HISTORY

The growth trajectory of the Ajinomoto Group

Since its founding in 1909, the Ajinomoto Group has overcome many obstacles and grown through a pioneer spirit, co-creation with partners, customer value-driven innovation, governance and quality assurance (safety and security) initiatives, and structural reforms.

1908
Discovered glutamic acid The following year, launched AJI-NO-MOTO®

Innovation | Co-creation

1910s
Global expansion (expanding sales channels to Taiwan, Korea, and China)

Pioneer spirit | Co-creation

1956
A competitor announced a new method for manufacturing glutamic acid

⇒Our company also established a new central research laboratory and succeeded in industrializing the our fermentation method, launched amino acids for infusion solution

Co-creation | Innovation

1950~60s
Increased overseas headquarters (Thailand, Brazil, USA, etc.)

Pioneer spirit

1964
Launched Knorr® soup in Japan in partnership with U.S. based CPC international Inc.

Co-creation

1969
The safety of MSG was questioned in the U.S.

⇒Our company focused on scientifically verifying its safety. And its safety was reaffirmed in 1980.

Quality

1972
Full-scale launch of frozen food business

Pioneer spirit | Innovation

1973
Launched instant coffee in partnership with U.S. based General Foods

Co-creation

1909 1950 1960 1970 1980

Pioneer spirit ⇒ The pioneer spirit that continues to take on new challenges

Innovation ⇒ Customer value-driven Innovation

Co-creation ⇒ Co-creation with partners

Governance ⇒ Strengthening governance

Quality ⇒ Quality assurance (safety and security)

Structural reform ⇒ Structural reform for sustainable growth

1989

Acquired S.A. OmniChem N.V. and fully entered the CDMO business

Innovation Co-creation

1999

Launched Ajinomoto Build-up Film® (ABF), an insulation material used between buildup layers for semiconductor substrates

Innovation Co-creation

FY 2019~2022

Reduced assets by a total approx. 300B JPY

Structural reform

1997

Violated the Commercial Code (giving benefits to corporate racketeers)

⇒Strengthened governance to become a global company originating from Japan

Governance

2014

Acquired Windsor Quality Holdings, Inc., a U.S. frozen food company

Pioneer spirit Co-creation

2023

Acquired Forge Biologics Holdings, LLC, a U.S. gene therapy CDMO

Innovation Co-creation

2001

Halal issues arose in Indonesia

⇒Further strengthened quality assurance efforts

Quality

2009

Due to the impact of the Lehman Shock, revenue and profits declined, a deficit of over 10 billion yen

⇒Structural reform, shifts from a focus on bulk to value added product

Structural reform

NET SALES

1,530.5 billion yen

1990 2000 2010 2020 2024