



Nagase Viita
Sustainability
Communication Book
2024

TOPIC

Nagase Viita received EcoVadis' highest Platinum rating for sustainability. The Platinum rating is awarded to companies that score in the top 1% of all eligible companies.



Contact:

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Nagase Viita Sustainability Website
<https://group.nagase.com/viita/en/sustainability/>
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●Fibryxa, TetraRing, TREHA, DENAZYME, Lissenare, AA2G,
Tornare and SOLBIOTE are trademarks of Nagase Viita Co., Ltd.

Toward a better future, Nagase Viita has hit the ground running

Since we were founded in 1883, our approach of respecting life and learning from living things has been an integral part of our corporate identity, and we have established “Respect life, and embrace the well-being of people and the planet” as our Purpose. It was a great encouragement for us that, coinciding with the company name change from Hayashibara to Nagase Viita in April 2024, we also received the highest rating of Platinum from EcoVadis, an international sustainability assessment organization.

We will continue to refine our technology and manufacturing, and we sincerely hope to collaborate with like-minded stakeholders to achieve a sustainable society.



Representative Director
Naoki Yasuba

Significance of the new corporate name

“Viita” comes from the Latin word “Vita,” meaning life or living. Adding another “i” to become “ii” depicts our dedication to a prosperous and sustainable future in harmony with nature. This name is a testament to our determination to collaborate with companies, researchers, and people of all generations around the world. It represents our commitment to co-creating a future where people and nature can genuinely thrive together, as we reflect on life as yet unborn.



Story behind our company name change

Chosen with employee input and thoughtful deliberation

With a deep understanding of our Purpose and how we contribute to society, we embarked on a journey to redefine our company identity. Through workshops and company-wide surveys, we gathered the voices of our employees, seeking their insights into our future direction. The words “life” and “well-being” emerged as the foundation of our Purpose, intertwining with our vision of shaping a brighter future. This process led to the creation of our new company name, unveiled in August 2023 at a press conference witnessed by nearly all of our 750 employees. The new name embodies the essence of our craftsmanship and aspirations for the future.





PURPOSE

— Our reason for being —

Respect life, and embrace the well-being of people and the planet

The Purpose of Nagase Viita is embracing the well-being of people and the planet by leveraging the power of nature, such as microorganisms and enzymes, to create a diverse range of materials. Even the most minute materials, derived from nature's vast bounty, can assume a pivotal role in forging a better future, achieving maximum impact through collaboration with diverse partners and extending their influence across myriad domains.



VALUES

— Act together to open our new chapter —

Our Values are the action guidelines for embodying our Purpose, and lead us toward proactive actions that resonate with our true selves.



Live Our Integrity

The foundation of our operations lies in the development and manufacturing of materials that enrich society. We have consistently engaged in production with a sincere heart, making continuous improvements. Looking towards the future, we aim to bring our integrity to a broader world, sustaining the well-being of people and the planet.



Savor Changes

The changes demanded by society garner empathy, bringing together like-minded associates and opening up possibilities for a better future. We face changes positively, embracing them with excitement and joy as we journey together.



Take Initiative

We would not be here without the sincere thoughts and actions of our predecessors. Now, it's our turn to make ripples. With determination and intention, we take a step forward into a better future—even in the absence of precedents or easy answers.



Imagine and Create

We avoid confining ourselves to the known or the familiar and extend our thoughts even to lives not yet born. We embody our imagination to craft our desired future, aiming for the happiness of humanity and the planet. We envision our aspirations, determining the necessary actions to bring them to life.

