

# Ajinomoto Group Materiality

## Resolution of 21st-century human society issues

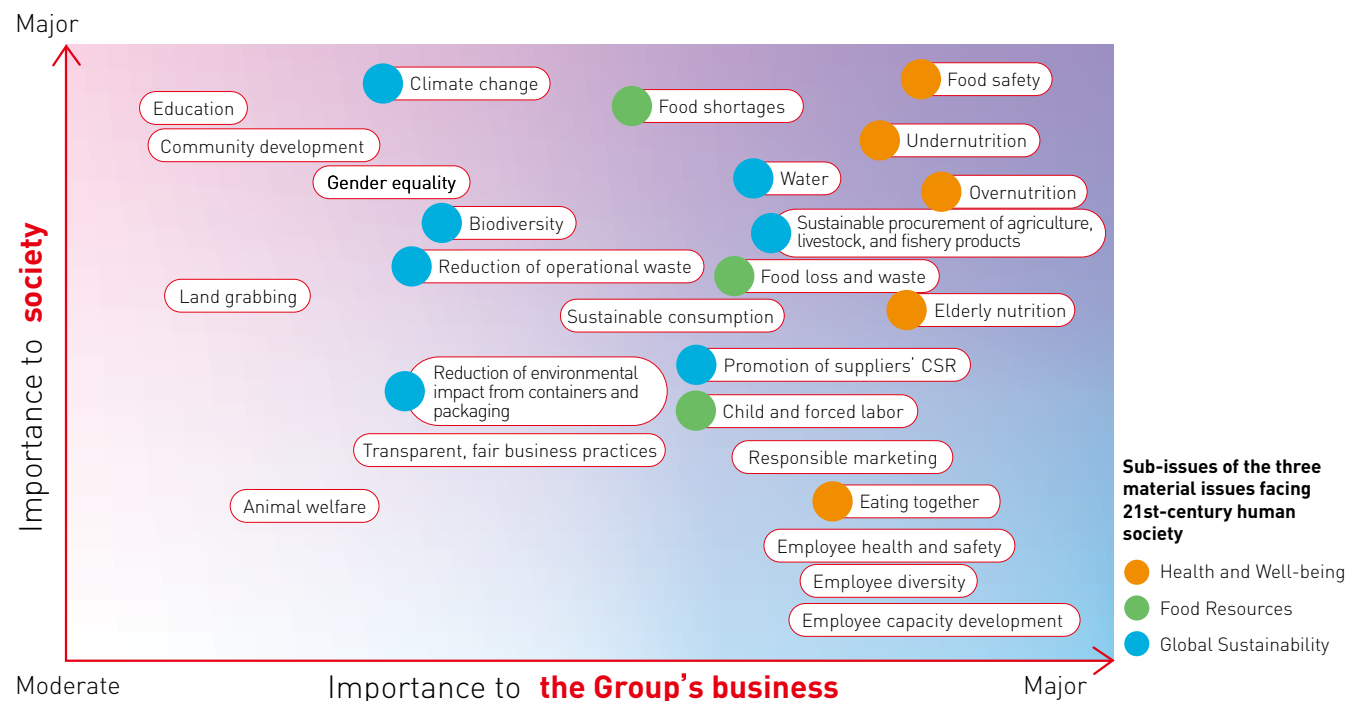
Following a series of internal and external discussions, the Ajinomoto Group clarified its position on resolving issues facing 21st-century human society at the time of its centennial anniversary in 2009, declaring its intention to contribute through business to three material issues: global sustainability, food resources, and health and well-being.

While committing to coexist and develop with society, each

department within the Group is tasked with laying out plans to address these issues using the Group's unique technological and product development expertise and value-chain influence.

Following multiple discussions, the Ajinomoto Group is rethinking the relationship between its business and social issues by selecting and organizing materiality items. The Group addresses these materiality items based on the following matrix, which was designed in 2015 and reviewed in 2017 to incorporate new social trends.

## Materiality matrix of the Ajinomoto Group (Fiscal 2017 revised)



## Materiality items updated

Since the Ajinomoto Group organized its materiality items in 2015, the world has witnessed significant progress on sustainability, including the entry into force of the Paris Agreement and the adoption of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Group also had a frequent discussion on materiality when determining its FY2017-2019 Medium-Term Management Plan.

In light of these new developments, the Ajinomoto Group felt it necessary to update its materiality items to better guide future initiatives.

The Group considered information from various sources when renewing its materiality items, including opinions from internal departments, and suggestions and opinions collected from 56 external experts via the survey on SDGs and expectations for the Ajinomoto Group.

### [Major revisions]

#### Relative importance of individual items re-examined

The importance of the following items was raised to reflect a deep connection with Ajinomoto Group operations and growing external expectations for more aggressive action: sustainable procurement of agriculture, livestock, and fishery products; promotion of suppliers' CSR; food loss and waste; water; child and forced labor.

