of the fiscal year and share them throughout the workplace

[Click here for the percentage of annual paid vacation days taken by employees \(to ESG data\)](#)

Efforts to comply with labor laws and regulations

The Meiji Group complies with various labor laws and regulations in each country so that employees can work with peace of mind.

Reducing excessive work hours

Our basic policy on working hours for employees is to comply with local laws and regulations both domestically and overseas, and to work toward reducing long working hours through more efficient operations and thorough management of working hours.

Major Initiatives to Reduce Long Work Hours

- Thorough reporting and management of appropriate working hours
- Thorough implementation of No Overtime Day (once a week)
- Promoting Meetings Efficiency
- Review and streamline operations at the workplace level

[Click here for the average monthly hours of overtime per employee \(to ESG data\)](#)

Wages

Based on the Meiji Group Human Rights Policy, the Meiji Group complies with minimum wages stipulated by the laws of each country. We also apply a uniform compensation system for men and women in the same qualifications and job levels.

Occupational Health and Safety

Based on the Meiji Group Occupational Health and Safety Policy, we recognize that safety takes precedence over everything else. Based on this policy, we continually work to ensure workplace safety and strive to maintain and promote employee health. Based on this policy, we are working with not only Meiji Group employees, but also partner companies working together on the premises to implement various measures related to safety and disaster prevention.

[Meiji Group Policy on Occupational Health and Safety](#)

Management system

The Meiji Group considers employee health and safety to be one of our most important imperatives. We operate a system to oversee the occupational health and safety of the Meiji Group through the Group Human Capital Committee, chaired by the CEO. Once every six months, we report and discuss the progress of health and safety targets, measures against occupational accidents at each operating company, and data, such as the number of accidents. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors receive reports related to these discussions in a timely manner.

The labor union, which represents workers, plays an important role in the Central Occupational Health and Safety Committee. In FY2023, the committee stated a goal of zero occupational accidents at operating companies, and conducts a PDCA cycle to manage priority matters that must be addressed to achieve this goal.

Group Human Capital Committee

Occupational Accident Elimination Initiatives and Accidents Occurring Over Time

To achieve zero occupational accidents, we are working with partner companies to reduce facility and work-related risks.

Specifically, we conduct risk assessments prior to the start of operations of new facilities and safety audits and inspections of existing facilities, and strive to prevent occupational accidents and legal violations at each business site by disseminating and complying with equipment safety measures and rules.

Furthermore, in the event of an occupational accident, we investigate the cause and then conduct safety inspections and measures to prevent recurrence.

Preventive measures against occupational accidents that occurred in FYE March 2023 (excerpt of those taken for the at each operating company)

Common Accidents	Measures Taken
Pinching, trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of safety covers on operating and rotating parts• Review of procedures used when addressing problems• Thorough reminders to keep hands away from moving machinery
Fall	Remediation of identified risks, familiarizing plant employees
Strain or overexertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention of physical function decline in the elderly (introduction of daily exercises such as slow squats)• Identification of workplace problems using Age Action 100 (recommended by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: Workplace improvement tool to secure safe and health of the elderly), risk assessment from the elderly person perspective, hazard mapping, deployment of risk prediction activities

[Click here for the status of occupational accidents \(to ESG data\)](#)

ISO45001 certified factories and companies
(As of December 4, 2023)

Food Segment

- [Japan] 23 Factories, One Research Laboratory and 8 Group Companies
- [Overseas] One Group Company

Pharmaceutical Segment

- [Japan] One factory
- [Overseas] Two Group Companies

[See List of Certification Status of ISO14001 and ISO45001 for more information.](#)

Workplace-specific health and safety training programs

The Meiji Group's main companies provide occupational health and safety training tailored to their specific workplaces. They also share information on safety with a view to prevent the occurrence of similar kinds of accidents.

Occupational Safety Education Results

FYE March 2023 Results / Unit: Persons

Educational Program Name	Program Content	Target Group	Participant
Training to Learn from Past Accidents	Training utilizing information about past serious accidents to prevent decaying awareness and recurrence of these accidents, to foster safety awareness, and to improve risk sensitivity	All employees	640
Lifter Lower Operations Educator Training	Training for educators to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for instructing certified operators on operations in the lower part of the lifter, the area where the certified operator system has been introduced	Facility environment managers	36
ISO45001 Internal Auditor Training	Training providing education for the acquisition and practice of knowledge/awareness necessary for internal auditors based on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (OSHMS)	OSHMS Internal Auditors	47
Hazard Simulation Training	Hands-on simulation training to improve employees' risk sensitivity	Workers	53
Risk Assessment Self-Diagnostic for Falls and Other Risks	Measures to prevent falls as part of age-friendly measures. Physical fitness measurements taken after preliminary questionnaire-based self-assessment, with the aim of identifying any discrepancies	Employees over 50 years of age	100
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations: Safety Risk Assessment Training	Remote risk assessment training on the essential points of occupational health and safety regulations, hazard identification, risk assessment, and recurrence prevention measures. Lectures by external consultants and the Japan Industrial Safety & Health Association	Plant, laboratory, and head office employees	59
Training for prevention of Fall accidents	Learning about the causes of falls and what kind of workers are more prone to serious injuries, founded in past cases and medical evidence. Training for participants to experience locomotion checkups and slow squats as measures to prevent falls caused by functional decline of the lower extremities, and to continue these measures after the course	Workers	100
Special Training for Handling Low-Voltage Electricity	Training for personnel engaged in the operation of switchgears with exposed charging terminals on low-voltage power lines installed in areas like distribution board rooms/transformer substation rooms	Workers	71

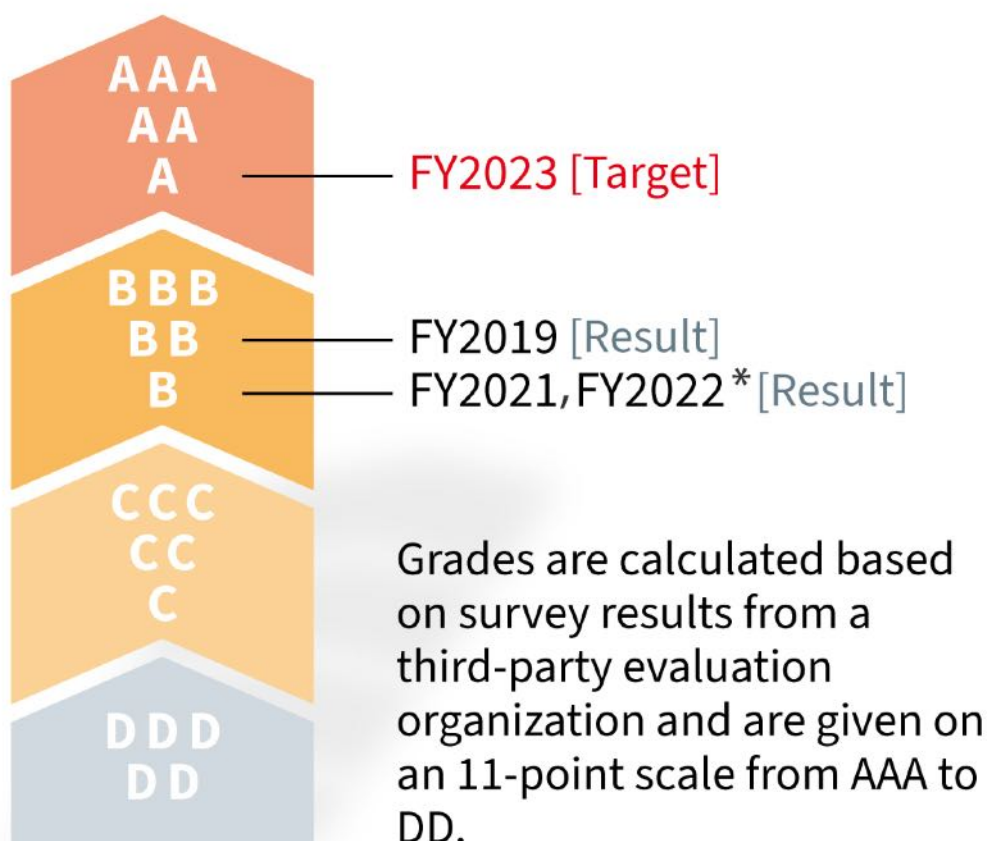
Other Initiatives for Employee Safety

The Meiji Group conducts regular disaster-preparedness drills at each operating site in accordance with firefighting plans to ready employees in anticipation of earthquakes, fires, or other disasters. In addition, we hold safety seminars before and after disaster drills to raise safety awareness.

Improving Employee Engagement

Today's labor market is increasingly competitive and diverse, with employers offering a widening range of work conditions. To ensure sustainable growth under such conditions, the Meiji Group's management recognizes the importance of having employees feel motivated and rewarded by their work, and committed to the goals of their respective companies and the Group as a whole. From that standpoint, management set the objective of improving employee engagement in the Group's three-year 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan launched in April 2021. Meetings are held for employees to discuss the Meiji Group's brand and measures to realize its new slogan. This promotes a workplace culture that encourages them to work towards the Group's growth as a team. An employee engagement survey will be conducted annually to assess the level of engagement and quickly identify issues that need improvement. Furthermore, the scores from the survey will be used as indicators in the performance-linked compensation plans for directors and executive officers.

Engagement Score Results



* FY2022 engagement survey response rate: 98.4% (8,206 respondents)

Plan

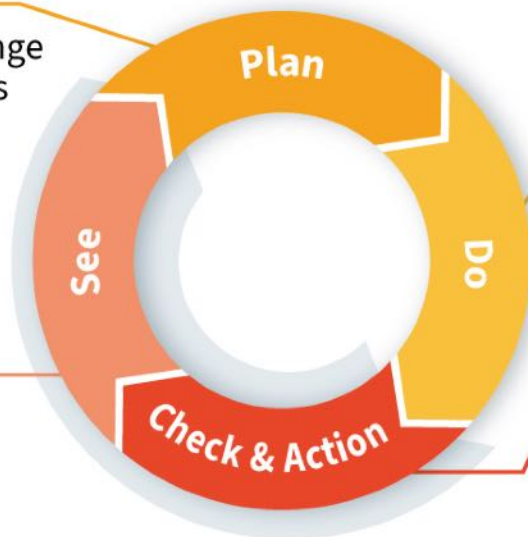
Hold meetings to exchange results at the workplaces

Set up action plans
(Responsible: general manager)

See

Conduct surveys every year in June

- Visualize employee engagement status
- Report results to management
- Report results to the general manager



Do

Check & Action

- Review progress at each workplace
- Share examples of initiatives in individual workplace across the Group

Strengthen internal communications through meiji Brand Project

In order to promote and embody the Group slogan "Now ideas for wellness," we are implementing a project to encourage employees to change their attitudes and behaviors in order to create a healthy value that is unique to meiji. Through direct discussions between senior management and young employees on such topics as meiji's health value and the Meiji Group's vision, as well as through dialogue with top management, we regularly hold workplace meetings to think and implement health ideas and solutions to social issues through business activities. In these ways, we are working to understand and empathize with the company's aspirations and to stimulate communications between ranks and employees.

We began the meiji Brand Awards in FY2021. These awards recognize ideas from individuals and workplaces in Japan and overseas that embody the unique meiji health values. In FY2022, we selected the "SHARE a Smile With Foreign Mothers in Japan" as the Gold Prize winner in the Practical Idea division. In the Workplace Action division, we selected the "Children's Experimental Project Using Meiji Products" as the Gold Prize winner. These submissions were selected from among more than 600 entries.



Holding of "Case Study Presentation Meetings on the Corporate Philosophy and Conduct Guidelines" to Promote the Behavior Change by Employees

KM Biologics Co., Ltd. holds annual "Case Study Presentation Meetings on the Corporate Philosophy and Conduct Guidelines" to introduce and share results of activities embodying its Corporate Philosophy and Conduct Guidelines to the entire company under the initiative of employees. We received more than 100 activities from various departments for the presentation of case studies for FY2022 initiatives. Among those received, the Grand Prize was awarded to a remote plant study tour aimed at familiarizing medical professionals with our products and fostering a greater sense of attachment. Another Grand Prize winner was an in-house interchange meeting aimed at enhancing communication and mutual understanding between sales and manufacturing divisions. This case study presentation not only motivates employees but also improves corporate competitiveness.



Maintaining positive relations between management and labor

All regular employees of Meiji, Meiji Seika Pharma, and KM Biologics are members of a labor union affiliated with each respective company. Excluding managers, 100% of employees belong to the unions, which negotiate on their behalf. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a positive and productive relationship with labor, the Group's management regularly meets with the union leaders to negotiate wages and benefits, and to resolve any issues that arise in the workplace, including those concerning health and safety.

Human Rights



Goals for Respecting Human Rights

Targets of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective until March 31, 2024)

[] Scope of KPI

Meiji G: the Meiji Group (consolidated)

KPI	Results		Targets
	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024
All domestic Meiji Group employees to attend a human rights training (including e-learning) at least once annually [Meiji G, Japan consolidated]	Implemented one time (Enrolled participants: Approx. 13,000 Participation rate: 90%)	Implemented one time (Enrolled participants: Approx. 13,000 Participation rate: 92%)	At least once annually
All overseas Meiji Group employees to attend a human rights training (including e-learning) at least once by FYE 3/2024 [Meiji G consolidated excluding Japan]	Enrolled participants: Approx. 770 Participation rate: 99%	Enrolled participants: Approx. 2,200 Participation rate: 84%	At least once by FYE 3/2024

Respect and Promote Human Rights

Meiji Group's Basic Approaches to Human Rights

Meiji Group has declared respect for human rights in its Corporate Behavior Charter, and it manages its businesses based on the strong belief that all people are inherently free and deserve equal respect and rights. We will promote respect for human rights throughout the Group and fulfill the Group's obligations.

Based on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Meiji Group supports and respects international standards on human rights, such as the International Bill on Human Rights, ILO's core labour standards, and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

In the pharmaceutical business, we will respect the ethical principles of the Helsinki Declaration and the guidelines of the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceutical for Human Use (ICH).

We will also respect the Children's Rights and Business Principles of UNICEF, especially with regard to children, who have strong ties to the food business.

In 2020, we established the Meiji Group Marketing Communication to Children Policy, which outlines our considerations for children in marketing related to confectionery and ice cream.

In FY 2022, we are planning an activity to deepen our internal understanding of children's rights.

[Meiji Group Policy on Human Rights](#)

[Meiji Group Marketing Communication to Children Policy](#)

System for Promoting Respect for Human Rights

In the Meiji Group, the Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO), who is a member of Meiji Holdings' Board of Directors, is tasked by the President of Meiji Holdings to be responsible for and execute measures related to human rights. Under the supervision of the CSO, Meiji Holdings' Sustainability Management Department leads execution of each of these measures as the main organization responsible for sustainability.

The Meiji Holdings Executive Committee has assembled the Group Sustainability Committee, with the aim of unifying all of Meiji Group's various sustainability-related activities, including those concerning human rights. In July 2019, we established the Group Human Rights Meeting, whose members consist of relevant departments and outside experts, and initiated human rights due diligence activities. Meiji Holdings' Sustainability Management Department, the main department responsible for sustainability, serves as the Meeting's secretariat. The Group Human Rights Meeting has in turn set up sub-committees, each with its own individual area of responsibility. As well as this, they are investigating human rights-related issues, creating action plans for various initiatives, and taking necessary preventive measures. The Board of Directors at Meiji Holdings receives regular reports on these activities and supervises the effectiveness of activity processes and measures.

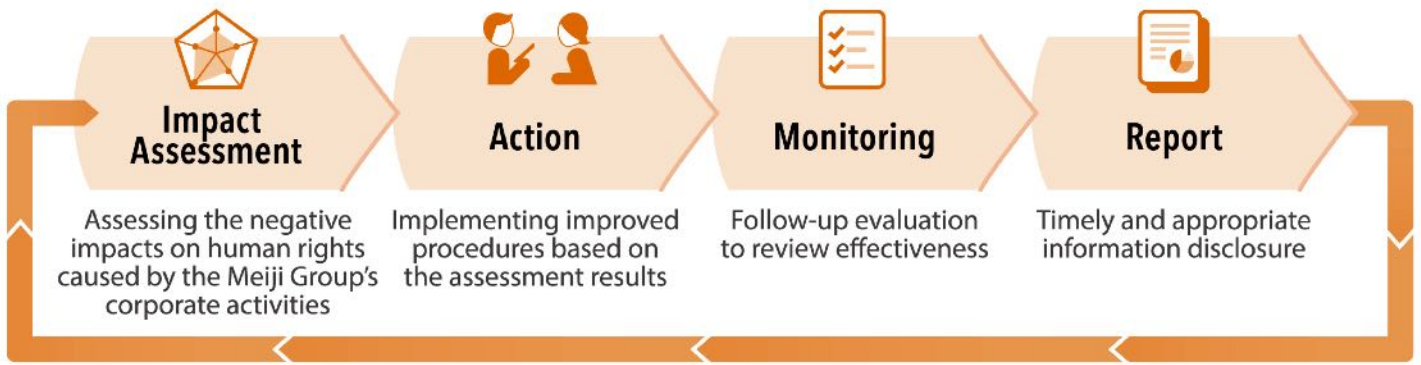
Human Rights Management System



In addition, the Meiji Group has appointed Meiji Brand Promotion Officer and Meiji Brand Promotion Leader at each workplace to spread knowledge and understanding of brand promotion and sustainability. Approximately 840 Meiji Brand Promotion Leaders promote awareness of sustainability issues, including human rights, in their respective workplaces. Approximately 290 Meiji Brand Promotion Officers supervise Meiji Brand Promotion Leaders. Meiji Holdings Sustainability Management Department regularly holds online forums and seminars for Meiji Brand Promotion Officers and Leaders to enhance understanding of sustainability activities, including human rights.

Implementing Human Rights Due Diligence

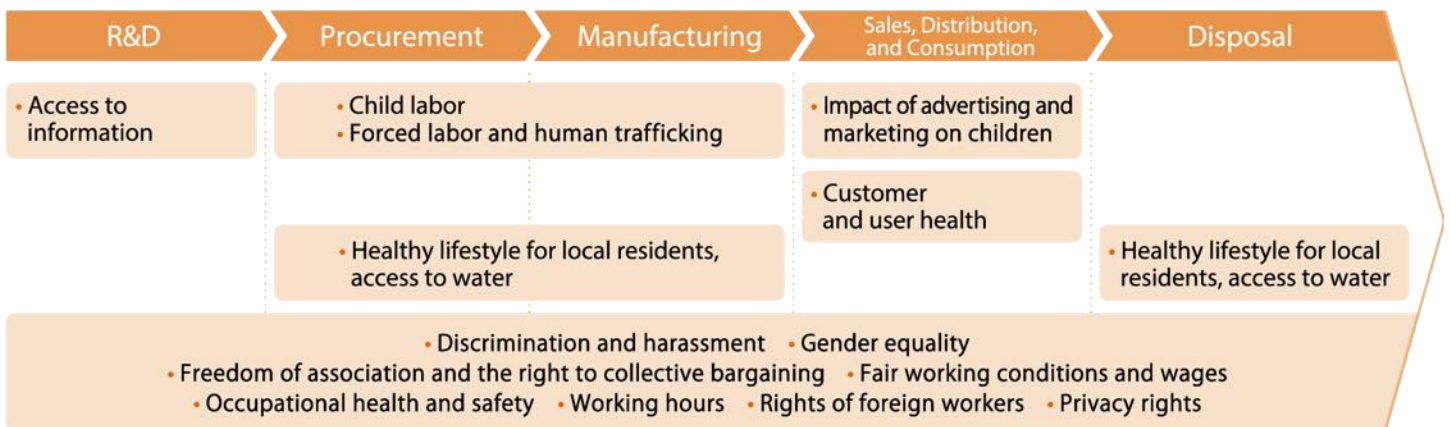
We started human rights due diligence in FY2019 and it forms our commitment to human rights based on the Meiji Group Human Rights Policy. We make constant efforts to communicate with external stakeholders by: assessing the impact on human rights caused by the Meiji Group's corporate activities and identifying issues; incorporating these evaluation results into procedures and implementing them for meaningful improvements; follow-up evaluations to review effectiveness; and timely and appropriate information disclosure. By continuous improvement through these processes, we will achieve both respect for human rights and sustainable growth of businesses.



Identifying Salient Human Rights Risks

In FY2022, we reviewed and updated salient human rights issues identified in FY 2019. We identify human rights risks throughout the value chain in each of the food and pharmaceutical business domains, and include objective perspectives from outside experts to identify salient human rights issues for the Meiji Group.

Identified salient human rights issues



Salient human rights issues	Potentially affected stakeholders
Discrimination and harassment	Employees, suppliers, customers, community residents, etc.
Gender equality	Employees, suppliers, customers, community residents, etc.
Child labor	Employees of the company and its suppliers
Forced labor and human trafficking	Employees of the company and its suppliers
Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining	Employees of the company and its suppliers
Fair working conditions and wages	Employees of the company and its suppliers
Occupational health and safety	Employees of the company and its suppliers
Working hours	Employees of the company and its suppliers

Rights of foreign workers	Employees of the company and its suppliers
Healthy lifestyle for local residents, access to water	community residents
Impact of advertising and marketing on children	Customers and consumers
Customer and user health	Customers and consumers
Access to information	Donors of human-derived raw materials
Privacy rights	Employees, clinical trial subjects, customers, etc.

Initiatives for risk assessment, mitigation, and remedy

The main initiatives implemented in FY2022 to mitigate and remediate human rights risks are as follows.

Item	Risk overview and mitigation/correction measures
1. Improve the working environment for foreign workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of the interviews conducted in FY2021 revealed that there are differences in the methods and attitudes of each business site regarding the employment of foreign workers and labor management, and inadequate support for foreign language labeling in the workplace. Established "Guidelines for Employment of Foreign Workers" in June 2022, summarizing points that need special attention when employing foreign workers throughout the Meiji Group. Briefing sessions were held for group companies and subcontractors to inform and disseminate the guidelines.
2. Supply chain risk reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of the procurement survey conducted in FY2021 revealed that some suppliers and group companies were below the standard point with regard to human rights. Began preparations to engage suppliers and group companies with high human rights risks for improvement. Engagements are scheduled to be implemented in FY2023. Soy Procurement Guidelines were established in March 2023 and include the concept of respect for human rights, including the prohibition of child labor and forced labor. <p>Sustainable Sourcing</p>
3. Raise employees' awareness of human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The challenge is to inform Group employees of the human rights policy and to improve their understanding of human rights. Human rights education is provided through e-learning and group training, and approximately 14,000 employees throughout the Group have participated in these programs.
4. Introduction of a multilingual grievance system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing grievance system for group companies in Japan was only available in Japanese. Therefore, it was necessary to introduce a multilingual grievance system that foreign workers could also use with ease. A grievance system available in nine languages was introduced in June 2023. In addition to employees of group companies in Japan, employees of contractors can also use the system.

Initiatives to Reduce Human Rights Risks for Foreign Workers

In February 2020, we conducted a survey on the presence of foreign workers at domestic direct-affiliated plant and laboratories of Meiji Co., Ltd. and Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd., and confirmed that there were no issues with respect to employment contracts or labor management for foreign workers who are directly employed. In FY 2021, we conducted interviews with labor managers and site managers at 14 business sites (8 plants and 6 group companies of Meiji Co., Ltd.) in which foreigners work, and confirmed the operation status of employment contracts and labor management.

As a result, it was confirmed that there were no major problems with labor management, such as employment contract, confirmation of status of residence, and managing working hours.

Interviews about foreign workers

Interviewed period	Interviewed sites	Person interviewed	Methods
FY 2021	6 group companies	7 labor managers in total	Online interview
		6 on-site managers in total	
	8 plants	8 labor managers in total	Online interview
		8 on-site managers in total	

On the other hand, we found issues such as differences in the methods and attitudes of each business site regarding the employment of foreign workers and labor management, and inadequate support for foreign language labeling in the workplace. To this end, we compiled the Guidelines for Employment of Foreign Workers in June 2022, summarizing points that need special attention when employing foreign workers throughout the Meiji Group.

In addition, we distributed the guidelines within the group and to our subcontractors, and held briefing sessions, requesting that the guidelines be thoroughly implemented.

Aiming to create a work environment that meets international standards that enables foreign workers to work soundly and with a sense of security, we will work to promote the implementation of the guidelines, including cooperating companies, in addition to our own plant and business sites.

<Items to be included in the guidelines for the employment of foreign workers>

1. Matters to be confirmed concerning foreign workers
2. Points to be noted when applying from foreign workers
3. Use of brokers
4. Intermediary fees and other related expenses
5. Working regulations
6. Working conditions and employment contracts
7. Prohibition of forced labor
8. Wages and working hours
9. Provision of housing such as dormitories

10. Consultation Desk and Complaint Processing System, Section
11. Occupational Health and Safety
12. Medical checkups
13. Training
14. Assistance for termination of contract, dismissal, and re-employment
15. Communicating with cooperating companies and dispatching companies

Introduction of a multilingual consultation and remedy service for foreign workers

Meiji Group introduced a multilingual consultation and remedy service for foreign workers in June 2023. This service is provided by JP-MIRAI (Japan Platform for Migrant Workers towards Responsible and Inclusive Society) and is available in nine languages: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Indonesian, Myanmar, Portuguese, Spanish, and Japanese. To ensure that foreign workers who are unfamiliar with life in Japan can work and live in Japan without any concerns, the service offers a full range of consultations on work, health, and daily life. It also serves as a whistle-blowing system when they experience problems in the workplace and provides support from professional staff as needed until the problem is resolved. This service is available to employees of the Meiji Group and its contractors working in Japan.

Responding to Human Rights Related Laws and Regulations in Each Country and Region

In expanding our business globally, Meiji Group will comply with the laws and regulations regarding the working environment and human rights established in each country, and will act in good faith in all business activities.

UK Modern Slavery Act 2015

[Meiji Group Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement](#)

Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018

[Modern Slavery Act Statement](#)

California Transparency in Supply Chain Act

[California Transparency in Supply Chains Act Statement](#)

Group Employee Training

We engage in education and training activities related to respect for human rights and prohibition of discrimination, prohibition of forced and child labor, prohibition of harassment, safe and healthy workplaces, respect for fundamental rights of employees, and more, based on the Meiji Group Policy on Human Rights.

In-Company Training

In FY2022, Human Rights education program was provided for all employees in Japan (approximately 13,000 employees, 92% participation rate) and employees in Thailand, Singapore India and Spain (approximately 2,200 employees, 84% participation rate). In the education program, we explain the Meiji Group Human Rights Policy and explain human rights issues related to day-to-day operations, such as child labor and the human rights of foreign workers, in an effort to raise employee awareness of human rights and reduce risks.

Education on harassment

We conduct e-learning on harassment, which is one of the human rights issues in the workplace, for all employees. We explain the diversifying examples of modern harassment and the policy on harassment in our group to raise employee awareness of harassment. For managers, in addition to providing education through specific examples, we also provide education on how to respond to harassment consultations, and promote initiatives to prevent harassment.

Training for Hiring Personnel

In Japan, we provide training on fair recruitment and selection to hiring personnel at our offices nationwide, and ensure compliance with prohibitions on discrimination in employment and harassment, and with respect for the fundamental human rights of applicants. In addition to respecting people's ability to work of their own free will, we also strive to prevent forced labor through clear advance presentation of working conditions (including work content, hours, rest periods, vacations, holidays, wages, salary increases, and provisions on retirement, etc.) and conclude of employment contracts. We also take action to ensure that all employees meet statutory minimum age requirements at the time of hiring in order to prevent child labor.

Society



Society-Oriented Goals

Targets of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective until March 31, 2024)

[] Scope of KPI

Meiji G: the Meiji Group (consolidated)

Meiji HD: Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd.

KPI	Results		Targets
	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024
Hold an ESG session for investors, and advisory board meetings at least three times annually [Meiji HD]	ESG Session for Investors: One time ESG Advisory Board: Two times	ESG Session for Investors: One time ESG Advisory Board: Two times	Three times annually
All Meiji Group employees in Japan to participate in social contribution activities at least twice annually (at least once each 6-month period) [Meiji G, Japan consolidated]	Participation rate at least once each 6-month period First half year term: 90%/Second half year term: 92%	Participation rate at least once each 6-month period First half year term: 92%/Second half year term: 92%	Twice annually (at least each 6-month period)

Stakeholder Engagement

Promote Stakeholder Engagement

We take every opportunity and use every means to engage in communications with important Meiji Group stakeholders (our customers, employees, business partners, shareholders and investors, global environment, and society). In this way, we answer the expectations of our stakeholders and fulfill our social responsibilities.

Employee Engagement

To achieve the Meiji Group 2026 Vision and be a company that can grow sustainably, we believe improving employee engagement is essential. Therefore, we regularly conduct the “Employee Opinion Survey.”

Communicate with Shareholders and Investors

We hold briefing meetings, IR events, and publish an informative IR website to keep our shareholders and investors up to date on the direction and strategies of the Meiji Group.

Since FY2019 we have held a ESG meeting for investors on an annual basis.

Dialogues with External Experts

We hold dialogues with outside experts, reflecting their opinions and recommendations in our vision, upcoming fiscal year plans, and business tactics.

As of FY2021, we have established a new ESG Advisory Board that meets twice a year, an evolution of our dialogue with external experts that had previously been held once a year. At meetings of this organization, we will receive advice from external experts on the Meiji Group's initiatives and facilitate an exchange of opinions with the CEO, CSO, and other internal Meiji team members to further strengthen our sustainability activities.

Establishment of the ESG Advisory Board

Environmental Communication

Each plant and research laboratory conducts reporting seminars and study groups to highlight our environmental initiatives for local citizens, local governments, elementary schools, and middle schools. In addition to covering our initiatives for water and air pollution and CO₂ reduction, we also listen to feedback to incorporate into future activities.

Providing Factory Tours for Stakeholders

Participants in Factory Tours

(Unit: 10,000 participants)

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Japan	21.2	21.3	3.8	6.3	11.3
Overseas	1.1	1.4	0.04	0.06	0.02

Factory Tours in Japan

Meiji provides tours of seven of its production plants in Japan, allowing visitors to see up close how the company produces delicious and healthy food products based on strict quality control standards.



Factory Tours in China

In China, we offer factory tours at three factories: Meiji Ice Cream (Guangzhou) Co., Ltd., Meiji Dairies (Suzhou) Co., Ltd., and Meiji Seika Food Industry (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.



Plant Tours and educational visits for KM Biologics

KM Biologics offers tours of its influenza vaccine manufacturing plant for students. We also host educational visits where students can study basic knowledge of immunization and the importance of preventive measures against infectious diseases. We will contribute to improve knowledge and awareness of infectious diseases through plant tours and educational visits classes.



Communicate with Our Customers

Food Segment

Our Customer Service Center strives to ensure customer trust and satisfaction through prompt, honest, fair, and appropriate service. The center receives a wide range of inquiries regarding products and services. We use this customer feedback to develop new, and improve existing, products and services.

Customer Service Center

Our Customer Service Center uses a proprietary system to record and analyze customer feedback. The center strives to respond politely and provide useful information to allow customers ease of mind in using our products. The center also shares information with related departments to develop and improve products and services for greater customer satisfaction.

Inquiries to the Customer Service Center by Subject (FYE 3/2023)

Content of Inquiries	Number of Inquiries	Composition Ratio
Product features	27,762	33%
Stores that handle products	20,550	25%
How to eat and store	17,773	21%
Food labeling and package design	5,692	7%
Sales promotion/campaign	4,429	5%
Foreign matter mixed in the product	4,326	5%
Others	3,509	4%
Total	84,041	100%

Investigation of customer satisfaction

Meiji's Customer Service Center carries out customer satisfaction surveys with the aim of improving the quality of customer support.

- FYE 3/2023 Target: 95 points (out of 100)

Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Customer satisfaction points	90.8	91.3	92.2	91.0	92.2

Example of improvement in response to customer feedback

Reflecting Customer Feedback to Improve Products

<Products> Frozen Food, Meiji Pizza & Pizza (2PC)

<Customer Feedback> Exterior back label (how to consume) is confusing.

1. Label on the back says remove the frozen “pizza” from the interior bag. However, the interior bag is clear; I almost put it in my microwave.
2. Caution! label text is all in red, making it difficult to read. Hard to see which point is the real point of caution.

<After Improvement>

1. Modified explanation. Changed “interior bag” to “interior clear bag.” Changed pull-out text next to the picture of the microwave to say, “remove from clear bag; do not wrap in plastic” (vs. “do not wrap in plastic” before change).
2. Caution! label text is now in black text, using red text for important points only.

<Exterior back (top)>



Counseling Office for New Mothers

At Meiji’s counseling office for mothers with infants, nutritionist and national registered dietitians provide consultation on nutrition and childcare for babies and mothers. Making use of an abundance of information and experience, the counseling office gives valuable advice to new mothers, family members, and other persons engaged in childcare.

Breakdown of Inquiries to the Counseling Office for New Mothers by Subject (FYE 3/2023)

Content of Inquiries	Number of Inquiries	Composition Ratio
Breast-feeding	2,782	46%
Baby food	2,262	37%
Menstruation and health	518	9%
Growth and development	210	4%
Lifestyle and habits	127	2%
Mother and pregnant woman	84	1%
Others	60	1%
Total	6,043	100%

Pharmaceuticals Segment

Medicine Support Center

Meiji Seika Pharma's Medicine Support Center uses a database to sort and analyze customer feedback. It takes customer feedback extremely seriously, and makes sure to share feedback with relevant departments to ensure better products.

Breakdown of Prescription Pharmaceutical Inquiries by Subject (FYE 3/2023)

Meiji Seika Pharma

	Number of Inquiries	Composition Ratio
Peripheral product information (packaging, expiration dates, insurance, etc.)	6,244	25%
Efficacy (efficacy, dosage and administration, pharmacology)	5,417	21%
Document requests	4,994	20%
Quality (quality, additives, stability, formulation changes)	4,912	19%
Safety (side effects, etc.)	3,398	13%
Requests	281	1%
Total	25,246	100%

KM Biologics

Content of Inquiries	Number of Inquiries	Composition Ratio
Document requests	522	47%
Peripheral product information (packaging, expiration dates, insurance, etc.)	277	25%
Efficacy (efficacy, dosage and administration, pharmacology)	198	18%
Quality (quality, additives, stability, formulation changes)	67	6%
Safety (side effects, etc.)	45	4%
Requests	6	1%
Total	1,115	100%

Measures to improve quality of customer support

With the aim of further improving customer satisfaction, Meiji Seika Pharma has undertaken an external evaluation of over-the-phone customer support at its Medicine Support Center.

We are aiming to promote appropriate usage of our pharmaceutical products by offering prompt and accurate information at all times. Through this we hope to contribute to even better medical care.

- Medicine Support Center quality target: 70 points

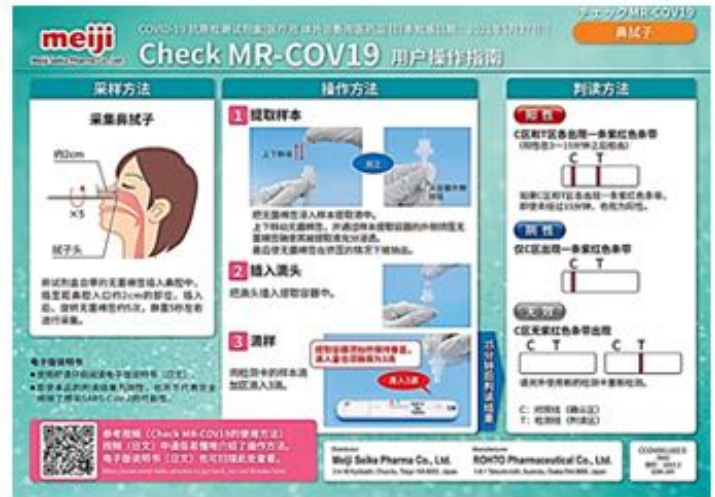
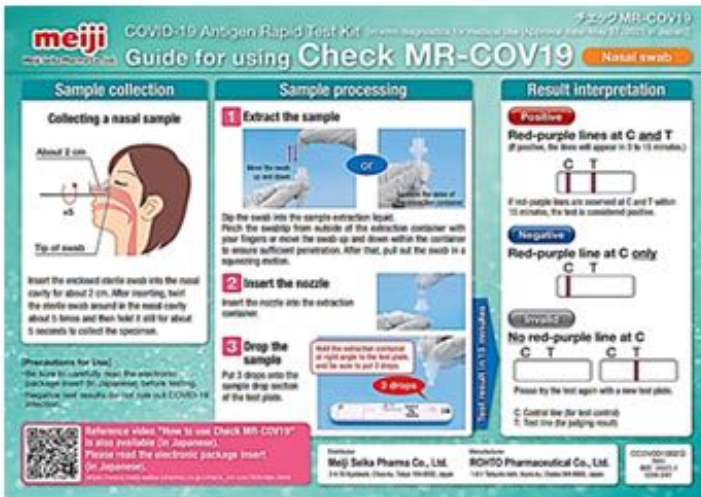
Medicine Support Center Evaluation Results

	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
External evaluation score (out of 100 points)	75.1	76.8	76.0	75.3	74.6

Example of improvement in response to customer feedback (Meiji Seika Pharma)

Foreign Language Versions for the “Check MR-COV19 SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Kit” User Guide

Based on customer feedback, we prepared additional foreign language versions (English and Chinese) for the Check MR-COV19 SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Kit User Guide, These guides are currently available on our website along with the Japanese version.



Example of improvement in response to customer feedback (KM Biologics)

Introducing a web form to search product expiration date by entering product name and lot number

KM Biologics received a number of inquiries from medical institutions and municipalities about the expiration dates (last effective date) of certain products in use.

- 178 Inquiries Regarding Distribution Status and Expiration Dates

<Improvements>

We installed a form on our webpage for medical professionals that allow users to search for expiration dates by entering product name or lot number (serial number).

Initiatives for appropriate information disclosure

The Meiji Group complies with laws and corporate ethics in advertising and promotion activities, providing information based on fairly stated content and phrasing to prevent falsehoods or exaggerations. We conduct activities report based on our Pledge to be a customer-oriented company.

Promote Social Contribution

Social Contribution Activities policy

In January 2021 the Meiji Group created the Meiji Group Social Contribution Activities Policy. Our employees are helping to address various local issues, all the while contributing to sustainable

development. It is our goal for each and every one of our employees to share a sense of participation in planning for society's future.

Meiji Group Social Contribution Activities Policy

Social Contribution Activities

The following is a breakdown of our social contribution activities and cost expenditures for FYE March 2023.

Social Contribution Activities*

Type of Social Contribution Activity	Amount (Millions of Yen)	Share of Expenditure (%)
Charitable Donation	271	9
Community Investments	1,359	46
Commercial Initiatives (incl. Sponsorship Support)	1,301	44
Total	2,931	100

* Scope of aggregation: Meiji Holdings, Meiji, Meiji Seika Pharma and KM Biologics

Breakdown of Social Contribution Expenditures*

Contribution Method	Amount (Millions of Yen)
Cash Contributions	462
Personnel Expenses (Volunteer-Related Expenses)	1,901
In-kind giving (products or services), Project Sponsorship	206
Management overhead	362
Total	2,931

* Scope of aggregation: Meiji Holdings, Meiji, Meiji Seika Pharma and KM Biologics

Activities by Topic

Meiji Group is actively engaging in social contribution activities, based on our Social Contribution Activities Policy's three core concepts of "activities to nurture people", "activities to assist society", and "activities to continue the world to the future".

"Activities to nurture people": We pursue activities in nutrition, food culture and sports to support the healthy growth and intellectual development of the children and youth who will be leaders of the future.

"Activities to support society": We pursue activities needed to support the healthy and stable lives of people in local communities involved in our business activities.

"Activities to continue the world to the future": We engage in activities to preserve the natural environment,

conserve biodiversity, and encourage recycling of resources, looking ahead to the sustainable development and future of earth. We also engage in activities that support research and development tied to the creation of new health value.

Activities to Nurture People

Nutrition education activities

Our food education seminars at elementary and junior high schools began in 2005. These make use of both in-person guest teaching at schools, as well as online-lessons.

Health and Nutrition



Activities to Support Society

The Meiji Happiness Fund

Established in March 2020, the Meiji Happiness Fund aims to raise awareness of sustainability, and instill a feeling of individual connection to social issues. The fund raises money twice annually through the generous, entirely voluntary participation of Meiji Group employees. In September 2022, 2,600 people from all across the Meiji Group took part. With funds raised, we donated approximately 83,000 Meiji food products to "Kodomo-Takushoku-Ouendan" (a food delivery program for children and families in Japan) in November 2022. Through this program, we will provide support to families across Japan facing lifestyle difficulties.



Cooperation with the All-Japan Food Bank Promotion Council

With rising prices and utility costs, more families than ever are facing economic hardship. In response, the Meiji Group, working in cooperation with the National Food Bank Promotion Council, donates snacks and food items on Children's Day, during summer vacation, on Christmas, and on other occasions in the hope of bringing smiles to as many children and their families as possible. The donation in April 2023 marked our eleventh donation, bringing the total number of donated confectionery and food products to 680,000.

Specialized formula business

We manufacture and supply a total of 20 types of specialized formula for babies born with congenital metabolism disorders that prevent them from drinking their mother's milk, or regular commercial powdered milk. These include registered special milk, which is officially registered with the Japan Cooperative Project on Special Formula and subsidized by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, as well as other special formulas (non-registered, yet subsidized) designed for treatment of non-congenital metabolic disorders. We focus at all times on safe production and distribution.

Rare diseases drug for Dravet's syndrome treatment, *DIACOMIT*[®]

Dravet's syndrome is an intractable form of epilepsy occurring in infancy. The disease develops in one infant in every 40,000. The syndrome is a severe disease that has a major impact on patients and their families because it causes seizures, delays physical and mental development, and has a high mortality rate. As there was no effective drug for Dravet's syndrome treatment available, We launched *DIACOMIT*[®] Dry Syrup (oral suspension) and *DIACOMIT*[®] Capsule in 2012. We make efforts to provide accurate and timely information on the effectiveness and safety of this drug to healthcare professionals for the correct dosage to patients.

Wellness Stories: Hope for Patients with Dravet Syndrome

Contribution to the United Nations Population Fund

We established a partnership with the United Nations Population Fund Kenya office in November 2020. We are making financial contribution to a project to support economic self-reliance for 200 women and girls in Kibera, Africa's largest slum in Nairobi, since January 2021.

<Project Achievements>

2021

- Trained approximately 150 women in soap making and business skills.
- Opened a store in Kibera under the brand name "Feming'araisha".

2022

- 20 women learned to create new products and acquire accounting knowledge, and monthly sales doubled due to store expansion and enhanced marketing. In addition, 12 of the women started new individual businesses in addition to their soap business.



Sponsorship of ParalyM Art

ParalyM Art is an activity conducted by Shougaisha Jiritsu Suishin Kikou Association to provide artworks by persons with disabilities to companies and individuals, and to pay compensation to the artists. Its main objective is to support people with disabilities who are unable to participate in society and are suffering financially through art. The organization promotes social participation and economic independence for people with disabilities without relying on social security funds. Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. has been a sponsor of this activity since 2021.

In FYE 3/2023, we sponsored the "ParalyM Art World Cup 2022" and selected DAIKI's art work as the "Meiji Award" from among 498 entries from 25 countries and regions around the world. We also used it as the cover image of our integrated report.

"To the children of the future" by DAIKI



ParalyM Artwork

Paper Drink Carton Recycling Campaign

Our employees take part in the Paper Drink Carton Recycling Campaign twice annually. Through this campaign we are aiming to foster greater environmental awareness among our employees.



Biodiversity Conservation Activities

We are working together with various local governments and NPOs to conserve biodiversity, both in Japan and overseas. Our areas of activity include Meiji Group production sites, as well as the Meiji Group-owned “Meiji Group Nature Conservation Area Kumamoto Sunlight Forest.”

Biodiversity



Paralym Artwork

"Smile for People Around the World" by Risa Izumi



[Enlarge the image](#)

[Artist Comments]

I was very happy to receive the request to "portray the Meiji Group, which delivers health value to customers around the world, in a cheerful and lively manner." I painted smiles on the faces of people all over the world. I expressed a world with a big heart in the middle, full of love, people with different skin colors and hair colors, but all connected with a smile. I had a lot of fun while painting this picture.

Examples of Utilization

[Integrated Report 2022](#)

"Everybody, Milk, and Chocolate" by KOTO



[Enlarge the image](#)

[Artist Comments]

I did my best to depict the milk crowns, flowing chocolate and cocoa in a delicious way. I painted various people colorfully and food simply. I hope that people who see this picture will enjoy it and think it looks delicious.

"To the Children of the Future" by DAIKI



[Enlarge the image](#)

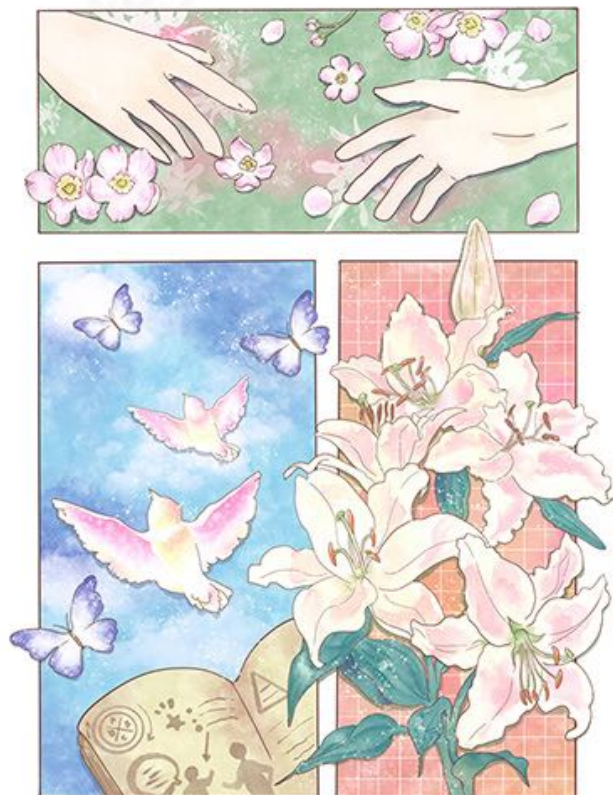
[Artist Comments]

Children who died in the war could have a bright future. No one should have taken that away from them. I drew this picture with the hope that there would be no more wars on this Earth, and that the future would be peaceful, filled with respect and love.

Examples of Utilization

[Integrated Report 2023](#)

"Flowers bear fruit and flap their wings" by miho



[Enlarge the image](#)

[Artist Comments]

I chose the subject of lilies because of the location of Yurigaoka and the name of the facility, comes from Lily (lily). In addition, I thought of using birds and butterflies to represent the flapping wings of employees who learned from the training program. The warmth of small exchanges and human interaction through a little "hand to hand" interaction is expressed by the hands. We hope that this will help our employees who use this place to gain something and bear fruit, just like flowers, and to leave for their respective places.

Examples of Utilization

The Lilyx Training Center of Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd.

Sustainable Sourcing



Targets for Our Sustainable Sourcing Initiatives

Targets of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan (effective until March 31, 2024)

[] Scope of KPI

Meiji G: the Meiji Group (consolidated)

Meiji: Meiji Co., Ltd.

KPI	Results		Targets	
	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	FYE 3/2024	FYE 3/2027
Start conducting a sustainable sourcing survey of suppliers for Group companies in Japan by FYE 3/2022 [Meiji G, Japan consolidated]	Suspended	Suspended (Plan to survey from April 2023)	Start by FYE 3/2022	—
Start conducting a sustainable sourcing survey of suppliers for the major overseas Meiji Group companies by FYE 3/2023 [Meiji G consolidated excluding Japan]	Launched for 46 suppliers	Launched for 17 suppliers	Start by FYE 3/2023	—
Hold Meiji Dairy Advisory program (MDA) to support management of dairy farms 250 times a year, and a total of at least 1650 times by FYE 3/2024 [Meiji, Japan consolidated]	475 times annually, accumulated total 1,423 times	477 times annually, accumulated total 1,900 times	At least 400 times annually, accumulated total 2,150 times or more	—
Increase sourcing rate of Meiji sustainable cocoa to 100% of total by FYE 3/2027 [Meiji consolidated]	42%	62%	65% or more	100%
Swich 100% to RSPO ¹ -certified palm oil ¹ by FYE 3/2024 [Meiji consolidated]	84%	90%	100%	—
Swich 100% to eco-friendly paper by FYE 3/2024 ² [Meiji G consolidated]	98%	98%	100%	—

1. RSPO certified palm oil (Mass Balance supply chain model) As a proportion of all palm oil sourced at domestic and overseas Meiji Group production plants.

2. Paper used in containers and packaging for products are covered.

Procure Raw Materials With Consideration Toward Human Rights and the Environment

Development of Responsible Supply Chain

Our Policy on Raw Material Sourcing

In recent years, there has been international demand for fair and free competition, fair transactions, and responsible sourcing. Therefore, we should fulfill our corporate social responsibility throughout the supply chain, including both the Group and our business partners. Also, we should address social issues such as child labor, forced labor, and environmental degradation. In the Meiji Group Procurement Policy, we commit to sourcing that considers human rights and the global environment. We will develop responsible sourcing with our business partners and strive to prevent and reduce risks.

The Meiji Group has set forth its procurement activities in consideration of human rights and the global environment in the "Meiji Group Procurement Policy" and is working with suppliers to realize responsible procurement and to implement preventive and mitigating measures against associated risks.

In June 2020, we established the Meiji Group Supplier Code of Conduct, which requires our supplier business partners to fulfill their social responsibilities. Furthermore, in April 2023, we revised this Code of Conduct in order to respond to social issues that have become more diverse as the years have passed.

The Meiji Group Supplier Code of Conduct applies to suppliers of Meiji Co., Ltd., Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd., KM Biologics Co., Ltd. and other domestic and overseas group companies (consolidated). In addition to disclosing the Code of Conduct on our website, we also hold briefing sessions to promote understanding and awareness among our many suppliers.

Additionally, the Meiji Group is engaged as an active member of Consumer Goods Forum (CGF). We are continuing talks with the goal of helping to resolve social issues such as human rights violations and environmental destruction.

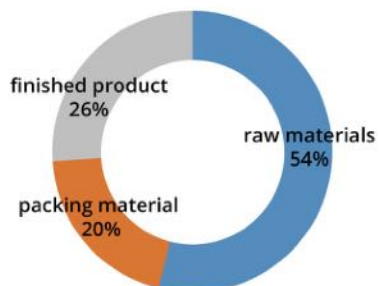
[Meiji Group Procurement Policy](#)

[Meiji Group Supplier Code of Conduct](#)

Overview of Meiji Group Suppliers

The Meiji Group procures or commissions the manufacture of food and pharmaceutical ingredients, packaging materials, and finished and semi-finished products from approximately 2,600 suppliers globally.

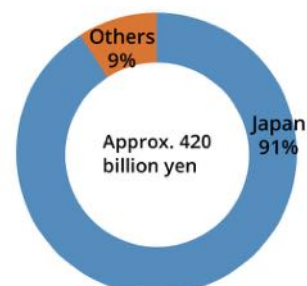
Percentage of suppliers by product supplied



Percentage of suppliers by country of location (based on number of suppliers)



Percentage of suppliers by country of location (based on procurement amount)



(FY2021 Results)

* Some of the above supplier information is now under review and will be subject to updated as appropriate.

Our Approach to Key Suppliers

The Meiji Group identifies the total number of suppliers based on the transaction results of domestic and overseas group companies (consolidated) and identifies key suppliers from among them, taking into consideration the procurement amount and the substitutability of procured raw materials.

As a next step, we conduct sustainability risk assessments among key suppliers through the sustainable procurement questionnaire and engage suppliers identified as potentially risky through requests for improvement and direct dialogue.

Sustainability Assessment through the Sustainable Procurement Questionnaire

Potential negative impacts related to human rights, labor, environment, and business ethics in the supply chain affect business potential and corporate reputation. Corporate management practices regarding human rights, labor, the environment, and corporate ethics vary depending on the country/region where the company is located, industry, size, etc. In order to identify and appropriately address potential risks that could have a significant impact on its business, the Meiji Group assesses and manages risks using the following methods.

Evaluation Target

The evaluation covers the suppliers identified based on the concept of key suppliers.

Evaluation Method

We conduct the "Sustainable Procurement Questionnaire" using the evaluation system of EcoVadis, a comprehensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) evaluation service provider, or the Meiji original questionnaire, to determine whether there are human rights or environmental issues in our supply chain. In cases where improvements are necessary, we work to solve social issues and build a stronger and more responsible supply chain, while promoting cooperation and dialogue with suppliers.

Evaluation Item

Labor and human rights, safe and healthy work environment, environment, ethics, fairness, sustainable procurement, development of redress system and prohibition of retaliation, etc.

Evaluation Frequency

We conduct risk assessment based on the results of the Sustainable Procurement Questionnaire and request suppliers to re-take the questionnaire based on the assessment results.