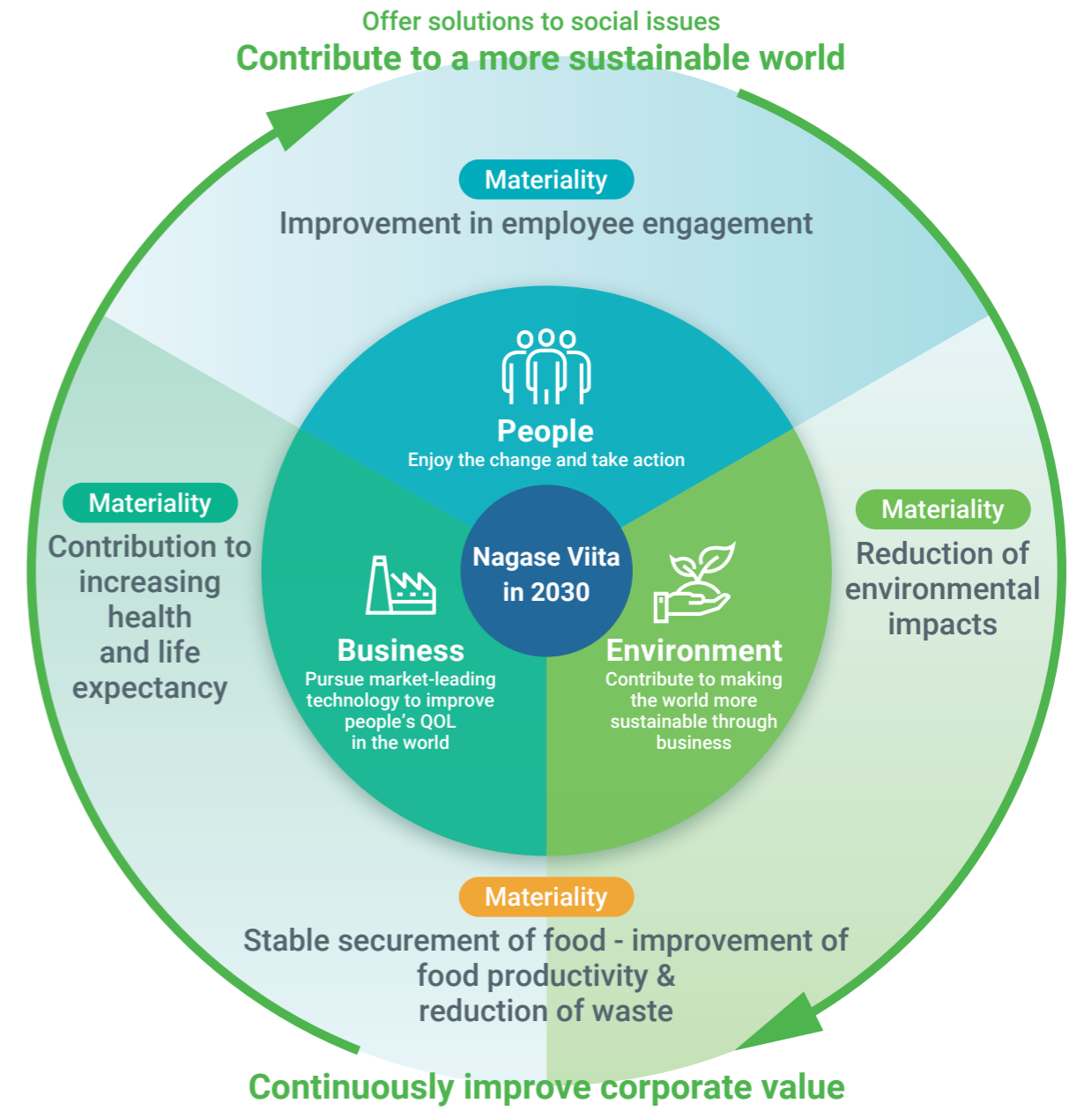


Embrace Diversity, Cultivate Strength

Individual differences open up a multitude of possibilities, making us a solid and adaptable team. By embracing multifaceted values and perspectives, we transform diversity into our momentum. We bring our ideas and passions, engaging in constructive debates to refine our outcomes.

Who We Seek to Be

Nagase Viita works in partnership with nature and contributes to creating a sustainable society through our business activities.



Cultural transformation



We are dedicated to promoting the spread and understanding of integrity in our governance management, emphasizing transparency and a sense of responsibility. Additionally, we aim to cultivate a workplace culture that fosters open and candid dialog.



We strive to foster a culture of quality, ensuring the stable delivery of safe and reliable products. The Quality Assurance Division regularly shares educational articles to instill this commitment in our employees.



OUR MATERIALITY

What should we be doing now to achieve our vision of where we want to be in 2030? What can we do? Through sustainability-oriented discussions between the management team and employees, we have established four types of materiality (agenda in focus).

1 Contribution to increasing health and life expectancy



We are committed to enhancing the well-being of individuals around the world by improving our technologies. We also provide unique and advanced materials, technologies, and information that meet changing market expectations.

