

Sustainability Communication Book 2025



Creating New Value Through Passion and Innovation, Shaping the Future Together

Since our founding in 1883 in Okayama, we have been committed to enriching lives through manufacturing and innovation inspired by nature. Our transition to Nagase Viita in April 2024 marked a renewed sense of Purpose and a refreshed set of Values to guide us as we move forward.

Drawing on our proprietary enzyme technology and the wisdom of nature, we have developed a range of functional saccharides and carbohydrate-based materials that contribute to environmental sustainability and global well-being. Our fully integrated approach—spanning from R&D to manufacturing and sales—is a core strength of our business. The Purpose—*“Respect life, and embrace the well-being of people and the planet”*—guides everything we do. Recognized with the highest Platinum rating of EcoVadis for two consecutive years, we take pride in responsible sourcing, ethical manufacturing, and environmental stewardship.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Trehalose, our flagship product. Once difficult to mass-produce, Trehalose is now used globally across the food, healthcare, personal care, and agriculture industries—made possible through our innovative enzyme technology, passion, and strong relationships with our partners.

As we look ahead, we will continue to create meaningful value by drawing on our core expertise in research and manufacturing. Together with our partners, we remain dedicated to building a sustainable future guided by mutual trust and shared purpose.



万代隆夫

Takahiko Mandai

Representative Director
Appointed on April 1, 2025

Joined Nagase Viita (formerly Hayashibara Co., Ltd.) in 1984 after graduating from the Faculty of Agriculture at Okayama University. He focused on fermentation microbiology and saccharide research, contributing to the development and industrialization of AA2G™ and Trehalose. With expertise in microbiology and enzyme technology, he later held leadership roles in manufacturing and promoted environmental initiatives while bridging R&D and operations to enhance corporate value.



PURPOSE

We bring the power of nature to life—creating materials from microorganisms and enzymes that support the well-being of both people and the planet. Through collaboration, we believe even the smallest elements derived from nature can evolve into essential solutions for a better tomorrow.

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



VALUES

Our Values guide our actions toward our Purpose and reflect the DNA passed down through decades of innovation—enabling us to grow in harmony with people and the planet.



Live Our Integrity

With sincerity, we stay true to our commitments—in business, to people, and the planet—continuously working for a better future.



Savor Changes

Drive progress through positive change—igniting shared excitement as we move forward together.



Take Initiative

Carrying the achievements of our predecessors in our mind, we take a brave step toward new possibilities.



Imagine and Create

We envision a better future and take action to make it real—for the well-being of people and the planet.



Embrace Diversity, Cultivate Strength

Diversity is our momentum—we respect different perspectives and ideas, unite as one to lead innovation.

Cultural transformation

Promoting integrity

We are dedicated to promoting the spread and understanding of integrity in our corporate governance by emphasizing transparency and accountability. Additionally, we endeavor to cultivate a workplace culture that fosters open and candid dialogue.

Advancing a culture of quality

We strive to foster a culture of quality by consistently delivering safe, reliable products. To support this commitment, the Quality Assurance Division regularly shares educational content across the organization.



MATERIALITY

What should we be doing now to realize our vision for 2030? What actions can we take today?
Through company-wide dialogue and alignment with the SDGs, we have identified four key sustainability priorities to guide our path forward.

1 Support longer, healthier lives



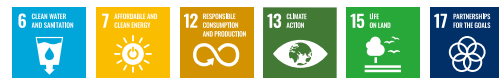
2 Secure stable food supply



3 Enhance employee engagement



4 Reduce environmental impact



AREA

From nature to everyday life, our materials enhance well-being. We apply our core technologies across food, personal care, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture to contribute to a healthier, more sustainable world.

Food & Beverages

We enhance the value of food through functional saccharides and enzymes—boosting flavor, supporting health, and bringing increased satisfaction to everyday meals.

Personal Care

By embracing nature, we develop saccharide-based, biodegradable personal care ingredients that support healthier skin and empower a more holistic, sustainable approach to beauty.

Pharmaceutical

We provide materials that enhance the stability and usability of pharmaceuticals, delivering values to healthcare innovation and universal well-being to all.

Industries, Agriculture & 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.



ACTION

We have developed a Sustainability Action Plan to address these key material issues. Guided by the value we aim to deliver to our stakeholders by 2030, our organization is committed to moving forward together, turning our vision into meaningful progress.

Learn more ▶



EVALUATION

Since our founding, we have been committed to creating products that are deeply connected to people's lives. With pride in the recognition we have earned, we work with like-minded partners to nurture a sustainable future for people and the planet.