Suppliers whose results meet the criteria: re-evaluated after 2 years

Suppliers whose results do not meet the criteria: re-evaluated after 1 years

Sustainable Procurement Questionnaire Implementation Results

		FYE 3/2021		FYE 3/2022		FYE 3/2023	
Total number of suppliers		Approx. 2,600*					
Number of suppliers assessed for risk (Including reassessment)	A single year	74		77		33	
	Cumulative total/Percentage of total suppliers	74	2.8%	151	5.8%	184	7.0%

* FY2021 Results

Overview of Engagement Implementation

Since FY2022, we have implemented engagement with suppliers whose questionnaire survey results indicate that they need to strengthen or improve their initiatives. Through engagement with some of our major raw material suppliers, we confirmed the progress of their initiatives to address environmental issues while mutually sharing our goals and current performance related to reducing environmental impacts such as climate change, water resources, and waste. Through this initiative, we have promoted solutions to social issues such as GHG emissions reduction and water risk. We also conduct engagement with Meiji Group companies in Japan to promote a responsible supply chain.

(Number of companies that implemented the program in FY2022)

- Suppliers which need to strengthen or improved initiatives: 5 companies
- Major raw material suppliers: 7 companies
- Domestic group companies which need to strengthen or improved initiatives: 3 companies

Sourcing of Raw Milk

The Meiji Group believes that in addition to pursuing delicious milk production, it is also one of essential efforts to support dairy farming that considers the environment and the health of cows.

We implement sourcing with consideration toward human rights, environment and animal welfare, cooperating with suppliers in accordance with the Meiji Group Procurement Policy and the Raw Milk Procurement Guideline.

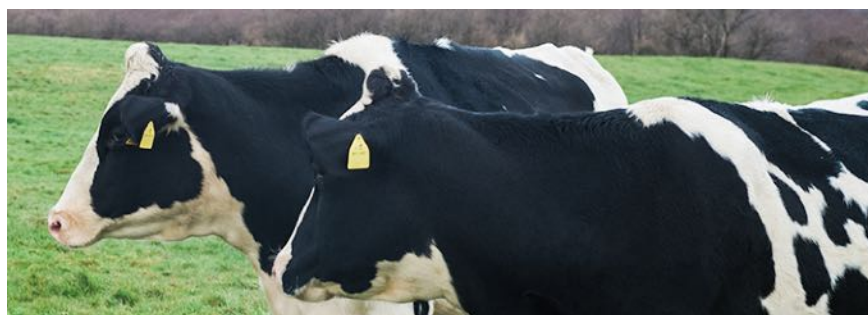
As a member of the Global Dairy Platform (GDP) and the Japan National Committee of International Dairy Federation (JIDF), Meiji is working to realize a sustainable dairy industry, and to exhibit the health value of dairy products.

[Meiji Group Procurement Policy](#)

[Raw Milk Procurement Guideline](#)

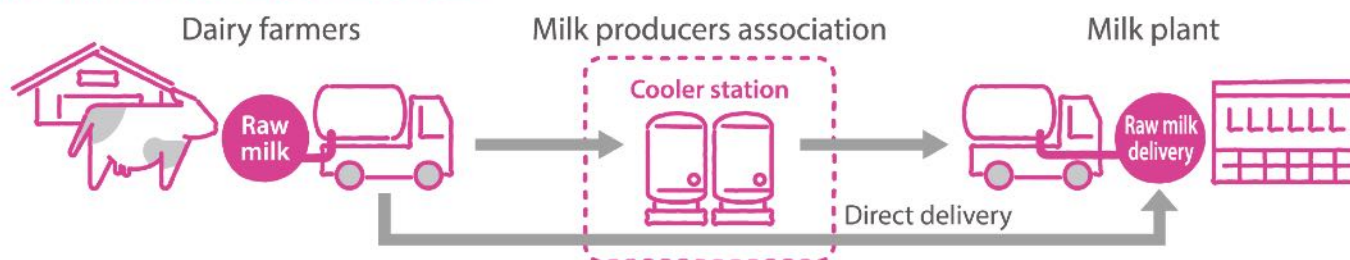
[Meiji Group Farm Animal Welfare Policy](#)

[Make Sustainable Dairy Industry](#)



By closely working with dairy farmers, the Meiji Group is supporting stable and high quality milk production in order to deliver our customers delicious and quality milk.

Raw milk delivery and quality control



Traceability of raw milk

We ensure the traceability of raw milk we receive. (domestic and overseas Meiji Group consolidated subsidiaries)

The raw milk procurement area list

Initiatives for stable sourcing of premium quality raw milk

Production sites

- Check feed and environment for breeding cows
- Hold seminars for the milk producers association on raw milk flavor

Receiving at plants

- Train taste testers and ensure thorough incoming inspections

Research laboratory

- Physical and chemical analysis of properties and ingredients for maintaining and improving quality
- Conduct taste assessment and disseminate information
- Technology development for more accurate and quicker inspections

Supporting dairy farm management with Meiji Dairy Advisory (MDA)

MDA is an activity focused on human resource management, aiding the growth of those involved in dairy farms through improving farm operations and enhancing their business management techniques. MDA is a system for establishing a culture based on the lean production method so that farms can continue to achieve their management goals. Meiji staff members work with farms to devise ideas together, adopting an advisory approach where the awareness of the farm staff is used to build better environments and systems. As continuous improvement progresses, this advisory work will shift its position accordingly.

In May 2021, we set a KPI of conducting 400 MDA support activities per year and a cumulative total of at least 2,150 MDAs by FY2023 to support dairy farmer management. We will further strengthen these activities and contribute to the realization of sustainable raw milk production.

		unit	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Number of implementations of the Meiji Dairy Advisory (MDA) program, which supports dairy farmers to improve their management	Annual	times	475	477
	Total		1,423	1,900

Meiji Dairy Advisory

Sourcing of Cocoa

The stable sourcing of high quality cocoa beans is an important issue for us as the global demand for cocoa expands. We implement sourcing with consideration toward human rights and the environment, cooperating with suppliers in accordance with the Meiji Group Procurement Policy and the Cocoa Procurement Guideline.

Meiji Group Procurement Policy

Cocoa Procurement Guideline

In 2006, we began our own Meiji Cocoa Support program and have been deepening partnerships with cocoa-producing nations. Additionally, we are supporting cocoa producing countries and farmers to produce sustainable cocoa in our capacity as a member of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF). We are also supporting them through SMS-ECOM and the Chocolate and Cocoa Association of Japan, as well as through expanding Meiji Group's own farmer support program "Meiji Cocoa Support".

2023 Achievement of Meiji Cocoa Support Program

2022 Achievement of Meiji Cocoa Support Program

Make Sustainable Cocoa Beans



Sustainable cocoa bean sourcing

Since 2006, Meiji has been conducting the Meiji Cocoa Support program, which deepens partnerships with cocoa farmers overseas and supports the high-quality and sustainable production of cocoa beans. We have decided to expand the Support program and established a new target of 100% sourcing of sustainable cocoa beans (cocoa beans produced in regions where we provide support) by FY2026. As cocoa bean production regions and farmers are confronted with deforestation, child labor, and lack of cultivation techniques, we will solve these issues by achieving this sourcing target and contribute to sustainable cocoa bean production.

	Unit	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Procurement ratio of Meiji Sustainable Cocoa Beans	%	40	42	62

Link

[Chocolate and Cocoa Association of Japan](#) ↗

[World Cocoa Foundation](#) ↗

[SMS-ECOM](#) ↗

[Sustainability Video \(Meiji Cocoa Support\)](#)



Lessons at cocoa farm

Support cocoa farmers through meiji cocoa support

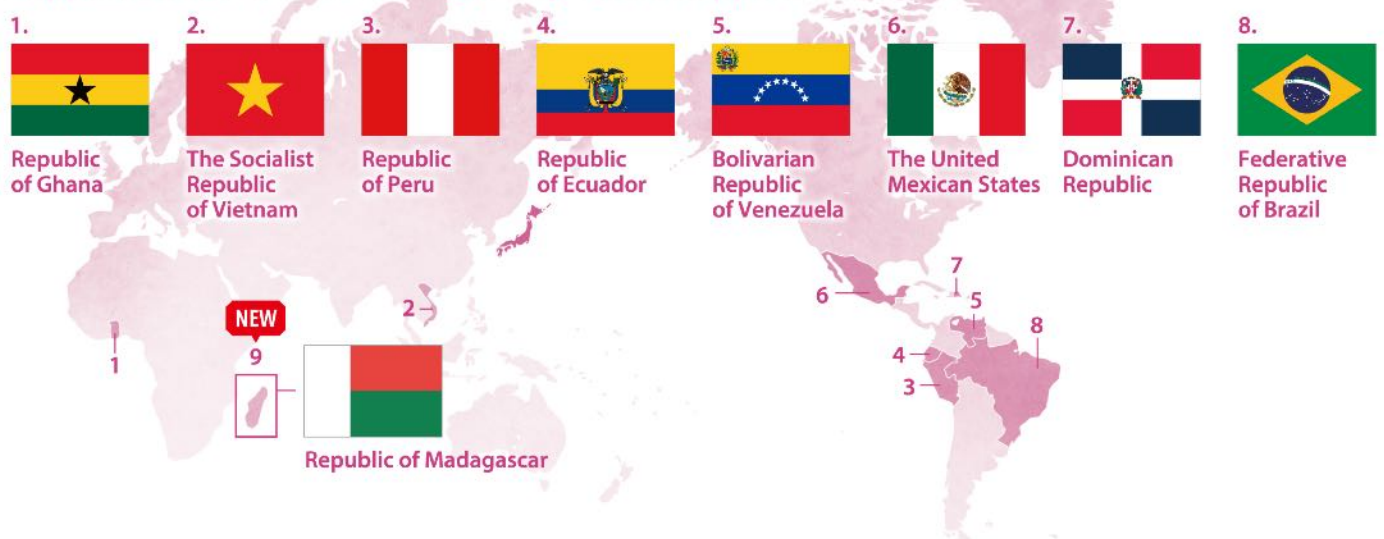
Meiji Cocoa Support was started in 2006 in Ghana. We have since expanded its activities to include Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Brazil and Vietnam. In 2019 we began activities in Madagascar, expanding to a total of nine countries.

Under Meiji Cocoa Support, Meiji employees visit these locations and meet directly with farmers. Through these valuable conversations we are able to better understand the various needs and issues faced by these communities, and thus provide targeted support.

We provide a wide range of support, from cocoa bean production support for farmers (fermentation technology guidance, cultivation technology seminars, establishment of a seedling center, etc.), to initiatives that improve the lives of cocoa producers (donating school supplies, building wells and other community infrastructure, etc).

Through these sorts of activities, we are improving the productivity of cocoa plantations, as well as helping to provide stability to farmers' lives. We will continue working to contribute to sustainable, eco-friendly cocoa bean production.

Support Cocoa Farmers Through Meiji Cocoa Support



Activities in Various Countries

Ghana	Well Donations	We have donated wells to ensure access to clean drinking water. These wells are also invaluable for raising seedlings
	Seedling Distribution	We are distributing seedlings of high-yield strains of cocoa, as well as tree seedlings for use in agroforestry to farmers, all free of charge.
	Farming Guidance	We are offering guidance on agricultural methods for adapting to climate change, as well as actions that can prevent deforestation, including agroforestry.
	Art Classes/Chocolate Classes	These children's classes involve creating art themed around cocoa, and making chocolate using cocoa harvested in the children's own villages.
	Young Cocoa Farmer Award	With support from Ghanaian government bodies, we award the recipient of the annual Young Cocoa Farmer Award a gift of a vehicle for transporting cocoa and other materials.
Ecuador	We are offering support in improving cocoa bean quality through the introduction of Meiji proprietary fermentation methods. Additionally, we are donating pruning machinery, weeding machinery, protective clothing, sun protection hats, and other equipment necessary for farming.	
Venezuela	We are donating seedlings and cocoa fermentation boxes, as well as offering support in improving cocoa bean quality through the introduction of Meiji proprietary fermentation methods.	
Peru	We are setting up tool banks for lending equipment such as pruning and weeding machinery free of charge, as well as donating cocoa fermentation boxes in order to support farmers to produce stable crops of high-quality cocoa.	
Brazil	We are distributing fertilizer, and supporting the cultivation of cocoa through agroforestry, as well as offering support in improving cocoa bean quality through the introduction of Meiji proprietary fermentation methods.	
The Dominican Republic	We are offering support in improving cocoa bean quality through the introduction of Meiji proprietary fermentation methods. We are also maintaining and donating equipment and children's school supplies to community facilities such as hospitals and schools.	
Mexico	We are offering community support to areas that cultivate the rare white cocoa, such as through maintaining public parks and digital communications infrastructure. We are also supporting the preservation and cultivation of single-strain cocoa plantations.	
Vietnam	We are introducing production of high-quality cocoa beans through research and development aimed at bringing out the value of cocoa beans.	
Madagascar	We are offering fermentation technology support to cocoa farmers, with the aim of building a high-quality cocoa value chain. We are certified by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a JICA-SDGs Partner.	

Agroforestry Milk Chocolate Initiative

The production of cocoa as a raw material for chocolate causes serious social issues of natural environment destruction and loss of biodiversity through deforestation, as well as human rights issues such as child labor and forced labor. For the cultivation of cocoa beans, Cooperative Agrícola Mixta de Tomé-Açu (CAMTA) in Brazil, with whom Meiji has jointly performed quality research over 10 years, undertakes efforts for conservation of natural environment and ecosystems, using the Agroforestry method known as "agriculture to create a forest," where various types of agricultural and forestry crops modeled on natural ecosystems are grown in land wasted by deforestation.



Protecting Forests in Cocoa-producing Countries

Meiji has participated in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI)—an organization aiming to end deforestation and promote forest restoration and protection in the cocoa supply chain—since April 2017.

Meiji has proceeded with various activities as a signatory of the CFI according to Action Plan 2022. This report consists of Annual Progress Report 2022 and Action Plan 2023-2025. It shows Meiji's key activities to end cocoa-related deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana.

Over the past five years, the CFI signatory governments and companies have made significant progress towards eliminating deforestation and restoring forests areas. We have developed new action plans that set our targets for CFI 2.0 (2023-2025) in alignment with Ghana National Implementation Plan and Frameworks for Action.

As part of Meiji Cocoa Support, we are working alongside both the Ghanaian government and related organizations to implement these plans.

Please see here for details on our activities

[2022 Progress Report and 2023-2025 Action Plan](#)

[2021 Progress Report](#)

[2020 Progress Report](#)

[2018-2019 Progress Report](#)

Link

[Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#) ↗

Joining the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)

In October 2021, Meiji Co., Ltd. became the first Japanese company to join the (ICI), an NPO that engages activities to eradicate child labor and forced labor in cocoa-growing regions.



An estimated 1.56 million children are in child labor in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, the world's No.1 and No.2 producers of cocoa. Of that number, 790,000 are in Cote d'Ivoire and 770,000 are in Ghana¹.

The ICI reached more than 420,000 children through its Community Development Program and CLMRS² during the 2015-20 period. Its approaches have reduced child labor by 20% in ICI-assisted communities, as well as hazardous child labor by 50% among at-risk children identified by ICI's monitoring systems³.

Meiji Co., Ltd. will contribute to the eradication of the issues in Ghana to arrive at truly sustainable cocoa sector.

1. Source: Reporting by NORC (University of Chicago, 2020).
2. This ICI-developed system consists of the following steps: 1) awareness-raising and monitoring, 2) identification of child labor cases, 3) remediation support, and 4) follow up.

Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (ICI) ↗

3. Source: ICI Annual Report 2020

Link

[International Cocoa Initiative \(ICI\)](#) ↗

JICA-SDGs Partner* Certification

With support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), our activities in Madagascar, which began in 2019, have been made into an official project under the name "Necessary Steps for Building the Foundations of a Sustainable Cocoa Industry: Popularization, Verification, and Transformation into a True Business."

These activities have been acknowledged as contributing to the pursuit of SDGs. Additionally, Meiji has been certified by the JICA as a JICA-SDGs Partner.

Utilizing know-how built up over many years, we will enable the production and sale of high-quality cocoa, as well as establish the Madagascar cocoa industry as a truly sustainable industry.



Employees working with Madagascar cocoa farmers to understand their present conditions

* JICA-SDGs Partner is a certification given by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to domestic companies or groups that have been recognized as working enthusiastically with the JICA to pursue SDGs.

In cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), we will further promote actions to eliminate child labour in cocoa-producing areas.

In January 2020, JICA has established the "Platform for Sustainable Cocoa in Developing Countries," and Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. joined this platform in September 2022, with the aim of solving social issues facing the cocoa industry, such as poverty among farmers, deforestation, and child labour. Within the platform, on September 30, 2022, "Action plan to eliminate child labour in the Cocoa Industry" has announced which outlines concrete actions expected from each standpoint with the aim of eliminating child labour. By joining this platform and supporting this action, and in collaboration with Japanese industry associations, food manufacturers, trading companies, consulting companies, NGOs, etc., Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. will accelerate and expand its efforts to eliminate child labour in the cocoa industry.



Link

[Platform for Sustainable Cocoa Platform in Developing Countries](#) ↗

Sourcing of Palm Oil

Palm oil is a plant-based oil derived from oil palms cultivated in the tropics, and is widely used in the production of processed foods. Major producer nations of palm oil face human rights issues such as forced labor and child labor. These countries also face environmental issues such as deforestation and the destruction of peatland areas due to the development of agricultural land.

Our Palm Oil Procurement Guideline outlines our support for the NDPE Policy to No Deforestation, No Peat (i.e. no development in peatlands) and No Exploitation. Based on our Meiji Group Procurement Policy, we are committed to working with our business partners to fulfill our corporate social responsibility by engaging in eco-friendly sourcing of palm oil.

[Meiji Group Procurement Policy](#)

[Palm Oil Procurement Guideline](#)

Shifting to Certified Palm Oil

Meiji Group joined the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) in 2016. As of October 2022, 18 of our domestic plants, as well as 5 of our overseas plants, hold RSPO supply chain certification.

In FY2022, 90% of the volume of palm oil and palm kernel oil sourced was RSPO certified palm oil physically certified through Mass Balance supply chain model. In the future, we will continue to push for RSPO certification, and also aim to shift entirely to RSPO-certified palm oil by FY2023, with understanding and cooperation of raw material supplier.

Additionally, we are also asking our contractor to which we outsource our manufacturing activities for priority use of RSPO-certified raw materials by asking their understanding and cooperation regarding environmental impacts.

As a member of Consumer Goods Forum's (CGF) Japan Sustainability Local Group (JSLG) we are collecting and sharing information concerning certification systems, as well as issues at palm oil production sites. In 2019, we observed plantations in Malaysia-a major producer of palm oil.

Link

[RSPO Annual Communication of Progress \(PDF 168KB\)](#)

Ratio of Certified Palm Oil*

	Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Ratio of Certified Palm Oil	%	7	21	68	84	90.4

* As a proportion of all palm oil sourced at domestic and overseas Meiji Group production plants

Confirmation of Palm Oil Traceability

To ensure that deforestation, peatland development and exploitation are not occurring in the palm oil production areas, we are working to confirm the traceability to mill of palm oil.

We have completed the verification of the oil mills for 100% of the volume of palm oil we sourced in the 1st Half of 2023 (January -June).



We visited plantations in Malaysia, a palm oil-producing country, twice in FY2019

Link

[Meiji Group Palm Oil Mill List](#)

Sourcing of Soybean

Soybeans are widely grown and used as food materials around the world and are used for a variety of purposes other than food, such as feeding livestock. Soybeans are one of the most important raw materials for the Meiji Group's business, but issues related to deforestation and human rights caused by overdevelopment of plantations have been pointed out, particularly in Brazil. Based on "Meiji Group Procurement Policy" and "Soybean Procurement Guideline", the Meiji Group will engage in socially responsible soybean procurement activities in collaboration with supply chain partners.

[Meiji Group Procurement Policy](#)

[Soybean Procurement Guideline](#)

Sourcing of Paper

Following the Meiji Group Procurement Policy and the Paper Procurement Guideline, we are working with our suppliers to procure paper raw materials for product and office use in ways that care for human rights and the environment.

[Meiji Group Procurement Policy](#)

[Paper Procurement Guideline](#)

Expanding Use of Eco-Friendly Paper

We are continuing to expand the use of FSC®* and PEFC-certified paper, as well as post-consumer paper for use in product containers, packaging, printing and copying.

By FY2023, our goal is to use 100% environmentally friendly paper raw materials in the paper we use in containers and packaging of all products. As of FY2022, we have completed 98% of this conversion (100% for all Group entities in Japan). As with product containers and packaging, we are promoting the switch to environmentally friendly paper for various printed materials (company brochures, various reports), office supplies (business cards, envelopes, paper bags, etc.), and sales promotion materials.

* FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®): a nonprofit organization dedicated to spreading responsible forest management across the world. They carry out an international system of certification.

Usage rate of FSC®-certified paper, PEFC-certified paper, and post-consumer paper*1

	Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Usage rate of FSC®-certified paper, PEFC-certified paper, and post-consumer paper*2	%	55	60	77	98	98.2

*1 Paper used in containers and packaging for products are covered.

*2 Until FYE 3/2021, covers only Meiji Group in Japan (including KM Biologics Co., Ltd. from FYE 3/2020) .
From FYE 3/2022, covers all Meiji Group companies.

Expanding usage of FSC®-certified paper in our mainstay products

We are making use of eco-friendly paper in many of our products, including "Meiji Oishii Gyunyu 900ml," "Kinoko no Yama," and "Takenoko no Sato."



Additionally, Meiji Co., Ltd. obtained COC certification (License number: FSC®-C159538)* for our yogurt and chocolate production processes in October 2020, with the goal of increasing our usage of FSC®-certified paper.

* Chain of Custody (COC) certification is a certification system that ensures products are appropriately managed and processed during processing and distribution. It includes products using Forest Management (FM) certified wood from forests and other raw materials that lead to appropriate use of forest resources.

Link





Make Sustainable Cocoa Beans.

Make cocoa production sustainable.
Provide as much support as we can.

TOP >

THE FUTURE OF CHOCOLATES BEGINS HERE.

For everyone connected through cocoa

Meiji visits cocoa production areas all over the world.

By going to cocoa production areas, we can see that there are a variety of challenges.

There are issues such as the aging of cocoa trees, the problem of pests and diseases, the difficulty of obtaining agricultural materials, and the reduction of crop yields due to immature cultivation techniques. This prevents cocoa farmers from earning enough income.

Some countries and regions also face social issues of child labor and deforestation.

As a company involved in cocoa production, we can't leave this situation behind. We face challenges and work to improve each one. And we aim to realize sustainable cocoa production.

Farmer, Meiji, Customer Make everyone smile connected by cocoa. That's our mission.

Action to 2026

Meiji aims to achieve 100% procurement of Meiji Sustainable Cocoa Beans by FY 2026.

By FY 2026, we aim to achieve 100% procurement of Meiji Sustainable Cocoa Beans produced in areas where support for farmers has been provided. By achieving this goal, we will contribute to sustainable cocoa bean production by solving the problems faced by cocoa producing regions and cocoa farmers.



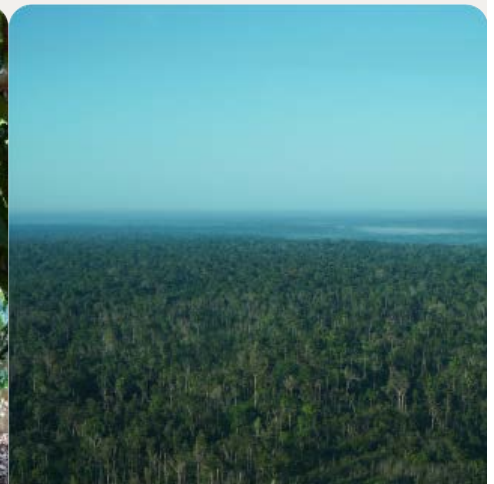
As a food and health professional, we will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

We aim to create a sustainable society in which people can live healthy and with peace of mind.

The Meiji Group, as a team of food and healthcare professionals, will help solve societal issues through its business.

We will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through activities such as Meiji Cocoa Support, which supports cocoa production areas.

These are the 17 goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to be achieved by 2030.



Support for cocoa production areas

Meiji Cocoa Support

Cooperate with various organizations to support cocoa production areas

Support with Partners

Prevent Deforestation caused by cocoa production

Forest Conservation

Values

A better future with chocolate





Interview

The Creator of Future Cocoa





TOP > Meiji Cocoa Support

AIM FOR SUSTAINABLE COCOA BEANS

Meiji cocoa support has expanded to Africa, Latin America and Asia.

We provide appropriate support in accordance with the situation of the country or region.

In Latin America, for example, we are guiding our proprietary fermentation methods and promoting high-quality cocoa production.

In order to make cocoa's production sustainable, we will carry out optimal support activities for the growing regions and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Meiji's unique support of cocoa farmers Meiji Cocoa Support

Meiji Cocoa Support is our unique support of cocoa farmer support began in 2006.

Our staffs visit cocoa production areas to provide optimal support tailored to the various issues faced by local farmers.

For example, we support cocoa farmers to improve their lives by increasing productivity and earnings.

Held workshops for cultivation methods and pests, established seedling center, and provided technical guidance on fermentation methods for cocoa.

In terms of the living environment, we are also providing educational support through the donation of wells and the school equipment.



Meiji Cocoa Support



THE COCOA BELT

Expanding around the Equator, this area is suitable for cocoa cultivation. Cocoa is a delicate plant. Cocoa can only be grown in a variety of conditions, such as high temperature and humidity, rich soil, and rainy areas.

Click on the colored country or national flag to see details of our support.



GHANA

Support farmers from several angles

Well Donations

We have donated wells to ensure access to clean drinking water. These wells are also invaluable for raising seedlings.



Seedling Distribution

We are distributing seedlings of high-yield strains of cocoa, as well as tree seedlings for use in agroforestry to farmers, all free of charge.



Farming Guidance

We are offering guidance on agricultural methods for adapting to climate change, as well as actions that can prevent deforestation, including agroforestry.



Art Classes/Chocolate Classes

These children's classes involve creating art themed around cocoa, and making chocolate using cocoa harvested in the children's own villages.



Young Cocoa Farmer Award

With support from Ghanaian government bodies, we award the recipient of the annual Young Cocoa Farmer Award a gift of

a vehicle for transporting cocoa and other materials.



VENEZUELA

Improving the quality of cocoa beans

We are donating seedlings and cocoa fermentation boxes, as well as offering support in improving cocoa bean quality through the introduction of Meiji proprietary fermentation methods.



— Details of support —
Donation of seedling

Target: 240,000 trees by FY 2026 (170,380 trees as of FY 2022)

* We also donate cocoa fermentation boxes.

— Toward achieving SDGs —



BRAZIL

Grow the forest with cocoa

We are distributing fertilizer, and supporting the cultivation of cocoa through agroforestry, as well as offering support in improving cocoa bean quality through the introduction of Meiji proprietary fermentation methods.



— Details of support —
Donation of Fertilizer

Target: 50,000 bags by FY 2026 (20,298 bags as of FY 2022)

— Toward achieving SDGs —



PERU

Providing farm equipment that everyone can use.

We are setting up tool banks for lending equipment such as pruning and weeding machinery free of charge, as well as donating cocoa fermentation boxes in order to support farmers to produce stable crops of high-quality cocoa.



— Details of support —
Donation of cocoa fermentation boxes

Target: 60 boxes by FY 2026 (51 as of FY 2022)

* We also donate farm equipment.

— Toward achieving SDGs —



DOMINICAN REP.

Supporting Education and Health

We are offering support in improving cocoa bean quality through the introduction of Meiji proprietary fermentation methods. We are also maintaining and donating equipment and children's school supplies to community facilities such as hospitals and schools.



— Details of support —
Donation of Recyclable Waste Boxes

Target: 99 by FY 2026 (132 as of FY 2022)

Target achieved

* We also donate school supplies and medical equipment.

— Toward achieving SDGs —





ECUADOR

Providing tools necessary for Cocoa production.

We are offering support in improving cocoa bean quality through the introduction of Meiji proprietary fermentation methods. Additionally, we are donating pruning machinery, weeding machinery, protective clothing, sun protection hats, and other equipment necessary for farming.



MEXICO

Rare cocoa to the next generation

We are offering community support to areas that cultivate the rare white cocoa, such as through maintaining public parks and digital communications infrastructure. We are also supporting the preservation and cultivation of single-strain cocoa plantations.



VIETNAM

Research and development of high-quality cocoa.

We are introducing production of high-quality cocoa beans through research and development aimed at bringing out the value of cocoa beans.

By developing high-quality cocoa beans, we support the stable lives of cocoa farmers.



MADAGASCAR

Toward sustainable cocoa production.

We are offering fermentation technology support to cocoa farmers, with the aim of building a high-quality cocoa value chain. We are certified by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a JICA-SDGs Partner.



MOVIE

meiji

Sustainability 2026 Vision



Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision [Sustainable Meiji Procurement] (3:39)

"Meiji Cocoa Support", one of the initiatives for "Sustainable Meiji Procurement", the common theme of Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision





Chocolate class in Ghana 2022 (3:00)

Chocolate class at an elementary school in Moseaso Village



Art class in Ghana 2019 (2:20)

Art class at an elementary school in Wassa Akropong Village



Peru 2022 (2:50)

Comments from farmers on the donation of agricultural equipment



Peru 2021 (1:46)

Comments from farmers on the donation of fermentation boxes



Peru 2020 (0:42)

Comments from farmers on the donation of fermentation boxes

ARCHIVE

2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016~2009





TOP > Meiji Cocoa Support > ARCHIVE 2022

2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016~2009

Ghana

Held handmade chocolate class

The event was held twice in FY2022, with approximately 70 elementary and junior high school students participating. In addition to making chocolate using cocoa beans harvested in their own villages, they also learned about the history of cocoa cultivation and the importance of the cocoa industry in Ghana, and had a lively Q&A session.



Roasting cocoa beans



Handmade chocolate



Chocolate class at an elementary school in Moseaso Village



Young farmer was awarded at the 38th Farmers Day

Farmers Day is an event to award the outstanding farmers. The event was held in Koforidua, a city in eastern Ghana, with the president and related ministers in attendance. We presented tricycles and chocolates to promising young cocoa farmers.



Award winner (right)



Tricycle as a prize

Supporting Agroforestry* -Cocoa demonstration farm

We support agroforestry-cocoa demonstration farm operated by local NGOs for the purpose of stabilizing farmers' incomes and preserving the environment.

In addition to cash crops such as bananas, plantains and cassava, we also planted shade trees. We've been growing through trial and error to find out what kinds of crops and trees are best to grow and how.

* A coined word that combines Agriculture and Forestry. Planting trees and growing crops or raising livestock between the trees.



Section 1



Banana (right) and cocoa (middle)



Section 2



Plantain (upper right) and cocoa (middle)

Supporting the Regeneration of farms

We distribute seedlings to replant old trees with reduced yields.



Replanted cocoa seedlings and plantains providing the shade



Supporting the Agroforestry & Forestry Committee of Asin Ahantham Village

We support forest protection activities in Asin Ahantham village in central Ghana.

We hold training sessions on cocoa cultivation in response to the climate change and convey the importance of tree planting and forest protection. We are also promoting agroforestry.



Planting shade trees

Promoting Agroforestry in Konshimwa Village

The village of Konshimwa in central Ghana has been practicing agroforestry for several years with the aim of stabilizing income and improving the environment. The tree seedlings we donated are growing well, and in addition to cocoa, the cash crops such as plantains, papaya, oranges, and palms are also growing.



Agroforestry Farm

Climate Smart Cocoa (CSC) training was held in Wassa Akropong Village

A CSC training (workshop on cocoa cultivation in response to climate change) was held with the participation of farmers from Wassa Akropong village in western Ghana. The problems faced by each farmer were shared and there was a lively discussion about each solution. The workshop will be continued to hold so that everyone can participate.



Training session on cocoa cultivation for farmers

GPS mapping of the farm in Wuwuoso village

We collect and store various information on farms through GPS mapping, to confirm that the farms that procure our cocoa beans are not involved in deforestation, and to establish traceability.



Walking along the farm boundaries with a smartphone and mapping it with GPS



Workshops on child labor

We have started implementing the Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) to understand the situation in the community and take corrective action if a problem is found. At the workshop, the farmers learn about the definition, prevention and correction etc. of child labor.



The workshop



Venezuela

Donated seedlings and fermentation boxes

We donated 26,150 cocoa seedlings, which we grew over a period of six months, and five fermentation boxes to a total of 38 farmers in two districts. We received words of gratitude from the farmers (see video).



Farmers



Donated fermentation box



Cocoa seedlings grown over half a year



Words of gratitude from farmers



Peru



Donated fermentation boxes and agricultural equipment

We donated 16 fermentation boxes. We also continue to operate the Tool Bank, which lends agricultural equipment to farmers free of charge. In FY2022 we donated eight weeding machines and eight sets of pruning equipment to farmers in faraway areas.



Donated fermentation box



Donated pruning equipment



Donated weeding machines



Comments from farmers on the donation of agricultural equipment

The Dominican Republic

Donated school supplies to elementary schools.

We repaired the roofs of school buildings and donated equipment such as computers, printers, basketball goals, volleyball nets, and balls to three elementary schools. Our efforts to date have been featured in local newspapers.

<https://www.eljaya.com/167251/meiji-company-beneficia-por-septimo-ano-consecutivo-comunidades-cacaoteras-de-san-francisco-de-macoris/>



Donated computers etc.



Children in elementary school



Ecuador

Donated pruning machines and weeding machines.

We donated 7 pruning machines and 12 weeding machines to 6 farms and 1 research institute.

It is expected to improve the efficiency of the farm work. They were also very pleased with the "Meiji Milk Chocolate" that we gave them at the same time.



Ceremony



Mexico

Internet connection for elementary school has set up in the farm area.

We set up an internet connection at the elementary school for the children of the farm. It helps to utilize the computer room. The "Mexican white chocolate" we gave them at the same time was also very well received.



Entrance to an elementary school in the farm area



Hand washing area in front of the school building

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Ghana

We hold workshops on climate change and the natural environment

Farmers are learning how climate change is affecting cocoa farming and how to ensure a stable yield. They are also deepening their understanding of the importance of the natural environment and deforestation.



On this day, women farmers mainly participated.



Discussion while eating Meiji Milk Chocolate

We donated wells to two villages

We donated wells to two villages in Western Province. The villagers now have access to clean water. The wells are used by many people.



The handing over ceremony of the well (Thurman village)



The handing over ceremony of the well (Rabichrome Village)



Young cocoa farmers awarded for 37th National Farmers Day

National Farmers' Day in 2021 was held at Cape Coast, the state capital of Central Province. We presented tricycles to young cocoa farmers. It is used to transport cocoa and other products on the winner's farm.



Awarded farmer (center), hauling harvested cocoa



Winners carrying cocoa (left)

We are planting trees for forest restoration

We planted 12,000 trees in farms and communities such as Asynasem Paneya village in Central State. We also held the workshop on the natural environment and child labor for children and farmers.



Tree planting by children



Workshops in the community

We are distributing seedling

We distributed 127,900 seedling to replace old cocoa trees.



Seedling under development



Cocoa transplanted to a farm



Support for agroforestry cocoa test farms

We supported the purchasing of seedling for cocoa and trees and the introduction of irrigation systems for farms.

In the preceding plot 1, cocoa generally grew well. We have already completed the harvest of bananas and cassava.

We are also clearing plot 2 next to it for cocoa planting. Plot 2 also planted maize and plantains for a quick cash income, and the maize is finishing its first harvest.



(Block 1) Cocoa and Banana



(Block 2) State of land readjustment



(Block 2) Preparing for cocoa planting

Ecuador

We donated pruning equipment and sunshade hats to 24 farms

We held an on-line handover ceremony with everyone working at cocoa farms and exporters. They also showed us how the pruning work was done on site.



Online Handover Ceremony



Group photo



Group photo



Hats and water bottles with meiji logo

Peru



Donated cocoa fermentation boxes

We donated revolving cocoa fermentation boxes to six farmers. Farmers expressed their gratitude for the ability to ferment efficiently under stable conditions. It also maintains a tool bank that rents farm equipment free of charge.



Donated cocoa fermentation boxes to farmers



Comments of farmers using cocoa fermentation boxes

Venezuela

We distributed nursery-grown seedlings

To produce high-quality cocoa, we distributed 14,000 seedlings to farmers and held a presentation ceremony.



Presentation ceremony



At farms

We donated seedling and cocoa fermentation boxes

We donated 12,000 seedlings and 5 cocoa fermentation boxes. The farmers expressed their gratitude.



Distribution of seedling



Presentation of cocoa fermentation boxes

Mexico



Built a children's park in the cocoa farm area

For three years from 2019 to 2021, we promoted a project to support communities in the farm area.

The project name is Tortuga (turtle in Spanish). We built a park made of sturdy bamboo as a place for community interaction. Since this area is far from town, many children play in this park and is helping to revitalize the farm area. The “Mexican white chocolate” we gave them was also very pleased.



The park



Vietnam

Donated cocoa seedlings to be planted on the new farmland

The cocoa farms we work with are working to create the farms that are as close to the nature as possible by utilizing the cycles of the ecosystem. We donated 7,000 cocoa seedlings to plant cocoa in farm areas and increase the amount of green land. After preparing the soil of the farmland, we plan to plant the seedlings. We received words of gratitude from everyone on the farm.



Cocoa seedlings being grown



Madagascar



Donated cocoa fermentation boxes to farmers

Since 2019, we have been collaborating with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) to promote the project “Necessary Steps for Building the Foundations of a Sustainable Cocoa Industry: Popularization, Verification, and Transformation into a True Business” Since 2019, we have been conducting field surveys and searching for farmers to deepen our understanding of the cocoa industry in this region. In FY2021, we donated three cocoa fermentation boxes to the farmers who provide technical support. This led to proper fermentation work at the farm and more efficient cocoa bean production, which was greatly appreciated by farmers.



Donated cocoa fermentation boxes to farmers

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Ghana

We delivered masks to children and various equipment to farms

We delivered 250 masks and 12 alcohol disinfectants to students in kindergartens, elementary and junior high schools in the village of ASERAWADI, where we regularly visit. We also delivered fertilizers, agrochemicals and sprays, pruning equipment, and boots to cocoa plantations.



Donation of masks and disinfectants



Donation of agricultural equipment

We delivered masks to children

We delivered 550 masks and 60 alcohol disinfectants to children in Domiabra Village and Evans Crom Village, where we held art classes. The masks distributed free of charge by the Ghana government are not suitable for children, so we donated locally made small size masks.



Domiabramura Village



Eyenstrom Village



We are promoting activities to prevent deforestation

To prevent cocoa related deforestation, we are conducting educational activities for farmers and distributing highly productive cocoa's seedling and seedling for trees.



Seedling under development



Seedling transplanted to a farm

Young cocoa farmers awarded for 36th National Farmers Day

National Farmers Day has been scaled down this year due to the impact of COVID-19. However, as usual, it was held in Techman, a city in central Ghana, with the President and relevant ministers in attendance. This time, we also presented young cocoa farmers with a tricycle that can be used for cocoa farming.



Winners



prize tricycle

Donated wells

We donated wells to five cocoa producing areas in western Ghana. We are very grateful for the easy availability of filtered drinking water. In addition, committees are established and trained in each community so that residents can manage them independently.



Completed wells



Began supporting agroforestry and cocoa test farms

We began supporting the agroforestry cocoa test farm in the Sawan area of Eastern. It is located in the farms managed by the Ghana Governmental Certified NGO, Ohamo-Ghana Foundation*. We are planting cocoa with bananas and cassava.

* [Ohayo-Ghana Fund](#)



Agroforestry and cocoa test farms (Block 1)



Ecuador



Donated sun hats and protective clothing for spraying pesticide chemicals to 20 farms

We connected Japan and Ecuador online and held a handover ceremony. We introduced videos of meiji cocoa support to farmers and exporters to help them better understand Meiji's activities.



Scene of the ceremony



Cocoa plantations

Peru

We donated cocoa fermentation boxes and weeding machinery

Cocoa fermentation boxes and weeding machinery were donated to farmers. "The use of cocoa fermentation boxes enables us to produce high-quality cocoa more stably and efficiently" was well received by farmers.



Cocoa fermentation boxes



Weeding machinery



Donation of cocoa fermentation boxes

Venezuela

We have distributed seedling that we have grown up in seedling center

We have distributed 29,900 seedling to farmers.



Tree-planting operations in farms



Transportation of seedling



Donated five boxes of cocoa fermentation boxes

In order to produce a stable, high-quality cocoa, we produced a cocoa fermentation boxes and donated it to five farmers.



Donation of cocoa fermentation boxes

The Dominican Republic

Donated flush toilets to elementary schools and recycle waste boxes to farmers

We donated flush toilets to elementary School. We also donated recycle waste boxes to 12 farmers in order to improve the environment of their farms.



In front of new toilets



Recycle waste boxes

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Ghana

Art classes were held

This year's second art class was held for 30 elementary and junior high school students in the town of Wasa Acropon. The children drew pictures of cocoa as they like.



The Art class



December 2019 Art Class

Participated in the 35th National Farmers Day

Farmers' Day in 2019 was held in Ho, the state capital of Volta. The president and relevant ministers attended, and thousands of people gathered. We donated a tricycle to young cocoa farmers this year as well.



We operate Meiji demonstration farm

Since 2018, we have been operating demonstration farm for the purpose of confirming the effects of pruning. This time, we held workshops in the farm. Farmers learned about climate-change, deforestation, and other issues, and thought about sustainable agriculture.



Explanation from the instructor



Group discussions

Art classes were held

We held an art class for 30 elementary school students in the village of Ahenskrom in western Ghana. Under the guidance of an art teacher, the children wrote a draft on drawing paper and painted the colors with watercolors. The pictures that are unique to children, who usually look at cocoa trees and farm work, are finished.



Gather around the principal (center)



Lower grade class

[Related Sites > WCF Blog](#)

We are distributing seedlings

We distribute seedling, which were raised in seedling center for about six months, to nearby farmers. Seedling will be transplanted to the plantation and harvested in a few years.



Seedling to be distributed



Distributing by car

We operate Meiji demonstration farm

Opinions were exchanged with farmers. Many farmers commented that the condition of the farm has improved, such as that "pruning has improved the ventilation and reduced pest damage."



Discussions with farmers



Pruned plots

Donated weeding machinery

Until last time, it was a pruning equipment, but this time we donated weeding machinery to 10 farms. It's a lightweight weeding machinery that doesn't use blades from the farm, so it was very popular when it was easy to work.



Weeding machinery presentation ceremony



Weeding work

Peru

Establishment of cocoa agricultural equipment bank

A new cocoa agricultural equipment bank was established. We provide farmers with weeding machinery and pesticide sprayers.



Cocoa Agricultural Equipment Bank



Weeding operations

Venezuela

We have distributed seedling that we have grown up in seedling center

This year again, seedling grew well and we were able to distribute it to the farmers. I think it can greatly contribute to the increase of production in this region.



Distribution of seedling



Loading seedling

The Dominican Republic

We donated flush toilets to elementary schools and medical equipment to medical institutions

We donated flush toilets to an elementary school that had been requested for support for about two years. The roof, which had a terrible rain leak, was also refurbished as a new one, enabling children to live their schools with peace of mind.



Group photo in the school yard



Newly established toilets



In addition, the municipal office held a donation ceremony for medical equipment and emergency boxes, attended by people from local governments and medical institutions.

Subsequently, in 2018, we revisited hospitals that donated medical equipment and other items. These activities are introduced on the Web following interviews with local newspapers.

[Click here for more information about local newspaper articles](#) ↗



Cocoa painting at the entrance of the city office



Donation ceremony for medical equipment, etc.

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Ghana

Held the art class

We held an art class for 30 elementary and junior high school students in Thurman village in western Ghana, where we had visited before. We had the students draw pictures on the theme of cocoa, which was popular not only with them but also with adults such as teachers, parents, and other adults. Students who drew excellent works were given drawing paper and crayons as prizes.



Use crayons and watercolors

Donation of cutlass

We visited Konkunso Village and donated a cutlass to a farmer. Cutlass is widely used in Africa and Latin America. It was a convenient tool that is indispensable for farm work, such as weeding, harvesting, and pruning, and it was very much appreciated.



Donation ceremony of cutlass

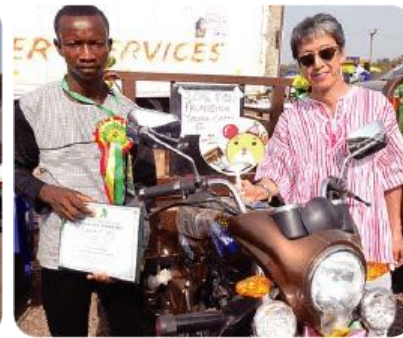


Attendance at the 34th National Farmers Day

This year, the festival was held in Tamare, a city in northern Ghana, and was attended by several thousand delegates, including the President and relevant ministers. This was the third time we attended the event, and as in the past, we presented young cocoa farmers with a tricycle and chocolate.



Held in front of soccer stadium



The winner, a cocoa Farmer (left)

Opening of seedling center

This year, we opened a new seedling center in six locations. Seedlings have grown steadily and will be distributed to neighboring farmers in the spring of 2019.



Growing steadily



Operation of Meiji demonstration farms

Testing results show that pruning reduces pest damage and increases the yield by a fixed amount. In addition to sharing the findings with farmers around this farm, we also train them on crop cultivation other than cocoa, pest control, and appropriate use of pesticides.



Scene of a farm



Reunion with best farmer

We visited the farms of young farmers that were awarded at the National Farmers' Day in 2017. The farm was very well maintained, and it was very productive. He is also a leader of the local cocoa farmers.



Best farmer (Second from right)



Donated tricycle in 2017



Held hand-made chocolate class

We visited the village of Anina Billim, located in the area where we purchase our cocoa bean, and offered handmade chocolate class for junior high school students. This is an event to use locally harvested cocoa to make chocolate. Roast cocoa with charcoal and frying pans, then remove the skin, and add sugar, powdered milk, and cocoa butter to the crushed fruit. Furthermore, they are crushed, drafted, poured into molds, cooled, and finished. Not only the children but also the school teachers were interested, and we ate the finished chocolate together.



Roasted cocoa



Completed chocolate

Distribution of seedling

We distributed seedling, which we had raised carefully, to nearby farmers. Farmers take home seedling and replant them on their own farms. It will take several years for cocoa fruit to be harvested.



Farmers receiving seedlings



Ecuador

Donation of pruning equipment

We also donated pruning equipment to 10 new farmers and research institutes (INIAP). INIAP is a national agricultural research institute. They conduct a wide range of studies on cocoa, and they also own an extensive cocoa plantations.



Test farm in INIAP



Donation of pruning equipment to 10 farmers

Peru

Donation of cocoa fermentation boxes

Cocoa Agricultural Equipment Bank, which was installed in 2017, has been very popular and will continue to operate in the future. In addition, in 2018 we donated cocoa fermentation boxes to ensure the stable manufacture of high-quality cocoa.



Distribution of cocoa fermentation boxes



Cocoa fermentation boxes with Meiji logo



Venezuela

Distribution of seedling and establishment of new seedling centers

This year, we continued to nurture seedling in existing seedbeds and distribute it to neighboring farmers. We also established a new seedling center. We plan to distribute seedling to neighboring farmers in about half a year.



Traditional seedling center



New seedling center under preparation

Brazil

Distribution of fertilizers through Tome-Azu agricultural cooperative

Tome-Azu agricultural cooperative distributed well-received fertilizers this year as well.



Cocoa farmer (right) and fertilizers distributed



Agroforestry plantation

The Dominican Republic

Donation of school equipment and medical equipment

We donated desks, chairs, and other equipment and school supplies to two elementary schools. We also donated various medical equipment to local medical centers. Cocoa farms accounts for 70% of this region, and it is a healthcare center relied on by cocoa farmers.



Donated school equipment and school supplies to two elementary schools



Donation of medical equipment and other items to hospitals

ARCHIVE





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Ghana

Established seedling center

We established seedling center in five locations in western Ghana. After six months of growing seedling, it will be distributed to farmers, but it will take several more years for cocoa fruit to be harvested by replanting it in the farm.



Newly established seedling center



Cocoa's seedling that has begun to grow

Participated in the 33rd National Farmers Day

This year's National Farmers Day was held in Kumasi, the largest city after the capital, Accra, where thousands of people, including the president and relevant ministers, gathered at the venue. As in the previous year, we awarded young cocoa farmers and presented tricycle and chocolate as prizes. We look forward to seeing the use of this technology for cocoa cultivation in the future.



Award winner cocoa farmers (third from the right)



Prize tricycle



Reunited best farmer

We visited the farms of the young farmer that was awarded at the National Farmers' Day last year. He was saying that the tricycle of prizes we donated was used to transport cocoa and was very helpful. The farm was carefully maintained, and the high productivity was visually recognized and worth the award.



Best Farmer (left)



Drying cocoa

Revisit the village of Aserawadi

We revisited the village of Aserawadi, where we have been interacting for many years. This time, we donated school uniforms to the children. Everyone was pleased and dressed gently to take a group photo. We also donated fertilizers, pesticides, and sprayers for use in cocoa farms. Looking forward to seeing cocoa grow in the future.



Donated uniforms



Donation of fertilizers, pesticides, and sprayers

A year has passed since we began operating Meiji demonstration farm

A year has passed since we began operating a demonstration farm. We provided The yield of cocoa beans in plots with fertilizer and pesticides is higher than in plots without fertilizer and pesticides, and farmers are realizing the results. When we visited our farms, we were able to confirm that a large number of flowers and cocoa pods were born in trees. We will continue to operate this farm and provide effective cultivation guidance.



Survey of the Farms condition



Training school at the farm

Held homemade chocolate class

We visited Atass Village, which is located in our cocoa purchasing area, and held chocolate class to junior high school students. This is an attempt to make chocolate using cocoa harvested in their village. Roast cocoa with charcoal and frying pans, then remove the skin, and add sugar, powdered milk, and cocoa butter to the crushed fruit. Furthermore, they are crushed, drafted, poured into molds, cooled, and finished. The students were saying "Handmade chocolate was easier and tastier than I had imagined", and it was very well received.



Roasted cocoa beans



Removal of skin



Held the art class

We visited the village of Abesewa Gaman, located in the area where our cocoa was purchased, and held the art class for 40 elementary and junior high school students. Under the careful guidance of the teacher, we had them to draw pictures themed on the theme of cocoa pods and cocoa trees using crayons and watercolors. Ten students were given a notebook or pencil as a prize for excellence.



Class of junior high school students



Class of elementary school students

Ecuador

Donation of pruning equipment used in farms

We donated pruning equipment to the farms where we are purchasing cocoa. The pruning of cocoa trees is of great importance. By removing branches and leaves to make them more sunny and airy, it can promote growth and control diseases and diseases. By using this tool, you can efficiently perform such tasks as cutting high branches.



Donation ceremony for pruning equipment



Trying to cut high branch

Donation of water bottles used in farms

We donated water bottles to farms that we are purchasing cocoa to supply water between farm works. It was very popular because it also helped to reduce the amount of plastic bottles discarded.



Everyone on the farm

Peru

Cocoa agricultural equipment bank established

In collaboration with exporters, we established cocoa agricultural equipment bank in Peru, one of our key cocoa sources. This means that farmers can borrow agricultural equipment for pruning, weeding, and pesticide spraying at no cost, in preparation for cocoa bean buying place.

As banks also carry out repairs and maintenance, the burden on farmers is less than in the past. We expect that we will be



Cocoa agricultural equipment bank



Weeding with equipment borrowed in the bank



able to produce the high-quality cocoa that we want in a stable manner.

Venezuela

Established seedling center and distributed seedling

We established a seedling center in the area where we purchase cocoa, and spent about six months raising seedling and distributing it to neighboring farmers.

We hope that Meiji's unique fermentation method using cocoa fermentation boxes we donated will produce high-quality cocoa.



Seedling distribution ceremony



Seedling distributed

Brazil

Distribution of fertilizers through Tome-Azu agricultural cooperative

Fertilizer was distributed to cocoa farmers through Tome-Azu agricultural cooperative in Palau. We expect that fertilizer will increase the amount of harvest next season.



Fertilizer distributed



Agroforestry plantation

The Dominican Republic

Revisited of two elementary schools visited in the spring

We revisited two elementary schools that we visited in the spring. We were very pleased with the donation of stationery, blackboards, bookshelves, maps, fans, inverters, and other items that each school had strongly requested. We also distributed chocolates containing Dominican cocoa. We will continue to strengthen partnerships with production areas through a variety of activities.



Overjoyed by Japanese chocolate



Group photo in the school grounds



Donation of stationery and other items to elementary schools

We visited two elementary schools in our cocoa purchasing area and donated school bags, notebooks, writing utensils, etc. We think they will be useful for future learning.

[Click here for more information about local newspaper articles](#) ↗



Group photos at schools

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2016

Ghana

Farmer training school held

We held training school in 2016. The farms in Domiabra village, where we visited, explained and demonstrated the proper harvesting, pruning, and pesticide spraying methods. Active Q&A sessions were also held between instructors and farmers. At the end of the school, the farmers ate chocolate made from cocoa harvested on their farms to ascertain the flavor of cocoa they had grown.



Present prototype chocolate



Explanation of harvesting methods

Started operation of Meiji demonstration farm

We built Meiji demonstration farm in a plot of Domiabra village. This is to make farmers realize that if they manage fertilizer, pruning, weeding, and pesticide use as instructed, the harvest will increase.