2 Stable securement of food - improvement of food productivity & reduction of waste



We will strive to reduce waste and loss in the entire supply chain and improve the productivity of existing food resources such as agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. We will also develop next-generation food resources through a partnership between industry, academia, and government, and contribute to a sustainable and stable society.

3 Improvement in employee engagement



We will create a healthy work environment where all employees can work and use their unique skills to the best of their ability and reach their full potential. We will provide an environment where employees respect each other, and develop their capacities through friendly competition.

4 Reduction of environmental impacts



We will make efforts to reduce the environmental impacts that we generate through business activities, and support our planet by proactively developing products and technologies that contribute to resolving environmental issues.

OUR ACTION PLAN

We have formulated a Sustainability Action Plan to address these materialities. To align the entire company, we have clarified our goal of providing value to our stakeholders in 2030, and are moving swiftly and concretely into action.

For more details, visit our website >>>



We work with pride and beliefs

Here is an overview of the beliefs of members involved in the four Materiality initiatives. We think and act for the future.

1. Contribution to increasing health and life expectancy

I would like to further spread the benefits of dietary fiber ingredients created with Nagase Viita's unique technology.

▶ See page 8

Mitsuhiro F.
Product manager of dietary fiber ingredients

I aim to raise awareness in the pharmaceutical industry about our own brand of excipients, SOLBIOTE™ as well as Nagase Viita, and contribute to enhancing people's quality of life.

▶ See page 7

Yosuke S.
Branding & technical value support of pharmaceutical ingredients

2. Stable securement of food - improvement of food productivity & reduction of waste

Through the Trehalose Symposium, I aim to foster new research and contribute broadly to solving societal issues.

▶ See page 9

Norie A.
Organizer of the Trehalose Symposium

As the practical use of trehalose on food security has been developed worldwide, I intend to introduce it in Japan.

▶ See page 9

Takanobu H.
Inviting overseas speakers to the Trehalose Symposium

3. Improvement in employee engagement

I would like to help create a culture where employees can flexibly embrace and leverage diversity.

▶ See page 12

Nanae H.
Training of new hires

I want to make Nagase Viita a company that supports the health of employees of different genders and ages, and where working actively contributes to their well-being.

▶ See page 11

Rieko O.
Promotion of health & productivity management

4. Reduction of environmental impacts

I evaluate environmental performance to accurately communicate our on-site initiatives to external parties.

▶ See page 13

Masayo H.
Environmental Management Office

I am working on expanding our efforts beyond greenhouse gas emissions to include water resources, waste reduction, biodiversity, and more.

▶ See page 13

Noriaki O.
Member of Energy Efficiency Investments Committee

Detailed initiatives are presented on the following pages >>>

Contributing to wellness with naturally-derived products

There is a crisis of malnutrition in developing countries, while over-nutrition and unbalanced diets are of concern in developed countries.

We aspire to provide naturally-derived ingredients, technologies, and information around the world to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy longevity in this era of 100-year lifespans.



Materiality **1** Contribution to increasing health and life expectancy



Action Report

Biopharmaceutical solutions



Achieving equitable well-being for all

The newly launched product brand SOLBIOTE™ features injectable-grade saccharide excipients of TREHALOSE SG and MALTOSE PH, produced through environmentally friendly methods utilizing starch and enzyme technology. SOLBIOTE™ stabilizes the quality of antibody therapeutics, including anticancer drugs, addressing challenges in storage and transport to deliver accessible healthcare for all.

Food meister supports athletes

Lecture on diet and performance

An employee with Athlete Food Meister Grade 1 certification gave a lecture at the Okayama Trail Running Association Forum 2023. The presentation highlighted the potential of TREHA™ as a carbohydrate energy source during exercise.



Fuel the world with our dietary fiber

Supporting balanced diet

Fibryxa™ and TetraRing™, soluble dietary fiber* developed and manufactured by Nagase Viita, are designed for easy ingestion without compromising appearance or taste. They facilitate the consumption of dietary fiber, which is often insufficient, thereby contributing to promoting longer and healthier lifespans.

* Regulation on dietary fiber claims and labeling depend on each country.



Ongoing commitments



Industry-government collaboration event

In addition to co-hosting a health promotion event with Okayama City, we invited a professor from Kindai University to give a lecture for the general public on the theme of anti-aging therapeutics.