External Recognition



Nagase Viita receives EcoVadis highest Platinum rating for sustainability for two consecutive years

We have received EcoVadis Platinum rating in sustainability for two consecutive years. EcoVadis is an independent institution that assesses sustainability of over 150,000 supplier companies operating in more than 185 countries across more than 250 industries. Platinum is the highest possible rating given by EcoVadis, awarded to companies whose overall score rank in the top 1% of all eligible companies.



2025 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 2025

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 supporter of JAWFP's corporate program. Our support consists of donations.

Our Approach

Solving Social Challenges Through R&D and Manufacturing

With a shared purpose at the core, we collaborate with partners to scale sustainable solutions and drive meaningful outcomes.



Establishment of Supplier Guidelines



Fostering responsible partnerships

At Nagase Viita, we have established a Human Rights Policy that places respect for all individuals involved in our business at the heart of our operations. Building on this foundation, we have introduced new Supplier Guidelines to promote these values throughout our entire supply chain. These guidelines translate our principles into action and help ensure responsible business practices. Through open communication with our suppliers, we are fostering strong partnerships and working together toward a more sustainable future. Nagase Viita remains committed to creating a better world—one where everyone is respected.

Nagase Viita's Human Rights Policy

Sustainable Procurement Policy

Supplier Guidelines



1. Providing Safe and High-Quality Products



3. Respect for Human Rights



2. Compliance with Laws and Regulations



4. Environmental Responsibility

Resilient partnerships in changing times

We believe that cultivating resilient, trust-based relationships with our suppliers is essential to building a sustainable supply chain. As the world continues to change, we remain a committed partner—engaging in open communication, envisioning a better future together, and moving forward with positivity. These ongoing efforts not only support stable procurement but contribute to a more sustainable future.

Procurement Section Manager,
Supply Chain Management Department
Keishi Takeda



Discovering Trehalose's New Role in Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing



Advancing purification efficiency for a healthier future

Biopharmaceutical manufacturing begins with the cultivation of cells to produce proteins that serve as active pharmaceutical ingredients. However, the culture medium contains various impurities in addition to desired proteins. Efficiently removing these impurities has been a persistent challenge in the production process. Recent findings from our research indicate that trehalose—already widely used as a stabilizing agent in biopharmaceuticals—also enhances purification efficiency. This discovery presents a promising solution to long-standing manufacturing challenges. We actively share these findings at academic conferences and industry exhibitions, both in Japan and internationally. Through ongoing dialogue with researchers and engineers, we are broadening the impact of our technology—contributing to global health and well-being for people around the world.



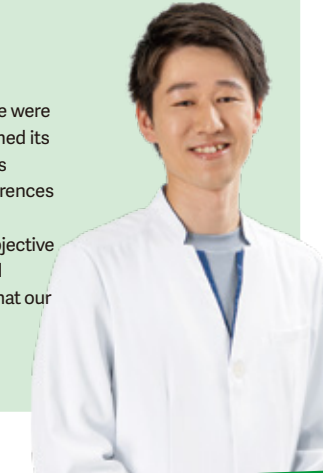
We help solve challenges in biopharmaceuticals by providing high-quality saccharides.



From data to application —The role of customer engagement

When we first obtained data showing a reduction in impurities, we were pleased with the promising results. At the same time, we questioned its practical value in the production process. To better understand its practical significance, we actively participated in academic conferences and exhibitions, engaging in discussions with customers through research presentations. These conversations helped us gain an objective understanding of the value of our discovery and identify additional market needs. Through this ongoing exchange, we feel confident that our findings are evolving into more practical, impactful solutions.

Pharmaceutical Business Department **Kotaro Hashimoto**



Creating Sustainable Beauty Through Responsible Formulation



Beauty that respects the planet

Hair and skin care products are part of daily life, yet their production depends on limited resources like water and petroleum-based ingredients. To reduce environmental impact, manufacturers are turning to more sustainable materials and practices. We support this shift by using our proprietary functional saccharides to create environmentally conscious formulations that deliver comfort and lasting beauty, helping shape a more sustainable future through everyday care.



Environmentally friendly saccharide-based materials are also used in shampoos and body soaps.

Eco-friendly shampoo bars

Compared to liquid shampoos, shampoo bars help reduce packaging waste and lower the environmental impact of transportation. However, they have faced challenges with moisture sensitivity and lathering. By incorporating MG-60/Tomare™, we have achieved high stability even in humid environments. Nagase Viita's functional saccharides are trusted for their performance and sustainability, and we continue to share their value globally.



Personal Care
Business Department
Jun Hirokane



Sustainable styling without compromise

Traditional hair styling products often depend on synthetic film-forming agents, which present environmental concerns during production and after use, particularly in aquatic ecosystems. By combining Pullulan with Lissenare™, we achieved comparable styling performance while eliminating synthetic agents—supporting the shift toward cleaner, more sustainable daily hair care.