Gave Meiji T-shirt



At the demonstration farm with the farmer (left)



Participated in the 32nd National Farmers Day

In Ghana, a National Farmers' Day event is held annually to honor outstanding farmers for each crop, such as cocoa, coffee, and shea nuts, and that day is a national holiday. This was the 32nd time the festival was held in a town called Kintampo in the north. The President of Ghana attended and thousands of people gathered. The sponsor, Meiji, commended promising young cocoa farmers selected by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Awards were presented for the Tri-Cycle (with a cargo vehicle attached to the back of the motorcycle) and Meiji Milk Chocolate.



The winner, a cocoa farmer (left)



Prize tricycle

Held art class

We held an art class to 80 elementary school students in Aserawadi village. At cocoa farms near the school, they used crayons and pens to draw pictures of cocoa under the guidance of the teacher, and they had a great time. Finally, the best works were selected and awards were given.



Art class



Art class

Ecuador

Donated sun hats for use on farms

We donated a sun hats to farmers who work at farms where we purchase our cocoa beans.



Donation of sun hats



Distribution of seedling

Meiji, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Farming and Fisheries (MAGAP) in Ecuador, held an event to distribute seedling to farmers who we had been supporting. 2000 of seedling and Meiji Milk Chocolate were distributed to about 100 farmers gathered at the hall.



Distribution of seedling



Ghana

Farmer training school in 2015

Thirty farmers placed their chairs on cocoa farms and looked at the posters to hear the instructors' explanations on appropriate cultivation methods, methods of using pesticides, health/safety, and the environment. Group discussions and presentations were held after the question and answer session. The farmer studied hard.



Training School on cocoa farms

Held art class

We visited Domiabra village in cocoa purchasing area and held an art class to 60 elementary school students. They painted with crayons and watercolors on cocoa trees, families, and homes. After the class, 9 excellent works were selected, and a scribble book and pen were presented to the winners.



In elementary school classrooms

Ecuador

Donated work clothes

We donated working clothes to farmers who worked at the farms that purchased cocoa when they used fertilizers and pesticides. Employees from the Meiji visited each farm to hold a donation ceremony and handed it to each individual.



Donated work clothes



Wear work clothes at the farm

Attended at graduation ceremony of farmer support program

Meiji employees attended the graduation ceremony for the program that we support through cocoa suppliers. The region's plantations are small, but more than 100 years ago cocoa cultivation has been prevalent and is known worldwide for producing high-quality cocoa. The farmer assistance program aims to increase income through



Graduation ceremony



Best farmers get milk chocolate

increased harvests and better farming operations, thereby improving the lives of farmers.

477 farmers attended the graduation ceremony. Farmers with excellent grades were presented with seedling, pruning equipment, and fertilizers. Meiji gave Meiji Milk Chocolate.

2014

Ghana

Dream cocoa house creation

Meiji gave a third art class to 60 elementary and junior high school students in Aserawadi Village.

The kids colored the assembled wooden houses with paint and decorated to express "cocoa house I want to live in."

Finally, 5 excellent works were selected, and presented them with T-shirts, chocolates, etc. were given as gifts. The children enjoyed very much.



Preparation of cocoa House



A commemorative photo shoot for everyone

Ecuador

Held training schools

Training schools were held for farmers supported by Meiji to learn about pruning, irrigation, pest control, and fertilization.

Fifteen farmers gathered in elementary schools and received an explanation using a projector by the instructor, and a Q&A session was held.



Lectures by instructors

2013

Ghana



For workshops on cocoa cultivation held

We held a workshops for cocoa farmers to learn about cultivation techniques and management. The festival is also held regularly in Thurman Village, which donated wells and seedling centers. Many farmers gathered in elementary school classrooms and were briefed by their instructors. Questions and answers have also been active, and the enthusiasm for cocoa farming has been conveyed.



Lectures by instructors



Q&A session

Donation of wells and seedling centers

We donated a fifth well and a cocoa seedling center to Thurman village in our cocoa purchasing area.

The wells not only provide the water needed for living, but also serve as a place for people to gather and exchange information. Cocoa trees are generally grown from seedling, but a seedling center near the farm has made it easier for nearby farmers to get seedling.



Well



Cocoa seedling center

Delivery ceremony for elementary schools held

In August 2013, a long-sought primary school was completed in the village of Aselawadi in the cocoa purchasing area. It was made possible by our persistent efforts to utilize the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' ODA (ODA) system.

The desks, chairs and blackboards donated by Meiji were carried into the classroom, and the children were delighted.

On October 9, the delivery ceremony was held. Many customers attended, including the Embassy of Japan in Ghana and the Education Agency. Meiji officers were greatly applauded by the villagers for their comments on the importance of Ghanaian cocoa and the further strengthening of relations between Meiji and Aserawadi villages. We also donated cocoa arts created in September to the elementary schools.

Traditional festivals were also held on the day of the festival, and the tranquil village was usually surrounded by loud cheers and excitement.



At the classroom



Primary school signage



Donated Village Resource Centers

Since 2009, Meiji has been donating wells and mosquito nets to villages in areas where traceable cocoa beans are purchased. In August 2013, we donated a Village Resource Centre (VRC) to Himann Village, a purchasing area in western Ghana.

VRC is a renovated container. It has a personal computer inside. Using that personal computer, cocoa farmers can view and learn from programs on cultivation techniques. In addition, VRC is adjacent to junior high schools, and junior high school students can also learn to operate PCs.



Billboard for the Village Resource Center



Students of neighboring junior high schools also use it for learning

Elementary school under construction

Construction of elementary schools is proceeding smoothly. We plan to build foundations and walls with cement, and the roofing will be slate roofing. Meiji is also preparing to produce the equipment to donate. The carpenters are moving forward with construction work at a rapid pace so that they can stay in the field and meet the start of the new school season.



Construction of an elementary school



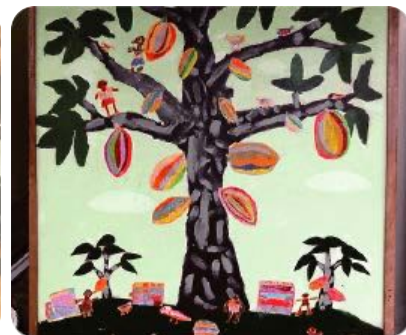
Signage of the elementary school construction project

Elementary school students create cocoa Arts

A special class on cocoa arts was held for two days for 100 elementary school students in Aserawadi village. First, they drew a tree of cocoa and pasted cut pictures of cocoa pods, animals, houses, etc. around it. Cocoa pods looked at what they had picked in a nearby farms and painted them colorfully. The six pictures drawn by the children were decided to be decorated in a new elementary school. The children were also overjoyed to receive face painting after the class.



Children drawing enthusiastically



Completed cocoa artwork

2012

Ghana



Decided to build an elementary school

It was decided that a new elementary school would be built in the village of Aserawadi in the Meiji cocoa purchasing area.

We realized through tenacious approaches by utilizing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' ODA (ODA) system.

We decided to donate equipment such as learning desks and chairs to a new elementary school. Attended the signing ceremony held at the Japanese Embassy in Ghana in January. This scene was widely featured on local television and in newspapers. "The hoe-in ceremony" was carried out at the planned construction site of the elementary school.



Signing ceremony at the Embassy of Japan in Ghana



Pledging ceremony at the planned site of construction

Donation of wells

Meiji donated three new wells to cocoa purchasing area. Meiji donated four wells, together with wells in the village of Asalawadi in 2009. Meiji employees visited the site, and in every village the well was very pleased.

Utilization of wells will lead to a drastic reduction in water drawing work in rivers, which is mainly regarded as the role of women and children.



Billboard for the Du Waranton village well



Duwarrant Pont village well

Donating chocolates and calendar

Meiji employees visited Aserawadi Village. Villagers always welcome us with a smile. This time, we handed a chocolate made by using traceable beans purchased from the area to each child. We also donated a calendar made with the photographs taken during the previous visit. The wells in the village have become indispensable to the life of the village, and they are managed by the people in charge.



Donated calendar



With children in front of elementary school

2011

Ghana



Participated in traditional local festivals and held an award ceremony for Cocoa Art Contest

Meiji employees were invited to a traditional festival held annually in the village of Aserawadi. At the festival, we held an award ceremony for Cocoa Art Contest, which we had previously drawn. Prizes include pastel crayon, sketchbooks, etc.

In addition, the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11 attracted considerable interest even in the village, and we received the flag of Hinomaru where the cheering message of "Good luck in Japan! Meiji!" was written.

The well, which we donated in 2009, was used greatly by the villagers, and we were thankful that "it helps us because we don't have to go to a distant brook to fetch water."



Lively parade



Awarded as "Meiji Prize" for the best work

2010

Ghana

We donate chocolates and stationery, "Cocoa Painting Contest" held

Employees from Meiji visited the village of Aserawadi again. We brought chocolates from Japan made by hand with cocoa bean produced in the area. It was greatly appreciated by the villagers. The children were handed stationery and soccer balls. We also had about 100 people to draw pictures of cocoa in order to get people interested in cocoa farming. The children smiled all the way. We also planted cocoa seedling.



Drawing a picture of cocoa under the guidance of the teacher



Cocoa seedling planted on a village farm

2009

Ghana



Donation of wells, mosquito nets, etc.

Cocoa production is the most significant industry in Western Ghana's Aserawadi village in our purchasing area. Meiji donated wells and mosquito nets that had been strongly requested by the village. All the villagers participated and a well donation ceremony was held on a grand scale. The moment water was pumped out, many cheers were excited. In addition, mosquito nets are used in each household to prevent malaria.



Moment that water is pumped out of the well for the first time



Mosquito nets for malaria control

ARCHIVE

2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 **2016~2009**





TOP > Collaborative Support with Partners

Working hand in hand with various partners to provide all kinds of support to cocoa production areas.

There are limits to how we can support cocoa production areas on our own. To expand support and make cocoa production more sustainable. We work hand in hand with partners around the world in a wide range of activities, including material and technical support for cocoa farmers, the elimination of child and forced labour, and the protection of forests.





Wider and deeper support for cocoa production areas.

Activities together with World Cocoa Foundation

"World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)" is a NPO established in 2000 by major chocolate manufacturers and cocoa processors and distributors in order to establish sustainability in cocoa sector.

Meiji joined in 2006 and is participating in its activities.

WCF activities have benefited farmers and communities in cocoa growing areas of Africa, Southeast Asia and the United States.

We also participate in a 35-company partnership called Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) in Ghana to halt cocoa deforestation and protect forests in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

[Learn more about CFI](#)

[Learn more about WCF](#)



World Cocoa Foundation

www.worldcocoa.org



Joining the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)

The International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) was established in 2002 by international chocolate makers and various international organizations with the aim of eliminate child labor and forced labor in cocoa cultivation in West Africa.

In October 2021, Meiji Co., Ltd. became the first Japanese company to join the (ICI).

An estimated 1.56 million children are in child labor in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, the world's No.1 and No.2 producers of cocoa.¹

ICI's work resulted in a 20% reduction in child labour in support



International
COCOA
Initiative



communities between 2015 and 2020, and a 50% reduction in unsafe child labour for at-risk children identified in monitoring systems.²

¹ Source: Reporting by NORC (University of Chicago, 2020). This ICI-developed

² Source: ICI Annual Report 2020

[Learn more about ICI](#)



JICA-SDGs Partner³ Certification in Madagascar

With support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), our activities in Madagascar, which began in 2019, have been made into an official project under the name "Necessary Steps for Building the Foundations of a Sustainable Cocoa Industry: Popularization, Verification, and Transformation into a True Business."

These activities have been acknowledged as contributing to the pursuit of SDGs. Additionally, Meiji has been certified by the JICA as a JICA-SDGs Partner.

Utilizing know-how built up over many years, we will enable the production and sale of high-quality cocoa, as well as establish the Madagascar cocoa industry as a truly sustainable industry.

³ JICA-SDGs Partner is a certification given by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to domestic companies or groups that have been recognized as working enthusiastically with the JICA to pursue SDGs.



In cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), we will further promote actions to eliminate child labour in cocoa-producing areas.

In January 2020, JICA has established the "Platform for Sustainable Cocoa in Developing Countries," and Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. joined this platform in September 2022, with the aim of solving social issues facing the cocoa industry, such as poverty among farmers, deforestation, and child labour. Within the platform, on September 30, 2022, "Action plan to eliminate child labour in the Cocoa Industry" has announced which outlines concrete actions expected from each standpoint with the aim of eliminating child labour. By joining this platform and supporting this action, and in collaboration with Japanese industry associations, food manufacturers, trading companies, consulting companies, NGOs, etc., Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. will accelerate and expand its efforts to eliminate child labour in the cocoa industry.

[JICA press release](#) ↗



2022

WCF

Attended WCF Partnership Conference and CFI Meeting

In October 2022, we attended a face-to-face partnership meeting held in Brussels, Belgium for the first time in three years. Approximately 400 people from 31 countries, including industry leaders, farmers, government officials, related organizations, and researchers, gathered to share the current situation related to sustainability and hold discussions to find solutions to problems. We also attended the CFI conference, which was also held in Brussels. The 36 member companies gathered to review their activities up to that point, and then discussed the drafting of action plans for the three years from FYE2022, confirming that each company will announce their plans in May 2023.





At the conference

2019

WCF

Attended WCF Partnership Conference and CFI Meeting

A partnership conference in 2019 was held in Berlin, Germany. The conference was attended by 300 people from 46 member companies, cocoa farmers, governmental officials and NPO. At the conference, we actively shared issues, introduced case studies, and exchanged views on such key issues as raising farmers' incomes, eliminating child labor, and preventing deforestation.

We finished the meeting after confirming that we would continue to focus on cocoa farmers.

CFI Meeting was held by 30 signatory companies, reviewing the activities in 2019, and exchanging information and opinions on the activities in 2020.



Report by representatives of producing countries



Announcements by farmers' representatives in each country

2018

Participated in partnership conferences and field trips

The 2018 partnership Conference was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with about 300 participants from 30 countries.

Activities in South America, including Brazil, focused on environmental themes, and discussions took place.

Since the event was held in cocoa producing countries, farmers from all over the world also held sessions.

After the meeting, a field trip was held, and 30 people participated.

We visited farms and research institutes to deepen understanding of cocoa agriculture in Brazil, including agroforestry.



Sessions by farmers in each country



Field trip

Debriefing session by WCF Representatives Held

In April, we invited Deputy Representative WCF to a briefing on our activities.

We also participated in Meiji Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) and Cocoa Livelihoods Program (CLP) activities related to SDGs and exchanged views on these activities.

[Click here for details](#)

2017

WCF

Participated in the Partnership Conference in FY 2017

The Partnership Conference was held in Washington, U.S.A., and was attended by about 300 people from cocoa, the chocolate industry, technical and financial support organizations, and NGO.

Compared to the past, there are many participants from support agencies and NGO, and there is a growing interest in sustainability.

Under the theme of "Accelerating Sustainability through Technology and Innovation," presentations and discussions focused on traceability and data transparency, inclusive



growth and social impacts, and expertise and efficiency.



Overview of the meeting



A scene of the subcommittee

2016

WCF

Participated in the Partnership Conference and farm tours in FY 2016

The Partnership Conference was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. A record 500 people participated in the event.

Under the theme of "People, Planet, Profit in a Changing World," participants discussed a wide range of topics, including sustainability, the empowerment of women farmers, deforestation, the development of young cocoa farmers, and technological innovations.

After the meeting, the participants also toured the sites of WCF activities such as plantations, research facilities, and communities.



Scene of a meeting

WCF

Participated in seminars on cocoa

In Guayaquil, Ecuador, workshops was conducted on the aroma and quality of cocoa from Latin America.

The meeting was attended by cocoa producers, researchers, the chocolate industry, government officials, and civil organizations. Meiji also presented it as a panelist.

Latin America is regarded as the origin of cocoa.

Each producer has its own unique flavors. In Latin America, WCF focuses on a variety of studies, environmental issues, agricultural modernization, and fragrance and qualities.



A scene from the seminar

2015

WCF



WCF

Participated in the Partnership Conference in FY 2015

The Partnership Conference was held in Washington DC, U.S.A., and about 200 people participated, and it was also attended from Meiji.

The theme is "Proud of our Past, Focused on our Future." As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of WCF, we reviewed our activities to date and provided details regarding the future.

WCF has implemented a variety of activities to promote pest control measures and child labor elimination, and has achieved a certain level of results. However, we shared the view that we need to continue our efforts in the future, including improving productivity.



Scene of a meeting

Debriefing session by WCF Representatives Held

We invited WCF representatives to a briefing on our activities in April. After receiving briefings on Cocoa Action, which is a strategy to improve productivity and community development and to enrich cocoa farmers economically, and CLP, which is a program to realize this, we deepened our understanding through active Q&A sessions.

Following the first phase, Meiji also provided funding for the second phase (2014-2018). So far, 0.2 million farmers have received guidance on improving productivity and farm management, and the target country says that the yield has increased by 30-60%.


[Click here for details](#)

2014

WCF

Participated in the 26th Partnership Conference

The Partnership Conference was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The conference was attended by 220 representatives from the chocolate and cocoa industries, retailers, cocoa producers, NPO, and research institutes from 23 countries. The conference was also attended by Meiji.

The theme is "Connecting Sustainability, Standards and Certification." We shared up-to-date information on strengthening the sustainability of cocoa and supporting cocoa farmers. Representatives of cocoa farmers and unions in West Africa also gave presentations, which gave them a good chance arn about the production areas.

WCF

Participated in 25th Partnership Conference and cocoa plantations Tour

The Partnership Conference was held in Denpasar, Indonesia, a producer of cocoa, with 300 participants, including Meiji. The meeting focused on cocoa farmer support, which included cocoa plantations revitalization, marketplace trends, sustainability and certification systems, and cocoa farm management to deepen understanding. In the week following the meeting, I visited several cocoa plantations where WCF support programs are practiced, along with cocoa researchers and NPO members. We heard from farmers, and they were able to realize that the productivity of farms has improved thanks to guidance on cultivation techniques such as pest



Exhibition at the entrance of the venue



Panel discussion

control, fertilization, grafting, and pruning that utilize microorganism.



Grafting



Seedling center

2013

WCF

Debriefing session by WCF Representatives Held

On February 12, we invited representatives from WCF to hold an annual debriefing session. WCF has been enhancing various cocoa farm support activities, and after receiving a report stating that it has achieved concrete results and an explanation of its future activity policies, it conducted an active Q&A session.

We also received words of gratitude for our contributions to WCF activities, including participation in CLP, and were highly praised for Meiji's unique support for production areas and relationship with the farmers.

WCF

Participated in the 24th Partnership Conference

The 24th Partnership Conference of the Global Cocoa Foundation (WCF) was held in Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic. A total of 250 people participated and Meiji also attended the meeting. This is the third time cocoa has been held in the production area, following Ecuador and Ghana.

In the "Potential for the Growth of Latin American cocoa in Asian Markets" session, Meiji also presented as a panelist, and an active Q&A session was held. We also held cocoa tours to tour farms, fermentation, and drying processes, and learned about cocoa farming in the country.



Meiji member (right) giving a panel presentation at the session



Cocoa tour (farm tour)

WCF



Participated in WCF's flagship program

Meiji began providing financial support in FY 2013 to Cocoa Livelihoods Program (CLP, one of the flagship programs developed by the Global cocoa Foundation (WCF). CLP is a program that aims to "increase marketing efficiency," "improve cocoa output and quality," and "improve farmers' competitiveness" in order to double the income of cocoa farmers in West Africa. The fund is funded by the Bill Gates Foundation, major chocolate manufacturers, cocoa processors, and traders. Meiji is the first Asian-based WCF member to support the fund. Following the completion of the first phase in FY 2013, we plan the second phase of activities from 2014 to 2018.





Cocoa production to halt deforestation
Forest Conservation

TOP > Forest Conservation

Participating in Cocoa & Forests Initiative, a global partnership aimed at protecting and restoring forests



The Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) is a partnership aimed at eliminating deforestation associated with expanding cocoa plantations and protecting and restoring forests. It was established in 2017 in cooperation with the World Cocoa Foundation and other organizations.

The CFI comprises 33 cocoa and chocolate related companies (including Meiji), which account for about 85% of the world's cocoa trade, and the governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, the largest cocoa producers.



On March 4, 2019, CFI announced a three-theme action plan.

Based on the theme, We drew up a five-year plan from 2018 to 2022. As part of Meiji Cocoa Support, we are working with the Ghanaian government and related organizations to conserve forests.





Promoting "Agroforestry" agriculture, a method of growing forests

The production of cocoa as a raw material for chocolate causes serious social issues of natural environment destruction and loss of biodiversity through deforestation, as well as human rights issues such as child labor and forced labor.

For more than 10 years, Meiji has been engaged in "Agroforestry" agriculture with cocoa farmers in Tome-Azu, Brazil, who conduct joint research on the quality of cocoa beans.

What is "Agroforestry" agriculture?

it is a coined term combining agri-culture (agriculture) and forestry (forestry).

Agroforestry is a method known as "agriculture to create a forest," where various types of agricultural and forestry crops modeled on natural ecosystems are grown in land wasted by deforestation. It causes less damage to nature and enables sustainable long-term soil use.

AGRICULTURE + FORESTRY = AGROFORESTRY



Meiji Agroforestry Milk Chocolate

The cocoa beans produced by agroforestry agriculture from Brazil Tome-Azu are used in the cocoa mass. We support sustainable farming and the stable lives of farmers.



2022



The project focused on the following three programs in 168 communities in seven regions in Ghana, with the aim of "Growing more Cocoa on less land."



In addition to surveying and registering (mapping) the status of 5,068 farms, we promoted agroforestry at 1,032 farms.

Training including agroforestry and GAP was conducted for 3,883 farmers.

A total of 17,000 shade tree seedlings were distributed to cocoa farms.



Training session on cocoa cultivation for farmers



Walking along the farm boundaries with a smartphone and mapping it with GPS

2021

We worked in 87 communities in four regions across Ghana.

We provided guidance to 3447 farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

We distributed 127,926 cocoa seedlings to help regenerate the farm.

We planted 10,000 multi-purpose trees on cocoa farm and 2,000 trees outside the farm.

We established the Nursery for cocoa seedlings.

We donated wells to two villages for raising seedlings, cocoa farming and daily life.



2020

We provided guidance to 191 farmers outside the reserve areas on cocoa production adaptable to climate change, including Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

We distributed 3525 productive seedlings to farmers.



Training on a cocoa farm

We established a highly productive cocoa seedling center.

We built wells in five villages to provide water for growing seedlings, cocoa farming and daily life.



Built a well with a water storage tank

2018 ~ 2019

We provided guidance on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to 2548 farmers.

We set up 10 cocoa seedling centers to grow seedlings of highly productive varieties and distributed 71,933 to farmers.

We distributed 112,860 seedlings to restore the forest through agroforestry farming.





Training School



Seedling Center





TOP > Values

Farmer, Meiji, Customer

To be a Chocolate that makes everyone Happy.

Choosing good chocolate leads to choosing a better future.

Today, Meiji is working to create new value.

We protect and nurture not only cocoa, but also its producers and the environment.

Chocolate is the bounty of nature itself.

To make chocolate manufacturing sustainable, cocoa production itself must be sustainable.

We provide infrastructural and technical support to enrich the lives of cocoa farmers. Furthermore, we protect and nurture the environment surrounding cocoa.

A Healthy Future. For People. For the Earth.



Farmer, Meiji, Customer

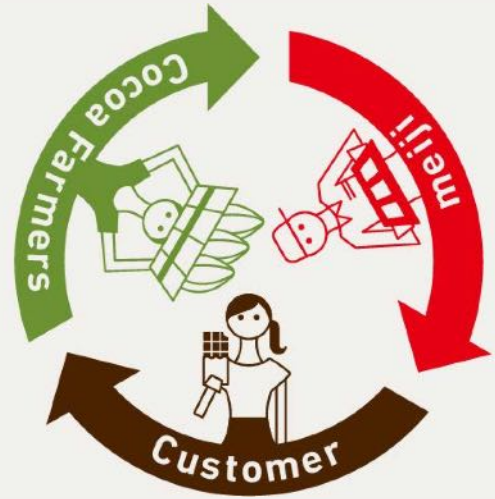
To be a chocolate that everyone is happy.

In 1926, Meiji launched Meiji Milk Chocolate.

We want to deliver delicious chocolate to the customers around the world.

We realized that true taste is not just taste, as that feeling increases.

Cocoa producers, consumers, and everyone involved in chocolate must be happy. Continue a good cycle toward the future. That is the ideal chocolate making that Meiji is aiming for.



Choosing good chocolate is choosing a better future.

Use sustainable cocoa beans and support children of refugees worldwide.



Efforts to use 100% of sustainable cocoa beans with a view to creating a sustainable environment



Meiji The Chocolate

Meiji Milk Chocolate

Supporting agroforestry farming that lead to forest protection and regeneration.



Meiji Agroforestry Milk Chocolate

Held Satoyama School to teach children about the beauty and richness of the nature.



Chocorooms (Kinoko no yama)
/Chococones (Takenokono no sato)





Farmer, Meiji, Customer

Make everyone smile connected by cocoa.

Meiji continues to support sustainable cocoa production.

We want to create the future of cocoa.

What can we do for it.

Here are some thoughts from Meiji employees who are always thinking about what we can do.



Vol.1

A person who became a bridge



Vol.2

A person who pursues the

between cocoa
production areas
and Meiji.

Technology Dept.
Yoshinori Doi

**For me, Ghana is an
important place to return
to.
I want to do more for
everyone's smile.**



A person who
improves the

possibilities of
cocoa.

Cacao Development Research
Dept.

Hiroyuki Utsunomiya

**"We don't need Japanese
power." even if I was told
that , I wanted to change
the way cocoa beans are
made.**



A person who
conveys the value

quality of cocoa
beans.

Cacao Development Research
Dept.

Masako Miyabe

**Acknowledging each
other's values and
cultural differences**

of cocoa.

Cacao Marketing Dept.

Akiko Kanegae

**Conveying the cocoa
producer's thoughts to
each and every customer
and Meiji employee.**

* Each department was as of February 2022.





Interview > Yoshinori Doi

Yoshinori Doi is an essential and important person for Meiji Sustainable Cocoa. He is one of the members who started Meiji Cocoa Support. How did he start working for the future of cocoa farmers and cocoa beans, and how has he supported them for so long?



The cocoa producing areas lacked infrastructure. It all started with the thought that something had to be done.

I started Meiji Cocoa Support (Below, MCS) when I visited Ghana to research the quality of cocoa beans. There were the harsh living conditions of cocoa farmers. The village had no irrigation system to supply water to the farmlands. They also lacked basic infrastructure,

including water, electricity, gas and roads, to support their lives. The situation was not sustainable at all.

As a company that integrally produces and sells chocolate from cocoa beans, I thought it necessary to provide support to cocoa farmers and build a good long-term relationship with them.

After returning from Ghana, I explained the situation in the cocoa production area within the company and called for the need to support farmers. My boss told me, "Why don't you give it a try?" and the following year, in 2006, MCS started.

At the time, the MDGs, the predecessor to the SDGs, were little known, and the activities of MCS, which would continue for a long time, had surprisingly small beginnings.

First thing, I did was donate a well that the villagers needed most. The water supply penetration rate in Ghana was still low, and it was a daily work to go to the river several kilometers away to obtain water for domestic use. What's more, it was mostly the work of women and children, and they travel back and forth several times a day. I wanted to improve this situation and decided to drill a well.

However, we don't get any news that the construction has started, and we don't get any reports that it has been completed. Even if you decide to do one thing and try to do it, as you think in Japan, it will not go according to schedule. We gradually accepted the local time frame and method. The well was somehow completed in a year.

All the villagers participated in the demonstration ceremony of the well. When the first pumping out of the water, there was a big cheer. The scene is still burned into my memory.





Appointed development chief of the village. A great responsibility to the community was born.

I was recognized by the village for building a well in Ghana, and was appointed to the development manager of the village.

I was given a gold bracelet, a ring and a colorful national costume as a proof of a chief.

In Ghana, a chief is a respected traditional chief, but his responsibilities are also significant.

As one of the chiefs, I have to contribute to the development of the village.

Subsequently, I donated mosquito nets to prevent malaria, seedling of cocoa, and agricultural materials such as fertilizers and pesticides, and provided training in cultivation techniques.

We also used Japanese ODA (official development assistance) to encourage the construction of elementary schools, and with the help of many people, we were able to open the school in 2013.

In addition, due to a shortage of teachers, we held "Art Classes" which children could draw paintings on the theme of cocoa using paints and crayons, and "Chocolate Classes" which



children made chocolates from cocoa harvested in their own villages.

The children were really enjoying their first experience. Most of their parents are cocoa farmers, so many of their children should end up taking over the family business.

I started the classes because I wanted people to be interested in cocoa, which will eventually become their bread and butter.

The children smiled and the adults told me to keep the class going, which made me very happy.

I believe that supporting the children who will lead the future of the village or the country, even if only a little, will lead to fulfilling our responsibilities as development chiefs.



Absorbing local needs, this is the basis of MCS.

When MCS started in Ghana, support from the village community was the core. Gradually, activities that directly led to an increase in the income of farmers were required, and the content of teaching cultivation techniques and farming techniques became focused.

Many of them remained less productive because they grew cocoa in an old-fashioned way on their farm that had been passed down from generation to generation.

Without sufficient income, it will become difficult to continue cocoa farming as a business.

This will lead to crop transfers and land sales.

Unless this situation is improved, stable production of cocoa cannot be expected.



Most cocoa farmers had not prune cocoa because they wanted to harvest a lot of cocoa. However, if cocoa is not pruned, the entire farm will accumulate moisture, resulting in illness and mold, resulting in reduced yields and poor quality. Therefore, we created a model farm to compare the differences in harvest volume according to whether or not pruning work was done, and we decided to have neighboring farmers gather and see it on a regular basis. In this way, more and more farmers started to try to prune by actually confirming the effects with their own eyes and convincing them.

MCS, which began with visits to Ghana, has now spread to nine countries worldwide, including Venezuela and Ecuador.

The situation of farmers varies from country to country and region to region, and their needs vary, there is a wide range of support.

In addition to donating goods and activities aimed at improving productivity, the Meiji Laboratories staff also provide unique support to Meiji as well, including original fermentation technology guidance and activities to preserve rare species.



Make everyone smile.
Meiji cocoa support still continues.



More than 15 years have passed since we began our MCS.

We have also provided support for improving productivity, including training in cultivation techniques. However, since cocoa's production volume is affected by the weather and the way farms are procured changes, it is difficult to measure the effectiveness of support in numbers. However, the provision of materials such as seedling, fertilizers, and pesticides is a very effective support, and appropriate control of production volumes has resulted in a 20% increase in yield per unit.

We have continued to provide various kinds of support to meet the needs of each growing area, but we still do not have enough.

A particularly serious problem in West Africa is child labor and deforestation associated with cocoa. Both are attributed to poverty and cannot be solved by a single company.

We are working together with the industry, the government, and relevant organizations, but we have not reached a fundamental solution.

The most vulnerable members of cocoa industry is cocoa farmers upstream in the supply chain. From the farmers who produce cocoa to the consumers who eat chocolate, I believe that earning a profit or paying for the value added at each stage will lead to the establishment of a sustainable cocoa industry.

I think that is a matter of course, but unfortunately it is difficult to realize it under the current economic system.

We need to understand and understand the value of raw materials, products, and services in order to purchase or have them purchase at a fair price commensurate with their value, and we feel that our efforts to do so are still insufficient.

We have been promoting MCS with the desire to make everyone connected by cocoa smile. I think cocoa is a "God's food" with the power to make people smile.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19, we are unable to go overseas now, but we are connected to the production area online, and we are continuing our support.

I would like to go to the production area as soon as possible and walk around the farm chatting with the farmers.



SPECIAL MOVIE



A person who became a bridge between cocoa production areas and Meiji.

Yoshinori Doi

In 2005, he visited Ghana for the first time. He became acutely aware of the need to support cocoa farmers, so he worked in-house and started meiji cocoa support in the following year.

Since then, he has been in charge of planning and implementing the support around the world, and continues to the present.

In 2009, he was officially appointed as the development chief by the village of Aserawadi in



western Ghana, and continues his activities there.



Vol.2 A person who pursues the possibilities of cocoa.
Hiroyuki Utsunomiya

"We don't need Japanese power." even if I was told that, I wanted to change the way cocoa beans are made.



Vol.3 A person who improves the quality of cocoa beans.
Masako Miyabe

Acknowledging each other's values and cultural differences

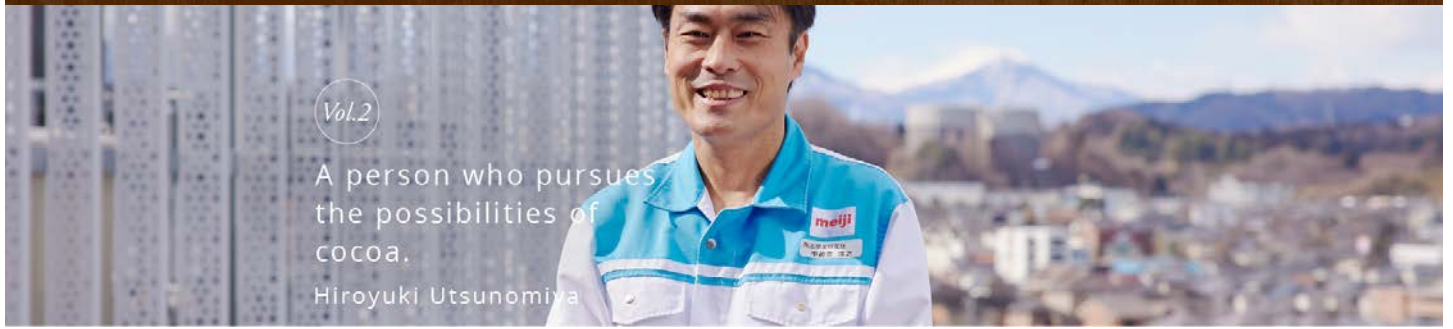


Vol.4 A person who conveys the value of cocoa.
Akiko Kanegae

Conveying the cocoa producer's thoughts to each and every customer and Meiji employee.

INTERVIEW LIST





Interview > Hiroyuki Utsunomiya

Hiroyuki Utsunomiya, Director of Cocoa Development Research Dept, made a quality cocoa by staying in cocoa producing areas for Meiji Cocoa Support for a long time and having repeated discussions with cocoa farmers. He says, " It's important is not to lose sight of the nature of the problem." What are the significance and challenges of MCS that Utsunomiya looks ahead to?



I wanted to change the way cocoa beans are made even though I was told “We don’tt need the power of Japanese people”.

The launch of cocoa Basic Research Group was the trigger for my continued visits to cocoa producing areas. This leads to various activities for later meiji cocoa support (MCS).



The reason why we suggested to visit the site was that Meiji only purchased cocoa through a trading company until then.

Of course, I visited the site in the past, but it was just a short stay to check the production area.

However, from the perspective of future business, I felt that we needed to differentiate ourselves from other companies in order to make chocolates. In society in the future, there was a feeling that we should not just buy cocoa, but should actively go into the local area and be involved in making cocoa bean for the chocolate we want to make.

The first three countries to visit to explore cocoa's production areas were Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru. We had business with Venezuela and Ecuador before then, and we thought Peru would be an important new source. These visit was the starting point for MCS in these countries.

When I actually visited the site, I was surprised by the fact that the infrastructure and agricultural facilities were not in place, but the thing that shocked me the most was the difference in how I perceived the concept of work. The Japanese way of doing things was completely inappropriate in any of the three countries.

When I told them that I came around cocoa farmers to make cocoa better, they returned saying, "We are not in any trouble," and "We don't need the power of the Japanese."

When I told them that creating a good cocoa will make their lifestyles more affluent, they said, "I want to earn money with ease," and "Even if I don't work that hard, the outcome will be the same."

Still, I never wanted to give up. In preliminary surveys and on-site visits, we knew that there was the plenty of potential for cocoa beans.

Making quality cocoa together locally will support the livelihoods of cocoa farmers. And I thought it was a good opportunity for both Meiji and cocoa farmers to brighten up the future of cocoa.





Cocoa To stabilize the lives of farmers, it is prerequisite that chocolate using that cocoa be sold.

To help cocoa farmers understand our thoughts, we explained how to use cocoa in the Japanese marketplace.

How chocolate is made from cocoa, what the flavor of that chocolate is, and how much the cocoa beans cost to make delicious chocolate?

Furthermore, we not only explained them in detail, but also had them actually eat chocolate made from cocoa that they cultivated.

The reason why I did this is that very few cocoa farmers had actually eaten chocolate made only with their own cocoa beans.

When I got them to actually taste it, they brightened their eyes with delicious flavor, saying "It's delicious" and "I made this one."

In addition, we needed to understand the importance of the quality of cocoa in order to earnestly engage in the creation of cocoa.



We had them taste the most delicious chocolate made by cocoa farmers in the same area, and they felt for themselves what the quality of their beans was at the moment. And I wanted to deepen their understanding by demonstrating quality that is popular in the Japanese market.

This is how we rolled around 100 cocoa farmers, and together with the approximately 60 cocoa farmers who gave us our thoughts, we started making cocoa. I was convinced that we could make a better cocoa by fermenting and processing using the scientific knowledge gained through long years of research in Meiji.

The method is to have cocoa produced and analyzed locally and in Japanese laboratories, and the results are reflected in the production method. We tried and failed to produce high-quality cocoa beans in countries such as Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and the Dominican Republic from 2006 to 2009, building relationships with cocoa farmers and holding workshops, although the approach varies from country to country.



It was the birth of the Meiji The Chocolate that relieved the painful and frustrating days.



It is the continuation of these activities that I have been involved in MCS for over 15 years that I feel is important. It doesn't make sense to just pay the local cocoa farmers. We are working with cocoa farmers to create cocoa, but we do not have an exclusive contract. In addition, even if we enter into contractual relations, cocoa production areas may not have a reliable relationship. It often happens that if another manufacturer comes along with a higher price, they sell it to someone other than us. They also have life and thoughts, so we can't complain.

The only thing I am telling them is that "we want to continue buying cocoa that you have created", which does not end with transience. This is because, it is better for the cocoa farmers to continue their relationship with us, rather than to earn a temporary income, to maintain the quality of the cocoa beans and to stabilize their lives. Because of these exchanges, I think that MCS have continued to this day.

The most difficult period of MCS, which began in 2006, was from 2010 to 2014, before the birth of Meiji the Chocolate. This is because, up until then, we had been able to produce delicious cocoa through MCS, but we were unable to launch the products that full advantage of the flavors of cocoa.

At that time, cocoa produced through MCS was used for standard products, which were good in terms of their delicious taste, but we were not able to have customers enjoy the individuality of cocoa. Until the "Meiji The Chocolate" was made, I felt sorry for the production area and cocoa farmers.

We have experienced a variety of things through our MCS, and we have recently seen how cocoa farmers' incomes and livelihoods will stabilize.

Even today, cocoa production areas have consistently produced high-quality cocoa. It is a relief that the relationship we steadily built 15 years ago there and the production of cocoa continues, and our activities were not wrong.





The possibility of cocoa is unlimited.
We would like to enrich farmers without changing our existing methods.

Recently, the words "SDGs" and "sustainable" have become more common, but this is not the case, for example, whether or not society can suddenly respond to them.

The North-South divide is indispensable issue for discussing cocoa and chocolate-making that we are involved in. Farmers who produce cocoa beans and those who consume chocolate. There are various issues in cocoa making, such as environmental issues, child labor, and deforestation. However, there is a movement for those who consume chocolate not to buy cocoa from cocoa farmers who have such issues.

At first glance, this trend seems to be a good thing, but it can lead consumers to cut cocoa farmers off on their own.

It is only because we have actually walked with cocoa farmers on the ground, but simply abandoning issue cocoa farmers will not solve the problem fundamentally, but rather cause cocoa farmers to suffer. Farmers continue and maintain good cocoa making, and we pay for it.



We are still in the midst of today's society, but we believe that it is necessary to build such a fair economic system.

I've spent most of my career facing cocoa beans. And it's getting close to my retirement. I would like to pursue further possibilities for cocoa together with the younger generations who will be more willing to carry out MCS than ever before. Today, I'm crazy about cocoa, a rare variety of white cocoa, in order to make sustainable cocoa even more reality. I feel there is an unknown possibility that output other than chocolate will be able to achieve.

What I feel is needed now is to build a system that can improve the economic value of cocoa as a whole and return it to cocoa farmers. To make this happen, I will continue to work on MCS.





A person who pursues the possibilities of cocoa.

Director, Cocoa Development Research Dept.

Hiroyuki Utsunomiya

Joined Meiji in 1993. After working in the manufacturing and engineering departments of cocoa and chocolate, he joined cocoa's R & D and product development laboratories.

Beginning in 2006, the company began activities in cocoa's production areas and became a founding member of Meiji Cocoa Support. Currently involved in the development of chocolate. Have made many travels to cocoa production areas many times, and highly trusted from the locals.



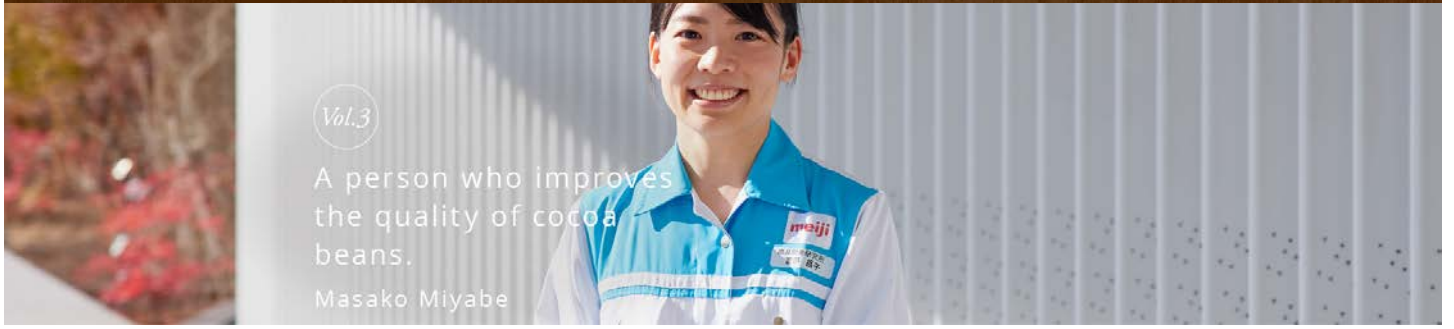
Vol.1 A person who became a bridge between cocoa production areas and Meiji.
Yoshinori Doi



Vol.3 A person who improves the quality of cocoa beans.
Masako Miyabe



Vol.4 A person who conveys the value of cocoa.
Akiko Kanegae



Interview > Masako Miyabe

Meiji cocoa support for over 15 years (MCS). Through these activities and projects, we have built a framework to support cocoa farmers in the areas of production, and we have faced the challenges facing cocoa sector. Masako Miyabe, a young cocoa researcher, will take over MCS activities of his seniors. After nine years with the company, she spoke about the challenges of MCS and her thoughts on the future.



One thing I've learned from participating in MCS is not to impose your values.

What made me want to join Meiji was the information session I attended when I was looking for a



It was impressive that the employees were very happy to explain their work. The story

that they actually visited cocoa production area and instructed the local cocoa farmers on how to ferment was particularly impressive. I didn't know at that time that it had already started as a Meiji cocoa support, but I wanted to go back to the other side of the globe and be involved in researching and developing cocoa.

My dream came true, and since I joined the company in 2013, I have been facing cocoa on every day in the department that studies the quality and functionality of cocoa used in products.

When I first joined in Meiji, I felt like a distant presence, saying, "It's amazing to support distant lands." When I came to participate and actually visited the site, I learned a lot that I couldn't get in Japan.

For example, the process of harvesting cocoa pods, fermenting cocoa, and drying, which are essential for chocolate production. This can't be seen in the process without going to the production area. I was deeply shocked and moved at the time when I was only experiencing making chocolate from the finished cocoa.

On the other hand, we often encountered the barrier of differences in culture and values. Even if we asked them to ferment cocoa in a way promoted by Meiji in order to produce high-quality products, it often didn't go well.

Therefore, instead of forcing what I take for granted, I decided to carefully explain each and every one of the reasons why I would adopt this method and how it would affect cocoa. Then, little by little, we built a relationship, and things seemed to get better.





Return to origin in Madagascar. We are exploring the potential of white cocoa.

Currently, what I am working on as a MCS project is to develop production areas in Madagascar. Until now, Meiji has not consistently purchased cocoa from Madagascar. However, there is also a possibility that cocoa's rare variety, the white cocoa known as Cryolo, is being cultivated, and we are working to develop it as a new production area.

In Meiji, Mexico, which is said to be the country of origin of Criollos, also produces white cocoa. In this situation, the reason why Madagascar was newly considered as a producing region was that White cocoa moved across the sea from Mexico and through Indonesia and India to reach Madagascar. This is because it is said that Madagascar is the end point of the white cocoa production area.

White cocoa, which is said to be the original breed of cocoa, is an important element for those of us who have been involved in cocoa for many years. Because it is a weak and delicate variety, we intend to protect it even on the site of Madagascar, which has ultimately been re-



In addition, Madagascar's cocoa has a fruit-like fragrance and rich sour taste, and is very distinctive. In order to maximize its attractiveness, we are in the midst of steady local relations, such as the initial activities of MCS, providing appropriate agricultural equipment and guiding fermentation methods.

Because of COVID-19, I have only been to the site once, but I am currently in frequent contact online. It is quite difficult to communicate remotely, but we have received a sample of cocoa that was produced under our guidance, and we analyze it at the laboratory and provide feedback. They also taste the chocolate actually made from the cocoa.



Support the local area temporarily and the end is no good. To connect the baton from senior to the future.

Nine years after I joined Meiji, I sometimes felt that the only people we could support at MCS were some of the people involved in making cocoa beans. The person who changed that mindset was a senior person who started MCS before I joined the company and worked hard over a long period of time to provide local support.



I was taught by those seniors that "it's not OK to temporarily support and end" and that "you shouldn't unilaterally impose your values."

In order to produce high-quality cocoa beans, it is important that the three parties -- cocoa bean farmers, Meiji, and customers -- understand each other and continue to support the future, such as teaching the proper fermentation method and providing necessary farming equipment.

We then use this cocoa to deliver good products to our customers, thereby increasing the value of our cocoa and improving the livelihoods of cocoa farmers in the areas of production. We are committed to MCS while constantly being conscious of supporting each of the three parties to turn positive.

I believe that as the baton is received from passionate seniors and we continue our MCS activities, transactions will be conducted at appropriate prices in any production area, and cocoa industry as a whole will change. Although it is a steady activity, I hope it will create a good cycle that improves the lives of farmers and gradually expand it throughout the world.





A person who improves the quality of cocoa beans.

Masako Miyabe

She joined the company in 2013 and was assigned to the laboratory's cocoa research department. Develop cocoa as a raw material for chocolate and become involved in meiji cocoa support. Since 2019, she has been engaged in developing cocoa in Madagascar. Currently, the company aims to develop and expand white cocoa, a rare variety.



Vol.1 A person who became a bridge between cocoa production areas and Meiji.
Yoshinori Doi

For me, Ghana is an important place to return to.

I want to do more for everyone's smile.



Vol.2 A person who pursues the possibilities of cocoa.
Hiroyuki Utsunomiya

"We don't need Japanese power." even if I was told that, I wanted to change the way cocoa beans are made.



Vol.4 A person who conveys the value of cocoa.
Akiko Kanegae

Conveying the cocoa producer's thoughts to each and every customer and Meiji employee.



Interview > Akiko Kanegae


Cocoa farmers growing cocoa beans, Meiji making chocolate, consumers picking up products.

Akiko Kanegae, brand manager of Meiji The Chocolate brand in cocoa Marketing Department, plays a key role in connecting these three parties.

We asked her what she wanted to deliver through meiji cocoa support and through "Meiji The Chocolate".



My mission is to become a bridge between cocoa farmers, Meiji, and customers.

I started to be involved in Meiji cocoa support (MCS) in 2019. It all started when I was in charge of  Meiji The Chocolate brand (hereafter: The Choco) in the cacao marketing department and

took on the role of connecting customers with products.

The initial image of MCS was objective to me, as it was a research of cocoa beans in cocoa production area by the laboratory members and an effort by the companies to solve the problems faced by cocoa farmers.

However, after I became in charge of the brand and had a deep understanding of the background and story in which The Choco was created, I began to think deeply about how to communicate the taste and depth of products born through the activities of MCS to customers who got the Choco.

Originally, Meiji used to procure high-quality cocoa through trading companies. However, in the hope of making more delicious chocolate, Meiji researchers visited cocoa farms in Venezuela in 2006, which led to the birth of The Choco. It took a considerable amount of time for researchers to visit the site many times, build trust-based relations, and make high-quality cocoa that are used as raw materials for chocolate.

It seems that there were many cases in which the local people didn't deal with them, but through the steady efforts of these researchers, a product called The Choco was created.

The Choco was renewed in 2020, and now only cocoa from the four countries of Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, and the Dominican Republic are used to enjoy the fragrance and flavor of each area of production.

I believe The Choco's mission as a brand manager that connects cocoa producers with customers is to convey the fragrance and taste of cocoa in each production area, the depth and attractiveness of cocoa, and to inform the current state of cocoa production areas that have been seen through MCS and initiatives with producers.

Customers may not need to know about MCS activities or cocoa, the raw material. But the chocolate is something that can't be made without cocoa and its producers. It's a world full of things, of course, but if you don't know that each and every one of them carries the thoughts of different people, I think your feelings and attachment to that thing will change.

 hoco is no different.

Because The Choco can be purchased anywhere in Japan, I want people to know that one piece contains the thoughts and skills of various people, including cocoa growers and makers, as well as their strong commitment with cocoa.



We want to deliver sustainable chocolate. That's why we create empathizers.

Cocoa farms faced a shortage of cocoa due to factors such as the aging of cocoa trees, pest damage, and lack of awareness of cultivation techniques, and some faced the problem of not being able to eat chocolate in the future. However, such a situation is improving as not only the Meiji but also companies are making sustainable efforts.

However, it is a fact that there are still challenges in delivering chocolate. One of them is the present state of production areas that cannot be described as affluent by any means.

One of the activities of MCS is to work with local people to produce high-quality cocoa beans, and to purchase them at reasonable prices. In this way, we are creating a system that will enable cocoa farmers to lead stable life.



We have communicated this activity to our customers through our website and leaflets, and we hope to create a system in which our customers can also participate in the future.

In order to increase the number of people who can support this activity with the aim of making the smiles of people involved in cocoa, the raw material for chocolate, we are actively communicating our activities and initiatives in the areas of production and the messages of people in the areas of production to our customers.

When I tasted The Choco with the participants at the event.

When the chocolate is chewed one or two times and tasted by melting in the mouth, the floral fragrance and spice spreads, making it easier to understand the unique characteristics of cocoa in each production area. Then the faces of the participants suddenly turned into bright expressions. We received a variety of comments from participants, including "It's fun," "How is this chocolate made?" This was the moment I realized that by explaining the depth of chocolate and how to enjoy it, people would be interested in cocoa.

Perhaps it's really steady, but in order for people know more deeply about The Choco, I think it's important to make a number of triggers, step by step, to shorten the distance between customers and cocoa producers and Meiji.

And our desire to increase empathy is the same for our employees at Meiji as well as customers. I think that this is not the case when it comes to whether all employees are familiar with the activities of MCS at present. By knowing this activity will make the employees proud of our company, and it will change the way you see products that are always around you. I believe that these small changes in employees will eventually lead to changes in the future of Meiji.





Convey the thoughts of cocoa producers and creators to deliver new attractiveness of chocolate.

The reason why Meiji chocolate has been loved by people for almost 100 years is because it has been close to our customers' lives. I hope that the very existence of Meiji chocolate remains unchanged.

We want customers to enjoy chocolate more as a tasty thing. We hope that people will come to love chocolate even more by learning about the uniqueness of cocoa beans and their depth as ingredients. And in the near future, I hope that chocolate, like coffee and wine, will become a matter of course when chosen by region or variety.

I am neither a producer nor a product developer. In other words, I may be close to customers. What I can do is convey the thoughts of people involved in chocolate while keeping in touch with customers. Through The Choco made from MCS, we hope to continue delivering to our customers the attractiveness and depth of the chocolate as well as the thoughts of cocoa producers and creators.





A person who conveys the value of cocoa

Akiko Kanegae

Joined the company in 1999. After working in the sales research division, she has been the brand manager of Meiji The Chocolate in cocoa marketing department since 2019. Engaged in marketing activities to spread the depth and enjoyment of cocoa through Meiji The Chocolate.





TOP >

A DAIRY COMPANY THAT MAKES PEOPLE SMILE

As a cup of milk and as an ingredient in various foods, milk is an essential part of our daily life and an important source of nutrition for people.

We are blessed by nature and living things and we deliver the blessings to people safely, securely and stably.

Milk production and sales play an important role in the social cycle.

We recognize the importance of our responsibility.

Therefore, we will strive to achieve the realization of sustainable dairy industry.

To keep a smile to all concerned, from dairy farmers to consumers.

To keep people and the earth healthy.

We tackle the issues faced by the dairy industry and strive to solve them.

With our mission of delivering milk, Meiji will advance.