Solving dietary challenges for the elderly and nursing care residents

We provide TREHA™, a multifunctional disaccharide that ensures the appropriate texture of the food for swallowing for those in assisted living.

From bottle caps to vaccines

In an employee-led project, we donated proceeds from recycling PET bottle caps to fund vaccines for children worldwide.

Action Report

Trehalose leading a sustainable future



The 25th Trehalose Symposium

With the support of the Japanese Society of Applied Glycoscience, we hosted the Trehalose Symposium. Six presentations were given, including Associate Professor Marelli of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: "Trehalose-based Seed Coating to Boost Agriculture in Marginal Lands." After all six presentations were completed, a comprehensive discussion session took place, fostering active exchanges of opinions among participants.

Tackling food challenges for a healthier planet and people

Elevating plant-based delights

Our multifunctional disaccharide TREHA™ and enzyme DENAZYME™ NNC improve both the flavor and texture of plant-based ingredients like soybeans and peas. They also emphasize the natural umami and sweetness of these ingredients, thereby improving the palatability of plant-based foods.



Keeping food fresher longer

Reducing food loss and waste

TREHA™'s unique properties, such as its ability to inhibit starch retrogradation, enable it to maintain the quality of food products. TREHA™ was newly adopted in 380 food products that contribute to stable food security.



Ongoing commitments



Working towards agriculture friendly to people and nature

Trehalose stabilizes biofertilizers, reducing the use of chemical fertilizers, and improves the stress tolerance of crops, thus lessening impacts on the environment and farmers.

Supporting the activities of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

In support of WFP's mission to eradicate hunger and poverty, Nagase Viita contributes to stable food security in a multifaceted way by making donations to support school feeding programs, etc.

Providing solutions for meat through the power of enzymes

DENAZYME™ NNC, a microbial protease, benefits the food industry by tenderizing and making stringy meats more palatable.

Materiality 2 Stable securement of food - improvement of food productivity & reduction of waste

Helping to create sustainable food systems

Population and climate pressures may cause global food shortages. We will support sustainable food systems by boosting crop and livestock productivity with our ingredients and technologies, and by co-creating next-generation food resources through industry-academia-government collaboration.



A prosperous future through a joy of work

The company and its employees should share the same vision, but be able to make the most of their diverse personalities. By respecting the well-being of our employees, we aim to be a company united in creating a better future.



Materiality **3** Improvement in employee engagement

Action Report

Deepening dialog



Boosting engagement with mutual understanding

Management and employees continue to engage in direct dialog on the theme of "Nagase Viita in 2030." This initiative has also fostered team discussions in employee-led projects, deepening mutual understanding among employees.

Valuing mental health

Hosting well-being seminars

To ensure employees can work happily, we have conducted training and seminars that emphasize the importance of both mental and physical health, aiming to create a more fulfilling corporate life. Industrial nurses from the company also hold regular consultations to care for the health of employees.



Advancing diversity

Towards a workplace utilizing individual strengths

The company endeavors to establish a workplace where every employee can showcase their capabilities. In our new hires training, we conduct Cross-cultural Understanding Seminars and panel discussions with employees from diverse global backgrounds. In addition, Nagase Viita has formulated a code of conduct "Our Values" and is promoting initiatives to encourage the individual each employee autonomy.



Ongoing commitments



Promoting a work-life balance

We encourage employees to harmonize their work and private lives by introducing a flextime system, no-overtime days, and remote work among other workstyles.

Company housing garden

We have created a vegetable garden within the company housing premises to cultivate fruits and vegetables, thereby promoting the well-being of employees and their families.

Work spaces

We have installed spaces such as focus booths tailored to various work scenarios. By using recycled materials for chairs, we have contributed to reducing plastic waste by 134.02 kg.

Action Report

Reducing environmental impact through a variety of initiatives



Leading to EcoVadis Platinum achievement

In FY2023, our efforts centered on energy conservation, innovative energy creation, and renewable energy adoption. We successfully transitioned a quarter of our total electricity consumption to CO₂-free sources, resulting in a 1.8% reduction in our overall CO₂ emissions. Our sustained efforts for organizational mindset shift led to achieving the EcoVadis Platinum rating.

