

Animal welfare

Approach

GRI204-DMA

GRI301-DMA

▶ Group Shared Policy on Better Mutual Relationships with Animals

Performance

Creating policies and holding dialogues with society

The Ajinomoto Group deals with animals throughout our businesses and product development. Animal-derived ingredients such as meat, eggs, and extracts are essential for the food products we produce. In recent years, the issue of animal welfare has received greater attention. Animal welfare refers to positive practices in raising livestock with the intent to provide a healthy lifestyle from birth to death, reducing stress levels and fulfilling needs for exercise. However, no strict definition has ever been established for the concept of animal welfare. The concept is understood differently by people in different countries and regions.

Therefore, in 2018, we established the Group Shared Policy on Better Mutual Relationships with Animals. This policy defines our approach to procurement in keeping with the concept of animal welfare. In addition, we have set up roundtables consisting of external experts to respond flexibly to social trends and demands. We also promote dialogue with stakeholders in this regard. We will continue to hold dialogues with stakeholders involved in the Group's procurement of animal-derived ingredients under our newly established Farm Animal Welfare Working Group (tentative name). We will leverage these interactions to exchange opinions at roundtables and improve the understanding of animal welfare by the Group's personnel in charge of procurement. Through these efforts, we aim to build a better symbiotic relationship with all animals involved in the value chain.

Roundtables on better animal welfare

Roundtable meetings held since February 2020 are outlined below.

Attendees

Facilitator	Junko Edahiro (Professor, Graduate School of Leadership and Innovation, Shizenkan University)
External members (in alphabetical order)	Arisa Kishigami (ESG/sustainability specialist) Shigeru Kyuwa (Professor, University of Tokyo) Kenichi Takeda (Associate Professor, Shinshu University)
Ajinomoto Co., Inc. members	Hiroyuki Kojima (officer in charge of R&D) Chika Morishima (officer in charge of sustainability) Junichiro Kojima (officer in charge of corporate planning) and others

· First roundtable (February 5, 2020):

The session began with an overview of the Group and explanations of how our business relates with animals, as well as our approach and initiatives in this area to date. Meeting then shifted to an exchange of views on the key themes to be addressed.

· Second roundtable (April 8, 2020):

A panel of external members presented the latest information related to animal welfare and raised issues in the Group's relationships with animals from an expert point of view. The experts and our representatives engaged in an open exchange of opinions.

· Third roundtable (May 13, 2020):

The Company reported on actions of the procurement department related to animal welfare, as well as the launch of a new Farm Animal Welfare Working Group (tentative name).

In the fourth and subsequent roundtables, we will explore the changes in public awareness of animal breeding and animal welfare, as well as the potential risks and opportunities for the Ajinomoto Group, forming a unified approach to animal welfare.

Sustainable Materials Sourcing

Performance

GRI204-DMA
 GRI301-DMA
 GRI416-DMA
 GRI416-1

▶ P87

▶ P70

Livestock traceability survey

In fiscal 2018, Ajinomoto Co., Inc. shared the Group Shared Policy on Better Mutual Relationship with Animals with all primary suppliers in Japan. We also launched a traceability survey of our supply chain with 23 meat and meat extract suppliers in Japan (covering 75 kinds of raw materials). The risk assessment for fiscal 2019 found that a combined traceability to original farming sites for fully traceable suppliers and conditionally traceable suppliers remained at 32%. One of the reasons for this result was that livestock breeding management guidelines have not been fully embraced in Japan. Awareness varies widely among suppliers. We plan to continue our work in spreading awareness of these guidelines. Ajinomoto Frozen Foods Co., Inc. is also conducting a similar survey.

Overseas, the Group tracks the status of legal developments regarding animal welfare. We will share our policies and issues with our suppliers.

Feed-use amino acids as a solution to animal nutrition issues

Proteins, indispensable compounds for all animals, consist of approximately 20 different amino acids, several of which cannot be synthesized internally in sufficient quantities. These amino acids can be supplemented through animal feed.

Adding feed-use amino acids can improve the essential amino acid profile of feeds that consist mainly of wheat and/or corn and thus are poorly balanced. The improved amino acid balance not only increases feed efficiency and promotes growth, but also reduces environmental impact by reducing excreted nitrogen.