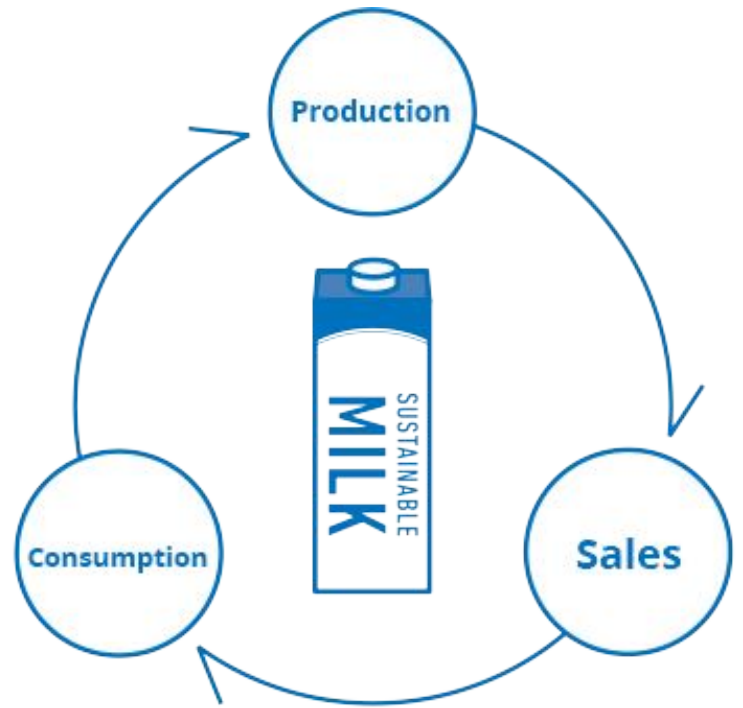
Mission



**For people and this planet.
We will realize sustainably sourced milk.**

To deliver delicious, safe and reliable milk, as an important source of nutrition, with a sustainable condition where the people and cows involved in the milk production and sales, as well as the economic and environment in the production areas, which is the “sustainable future milk” we are aiming for.

To achieve this, we will contribute through a variety of initiatives. Aiming to create a society where all people and the earth are healthy.



Meiji promotes action in three areas.

Support sustainable dairy management

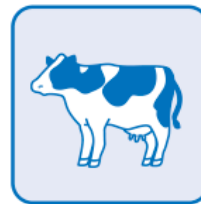
"Support for dairy farmers"

Getting involved with local communities and contributing to the regional development

"Contribution to local communities"

For protecting a healthy earth

"Reduction of environmental impact"



Support for dairy farmers



Contribution to local communities



Reduction of environmental impact

Issue

What issues are the dairy industry facing today?





Such as the aging of dairy farmers, lack of successors, environmental impact, and animal welfare, we describe the challenges we must overcome.
Beyond these challenges, we think the future of the dairy industry will continue.

Action

Toward the Realization of Sustainable Dairy Industry



Supporting sustainable dairy farming management
Meiji Dairy Advisory





Working with various organizations to consider the realization of sustainable dairy industry

Collaboration with External Partners



Bringing smiles to all people involved in dairy farming

Promotion of Circular Dairy Farming



Protecting our healthy planet for our future generations

Promoting Reduction of Environmental Impact





TOP > Issue

Contribution and Issues

Recognizing the Issues Facing Dairy Farming and Thinking about the Future

The milk we drink every day is breast milk produced by mother cows to feed their calves.

We are blessed with what the cows have converted into a rich source of nutrients by eating grass.

Without that process, humans would not be able to take grass as a source of nutrition.

Dairy farming also makes a significant contribution to local communities.

However, there are also some issues we must face.

By facing each aspect of contributions and issues, Meiji will promote various initiatives for the sustainable future of dairy farming.

Dairy farming not only produces nutritious raw milk, but also creates many jobs and contributes to the local economy.

At the same time, there are issues such as the impact on global warming of methane emitted by cows, environmental pollution by cattle manure, human rights of people involved in dairy farming, and animal welfare.

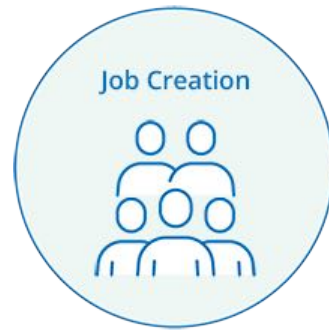
In addition, we recognize the need to add more value to milk to counter the growing demand for plant-based foods.

Meiji will work on fundamental solutions to various issues.



Value created by dairy farming



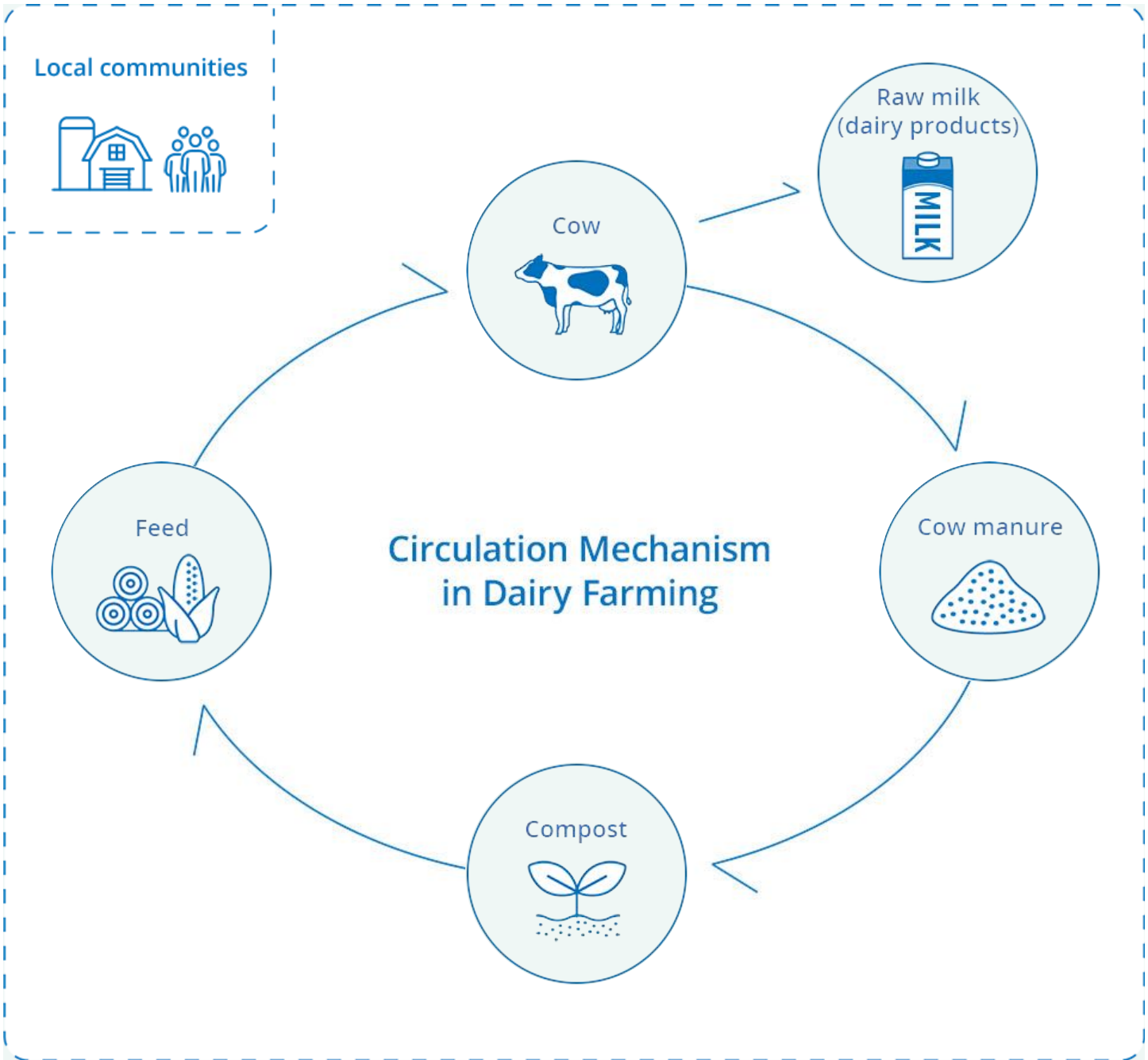


Issues in dairy farming



Circulation mechanism in dairy farming








<p>Local communitie</p>	<p>Contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of local economies through job creation (coexistence with local communities) • Effective use of land and cold regions unsuitable for cultivation • Training the next generation through dairy farming education
	<p>Issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights issues caused by harsh working conditions, such as long hours from early morning • Proper treatment of foreign workers




- Shortages of successor and labor

<p>Cow</p> 	<p>Contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converting grass into human nutritional sources
	<p>Issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cow belching and manure • Response to animal welfare <p>The idea is to aim for a breeding method that allows animals to live a healthy life with as little stress as possible from birth to death.</p>

<p>Feed</p> 	<p>Contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO₂ absorption (fixation) by plants such as pasture and corn • Effective use of food residues such as starch lees and soy sauce lees
	<p>Issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during feed production • Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) related to the transportation of imported feed • Water pollution caused by chemical fertilizers

<p>Cow manure</p> 	<p>Contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of chemical fertilizer use by using compost • Use for biogas power generation (creation of renewable energy) • Support for field farming by providing compost to neighboring farmers
	<p>Issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from manure • Environmental pollution such as water pollution and odor caused by manure



<p>Raw milk (dairy products)</p> 	<p>Contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing rare and important nutrients including 3 of the 5 essential nutrients (proteins, vitamins, and minerals)• Providing high-quality proteins rich in essential amino acids
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TOP > Meiji Dairy Advisory

AIMING FOR SUSTAINABLE DAIRY

In Japan, the aging of dairy farmers is causing a shortage of successors and workers, and this is an issue that affects the sustainability of dairy farm management.

In order to deliver milk, which is an important source of nutrition, in a safe, secure, and stable manner, Meiji is working on MDA “Meiji Dairy Advisory”, a management support activity for dairy farmers.

From philosophy to culture creation.
Supporting sustainable dairy farm management
"MDA(Meiji Dairy Advisory)"

MDA is an activity that supports “sustainable dairy farm management” by focusing on human resource management on dairy farms.

For example, an expert team from the Meiji Group will discuss “what the farm should be (philosophy and goals)” with an owner of a dairy farm.

The team also provides an opportunity for farm staff to discuss “what is necessary to achieve the goals” and “how to achieve them”.



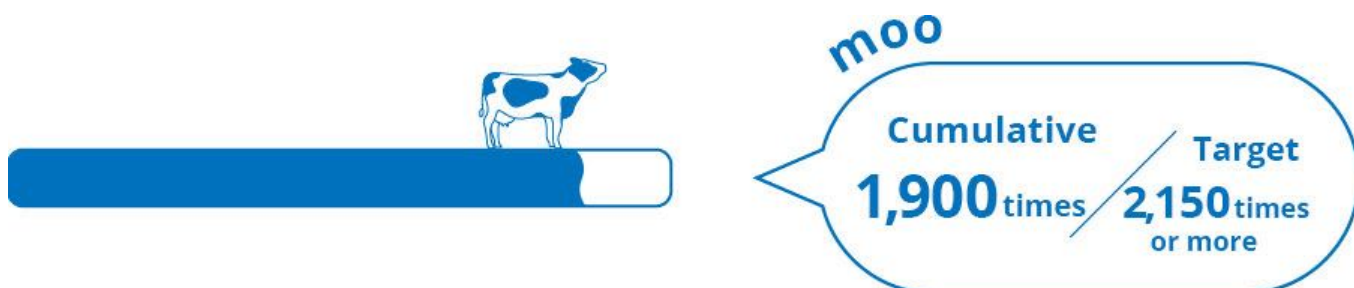
Each farm is the main player.

In order to realize sustainable dairy management, we aim to establish a "KAIZEN culture" in which farmers habitually review their current situation and make improvements, and to create a system that enables dairy farmers to run on their own. We support the growth of everyone involved in dairy farming.

Targets by FY 2023

Conducted 400 times per year and a cumulative total of 2,150 times or more in total by FY 2023.

<FY 2022 Results>



MDA supports issues solving at dairy farming by "three kaizen"

Aiming for growth of farm staff



Find problems with everyone and promote KAIZEN

- Instill problem mindfulness habits, improve continuous improvement mindset
- Improve ownership mindsets for stakeholders
- Create a culture of openness by promoting communication within the farm



Aiming for growth of management, leaders, and successors

“Goal setting
KAIZEN”

Draw a vision of what we want to be and promote KAIZEN

- Draw up a vision of farm management, formulate management philosophy and vision
- Cultivate the ability to ascertain current problems and derive solutions
- Set annual goals and conduct continuous improvement activities as a team



Aiming for growth of organization

“Mechanism
KAIZEN”

Support growth of human everlastingly

- Clarify what kind of people the company wants (career program)
- Build a mindset of supporting growth of human resources in perpetuity
- Improve leaders' ability to train subordinates
- Cultivating management layer

* "Kaizen" is the word for the Japanese production concept centered on continuous improvement.

An example of MDA activities



Held a "Kickoff Meeting" for managers to inform employees of the new year's targets.



Held a "Foreign Intern Study Group" to help foreign employees acquire necessary skills.



Performed on-site "Improvement Activities" with dairy farmers to check the health condition and feeding behavior of their dairy cows.



Partnership

Our partners working on sustainable dairy farming



Moimoi Farm

(Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture)



Shimizu Farm

(Kariya City, Aichi Prefecture)



Hamada Farm

(Yonezawa City, Yamagata Prefecture)





Hokusho Farm

(Nemuro City, Hokkaido)



Nakayama Farm

(Bekkai-cho, Notsuke-gun, Hokkaido)

Report

2023

Second MDA Meeting

The Second MDA Meeting was held on February 14, 2023. In addition to the on-line venue, we have set up a satellite venue at the Tokachi plant for this event. On the day of the event, about 200 people from inside and outside the company, including about 50 farm-related people from across the country, participated in discussions on the themes of Mid-term Plan, Technical Training, and Team Meeting. The farmers found the meeting fruitful, saying that they were able to have various people listen to their concerns and give them advice.



Kyobashi venue



Tokachi satellite venue





First MDA Meeting held

The first MDA Meeting was held on February 2, 2022 to deepen partnerships with dairy farmers. Though we held the meeting, it was held online in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by approximately 170 people from inside and outside the company, including about 60 people from farms across Japan. Attendees introduced MDA's initiatives and participated in a panel discussion. The MDA meeting was a very meaningful time for dairy farmers to discuss their concerns and help each other find clues to resolve problems they face.



Head office meeting venue



Dairy Farmer Panelists

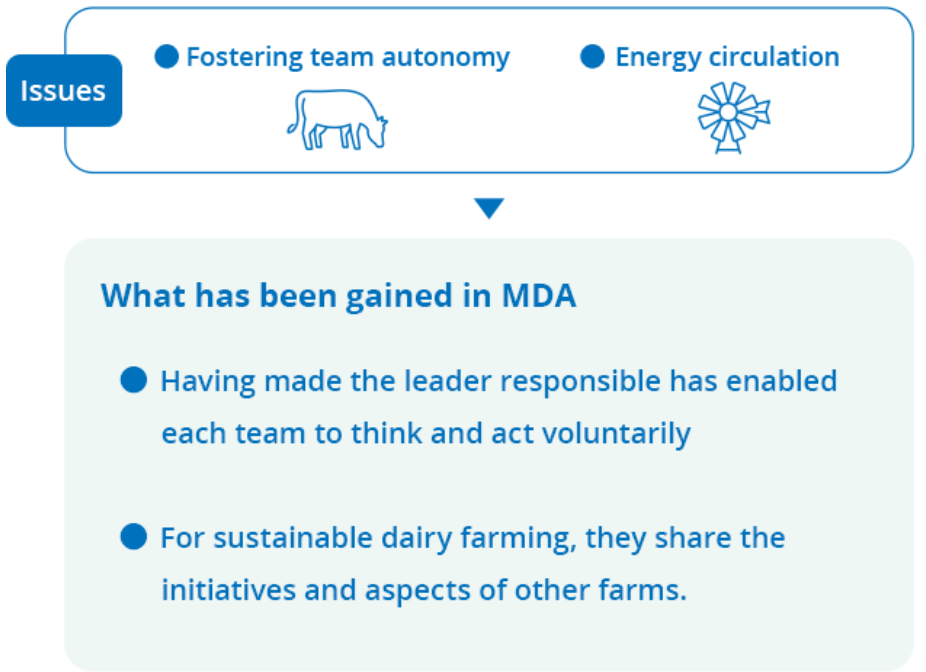


TOP > Meiji Dairy Advisory > Case1 (Nakayama Farm)

We will introduce Nakayama Farm in Betsukai-cho, Hokkaido, which is participating in Meiji Dairy Advisory (MDA) initiative. We interviewed Mr. Katsushi Nakayama and Mr. Taisuke Nakayama, who are aiming for a new sustainable style of dairy farming by introducing robots to increase productivity.



Katsushi Nakayama





Taisuke Nakayama

Issues

- Target setting



- Creating a New Structure



What has been gained in MDA

- The realization of goals for each team increased the driving force of the farm.
- Introduced a personnel evaluation system to provide an opportunity to think about lasting human resource development.

By introducing cutting-edge technology, responding to accelerating social change

In 1959, soon after the end of World War II, we began feeding three cows in Betsukai, Hokkaido, the area with the country's largest producer of raw milk, which was the origin of Nakayama Farm. In 1996 we switched from a family-owned business to a corporation-owned business. At the same time, we expanded the scale of our operations and introduced machinery. The cowsheds, which installed cutting-edge machinery, are automatically ventilated 24 hours a day to regulate temperature and humidity. We also measure the amount of activity of each cow with tag attached to the cow's neck, and check their health status on a tablet at any time.

The reason why we are rapidly digitizing our cowsheds is because we have a sense of crisis that "dairy farming must also change to sustain itself" in response to the changes in society, and we have continued to capture and recognize the trends of the times.

Katsushi Nakayama, chairman, says, "Dairy farming has now entered the high-tech age. From now on, the digitalization will progress increasingly, and unless we advance innovations that match the times, we will be left behind."





A cow entering the milking robot. The machine reads an information tag attached to the cow's neck and identifies the individual information.



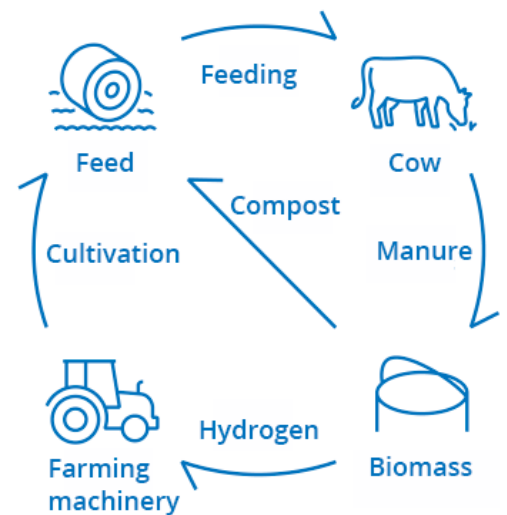
A calf drinking milk from a nursing robot.

We are also contributing to the development of a sustainable community by launching the SDGs Promotion Council together with companies in different industries in eastern Hokkaido. One of these initiatives is the biomass business. "The automation of the cowsheds has certainly improved productivity, but at the same time, the cost of energy is increasing dramatically. Therefore, in the future, our goal is to create an energy-circulating farm where 100% of the farm's energy is supplied by biomass power generation using manure," says Chairman Nakayama.

We are promoting self-sufficiency on our farms without relying on imports of corn and grass for feed from overseas. This advanced dairy farming style has a greater impact on the local community.

"We believe that by working together with local stakeholders, including dairy farmers, distributors, agricultural producers, and government officials, we can create a model for improving profits, which will give new farmers a dream and revitalize the entire local community," says Chairman Nakayama.

In the near future, if hydrogen gas can be separated and purified from biomass and used as fuel for farming machinery, it will be possible to build an energy circulation system on



Target image of energy circulation

The Need for Organizational Strength Faced and Recognized by Farms in the Midst of the Transformation

MDA was a match for us in our search for a new style of farming, a major innovation of our farm.

"What we really appreciate about MDA is their support in helping us build our organization. First, we set up a team structure with different responsibilities, such as training and individual management. Each team has its own leader, and the staff is entrusted with the tasks they are responsible for. The officers look over with a bird's-eye view of the entire farm. MDA has offered us such a system," says Chairman Nakayama.

With the support of MDA, we have reviewed and improved our meeting management methods. In addition to monthly meetings held by officers, we also hold a "technical meeting" attended by consultants, veterinarians, and the Meiji Group, and a "leader meeting" attended by team leaders, the president, and the Meiji Group.

In addition, once a year, all staff members gather to report on annual activity results and plans.

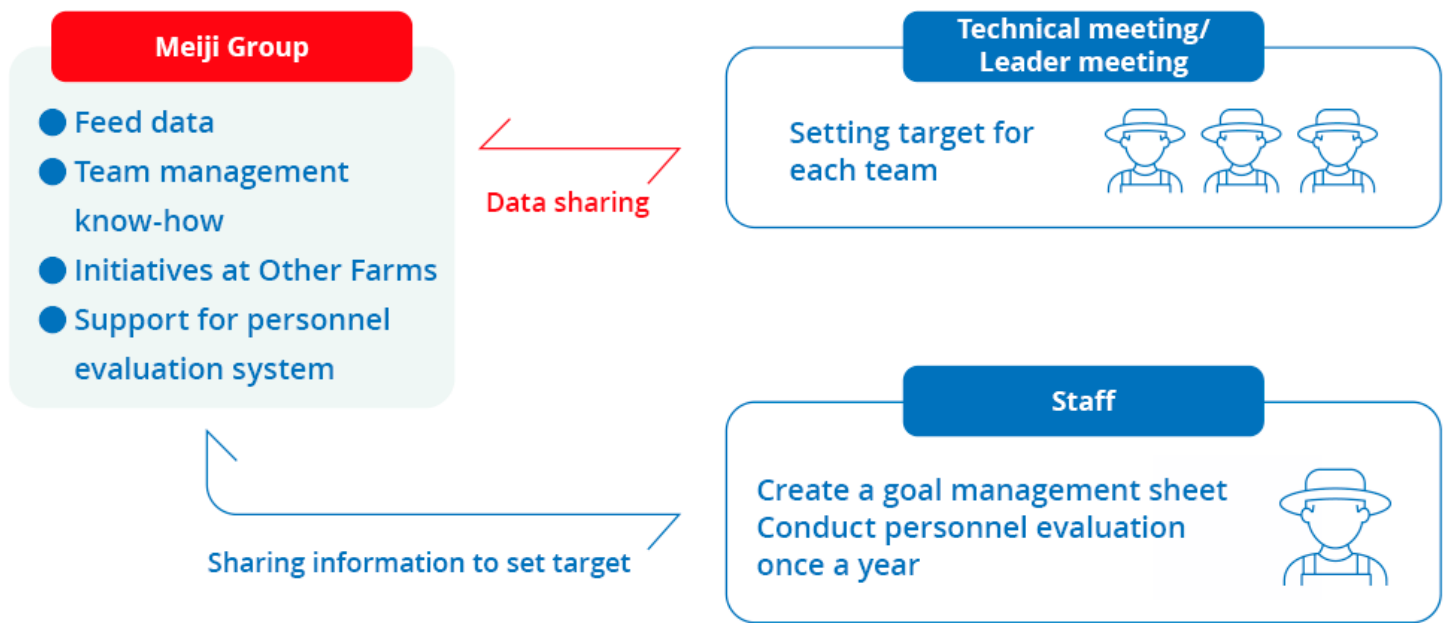
We assigned a role to each meeting, and created an environment where communication and consultation can be done as needed to determine the farm's business plan. The Meiji Group also participates in improvement activities.



Leader meeting held regularly

<Relationship between MDA and the organization of the Nakayama farm>





Three years ago, the baton was passed to Mr. Taisuke, the third president, and he says that he felt the need to strengthen the farm as an organization in the midst of the transformation.

"There was an image of dairy farming as working day and night. However, the development of automation and organization allow us to work fully when one should work, and have sufficient leisure time after work. I believe that such a balanced work style will become the new style of dairy farming in the future," says President Taisuke.

In searching for new ways of working, MDA proposed a personnel assessment system. "I wanted to evaluate each staff's target using the same criteria. I also wanted to create an environment in which each staff member feels being watched and cared by the company," says President Taisuke.

In response, MDA conducted job hearings for staffs. We have created a standard for personnel evaluation that includes the opinions of President Taisuke and leaders. While making each staff aware of numerical performance targets, we set items that evaluate their skills and abilities, and we also evaluate their intangible aspects such as a willingness for challenges.

This approach allows us to appropriately evaluate the "effort" of individual staff members, and thus, we expect to respect their voluntary and raise their motivation.

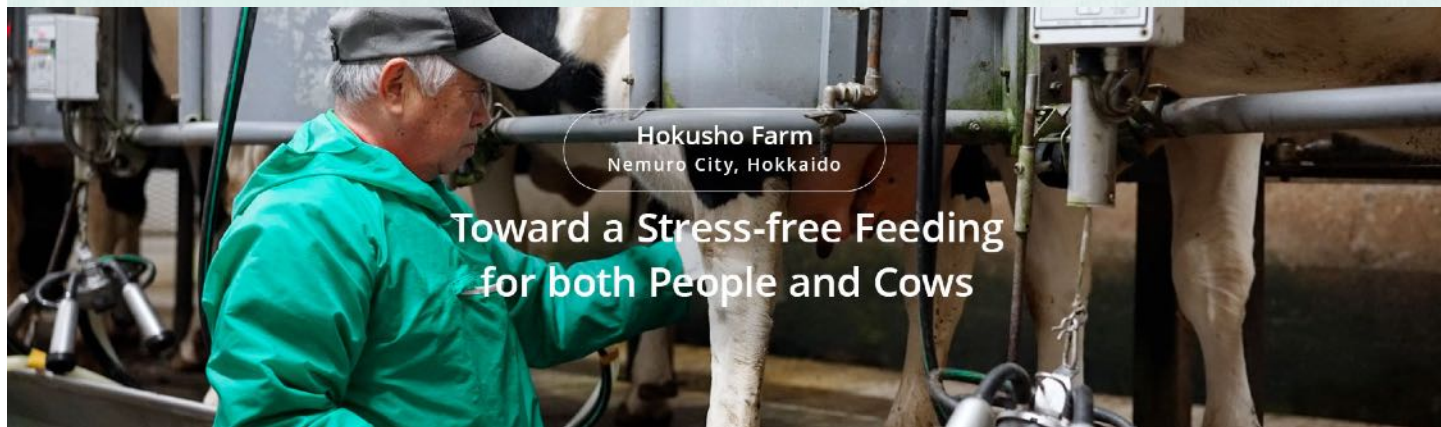
By clarifying goals, we can train highly specialized staff.

"Through interviews, each team leader learns the skills that each staff member want to improve, which also inspire the leaders. I believe that an environment in which we can grow through friendly competition with each other will strengthen our organization" says President Taisuke.



"Meiji Group's staff thinks about the farm from a third-person perspective, not just about the cows on the farm. What I am thinking about now is creating sustainable dairy farming through circular agriculture. To achieve this, I would like to accumulate information that dairy farmers need to know and make changes. I hope Nakayama Farm could be a model case for such a change." The innovation that started in Mr. Katsushi's generation was passed to Mr. Taisuke, and together with the Meiji Group, we will explore new forms of dairy farming.





Toward a Stress-free Feeding for both People and Cows

TOP > Meiji Dairy Advisory > Case2 (Hokusho Farm)

We will introduce Hokusho Farm in Nemuro-shi, Hokkaido, which is participating in Meiji Dairy Advisory (MDA) initiative. We interviewed Mr. Yukio Sato and Mr. Ryosuke Sato, who are aiming for a stress-free breeding environment for both people and cows for a new era.



Yukio Sato

Issues

● Top-down reforms



● Succession of farms



What has been gained in MDA

- By sharing feed data and management targets, we could create a system for staff to think or act voluntarily.
- With the participation of the MDA team as a third party, we can proceed with decision-making smoothly.





Ryosuke Sato

Issues

- Sharing of targets



- Improving the living environment for cows



What has been gained in MDA

- By communicating closely with staff, everyone was united toward on-farm work and new goals.
- By efficiently sharing information with members, we were able to create a stress-free environment for both people and cows.

Toward business succession

creating opportunities for communication

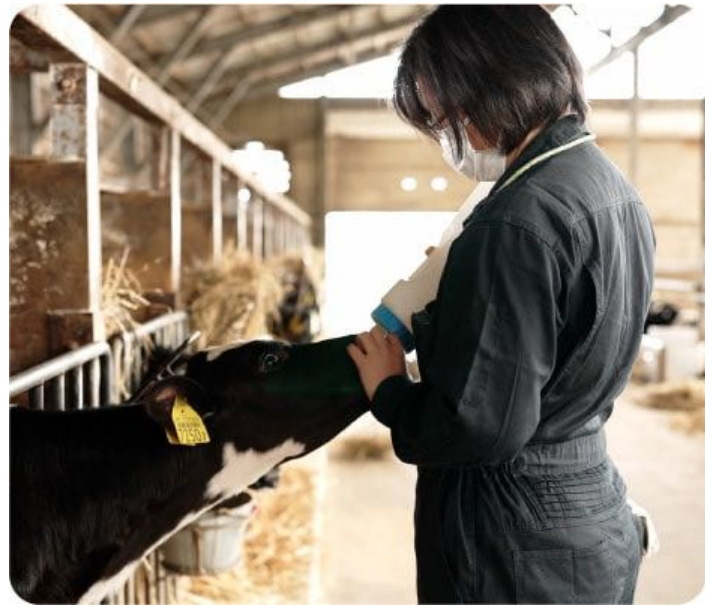
In 1979, Hokusho Farm started dairy farming in the great nature of Nemuro. It started on a small scale with about 60 cows, but has now grown to 600 Holsteins and 100 Japanese breed called “Wagyu”.

"Animals are familiar to me because my father ran a dairy farm with working as a public employee, so I have had close contact with cows and horses since childhood. That's why I've always loved living things," says founder and president Yukio Sato. The friendliness of the cows on this farm shows that they are nurtured with love and care.





A dairy cow finds Mr. Ryosuke and approaches him. From spring to autumn, they grow up eating grass in a vast pasture.



Chizuru Sato (Mr. Ryosuke's wife) giving milk to a calf. Currently, the farm is run by 7 staffs and 4 family members who work in shifts.

It has been 30 years since Hokusho Farm was incorporated. "I think it's time to pass on to the new generation," says President Sato. Since his successor, Mr. Ryosuke, started farming, he has been using MDA to "explore how to train the next generation of dairy farmers, which is our biggest issue." And he has promoted the succession of the farm. "We have been with Meiji since before the start of MDA. Because we have participated in study sessions throughout the Nemuro area and have been using Meiji's feed for a long time. Of course, we consult with them about farm-related issues, but now they are also consulting with us about business succession," says President Sato.

MDA supports about 10 farmers nationwide in the succession of their businesses. MDA plays a role in facilitating communication between the president and the successor from a third-party perspective.

"It's quite sensitive and delicate to talk about a father and son (laughs), but I am very grateful that the members of the MDA are able to mediate and talk smoothly," says President Sato.

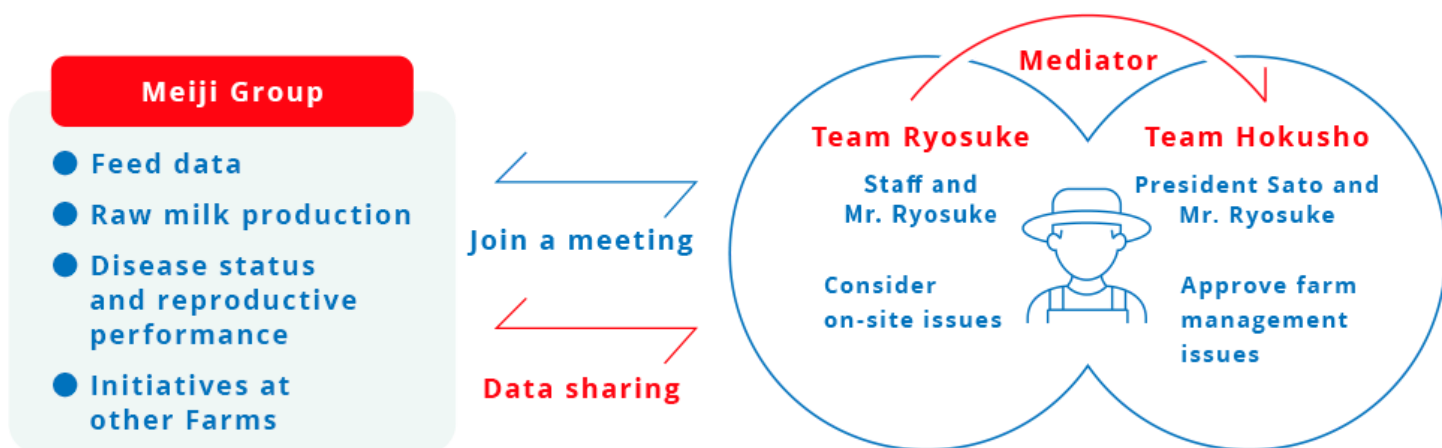
Once a month, a meeting is held for MDA members such as staff, the president. The president's side is "Team Hokusho" and the staff side is "Team Ryosuke," and the Meiji Group



A meeting of "Team Ryosuke" held regularly. The improvement points are discussed each month and applied to farming operations.



serves as a bridge between them by providing a forum for mutual communication.




The establishment of regular meetings has also brought about changes within the farm. "By sharing management figures such as feed data and raw milk production volume through MDA meetings, staff are more likely to think and act voluntarily. In recent years, they have come to have a sense of ownership," says President Sato.

"Previously, it was a completely top-down approach, but now it is important to convey earnestly to the staff with enthusiasm what the management is trying to do," says Mr. Ryosuke. To share this information, we introduced staff target setting, action plans, and evaluation sheets. While respecting each staff member's attitude toward their work, we provide opportunities for each staff member to discuss what they need to do and how to improve in order to achieve their goals," says Mr. Ryosuke.

Aiming to be a cattle herder who continues flexibly adapted to the times

The close communication between people working on the farm also helps improve the cows feeding environment. More and more issues have been raised from on-site, such as what is necessary to create a clean environment for cows to eat and sleep. As a result, we have been able to reduce cow stress, prevent disease, and ultimately improve milk quality.

"The inspection items for shipped raw milk include somatic cell counts and viable bacterial count. So, while receiving a  from the Meiji Group, all the staff reconfirmed how to clean the teats and built a system to check the milk filter

after milking, which has improved the milk quality," says Mr. Ryosuke.

Today, they feel that their farming style, which takes full care of the environment for both cows and workers, has created a good cycle that enables them to increase milk production and improve milk quality.

The staff has worked together to strengthen the farm's technological capabilities. In recent years, Mr. Ryosuke has been focusing on the digitalization of farms. They have been using milk production management software for 20 years, and 3 years ago we introduced a cow herd management system provided by Meiji Feed. Data accumulation has greatly improved the efficiency of cow management.



President Sato milking a cow that has just given birth. By looking into the eyes of a cow, he can tell if she has a fever or any other ailment.

When breeding is managed with the cow herd management system, the timing of seeding, pregnancy assessment, and pregnancy status, are color-coded for each individual cow. The number of milking days is visualized, which is also helpful in identifying Non-milking period or renew milk. By using the two software together, all the staff can accurately grasp the physical condition of each cow even in a vast farm, just by operating a smartphone. Since the data will be accumulated, we would like to actively utilize data from now on," says Mr. Ryosuke.

A screenshot of a cow herd management software interface. The interface displays a table with multiple rows and columns, representing data for individual cows. The data is color-coded, with various colors (red, yellow, green, blue) used to highlight different conditions or statuses. The table includes columns for cow ID, milking days, and other management-related information. The interface also shows some navigation buttons and a search bar at the top.

Cow Herd Management system provided by Meiji Feed. Information is color-coded to show condition at a glance.

With the advent of IoT, the dairy industry is undergoing technological innovation. Mr. Ryosuke believes that it is important to reduce the burden on people and improve the working environment by always looking ahead and incorporating technology flexibly. "In the future, it will become impossible for only one manager to run a farm. I want the staff to be close to the management, and everyone who works on the farm will be aware that they are part of the management, so that the farm can develop," says President Sato.

Mr. Ryosuke, the next generation leader, echoed this encouragement, "My goal is to increase the number of cows. In



the future, I would like to double the number of cows we have now and increase the milking output to 6,000 to 8,000 tons." He pledged further development of the farm.





Starting with a Review of Nursing Rules to Achieve Sustainable Dairy Farming

TOP > Meiji Dairy Advisory > Case3 (Hamada Bokujou)

"Hamada Bokujou" is located in Yonezawa-shi, Yamagata Prefecture, just a 10-minute drive from the Shinkansen station. We interviewed Mr. Atsushi Hamada and Ms. Naoko Hamada, who work as a husband and wife, from milking to nursing, and are actively developing new initiatives that make use of their community connections.



Atsushi Hamada

Issues

- Independent farm management by family

▼

What has been gained in MDA

- We were able to create a stable system to manage 120 cows as a family.





Naoko Hamada

Issues

- Creating a manual for nursing rules



What has been gained in MDA

- In spite of our lack of nursing experience, we were able to check the work procedures by providing information based on the manual from MDA.
- Reviewing the work procedures in detail helped us discover issues and insights during nursing, which led to daily learning and experience.

Know the reasons for nursing work procedures and understand the causes of illness

I want to deliver delicious raw milk from my own farm to athletes around the world who will gather at the Olympics held in my country. With such a passion, farm owner Mr. Atsushi Hamada (hereafter, Mr. Hamada) acquired farm HACCP and JGAP (Japan Good Agricultural Practice: Japanese version of agricultural production process control) certification.

However, as he inquired various places to realize his thoughts, he found that there were difficult obstacles to deliver raw milk, and as a result, he decided to suspend their plan. It was the Meiji people who explained the reason.

“I was interested when I heard that Meiji was promoting farm management through Meiji Daily Advisory (MDA),” says Mr. Hamada. He agreed with the purpose of the MDA and quickly decided to introduce this initiative. In this way, in 2019, the MDA initiative at "Hamada Bokujou" has started.





Mr. Atsushi Hamada talks with an MDA representative who visits the farm once or twice a month.



Ms. Naoko Hamada feeds more than 10 calves by herself.

As of August 2022, "Hamada Bokujou" has 120 cows. Of these, 40 are calves and non-milked cows with an average milk yield of 32-34 kg/day per cow. Calves give birth once every four days, one after another.

His wife, Ms. Naoko, is in charge of nursing. Newborn calves are exposed to various disease risks such as diarrhea and cough, but the Meiji staff has supported the inexperienced Naoko through MDA.

5 or 6 members from Meiji, Meiji Feed, and veterinarians formed a team and held study sessions to reduce disease rates, reviewed nursing work, and continued to take measures through trial and error.

Whether it is to increase body size or promote growth, once a cow gets sick, it is a waste of time before it can grow again. So we set a goal to reduce disease as much as possible," says Mr. Hamada.

"At first, I was groping, but after half a year of taking care of cows, I was able to take immediate action when I saw a cow in poor health. I think my point in looking at each cow has changed," says Ms. Naoko.

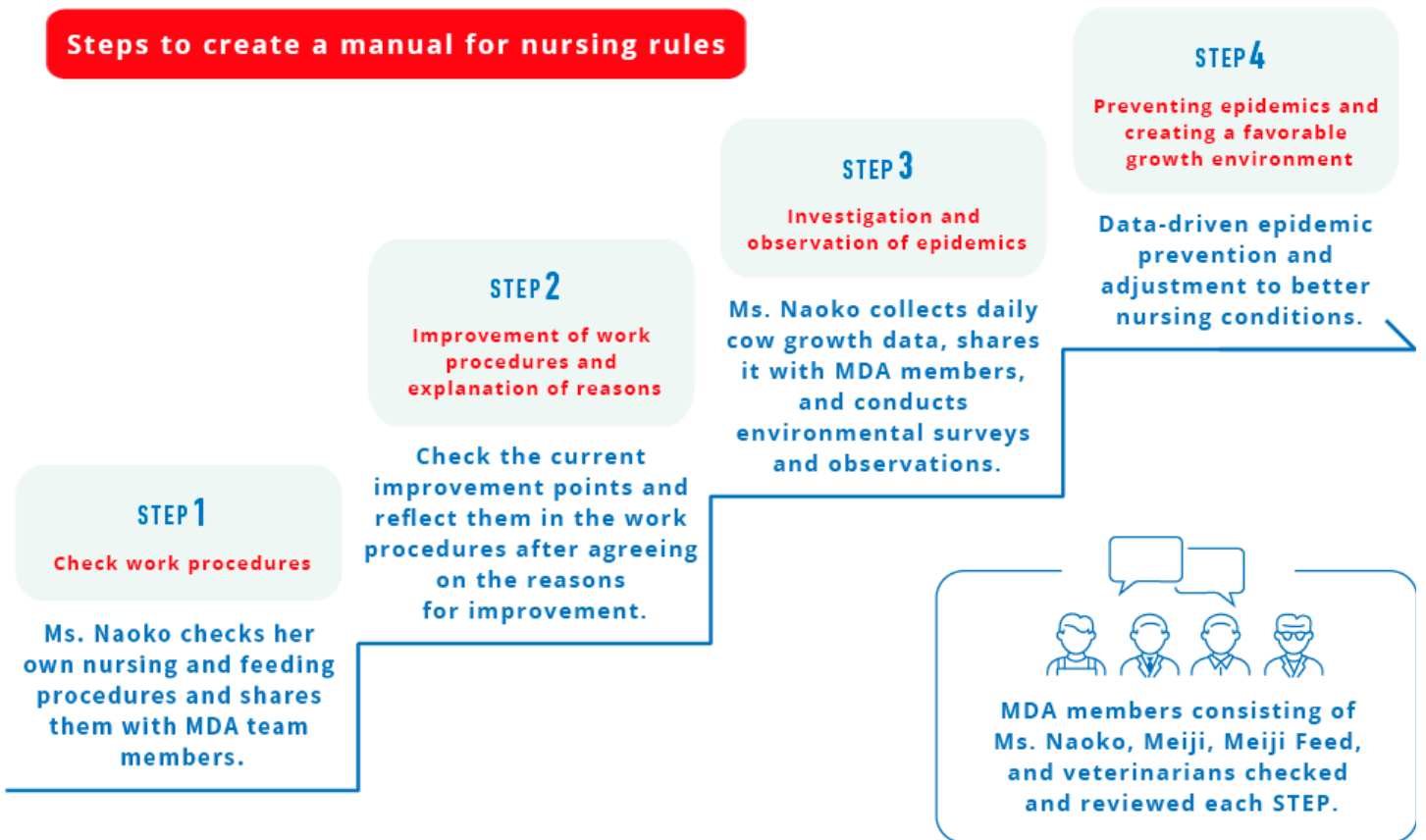
"I have come to believe that there are many things I can notice when I carefully observe even the smallest details, such as the fact that sawdust on the cow floor prevents their stomachs from getting cold and catching a cold," says Ms. Naoko.

"She will not be able to grow unless she learns the cause of the problem herself and is able to find a way to solve it. I didn't say anything at all, but left my wife learn from scratch," says Mr. Hamada.

Mr. Hamada thought about the future and watched over Ms. Naoko, which changed her own consciousness.



Steps to create a manual for nursing rules



Since August 2021, we have been recording how much each calf has been suckling, how many weeks after birth it became sick, and other data, such as feeding volume, medications, and treatment response from birth to shipping and weaning. These data are statistically analyzed by the MDA team, and the points to take care based on the daily age of each calf are used for nursing.

These efforts have been successful, and we have been able to reduce the disease rates by about 60% compared with when MDA started. In the future, based on the current birth rate, the nursing reform by "Team Naoko" is underway to further reduce the disease rate of calves born.

Passion leads local community toward circular agriculture

"Hamada Bokujou" is also actively taking on new challenges, taking into consideration the future of agriculture. In order to solve the problems of odor and compost disposal, which are issues for suburban dairy farming, a biogas plant was introduced in consultation with the local community.



The plant, which aims to generate clean energy and organic fertilizer through a biogas power generation and work with local agriculture, began operations in 2020.

Prior to the introduction of a biogas plant, there were problems with compost odors and where to process it. Currently, the project is being operated as a partnership with "Hypotec Inc." which manages and operates the facilities of "React Biogas Inc." and three farms, including "Hamada Bokujou" that supply manure and raw materials. In addition, "React Yonezawa Corporation.", which is made up of two industrial waste companies, is also participating in the project, and they are engaged in raw material supply and sales of organic fertilizers, liquid fertilizers, vegetables, and fruit trees.

This biogas plant can accept up to 25 tons of manure at a time, and after about 70 days of fermentation, it can be used as methane gas for power generation, liquid fertilizer and compost. This plant is equipped with four agitators on the bottom and sides, and the bubbles are sufficiently agitated to produce highly pure methane gas.

In addition, the methane gas emitted from the plant is automatically burned when the capacity is exceeded, so there is no need to worry about an explosion even if the gas is full. After talking to neighboring residents and farmers about safety and the environment, we obtained their understanding before introducing the system.



The rice hulls on the cow bed is cleaned twice a day and delivered to a power plant about five minutes away by car.



"React Yonezawa" biogas plant with a stylish appearance

In the future, Mr. Hamada plans to start another business using liquid fertilizer, compost, electricity and waste heat

generated at React Yonezawa.

“Originally, each farmer, including dairy farmers, was engaged in a small circular society in the form of circulation within a single farm. The current situation is that the circle has gradually expanded.

By connecting dairy farmers and industrial waste disposal companies, which had no contact until now, manure that could have become industrial waste was reborn as fertilizer and energy, which were used by electric power companies, rice farmers, and fruit farmers. The food produced there is consumed, and the residue is returned to the plant, creating a large regional circulation.

As I participate in MDA, I really feel that the connections between people are the power to expand toward a better society," says Mr. Hamada.

The circulation involving the local community will further expand the connections between people and people.

“Hamada Bokujou” is a farm that embodies such a sustainable dairy farming.





Toward Dairy Farming that Connects with and Contributes to Local Communities

TOP > Meiji Dairy Advisory > Case4 (Shimizu Farm)

We will introduce Shimizu Farm in Kariya City, Aichi Prefecture, which participates in Meiji Dairy Advisory(MDA) initiative.

We interviewed Mr. Kazumasa Shimizu, who is actively communicating with the local community in order to create a farm where cows and farmers can live together like a family.



Kazumasa Shimizu



What has been gained in MDA

- The company's management philosophy is "Living together with cows, we contribute to the development of the community and its affluent lifestyle." Team meetings create opportunities for communication with employees. Conducted workshops on feeding management techniques and sharing of management status and milk quality data have promoted employee awareness.
- We were able to have a good advisor to help us plan for the changes in the environment, such as the move to a new cowshed and plan for increasing the number of cows in the future.



Relationships with local communities support the farm

Shimizu Farm is the only dairy farm in Kariya City, Aichi Prefecture. Four employees keep around 200 cows. An old irrigation canal runs next to the farm. Many local residents take walks along its sides, and in the afternoon, elementary school children sometimes come to visit play on the farm.

"In 2021, my father entrusted me with the management of the farm, and when I incorporated the farm, I formulated the management philosophy: Living together with cows, we contribute to the development of the community and its affluent lifestyle.

Since my grandfather's generation, we have basically raised our own cows from calves, so when a cow born here leaves the farm, it is either when it has finished its role as a dairy cow or when it dies.

Since the cows live with us for such a long time, we want to be kind to them and treat friendly and like family," says Mr. Shimizu, the president.

Behind the old cowshed, calves as young as one year old are playing and running around in the fence. Fun graffiti can be seen on a package of grass feed placed on the property. "The first cowshed my grandfather built here was an elementary school in town that was relocated, and the word "Gaku" which means school still remains on the devil's tile. Children from that elementary school come to visit the farm and play after school. The graffiti is like a message board for the children," says Mr. Shimizu with a smile.



Graffiti left on a package of grass feed by an elementary school student who came to visit. It contains messages that the children learned.



Calves 2-3 months old. They will spend their entire life on the farm.



Shimizu Farm asks farmers in the town to plant the rice (rice fermented roughage: rice whole-crop silage) that they feed to their cows. Within an hour's drive from Nagoya-shi, they have established a connection that allows them to obtain domestically produced feed.

"Originally, rice for cattle might be better, but we found it difficult to manage the rice fields. We harvest rice for human consumption at the right time for cows feed and use it as rice WCS. If it is harvested at the right time for human consumption, it can be used as staple food for humans. It's like we are sharing our emergency food with them, so to speak," says Mr. Shimizu.

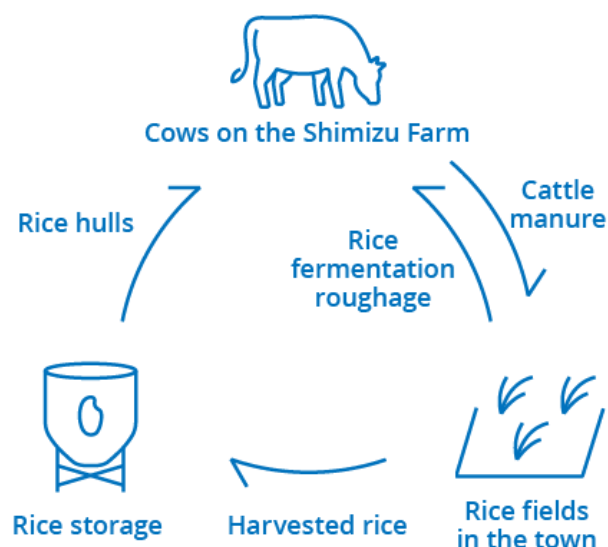
In addition, the cattle manure from the farm is separated into solid-liquid and stored temporarily at a composting facility, and then given to rice WCS farmers and neighboring farmers as compost. The rice hulls used to cover the cows' beds is transported by Mr. Shimizu himself from a rice storage facility in the town.

In connection with the local community, we also teach children about the cycle of resources in agriculture and the connection to life.

Since the farm is always busy with people coming and going from elementary school children to the elderly, the four employees are also accustomed to dealing with people, and they will continue milking as usual during the interview.

"The cowshed that anyone can visit means that consumers are close to us," says Mr. Shimizu. "We also try to keep the new cowshed clean so that people can think our milk safe and secure that is milked in a clean environment."

Collaboration with local farmers



Challenge to update the farm

In June 2022, we completed a new free-stall cowshed that allows cows to move freely.

The current number of milking cows is 90, while the number of beds is for 176 cows. We are promoting a plan to increase the number of cows over the next few years.

The summer in Kariya-shi, Aichi Prefecture, is extremely hot. Therefore, a calculated ventilation system has been installed in the



new cowshed, and eight large fans are in operation during the summer along with a breeze from the south.

Furthermore, the mats of the beds are filled with water, which, in addition to the softness of the waterbeds, provides comfort during hot weather because the coldness of the concrete is not blocked by the mats and is transmitted to the cows.

The milking parlor (milking facility) consists of two rows of eight cows, with two employees in charge of milking. "What we try to do is to milk the cows in a way that is less stressful for them, based on our philosophy of treating them kindly. And after using the milking parlor, we clean it carefully to return it to its original clean condition.



Work in the milking parlor.
Two months after the move, the cows are getting used to milking.



Rice hulls on waterbed improves comfort for cows.
Easier temperature control has significantly reduced disease in summer 2022.

After moving to the new cowshed, the work efficiency has increased, and the milk quality has improved dramatically.

A graph of somatic cell counts is posted in the control room next to the milking parlor.

"The somatic cell count graphs are prepared monthly by Meiji's staff, which helps to raise employee awareness. Since the comparison with the previous year was visualized at a glance, it gave us a chance to think about the causes of the ups and downs of the numbers," says Mr. Shimizu as results of MDA.



Finding the cause of the problem requires not only observation of the cows but also specialized knowledge, which he feels is difficult to pass on to his members.

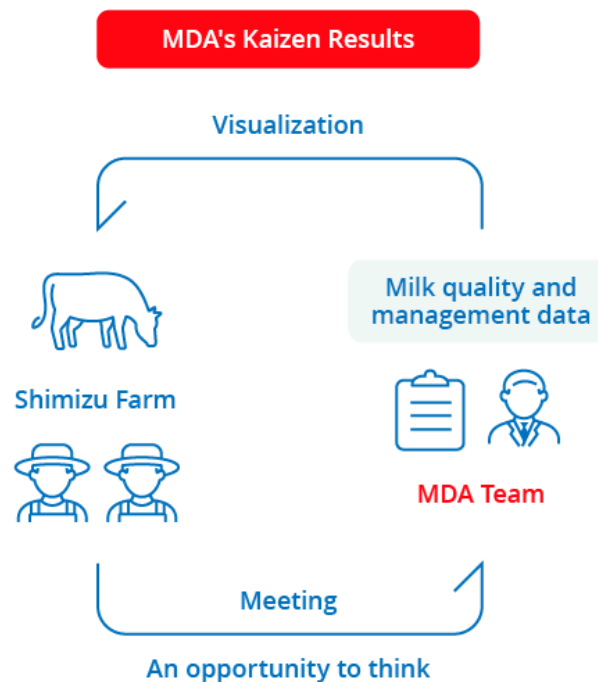
"In the past, dairy farmers may have learned their jobs by watching the behavior and actions of their predecessors, but not anymore. By teaching cause-and-effect relationships at a level appropriate to their knowledge, we want our staff to develop the ability to search for solutions on their own," says Mr. Shimizu.