Promoting earth-friendly railroad shipping

Certification with the Eco Rail Mark

At Nagase Viita, the railway usage rate for various products shipped from our factories is over 40% for transportation distances of 500 km and more, with TREHA™ achieving over 44% in this category. We have been certified as an Eco Rail Mark Company, and TREHA™ has been recognized as an Eco Rail Mark Product by MLIT*.

* MLIT: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism



Environmentally friendly personal care ingredients

Confirmed ready biodegradability

The ready biodegradability of seven of our personal care ingredients has been confirmed. We support a sustainable society by fulfilling the increasing global demand for sustainable ingredients.

■ Biodegradability Test Method
Conducted in accordance with OECD test guidelines. If 60% or more is biodegraded, the product is judged to have ready biodegradability. Test Guidelines: OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals, No. 301F, July 17, 1992



Ongoing commitments

Presentation on our attempts of CFP reduction at IFSCC (International Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists)

At the IFSCC Congress in Barcelona, we presented our attempts to investigate CO₂ emission value for our products. Our presentation garnered significant industry recognition as a leading initiative, showcasing the environmental performance of cosmetic ingredients.

Environmentally friendly wastewater treatment

Hydrogen peroxide, used in the manufacture of semiconductors and other products, has a negative impact on the environment. Our microorganism-derived enzyme, catalase, breaks this down into harmless water and oxygen, helping to balance industrial production and environmental conservation.

Promoting the reuse of wooden pallets

Instead of discarding wooden pallets used in raw material transport, we collaborated with domestic paper and clothing manufacturers to reuse these pallets.



Materiality 4 Reduction of environmental impacts

Striving to attain planetary health by bringing harmony between people and the Earth

We have committed to being an eco-friendly company through two policies—reducing the environmental impact of our business activities, and developing products and technologies that help solve environmental issues. We show our results through environmental performance data and work to improve them.



External Recognition and Endorsed Initiatives

External Recognition



Rated Platinum by EcoVadis

We have received the highest Platinum rating in a sustainability survey conducted by EcoVadis (Headquarters: France), one of the world's most trusted providers of business sustainability ratings for global supply chains. The Platinum rating is awarded to companies that score in the top 1% of all eligible companies.



2024 Certified Health & Productivity Management Outstanding Organizations Recognition Program

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Japan Health Council certified us as a corporation that implements especially excellent health and productivity management practices.



Certified Sports Yell Company 2024

We were certified by the Japan Sports Agency for being a company that promotes sports to improve the health of its employees.



Eco Rail Mark

We were certified by the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) as an authorized Eco Rail Mark Company, a company that is proactively utilizing and promoting environmentally friendly rail freight transport.

Endorsed Initiatives



United Nations Global Compact

We have become a signatory to the UN Global Compact, a worldwide initiative, and will further promote sustainability initiatives by respecting the Ten Principles.



Japan Association for the World Food Programme (JAWFP)

We offer support to the mission of the United Nations World Food Programme as a partner of JAWFP's corporate program. Our support consists of donations.



United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021

We made a commitment at the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 held in the United States. With our naturally-derived ingredients, we will help realize a sustainable food system.



Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021

We endorsed the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 held by the Japanese government. We are promoting the dissemination of safe and sustainable wholesome food while supporting the health of people and the planet with our food ingredients.

Topics 2023

- 2023/06/09 Our researchers received the 73rd Industrial Technology Award from the Osaka Industrial Research Association for the Development of New Dietary Fiber with Low Molecular Weight (TetraRing™).
- 2023/07/20 Our efforts were featured on the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' SDGs x Food Industry Children's Page, which is designed for children to learn about the SDGs and the food industry.
- 2023/09/05 Commitment to Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 was published on the 2022 Global Nutrition Report.
- 2023/09/13 Our efforts to reduce logistics and environmental burdens were aired on the international program NHK WORLD.
- 2023/12/12 Leadership interview at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28) was taken place in Dubai, UAE.
- 2023/12/22 An interview with one of our researchers was posted on the website of the Okayama University Research Cooperation Association.
- 2024/02/03 We were recognized as an outstanding business operator under the Kyoto Prefectural Ordinance of Global Warming Countermeasures.
- 2024/03/28 The Newsweek Japan web featured our alternative aged paste for repairing cultural artifacts made of Japanese paper.



