

Ajinomoto Co., Inc. and Mizuho Bank, Ltd. Conclude a Positive Impact Finance Agreement

Accelerating the Use of Sustainability Finance

Tokyo, January 28, 2022 – Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (“Ajinomoto Co.”) will conclude a committed credit line agreement*¹ with Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (“Mizuho”) on January 31, 2022 (scheduled) through a Positive Impact Finance scheme.

The agreement is based on the loan syndication process, whereby Mizuho will act as an arranger and form a syndicate of multiple financial institutions to provide loans to Ajinomoto Co. This is the first positive impact finance based on the loan syndication process in the food industry.

Positive impact finance is a type of sustainability finance in which the social impact of a company's activities is assessed using an evaluation framework based on the Principles for Positive Impact Finance*², and if the company is confirmed to be creating a positive impact, loans can be provided to as a means of continuously supporting the company.

In the 2020–2025 Medium-Term Management Plan, the Ajinomoto Group (“the Group”) identifies the key principle of focusing all management resources for the purpose of resolving food and health issues, as laid out in the Group's vision for 2030. In accordance with this principle, the Group believes that recognizing the business environment surrounding the Group and working to resolve social challenges in response to changes occurring in that environment, will contribute to the enhancement of corporate value. As part of these efforts, the Group identifies materiality items that substantially affect our ability to create value in the short- to medium- to long term, and pursue our business activities based on a clear understanding of opportunities and risks.

This agreement was concluded after a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the KPIs (see next page) set by the Group, which mainly focus on the efforts on these materiality items, and an evaluation of the items that have a positive impact on the achievement of the SDGs in particular. In addition, for the signing of this agreement, Ajinomoto Co. obtained a third-party opinion from the Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

<https://www.icr.co.jp/greenfinance/>

This is the second example of our use of sustainability finance, following the SDG bonds issued in October 2021. In the future, by utilizing the sustainability finance scheme we will further accelerate our efforts in the field of finance, as in others, to help achieve a sustainable society.

As professionals in the field of food and health, the Group aims to continue to create unique value through our business activities and to work toward resolving social issues.

Outline of the Agreement

Arranger	Mizuho Bank, Ltd.
Participating financial institutions	20 domestic financial institutions
Agreement date	January 31, 2022 (scheduled)

KPIs set by the Group for Positive Impact Finance

Impact	KPI	Latest Status	Goals and Policies	
Climate	Reduction rate of greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1 and 2) (Base year: FY2018)	FY2020: 14% reduction	FY2030: 50% reduction	
	Reduction rate of greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 3) (Base year: FY2018)	FY2020: 1% reduction	FY2030: 24% reduction	
Waste	Plastic waste	—	FY2030: Zero	
	Food loss and waste reduction rate (amount generated per unit of production) (Base year: FY2018)	FY2020: 11% increase	FY2025: 50% reduction	
Employment	Employee engagement score (making ASV one's own initiative)	FY2020: 64%	FY2030: 85% or more	
Resource efficiency/security	Reduction rate of water consumption per unit of production (Base year: FY2005)	FY2020: 78% reduction	FY2030: 80% reduction	
Health and sanitation	Percentage of products with enhanced nutritional value	FY2020: 31%	FY2030: 60%	
	Supply of products with enhanced nutritional value that also support delicious salt reduction and protein intake	FY2020: 280 million people per year	FY2030: 400 million people per year	
	Opportunities for use of products that utilize the physiological and nutritional functions of amino acids	—	FY2030: Double the FY2020 level	
	Nutrition education for employees	FY2020: 460 people	FY2025: Cumulative total of 100,000 people	
Integrity & security of person	Sustainable procurement ratio	Paper	FY2030: 100%	
Biodiversity and ecosystems		Palm oil		FY2020: 84%
		Soybeans		FY2020: 68%
		Coffee beans, beef		—

Notes:

- *1 A committed credit line is a line of credit in which a financial institution commits to provide loans at the request of its company within a predetermined limit set by the company and the financial institution.
- *2 The Principles for Positive Impact Finance are a common financial framework for achieving the SDGs, released in 2017 by the Positive Impact Working Group, a banking and investment member of the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the global financial sector established to promote sustainable finance following the 1992 Earth Summit). This comprehensive framework assesses impacts on the three aspects of sustainable development (environment, society, and the economy) in both positive and negative terms. As a tool for impact identification, it presents an impact radar consisting of 22 categories, including climate, water, energy, biodiversity & ecosystems, and culture & heritage.

Reference

Press release dated December 15, 2020

The Ajinomoto Group Enters into its First ESG Finance Agreement in Malaysia

https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms_wp_ajmnt_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/2020_12_15.pdf

Press release dated September 28, 2021

Ajinomoto to Issue Group's First SDG Bonds

https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms_wp_ajmnt_global/wp-content/uploads/pressreleases/pdf/2021_09_28_02E.pdf

Press release dated October 15, 2021

Notice Concerning Determination of Conditions for Issuing Sustainability Bonds

https://www.ajinomoto.co.jp/company/jp/presscenter/press/detail/file/2021_10_15.pdf (in Japanese)

The Ajinomoto Group, unlocking the power of amino acids, aims to resolve food and health issues associated with dietary habits and aging, and contribute to greater wellness for people worldwide.

Based on the corporate message "Eat Well, Live Well.," we have been scientifically pursuing the possibilities of amino acids to aim for future growth by creating new value through sustainable and innovative solutions for communities and society.

The Ajinomoto Group has offices in 35 countries and regions, and sells products in more than 130 countries and regions. In fiscal 2020, sales were 1.0714 trillion yen (10.1 billion U.S. dollars). To learn more, visit www.ajinomoto.com.

For further information, please contact: [HERE](#)