Staff from Meiji Feed, Meiji Animal Health, and Meiji check the condition of cows and feed, as well as the working conditions of employees. By indicating problems and improvement measures, they provide support in cooperation as the Meiji Group.

"Cows are sensitive animals. The move to the new cowshed also caused a great deal of stress, and their milk production dropped," says Mr. Shimizu.

However, the environment is better than the old cowshed, and work efficiency has improved. Mr. Shimizu continues, "Now is the time to be patient as we work to increase the number of cows. Since the new barn was planned, we have switched to cows with strong legs that can be kept in the free-stall cowshed, and we expect to have 50-60 cows calving in the spring of 2023. Our goal is to have 176 cows in the new cowshed, while at the same time improving the efficiency of the old cowshed.

Shimizu Farm has been contributing to the community and deepening its connections. The challenge is still continuing to update the farm with new cowshed and cows.





Moimoi Farm
(Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture)

Passing on the legacies in the form of a farm that suits the next generation

TOP > Meiji Dairy Advisory > Case5 (Moimoi Farm)

For dairy farmers, the succession is a source of concern.

Moimoi Farm is promoting third-party succession through the efforts of Meiji Dairy Advisory (MDA).

We spoke to Mr. Fujito Tsutsumi, the president, and Mr. Kenta Azehara, the executive director about the difficulties of dairy farming and the optimal timing for business succession.



Fujito Tsutsumi



Kenta Azehara



Issues

- Improved feeding and management skills

- Aiming for sustainable dairy farm management




What has been gained in MDA

- We were able to review the work process from a third-party perspective and were guided to a more efficient method.
- We were able to create a place where we could review the daily workflow of the farm and share information.
- We were able to improve our workflow by sharing information about the situation at other farms.

The transition from incorporation to third-party succession to stabilize management

The predecessor of Moimoi Farm is one of the five dairy farms started at the same time in the former Ajikata Village in Niigata Prefecture, Tsutsumi Farm. More than 40 years ago, President Tsutsumi took over his father's business and started dairy farming. After several decades, the successors of the neighboring dairy farms were absent or the owners themselves passed away at a young age, leaving President Tsutsumi as the last one.

We realized that we needed to increase the number of cows we raise to sustainably operate our five cowsheds. Therefore, we incorporated our business and named it Moimoi Farm. This name comes from the Finnish word "Moi," which means "Hi (Hey!)" and sounds like the mooing of cow.

For Moimoi Farm, which faced challenges in securing successors, a major benefit of incorporation was that anyone could become a successor. President Tsutsumi, who believes that "Any job goes better when done by someone who loves it," was willing to entrust the farm to anyone who had the desire to do dairy farming, regardless of whether they were from a dairy farming family or not.

That is when Mr. Azehara, the executive director, appeared. "I wanted to work with livestock. I was planning to train here and take over my family's dairy farm, but my family went out of business and I had no place to go back to," he said. Then President Tsutsumi asked Mr. Azehara if he would eventually take over Moimoi Farm.

However, at that time, Moimoi Farm had a small number of cows and problems with work efficiency, which made the management unstable and threatened to go bankrupt. Therefore, they decided to increase the number of cows they raised and introduce milking robots, aiming to improve the efficiency of their operations.

Currently, President Tsutsumi, Executive Director Azehara, one employee, and three part-time workers produce about two tons of raw milk daily.

President Tsutsumi, who had introduced milking robots to improve productivity, but felt that he had to stabilize the farm management more before he could hand it over to Executive Director Azehara, decided to adopt MDA.

President Tsutsumi says, "I was initially facing a plateau in the management of my farm, so I decided to join MDA to enhance my farm management skills to the next level."

Although the farm management level at that time was slightly above average, we realized that it was insufficient to sustain dairy farming in the future.





Nine years ago, DeLaval robotic milking machines were introduced.



Besides robotic milking, pipeline milkers and parlors are utilized according to the style of the cowshed.

The goal of their management is "to reduce the number of cows that are not suitable for milking." Normally, the average number of births that a cow gives in her lifetime on a farm is said to be two or three, but at Moimoi Farm, some cows give birth to seven or eight.

By reducing the number of cows that fall ill during their lifetime, we can naturally increase their lifetime milk production.

"When there are many cows that get sick, I want to be able to notice and respond quickly. If I fail to do so, I feel my inadequacy in detecting any abnormalities, and I want to develop my observation skills so that I can stand on my own without relying on President Tsutsumi," says Executive Director Azebara. Improving the farm management level to achieve a timely succession is an urgent challenge.

Reviewing work processes and sharing information has increased our productivity.

Through our MDA initiative, we have conducted a review of the work processes on the farms from a third-party perspective, and provided guidance on "KAIZEN," which means continuous improvement on the work, as well as re-examining the management policies for business succession.

"The work that I thought was normal here, the MDA team members suggest things like 'Can we change it this way to make it more efficient?' or 'This is the work process at other farms,' so I am very grateful for their help." says Mr. Azebara.

Among them, reviewing their daily routine has greatly helped to improve the quality of the milk. "We didn't have a place to share information before. We talked about the cows' condition and the machines' performance while working, but we inevitably



missed some things. Now we have meetings before and after work, share information and take notes, and then start work. This has reduced the number of work errors," says Mr. Azehara.



Currently, the only dairy farm in the Ajikata district of Niigata Prefecture is Moimoi Farm.

Mr. Azehara hopes to create "connections" through MDA.

"Dairy farmers need to pay attention to their connections with the local community, as they have issues with manure, bedding, and odor to the surrounding area. There are no dairy farmers in this area, so I hope MDA will become a place where we can share information with dairy farmers in other areas," said Mr. Azehara.

Moimoi Farm launched an innovative project in 2022, utilizing rice whole-crop silage (rice fermented roughage), a domestic and locally sourced feed.

Niigata Prefecture is renowned for its rice cultivation.

Moimoi Farm uses rice husks from neighboring farms as bedding, but we have not been able to secure enough quantity throughout the year.

We envision to create a circular agriculture system by drawing on other examples.

"Our management philosophy is 'Creating value for society, sowing seeds for the future.' I believe we are now beginning to see this vision taking shape. This aspiration remains unchanged, and I will entrust it to the next generation of Azehara," President Tsutsumi says.

Moimoi Farm is gradually developing a form of agriculture that allows the life cycle of cows to circulate within the farm and collaborate with the local community.

"Especially, we want to revitalize the region with something that uses Niigata's fruits and vegetables and milk," says Executive

Director Azebara.

Succession is a major challenge for dairy farmers, but there is also a future that opens by adopting a third-party succession model.





Working with various organizations to consider the realization of sustainable dairy industry
Collaboration with External Partners

TOP > Collaboration with External Partners

Working with Domestic and Overseas Partners to Aim for Sustainable Dairy Industry

The world is paying attention to various issues related to the dairy industry such as Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, animal welfare, and human rights of working people.

These are also the issues facing Japan.

Meiji will promote initiatives to resolve issues.

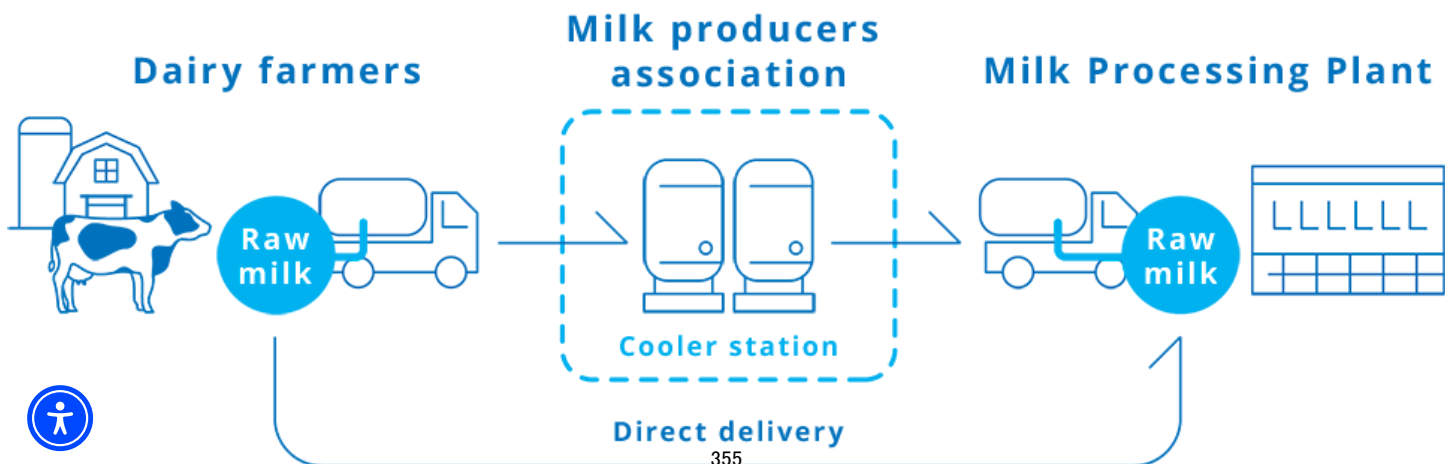
Japan has a unique system of cooperation between dairy farming and dairy industry with a division of labor.

Therefore, cooperation with related organizations is indispensable to resolving issues.

Meiji aims to realize a sustainable dairy industry through mutual collaboration with various organizations.

Raw milk delivery and quality control

In Japan, dairy companies do not purchase raw milk directly from dairy farmers, but from intermediary milk producers association.



GLOBAL



Work on Sustainable Agriculture through the Dairy Industry. "Global Dairy Platform (GDP)"

Global Dairy Platform (GDP) encourages the appropriate intake of dairy foods while demonstrating the dairy sector's role in sustainable agriculture. Meiji has been a member of the GDP since 2013, and has promoted sustainability and the health benefits of dairy products.



GLOBAL DAIRY PLATFORM

For more information
about GDP



Aiming to Develop and Promote High-quality Raw Milk Production and Dairy Products. "Japanese National Committee of International Dairy Federation (JIDF)"

"International Dairy Federation" is a non-profit organization that aims to produce high-quality raw milk and develop and promote dairy products in cooperation with dairy industry stakeholders around the world. Since 1956, Meiji has joined the Japanese National Committee. We contribute to the promotion of discussions on issues such as the sustainability of dairy products, nutritional health, and food safety and quality.

For more information
about IDF



Promoting Sustainable Dairy Industry in cooperation with related overseas organizations.



"Dairy Sustainability Framework (DSF)"

"Dairy Sustainability Framework" works for the sustainable development of the dairy industry in cooperation with related overseas organizations. Meiji has participated in the framework since 2020 and is working to promote the sustainability of the global dairy industry by sharing progress with participants.



For more information about DSF



Working to reduce GHG emissions in the dairy supply chain. "Pathways to Dairy Net Zero"

Pathways to Dairy Net Zero is as an international collaboration in the dairy sector to act against climate change. Founders of this initiative include the Global Dairy Platform (GDP), the International Dairy Federation (IDF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Dairy Sustainability Framework (DSF), the SAI Platform, ILRI and IFCN Dairy Research Network. Global Research Alliance for Agricultural Greenhouse Gases is a knowledge partner, with support from FAO. In addition to Meiji, supporters include nearly 200 major organizations, including all 10 of the largest dairy companies in the world. Collectively, they represent approximately 40% of global dairy production. Over the next 30 years, Pathways to Dairy Net Zero aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the dairy sector and dairy products to net zero.

PATHWAYS TO DAIRY NET ZERO.

For more information about Pathways to Dairy Net Zero





JAPAN



Aiming to Promote Health through Milk and Dairy Products. "Japan Dairy Association"

"Japan Dairy Association" aims to develop Japanese dairy farming and dairy industry, including stabilizing the production and distribution of raw milk and dairy products.

Katsunari Matsuda, President and Representative Director of Meiji Co., Ltd., serves as director.

Members involved in the dairy farming and the dairy industry are working together to promote various initiatives.



For more information about
Japan Dairy Association



Working on the Future of the Japanese Dairy Industry. "Japan Dairy Industry Association"

The organization aims to promote the development of Japanese dairy industry, foster consumer's peace of mind and confidence through improving safety, and promote environmental and recycling measures.

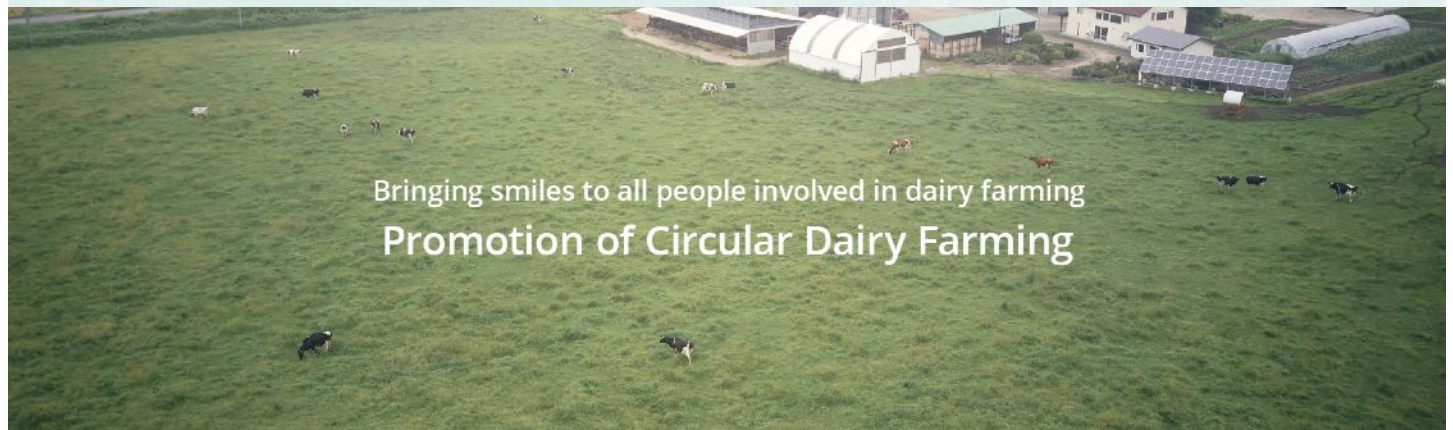
Since 2023, Katsunari Matsuda, President and Representative Director of Meiji Co., Ltd., has served as chair, contributing to the promotion of the industry-wide initiatives.

Japan Dairy Industry Association

一般社団法人 **日本乳業協会**

For more information about
Japan Dairy Industry
Association





Bringing smiles to all people involved in dairy farming Promotion of Circular Dairy Farming

TOP > Promotion of Circular Dairy Farming

Cow-friendly, Environment-friendly, Aiming for Circular Dairy Farming

Meiji is working on circular dairy farming together with dairy farmers. Organic dairy farming is conducted using organic feed that is designed to reduce environmental impact while considering cows comfort. Meiji will deliver new value of milk while supporting dairy farming with consideration for the environment and the health of cows.

"Meiji Organic Milk" created with organic dairy farmers in Tsubetsu-cho, Abashiri-gun, Hokkaido.

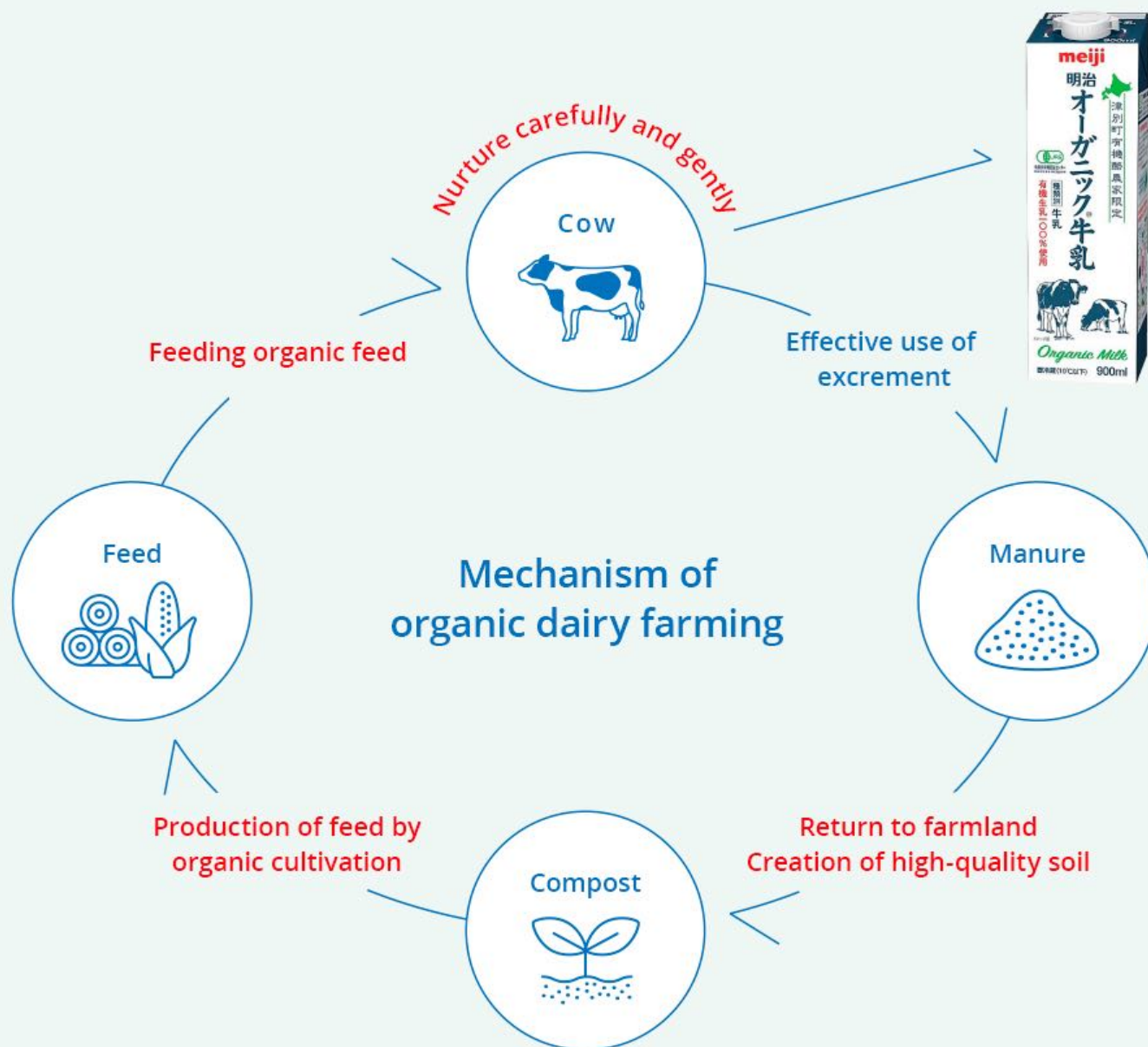
Around 1997, Meiji began to consider how to make cow-friendly and environment-friendly milk, and started developing organic milk in cooperation with dairy farmers in Tsubetsu-cho.

After various trials and errors, in 2006, five dairy farmers acquired the "JAS standard for organic livestock products" certification, leading to the sale of their milk.

Meiji Organic Milk is a milk certified by the organic JAS standard. We use only raw milk from dairy cows bred at designated farms in Tsubetsu-cho, Abashiri-gun, Hokkaido, based on the concept of organic farming methods.



Cow-friendly, environment-friendly, Aiming for circular dairy farming



Nurture carefully and gently

Dairy cows are carefully nurtured in well-managed cowsheds in a low-stress environment.





Each cow is given ample space.



Careful maintenance.



Cows after milking. Relaxing and lying down.

Return to farmland Creation of high-quality soil

Manure from dairy cows is composted and returned to farmland.

Tsubetsu-cho operates a compost center as a town facility.

The compost center contributes to shortening the working hours of each farmer by contracting out the composting work that used to be carried out by each farmer.



During fermentation, the temperature rises to 70-80°C.

Production of feed by organic cultivation

Organic feed is grown in a natural environment using a circular farming method.

Many weeds grow in the gaps between dent corn in organic feed fields that are cultivated without using chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

Manual or mechanical weeding is laborious work. The absence of chemical fertilizers also requires the innovation of effective compost for better growth and good soil quality.



In organic fields, weeds grow.



In conventional fields, not so many weeds grow.

Feeding organic feed

Daichi Co., Ltd., which was established as a subsidiary of JA Tsubetsu, has been operating the TMR Center¹ that produces and sells feed since 2014.

The TMR Center contributes to shortening the working hours of each farmer by contracting out the work of mixing feed.



TMR Centre



Fermented corn used as raw material for TMR.



1 TMR Center:

A facility that produces TMR (total mixed rations), which is a feed mixed with all necessary nutrients such as minerals and vitamins, in addition to roughage such as pasture and concentrated feed such as corn.

Interview

Mr. Kenichi Ishikawa, Chairman of the Tsubetsu-cho Organic Dairy Farming Research Association, spoke about the past and future circular dairy farming.



Recurrent failures kept us waiting five years for success.

Produce of organic milk was quite a struggle.



“Organic milk” is milk that is produced from organically fed cows.

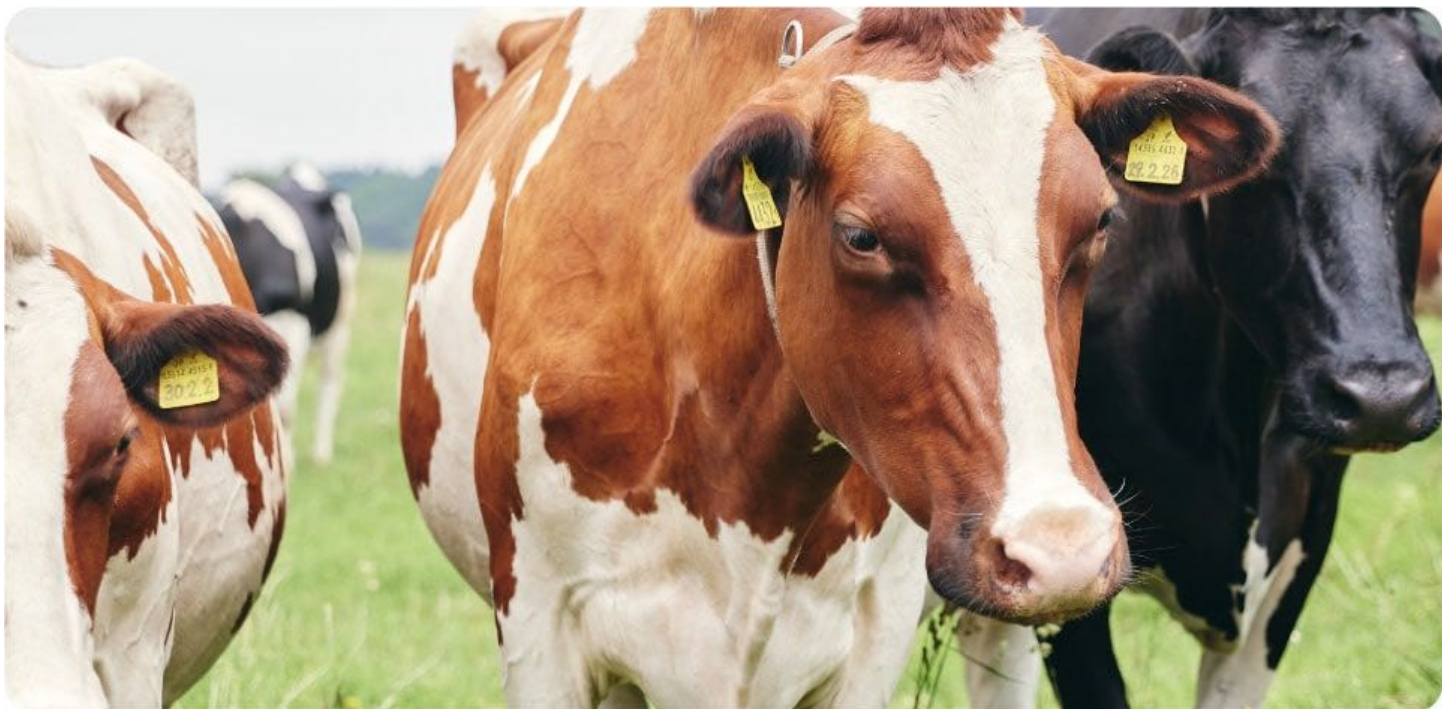
We pasture cows nurtured without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides, and do not use antibiotics for preventive purposes.

Because we must comply with the detailed regulations of the organic JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standards) system.

The trigger for starting organic dairy farming was an invitation from Meiji representative asking, "Would you like to try organic dairy farming?" That was in 1999. Organic JAS had just been established for organic produce, so we had no idea of organic dairy farming at all.

To study this, three dairy farmers from Meiji and Tsubetsu and people interested in organic dairy farming from all over Japan went to Europe for training. When we went to Europe, we found many kinds of milk, including organic milk, and an established raw milk distribution system. Seeing this, we became very interested in organic dairy farming and established the "Tsubetsu-cho Organic Dairy Farming Research Association".

However, it was very difficult to shift to organic dairy farming. It took us about five years to produce organic milk. It was a process of trial and error, making mistake after mistake. There was still no precedent in Japan, so we didn't have the technology to grow feed crops without using pesticides or chemical fertilizers.



Organic milk starts with "making soil"

Not only the way the cows are raised, but the feed must be organic as well. How can we keep cows on organic dent corn? We were also very worried, and people around us were also half in doubt.

So we went overseas for training many times. We went to Germany, Holland, France, Denmark, and other European countries, as well as the United States, Canada, and New Zealand.

I saw many successful cases where dent corn and grass are grown without using chemical fertilizers to the same extent as conventional farming methods. Having seen many such successful cases, I was able to make up my mind that this was the way to go.

Organic milk starts with "making soil," so it takes time and money. While receiving various advice, the yield of organic feed increased year by year. What I learned after trying it was that it was possible to grow crops without using chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

However, we still rely on imports from overseas for some of our feed. We are now working on changing everything to self-supplied feed eventually. Looking at the recent world situation, I realize that when prices soar and supplies cannot be imported from overseas, it is important to have a circular system that makes good use of compost or urine to produce crops.





We don't settle for "old-fashioned."

Because it is organic, we seek advanced technology.

We don't stick to "old-fashioned methods" because they are organic, but rather, we incorporate "advanced technology" because they are organic.

Our farm is basically run by two people, my wife and I. We have 130 cows at all including 65 multiparous, and the total size of our property is about the size of two Tokyo Domes. In order for two people to do all the work, we needed to find a way to increase our efficiency. We came up with the idea of "outsourcing" and "mechanization."

The outsourced works are mainly feed related. Harvesting of feed, mixing of feed, and delivery. We ask the TMR center for those. The largest part of a dairy farm's daily labor hours are related to feeding. It used to take 4 hours a day, but now it takes only 30 minutes.

Feeding is also mechanized. However, we do not leave everything up to them. The amount of feed served in the automatic feeder is changed for each cow as we monitor their condition.



In the organic cultivation of feed, a tractor is equipped with GPS automatic steering to weed the dent corn fields. The technology drives the tractor while keeping it within an error range of only a few centimeters. This is not possible when a person drives the tractor. We have been using this technology for about three years now.

Since there is a limit to the area, we can secure as a feedlot on our property, I believe that our current limit is 65 cows, which is in balance with the amount of feed we can harvest. If we buy a lot of imported feed, we could raise 100 or 200 cows, but that is not what we are aiming for.



We want to unite everyone's power to achieve the use of 100% domestic organic feed.

I really think it is important to raise the level of feed self-sufficiency ratio when the yen depreciates and international conditions change rapidly. If possible, we would like to move toward producing milk with 100% organic feed produced in Hokkaido or in Japan.

As of now, we are about 75% self-sufficient, so it's a little bit more. But the hurdle for that "a little more" is very high.



Since it is difficult to achieve this through our efforts alone, we would like to gradually expand our organic feed by asking those who produce organic agricultural products to produce corn, etc., and bring our domestic production to 100%. We are also looking forward to the “Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MeaDRI “being promoted by the government. In Europe, the majority of organic farming is fodder fields and pasture, and even in mountainous areas where machines cannot enter, they have organic certification. Of course, the government is also supporting it. We need a flow of people creating organic dairy farming together.

The government, the town, and the JA (Japan Agricultural Cooperative) have been and still are quite supportive of our organic dairy farming. Especially with the JA, even though it is difficult to handle organic and other small-lot products, the Tsubetsu JA is very flexible and supportive. We graze our cows in the town's public pasture, which the town has also converted to organic and leased to us.



Organic milk takes time and effort to produce.

We want as many people as possible to enjoy our elaborate taste.



Once a week, the Tsubetsu-cho provides organic milk for school lunches in elementary and junior high schools. After drinking the milk, "Sweet!" children said spontaneously, who are the biggest consumer of milk. The rich and full-bodied organic milk must have made the children say so.

Since a couple of years ago, we have also started a dairy educational farm. Students from elementary, middle, and high schools come to our farm to learn and experience organic dairy farming. We also accept vocational school students and high school students from outside of Hokkaido. The students from outside of Hokkaido do not often see cows in pastureland, so it must be quite unusual for them. They enjoy spending half a day in the pastureland and lying down with the cows.

We hope to continue this approach with Meiji for a long time. We may not be able to make immediate and drastic changes in our goal of 100% domestic self-sufficiency in organic feed, but we would like to continue to make gradual progress.

Most supermarkets in Hokkaido carry our organic milk. As the next step, we would like to work with Meiji to find a way to reach people nationwide Japan who want to drink it.

We want as many people as possible to drink the organic milk because we spend so much time and effort to produce.

There are people who produce dairy products, and there are people who taste and enjoy them, and both people are necessary for a circular dairy farming.





Mr. and Mrs. Kenichi Ishikawa

Chairman of Tsubetsu-cho Organic Dairy Research Association

At the Festival of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Festival held on 2019, Kenichi Ishikawa, Chairman of the Tsubetsu-cho Organic Dairy Farming Research Association was awarded the "Emperor's Cup", which recognizes agriculture, forestry and fisheries managers who have achieved excellent activities and performances. The main reason for the award was "promotion of organic dairy farming and the cultivation of quality subsistence feed using organic farming methods."

Photo gallery







Protecting our healthy planet for our future generations
Promoting Reduction of Environmental Impact

TOP > Promoting Reduction of Environmental Impact

**Keep People and the Earth Healthy.
To Realize a Sustainable Society,
Reduce Environmental Impact.**

In order to reduce environmental impact globally, Meiji is promoting initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the dairy industry, reduce food loss caused by best-before dates, and enhance the recycling of plastic resources.

As a provider of milk, which is a blessing of nature, we aim to realize a sustainable society where both people and the earth keep healthy.

**The carbon footprint of products (CFP)¹
calculation makes greenhouse gas (GHG)
emission points visible.**

Contributing to the SDGs —



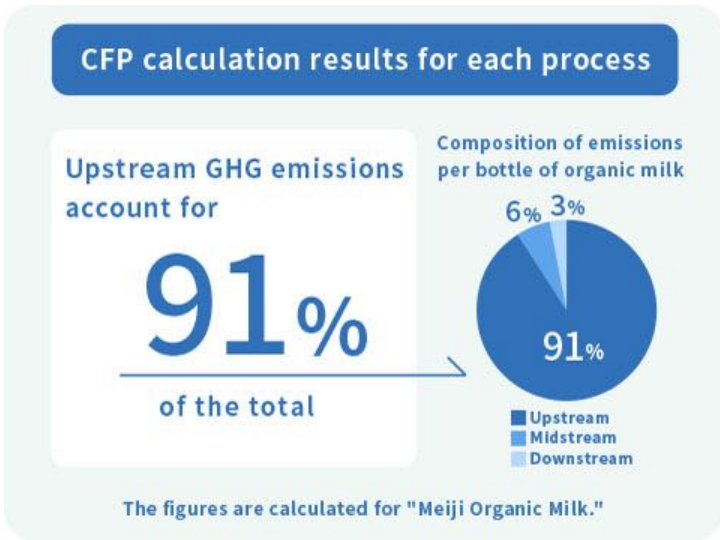
Aiming to reduce the impact of global warming in the dairy industry, we have started by identifying where and how much GHGs are being emitted. In FY2022, we conducted a CFP calculation for "Meiji Organic Milk" based on data collected from dairy farmers (milk production, milk composition, number of cows, type of feed, area under cultivation, amount of energy used such as electricity and light oil, etc.).² We will promote specific initiatives for GHG reduction with producers.

¹ The calculation and disclosure of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions throughout the life cycle of products and services.

² Calculated based on production at Meiji Asahikawa Plant in FY2021.

Promotion of calculation of the carbon footprint of product(CFP)





To reduce GHG in dairy farming, we aim to reduce GHG emissions from dairy cow manure and make it valuable.



In March 2023, we collaborated with Ajinomoto Co., Inc. to create a business model to reduce nitrous oxide (N₂O) derived from manure produced during dairy farming.

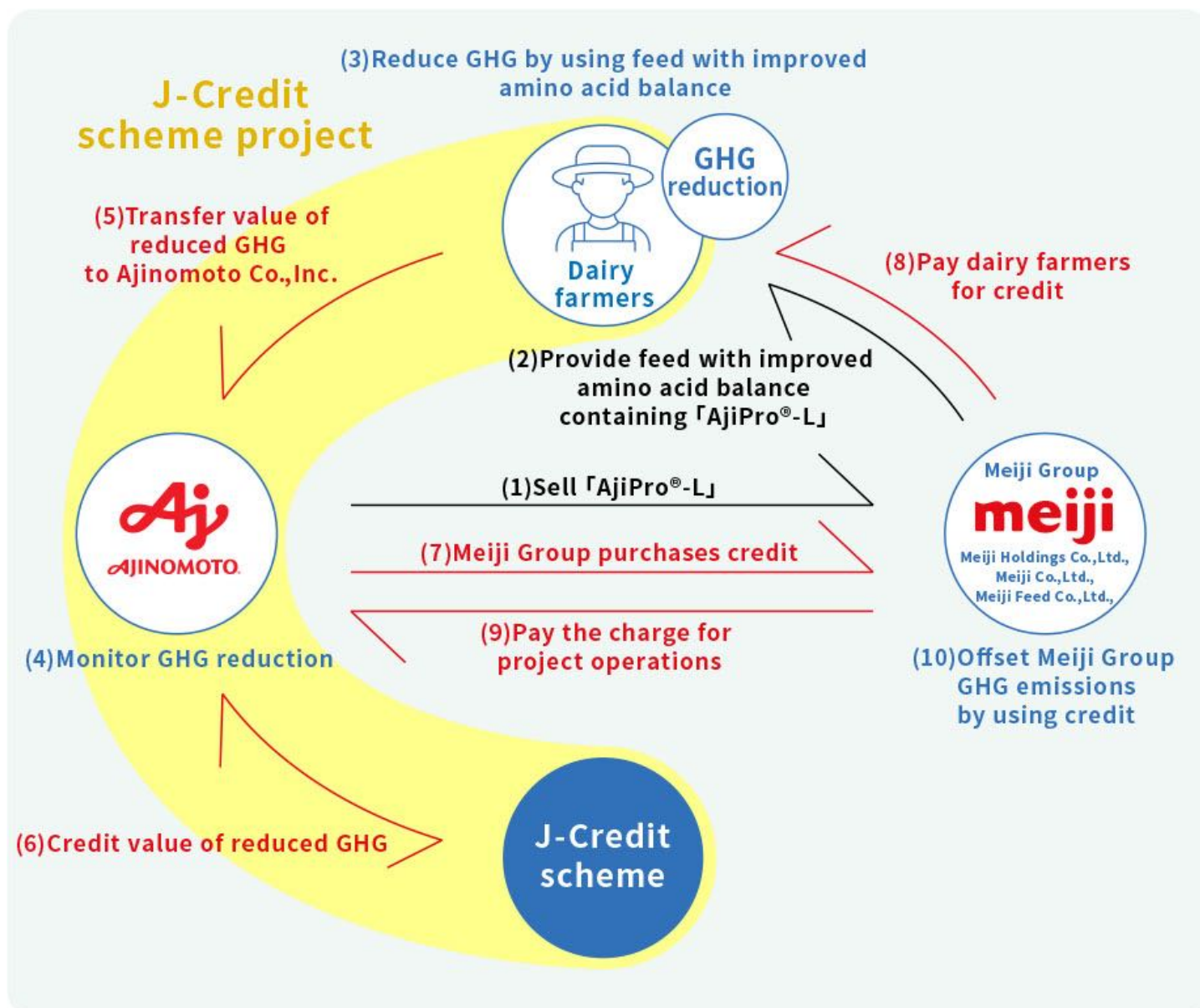
Using an amino acid-balanced feed enables dairy cows to reduce N₂O from manure.

In addition, the GHG emissions reduced by the project can be converted into J-credits³ and sold, which will lead to new revenue source for dairy farmers. We will use these initiatives as an opportunity for expanding future collaborations and promoting GHG reductions in the milk value chain.

³ A national program for recognizing credits based on CO₂ emission reductions through the installation of energy-saving facilities and the adoption of renewable energy as well as CO₂ absorption achieved through appropriate forestry management.

[Click here for more](#)





Promoting GHG reduction through carbon farming.⁴

Contributing to the SDGs



In August 2023, the Meiji Group became a member of the "Doto Carbon Farming Study Group," which promotes carbon farming initiatives to reduce GHG emissions in the dairy industry.

The Doto Carbon Farming Study Group, in cooperation with dairy farmers, will promote initiatives aimed at evaluating, researching, and practicing "carbon farming" in Betsukai Town, the largest milk producer in Japan.

We will measure the actual CO₂ storage in the pasture from September 2023.

⁴ An agricultural method that aims to reduce GHG emissions by capturing atmospheric CO₂ into the soil and improving the quality of soil. In 2021, the European Commission announced the results of a two-year research study conducted from 2018 on the creation of a scheme to promote carbon farming, which has attracted attention as an activity to reduce GHG emissions reduction and absorption activities in the agriculture, forestry, and livestock industries.

[Click here for more](#)



To reduce food loss.

Extend the best-before date for the Meiji Oishii brand.

In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations set a goal of halving food loss by 2030. In April 2022, Meiji completed the extension of the best-before date of commercial products of "Meiji Oishii Gyunyu" to "19 days or more including the date of manufacture". We will promote efforts toward zero waste, including the reduction of food loss, for which interest is growing.

Contributing to the SDGs —



Meiji Oishii Gyunyu



Former best-before date:
15 days including
manufacturing date

After April 2019:
19 days including
manufacturing date

Toward strengthening plastic resource recycling.

Conversion of Meiji Oishii brand caps into biomass plastic.⁵

Meiji is working to strengthen plastic resource recycling. In July 2022, We began converting plastic used in caps and spouts for the Meiji Oishii brand into biomass material. As a result, we plan to reduce the use of raw materials derived from fossil resources by approximately 990 tons per year.

We aim to reduce CO₂ emissions from containers by approximately 10% for "Meiji Oishii Gyunyu (900ml)" and approximately 15% for "Meiji Oishii Gyunyu (450ml)" compared with previous products.⁶

Contributing to the SDGs —



Contains
biomass
plastic

⁵ Plastics derived from renewable organic resources such as plants. A new plastic material that is attracting attention because it help reduce CO₂ emissions without relying on fossil fuels as much as possible. We plan to gradually switch the cap and spout of these products with plant-derived materials (sugar cane).

⁶ CO₂ reduction rate has been certified by Carbon Trust.



Raise and deepen awareness of environmental resources.

Many employees participate in the paper carton recycling campaign.

Effective use of limited earth resources reduces the environmental impact.

Meiji conducts the "Paper Carton Recycling Campaign" twice a year to foster environmental awareness among employees.

Recycling paper cartons also helps protect forest resources. The purpose of this activity is to raise and deepen awareness of waste separation.



Collaboration

The Meiji Group collaborates with UN agencies and other relevant organizations.



Global Initiatives

United Nations Global Compact

Meiji Holdings became a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact in April 2019. The Global Compact provides an international framework for member companies and organizations to help build a sustainable world by exercising responsible leadership and developing innovative solutions. The Meiji Group is carrying out a wide range of initiatives aligned with the compact's Ten Principles in its four areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.



[UN Global Compact](#) ↗

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

Human Rights	Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
Labour	Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour; Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
Environment	Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges; Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.
Anti-Corruption	Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The Consumer Goods Forum

Since 2009, Meiji Group has been a member of The Consumer Goods Forum, an international association of major retailers, consumer product manufacturers, and food producers. In the forum's Japan Sustainability Local Group, the company actively participates in working groups involved in promoting human rights and sustainable palm oil production, as well as reducing food loss.

[The Consumer Goods Forum](#) ↗

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

Since 2016, the Meiji Group has been a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, a not-for-profit that develops and implements global standards for sustainable palm oil aimed at minimizing environmental impacts and bringing economic benefits to communities in palm oil-producing regions.

[Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil](#) ↗

World Cocoa Foundation

Since 2006, Meiji has been a member of the World Cocoa Foundation. The NGO's vision is "a thriving and sustainable cocoa sector, where farmers prosper, communities are empowered, and the planet is healthy." The company also joined the foundation's Cocoa & Forest Initiative, launched in 2017, which is working to stop deforestation and restore forest areas in cocoa growing regions.



[World Cocoa Foundation](#) ↗

[Cocoa & Forest Initiative](#) ↗

International Cocoa Initiative

The International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) is a non-profit organization established by chocolate manufacturers in 2002 with the aim of eradicating child labor and forced labor in cocoa cultivation in West Africa. In 2021, Meiji Co., Ltd. became the first Japanese company to join the ICI and contribute to the eradication of child labor and forced labor on cocoa farms.



[International Cocoa Initiative](#) ↗

Global Dairy Platform

Global Dairy Platform (GDP) encourages the appropriate intake of dairy foods while demonstrating the dairy sector's role in sustainable agriculture. Meiji Co., Ltd. has been a member of the GDP since 2013, and has promoted sustainability and the health benefits of dairy products.



[Global Dairy Platform](#) ↗

International Dairy Federation

Meiji is a member of the Japanese National Committee of the International Dairy Federation, a non-profit organization that works to ensure high-quality milk production and dairy product development while facilitating international cooperation among the world's most highly respected dairy sector scientists in numerous areas of expertise. The Group's participation began in 1956 when Japan joined the IDF. In recent years, Meiji has been actively engaged in discussions and planning related to dairy sector sustainability, nutrition and health, food safety and quality, dairy product standards, and other important topics for the sector.

[International Dairy Federation Japanese National Committee](#) ↗

Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

Meiji Holdings has been a supporter of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) since 2019, and follows its recommendations on climate-related scenario analysis and information disclosure. The company has also joined the TCFD Consortium, which was established by the Japanese government to facilitate cooperation among domestic companies and financial institutions that support the TCFD.



[Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures](#) ↗

RE100

In September 2021, the Meiji Group joined RE100, a global initiative aiming for companies to source 100% of the electricity used in their business operations from renewable energy. RE100 is a global initiative that brings together some of the world's most influential companies committed to transitioning to 100% renewable electricity. The initiative is led by the international non-profit Climate Group in partnership with CDP.



Science Based Targets Initiative

Meiji Holdings committed to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) in February 2021, and acquired certification in September 2021. In an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the SBTi calls on companies to set targets over the next 5 to 15 years to help achieve the goal of the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to well below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to take action to limit the rise to 1.5° Celsius. The SBTi evaluates companies to ensure they have aligned their targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the goal of the Paris Agreement.



[Science Based Targets](#) ↗

G7 Sustainable Supply Chains Initiative

Since 2021, the Meiji Group has been a member of the G7 Sustainable Supply Chains Initiative. G7 Sustainable Supply Chains Initiative expect leading food and agriculture companies from G7 countries to commit to take action that will improve the environmental, social and nutritional impact of their operations and supply chains.

[G7 Sustainable Supply Chains Initiative](#) >

[G7 launch pledge for business action](#) ↗

UN Food Systems Summit

The UN Food Systems Summit was held to discuss the sustainability of food systems as a worldwide issue in September 2021. Our CEO participated in CEO consultation which is a preparatory meeting soliciting recommendations on food systems from various CEOs.

[UN Food Systems Summit](#) ↗

Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) Forum

In April 2022, the Meiji Group joined TNFD Forum. The TNFD was officially launched with a mission to deliver a risk management and disclosure framework for organization to report nature-related negative outcomes and nature-positive outcomes. The TNFD Forum is a global multi-disciplinary consultative group of institutions to support the development of the TNFD framework.



Initiatives in Japan

Japan Climate Initiative

Since 2019, Meiji Holdings has been a member of the Japan Climate Initiative, a network of companies, local governments, NGOs and other organizations in Japan that are actively involved in combatting climate change. The initiative creates opportunities for its members to share information about relevant strategies and solutions with the goal of accelerating the transition to a decarbonized society.



[Japan Climate Initiative](#) ↗

Green Value Chain Platform

In 2019, Meiji Holdings joined a network of companies aiming to decarbonize their operations as part of the Japanese government's Green Value Chain Platform. The network promotes the decarbonization of the economy in tandem with corporate growth by facilitating dialogue among companies that are either formulating or have set goals in line with the Paris Agreement, and companies that can offer solutions for achieving such goals.

[Green Value Chain Platform](#) ↗

Sustainability Consortium for Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Food

Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership

In July 2021, the Meiji Group joined the Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP) as a supporting member. The JCLP is a corporate group that aims to create sustainable, decarbonized societies.



This unique Japanese corporate group was established in 2009 based on the recognition that industry must embrace a sound sense of urgency and engage in proactive action to achieve sustainable decarbonized societies.

[Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership](#) ↗

Water Project of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan

In 2021, the Meiji Group began participation in the Ministry of the Environment's Water Project. This Water Project is a public-private partnership project launched in 2014 based on the Basic Law on the Water Cycle to encourage initiatives aimed at maintaining or restoring healthy water cycles.



Japan Hydrogen Association (JA2A)

In November 2021, the Meiji Group joined the Japan Hydrogen Association (JA2A), an organization promoting global collaboration in the area of hydrogen, as well as the formation of a hydrogen supply chain. The Japan Hydrogen Association (JA2A) is a cross-industry and open organization established domestically in Japan for the purpose of overseeing the entire hydrogen supply chain. Its goal is to rapidly establish a hydrogen society through realizing social implementation projects.



Strategic Initiative for a Healthy and Sustainable Food Environment

Since fiscal 2021, Meiji has participated in the Strategic Initiative for a Healthy and Sustainable Food Environment established by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. This initiative considers nutritional and environmental issues, such as excessive salt intake, thinness among young women, and nutritional disparity due to economic disparity, as serious social issues, and develops a food environment in which everyone can be naturally healthy through cooperation and collaboration among industry, academia, and government. The initiative aims to extend the healthy life expectancy of people in Japan and around the world, and to create a vibrant and sustainable society.

Strategic Initiative for a Healthy and Sustainable Food Environment ↗

30% Club Japan

The Meiji Group is a member of the "30% Club Japan", a campaign to increase the proportion of women in key decision-making bodies of companies, including the board of directors. The 30% Club is founded in the United Kingdom in 2010. The 30% Club Japan promotes the campaign in Japan. Its goal is to raise the ratio of women on the board of directors of TOPIX100 to 30% by 2030.



JP-MIRAI is a platform to protect the rights of foreign workers and improve their working and living environment in Japan, and is operated by JP-MIRAI, a general incorporated association. Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. has been a member of JP-MIRAI since January 2021, and is working to create a safe working environment for foreign workers.



JP-MIRAI 

Participation in Trade associations

As of June 2023

Segment	Trade association	Role	Name
Food	Society of Japan Food Industry Executives	Chair	Kazuo Kawamura
	Japan Food Industry Association	Vice-Chair	Kazuo Kawamura
	Japan Advertisers Association Inc.	President	Kazuo Kawamura
	Japan Dairy Association	Director	Katsunari Matsuda
	Japan Dairy Industry Association	Chair	Katsunari Matsuda
	Japanese Association of Fermented Milks and Fermented Milk Drinks	Chair	Katsunari Matsuda
	Japan Ice Cream Association	Vice-Chair	Katsunari Matsuda
	All Nippon Kashi Association (ANKA)	Supreme adviser	Kazuo Kawamura
		Vice-Chair	Katsunari Matsuda
	Chocolate and Cocoa Association of Japan	Chair	Katsunari Matsuda
Pharmaceutical	Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Associations of JAPAN	Director	Daikichiro Kobayashi
	Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA)	Director	Daikichiro Kobayashi
	Japan Association of Blood Preparations	Director	Toshiaki Nagasato
	Technology Research Association for Next generation natural products chemistry	Chair	Toshiaki Nagasato

Sustainable Finance

Meiji Holdings issued sustainability bonds* (10th series of unsecured corporate bonds) through a public offering on Japanese markets in April 2021.

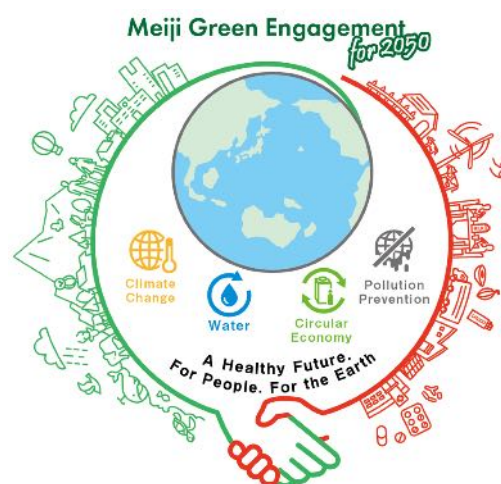
As food and health professionals, we strive to create new value and contribute through our business activities and environmental initiatives to the realization of a future society where all people can lead happy, healthy lives.

In the Meiji Group 2026 Vision, we position contributions to solving societal problems as one of our core policies. We drafted the Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision to outline specific policies towards achieving this goal, and we are continuing to work towards its realization.

Additionally, we outlined Meiji Green Engagement for 2050, our long-term environmental vision, in March 2021. We will collaborate with various stakeholders in four activity domains: Climate Change, Water Resources, Circular Economy, and Pollution Prevention, and our employees will proactively engage in activities that contribute to realizing a sustainable global environment.

We are actively making use of sustainable finance, based on the sustainability finance framework we set out in January 2021, to secure the capital necessary for realizing these visions of maximizing our contributions to solving societal problems.

* Sustainability bonds are bonds where the proceeds are used for (1) social projects (projects that contribute to solving societal problems), and (2) green projects (projects that have a positive effect on the environment).



Sustainability Bonds Outline

Name Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd.'s 10th series of unsecured corporate bonds
(Limited inter-bond pari passu rider)
(Sustainability Bonds)

Maturity: 5 years

Issue amount: JPY 10.0 billion

Coupon rate: 0.050%

Issue date: Friday, April 23, 2021

Use of proceeds:

1. Sustainable cocoa bean procurement
2. Supporting cocoa farmers (Meiji Cocoa Support)
3. Energy saving and energy creation at domestic and overseas plants
4. Securing and conserving domestic and overseas water resources
5. Switching to environmentally friendly packaging (plastic - paper)
6. Capital investments and R&D for initiatives related to infant nutrition (General milk formulas and specialized formulas)
7. R&D and capital investments in infectious disease prevention

Bond rating AA- (Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.)

Lead managers Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd., Daiwa Securities Co., Ltd.

Structuring agent* Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd.

* An agent that supports the execution of sustainability finance by giving advice on both the formulation of sustainable finance frameworks, as well as on obtaining Second-Party Opinions.

Third-Party Assessment of Framework and Eligibility

For the purposes of issuing sustainability bonds, Meiji Holdings established a sustainable finance framework.* Upon its establishment, it received the highest possible rank (SU1(F)) from the third-party organization, Japan Credit Rating Agency.

* [Sustainable Finance Framework](#)

Reporting

We annually disclose the fund allocation status reporting and the impact reporting until all raised funds allocated to applicable projects.

Allocation Status Reporting (FY2021)

Theme	Applicable project	Allocations (JPY 100 million)
Sustainable Procurement	Sustainable cocoa bean procurement	14.7
Caring for the Earth	Energy efficiency and energy creation at domestic and overseas plants*	3.6
	Securing and conserving domestic and overseas water resources	7.5
	Switching to environmentally friendly packaging (plastic – paper)	4.3
Healthier Lives	Capital investments and R&D for initiatives related to infant nutrition (General infant formulas and special formulas)	22.9
	R&D and capital investments in infectious disease prevention	4.3
Total		57.3

* Fluorocarbons reduction costs include switching to natural refrigerants and fluorocarbons alternatives.

Allocation Status Reporting (FY2022)

Theme	Applicable project	Allocations (JPY 100 million)
Sustainable Procurement	Sustainable cocoa bean procurement	14.2
Caring for the Earth	Energy efficiency and energy creation at domestic and overseas plants*	9.8
	Securing and conserving domestic and overseas water resources	0.7
	Switching to environmentally friendly packaging (plastic – paper)	4.6
Healthier Lives	Capital investments and R&D for initiatives related to infant nutrition (General infant formulas and special formulas)	27.2
	R&D and capital investments in infectious disease prevention	0.3
Total		56.8

* Fluorocarbons reduction costs include switching to natural refrigerants and fluorocarbons alternatives.