Naoki Yasuba, Representative Director, and Keisuke Takemoto, Head of the Sustainability Management Div., being interviewed at COP28



Takahiko Mandai, Managing Executive Director, at the award ceremony for outstanding business operator

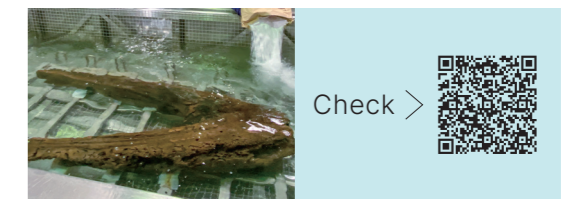
Sustainable Stories 2023

This online magazine showcases the sustainability efforts of partner companies and organizations collaborating with Nagase Viita. For more details, visit our website.

Sharing the Pleasures of Good Eats for Everyone with Everyone
Heartfelt Allergen-Free Treats Made in the Land of Rice



The Trehalose Application in an Unexplored Area:
Conserving Buried Cultural Properties for the Future



Preparing for the Looming "2024 Logistics Challenges":
A Distribution Company's Pursuit of Sustainable Logistics



Reviving Japan's Traditional Indigo Culture in Modern Life
Creating a Place for Indigo Therapy, "Aijiba (藍治場)," to Heal the Mind and Body



Nagase Viita Leads Sustainability with Quality

We envision these materials adding vibrancy and enriching the daily lives of people. Committed to technological innovation, we continuously strive to provide improved products that positively impact society.

Food Ingredients

We enhance the value of food with performance saccharide and enzyme products that boost flavor, coupled with ingredients that support health.

Pharmaceutical Ingredients

Preserving the quality of biopharmaceuticals such as antibodies by stabilizing proteins to deliver accessible healthcare for all.

Industries, Agriculture and Feed

Harnessing the power of nature, we develop materials and expand their applications in diverse fields, positioning ourselves as a driving force in building a sustainable future.

Personal Care Ingredients

By embracing nature, we develop saccharide based personal care ingredients for empowering healthier beauty.

Functional Dyes

Our extensive library of over 10,000 functional dyes contributes to various fields, from imaging, graphics, and life sciences, to develop a comfortable society.

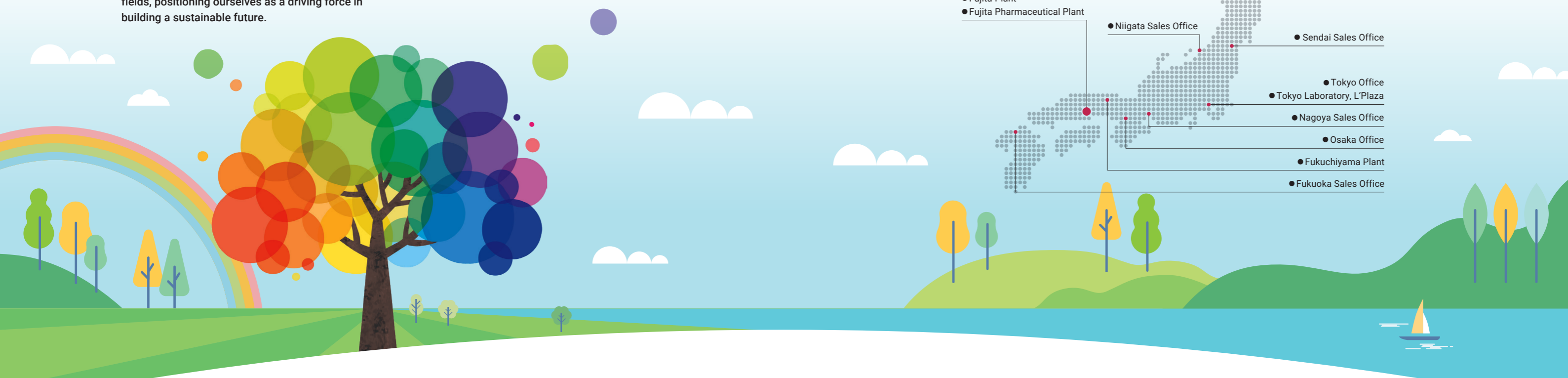
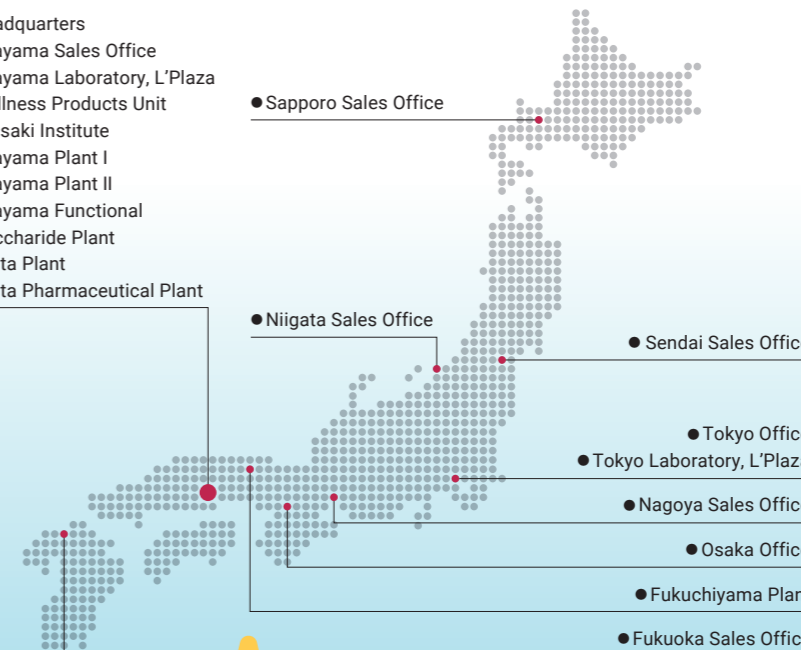
Company Profile

