

May 16, 2024

Fujimi Town
Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation
Fujimi Panorama Resort
FOOD AGRI NEXT LAB Co., Ltd.

Signed an Agreement to Cooperate in the Creation of Recycling-oriented Communities and Environmentally-compatible Regeneration of the Yatsugatake Area

Fujimi Town (Suwa District, Nagano Prefecture), Fujimi Panorama Resort (Fujimi Town), FOOD AGRI NEXT LAB Co., Ltd. (Hokuto City, Yamanashi Prefecture), and Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation of the Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation (Chiyoda City, Tokyo) on May 16, 2024, signed an agreement to collaborate toward the creation of recycling-oriented communities and environmentally-compatible regeneration of the Yatsugatake area.



At the signing ceremony held at the Fujimi Town Office on May 16, 2024
(FOOD AGRI NEXT LAB: Akira Yagihashi, Representative, Fujimi Town: Shigeharu Natori, Mayor, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation: Shinichiro Matsuzono, Group Manager of Bio-PES Group, Fujimi Panorama Resort: Kazuhiko Amemiya, Director)

1. Background behind the agreement

Since January 2020, Mitsubishi Chemical and FOOD AGRI NEXT LAB have implemented a project to compost paper cups, cutlery, and other items made with Mitsubishi Chemical's bio-based compostable polymer BioPBS™ and use the compost for growing vegetables in the Yatsugatake area. The companies have also been collaborating with Fujimi Panorama Resort through various activities, including an event organized in the park in November 2023, as part of an educational program for children operated by FOOD AGRI NEXT LAB. The event provided children with an opportunity to make compost using BioPBS™ paper cups. The collaboration among the three organizations has helped develop a material-cycle system and provided social contributions for local communities. At the same time, Fujimi Town has also aspired to become recycling-oriented, and the four parties have agreed that they will collaborate together to support efforts in the area toward local regeneration aimed at converting existing communities into recycling-oriented ones, as well as other efforts toward decarbonization and development of human resources.

2. Outline of the agreement and future activities

■ Purpose

To help solve local issues and support efforts toward local regeneration in the Yatsugatake area to promote sustainability and environmental conservation for the eventual goal of creating communities that are recycling-oriented and environmentally-compatible

■ Main planned collaborative activities

Activities related to:

- (1) local regeneration aimed at converting existing communities into recycling-oriented ones;
- (2) joint research and the creation of innovation to solve local issues;
- (3) development of human resources to promote decarbonization and solve local issues; and
- (4) promotion of environmentally-compatible initiatives

■ Representatives who have signed the agreement

Fujimi Town: Shigeharu Natori, Mayor

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation: Shinichiro Matsuzono, Group Manager of Bio-PES Group, New Bio-Chemical Office

Fujimi Panorama Resort: Kazuhiko Amemiya, Director

FOOD AGRI NEXT LAB Co., Ltd.: Akira Yagihashi, Representative

■ Term of agreement

May 16, 2024 to March 31, 2025 *Renewed annually

■ Future plan

After conclusion of the agreement, Mitsubishi Chemical will further expand its range of biodegradable products through consultation with those involved and promote activities to protect the local environment in close cooperation with companies, local governments, and other organizations in the area. Within this fiscal year, there is a plan to work together with high school students to conserve rural landscapes, make compost and use it to grow crops, and process the crops into products to be sold outside the area.

Reference

<Fujimi Town>

Situated in the southeastern part of Nagano Prefecture on the border with Yamanashi Prefecture, Fujimi Town is known for beautiful views of Mt. Fuji, with three of the 100 best Mt. Fuji best viewing spots in the Kanto region located within the town. A tourist town that can be reached in about two hours from Tokyo and Nagoya, Fujimi Town attracts many visitors throughout the year by offering a wide spectrum of leisure activities such as trekking and mountaineering at Yatsugatake and Mt. Nyukasa and mountain bike riding at a resort facility built on natural terrain in summer, as well as skiing and snowboarding at two ski resorts in the town. Mt. Nyukasa also features ropeway gondolas that carry visitors up the mountain, from where they can see starry skies at night, beautiful views of Yatsugatake and Mt. Fuji; and in the morning, a beautiful sunrise and a sea of clouds.

<Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation>

Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation is a specialty materials group with an unwavering commitment to lead with chemistry-based innovative solutions to achieve KAITEKI, which means the well-being of people and the planet. Around 70,000 employees worldwide play a leading role in quickly growing market segments such as mobility, digital, medical and food. Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation is listed on the Prime Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (securities code: 4188). <https://www.mcgc.com/english/index.html>

<Fujimi Panorama Resort>

Fujimi Panorama Resort is situated on the eastern slope of Mt. Nyukasa at the north end of the South Alps. In the green season from late April to mid November, visitors can enjoy hiking on Mt.

Nyukasa after a ride on a ropeway gondola up the mountain; mountain bike riding in one of the largest mountain bike parks in Japan; and paragliding. As many as 150 varieties of wild flowers bloom one after another on Mt. Nyukasa between spring and autumn, bringing delight to the eyes of visitors. In the winter season from mid December to early April, activities such as snowshoe trekking on Mt. Nyukasa are offered, to say nothing of skiing and snowboarding, thus allowing visitors to enjoy the resort throughout the year.

<FOOD AGRI NEXT LAB Co., Ltd.>

This local trading company seeks to establish an environmentally advanced recycling community in the Yatsugatake area by developing businesses that connect cities with local communities and create continuous interactions between them. <https://foodagrinextlab.jp/>

<BioPBS™>

BioPBS™ is a bio-based compostable polymer developed by Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, which owns the basic patent, and manufactured by PTT MCC Biochem Company Limited, which is a fifty-fifty joint venture consisting of Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation and PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited in Thailand. The polymer is decomposed into water and carbon dioxide by microorganisms found in nature. In addition, compared to other compostable polymers, it shows excellent performance such as low-temperature heat sealability and flexibility.

<Press release dated November 30, 2023>

Resource Recycling Initiatives in the Yatsugatake Area—Paper Cups Made with Compostable Polymer BioPBS Adopted by FOOD AGRI NEXT LAB—
https://www.mcgc.com/english/news_release/01771.html

<p>Contact: Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation Communications Division Media Relations Department : +81-3-6748-7140 Contact form</p>