Impact Reporting (FY2021)

Applicable project	Impact Reporting		
	Output (Project Progress and Results)	Outcome (Effects Related to Issue Resolutions)	Impact (Effects Arising From Outcome)
Sustainable cocoa bean procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of cocoa beans with sustainable programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of sustainable cocoa beans as a percentage of total cocoa beans procured: 42% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in producer livelihoods Ensure food quality and safety for consumers
Energy efficiency and energy creation at domestic and overseas plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 50% compared with FY2019 by FY2030 Expand use of electricity derived from renewable energy sources to at least 50% by FY2030 Eliminate use of specified fluorocarbons at domestic production sites by FY2030. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce CO₂ emissions through energy conservation measures at new and existing plants : 1,329t-CO₂ Reduce CO₂ emissions through solar power generation: 1,669t-CO₂ Number of facilities switched to natural refrigerants or fluorocarbons alternatives: 446 units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce CO₂ emissions Protect the ozone layer
Securing and conserving domestic and overseas water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade equipment at existing plants and offices Introduce water-saving equipment at new plants, etc. Reduce water consumption by at least 20% compared with FY2017 by FY2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction rate of water consumption (basic unit): 8.4% (compared with FY2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce environmental impact through efficient use of water and appropriate wastewater management, etc.
Switching to environmentally friendly packaging (plastic – paper)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce plastic used for one-way plastic containers and packaging by at least 25% compared with FY2017 by FY2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic reduction: 13% (forecast) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solve the issues of marine pollution caused by plastic waste

Capital investments and R&D for initiatives related to infant nutrition (General infant formulas and special formulas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and produce cube-type infant formula 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in production facilities for cube-type infant formula : High-speed line production facility construction: JPY 1.3 billion : Building and utilities construction: JPY 0.99 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve healthy growth of infants and toddlers Reduce childcare burden on caregivers
R&D and capital investments in infectious disease prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of projects in development: Phase I trials underway (overseas) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the number of patients suffering from infectious diseases Support domestic medical systems Prevent severe disease through the impact of vaccines

Impact Reporting (FY2022)

Applicable project	Impact Reporting				Impact (Effects Arising From Outcome)
	Output (Project Progress and Results)	Outcome (Effects Related to Issue Resolutions)	Outcome		
			FY2021	FY2022	
Sustainable cocoa bean procurement	Procurement of cocoa beans with sustainable programs	Procurement of sustainable cocoa beans as a percentage of total cocoa beans procured	42%	62%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in producer livelihood Ensure food quality and safety for consumers
Energy efficiency and energy creation at domestic and overseas plants	Reduce CO ₂ emissions by at least 50% compared with FY2019 by FY2030	Reduce CO ₂ emissions through energy conservation measures at new and existing plants	1,329t-CO ₂	3,709t-CO ₂ (Total of FY2021 and FY2022 results)	Reduce CO ₂ emissions

Energy efficiency and energy creation at domestic and overseas plants	Expand use of electricity derived from renewable energy sources to at least 50% by FY2030	Reduce CO ₂ emissions through solar power generation	1,669t-CO ₂	2,358t-CO ₂ (Total of FY2021 and FY2022 results)	Reduce CO ₂ emissions
	Eliminate use of specified fluorocarbons at domestic production sites by FY2030.	Number of facilities switched to natural refrigerants or fluorocarbons alternatives	446 units	565 units (Total of FY2021 and FY2022 results)	Protect the ozone layer
Securing and conserving domestic and overseas water resources	Upgrade equipment at existing plants and office	Reduction rate of water consumption (basic unit) *Reduce water consumption compared with FY2020(From FY2022) (Unit of sales after applying the Accounting Standard for Revenue Recognition and other standards)	8.4% (compared with FY2017)	13.3% (Total of FY2021 and FY2022 results)	Reduce environmental impact through efficient use of water and appropriate wastewater management, etc.
	Introduce water-saving equipment at new plants, etc.				
	Reduce water consumption by at least 15% compared with FY2020 by FY2030 in global *The base year and KPI were changed because sales after applying the Accounting Standard for Revenue Recognition and other standards were used in the per unit calculation.				
Switching to environmentally friendly packaging (plastic – paper)	Reduce plastic used for one-way plastic containers and packaging by at least 25% compared with FY2017 by FY2030	Plastic reduction	13% (FY2020 results)	16% (FY2021 results)	Solve the issues of marine pollution caused by plastic waste
Capital investments and R&D for initiatives related to infant nutrition (General infant formulas and special formulas)	Develop and produce cube-type infant formula	Investment in production facilities for cube-type infant formula			Achieve healthy growth of infants and toddlers

Capital investments and R&D for initiatives related to infant nutrition (General infant formulas and special formulas)	Develop and produce cube-type infant formula	High-speed line production facility construction	JPY 1.3 billion	JPY 2.36 billion	Reduce childcare burden on caregivers
		utilities construction	JPY 0.99 billion	JPY 0.36 billion	
R&D and capital investments in infectious disease prevention	Product development	Status of projects in development	Phase I trials underway (overseas)	Phase II clinical trial in preparation	Decrease the number of patients suffering from infectious diseases
					Support domestic medical systems
					Prevent severe disease through the impact of vaccines

We obtained a review from the Japan Credit Rating Agency to assess the conformity of this reporting with our sustainability finance framework.

[Review by the Japan Credit Rating Agency \(Issuance date: July 15, 2022\)](#)

[Review by the Japan Credit Rating Agency \(Issuance date: July 14, 2023\)](#)

External Recognition

The Meiji Group works with ratings and rankings agencies and welcomes suggestions to support continuous improvement.

SRI Indexes and Evaluations

(As of December 25, 2023)

Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (DJSI World)
Dow Jones Sustainability Asia Pacific Index (DJSI Asia Pacific)

Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) are a family of benchmarks for investors that is comprised of companies selected by S&P Global Inc. for their excellent track record in sustainability. Selection to DJSI World is based on the results of a Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), which evaluates a company's long-term track record based on economic, governance, environmental, and social criteria. In 2023, Meiji Holdings was selected as a member of DJSI World for the first time. At the same time, the Company was also selected to the DJSI Asia Pacific for the fifth consecutive year since 2019.

Member of
**Dow Jones
Sustainability Indices**
Powered by the S&P Global CSA

FTSE Blossom Japan Sector Relative Index

The FTSE Blossom Japan Sector Relative Index, created by global index provider FTSE Russell, is a sector-neutral index designed to reflect the relative performance of Japanese companies that excel in environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance in their respective sectors. This index has been adopted as one of the investment criteria by the Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF). In 2023, Meiji Holdings was selected as a member of this index for two consecutive years.



**FTSE Blossom
Japan Sector
Relative Index**

[FTSE Blossom Japan Sector Relative Index](#) ↗

iSTOXX® MUTB Platinum Career Index

The iSTOXX® MUTB Platinum Career Index is an ESG index focusing on "human capital," jointly developed by Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation and STOXX, a global index provider of the Deutsche Borse Group. It consists of 150 Japanese companies that are proactive in building careers for their employees. In 2023, Meiji Holdings was selected as a member of this index for two consecutive years.



Member 2023/2024
Platinum Career
Index

Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt Index

The index is built by Morningstar using Equileap's Gender Equality Scores.

Companies that have strong gender diversity policies embedded in their corporate culture and ensure equal opportunities to employees, irrespective of their gender will be selected with high marks.

Meiji Holdings was selected as a constituent of the Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt Index with the highest rating of Group 1.



Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity
Tilt Index

TOP CONSTITUENT 2023

Morningstar, Inc., and/or one of its affiliated companies (individually and collectively, "Morningstar") has authorized Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. to use of the Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt Logo ("Logo") to reflect the fact that, for the designated ranking year, Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. ranks in the top quintile of companies comprising the Morningstar® Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt IndexSM ("Index") on the issue of gender diversity in the workplace. Morningstar is making the Logo available for use by Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. for informational purposes. Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. use of the Logo should not be construed as an endorsement by Morningstar of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. or as a recommendation, offer or solicitation to purchase, sell or underwrite any security associated with Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. The Index is designed to reflect gender diversity in the workplace in Japan, but Morningstar does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness or timeliness of the Index or any data included in it. Morningstar makes no express or implied warranties regarding the Index or the Logo, and expressly disclaim all warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose or use with respect to the Index, any data included in it or the Logo. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall Morningstar or any of its third party content providers have any liability for any damages (whether direct or indirect), arising from any party's use or reliance on the Index or the Logo, even if Morningstar is notified of the possibility of such damages. The Morningstar name, Index name and the Logo are the trademarks or services marks of Morningstar, Inc. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes

MSCI ESG Leaders Index is an index developed by the U.S.-based company MSCI, which selects stocks from each industry sector with high ESG (environmental, social and governance) ratings. In 2023, Meiji Holdings was selected as a member of this index for two consecutive years.



THE INCLUSION OF Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. IN ANY MSCI INDEX, AND THE USE OF MSCI LOGOS, TRADEMARKS, SERVICE MARKS OR INDEX NAMES HEREIN, DO NOT CONSTITUTE A SPONSORSHIP, ENDORSEMENT OR PROMOTION OF Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. BY MSCI OR ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES. THE MSCI INDEXES ARE THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF MSCI. MSCI AND THE MSCI INDEX NAMES AND LOGOS ARE TRADEMARKS OR SERVICE MARKS OF MSCI OR ITS AFFILIATES.

MSCI Japan ESG Select Leaders Index

Like the MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes, this index selects stocks from each industry sector with high ESG (Environmental, social and governance) ratings.

This index has been adopted as one of the investment criteria by the Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF). In 2023, Meiji Holdings was selected as a member of this index for two consecutive years.

2023 CONSTITUENT MSCI JAPAN
ESG SELECT LEADERS INDEX

MSCI Japan Empowering Women Index (WIN)

Based on a gender diversity score developed by MSCI, companies that excel in gender diversity within their industry are selected. In 2023, Meiji Holdings was selected as a member of this index for the first time.

2023 CONSTITUENT MSCI JAPAN
EMPOWERING WOMEN INDEX (WIN)

Sompo Sustainability Index

Sompo Sustainability Index is a proprietary active index which combines ESG (environment, social, and governance) and equity fundamental evaluation. In 2023, Meiji Holdings was selected as a member of this index for six consecutive years.



Health & Productivity Stock Selection Brand

METI and TSE have jointly selected Health & Productivity Stock Selection Brands from listed enterprises, strategically engaging in employee health and productivity management initiatives as business management issues since 2015. Meiji Holdings was selected as the 2023 Health & Productivity Stock Selection Brand for the first time.



Evaluations

Access to Nutrition Index™ (ATNI)

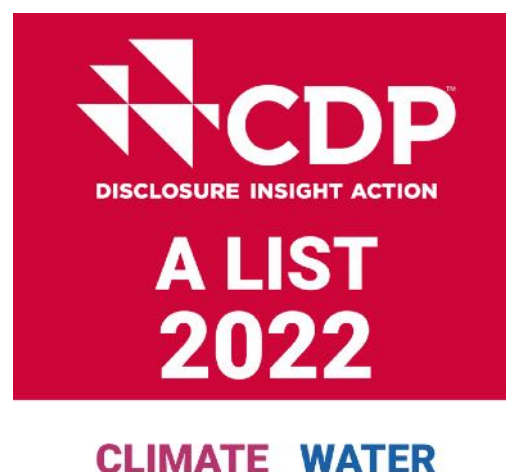
We were ranked 12th out of 25th global food and beverage manufactures in the 2021 Access to Nutrition Index™ (ATNI). The goal of the Access to Nutrition Indexes is to facilitate improved diets and a reduction of the serious global problems of both obesity and undernutrition.



[Access to Nutrition Index™ \(ATNI\)](#) ↗

CDP

The UK-based international non-governmental organization promotes climate change and other initiatives in the area of the environment. The CDP requests disclosure of information on how leading companies and cities around the world are taking action on issues such as climate change and water management, and conducts surveys and evaluations. In 2022, Meiji Holdings achieved a place on the highest evaluation 'A List' in CDP Climate change and Water Security. Also, within the areas of Forests, we obtained scores of C each in timber, palm oil, soy and cattle.



Outstanding Health and Productivity Management Organization (White 500)

Meiji Holdings, Meiji, and Meiji Seika Pharma were recognized jointly by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Nippon Kenko Kaigi in the Health and Productivity Management Organization Recognition Program in the large enterprise category (White 500) for practicing outstanding health and productivity management working together with insurers. We have continued to be selected for this program since 2017. KM Biologics has also continued to be selected for this program since 2021.



External recognition and Index Selection

External recognition by ratings agencies

Indicator		3/2021	3/2022	3/2023	3/2024
MSCI ESG Ratings		BB	BBB	A	A
DJSI		52 points	55 points	61 points	67 points
FTSE4 Good		3.0	3.0	3.7	4.2
CDP	Climate Change	A-	A-	A	unreleased
	Water Security	A-	A	A	Unreleased

Inclusion in ESG stock indexes

Stock indexes	3/2021	3/2022	3/2023	3/2024
DJSI World	-	-	-	○
DJSI Asia Pacific	○	○	○	○
FTSE Blossom Japan Sector Relative Index	-	-	○	○
iSTOXX® MUTB Platinum Career Index	-	-	○	○
Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt Index	-	-	-	○
MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes	-	-	○	○
MSCI Japan ESG Select Leaders Index	-	-	○	○
MSCI Japan Empowering Women Index (WIN)	-	-	-	○
S&P/JPX Carbon Efficient Index	○	○	○	○
Sompo Sustainability Index	○	○	○	○
Health & Productivity Stock Selection Brand	-	-	-	○

GRI Content Index

GRI 1: Foundation

Statement of use	Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. has reported in reference to the GRI Standards for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
GRI 1 used	GRI 1: Foundation 2021

GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021

Number	Disclosure	Location
2-1	Organizational details	Corporate Profile Integrated Report 2023 P94-95 : Operating Bases and Group Companies Integrated Report 2023 P96 : Corporate Data Worldwide Locations
2-2	Entities included in the organization's sustainability reporting	Report > Editorial Policy Integrated Report 2023 P94-95 : Operating Bases and Group Companies Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P7-10 : Subsidiaries and other affiliated entities
2-3	Reporting period, frequency and contact point	Report > Editorial Policy Integrated Report 2023 P2 : Editorial Policy > Using the Integrated Report 2023 Contact Us
2-4	Restatements of information	Integrated Report 2023 P30-31 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights (Main Indices) Integrated Report 2023 P88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights (11 Years Summary)

2-5	External assurance	<p>ISO Certification</p> <p>ESG Data > Environment > Environmental Management > Third-party certification</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P93 : Independent Practitioner's Assurance of Energy Consumption, CO₂ Emissions, Water Consumption & Industrial Waste</p>
2-6	Activities, value chain and other business relationships	<p>Our Business</p> <p>Food</p> <p>Pharmaceuticals</p> <p>Sustainable Sourcing</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P6-7 : At a Glance</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P8-10 : A Hundred Year History of Creating Meiji Unique Value for Wellness</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P28 : Driving Force Behind Sustainable Value Creation</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P44 : Coexisting with Nature > The Meiji Group's Value Chain: Close Relationships with Climate Change, Biodiversity and Human Rights</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P45 : Coexisting with Nature > Addressing Social Issues in Main Raw Materials</p> <p>Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P4-5 : Description of business</p>
2-7	Employees	<p>Corporate Profile</p> <p>ESG Data > Society > Human Resources</p> <p>Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P11 : Employees</p>
2-8	Workers who are not employees	Not disclosed

2-9	Governance structure and composition	<p>Sustainability Management</p> <p>Corporate Governance</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P71 : Corporate Governance > Basic Views on Corporate Governance / Composition, etc. of the Board of Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P72 : Corporate Governance > Corporate Governance System / Performance Results of Each Body</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P79 : Corporate Governance > Features of the Meiji Group Corporate Governance</p> <p>Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P81-86 : Overview of corporate governance</p> <p>Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P87-92 : Directors and other officers</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report p1 : 1 > 1. Basic Views</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report p17 : 2 > 1. Organizational Composition and Operation</p> <p>Corporate Governance Policy > 7. board of directors, audit & supervisory board and committee etc./ Appendix: Independence Standards for Independent Officers</p>
2-10	Nomination and selection of the highest governance body	<p>Corporate Governance</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P71 : Corporate Governance > Composition, etc. of the Board of Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P77 : Corporate Governance > Reasons for Nomination of Outside Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board Members</p> <p>Corporate Governance Policy > 8-3. Policies and Procedures for Nominating Director Candidates/ Appendix: Independence Standards for Independent Officers</p>
2-11	Chair of the highest governance body	<p>Corporate Governance</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P71 : Corporate Governance > Composition, etc. of the Board of Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P72 : Corporate Governance > Performance Results of Each Body</p>

2-12	Role of the highest governance body in overseeing the management of impacts	<p>Sustainability Management</p> <p>Stakeholder Dialogue Sessions</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P40-43 : Sustainability Strategy</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P82-85 : Risk Management</p> <p>Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P93-96 : Audit</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P35 : 2 > 2. Matters on Functions of Business Execution, Auditing, Oversight, Nomination and Compensation Decisions (Overview of Current Corporate Governance System)</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P38 : 2 > 3. Reasons for Adoption of Current Corporate Governance System</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P41 : 4. Matters Related to the Internal Control System</p>
2-13	Delegation of responsibility for managing impacts	<p>Sustainability Management</p> <p>Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Environmental Management</p> <p>Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Environmental Management > Approach to climate change and TCFD initiatives</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P40-43 : Sustainability Strategy</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P80 : Corporate Governance > Sustainability Governance / Intellectual Property Governance</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P86-87 : Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board Members</p>
2-14	Role of the highest governance body in sustainability reporting	Sustainability Management
2-15	Conflicts of interest	<p>Corporate Governance</p> <p>Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P76-77 : Major shareholders</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P17 : 1 > 2. Capital Structure</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P19 : 2 > 1. Organizational Composition and Operation</p>

2-16	Communication of critical concerns	<p>Sustainability Management</p> <p>Risk management</p> <p>The Meiji Group's TCFD Initiatives</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P58-59 : Human Rights</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P82-85 : Risk Management</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P35 : 2 > 2. Matters on Functions of Business Execution, Auditing, Oversight, Nomination and Remuneration Decisions (Overview of Current Corporate Governance System)</p>
2-17	Collective knowledge of the highest governance body	<p>Sustainability Management</p> <p>Corporate Governance > Training Opportunities for Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board Members</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P40-43 : Sustainability Strategy</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P14 : Supplementary Principle 4.14.2 Training Opportunities for Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board Members</p> <p>Corporate Governance Policy > 8-8. Training Opportunities for Directors, Audit & Supervisory Board Members and Executive Officers</p>
2-18	Evaluation of the performance of the highest governance body	<p>Corporate Governance > Evaluation of Board of Directors</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P73-74 : Evaluations of the Board of Directors</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P13 : Supplementary Principle 4.11.3 Evaluation of the Board of Directors</p> <p>Corporate Governance Policy > 7.3. Evaluation of the Board of Directors</p>
2-19	Remuneration policies	<p>Governance > Remuneration of Officer</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P75-76 : Compensation for Directors (and Other Officers)</p> <p>Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P93-96 : Remuneration for directors (and other officers)</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P27 : 2 > 1. Organizational Composition and Operation > Incentives / Director Compensation</p> <p>Corporate Governance Policy > 8.12. Policy on Compensation for Directors and Executive Officers</p>
2-20	Process to determine remuneration	<p>Governance > Remuneration of Officer</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P75-76 : Compensation for Directors (and Other Officers)</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P27 : 2 > 1. Organizational Composition and Operation > Incentives / Director Compensation</p>

2-21	Annual total compensation ratio	Not disclosed
2-22	Statement on sustainable development strategy	<p>CEO Message (About Meiji)</p> <p>CEO Message (Sustainability)</p> <p>CSO Message</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P12-17 : Message from CEO</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P40-43 : Sustainability Strategy</p>
2-23	Policy commitments	<p>Sustainability 2026 Vision > Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision</p> <p>Philosophy > Group Philosophy</p> <p>ESG Index > Policies</p> <p>Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > The Meiji Group Long-Term Environmental Vision</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Human Resources</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights</p> <p>Risk Management</p>
2-24	Embedding policy commitments	<p>Sustainability Management</p> <p>Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Environmental Management</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > System for Promoting Respect for Human Rights</p> <p>Promotion of Human Capital Strategy > Group Human Capital Committee</p> <p>Risk Management > Risk Management System</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P40-43 : Sustainability Strategy</p>
2-25	Processes to remediate negative impacts	Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Initiatives for risk assessment, mitigation, and remedy
2-26	Mechanisms for seeking advice and raising concerns	<p>Compliance > Management System > Contact Information for the Compliance Counseling Desk</p> <p>ESG Data > Governance > Compliance</p>
2-27	Compliance with laws and regulations	<p>Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Environmental Management</p> <p>ESG Data > Environment > Environmental Management</p>

2-28	Membership associations	<p>Collaboration</p> <p>Caring for the Earth > Climate Change</p> <p>Sustainable Sourcing > Procure Raw Materials With Consideration Toward Human Rights and the Environment > Sourcing of Palm Oil</p> <p>Make Sustainable Cocoa Beans > Collaborative Support with Partners</p> <p>Make Sustainable Dairy Industry > Collaboration with External Partners</p>
2-29	Approach to stakeholder engagement	<p>Sustainability Management</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Society > Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p>Stakeholder Dialogue Sessions</p> <p>Sustainability 2026 Vision > Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P44-51 : Coexisting with Nature</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P58-59 : Human Rights</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P38 : 3. Implementation of Measures for Shareholders and Other stakeholders</p>
2-30	Collective bargaining agreements	<p>Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Improving Employee Engagement > Maintaining positive relations between management and labor</p> <p>ESG Data > Social > Union participation rate</p> <p>Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P11 : Employees</p>

GRI 3: Material Topics

Number	Disclosure	Location
3-1	Process to determine material topics	<p>Sustainability 2026 Vision > Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P40-43 : Sustainability Strategy</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P90-92 : Non-Financial Performance (Progress on Materiality)</p> <p>Corporate Governance Report P40 : 3. Implementation of Measures for Shareholders and Other stakeholders > 3. Measures to Ensure Due Respect for Stakeholders > Other</p>
3-2	List of material topics	<p>Sustainability 2026 Vision > Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P40-43 : Sustainability Strategy</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P90-92 : Non-Financial Performance (Progress on Materiality)</p>
3-3	Management of material topics	<p>Sustainability 2026 Vision > Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P40-43 : Sustainability Strategy</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P90-92 : Non-Financial Performance (Progress on Materiality)</p>

201: Economic Performance 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
201-1	Direct economic value generated and distributed	Integrated Report 2023 P30-31 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights (Main Indices) Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P111-114: Consolidated financial statements, etc : Consolidated Financial Results for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31 2023 P18-21 : Consolidated Financial Statements
201-2	Financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change	Risk management Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Environmental Management > Approach to climate change and TCFD initiatives Integrated Report 2023 P46-47 : Coexisting with Nature > Making Dairy Farming Sustainable with a New Approach Integrated Report 2023 P82-85 : Risk Management Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P44-47 : Business risks
201-3	Defined benefit plan obligations and other retirement plans	Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P111-114: Consolidated financial statements, etc
201-4	Financial assistance received from government	Not Disclosed

202: Market Presence 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
202-1	Ratios of standard entry level wage by gender compared to local minimum wage	Not Disclosed
202-2	Proportion of senior management hired from the local community	Not Disclosed

203: Indirect Economic Impacts 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
203-1	Infrastructure investments and services supported	Thriving Communities > Society > Promote Social Contribution
203-2	Significant indirect economic impacts	Health and Nutrition > Contribute to Healthy Diets Health and Nutrition > Respond to a Super-Aged Society Health and Nutrition > Health and Nutrition > Improve Nutrition in Emerging Countries Health and Nutrition > Ensure the Sustainable Supply of Pharmaceuticals Health and Nutrition > Measures Against Infectious Diseases

204: Procurement Practices 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
204-1	Proportion of spending on local suppliers	Not Disclosed

205: Anti-corruption 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
205-1	Operations assessed for risks related to corruption	Not Disclosed
205-2	Communication and training about anti-corruption policies and procedures	Philosophy > Corporate Behavior Charter Meiji Group Anti-Corruption Policy Compliance > Management System > Anti-Corruption
205-3	Confirmed incidents of corruption and actions taken	Not Disclosed

206: Anti-competitive Behavior 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
206-1	Legal actions for anti-competitive behavior, anti-trust, and monopoly practices	Not Disclosed

207: Tax 2019

Number	Disclosure	Location
207-1	Approach to tax	Meiji Group Tax Policy Compliance > Management System > Tax Compliance
207-2	Tax governance, control, and risk management	Meiji Group Tax Policy Compliance > Management System > Tax Compliance
207-3	Stakeholder engagement and management of concerns related to tax	Not Disclosed
207-4	Country-by-country reporting	Compliance > Tax Compliance > Meiji Group's List of Tax Payment by Tax Jurisdiction ESG Data > Governance > Taxes Paid

GRI 300: Environment

301: Materials 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
301-1	Materials used by weight or volume	Caring for the Earth > Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Material Balance (FYE 3/2023) ESG Data > Environment > Circular Economy > Raw materials used
301-2	Recycled input materials used	Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Circular Society Targets Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Containers and Packaging Recycling Initiatives Integrated Report 2023 P47 : Coexisting with Nature > Promotion of Renewable Energy > Use of Biomass Plastics for Meiji Oishii Gyunyu Integrated Report 2023 P91 : Non-Financial Performance (Progress on Materiality) > Circular Economy
301-3	Reclaimed products and their packaging materials	Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Circular Society Targets Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Reduce Environmental Impact > Bottle Reuse and Other Recycling Initiatives Integrated Report 2023 P91 : Non-Financial Performance (Progress on Materiality) > Circular Economy

Number	Disclosure	Location
302-1	Energy consumption within the organization	<p>Caring for the Earth > Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Material Balance (FYE 3/2023)</p> <p>Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO₂ Emissions</p> <p>ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P46-47 : Coexisting with Nature > Making Dairy Farming Sustainable with a New Approach > Promoting Use of Renewable Energy > Use of Renewable Energy</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Energy consumption</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P90 : Non-Financial Performance > Caring for the Earth > Climate Change</p>
302-2	Energy consumption outside of the organization	Not Disclosed
302-3	Energy intensity	<p>Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO₂ Emissions</p> <p>ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > Energy Consumption Volume > Per unit of sales</p>
302-4	Reduction of energy consumption	<p>Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO₂ Emissions</p> <p>ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > Energy Consumption Volume</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Energy Consumption</p>
302-5	Reductions in energy requirements of products and services	Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO ₂ Emissions

Number	Disclosure	Location
303-1	Interactions with water as a shared resource	Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Water Caring for the Earth > Water Integrated Report 2023 P50 : Coexisting with Nature > Initiatives to Secure Water Resources
303-2	Management of water discharge-related impacts	Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources ESG Data > Environment > Appropriate management of chemical substances
303-3	Water withdrawal	Caring for the Earth > Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Material Balance (FYE 3/2023) Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources > Water Usage Volume Results Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources > Water Risk Survey Results ESG Data > Environment > Water > Water extraction volume / by water source Integrated Report 2023 P31/88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Water Consumption
303-4	Water discharge	Caring for the Earth > Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Material Balance (FYE 3/2023) Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources > Water Usage Volume Results ESG Data > Environment > Water > Water drainage volume / by destination Integrated Report 2023 P88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Water discharge
303-5	Water consumption	Caring for the Earth > Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Material Balance (FYE 3/2023) Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources > Water Usage Volume Results Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources > Water Risk Survey Results ESG Data > Environment > Water > Water extraction volume / by water source Integrated Report 2023 P31/88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Water Consumption

Number	Disclosure	Location
304-1	Operational sites owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas	Biodiversity Integrated Report 2023 P50 : Coexisting with Nature > Biodiversity Conservation Activities
304-2	Significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity	Biodiversity Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO ₂ Emissions > Promotion of calculation of the carbon footprint of product(CFP) Integrated Report 2023 P48-49 : Coexisting with Nature > Making Cocoa Production Sustainable Together with Production Areas Integrated Report 2023 P50 : Coexisting with Nature > Biodiversity Conservation Activities
304-3	Habitats protected or restored	Biodiversity ESG Data > Environment > Biodiversity > Implementation rate of biodiversity conservation activities at manufacturing sites Integrated Report 2023 P50 : Coexisting with Nature > Biodiversity Conservation Activities
304-4	IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations	Biodiversity > Analysis of Dependency/impact of Business Activities on Nature in Line with TNFD (LEAP Approach) > Activities in Meiji Group Sites and Surrounding Areas > Evaluation of Risks to Biodiversity Caused by Meiji Group Sites Integrated Report 2023 P50 : Coexisting with Nature > Biodiversity Conservation Activities

Number	Disclosure	Location
305-1	Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO ₂ Emissions ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > CO ₂ emissions Integrated Report 2023 P31/88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > CO ₂ emissions
305-2	Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions	Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO ₂ Emissions ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > CO ₂ emissions Integrated Report 2023 P31/88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > CO ₂ emissions
305-3	Other indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO ₂ Emissions ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > CO ₂ emissions Integrated Report 2023 88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > CO ₂ emissions
305-4	GHG emissions intensity	Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO ₂ Emissions ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > CO ₂ emissions Integrated Report 2023 P31 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > CO ₂ Emissions (Scope 1, 2) / CO ₂ Emissions per Unit of Sales
305-5	Reduction of GHG emissions	Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Eliminate Specific CFCs ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > Energy Consumption Volume / CO ₂ emissions Integrated Report 2023 P88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > CO ₂ emissions
305-6	Emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS)	Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Eliminate Specific CFCs ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > Reduction of CFC-using ESG Data > Environment > Appropriate management of chemical substances
305-7	Nitrogen oxides (NO _x), sulfur oxides (SO _x), and other significant air emissions	Caring for the Earth > Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Material Balance (FYE 3/2023) Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Reduce Environmental Impact > Reducing Generation of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) ESG Data > Environment > Appropriate management of chemical substances

306: Waste 2020

Number	Disclosure	Location
306-1	Waste generation and significant waste-related impacts	Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Circular Economy Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy Integrated Report 2023 P90-92 : Non-Financial Performance (Progress on Materiality)
306-2	Management of significant waste-related impacts	Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Circular Economy Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy
306-3	Waste generated	Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Reduce Environmental Impact ESG Data > Environment > Circular Economy > Total waste / Hazardous Waste Integrated Report 2023 P88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Industrial Waste
306-4	Waste diverted from disposal	Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Reduce Environmental Impact Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Reduce Environmental Impact > Reduction of Food Loss ESG Data > Environment > Circular Economy > Recycled volume
306-5	Waste directed to disposal	Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Reduce Environmental Impact ESG Data > Environment > Circular Economy > Total waste / Recycled volume / Final Disposal Volume (Landfill) Integrated Report 2023 P88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Industrial Waste

308: Supplier Environmental Assessment 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
308-1	New suppliers that were screened using environmental criteria	Not Disclosed
308-2	Negative environmental impacts in the supply chain and actions taken	Sustainable Sourcing > Procure Raw Materials With Consideration Toward Human Rights and the Environment ESG Data > Society > Sourcing Integrated Report 2023 P31 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Sustainable procurement ratio Integrated Report 2023 P51 : Coexisting with Nature > Developing Responsible Supply Chain

401: Employment 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
401-1	New employee hires and employee turnover	ESG Data > Society > Human Resources > Voluntary resignation rate / Number of new employees
401-2	Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part-time employees	Not Disclosed
401-3	Parental leave	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Workstyle Reform > Providing Flexible Work Arrangements ESG Data > Society > Human Resources > Number of employees taking childcare leave / Number of employees opting for shortened work hours for childcare / Percentage of employees returning to work after the end of childcare leaves / Percentage of employees who continue working after taking childcare leave

402: Labor/Management Relations 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
402-1	Minimum notice periods regarding operational changes	Not Disclosed

Number	Disclosure	Location
403-1	Occupational health and safety management system	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Occupational Health and Safety > Management System / ISO45001 certified factories and companies ESG Data > Society > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Percentage of sites covered by ISO45001
403-2	Hazard identification, risk assessment, and incident investigation	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Occupational Health and Safety
403-3	Occupational health services	Not Disclosed
403-4	Worker participation, consultation, and communication on occupational health and safety	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Occupational Health and Safety > Maintaining positive relations between management and labor
403-5	Worker training on occupational health and safety	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Occupational Health and Safety > Workplace-specific health and safety training programs
403-6	Promotion of worker health	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Promoting Health Management Integrated Report 2023 P56-57 : Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Health and Productivity Management / Employee Engagement
403-7	Prevention and mitigation of occupational health and safety impacts directly linked by business relationships	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Occupational Health and Safety > Occupational Accident Elimination Initiatives and Accidents Occurring Over Time > Preventive measures against occupational accidents that occurred in FYE March 2023
403-8	Workers covered by an occupational health and safety management system	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Occupational Health and Safety > Management System/ISO45001 certified factories and companies
403-9	Work-related injuries	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Employee-Friendly Workplaces > Occupational Health and Safety ESG Data > Society > Employee-Friendly Workplaces
403-10	Work-related ill health	Not Disclosed

404: Training and Education 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
404-1	Average hours of training per year per employee	ESG Data > Society > Human Resources > Education and training hours per employee
404-2	Programs for upgrading employee skills and transition assistance programs	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Promotion of Human Capital Strategy > Promoting diversity and inclusion > Rehiring Employees after Retirement Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Strengthening Human Resource Development
404-3	Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Promotion of Human Capital Strategy > Strengthening Human Capital Development > Facilitating career planning through self-assessments

405: Diversity and Equal Opportunity 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
405-1	Diversity of governance bodies and employees	Thriving Communities > Human Resources > Promotion of Human Capital Strategy > Promoting diversity and inclusion Corporate Governance > Corporate Governance System ESG Data > Social > Human Resources Integrated Report 2023 P71 : Corporate Governance > Composition, etc. of the Board of Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board Integrated Report 2023 P86-87 : Members of the Board Integrated Report 2023 P91 : Non-Financial Performance > Thriving Communities > Human Resources Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P81-86 : Corporate governance Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year) > P87-92 : Directors and other officers Corporate Governance Report P19 : 2 > 1. Organizational Composition and Operation
405-2	Ratio of basic salary and remuneration of women to men	ESG Data > Social > Human Resources > Gender pay gap (Ratio of female to male)

406: Non-discrimination 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
406-1	Incidents of discrimination and corrective actions taken	<p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Implementing Human Rights Due Diligence</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Initiatives for risk assessment, mitigation, and remedy</p> <p>Compliance</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P51 : Coexisting with Nature > Developing Responsible Supply Chain</p>

407: Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
407-1	Operations and suppliers in which the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining may be at risk	Not Disclosed

408: Child Labor 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
408-1	Operations and suppliers at significant risk for incidents of child labor	<p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Implementing Human Rights Due Diligence</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Initiatives for risk assessment, mitigation, and remedy</p> <p>Sustainable Sourcing > Procure Raw Materials With Consideration Toward Human Rights and the Environment</p> <p>Make Sustainable Cocoa Beans > Collaborative Support with Partners</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P51 : Coexisting with Nature > Developing Responsible Supply Chain</p>

409: Forced or Compulsory Labor 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
409-1	Operations and suppliers at significant risk for incidents of forced or compulsory labor	<p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Implementing Human Rights Due Diligence</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Initiatives for risk assessment, mitigation, and remedy</p> <p>Sustainable Sourcing > Procure Raw Materials With Consideration Toward Human Rights and the Environment</p> <p>Make Sustainable Cocoa Beans > Collaborative Support with Partners</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P51 : Coexisting with Nature > Developing Responsible Supply Chain</p>

410: Security Practices 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
410-1	Security personnel trained in human rights policies or procedures	<p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Group Employee Training</p>

411: Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
411-1	Incidents of violations involving rights of indigenous peoples	<p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Implementing Human Rights Due Diligence</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Human Rights > Respect and Promote Human Rights > Initiatives for risk assessment, mitigation, and remedy</p> <p>Sustainable Sourcing > Procure Raw Materials With Consideration Toward Human Rights and the Environment</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P51 : Coexisting with Nature > Developing Responsible Supply Chain</p>

413: Local Communities 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
413-1	Operations with local community engagement, impact assessments, and development programs	<p>Thriving Communities > Society > Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p>Thriving Communities > Society > Promote Social Contribution</p> <p>Sustainable Sourcing > Procure Raw Materials With Consideration Toward Human Rights and the Environment</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P48-49 : Coexisting with Nature > Making Cocoa Production Sustainable Together with Production Areas</p>
413-2	Operations with significant actual and potential negative impacts on local communities	Not Disclosed

414: Supplier Social Assessment 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
414-1	New suppliers that were screened using social criteria	Not Disclosed
414-2	Negative social impacts in the supply chain and actions taken	<p>Sustainable Sourcing > Procure Raw Materials With Consideration Toward Human Rights and the Environment</p> <p>ESG Data > Society > Sourcing</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P31 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Sustainable procurement ratio</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P51 : Coexisting with Nature > Developing Responsible Supply Chain</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P58-59 : Human Rights</p>

415: Public Policy 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
415-1	Political contributions	Not Disclosed

416: Customer Health and Safety 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
416-1	Assessment of the health and safety impacts of product and service categories	Healthier Lives > Quality and Safety > Ensure Product Quality and Safety Integrated Report 2023 P85 : Risk Management
416-2	Incidents of non-compliance concerning the health and safety impacts of products and services	Integrated Report 2023 P85 : Risk Management

417: Marketing and Labeling 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
417-1	Requirements for product and service information and labeling	Healthier Lives > Quality and Safety > Ensure Product Quality and Safety Healthier Lives > Health and Nutrition > Contribute to Healthy Diets > Product Package Labeling Thriving Communities > Society > Stakeholder Engagement > Communicate with Our Customers Meiji Group Food Nutrition Labeling Policy Meiji Group Marketing Communication to Children Policy Meiji Group Policy for the Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes (BMS Policy)
417-2	Incidents of non-compliance concerning product and service information and labeling	Not Disclosed
417-3	Incidents of non-compliance concerning marketing communications	Not Disclosed


418: Customer Privacy 2016

Number	Disclosure	Location
418-1	Substantiated complaints concerning breaches of customer privacy and losses of customer data	Not Disclosed

SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standard Board)

The Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) is an independent, standards-setting organization that promotes disclosure of material sustainability information to meet investor needs. This table below references the Standard for the Processed Foods industry as defined by SASB's Sustainable Industry Classification System (SICS) and identifies where Meiji Holdings addresses each topic.

Sustainability disclosure topics and accounting metrics

Topic	Accounting Metric	SASB Code	Location	Notes
Energy Management	(1) Total energy consumed, (2) percentage grid electricity, (3) percentage renewable	FB-PF-130a.1	ESG Data > Environment > Climate Change > Energy consumption Integrated Report 2023 P90 : Non-Financial Performance (Progress on Materiality) > Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Renewable energy usage (FY2022: 9.5%) Caring for the Earth > Climate Change > Reduce CO ₂ Emissions > Promotion of Renewable Energy CDP 2022 	The Meiji Group has set the goal of increasing the share of renewable energy to 100% of power usage at company sites by 2050.
Water Management	(1) Total water withdrawn, (2) total water consumed, percentage of each in regions with High or Extremely High Baseline Water Stress	FB-PF-140a.1	ESG Data > Environment > Water Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources Integrated Report 2023 P31/88-89 : Financial and Non-Financial Highlights > Water Consumption	From our FYE 3/2022 results, we can see that water consumption in areas with relatively high risks to water resources* is approximately 3% of total water consumption. *Using Aqueduct, we analyzed severity of stress on water resources (including Baseline Water Stress and Baseline Water Depletion), as well as Seasonal Variability. The term "areas with relatively high risks to water resources" above refers to areas where Aqueduct's risk analysis pointed to a high current or future risk.

Water Management	Number of incidents of non-compliance associated with water quantity and/or quality permits, standards, and regulations	FB-PF-140a.2	ESG Data > Environment > Environmental management Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management > Number of environmental accidents and regulation violations Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources > Quality Management of Discharged Water	
	Description of water management risks and discussion of strategies and practices to mitigate those risks	FB-PF-140a.3	Integrated Report 2023 P50 : Coexisting with Nature > Initiatives to Secure Water Resources Caring for the Earth > Water > Secure Water Resources	
Food Safety	Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) audit (1) non-conformance rate and (2) associated corrective action rate for (a) major and (b) minor non-conformances	FB-PF-250a.1	Zero critical non-conformance found in FYE 3/2023	
	Percentage of ingredients sourced from Tier 1 supplier facilities certified to a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognized food safety certification program	FB-PF-250a.2	Healthier Lives > Quality and Safety > Ensure Product Quality and Safety	We currently do not disclose the percentage of ingredients; however, as part of our food safety efforts, we have already introduced HACCP-based techniques at all our plants. Additionally, we obtained certification from the global third-party food safety management system Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for all food plants in Japan and overseas by FYE 3/2021.
	(1) Total number of notices of food safety violation received, (2) percentage corrected	FB-PF-250a.3	Zero incidence in FYE 3/2023	
	(1) Number of recalls issued and (2) total amount of food product recalled	FB-PF-250a.4	Zero incidence in FYE 3/2023	

Health & Nutrition	Revenue from products labeled and/or marketed to promote health and nutrition attributes	FB-PF-260a.1	ESG Data > Society > Customers	
	Discussion of the process to identify and manage products and ingredients related to nutritional and health concerns among consumers	FB-PF-260a.2	Healthier Lives > Health and Nutrition	
Product Labeling & Marketing	Percentage of advertising impressions (1) made on children and (2) made on children promoting products that meet dietary guidelines	FB-PF-270a.1	Not disclosed	
	Revenue from products labeled as (1) containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and (2) non-GMO	FB-PF-270a.2	Not disclosed	The Meiji Group makes appropriate decisions regarding the use and labeling of genetically modified ingredients in its products in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country concerning the use and labeling of genetically modified ingredients in food products, and does not use any raw materials that are subject to mandatory labeling under the genetically modified labeling system.
	Number of incidents of non-compliance with industry or regulatory labeling and/or marketing codes	FB-PF-270a.3	Not disclosed	
	Total amount of monetary losses as a result of legal proceedings associated with labeling and/or marketing practices	FB-PF-270a.4	Not disclosed	

Packaging Lifecycle Management	(1) Total weight of packaging, (2) percentage made from recycled and/or renewable materials, and (3) percentage that is recyclable, reusable, and/or compostable	FB-PF-410a.1	<p>Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Circular Society Targets</p> <p>Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Domestic Container and Packaging Usage and Recycling Implementation Fee</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P47 : Coexisting with Nature > Promotion of Renewable Energy > Use of Biomass Plastics for Meiji Oishii Gyunyu</p>	
	Discussion of strategies to reduce the environmental impact of packaging throughout its lifecycle	FB-PF-410a.2	<p>Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Circular Society Targets</p> <p>Caring for the Earth > Circular Economy > Bottle Reuse and Other Recycling Initiatives</p> <p>Integrated Report 2023 P47 : Coexisting with Nature > Promotion of Renewable Energy > Use of Biomass Plastics for Meiji Oishii Gyunyu</p>	In July 2020 we established the Meiji Group Plastic Policy with the goal of reducing use of plastic by at least 25% by FYE 3/2031 (compared to FYE 3/2018). Here is one example of this initiative in action: we are reducing the weight of our products' plastic bottles, as well as reusing and recycling plastic appliances used in storage and transportation. We are also increasing the use of organic bioplastics and recycled plastics for straws and product packaging.
Environmental & Social Impacts of Ingredient Supply Chain	Percentage of food ingredients sourced that are certified to third-party environmental and/or social standards, and percentages by standard	FB-PF-430a.1	Sustainable Sourcing	
	Suppliers' social and environmental responsibility audit (1) non-conformance rate and (2) associated corrective action rate for (a) major and (b) minor non-conformances	FB-PF-430a.2	Sustainable Sourcing	

Ingredient Sourcing	Percentage of food ingredients sourced from regions with High or Extremely High Baseline Water Stress	FB-PF-440a.1	Biodiversity > Effect of Business Activities on Biodiversity > Impact of Water Risks on Yields of Main Raw Materials
	List of priority food ingredients and discussion of sourcing risks due to environmental and social considerations	FB-PF-440a.2	Sustainable Sourcing Integrated Report 2023 P45 : Coexisting with Nature > Addressing Social Issues in Main Raw Materials Integrated Report 2023 P51 : Coexisting with Nature > Developing Responsible Supply Chain

Activity metric

Activity Metric	Code	Location
Weight of products sold	FB-PF-000.A	Caring for the Earth > Long-Term Environmental Vision/ Environmental Management>Material Balance (FYE 3/2023) ESG Data > Environment> Circular Economy
Number of production facilities	FB-PF-000.B	Integrated Report 2023 P94-95 : Operating Bases and Group Companies

UN Global Compact

UN Global Compact Principles		Location
Human Rights	Principle 1 Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.	Human Rights
	Principle 2 Businesses should make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.	
Labour	Principle 3 Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.	Human Rights Human Resources Sustainable Sourcing
	Principle 4 Businesses should support the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.	
	Principle 5 Businesses should support the effective abolition of child labour.	
	Principle 6 Businesses should support the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.	
Environment	Principle 7 Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.	Sustainability 2026 Vision Climate Change Circular Economy Water Biodiversity
	Principle 8 Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.	
	Principle 9 Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.	
Anti-Corruption	Principle 10 Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.	Compliance

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Goal	Description	Location
 Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Health and Nutrition	
 Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Health and Nutrition Quality and Safety	
 Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Health and Nutrition	
 Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Human Resources	
 Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Water Biodiversity	
 Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Climate Change	
 Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Human Resources Human Rights Sustainable Sourcing	
 Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries	Human Resources Human Rights	
 Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Quality and Safety Circular Economy Sustainable Sourcing	
 Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Climate Change	
 Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Water	
 Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Biodiversity Sustainable Sourcing	
 Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Society Sustainable Sourcing Collaboration	

Health and Nutrition

SUSTAINABILITY 2026 VISION

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Climate Change

SUSTAINABILITY 2026 VISION

CLIMATE CHANGE

Water Resources

SUSTAINABILITY 2026 VISION

WATER

Plastic Resource Circulation

SUSTAINABILITY 2026 VISION

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Food Loss

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Human Rights

SUSTAINABILITY 2026 VISION

SOCIETY

SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

INNOVATION

Diversity

SUSTAINABILITY 2026 VISION

HUMAN RESOURCES

Supply Chain Management

SUSTAINABILITY 2026 VISION

SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

QUALITY AND SAFETY

SUSTAINABILITY VIDEO

Health and Nutrition

Meiji Group Food Nutrition Labeling Policy



Meiji Group Marketing Communication to Children Policy



Meiji Group Policy for the Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes (BMS Policy)



Environmental Sustainability

Meiji Group Environmental Policy



Meiji Group Pollution Prevention Guideline



Meiji Group Water Resources Policy



Meiji Group Plastic Policy



Meiji Group Biodiversity Conservation Activity Policy



People and Society

Meiji Group Policy on Human Rights



Meiji Group Policy on Occupational Health and Safety



Meiji Group Diversity and Inclusion Policy



Meiji Group Social Contribution Activities Policy



Supply Chain

Meiji Group Procurement Policy



Raw Milk Procurement Guideline



Cocoa Procurement Guideline



Palm Oil Procurement Guideline



Soybean Procurement Guideline



Paper Procurement Guideline



Meiji Group Farm Animal Welfare Policy





Corporate Governance

Meiji Group Tax Policy



Meiji Group Anti-Corruption Policy



Meiji Group Information Security Policy



Environment

Environmental management					FYE 3/2023				
Third-party certification	ISO14001	Japan	-	Certified at 31 factories, 2 laboratories, and 12 group companies					
		Overseas	-	Certified at 3 group companies					
	Percentage of sites covered by ISO14001*1	Global	%	74.6					
			Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	
Number of violation of environmental laws and regulations			incidents	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of major environmental accidents			incidents	4	2	2	1	0	
Circular Economy									
			Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	
Raw materials used	Total*2	Global	ten thousands of tons	203.4	172.2	173.0	176.2	160.8	
	Raw Milk		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	134.6	128.3	
	Wheat, starch		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	12.6	4.7	
	Sugar		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	10.0	10.1	
	Milk-Derived Raw Materials		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	4.6	5.8	
	Others		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	14.3	12.0	
packaging used	Total	Global	ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	18.1	17.9	
	Paper		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	6.1	5.7	
	Cardboard		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	6.4	6.5	
	Plastic ,PET bottles		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	4.1	4.1	
	Steel		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	0.7	0.7	
	Others		ten thousands of tons	-	-	-	0.7	0.9	
Total waste*3	Waste amount (Japan)		ten thousands of tons	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.4	
	Waste amount per unit of sales (Japan)		tons/hundred million yen	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.5	
	Waste amount (Global)		ten thousands of tons	-	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7	
	Waste amount per unit of sales (Global)		tons/hundred million yen	-	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.5	
Hazardous Waste			ten thousands of tons	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Recycled volume*3			ten thousands of tons	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	
Final Disposal Volume (Landfill)			ten thousands of tons	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Reduction of food product waste			%	△ 21.9	△ 25.1	△ 29.3	△ 34.1	△ 31.5	
Reduction of plastic usage			%	△ 8.2	△ 9.8	△ 11.7	△ 16.0	△ 18.3	

Environment

Water		Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Water extraction volume ^{*4}	Extraction total	thousand m ³	23,483	23,397	22,571	21,255	20,623
	Extraction total per unit of sales	m ³ per hundred thousand yen	1.87	1.87	1.89	1.78	1.94
	Japan	thousand m ³	22,056	21,979	21,189	19,808	19,516
	Japan (per unit of sales)	m ³ per hundred thousand yen	1.89	1.89	1.92	1.83	2.07
	China ^{*5}	thousand m ³	878	903	845	879	509
	Asia (excluding Japan and China) ^{*6}	thousand m ³	487	459	479	497	542
	North America and Europe ^{*7}	thousand m ³	62	56	58	71	57
Water extraction volume by water source ^{*4}	Fresh water total	thousand m ³	–	23,397	22,571	21,255	20,623
		%	–	100	100	100	100
	Tap water	thousand m ³	–	2,619	2,391	2,259	1,845
		%	–	11	11	11	9
	Water for industrial use	thousand m ³	–	5,329	4,888	4,680	4,505
		%	–	23	22	22	22
	Rivers lakes, and marshes	thousand m ³	–	0	0	0	0
		%	–	0	0	0	0
	Ground water	thousand m ³	–	15,446	15,289	14,313	14,270
		%	–	66	67	67	69
	Rainwater	thousand m ³	–	3	3	3	3
		%	–	0	0	0	0
Water Drainage Volume ^{*4}	Drainage total	thousand m ³	20,586	19,437	18,226	17,397	17,412
	Japan	thousand m ³	19,702	18,415	17,248	16,450	16,732
	China ^{*5}	thousand m ³	696	790	761	739	441
	Asia (excluding Japan and China) ^{*6}	thousand m ³	141	180	162	178	208
	North America and Europe ^{*7}	thousand m ³	47	53	54	31	30
Water drainage volume by destination ^{*4}	Drainage total	thousand m ³	–	19,437	18,226	17,397	17,404
		%	–	100	100	100	100
	Sewerage	thousand m ³	–	8,729	8,156	7,979	7,479
		%	–	45	45	46	43
	Discharge into rivers	thousand m ³	–	10,614	9,991	9,324	9,845
		%	–	55	55	54	57
	Discharge into ocean	thousand m ³	–	0	0	0	0
		%	–	0	0	0	0
	Discharge into ground water (including irrigation)	thousand m ³	–	94	78	94	80
		%	–	0	0	1	0
Biodiversity							
		Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Implementation rate of biodiversity conservation activities at manufacturing sites		%	–	–	38.8 ^{*8}	61.9 ^{*8}	77.1 ^{*8}
	Japan	%	62.0	80.8	36.2 ^{*8}	67.4 ^{*8}	81.4 ^{*8}
	Overseas	%	–	–	45.0 ^{*8}	50.0 ^{*8}	66.7 ^{*8}

