

**PRESS RELEASE**

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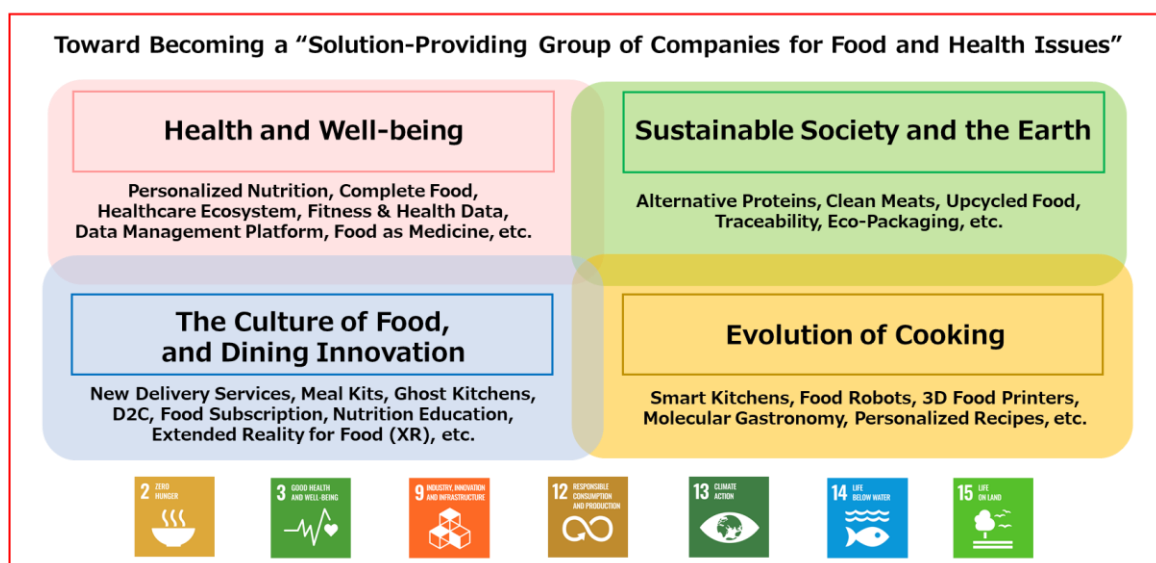
## Ajinomoto Co., Inc. Establishes a Corporate Venture Capital Arm Driving Business Model Transformation for Value Creation in the Provision of Solutions for Food and Health Issues

**TOKYO, December 16, 2020** – Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (“Ajinomoto Co.”) has established a corporate venture capital arm (“CVC”) for accelerating innovation, creating and enhancing ecosystems, and driving corporate culture transformation to create a new business model for becoming a “solution-providing group of companies for food and health issues”. The CVC, established as a Group under the Research & Business (R&B) Planning Dept. of Ajinomoto Co., will begin operations on December 16, 2020 with a focus on investing in startups and venture capital firms (“VCs”) in the fields of foodtech and healthcare.

The CVC will invest in startups that have outstanding technologies, solutions and business models in fields that will help the Ajinomoto Group achieve its aim of becoming a solution-providing group of companies for food and health issues, as well as in VCs that invest in those startups. It will have three objectives: “Acceleration of innovation” by conducting R&B activities, collecting information and building networks in collaboration with startups; “creation and enhancement of ecosystems” that complement sustainable collaborative structures with startups; and “driving corporate culture transformation” by collaborating with startups and developing human resources responsible for innovation. The CVC is one of the core initiatives of the Business Model Transformation Task Force, which was organized together with in-house and external programs for entrepreneurs\*. Backcasting from its vision for food and health in 2030, Ajinomoto Co. has set four areas for investment: Health and Well-being; Sustainable Society and the Earth; The Culture of Food, and Dining Innovation; and the Evolution of Cooking.

\* External entrepreneur program “Ajinomoto Group Accelerator” and in-house entrepreneur program “A-STARTERS”

### CVC Investment Areas



Under its 2020-2025 Medium-Term Management Plan, the Ajinomoto Group intends to transform into a “solution-providing group of companies for food and health issues.” As one measure to achieve this goal, Ajinomoto Co. established the CVC. Through the CVC, Ajinomoto Co. will drive business model transformation by integrating its know-how and knowledge through collaboration with startups that possess cutting-edge technologies, solutions and business models Ajinomoto Co. does not have in fields such as food and healthcare.

## Reference

Press release dated November 5, 2020

Ajinomoto Co., Inc. Invests in Funds of U.S. Food Tech Venture Capital Firm AgFunder Inc. and Nippon Venture Capital Co. Ltd. of Japan

[https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms\\_wp\\_ajmnt\\_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Ajinomoto-Co.-Inc.-Invests-in-Funds-of-U.S.-Food-Tech-Venture-Capital-Firm-AgFunder-Inc.-and-Nippon-Venture-Capital-Co.-Ltd.-of-Japan.pdf](https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms_wp_ajmnt_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Ajinomoto-Co.-Inc.-Invests-in-Funds-of-U.S.-Food-Tech-Venture-Capital-Firm-AgFunder-Inc.-and-Nippon-Venture-Capital-Co.-Ltd.-of-Japan.pdf)

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 2019, sales were 1.1000 trillion yen (10.1 billion U.S. dollars). To learn more, visit [www.ajinomoto.com](http://www.ajinomoto.com).

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