

Co-existence with Local Communities

✓ Policy ✓ Management system ✓ Basic approach ✓ Specific initiatives

Policy

A principle of our Group's business is to “engage in corporate activities rooted in our communities and actively contribute to society,” as expressed in the Fuji Oil Group Management Philosophy.*

* <https://www.fujioil.co.jp/en/about/constitution/>

Management system

Each company in our Group carries out community development activities specific to the country and region in which they operate. Group-wide and interregional activities are led by Fuji Oil Co., Ltd.

Basic approach

With key operating sites in 15 countries, our Group aims to contribute to the development of local communities by carrying out social development initiatives that are in line with local needs. We engage in community-based corporate activities and dialogues, and use the perspectives gained from these activities in our management. We also believe that participating in such initiatives enables Group employees to find greater job satisfaction and raise their awareness of sustainability.

To learn more about our engagement with communities and other main stakeholders, refer to our initiatives for each material ESG issue and the link below.

Stakeholder Engagement

* https://www.fujioil.co.jp/en/sustainability/stakeholder_engagement/

Specific initiatives

Food education using our main raw materials (soybeans, palm oil and cocoa)

We at Fuji Oil Co., Ltd. implement food education project for children, encouraging the next generation to consider the health of people and the planet. Since FY2014, we have been conducting the project in Japan in cooperation with the nonprofit Houkago NPO After-School.

In FY2024, we once again ran four visiting lecture programs: two on soybeans (“The Global Environment and Our Food” and “Food Education Bingo”), one on palm oil (“Food Detectives, Discover the Secrets of Food!”) and one on cocoa (“Choco Action for the Future”), with twenty of our employees acting as lecturers. In the new cocoa program, added in FY2024, we encouraged students to learn about the issues surrounding chocolate and consider what actions they can take. Both children and teachers have commented on how much they learned from this program.

Through the programs, we held 38 sessions in-person on soy, palm oil, and cocoa for 1,041 students at 20 elementary schools. A total of 7,020 children have participated in the food education project since it began.

Aside from the food education project, we also held food education sessions for university students, school teachers, and community events, exploring the topic of global sustainability through familiar foods, using our main ingredients as subject matter. In FY2024, we delivered these sessions to more than 250 people across six locations.

We also teamed up with students to give a presentation titled “Bringing global issues closer to home: enjoy learning about food sustainability” at the Food Education Promotion Forum hosted by Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Our presentation was awarded the judges’ special award.



Food Education Bingo, food education lecture on soybeans



Food Education Promotion Forum

Comments from participants:

- I found out how chocolate is made and how the situation is bad right now. I want to tell people about it and make chocolate sustainable. (6th grader)
- From now on, I want to eat soybeans, make my body strong, and try to make the world’s problems a little better. (3 grader)
- I didn’t know about this before, so I want to remember what I have learned from the special teachers and care for the planet. (6 grader)
- We learn about the SDGs in Semester 1 and Semester 2. The topics we studied came up in the food education project, so I think the children really felt that they could make use of their learning. (Teacher)
- This was a valuable opportunity to hear directly from someone from the company. I realized how important it is for companies to conduct business with a view to the future several years or decades from now, rather than focusing on immediate profits. Thank you very much. (University student)
- When talking about palm oil in sessions, I always struggle with how to teach students about how useful it can be and how it relates to environmental issues. In other subjects, students are taught that palm oil is bad or that it destroys nature. This session has helped me see how to talk about palm oil in the context of home economics. (Home economics teacher)

Support for SDGs for School

Since 2018, Fuji Oil Co., Ltd. has sponsored SDGs for School,* a project run by the non-profit Think the Earth. The project supports class teachers and students by creating educational content and networking spaces for learning about how to create a more sustainable society through the SDGs. In 2021, Think the Earth was officially designated by Japan's Ministry of the Environment as an organization that supports environmental education, and the programs were registered as services of human resource certification.