Environment

Climate Change			Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	
Energy consumption volume(Global)			TJ	-	-	11,439	11,095	11,020	
	Per unit of sales		TJ/hundred million of yen	-	-	1.0	0.9	1.0	
Energy consumption volume(Japan)			oil:10,000 kL	24.6	26.0	24.8	24.0	23.5	
			TJ	9,845	10,714	9,766	9,424	9,236	
	Per unit of sales		TJ/hundred million of yen	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	
Energy consumption volume(Global)			Electricity consumption	MWh	534,616	569,049	631,404	772,659	760,199
CO ₂ emissions	Global	Scope 1	ten thousands of tons	25.5	24.8	23.9	24.5	22.9	
		Scope 2	ten thousands of tons	36.8	35.6	32.4	29.1	28.5	
		Per unit of sales	t-CO ₂ /hundred million of yen	49.7	48.2	47.2	44.8	48.4	
	Japan	Scope 1	ten thousands of tons	22.8	22.2	21.5	22.1	20.5	
		Scope 2 ^{*4}	ten thousands of tons	28.2	27.9	25.4	21.6	21.9	
		Per unit of sales ^{*9}	t-CO ₂ /hundred million of yen	43.7	43.2	42.4	40.3	45.0	
	China ^{*5}	Scope 1	ten thousands of tons	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	
		Scope 2	ten thousands of tons	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.7	1.8	
	Asia (excluding Japan and China) ^{*6}	Scope 1	ten thousands of tons	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	
		Scope 2	ten thousands of tons	5.2	4.7	3.6	3.9	4.1	
	North America and Europe ^{*7}	Scope 1	ten thousands of tons	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	
		Scope 2	ten thousands of tons	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	
	Japan	Scope 3	ten thousands of tons	318.9	303.5	294.8	302.7	348.4	
		1. Purchased goods and services	ten thousands of tons	243.7	234.3	225.9	228.4	279.2	
		2. Capital goods	ten thousands of tons	22.4	22.3	21.3	29.2	22.6	
		3. Fuel- and energy-related activities (not included in Scope 1 or 2)	ten thousands of tons	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	8.7	
		4. Upstream transportation and distribution	ten thousands of tons	25.2	24.4	24.3	23.7	21.9	
		5. Waste generated in operations	ten thousands of tons	1.2	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.8	
		6. Business travel	ten thousands of tons	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	
		7. Employee commuting	ten thousands of tons	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	
8. Upstream leased assets		ten thousands of tons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
9. Downstream transportation and distribution		ten thousands of tons	17.7	13.5	15.6	14.7	11.2		
10. Processing of sold products		ten thousands of tons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
11. Use of sold products		ten thousands of tons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
12. End-of-life treatment of sold products		ten thousands of tons	6.1	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.3		
13. Downstream leased assets		ten thousands of tons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
14. Franchises		ten thousands of tons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
15. Investments	ten thousands of tons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Global	Scope 3	ten thousands of tons	-	325.3	313.5	322.7	390.5		

Environment

Climate Change						
	Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Reduction of CFC-using ^{*10}	%	-	-	base year	48.6	57.0
Japan ^{*10}	%	-	-	base year	48.9	56.0
Overseas ^{*10}	%	-	-	base year	47.8	59.8
Use of eco-friendly car ^{*11}	vehicles	558	574	660	772	821
CO ₂ emission reduction by use of solar power	t-CO ₂	570	670	1,467	1,774	2,358
Calculation Method for Scope 3 Emissions						
Categories	Basis for calculation and calculation method	Emission source unit				
1. Purchased goods and services	<p>Until FY2021 Based on: Purchase price (million yen) Purchase monetary amount of raw material x emission source unit of each raw material</p> <p>FY2022 Based on: Purchase weight (t) Purchase weight of raw material x emission source unit of each raw material</p>	<p>Coverage: Production bases (Meiji Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries^{*12}, Meiji Seika pharma Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries^{*13} and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.) -Included all plants of KM Biologics Co., Ltd., from FY3/2020 Emission source unit: Until FY2021 - Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database^{*14}; emission source units based on the industry-related table Emission source unit on monetary basis for each raw material (purchaser price basis)</p> <p>FY2022 - Source: IDEA_Ver.3.2.0 Emission source unit on weight basis for each raw material</p>				
2. Capital goods	<p>Based on: Capital expenditures (million yen)</p> <p>Facility investment amount x emission source unit per price of capital goods</p>	<p>Coverage: all Meiji Group companies^{*15} Emission sourced unit: *Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database^{*14}; emission source units per price of capital goods</p>				
3. Fuel- and energy-related activities (not included in Scope 1 or 2)	<p>Based on: Consumption of each type of energy (GJ)</p> <p>Usage amount of purchased fuel, electricity, heat, etc. x emission source units per usage amount for each energy type</p>	<p>Coverage: all Meiji Group companies^{*15} Emission sourced unit: *Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database^{*14}; emission source units per usage amount of electricity and heat IDEA_Ver.3.2.0 Fuel was included in the calculation from FY2022</p>				
4. Upstream transportation and distribution	<p>Based on: Purchase weight (t)</p> <p>1. Purchase weight x coefficient by transportation scenario (10 t truck of 500km distance and 60% loading ratio)</p> <p>2. the amount of CO₂ emissions based on the distribution of Meiji Co., Ltd.</p> <p>calculated by 1 and 2</p>	<p>Coverage: Production bases (Meiji Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries^{*12}, Meiji Seika pharma Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries^{*13} and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.) Included all plants of KM Biologics Co., Ltd., from FYE 3/2020 Emission source unit during transportation: *Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database^{*14}; Calculation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculation</p>				
5. Waste generated in operations	<p>Based on: Waste weight by waste type (t)</p> <p>Waste weight by waste type (t) x emission source units by waste type</p>	<p>Coverage: Production bases (Meiji Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries^{*12}, Meiji Seika pharma Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries^{*13} and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.) Included all plants of KM Biologics Co., Ltd., from FYE 3/2020 Emission sourced unit: *Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database^{*14}; emission source units by waste type</p>				
6. Business travel	<p>Based on: Number of Meiji Group employees</p> <p>Number of Meiji Group employees x emission source units per employee</p>	<p>Coverage: Meiji Group including consolidated subsidiaries^{*15} Emission sourced unit: *Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database^{*14}; emission source units per employee</p>				
7. Employee commuting	<p>Based on: Number of Meiji Group employees, number of work day per year</p> <p>Number of Meiji Group employees × number of work day per year x emission source units per number of work day</p>	<p>Coverage: Meiji Group including consolidated subsidiaries^{*15} Emission sourced unit: *Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database^{*14}; emission source units per employee-number of work day</p>				
8. Upstream leased assets	Not applicable	-				

Environment

Calculation Method for Scope 3 Emissions

Categories	Basis for calculation and calculation method	Emission source unit
9. Downstream transportation and distribution	Based on: Product sales weight (t) Product sales weight x coefficient by transportation scenario (10 t truck of 500km distance and 60% loading ratio)	Coverage: Production bases (Meiji Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries ^{*12} , Meiji Seika pharma Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries ^{*13} and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.) Included all plants of KM Biologics Co., Ltd., from FY3/2020 Emission source unit during transportation: *Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database ^{*14} ; Calculation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculation
10. Processing of sold products	Excluded from calculation because of low amount	-
11. Use of sold products	Not applicable	-
12. End-of-life treatment of sold products	Based on: Weight of materials for the container and of the sold product (t) Weight of materials for the container of the sold product (t) x emission source units by waste type	Coverage: Production bases (Meiji Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries ^{*12} , Meiji Seika pharma Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries ^{*13} and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.) Included all plants of KM Biologics Co., Ltd., from FY3/2020 Emission sourced unit: *Source: The Ministry of the Environment's database ^{*14} ; emission source units by waste type
13. Downstream leased assets	Not applicable	-
14. Franchises	Not applicable	-
15. Investments	Excluded from calculation because of low amount	-

Environment

Appropriate management of chemical substances ^{*16}		Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
PRTR emissions	(13) Acetonitrile	tons	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
	(127) Chloroform	tons	0.0	1.3	1.6	–	–
	(150) 1,4-Dioxane	tons	–	–	–	–	–
	(186) Methylene chloride	tons	–	7.3	7.2	9.1	1.2
	(232) N,N-Dimethylformamide	tons	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.7
	(342) Pyridine	tons	0.0	–	–	–	–
	(411) formaldehyde	tons	0.5	–	–	–	–
	(438) Methylnaphthalene	tons	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0
	emissions total	tons	1.2	9.4	9.8	10.0	3.9
	Dioxins	mg-TEQ	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.4
PRTR transfer volume	(13) Acetonitrile	tons	7.4	2.5	3.6	2.2	2.1
	(127) Chloroform	tons	53.0	0.0	29.8	–	–
	(150) 1,4-Dioxane	tons	–	–	–	–	–
	(186) Methylene chloride	tons	–	32.9	25.0	29.2	8.3
	(232) N,N-Dimethylformamide	tons	231.3	20.9	336.2	32.8	122.0
	(342) Pyridine	tons	–	–	–	–	–
	(411) formaldehyde	tons	0.1	–	–	–	–
	(438) Methylnaphthalene	tons	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	transfer total	tons	291.8	56.4	394.6	64.2	132.4
	Dioxins	mg-TEQ	3.0	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.3
BOD emissions ^{*17}		tons	–	–	–	18.0	15.4
COD emissions ^{*17}	Japan (CODmn)	tons	–	–	–	36.0	32.3
	Overseas (CODcr)	tons	–	–	–	–	2.3
NOx emissions		tons	134.9	141.1	140.5	164.3	157.3
SOx emissions		tons	63.6	69.4	66.1	95.9	97.1
VOC (Atmosphere emissions figures)		tons	–	–	561.7	101.9	118.3

* The environment information of Meiji Group covers only consolidated subsidiaries in Japan.

FYE 3/2019 figures include Kumamoto Production Center of KM Biologics Co., Ltd., and FYE 3/2020 figures include all business locations of KM biologics Co., Ltd.

The accounting standard for revenue recognition is not applied to sales used in the calculation of the per sales unit.

From FY2022, The accounting standard for revenue recognition is applied to sales used in the calculation of the per sales unit.

The per sales unit is calculated from consolidated sales.

*1 The scope of Percentage of sites covered by ISO14001 is limited to production plants.

*2 From FYE 3/2018 to 3/2021, covers only consolidated subsidiaries in Japan.

*3 Covers only industrial waste in production plants from FYE 3/2019

*4 Figures are changed based on the change of coverage.

*5 Covers six production plants. Until FYE 3/2021, covers five production plants

*6 Covers four production plants

*7 Covers three production plants. Until FYE 3/2022, covers four production plants

*8 In FYE 3/2021, a large number of biodiversity conservation activities that we organize or participate in were cancelled due to COVID-19.

This has led to a decrease in our performance rate during FYE 3/2021

*9 Per unit of sales of Domestic CO₂ emissions (Scope 1, 2)

*10 Data for Meiji Co., Ltd. are as of September 30, 2022.

*11 From FYE 3/2017 to 3/2018, figures are the sum of figures for Meiji Co., Ltd., and Meiji Seika pharma Co., Ltd, Ltd.

and from FYE 3/2019, figures also include KM biologics Co., Ltd.

*12 The information concerns Meiji Co., Ltd. including consolidated subsidiaries

*13 The information concerns Meiji Seika pharma Co., Ltd. including domestic consolidated subsidiaries

*14 The Ministry of the Environment's database: The Ministry of the Environment's emission source unit database for calculating greenhouse gas emissions through the supply chain

*15 Figures for Meiji Group covers only consolidated subsidiaries in Japan, including KM Biologics Co., Ltd. from FYE 3/2019.

*16 "–" indicates the amount of chemical substance use is below 1t (the reporting requirement amount).

*17 The scope: wastewater discharged into public waters. From FYE 3/2023, BOD emissions and COD emissions includes overseas.

COD pollution load in Japan was measured using potassium permanganate as an oxidant.

The overseas COD pollution load measured by the method using potassium dichromate as an oxidant.

Society

Human Resources		Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	
Number of employees	Global* ¹	persons	17,608	17,571	17,832	17,336	17,290	
		Male	persons	–	–	12,585	12,199	12,039
	%		–	–	71	70	70	
	Female	persons	–	–	5,247	5,137	5,251	
		%	–	–	29	30	30	
	Japan* ²	persons	9,501	9,463	9,537	9,309	9,018	
		Male	persons	7,223	7,140	7,148	6,954	6,718
		Female	persons	2,278	2,323	2,389	2,355	2,300
Number of temporary employees	Global* ¹	persons	9,723	9,234	8,369	7,864	7,242	
	Japan* ²	persons	4,625	4,576	4,659	4,552	4,231	
		Male	persons	1,672	1,709	1,812	1,778	1,657
		Female	persons	2,953	2,867	2,847	2,774	2,574
Number of employees by country of main operations		persons	5,100	5,267	5,478	5,467	5,691	
United States		persons	561	571	627	636	654	
Spain		persons	281	277	272	243	287	
China		persons	1,094	1,092	1,071	1,157	1,193	
Indonesia		persons	648	730	781	769	762	
Singapore		persons	282	316	293	277	318	
Thailand		persons	394	407	430	419	456	
India		persons	1,840	1,874	2,004	1,966	2,021	
Average number of consecutive years served		years, months	16.10	17.02	17.04	17.09	18.03	
Male		years, months	17.11	18.03	18.04	18.11	19.03	
Female		years, months	13.06	13.12	14.00	14.06	15.01	
Average age of employees		age(YY.MM)	39.12	40.05	40.09	41.04	41.10	
Male		age(YY.MM)	41.01	41.05	41.10	42.05	42.11	
Female		age(YY.MM)	36.06	37.03	37.07	38.02	38.08	
Ratio of female executive officers* ³		%	14.3	16.7	25.0	23.1	23.1	
Ratio of female managers		%	3.1	3.4	3.7	4.7	5.6	
Number of female managers (including assistant managers)		persons	171	189	208	237	256	
Number of new employees		persons	356	342	395	192	228	
Male		persons	210	198	256	105	145	
Female		persons	146	144	139	87	83	
Ratio of employees with disabilities* ⁴		%	2.29	2.28	2.47	2.51	2.53	
Retirement-age employees requesting re-employment* ⁵		persons	83	118	126	113	98	
Ratio of approved requests of re-employment* ⁵		%	100	100	100	100	100	

Society

Human Resources		Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	
Percentage of mid-career workers as full-time employees	Meiji Co., Ltd.	%	14.7	18.0	48.8	7.3	28.6	
	Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd.	%	21.8	21.5	34.4	28.2	58.3	
	KM Biologics Co., Ltd.	%	27.3	65.0	44.4	44.0	41.1	
Percentage of open positions filled by internal candidates (internal hires)		%	0	0	0	95.0	100	
	Male	%	0	0	0	52.6	66.7	
	Female	%	0	0	0	47.4	33.3	
Employee turnover rate*6		%	-	-	-	-	2.2	
	Male	%	-	-	-	-	2.1	
	Female	%	-	-	-	-	2.6	
Voluntary employee turnover rate		%	-	-	1.6	2.1	2.1	
	Male	%	-	-	-	1.7	1.9	
	Female	%	-	-	-	3.2	2.5	
	Voluntary turnover rate for young employees less than 3 years from graduates	%	8.9	8.9	11.4	13.4	10.6	
Education and training expense per employee **4*7		yen	21,000	34,000	16,000	22,000	39,000	
Total Education and training hours *7		hours	-	-	2,583	9,090	478,246	
Education and training hours per employee *7		hours	-	-	0.27	0.98	53.03	
Gender pay gap (Ratio of female to male)		%	-	-	-	-	49.5	
	Employees		%	-	-	-	-	66.2
		Management	%	-	-	-	-	88.9
	Temporary employees	%	-	-	-	-	58.6	

Society

Employee-Friendly Workplaces		Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Average monthly hours of overtime per employee		hours	13.0	12.7	10.1	12.7	11.0
Percentage of annual paid vacation days taken by employees		%	67.0	71.5	67.3	68.5	71.9
Number of employees taking childcare leave	Male	persons	40	68	90	190	275
	Female		248	335	330	332	332
Number of employees opting for shortened work hours for childcare	Male	persons	3	6	7	6	4
	Female		262	385	402	458	412
Percentage of employees returning to work after the end of childcare leave		%	100	100	100	100	100
Percentage of employees who continue working after taking childcare leave		%	98	99	100	100	99
Number of employees taking nursing-care leave		persons	7	12	13	8	21
Union participation rate* ⁸		%	100	100	100	100	100
Number of lost time injuries* ⁹		incidents	-	-	-	-	-
	Japan	incidents	14	32	30	34	23
	Overseas	incidents	-	-	-	-	-
Lost-time injury frequency rate (LTIFR)* ¹⁰			-	1.14	1.03	1.09	1.06
	Japan		0.71	0.86	0.86	1.07	0.86
	Japan (Subcontractors)		-	4.29	1.97	3.16	1.47
	Overseas		-	1.82	1.52	1.16	1.46
	Average value of Japanese manufacturing industry* ¹¹		1.20	1.20	1.21	1.31	1.25
Lost-time injury severity rate* ¹²			-	0.0534	0.0198	0.0211	0.2682
	Japan		0.0494	0.0523	0.0214	0.0218	0.3085
	Overseas		-	0.0630	0.0031	0.0164	0.0164
	Average value of Japanese manufacturing industry* ¹¹		0.10	0.10	0.07	0.06	0.08
Number of work related fatalities* ¹⁰		persons	-	0	0	0	0
	Japan	persons	0	0	0	0	0
	Japan (Subcontractors)	persons	-	0	0	0	0
	Overseas	persons	-	0	0	0	0
Percentage of sites covered by ISO45001* ¹³	Global	%	-	-	-	40.6	50.0

Society

Employee Health Indicators			Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Employees with the Risk of Lifestyle-related Disease	Percentage of employees undergoing periodic health examinations		%	100	100	100	100	100
	Follow up rate of employees subject to secondary healthcheckups		%	-	100	100	100	100
	Percentage of employees receiving secondary medical examinations		%	-	80.8	83.9	87.0	85.5
	Rate of implementation of specified health guidance		%	-	-	29.2	41.3	25.0
	Percentage of employees who maintains desirable weight (Less than BMI18.5~25)		%	66.0	65.1	65.5	65.7	64.5
	Percentage of abdominal circumference standard values exceeded ^{*14}		%	-	37.9	37.5	35.3	34.1
	Management (treatment retention) rates for high-risk individuals		%	-	-	-	-	92.1
Other medical examinations	Gastric cancer screening uptake rate		%	83.0	82.6	82.0	84.4	87.4
	Colorectal cancer screening uptake rate		%	93.4	93.5	94.3	95.5	94.3
	Colorectal cancer screening uptake rate		%	54.8	67.4	64.2	64.1	73.7
Productivity	Absentysms ^{*15}		%	-	0.41	0.37	0.15	0.44
	Presentism (loss) ^{*16}		%	-	-	21.6	20.8	21.9
	Presentism	Respondents	persons	-	-	-	-	8,206
		Response rate	%	-	-	-	-	98.4
	Percentage of employees on leave due to injury or illness		%	-	-	-	-	0.6
Stress Check	Participation rate		%	93.8	93.5	93.4	94.2	95.0
	Percentage of employees with high stress		%	-	8.7	8.3	10.1	9.4
Fitness Habits	Walking Campaign	Participation Rate	%	54.9	58.6	59.8	61.7	45.0
		Achievement Rate	%	30.8	32.6	37.0	37.0	20.2
	Percentage of employees who exercise for half an hour or more at least twice a week ^{*17}		%	21.2	24.4	26.7	27.6	28.8
Dietary habits	Percentage who do not eat breakfast		%	25.9	26.9	26.1	26.8	26.9
	Percentage who often eats before bedtime		%	38.8	37.8	31.9	31.6	32.1
Quit-smoking Program	Smoking rate		%	-	24.0	20.8	20.5	19.5
	Number of Participants ^{*18}		persons	-	39	9	8	2
Participation rate and percentage satisfied	Participation rate	E-learning of Lifestyle habits	%	-	-	-	96.0	94.6
		E-learning of Self care	%	-	-	-	89.1	91.7
		E-learning of Line care	%	-	-	-	89.1	98.3
		Nutrition education seminar	%	-	-	-	46.7	52.0
		Women's Health Seminar	%	-	-	-	-	91.8
	Percentage satisfied	E-learning	%	-	-	-	95.4	99.4
		Nutrition education seminar	%	-	-	-	91.0	94.0

Society

Customers						
	Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Development of health-conscious products	number of products	47	20	28	27	46
Development of value-added nutrition products	number of products	32	45	46	35	41
Development of products that contribute to a super-aged society	number of products	6	2	2	5	8
Percentage of sales of products that contribute to reducing nutritional deficiencies ^{*19, 20}	%	-	-	-	18	27
Percentage of sales of products that contribute to reducing overnutrition ^{*19, 21}	%	-	-	-	13	17
Products with reduced calories ^{*19, 22}	%	-	-	-	3	4
Products with reduced fat ^{*19, 22}	%	-	-	-	7	10
Products with reduced sugar ^{*19, 22}	%	-	-	-	5	6
Products with reduced salt ^{*19, 22}	%	-	-	-	0.1	0.1
Products with reduced cholesterol ^{*19, 22}	%	-	-	-	0.7	0.8
Products compatible with portion size control ^{*19, 23}	%	-	-	-	6	7
Education regarding responsible marketing ^{*24}	persons	-	-	-	29	286
Meiji Group Marketing Communication to Children Policy ^{*24}	persons	-	-	-	-	130
Rules regarding the use of SDGs logos and icons in the Meiji Group ^{*24}	persons	-	-	-	29	156
Employee training on the Food Labeling Act ^{*25}	persons	-	-	-	230	334
Workshops for new employees	persons	-	-	-	40	91
Periodic workshops for technical employees ^{*25}	persons	-	-	-	190	190
Workshops on a particular topic ^{*25}	persons	-	-	-	-	53
Employee Training on Quality (Food business)	persons	-	-	7,568	8,186	9,001
Quality training for sales representatives ^{*25}	persons	-	-	1,500	1,500	2,921
Basic lecture series on quality control for plant employees ^{*26}	persons	-	-	6,000	6,200	6,000
Quality assurance meetings for section managers at plants ^{*27}	persons	-	-	68	86	80
Quality Assurance Training for Employees (Pharmaceutical business)	persons	-	-	6,200	6,200	6,100
training (including GVP, GMP, and QMS) to ensure compliance with laws and regulations related to pharmaceutical affairs ^{*28}	persons	-	-	2,200	2,200	2,100
GMP compliance training ^{*29}	persons	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Quality and safety training ^{*29}	persons	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000

Society

Social Contribution Activities						
	Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Expenditures for social contribution activities	millions of yen	-	-	2,969	2,779	2,931
Charitable Donation	millions of yen	-	-	356	243	271
	%	-	-	12	9	9
Community Investments	millions of yen	-	-	1,301	1,255	1,359
	%	-	-	44	45	46
Commercial Initiatives (incl. Sponsorship Support)	millions of yen	-	-	1,312	1,282	1,301
	%	-	-	44	46	44
Breakdown of Social Contribution Expenditures	millions of yen	-	-	2,969	2,779	2,931
Cash Contributions	millions of yen	-	-	324	224	462
Personnel Expenses (Volunteer-Related Expenses)	millions of yen	-	-	1,761	1,823	1,901
In-kind giving (products or services), Project Sponsorship	millions of yen	-	-	504	426	206
Management overhead	millions of yen	-	-	380	306	362

Society

Sourcing		Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023
Number of implementations of the Meiji Dairy Advisory (MDA) program, which supports dairy farmers to improve their management ^{*30}	Annual	times	–	–	–	475	477
	Total	times	–	–	–	1,423	1,900
Procurement ratio of Meiji Sustainable Cocoa Beans ^{*31,32}		%	–	–	40	42	62
Use of certified sustainable palm oil ^{*32}		%	7	21	68	84	90
Use of FSC or PEFC certified and post-consumer paper ^{*33}		%	55	60	77	98	98

*The information of Human Resources in society section covers regular employees of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd., and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.

*The information of Employee-Friendly Workplaces in society section covers of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., and Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. From FYE 3/2020, KM Biologics Co., Ltd was also included.

*The information of Employee Health Indicators in society section covers regular employees of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., and Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd.

*The information of Social Contribution Activities in society section covers of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., and Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd., and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.

*1 Covers employees of domestic and overseas consolidated subsidiaries and equity-method affiliates.

*2 Covers employees of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd., and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.

*3 Figures of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd.

*4 FYE 3/2019 and FYE 3/2020: Covers Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd., and KM Biologics Co., Ltd. From FYE 3/2021, Covers all Meiji Group companies in Japan.

*5 Figures for Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., and Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. It also covers KM Biologics Co., Ltd. from FYE 3/2020

*6 Not including transfers due to business transfers.

*7 From FYE 3/2019 to FYE 3/2022, training conducted by the human resources department. Including e-learning from FYE 3/2023.

*8 We adopt union shop system in which all employees, except management level employees, of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., and Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. are covered.

*9 Figures for FYE 3/2019 cover plants and laboratories of the Meiji Group including consolidated subsidiaries in Japan and Okinawa Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd. (excluding KM Biologics Co., Ltd., Meiji Feed Co., Ltd., and OHKURA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.) From FYE 3/2020, the figures cover the Meiji Group including consolidated subsidiaries in Japan and Okinawa Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd.

*10 Figures for FYE 3/2019 cover plants and laboratories of the Meiji Group including consolidated subsidiaries in Japan and Okinawa Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd. (excluding KM Biologics Co., Ltd., Meiji Feed Co., Ltd., and OHKURA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.) Figures for FYE 3/2020 cover the Meiji Group including consolidated subsidiaries in Japan, Okinawa Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd. and production the Meiji Group companies overseas.

Frequency rate of lost-worktime injuries: Lost-worktime accidents/ total labor hour x 1 million

*11 Source: Occupational accident trend survey (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

*12 Figures for FYE 3/2019 cover plants and laboratories of the Meiji Group including consolidated subsidiaries in Japan and Okinawa Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd. (excluding KM Biologics Co., Ltd., Meiji Feed Co., Ltd., and OHKURA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.) Figures for FYE 3/2020 cover the Meiji Group including consolidated subsidiaries in Japan, Okinawa Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd. and production Meiji Co., Ltd., Group companies overseas.

Lost-Time Injury Severity Rate: Number of lost days / total working hours x 1,000

*13 Covers production plants.

*14 Abdominal circumference: 85 cm or more for men, 90 cm or more for women. Subjects must be 35 years of age or older

*15 Total number of absences and days of leave due to health problems/number of full-time employees at the end of the fiscal year

*16 Productivity at the time of attendance due to health-related issues is measured by SPQ (one-item version of the University of Tokyo)

*17 Exercise habit: Exercise for more than 30 minutes twice a week

*18 Number of participants in the health insurance association's smoking cessation program

*19 Overall sales are sales of products sold by Meiji Co., Ltd. to general consumers. Figures for FY2022 include exports from Japan.

*20 Percentage of sales of products that fall under any of the following categories and purport active supplementation of certain nutritional ingredients

(1)Products that meet the criteria for labeling as supplements to nutritional components as stipulated in the Food Labeling Standard (Japan)

(2)Products that meet the criteria for the category of food with nutrient function claims or food for special dietary uses

(3)Products that are accorded to the laws and regulations of the exporting country corresponding to either (1) or (2)

*21 Percentage of sales of products with reduced calories, fat, sugar, salt, or cholesterol, as well as those of portion-controlled products.

*22 Percentage of sales of products that meet one of the following criteria in the nutrition labeling standard (Japan) for each nutritional ingredient

(1)Products that meet the criteria for labeling standards indicating adequate intake of nutrients or calories

(2)Products that meet the criteria for labeling standards indicating the product does not contain added sugar or salt

(3)Products that meet the criteria for labeling according to the laws and regulations of the exporting country corresponding to either (1) or (2)

*23 Percentage of sales of products with the same content across a variety of volumes

*24 Covers employees of Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd., and KM Biologics Co., Ltd.

*25 Covers employees of Meiji Co., Ltd.

*26 Covers employees of Meiji Co., Ltd. and affiliated domestic group companies.

Average number of participants per a monthly held session.

*27 Covers employees of Meiji Co., Ltd. and affiliated domestic and overseas group companies.

*28 Covers employees of Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd.

Average number of participants per a monthly held session.

*29 Covers employees of KM Biologics Co., Ltd.

Number of people who participated in the presentation and workplace meetings (estimate).

*30 Covers employees of Meiji Co., Ltd. and affiliated domestic group companies.

*31 Cocoa beans produced in areas where farmer support program has been implemented.

*32 Meiji Co., Ltd. and its affiliated domestic and overseas group companies.

*33 Until FYE 3/2021, covers only Meiji Group in Japan (including KM Biologics Co., Ltd. from FYE 3/2020). From FYE 3/2022, covers all Meiji Group companies.

Governance

Compliance							
	Unit	FYE 3/2019	FYE 3/2020	FYE 3/2021	FYE 3/2022	FYE 3/2023	
Whistleblowing	incidents	—	—	174	215	211	
	Harassment	incidents	—	—	—	54	65
	Personnel and Labor	incidents	—	—	—	92	91
	Quality and Safety	incidents	—	—	—	6	11
	Information Management and Accounting	incidents	—	—	—	7	5
	Others	incidents	—	—	—	56	39

ISO Certification

List of Certification Status of ISO14001 and ISO45001

	Site	ISO14001 (As of December 4, 2023)	ISO45001 (As of December 4, 2023)	
Japan	Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd.	★		
	Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. Wellness Science Labs		✓ ¹	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Meiji Innovation Center			
	Food Segment			
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Wakkanai Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Nishi Shunbetsu Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Honbetsu Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Tokachi Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Tohoku Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Eniwa Plant	★		
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Ibaraki Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Moriya Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Gunma Plant		✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Gunma Nutritionals Plant	★ ²	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Gunma Pharmaceuticals Plant		✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Sakado Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Saitama Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Toda Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Kanagawa Plant	★	✓	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Nagano Cheese Plant	★	✓	
Meiji Co., Ltd. Tokai Plant	★	✓		
Meiji Co., Ltd. Aichi Plant	★	✓		

Japan	Meiji Co., Ltd. Kyoto Plant	★	✓
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Osaka Plant	★	✓
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Kansai Plant		✓
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Kansai Ice Cream Plant	★ ³	✓
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Kansai Nutritional Plant		✓
	Meiji Ltd. Kurashiki Plant	★	
	Meiji Co., Ltd. Kyushu Plant	★	✓
	Nihon Kanzume, Co., Ltd.	★	✓
	Donan Shokuhin Co., Ltd.	★	
	Tochigi Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd.	★	✓
	Gunma Meiji Co., Ltd.	★	✓
	Tokai Nuts Co., Ltd.	★	✓
	Tokai Meiji Co., Ltd.	★	✓
	Meiji Chewing Gum Co., Ltd.	★	✓
	Meiji Oils and Fats Co., Ltd.	★	✓
	Shikoku Meiji Co., Ltd. (Kagawa Plant)	★	✓
	Shikoku Meiji Co., Ltd. (Matsuyama Plant)	★	
Okinawa Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd.	★		
Overseas	Meiji Ice Cream (Guang Zhou) Co., Ltd.	✓	✓
	Meiji Dairies (Suzhou) Co., Ltd.	✓	

Pharmaceutical Segment

Japan	Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. Gifu Plant	★	✓
	Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. Pharmaceutical Research Center	★ ⁴	
	Meiji Seika Pharmatech Co., Ltd	★	
	OHKURA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Uji Business Facilities)	★	
	KM Biologics Co.,Ltd. Kumamoto Production Center		
	KM Biologics Co.,Ltd. Head Office	★ ⁵	
	Meiji Animal Health Co., Ltd. (Kumamoto)		

Japan	KM Biologics Co.,Ltd. Kikuchi Production Center	★ ⁶	
	KM Biologics Co.,Ltd. Kikuchi Research Center		
	Meiji Animal Health Co., Ltd. (Kikuchi)		
	KM Biologics Co.,Ltd. Koshi Production Center	★	
	KM Biologics Co.,Ltd. Aso Production Center	★	
Overseas	Medreich Limited (Unit 7)	✓	✓
	Medreich Limited (Unit 8)	✓	✓
	Thai Meiji Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.		✓

★ Multi-site Certification as Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd.

1. Certified as Meiji Co., Ltd. R&D Div.
2. Certified as Gunma Plant
3. Certified as Kansai Plant
4. Certified as Ashigara Research Center
5. Certified as Kumamoto Production Center
6. Certified as Kikuchi Production Center



Report

Integrated Report

Integrated Report 2023



Integrated Report 2022



Integrated Report 2021



Integrated Report 2020



Integrated Report 2019



Integrated Report 2018



Securities Report

Securities Report (The 14th Fiscal Year: from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023)



Securities Report (The 13th Fiscal Year: from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022)



Sustainability Report

Sustainability Report 2021



Sustainability Report 2020



Sustainability Report 2019



Sustainability Report 2018



Editorial Policy

Regarding our sustainability activities, we will regularly update and improve our specific initiatives in order to stay true to Meiji Group's Sustainability 2026 Vision and ensure its success.

Scope and Boundary of Reporting

Organizational Scope

This report covers the activities of the Meiji Group, comprising, unless otherwise noted, Meiji Holdings, Meiji, Meiji Seika Pharma, and KM Biologics, and these Group companies.

Period Covered

Covers activities conducted in FYE 3/2023 (April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023), but also includes some information on activities carried out before, as well as updates on recent activities.

Guidelines Referenced

- GRI (Global Reporting Initiative)
- GRI 1: Foundation 2021
- SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board)
- Environment Reporting Guidelines (2018) by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan

Issuance Period

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Next issue schedule: July 2024

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Sustainability Video



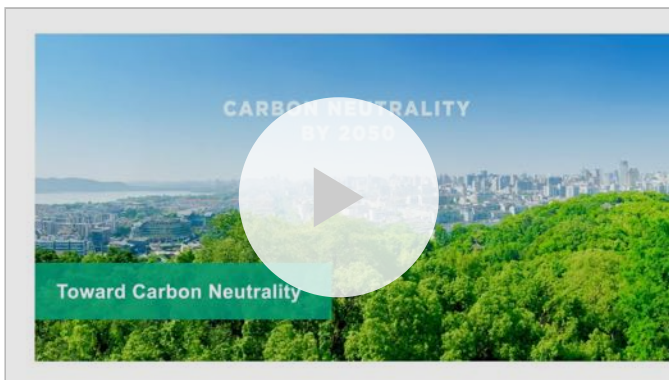
Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision

The Meiji Group Sustainability 2026 Vision upholds the three activity categories, categories common to all three, and the SDGs of the United Nations.



Meiji Cocoa Support

Meiji Cocoa Support helps us to source cocoa sustainably.



CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050

We have established the roadmap to achieve "carbon neutrality," which is to achieve net zero emissions throughout our entire supply chain by 2050.

Governance



Governance at Meiji is the foundation that enables all of our group companies to thrive. Learn about our governance team, policies and approaches below.

**Directors and Audit &
Supervisory Board
Members**

[LEARN MORE](#)

Annual General Meeting

[LEARN MORE](#)

Corporate Governance

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Compliance

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Risk Management

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Corporate Governance

Basic Views

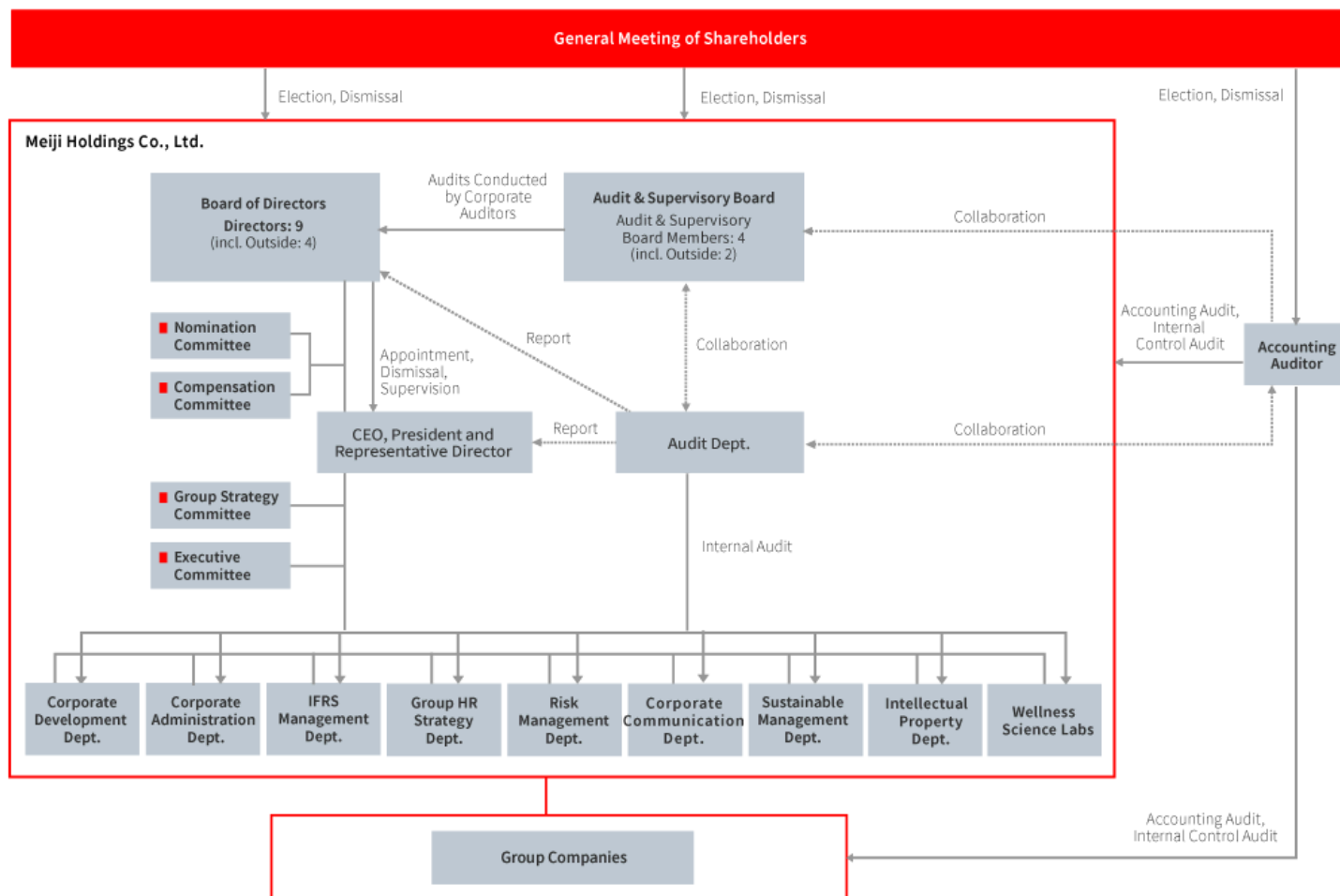
The Meiji Group (the "Group") has created and implements a Group governance structure, which includes our Board of Directors, to promote the realization of medium- and long-term corporate strategy outlined based on our Group Philosophy. The Company is with Audit & Supervisory Board members. The Board of Directors' oversight and Audit & Supervisory Board members' auditing heighten the objectivity and transparency of business management. Our Board of Directors is comprised of diverse directors. The Board deliberates and decides major Group matters, and appropriately monitors to ensure implementation. To improve the efficacy and transparency of the Board of Directors, we have established a system for reflecting the opinions of independent outside directors in management.

On the other hand, concerning business execution, the Company has introduced Chief Officer system to strengthen group management. Serving in the highest positions of responsibility within the Group, Chief Officers supervise and oversee Group business or functions. To promote Group strategy, our Group Strategy Committee, which is comprised of Chief Officers, outlines the direction of important Group matters. Executive Committee, which is chaired by the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) & President, deliberates and decides on important matters concerning strategy implementation, and ensures the rapid and appropriate implementation of operations.

[See Corporate Governance Policy for more information.](#)

[See Corporate Governance Report for more information.](#)

Corporate Governance System



Business Management System Features

The Company is strengthening its corporate governance structure through the following initiatives.

1. Appointment of four outside directors and two outside audit & supervisory board members, all of whom are designated as independent directors
2. Limitation of the term of service for directors to one year
3. Introduction of an executive officer system to separate business execution and audit functions and to accelerate management decisions while clarifying management responsibility
4. Introduction of Chief Officer system to strengthen group management. Serving in the highest positions of responsibility within the Group, Chief Officers work in line with basic management policies outlined by the Board of Directors to supervise and oversee Group business or functions.

Board of Directors

The role of the Company's Board of Directors is to formulate and pursue Group-wide strategies, oversee the management of operating companies, and carefully monitor the effectiveness of managers and directors from an independent and objective perspective, with a view to making the Group Philosophy a reality, contributing to the Group's sustainable growth and corporate value over the medium- to long-term, and improving profitability and capital efficiency.

Structure:

We recognize that diversity is an important element of the Group's management strategy. Therefore, while considering diversity such as their nationality, gender, or age, at least one-third of Board of Directors shall be independent outside directors.

Director candidates are chosen considering diversity such as their nationality, gender, or age, and are nominated for their advanced knowledge and expertise in fields needed to realize the Meiji Group Vision 2026. These fields include areas such as business strategy, global business, sales and marketing, finance and accounting, HR and diversity, legal affairs and risk management, corporate communications, and sustainability.

The Board of Directors should be consist of managing directors to oversee core operations, executives to manage operating companies, and non-executive directors including at least one-third of independent outside directors. Currently the number of Board of Directors would be around 10.

The Board of Directors currently consists of four independent outside directors (including two female directors and one foreign director) and five internal directors for a total of nine directors.

Attendance at Meetings

FYE March 2023 Number of Board of Directors meetings held: 19

	Name	Attendance Rate
Inside director	Kazuo Kawamura	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Inside director	Daikichiro Kobayashi	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Inside director	Katsunari Matsuda	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Inside director	Koichiro Shiozaki	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Inside director	Jun Furuta	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Mariko Matsumura	17 of 19 meetings (89%)
Outside director	Masaya Kawata	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Michiko Kuboyama	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Peter David Pedersen	14 of 14 meetings (100%) *Attended afer the inauguration on June 29, 2022
Internal audit & supervisory board member	Hiroaki Chida	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Internal audit & supervisory board member	Takayoshi Ohno	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Outside audit & supervisory board member	Hajime Watanabe	19 of 19 meetings (100%)
Outside audit & supervisory board member	Makoto Ando	19 of 19 meetings (100%)

Evaluation of the Board of Directors

Once a year, the Company analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of the Board of Directors as a whole, taking into consideration the results of surveys on the role and management of the Board of Directors and problems or issues that the Board faces, including a self-evaluation questionnaire submitted by members of the Board of Directors. The Company then takes remedial measures to address any issues highlighted in the surveys. We work to improve the effectiveness of the Board of Directors neutrally and objectively by having third-party assessments conducted approximately once every three years.

We used an assessment survey questionnaire to collect feedback from each director and each member of the Audit & Supervisory Board.

This questionnaire includes:

- Assessment in line with our own corporate governance policy
- Assessment of the operation of the Board of Directors
- Progress in achieving challenges from feedback items in the previous year

Audit & Supervisory Board

Audit & Supervisory Board work towards sustainable growth and medium- to long-term growth in corporate value as a part in the governance of the Company together with the Board of Directors. Also, Audit & Supervisory Board fulfills the roles and responsibilities from an independent and objective standpoint based on the Company's fiduciary and accountability duties to shareholders.

Attendance at Meetings

FYE March 2023 Number of Audit & Supervisory Board meetings held: 15

	Name	Attendance Rate
Internal audit & supervisory board member	Hiroaki Chida	15 of 15 meetings (100%)
Internal audit & supervisory board member	Takayoshi Ohno	15 of 15 meetings (100%)
Outside audit & supervisory board member	Hajime Watanabe	15 of 15 meetings (100%)
Outside audit & supervisory board member	Makoto Ando	15 of 15 meetings (100%)

Functions and Roles of any Committee or Other Meeting

	Structure	Functions and roles
Nomination Committee	<p>Outside director 4 Inside director 1 The chairperson is elected by mutual vote each time from among members who are independent outside directors. The chairperson is appointed so as not to concurrently serve as chairperson of the Nomination Committee and Compensation Committee.</p>	<p>Nomination Committee provides the Board of Directors with proposals for the nomination or removal of directors and Audit & Supervisory Board members, and deliberates and advises on the nomination or removal of executive officers, including the president. The Committee also deliberates and advises on matters such as succession plans.</p>

Compensation Committee	Outside director 4 Inside director 1 The chairperson is elected by mutual vote each time from among members who are independent outside directors. The chairperson is appointed so as not to concurrently serve as chairperson of the Nomination Committee and Compensation Committee.	Compensation Committee deliberates on policies regarding the determination of compensation for directors and executive officers, the amount of compensation, the level of compensation, etc., and reports to the Board of Directors.
Executive Committee (In principle, the Committee meets twice per month.)	Board members and executive officers	Executive Committee serves as an advisory body to the CEO & President and deliberates important matters related to business execution based on the basic strategic policy outlined by the Board of Directors.
The Group Strategy Committee (In principle, the Committee meets once per month.)	CEO (Chief Executive Officer) CFO (Chief Financial Officer) CSO (Chief Sustainability Officer) COO (Chief Operating Officer) of the Pharmaceutical Segment COO (Chief Operating Officer) of the Food Segment CHRO (Chief Human Resource Officer)	The Group Strategy Committee applies basic management policy adopted by the Board of Directors towards determining the direction of core matters such as the Group's overall vision, business plans, business policy, and the allocation of management resources.

In addition to the above, we provide a forum for exchanging opinions between outside directors and outside corporate auditors, which is utilized for the more effective management of the Board of Directors.

Attendance at Meetings

FYE March 2023 Number of Nomination Committee meetings held: 4

	Name	Attendance Rate
Inside director	Kazuo Kawamura	4 of 4 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Mariko Matsumura	4 of 4 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Masaya Kawata	4 of 4 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Michiko Kuboyama	4 of 4 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Peter David Pedersen	3 of 3 meetings (100%) *Attended after the inauguration on June 29, 2022

FYE March 2023 Number of Compensation Committee meetings held: 3

	Name	Attendance Rate
Inside director	Kazuo Kawamura	3 of 3 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Mariko Matsumura	3 of 3 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Masaya Kawata	3 of 3 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Michiko kuboyama	3 of 3 meetings (100%)
Outside director	Peter David Pedersen	1 of 1 meetings (100%) *Attended afer the inauguration on June 29, 2022

Outside Officer

Reasons of Appointment as Outside Directors

Mariko Matsumura

We appointed Mariko Matsumura as an outside director because her extensive career as a lawyer will enable her to offer professional and insightful advice on company management and to effectively oversee execution of duties. We expect that she will make a significant contribution to the enhancing of corporate governance.

While she has never engaged in company management other than as an outside director or Audit & Supervisory Board Member (Outside), we nonetheless believe she is qualified for the post because of the above reason.

Masaya Kawata

Masaya Kawata has extensive management experience as the former President and Representative Director and Chairman and Representative Director of Nisshinbo Holdings Inc., and accomplishments as well as broad insight. He has promoted the company's group and global management.

We appointed Masaya Kawata as an outside director because his extensive experience, track record, and vast knowledge related to business management will enable him to provide Group management valuable advice and ensure the appropriate monitoring of business execution for our Group. We expect that he will make a significant contribution to enhancing corporate governance.

Michiko Kuboyama

Michiko Kuboyama has vast experience related to product development and marketing through her roles at Kao having worked in the Products Public Relations Center before serving as Center manager and as a communications fellow in the Lifestyle Research Department. We appointed Michiko Kuboyama as an outside director because she will be able to provide Group management valuable advice and ensure the appropriate monitoring of business execution from the perspective of the consumer and a diverse range of other perspectives. We expect that she will make a significant contribution to the enhancing of corporate governance.

While she has never engaged in company management other than as an outside director or Audit & Supervisory Board Member (Outside), we nonetheless believe she is qualified for the post because of the above reason.

Peter David Pedersen

Since fiscal 2021, Peter David Pedersen has provided advice on sustainability management to the Company as an outside expert on the Company's ESG Advisory Board. He has abundant experience at environmental and CSR consulting firms along with deep insights in sustainability management at the global level and training of next-generation leaders. We appointed him as an outside director, expecting that he will contribute significantly to enhancing our corporate governance by providing helpful advice on the Group's management and appropriately supervising the execution of its business operations based on the above experience and insights.

Inaugurated in June 2022

Reasons for Appointment as Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Members

Hajime Watanabe

Hajime Watanabe has a prolific career as an attorney at law and has deep expertise in international business transactional law areas. Due to the reasons above, we appointed him as an Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Member. While he has not been involved in corporate management in the past, except as an Outside Director or an Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Member, we have concluded that he will be able to perform his duties appropriately as an Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Member for the reasons mentioned above.

Makoto Ando

Makoto Ando has built a prolific career and gained deep expertise in both the private sector, working in major audit firms and accounting firms in Japan and overseas as a certified public accountant, and the public sector. Thus, we appointed her as an Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Member. While she has not

been involved in corporate management in the past, except as an Outside Director or an Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Member, we have concluded that she will be able to perform her duties appropriately as an Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Member for the reasons mentioned above.

Criteria for Independence

The Company has established Criteria for Independence of Outside Members of the Board and Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Members (Criteria for Independence) as follows.

When an Outside Member of the Board and an Outside Audit & Supervisory Board Member are independent, such Member shall not fall under any of the following categories.

- (1) A person who executes business of the Company or its subsidiary
- (2) A person who executes business of the Company's parent company or a fellow subsidiary
- (3) A party which has material business transactions with the Company or a person who executes business transactions of that party, or a major business partner of the Company, or a person who executes business transactions of that business partner
- (4) A consultant, an accounting expert, or a legal expert who receives a considerable amount of cash or other assets other than compensation as a Member of the Board or an Audit & Supervisory Board Member from the Company (when a party who receives such assets is an organization, such as a corporation or an association, this shall refer to a person who is associated with such organization)
- (5) A person who fell under category 1 above during the ten-year period prior to assuming the position
- (6) A person who fell under category 2, 3, or 4 above during the one-year period prior to assuming the position
- (7) A relative within the second degree of kinship of a person (excluding a person who does not have an important management position) who currently falls or fell under category 1, 2, 3, or 4 above during the one-year period prior to assuming the position

Note 1. "A party which has material business transactions with the Company" is one that received payment from the Company during the latest fiscal year equivalent to 2% or more of the party's annual consolidated net sales or 100 million yen, whichever is greater.

Note 2. "A major business partner of the Company" is one that made payment to the Company during the latest fiscal year equivalent to 2% or more of the Company's annual consolidated net sales.

Note 3. "A consultant, an accounting expert, or a legal expert who receives a considerable amount of cash or other assets other than compensation as a Member of the Board or an Audit & Supervisory Board Member from the Company" is the one who received cash or assets from the Company during the latest fiscal year other than compensation as a Member of the Board or an Audit & Supervisory Board Member, equivalent to 2% or more of his/her consolidated net sales or 10 million yen, whichever is greater.

Independent Outside Officers who Concurrently Serve at Other Companies

The Company permits independent outside officers to concurrently serve as officers in other listed companies, but only to the extent that they are not prevented from devoting sufficient time and effort required to fulfill their roles and responsibilities as director or Audit & Supervisory Board member of the Company.

Auditing Structure and Audit & Supervisory Board

Internal Auditing Division

We have established an Audit Department (internal audit staff: 7), which reports directly to the CEO, President and Representative Director as an auditing division. This department collaborates with other internal auditing divisions within the Group to conduct internal audits.

Internal auditing divisions hold regular monthly meetings with the Audit & Supervisory Board to share information and exchange opinions on the status of activities. The division works to strengthen cooperation with the accounting auditor by regularly sharing information.

Governance Audits of Overseas Group Companies

For overseas Group companies, generally thought to have higher risks than in Japan, in addition to conventional business audits, we also have established a structure for conducting audits specifically designed to reduce fraud and other management risks (referred to as "governance audits"). Governance audits are generally conducted three to four times a year to confirm frameworks and management related to fraud prevention, including promotion of Meiji Group Code of Conduct, Meiji Group Policy awareness, anti-corruption, the separation of duties, whistleblowing systems, and risk management systems. We use external experts to ensure audit efficiency and efficacy.

Audit results are reported to audited companies and also shared with the Group CEO and other relevant officers, corporate auditors, and each operating company. Through these initiatives, we are working to strengthen our internal systems, and enhance our fraud checks and prevention.

We are planning to conduct governance audits at major overseas Group companies during the period of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan.

- FYE March 2022: Conducted governance audits at three locations (Spain, India, and Taiwan)
- FYE March 2023: Conducted governance audits at four locations (Singapore, Thailand, US, and Indonesia)
- FYE March 2024: Planned governance audits at three or four locations

Independent auditor	Ernst & Young ShinNihon LLC
Audit department (internal auditing)	Audit Department
Principal meetings auditors attend	Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Audit & Supervisory Board, Audit Department Liaison Meeting, and others

Remuneration of Officer

Policy on Determining Remuneration (from FYE March 2022)

We changed our policy on determining remuneration in FYE March 2022 as follows. The remuneration amounts determined based on the new policy will be recorded in expenses in FYE March 2023 and after.

Objective of compensation system

From the perspective of expanding and strengthening Group business operations and corporate governance towards achieving our long-term vision, we outline the objectives of our plan for remuneration for directors and corporate auditors as the following.

Objectives of our plan for remuneration for directors and corporate auditors (outlined in FY2011)

1. To ensure compensation levels that enable the hiring of elite internal and external personnel, provide motivation, and promotes retention.
2. To serve as motivation for achieving short, medium, and long-term targets.
3. To ensure appropriate compensation for generated results.
4. To fulfill a sense of purpose by sharing accountability for results with shareholders.
5. To ensure fair and reasonable practices that enable the fulfillment of accountability to shareholders and all other stakeholders.

Policy on compensation for director

Compensation structure

-Compensation for internal directors is comprised of the following:

1. Base compensation: fixed amount that reflects the director's status and responsibilities;
2. Performance-linked compensation: amount that varies according to the company and the director's performance in the preceding fiscal year, and thus provides an incentive over the short term;
3. Stock-based compensation: linked with the performance of Meiji ROESG^{®*} and Company's stock performance, and thus provides an incentive over the medium- to long-term.