#### Additional items

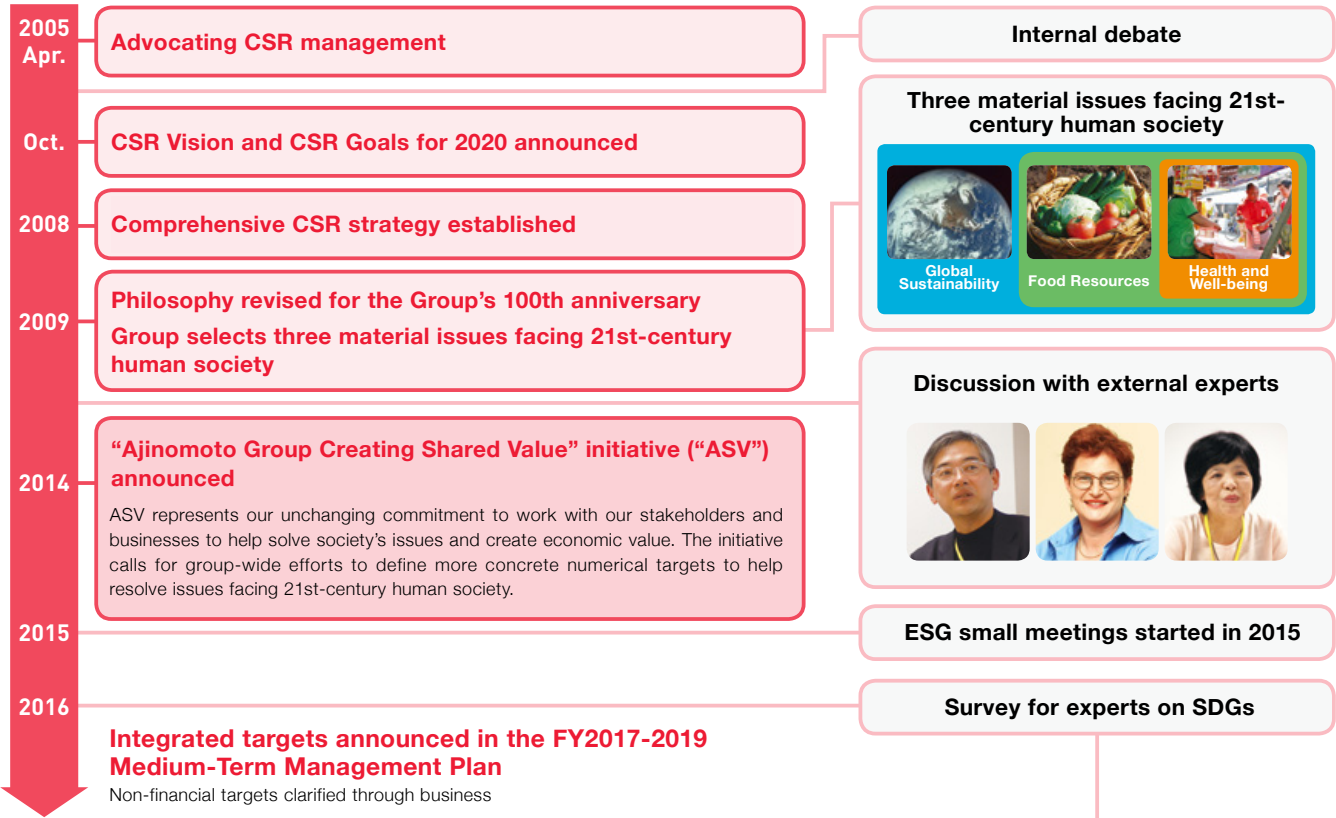
Items added to reflect the Ajinomoto Group Medium-Term Management Plan and SDGs: eating together; sustainable consumption, reduction of environmental impact from containers and packaging.

#### New terms and expressions

Human resources development was divided into employee capacity development and employee diversity. Preventing corruption was changed to transparent, fair business practice.

# Identification of Material Issues

The Ajinomoto Group collects opinions from external experts in a variety of forms to help clarify the importance and priority of individual operations when creating value through business. We ask those experts to evaluate recent social trends and Ajinomoto Group activities. Opinions are shared internally at the business planning level to ensure the Group proactively pursues activities that fulfill social expectations.



## Survey for experts

(Experts familiar with Ajinomoto Group activities, having participated in previous internal workshops and dialogues or cooperated on external activities)

**Survey period:** August 2016  
**Survey participants:** 56 external experts

### Excerpts from responses on review of materiality items

From an operational perspective, they apparently consider food and nutrition-related items are of high importance to society, but from a longer-term perspective, topics such as climate change, water, and waste reduction may well increase in importance.

The items in the top right of the matrix are extremely important operationally, but surely sustainable procurement of agriculture, livestock, and fishery products should also increase in importance, as a key input factor upon which continued operational development depends.

Promotion of suppliers' CSR should rank higher in importance both to society and the Group's business as the human rights' risks within the corporate value chain rise across the supply chain.

### Materiality items warranting higher importance (multiple responses allowed)

