

## Sustainable Materials Sourcing

### Identifying Critical Raw Materials

The Ajinomoto Group identifies critical raw materials by conducting a comprehensive assessment of raw materials used in its operations and analyzes its findings in consultation with the associated departments and external experts.

Materials are deemed critical based on an overall judgment of their degree of importance in such terms as the reliance on the material, the availability of alternative materials, and relevance to global environmental sustainability. Recognizing that deforestation has a substantial impact on climate change, biodiversity, and also human rights issues, the Group has stepped up measures related to palm oil, paper, and other agriculture and forestry resources. The Group also set a target to procure 100% sustainable palm oil and paper by FY2020 (see p62).

### Procuring Sustainable Palm Oil

The Group products that use palm oil or palm kernel oil range from processed food products, like cup soup, instant noodles, and coffee creamers, to specialty chemicals made in regions spanning Japan, Southeast Asia, Europe, and South America. Because some products use palm kernel oil, for which it is difficult to procure certified products, and because the supply of certified palm oil is limited in some regions, the Group defines palm oil that is either certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) or that is traceable to sustainable sources as sustainable. In FY2018, the Group used 36,700 tons of palm oil, 25% of which was certified. The Group is currently gathering usage data on palm oil for which it has confirmed the traceability.



### Promoting Use of Sustainable Paper

The Group is promoting procurement of paper containers and packaging based on its Paper Procurement Guidelines.

The guidelines define paper that is sustainable as paper that is not derived from deforestation in areas of high conservation value and paper that is procured from providers that produce it through proper procedures in accordance with laws and regulations of the production areas and with international human rights standards. Sustainable paper includes paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) as well as recycled paper and paper made from FSC® Controlled Wood.

In FY2018, 95% of the Group's paper containers and packaging in Japan was sustainable. The Group is summarizing overseas usage data.

▶ For details, please see the Ajinomoto Group Sustainability Data Book 2019.  
<https://www.ajinomoto.com/en/activity/>