(As of April 1, 2024)

Company Name	Nagase Viita Co., Ltd.
Founded	1883
Established	July 10, 1932
Representative Director	Naoki Yasuba
Headquarters	Nihon-Seimei Okayama Bldg.II Shinkan 1-1-3 Shimoishii, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-0907, JAPAN TEL: +81-86-224-4311 FAX: +81-86-224-8492
Capital	¥500,000,000
Shareholder	Nagase & Co., Ltd. 100%
Number of employees	797
Main Business	Development, manufacturing and sales of food ingredients, pharmaceutical ingredients, personal care ingredients, health food ingredients, functional dyes, enzymes and phospholipids

Main Offices

- Headquarters
- Okayama Sales Office
- Okayama Laboratory, L'Plaza
- Wellness Products Unit
- Fujisaki Institute
- Okayama Plant I
- Okayama Plant II
- Okayama Functional Saccharide Plant
- Fujita Plant
- Fujita Pharmaceutical Plant
- Sapporo Sales Office
- Niigata Sales Office
- Sendai Sales Office
- Tokyo Office
- Tokyo Laboratory, L'Plaza
- Nagoya Sales Office
- Osaka Office
- Fukujiyama Plant
- Fukuoka Sales Office



About the NAGASE Group Delivering next.

The NAGASE Group, which provides manufacturing solutions through materials, offers added-value products to the global stage, including chemicals, synthetic resins, electronic materials, cosmetics, and health foods. We remain committed to realizing a sustainable world where people live with peace of mind. Our efforts will address both present and next-generation challenges facing society and humanity through comprehensive initiatives across our Group.

NAGASE Group Sustainability Basic Policy

The measures we take concerning sustainability are consistent with the highest standards of integrity in the NAGASE Group's management philosophy and the vision of a sustainable world where people live with peace of mind. We acknowledge that sustainable growth can be achieved by continuing corporate activities that contribute to solving social and environmental issues, and thus, we make proactive efforts by developing a policy for sustainability activities.

Non-financial goals (KPIs) of the NAGASE Group

We quantitatively evaluate and monitor our efforts toward two goals.

■ Improvement of employee engagement

The NAGASE Group recognizes that improving employee engagement is the most important factor in achieving sustainable growth, and has defined the condition we aim for as the "relationship between company (organization) and employee built on mutual respect and mutual motivation." We promote the implementation of regular engagement surveys with the aim of understanding and spreading the concept of employee engagement within the Group.

■ Carbon neutrality

The NAGASE Group, which operates globally, recognizes that addressing climate change is an important issue, and has set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality (Scope 1 and 2), which means virtually eliminating GHG emissions by 2050. In addition, we have set a target of reducing Scope 3 emissions by 12.3% or more (compared to 2020 levels) by promoting discussions with our supply chain.