* <https://www.thinktheearth.net/en/> 



Hannan Forest Project

Fuji Oil Co., Ltd. launched the Hannan Forest Project in 2010 to regenerate Satoyama landscape in Izumisano City, Osaka Prefecture, where its head office is located. Since March 2018, the project has expanded, and employees have worked as volunteers to support park development at Izumisano Kyuryo Ryokuchi (Izumisano hillside park)* in Osaka. At the site, local volunteers, companies, and the Osaka Prefectural Government work together on forest development and bamboo forest management. The company's employees conduct monthly activities to nurture the secondary forest in its designated Corporate Forest area.

A trail called the Explorer Route has been created and maintained as part of the management of the bamboo forest.

In FY2024, around 160 people took part in eight volunteering events.

Going forward, we will continue our park development efforts, with the goal of creating a rich forest habitat for owls, giant flying squirrels, and other wildlife.

* <http://izumisano-kyuryo.jp/en/> 



Thinning a bamboo grove

Fuji Foundation for Protein Research

The Fuji Oil Group founded the Research Committee of Soy Protein Nutrition in 1979 to fund academic research on soy protein. After restructuring as a public interest foundation, it transformed into the Fuji Foundation for Protein Research*¹ in 2012 to continue building upon this legacy of plant-based protein research. To date, the Foundation has funded over 1,300 studies in total, covering a wide range of research fields, including nutritional science, food processing, and breeding. We have also been supporting researchers in the Netherlands with international research grants since FY2023.

The results of the funded research are published annually in the journal "Soy Protein Research, Japan" and posted on the Foundation's website,*² where they are widely accessed by researchers.

In addition, the Foundation also holds free open lectures for the general public as part of its public interest activities to promote awareness and utilization of soy and plant-based proteins. In FY2024, we presented online lectures from the venue in Izumisano City. Three speakers gave lectures from various perspectives, including (1) the many



Soy Protein Research, Japan




Research report meeting held in Osaka

roles and functions of soybeans in food processing; (2) the role of domestication and mutation in soybean crops; and (3) how the physiological functions of soybeans help Japanese people live long lives. Over 260 people registered for the lectures and many more people watched the video archive on the Foundation's website.

Through donations to the Foundation, we will continue to support academic research on soy and plant-based proteins and contribute to the society.

*1 <https://www.fujifoundation.or.jp/english/> 

*2 Follow the link below for research results.

https://www.fujifoundation.or.jp/search_en/ 

Providing a path to entrepreneurship: Chocolate business startup program for low-income earners in Brazil

Harald Indústria e Comércio de Alimentos Ltda (Brazil) has been running a free chocolate entrepreneurship program since 2019 to help low-income earners and small-scale entrepreneurs generate a profitable secondary source of income. In FY2024, over 1,500 training sessions were held around Brazil, providing around 8,500 participants with the specialized knowledge required to succeed in the confectionery industry. The program covers all the information that entrepreneurs need to start their own business, including proper handling of chocolate and compound chocolate, pricing, digital marketing, sales strategies, presentation skills, and more.



Participants in the Christmas course

Valentine's Day event: Volunteering at a U.S. facility for people with developmental disabilities

In February 2025, Blommer Chocolate Company (U.S.) took part in a volunteer event at St. Mary's of Providence (SMOP), a non-profit residential facility that provides care for approximately 80 women with developmental disabilities. This event was initiated 17 years ago by former Blommer employee Sandy Murphy, and is held annually by the Chicago chapter of the American Association of Candy Technologists (AACT). Blommer has been donating chocolates and volunteering every year since the event began. Blommer's booth featured a pink strawberry-flavored chocolate fountain and sweets such as brownies, marshmallows, pretzel rods and crispy rice bars. With help from our employees, the women in the facility enjoyed dipping these treats in the chocolate fountain and decorating them with various sprinkles.



The Valentine's Day event

Sustainability education for U.S. college students

Blommer Chocolate Company (U.S.) conducts a sustainability awareness program that uses chocolate as its theme, targeting college students. In March 2025, the company invited college students studying sustainability and their professors to the Blommer Chocolate R&D Applications Lab located in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. The members of R&D team and the sustainability team talked about the importance of sustainable food systems, the company's approach to sustainability and its sustainability initiatives, followed by interactive sessions.



Related documents

ESG Data Book (PDF 411KB) 