Base compensation and performance-linked compensation are paid in cash. Stock-based compensation takes the form of transfer-restricted stocks.

-In light of their role and independent status, compensation for outside directors is limited to fixed compensation (base compensation) only.

* ROESG is a registered trademark for a management indicator developed by Kunio Ito, a professor at Hitotsubashi University.

Compensation levels

To ensure compensation levels that enable the hiring of elite internal and external personnel, provide motivation, and promote retention, we reference the following when determining compensation levels for directors.

(Compensation benchmark source)

-Levels at major Japanese companies as indicated in data from external research firms

-Levels at major manufacturing companies that are similar to Meiji in business scope, operations, and structure.

Compensation governance

The Board of Directors determines the structure for director compensation, the results for company and individual performance, and the amounts of calculated compensation, after hearing the opinion of the Compensation Committee on these matters. The Compensation Committee has the majority of whom are outside directors independent of the Company.

Policy on compensation for corporate auditors

- The amount of compensation for Audit & Supervisory Board members is determined through negotiation with the members concerned, and the amount will be within the limit resolved by the General Meeting of Shareholders.
- In light of their role and independent status, compensation for corporate auditors is limited to fixed compensation (base compensation) only.

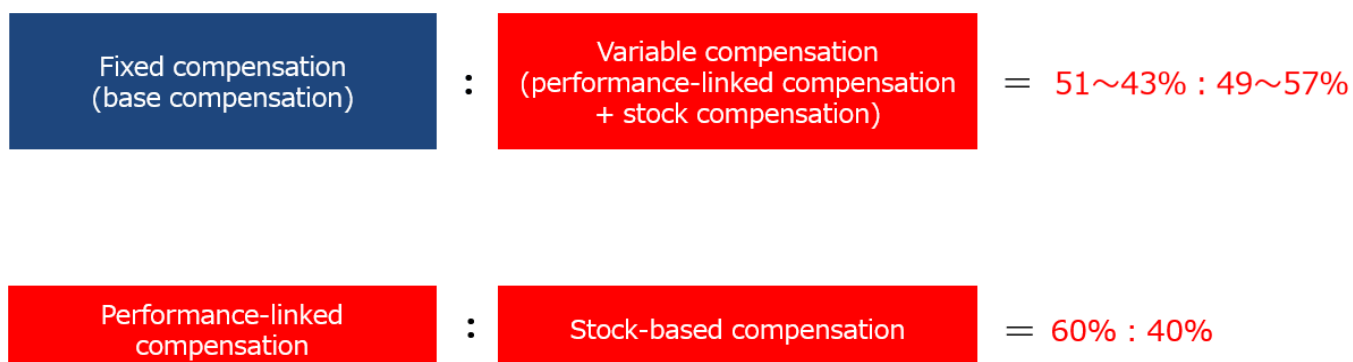
Overview of compensation system for directors

Compensation ratio

To increase incentives for improved performance and promote the sharing of interests with our shareholders and stakeholders, we set compensation composition ratio that is approximately a 50-50 mix of fixed compensation (base compensation) in the amount of remuneration upon achievement of medium- and long-term goals. and variable compensation (performance-linked compensation and stock-based compensation).

We apply a higher rate of variable compensation as the rank and position of the executive increases. We set ratios of 43% to 51% for fixed compensation and 49% to 57% for variable compensation.

Furthermore, the ratio of performance-linked compensation and stock-based compensation within variable compensation is 60:40.



Base compensation

Fixed compensation (base compensation) is paid to directors. We determine this amount based on the director's status and responsibilities, and reference compensation levels at major Japanese companies as indicated in data from external research firms as well as compensation levels at major manufacturing companies that are similar to Meiji in business scope, operations, and structure.

Performance-linked compensation

(1) Objective

To ensure a commitment to the Meiji Group 2026 Vision and the core KPI outlined in our Medium-Term Business Plan, and to increase motivation towards improving performance.

(2) Compensation structure

-The CEO and the COO are evaluated solely based on corporate performance, with compensation comprised of short-term performance-linked compensation and medium- to long-term performance-linked compensation.

-Positions other than the CEO and COO are evaluated based on corporate performance as well as individual performance

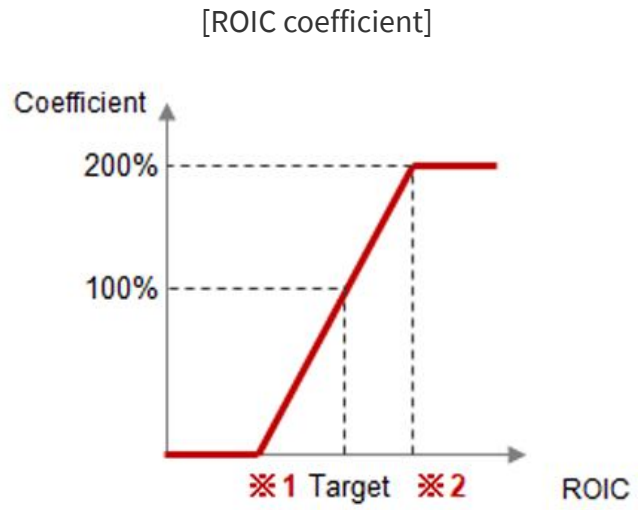
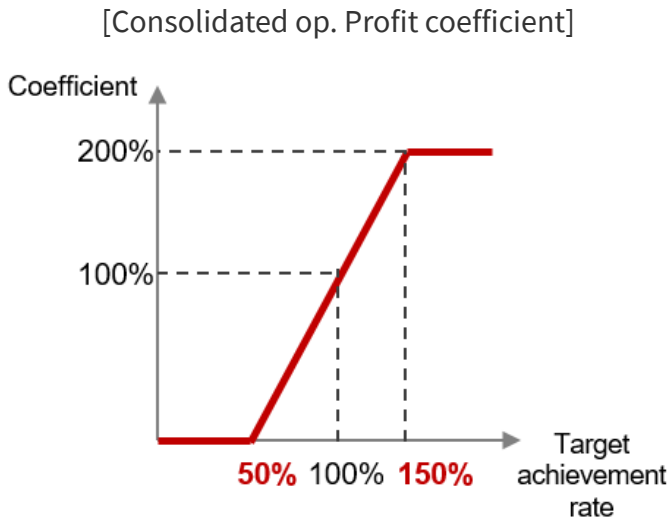
Variable compensation (57~49%)		Fixed compensation (43~51%)
Stock-based compensation	Performance-linked compensation	Base compensation



Performance indicators	Company performance			Individual performance
Type and weight	Short-term performance-linked compensation -50%		Medium- and long-term performance-linked compensation -50%	
Evaluation method	Fiscal year target evaluation		Medium- and long-term target evaluation	
Target and weight	Consolidated operating profit -25%	ROIC -25%	Consolidated operating profit -50%	

(3) Short-term performance-linked compensation

Directors (excluding outside directors) are paid short-term performance-linked compensation in the form of compensation that is linked to the level of target achievement for consolidated operating profit and ROIC. For consolidated operating profit, the payment amount is calculated based on the achievement rate for the fiscal year. When the fiscal year target is achieved, a standard amount is multiplied by the coefficient of 100%. Depending on the rate of achievement (50% to 150%), the coefficient fluctuates between 0% and 200%. ROIC is evaluated based on performance achievement for that for the fiscal year. At target achievement, a coefficient of 100% is used. Depending on the rate of achievement for annual targets (50% to 150%), the coefficient fluctuates between 0% and 200%. Regardless of target achievement rate, the coefficient is reduced by half if earnings are less than capital costs.



*1 Value equivalent to 50% target

*2 Value equivalent to 150% target

The respective weights for consolidated operating profit evaluation and ROIC evaluation within short-term performance-linked compensation are as follows.

Consolidated operating profit	:	ROIC evaluation	=	50% : 50%
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(4) Medium- to long-term performance-linked compensation

Directors (excluding outside directors) are paid compensation linked to achievement rates for medium- and long-term targets, which uses consolidated operating profit as a benchmark, and is set separately from individual fiscal year targets.

When medium- and long-term targets are achieved, the payment amount is calculated by multiplying a standard amount by the coefficient of 100%. This coefficient varies between 0% and 200% based on the rate of achievement for medium- and long-term targets.

(5) Compensation based on individual performance indicators

The CEO comprehensively evaluates individual performance based on a seven-tier scale and calculates payment amounts by multiplying a standard amount by a coefficient that ranges from 0% to 200%.

Furthermore, the CEO and COO are not subject to individual performance evaluations.

Stock-based compensation

(1) Objective

To add incentives for increasing the Group's corporate value and to promote shared interests between directors and our shareholders and other stakeholders.

(2) Overview

As a medium- to long-term incentive that is linked to trends in our stock, we issue restricted stock that cannot be disposed of for the three-year period following allocation (issued once per year after the General Meeting of Shareholders). The amount of monetary compensation rights paid by the Company for the allocation of restricted stock varies annually and is set based on the results of the Meiji ROESG® from the previous fiscal year.

(3) Payment amount calculation method

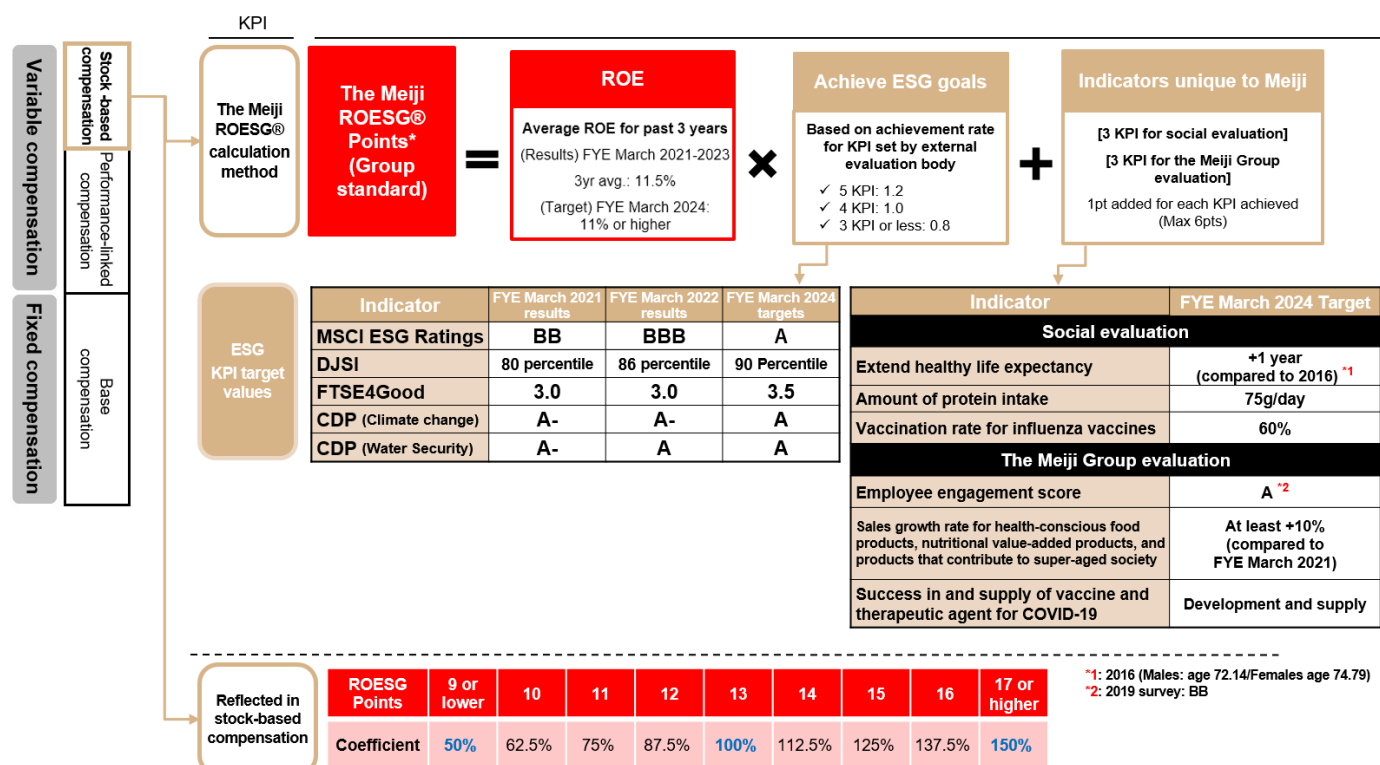
We set the Meiji ROESG®, which is calculated based on ROE figures and the results of ESG initiatives, as a performance indicator. The payment amount is calculated by multiplying the base amount by a coefficient calculated as detailed below. :

-We calculate the Meiji ROESG®, which combines ROE and ESG indicators (external evaluations). The coefficient is set to 100% for 13pts. Limited to FYE March 2024, the final year of the 2023 Medium-Term Business Plan, we will add 1pt to the Meiji ROESG® for each item achieved for ESG targets (Unique to Meiji).

-The minimum score for Meiji ROESG® is 9pt and the maximum score is 17pts. The coefficient will vary between 50% and 150% depending on the Meiji ROESG® score.

-No stock compensation will be paid if the Meiji ROESG® score is less than 5pt for two consecutive years.

(4) Details of link to Meiji ROESG®



* ROESG is a registered trademark for a management indicator developed by Kunio Ito, a professor at Hitotsubashi University.

Audit & Supervisor Board Members

(Nomination Policy)

- Elect persons with excellent character, knowledge, expert skills and a strong sense of ethics. Candidates must be able to provide accurate advice and conduct audits concerning the legality and appropriateness of company operations from an objective and neutral perspective.
- Include at least one person with appropriate knowledge related to finance and accounting.

(Nomination Method)

Nominated via a resolution by the Board of Directors following deliberation by the Nomination Committee and approval by the Audit & Supervisory Board.

(Compensation Structure)

The Company pays fixed compensation only; no incentive remuneration is paid. The amount of compensation for Audit & Supervisory Board members is determined through negotiation with the members concerned, and the amount will be within the limit resolved by the General Meeting of Shareholders.

Succession plan for the CEO and other top executives

Our Board of Directors decides on the succession plan for our Group CEO based on consultation with the Nomination Committee. The Board of Directors outlines implementation strategy for a succession plan based on the parameters (leadership values) required of executives. These parameters are outlined based on our Group Philosophy, our Code of Conduct, and business strategy.

Based on this implementation strategy, the Nomination Committee deliberates on the nomination and removal of the current CEO of the Company and the CEOs of our main Group companies, and selects CEO candidates. The Board of Directors receives regular reports on the status of the succession plan and deliberates on the details of the plan.

Leadership Value describes the standards that our executives must uphold to lead the group toward achieving its vision. The main thing we expect of top executives is the ability to "instigate change and lead reform efforts." To this end, Leadership Value outlines the following 10 competences across three themes:

1. Strategic planning and action: Imagination, decisiveness, ability to achieve breakthroughs, ability to channel creative energies
2. Organizational leadership skills: Ability to communicate and convince, ability to motivate, magnanimity for others' mistakes, ability to develop others' talents
3. Character: Ability to recognize and channel diverse talents, upstanding character

Training Opportunities for Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board Members

The Company provides directors, Audit & Supervisory Board members, and executive officers with training opportunities as necessary to develop their understanding of their legal liabilities and the roles and responsibilities they are expected to perform with respect to corporate governance, compliance, and risk management, as well as opportunities to gain the necessary knowledge on the Group's business lineup, organizational structure, and financial status.

The Company briefs outside officers on the Group's management strategy and business lineup/status to further their understanding of these matters. In addition, outside officers are taken on inspection tours of plants and research laboratories.

Exercise of Voting Rights in Shareholdings

As a rule, we will exercise our voting rights in a company in line with the wishes of the stock issuing company's board of directors. However, we will decline to do so if we think that it would negatively impact the business relationships between our group companies or if it would clearly harm the common interests of shareholders.

Related Party Transactions

Directors and Audit & Supervisory Board members of the Company or a major operating company may not engage in material transactions with the Company or a major operating company without the approval of the Company's Board of Directors. Where such transactions are approved, the status of said transactions must be reported to the Company's Board of Directors.

Internal Control System

We provide products and services to a large number of customers through our food and pharmaceuticals business operations. In accordance with the Corporate Behavior Charter, the Meiji Group has established an internal control system befitting the Group and the Group companies that is based on mutual collaboration and multifaceted checking functions to ensure directors, executive officers, and other employees comply with the Food Sanitation Act, the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Act, and other statutory laws and regulations and the Articles of Incorporation, thereby ensuring fair and sound business activities firmly rooted in compliance.

Compliance

Meiji Group complies with the laws, regulations and social rules of each country in order to ensure all transactions are proper and to promote fair, transparent, and free competition. To increase awareness and strengthen compliance further, we established internal regulations based on our Corporate Behavior Charter and work to improve internal training. We conduct business holding ourselves to high ethical standards and shall continue to develop to be a company trusted by society.

Risk Management System

The Meiji Group recognizes that risk management is not just for responding when emergencies or disasters occur and severely impact business activities. It is also important to take preventive measures to control and mitigate/avert risks.

In addition, as a company responsible for "food and health" that is directly linked to people's lives, we are maintaining and improving our business continuity plan (BCP) so that pharmaceuticals, powdered milk, liquid food, etc. can be delivered to those who need it even in an emergency.

Basic Policies for Business Continuity Plans

Meiji Group's mission is to continue supplying the products and services our customers need, even in the event of a large-scale disaster. In order to ensure this is possible, we have implemented our Business Continuity Plan in line with the following policies:

1. Protect the lives of people involved in Meiji Group's business operations, as well as their families
2. Fulfil Meiji Group's social responsibilities
3. Minimize damage to business caused by stoppage of operations, or similar causes

Constructive Dialogue with Shareholders

The Company positively and voluntarily engages with shareholders so as to promote constructive dialogue with them. General communication with shareholders is managed by the Investor Relations (IR) Department, which is managed by the director in charge of IR. The Company pursues the following measures for promoting constructive dialogue with shareholders.

1. The Company positively and voluntarily engages with shareholders so as to promote constructive dialogue with them. General communication with shareholders is managed by the IR Department, which is managed by the executive officer in charge of IR. To a practical extent, we also engage in dialogue with directors and Audit & Supervisory Board members, including outside officers.
2. With the aim of supporting shareholder dialogue, the director in charge of IR organizes liaison meetings with personnel from other departments, including Corporate Planning, Corporate Administration, and Risk Management, so as to share information between the departments.
3. . In addition to one-on-one meetings, the Company holds earnings conferences twice-yearly for institutional investors and securities analysts to announce the second quarter and the fiscal year results, as well as small meetings led by the Company President. We also hold earnings conferences with institutional investors and securities analysts at the end of the first and third quarter.
4. We work to promote dialogue with individual investors and to inform them about the group's businesses. In FYE March 2022, we held online briefings for individual investors.
5. We actively promote ESG dialogue with investors. We hold one-on-one meetings with institutional investors and conferences for institutional investors and securities analysts.
6. We provide information via our website for shareholders and investors. We publish our investment securities reports (Japanese/English), earnings flash reports (Japanese/English), integrated reports (Japanese/English), and earnings conference materials (Japanese/English) on this website. We also stream video of our earnings conferences (Japanese/English) and publish a Q&A summary (Japanese/English) to further communication.



Compliance

Meiji Group complies with the laws, regulations and social rules of each country in order to ensure all transactions are proper and to promote fair, transparent, and free competition. To increase awareness and strengthen compliance further, we established internal regulations based on our Corporate Behavior Charter and Meiji Group Behavior Charter and work to improve internal training. We conduct business holding ourselves to high ethical standards and shall continue to develop to be a company trusted by society.

Management System

Meiji Group has Compliance Regulations as well as related rules and committees in place, and implements/introduces a whistle-blowing system.

At Meiji Co., Ltd., our approach is based on the idea that risk management and compliance are closely related to one another, and we have set up a Compliance & Risk Management Committee to promote a variety of activities and programs. We promote activities to nurture and foster compliance awareness to ensure that compliance is the cornerstone of our operations and that those operations are conducted fairly and faithfully.

Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. has established the Compliance Program Guidelines and the Meiji Seika Pharma Code of Practice. As professionals who work in a business and with products that concern the health and lives of people, we require all executives and employees to act in accordance with high ethical standards.

KM Biologics Co., Ltd. has established a Risk Compliance Committee chaired by the president to promote compliance and manage risks. The "Compliance Program Guidelines" stipulate that as a person engaged in a life-related company that handles products related to people's health, we should act with a high degree of ethics, including bioethics, as well as legal compliance. Also, The KM Biologics Co., Ltd. is accelerating the project to win back trust in order to raise compliance awareness among workers on site. We implemented a structural reform in order to strengthen the auditing function, ensure independent auditing, clarify responsibilities and authority by introducing Meiji-style plant management systems and clarify the reporting and communication routes. These reforms will help the organization identify and address issues early on. As a member of the Meiji Group, we will establish compliance system with higher standards. In FYE March 2022, we conducted employee training for all Group employees in Japan, focusing on the topics of "Definition of Corruption and Meiji Group Anti-Corruption Policy" and "Causes and Effects of Bribery and Preventive Measures."

Anti-Corruption

The Meiji Group formulated the Meiji Group Anti-Corruption Policy in March 2019 in order to remain a transparent and sound corporate group that is trusted by society. In May 2019, we became a signatory to the UN Global Compact and we comply with Principle 10: Business should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery. We translated this policy into English, Chinese, Spanish, Thai, Indonesian and Hindi to raise employee awareness, not only in Japan but overseas as well. We will continue internal training and other efforts to improve employee understanding. In FYE March 2023, we conducted employee training for all Group employees in Japan, focusing on the topics of "Definition of Corruption and Meiji Group Anti-Corruption Policy" and "Causes and Effects of Bribery and Preventive Measures."

[Meiji Group Anti-Corruption Policy \(PDF: 14KB\)](#)

For overseas Group companies generally thought to have higher risks than in Japan, in addition to conventional operations audits, we also have established a structure for conducting audits specifically designed to reduce fraud and other management risks (referred to as "governance audits"). Governance audits are used to confirm frameworks and management related to fraud prevention, including promotion of Meiji Group Policy awareness, anti-corruption, separation of duties, whistleblowing systems, and risk management systems. The use of external experts ensures audit efficiency and efficacy. Audit results are reported to audited companies and also shared with the Group CEO and other relevant officers, corporate auditors, and each operating company. Through these initiatives, we are working to strengthen our internal systems, and fraud checks and prevention.

Contact Information for the Compliance Counseling Desk

The Meiji Group has established measures to promote the prevention and early discovery of any violations of legal code, the Meiji Group Code of Conduct, and the Meiji Corporate Behavior Charter. We maintain an internal whistleblowing system for employees that includes an internal hotline as well as an external consultation desk staffed by an attorney or other qualified professional to ensure independence from Company management.

The Meiji Group explicitly prohibits the unjust treatment of whistleblowers in Company rules and regulations concerning internal reporting. We also protect whistleblowers by enabling anonymous reporting. Reported information is handled strictly as confidential information and is shared with relevant committees at each company. These committees then examine reported information and respond accordingly. Once an internal whistleblowing system reveals a breach of compliance, we will promptly take corrective measures and take appropriate disciplinary action (disciplinary dismissal, demotion, suspension from work, pay reduction, etc.) against those involved in such breaches.

The Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. Board of Directors regularly receives reports on the operating status of the whistleblowing structure to ensure appropriate management.

The Meiji Group provides employees with cards containing whistleblowing hotline information. This information is also posted to our intra site to promote awareness of the whistleblowing system among employees.

Number of reported cases or consultations through the Compliance Counseling Desk (FYE March 2023)

Breakdown	Number of Cases
Harassment	65
Personnel and Labor	91
Quality and Safety	11
Information Management and Accounting	5
Others	39
Total	211

Compliance Awareness

Employees carry our Compliance Card, which includes the Corporate Behavior Charter and the contact details for our compliance counseling desk. The Meiji Group ensures strict adherence to the Corporate Behavior Charter. At the same time, the group cultivates and entrenches compliance awareness by enhancing in-house education and training and disseminating information through our intranet.

An Ethical and Transparent Pharmaceuticals Company

Responsible promotion of ethical pharmaceuticals

The Meiji Group Pharmaceutical business embraces the mission of contributing to improving the health and welfare people around the world by developing innovative, highly effective, and safer pharmaceuticals. Critical to achieving this mission is maintaining strong ethical practices and transparency throughout our business activities. Furthermore, we must ensure appropriate interactions with researchers, medical professionals, and patient organizations, and engage in responsible promotional activities.

To ensure appropriate promotional activities, we maintain compliance with the Pharmaceutical and Medical

Device Act and other relevant Japanese laws, and follow the laws, regulations, and guidelines of each country in which we engage in promotional activities for ethical pharmaceuticals.

In Japan, we used the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) Code of Practice as the framework for creating our own Code of Practice. To supplement this Code, we also have outlined a Promotion Code, which reflects the principles of the Fair Trade Competition Code created by the Fair Trade Council of the Ethical Pharmaceutical Drugs Marketing Industry. We also established our Ethical Pharmaceutical Marketing Activity Regulations, which we based on the Ethical Pharmaceutical Marketing Activity Guidelines drafted by the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare.

In our Promotion Code, we explicitly outline management duties and matters of compliance concerning promotional activities. Our Marketing Code for Ethical Pharmaceuticals outlines the organizational structure and role of the Marketing Supervisory Division, an entity that is independent of the Sales Division. This Code also outlines promotional procedures. When evaluating promotional materials, the Marketing Supervisory Division invites independent external experts from outside the Group to participate in their evaluation process.

Overseas, we conduct sales activities in compliance with promotion codes outlined by the respective industrial organizations of Indonesia, Thailand, and Spain where we have sales offices.

Employee education and internal audit concerning the promotion of ethical pharmaceuticals

To ensure Group promotes are conducted in accordance with the Promotion Code and the Marketing Code for Ethical Pharmaceuticals, we regularly conduct training for all pharmaceutical sales division employees to ensure awareness.

To confirm compliance with the Promotion Code and the Marketing Code for Ethical Pharmaceuticals, an internal audit division conducts regular audits to confirm the adequacy of our compliance structure and activity processes, including promotional activities.

The Market Supervisory Division confirms the appropriateness of marketing representative (MR) activities by monitoring their activities, including accompanying MRs on sales visits to evaluate MR activities. The Market Supervisory Division also implements responses to MR activities as necessary.

Participation in industry initiative related to safe and responsible pharmaceuticals

The Meiji Group maintains membership in the following industry organizations as part of our efforts to ensure the safety of our pharmaceuticals. We partner with other companies towards establishing and promoting industry rules on matters such as the appropriate use of pharmaceuticals.

- The Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Associations of Japan
- Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association
- Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association of Tokyo

- The Fair Trade Council of the Ethical Pharmaceutical Drugs Marketing Industry
- Council for the Proper Use of Medicine
- Japan Association of Vaccine Industries
- Japan Society of Quality Assurance
- Japan Blood Products Association

Transparency in corporate activities and relationships with medical institutions and patient organizations

Pharmaceuticals segment has also established Guidelines on Transparency of Relationships between Corporate Activities and Medical Institutions. Based on these guidelines, the company discloses details of the academic research grants it provides. These disclosures help illustrate the ways in which we contributes to progress in the life sciences, while adhering to the highest ethical standards.

Tax Compliance

The Meiji Group's businesses are supported by many factors such as national and regional public infrastructure and services, markets, workers, resources and governments. We believe that appropriate tax payment is important, which is also a corporate responsibility in order to contribute to the social, economic and financial development of the countries and regions where we operate and to develop our business activities sustainably. We have established the "Meiji Group Tax Policy" to comply with tax legislation and meet our stakeholders' expectations of good tax practices. The policy has been determined through an approval process of the Member of the Board in charge of finance.

Meiji Group Tax Policy

As our operation globalizes and international transactions increase, we recognize the growing importance of response to transfer pricing taxation in controlled transactions. We have established operational rules for determining transfer pricing in accordance with the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines, and reviews them as necessary to ensure that they are appropriate.

In addition, we are working to strengthen the knowledge of taxation and cultivate awareness of tax compliance through training and education to those in charge of tax. The tax department cooperates with the operating departments to ensure appropriate tax payments and reduction of tax risks.

Meiji Group's List of Tax Payments by Tax Jurisdiction

Tax-related information by tax jurisdiction for FYE 3/2022

(Unit: Million Yen, Employees)

Tax jurisdiction	Revenue	Profit before income taxes	Income taxes paid	Income taxes accrued	Number of employees
Australia	6,757	305	67	105	8
China	26,574	-903	376	397	1,160
India	27,622	4,547	1,331	1,036	1,931
Indonesia	8,988	1,006	308	261	1,085
Japan	1,470,434	156,549	39,375	35,138	12,705
Singapore	12,835	308	62	46	280
Spain	4,596	112	3	2	243
Taiwan, Province of China	2,635	402	102	96	49
Thailand	6,040	1,104	209	193	434
United Kingdom	5,695	-281	2	2	29
United States	21,531	-137	226	-34	639
Vietnam	1,473	144	21	31	9
Others	52	-249	26	21	4

The above figures are based on the Country-by-Country Report submitted to the Japanese Tax Authorities and cover all subsidiaries.

The total figures for each item in this table do not match the figures in the consolidated financial statements, as the figures for each tax jurisdiction item are the sum of the separate financial statements of each subsidiary.

Names and primary activities of the resident entities for FYE 3/2022

Tax jurisdiction	Names of the resident entities	Primary activities of the organization
Australia	Medreich Australia Pty Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Australia	MEIJI DAIRY AUSTRALASIA PTY. LTD.	Procurement
China	Meiji Pharma (Shandong) Co.,Ltd.	Manufacturing
China	Meiji (China) Investment Co., Ltd.	Holding shares or other equity instruments
China	Meiji Dairies (Tianjin) Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
China	Meiji Seika Food Industry (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
China	Meiji Ice Cream (GuangZhou) Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
China	Meiji Food (GuangZhou) Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
China	Meiji Dairies (Suzhou) Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
China	Shantou SEZ Meiji Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
China	Guangdong Meiji Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
China	Guangzhou Meiji Confectionery Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
China	Meiji Food Materia (Qingdao) Co.,Ltd.	Procurement, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Hong Kong	Medreich Far East Limited	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Hong Kong	MEIJI HK Co., Ltd.	Holding shares or other equity instruments
India	Medreich Limited	Manufacturing
India	Genovo Development Services Limited	Research and Development
India	Adcock Ingram Limited	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
India	Medreich Life care Limited	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
India	Adcock Ingram Pharma Private Limited	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Indonesia	PT. Meiji Indonesian Pharmaceutical Industries	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Indonesia	PT MEIJI FOOD INDONESIA	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd.	Holding shares or other equity instruments
Japan	Meiji Business Support Co., Ltd.	Administrative, Management or Support Services
Japan	KM Biologics Co., Ltd.	Research, Development, Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd.	Research, Development, Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Kitasato Pharmaceutical Industry Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	OHKURA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Me Pharma Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Romeck Pharma GK	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Meiji Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Meiji Food Materia Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Meiji Sangyo Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Meiji Chewing Gum Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Donan Shokuhin Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Tokai Nuts Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Meiji Ad Agency Co., Ltd.	Planning and Producing Advertisement
Japan	Meiji Fresh Network Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Meiji Logitech Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Three S and L Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Tokai Meiji Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Shikoku Meiji Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Meiji Feed Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Meiji Oils and Fats Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Nihon Kanzume, Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Meiji Techno-Service Inc.	Administrative, Management or Support Services
Japan	KCS Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Meiji Nice Day Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Gunma Meiji Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Tochigi Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Meiji Animal Health Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	MUYAKO YUSO TRANSPORTATION CO., LTD.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Chiba Meiji Milk Products Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Meihan Ryutsu Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Food Express Tokai Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Toko Transport Inc.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	Kantora Logi Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Japan	New Hokkaido Feed Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Japan	Makiba Feed Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing
Netherlands	Meiji Seika Europe B.V.	Holding shares or other equity instruments
Netherlands	Meiji Food Europe B.V.	Manufacturing
New Zealand	Medreich New Zealand Limited	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
New Zealand	MEIJI NEW ZEALAND LIMITED	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Singapore	Meiji Seika (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Singapore	MEIJI DAIRY AUSTRALASIA PTY. LTD.	Procurement
Spain	Meiji Pharma Spain, S.A.	Manufacturing
Taiwan,Province of China	Taiwan Meiji Food Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Thailand	Thai Meiji Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Thailand	Thai Meiji Food Co., Ltd.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution

Tax jurisdiction	Names of the resident entities	Primary activities of the organization
United Kingdom	Inopharm Limited	Holding or Managing intellectual property
United Kingdom	Medreich plc	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
United States	Meiji Pharma USA Inc.	Research and Development
United States	Meiji America Inc.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution
United States	D.F. Stauffer Biscuit Co., Inc.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
United States	Laguna Cookie Co., Inc.	Manufacturing, Sales, Marketing or Distribution
Vietnam	MEIJI FOOD VIETNAM CO., LTD.	Sales, Marketing or Distribution

Risk Management

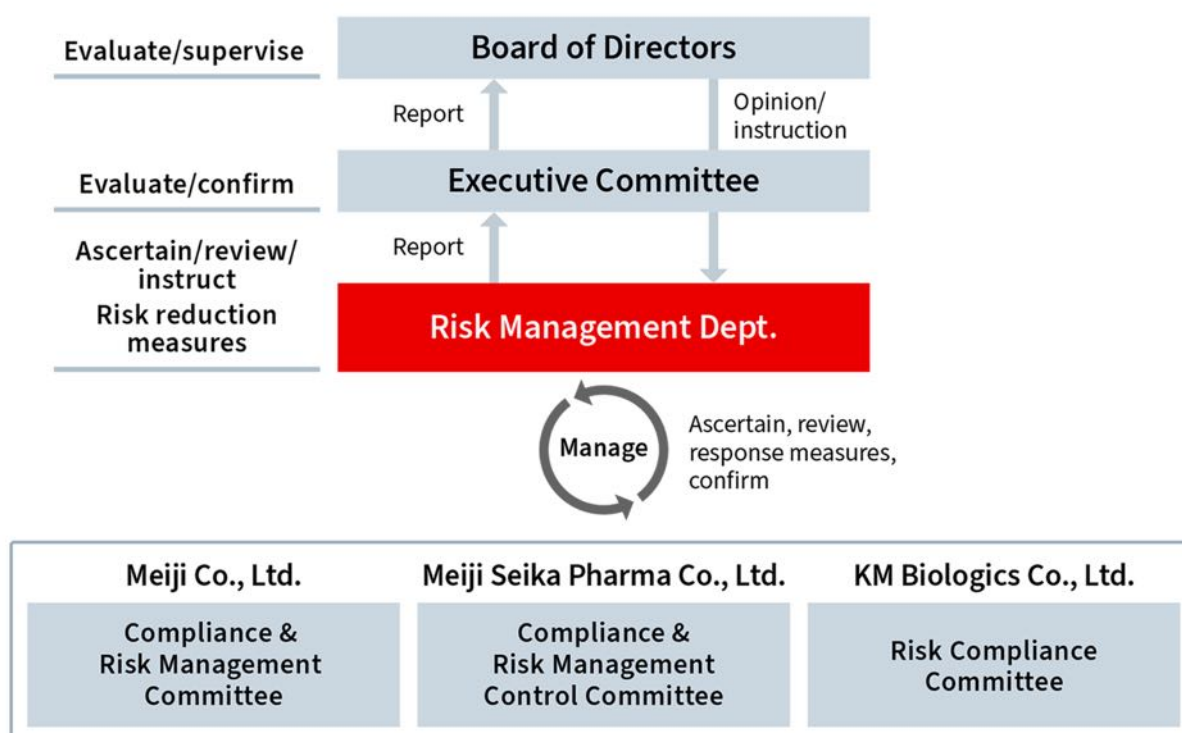
The Group recognizes that risk management is not just for responding when emergencies or disasters occur and severely impact business activities. It is also important to take preventive measures to control and mitigate/avert risks.

Risk Management System

The Group established a risk management structure that supports further growth to achieve the Meiji Group 2026 Vision. Under this risk management structure, we identify overall Group management risks, reduce risks, and manage appropriate risk-taking.

In April 2021, we established the Risk Management Department, which is independent of the Audit & Supervisory Board, to strengthen Group-wide risk management, and appointed an executive officer in charge of the department. The Executive Committee evaluates and confirms Group-wide management risks in line with the Group Vision and the risk control status and reports them to the Board of Directors, which evaluates and supervises the system. Thus, we can manage risks by adapting to changes in our operating environment.

Furthermore, we have established risk management systems that are suited to the Food and Pharmaceutical businesses, respectively. We regularly share risk information across the company, which includes risks common to all of our businesses and risks that have impacts on the whole Group. Accordingly, we identify, evaluate, address, and solve risks promptly. The executive officer in charge of the Risk Management Department reports information to the CEO & President and Representative Director.



The Group Business Management Risks

We appropriately identify risks and develop countermeasures considering the risk impact from a company-wide business management perspective. In this way, we not only minimize risks, but we also achieve sustainable growth and gain new growth opportunities. We outlined the three visions - the Business Vision, Sustainability Vision and Management Foundation Vision - in the Meiji Group 2026 Vision. We have identified the Meiji Group Business Management Risks based on those three Visions.

Among the matters related to the status of business, accounting, etc. as described in this annual securities report, the main risks that management recognizes as having a significant impact on the financial position, operating results and cash flows of the consolidated company are as follows.

The future risks outlined in the table below are categorized based on our medium- and long-term management strategies. We have assessed their importance to the Group, taking into account the likelihood of occurrence and the level of impact on the Group.

The information represents risks recognized by the Group as of the date of submission of this annual securities report. These risks are not a comprehensive representation of all the risks related to our businesses.

	Risks	Countermeasures	Change in risk recognition from previous year	Importance to the Group
Sale and supply of products and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abandon to launch planned product Changes in customer lifestyles and values Negative rumors about the Company's core materials (milk, cocoa, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish solid Proofs of Concept (POC) Gather information on market trends Develop products that are friendly to the environment and society Create products and services unique to Meiji that address social issues Appropriately disseminate relevant information about products and materials 	↗	\$\$
The majority of profits comes from specific products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sluggish sales of products that account for a considerable portion of sales and profits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement promotions that maximize unique value Improve product portfolio management Explore new markets and new business domains 	→	\$\$
Supply chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient or excess procurement or price increases of raw materials Cessation of production due to production problems, etc. Difficulties in procuring raw milk Unstable product supplies due to distribution problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information on raw materials markets and promote procurement strategies Strengthen coordination between production and sales divisions Diversify suppliers and consider alternative materials Improve distribution efficiency through labor-saving/automation 	↗	\$\$

Technological advances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient adaptation to rapid advances in digital technologies • Discovery of innovative treatment methods, manufacturing methods and formulation methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider introducing new technologies as early as possible • Research new manufacturing and formulation methods, and search for alliances 	↑	\$\$
Laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions that significantly impact corporate activities • NHI drug price revisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain information about system revisions early and implement countermeasures • Make appropriate approaches to relevant government authorities • Expand portfolio of products that are not affected by NHI drug price revisions 	→	\$
Overseas expansion and overseas Group companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid changes in society, or outbreaks of war or terrorism • Revisions of the systems that greatly exceed expectations in various countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information, and investigate and implement countermeasures early • Create product supply systems from multiple locations 	↗	\$\$
Business plans, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to achieve the Visions or Medium-Term Business Plans due to change in business conditions • Growth slowdowns in Core Business, or failure to achieve targets for overseas markets or new business domains • Impairment losses on non-current assets or goodwill • Fluctuations in foreign exchange or interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance unique value and search for new value • Provide unique value in overseas markets • Manage business portfolio from the perspectives of profitability, growth and productivity • Make decisions and monitor investment and M&A plans appropriately • Use foreign exchange contracts and borrow at fixed interest rates 	→	\$

\$\$: Risks of greater importance \$: Risks of great importance

Sustainability-related Risks

	Risks	Countermeasures	Change in risk recognition from previous year	Importance to the Group
Caring for the Earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment friendliness in corporate activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce CO2 emissions and prevent fluorocarbon leaks, switch to renewable energies, appropriately treat wastewater and industrial waste, and conduct initiatives in compliance with ISO 14001 Manage supply and demand, and decrease food loss Comply with policies related to the environment 	→	\$
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze climate change scenarios according to the TCFD framework, formulate strategies and release information 	↗	\$
Thriving Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable raw material procurement Understand diversity, and use a diverse workforce effectively Consider human rights, and human rights issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the ratio of sustainably procured raw materials, such as cocoa beans and palm oil Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with dairy farmers and other suppliers Create organizations and cultures that value diverse perspectives and abilities Address challenges of human rights based on due diligence Strictly comply with policies, guidelines, etc. related to procurement, human rights, society, and so on. 	→	\$

Management Foundation-related Risks

	Risks	Countermeasures	Change in risk recognition from previous year	Importance to the Group
Corporate Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make business decisions in a timely and appropriately manner • Internal or external non-compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve effectiveness of the Board of Directors • Enhance corporate governance systems • Provide education on compliance and social media usage, and comply with internal and external policies 	→	\$
Damage to the Meiji brand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product recalls or withdrawals from the market due to quality defects or unexpected side effects of pharmaceuticals, etc. • Unexpected harmful rumors about the Group or products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue quality and safety • Communicate appropriately with each stakeholder 	→	\$\$
Human capital and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and develop human capital required for corporate growth • Employee engagement • Effects of business environment on productivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately implement succession planning • Improve employee training • Enhance employee engagement • Enhance health and productivity management and create comfortable work environments 	→	\$
Information asset leaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information leaks and system shutdowns due to unauthorized access, etc. • Data breaches due to inappropriate system management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen information management systems and information security • Strengthen education on information management and comply with regulations and policies 	↗	\$\$
Disaster, emergency or other unforeseen circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary or full suspension of business operations due to disasters, pandemics or other unexpected emergency • Increases or decreases in product demand due to changes in business conditions in an emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop business continuity plans and risk management plans for swift recovery • Maintain a broad product portfolio across the Group 	↗	\$

The Board of Directors selected the priority initiative topics for FY2021 relating to Group business management risks and confirmed the initiatives of each operating company.

Priority initiative topics for FY2021:

(1) Confirmation of quality assurance systems and reliability assurance structures applied to contract manufacturers and development partners.

There was an incident whereby a hypnotic substance was contaminated in Itraconazole tablets manufactured by Kobayashi Kako Co., Ltd. and sold by Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. In response, we confirmed the quality assurance system and the reliability assurance structure applied to contract manufacturers and development partners.

(2) Discovery of innovative treatment methods, manufacturing methods and formulation methods
In responding to the rise of mRNA vaccines as COVID-19 vaccines, we confirmed recognition and evaluation of and response to the technology.

(3) Information leaks and system shutdowns due to unauthorized access, etc.

Damage suffered by companies due to ransomware and targeted email attacks have become more prominent, and therefore, we confirmed our countermeasures against unauthorized access under usual conditions and responses when such incidents occur.

Information Security

We work to strengthen information security, including the management of personal information and confidential information. In addition to enhancing and implementing intellectual property protection and other information management in accordance with guidelines and rules related to various information management, we also ensure employee education and training are provided, and work to strengthen our continuously evolving IT technology.

We provide necessary information to customers through helpdesks and websites established for each business division. For shareholders and investors, we provide information disclosure through our IR activities and a dedicated website.

Basic policy

The Meiji Group understands the importance of ensuring the security of customer personal information and other information assets. With this in mind, we have outlined the Meiji Group Information Security Policy along with various related rules and guidelines that we apply towards ensuring and enhancing information security.

Management structure

The Meiji Group recognizes information security as a business risk. As an information security structure, the Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. Executive Committee evaluates and confirms the state of information security management, and submits reports to the Board of Directors, which oversees the evaluation and monitoring of this structure. We also establish relevant committees within each operating company to strengthen information security and ensure an effective information security structure. In the event of a serious incident or other emergency situations related to information security, the executive officer in charge of the Risk Management Department at Meiji Holdings Co., Ltd. submits reports directly to the CEO, President and Representative Director.

Initiatives

Employee education

To improve information security awareness, we regularly conduct employee education and training concerning information security.

Information Security Employee Education Implementation Status

Education / training content	FYE March 2022 results	FYE March 2023 results
Rate of new employee training	100% (162 people)	100% (168 people)
Rate of e-learning education	85% (10,315 of 12,137)	88% (10,727 of 12,222)
E-learning details	About risks and measures related to email and internet use (Example) Targeted attack email and cyberattacks that occur at other companies	
Suspicious email / targeted email attack response training numbers	11,217 people	3,578 people*
Other initiatives	Companywide warnings and one-point lessons about matters such as suspicious emails pretending to be a business partner or Meiji Group employee	

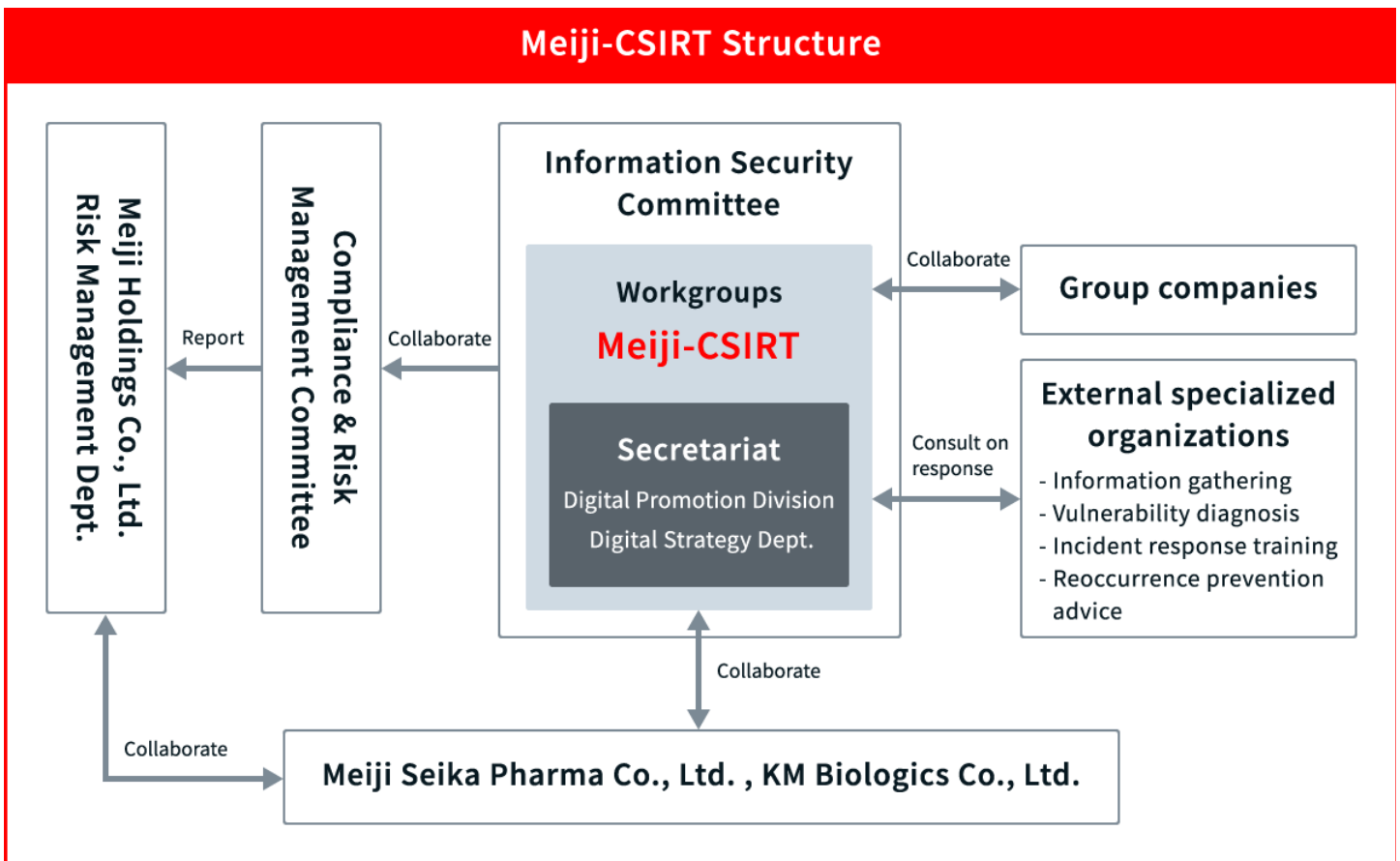
* Implemented for randomly selected participants

Strengthening incident response

The Meiji Group has created an Incident Response Procedure to prevent incidents before they occur if a security threat is detected as well as to prevent the spread of damage in the event an incident occurs. Specifically, we have established a CSIRT* structure within each operating company and implemented various measures, including outlining a response flow, conducting training, and working to further strengthen coordination between operating companies. This helps ensure business continuity and increase society's trust in the Meiji Group.

* CSIRT (Computer Security Incident Response Team): The name of the dedicated organization for monitoring security issues on computers and networks within the organization, and conducting cause analysis and identifying the scope of impact in the event an issue is discovered.

CSIRT Structure Example: Meiji Co., Ltd.



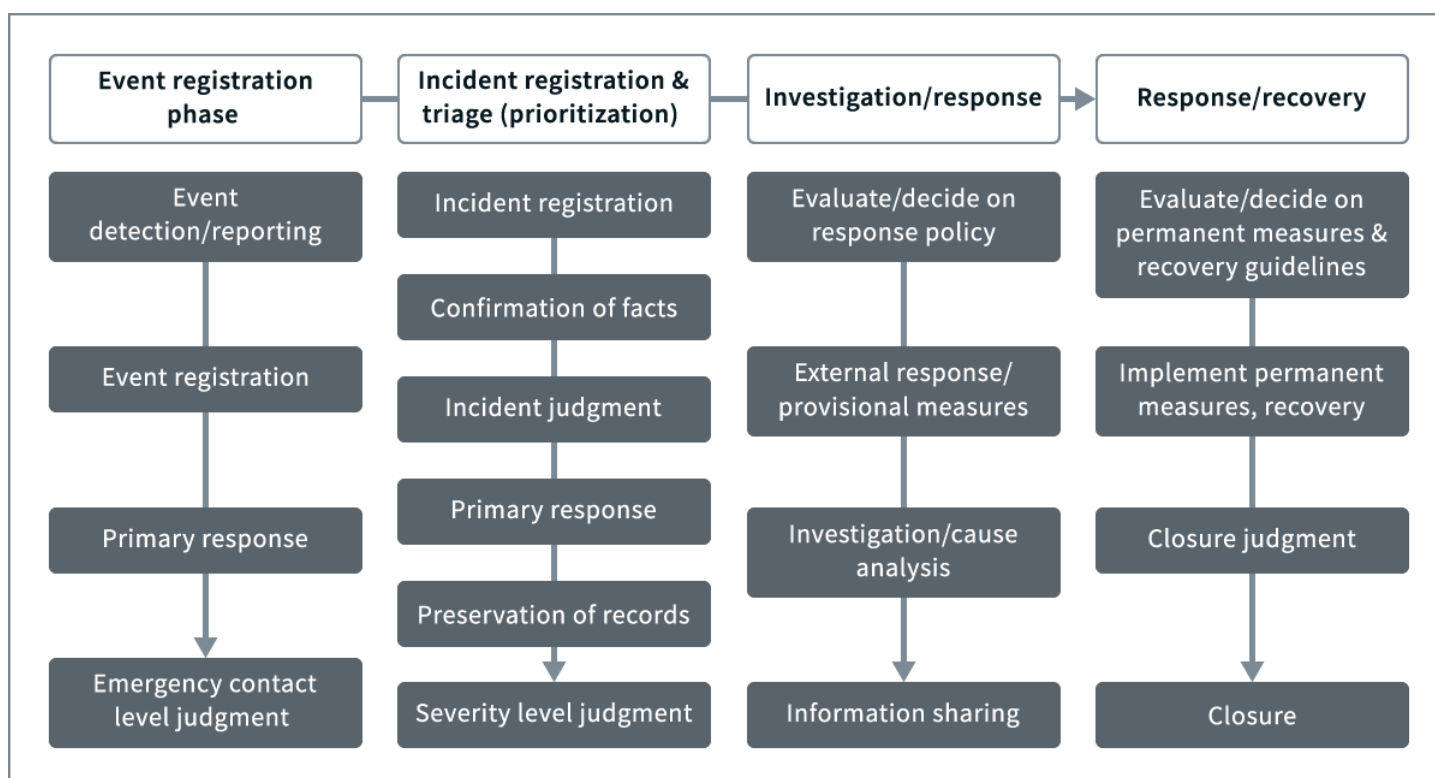
Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. and KM Biologics Co., Ltd. have also established similar CSIRT structure.

Incident response details

We implement various measures to prevent incidents, including electronic media and PC encryption, IT asset management, and log monitoring. In the event of an incident, we prevent information leaks by taking measures such as locking accounts, conducting remote wipes, and investigating logs.

In cases where we suspect an organization has been subject to a cyberattack, we systemically prepare to conduct detection, isolation, and recovery.

Incident Response Procedure



Incident response training

The Meiji Group implements a regular annual training program on incident response. The results of training are reported to the supervising officers of each operating company, and structures are reviewed regularly based on those results.

Cybersecurity response

The Meiji Group continuously works to strengthen the cybersecurity of our IT environment, which includes our website servers and networks. These efforts include third-party vulnerability diagnosis using cyberattack simulations.