Our prototype gel
Personal Care
Business Department
Minami Zota



Our Approach

Creating a New Vision Through Partnership and Coexistence

Guided by our Purpose and Values, we come together to share ideas, create value, and address social challenges.



"All-Staff Projects" Bringing Purpose and Values to Life



Demonstrating action: Project members as role models

The "All-Staff Project '24," composed of employees from various departments, enthusiastically led efforts to promote the company's Purpose and Values. Over the course of the year, they conducted 38 cross-functional sessions that removed departmental barriers and actively engaged their colleagues. Thoughtful initiatives—such as snack-based voting for their favorite Values, handcrafted stickers, and eye-catching posters—brought our Values to life in fun and meaningful ways, sparking renewed energy and connection across the organization.



Conversation brought us closer with empathy.



Choose the Value that speaks to you with a chocolate!



Project '24 members lead with Purpose and Values.

The "Oasis" Opens at Fujisaki Research Institute



A new workspace designed for flexibility and connection



The name "Oasis" includes the double "i" from our company name, "Viita."



Oasis Area



City Area



Green Area



Park Area

Former hallways and meeting rooms have been transformed into a modern, open-plan workspace with flexible seating. The space features four thoughtfully designed zones—for relaxation, focus, collaboration, and recharging—allowing employees to choose what best suits their needs. Its adaptable layout also supports brainstorming sessions, casual meetups, and events, fostering connection and a more engaging work environment.

"SCHOOL OF FOOD" Launch: A Collaborative Food Education Initiative



Learn and discover—Nurturing the future of children

Nagase Viita has launched the "SCHOOL OF FOOD," a food education project centered on everyday eating. Approximately 200 people participated in the first session, which featured educational classes and hands-on activities. Surrounded by children's smiles, we continue working together with local communities and sponsors to expand this meaningful learning experience for the future.



A lively and interactive food learning event welcomed 200 participants!



Conserving Cultural and Historical Significance for the Future



Agreement Signed Under a Public-Private Partnership



Trehalose is used to conserve the wooden anchor of a Mongolian warship. (Photo courtesy of the Matsuura City Board of Education)



Nagase Viita recently signed a comprehensive partnership agreement with Matsuura City in Nagasaki Prefecture to support cultural property conservation and promote public awareness. The city has utilized the trehalose impregnation method to help conserve wooden Mongolian warships sunken in the 13th century, the significant cultural assets with profound historical value. This new partnership aims to further strengthen these efforts.

Nagase Viita's Community Festival



Deepening our commitment to community engagement

Nagase Viita hosts festivals at its factory sites to connect with local communities and employees. At the Fujisaki and Fukuchiyama Factory Festivals, families enjoyed food vendors, live entertainment, and factory tours—sharing joyful moments that deepened connections.



Fukuchiyama Factory Festival

World Food Day at Nagase Viita



From plate to purpose: Exploring food aid together

To mark World Food Day, our cafeteria served African-inspired dishes. With support from the JAWFP*, we introduced global food aid initiatives and encouraged employees to reflect on global food-related challenges.



*JAWFP: Japan Association for the World Food Programme

Our Journey with Trehalose



Enhancing Well-Being of All

Trehalose Evolution: From Food Innovation to Social Impact

 As pioneers in trehalose, a multifunctional carbohydrate, we have expanded its potential by enhancing the taste of food, quality, and freshness. Initially focused on addressing challenges in the food industry, we later expanded its applications to pharmaceuticals and personal care. More recently, we have advanced solutions to support social issues including reducing food loss through extended shelf life and improving food productivity. Now, thirty years since its launch, we remain committed to unlocking its full potential to support a more prosperous society—one that fosters a truly enriched future.

Unlocking Material Excellence into New Fields

Over three decades ago, I discovered microorganisms capable of producing trehalose-synthesizing enzymes. Since then, Nagase Viita has continuously advanced its expertise and technology, positioning trehalose as a material with significant social value. Its applications now address global challenges and continue to expand into new fields.

Food System Solutions Division **Kazuhiko Maruta, Ph.D.**



Thirty Years of Milestones

- 1992: Discovered trehalose-producing microorganisms in the soil of Okayama. Opened L'Plaza, a laboratory dedicated to functional carbohydrate application development.
- 1995: Introduced trehalose to the market.
- 1997: Held the first Trehalose Symposium (25 events held to date).
- 1999: Initiated GRAS and JECFA Approvals for U.S. and European Market Entry.
- 2007: Received Monozukuri* Nippon Grand Award, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Prize (METI Prize).
- 2009: Completed Okayama Functional Saccharide Plant.
- 2020: Expanded trehalose into agriculture, feed, and industrial fields.
- 2022: Established the Food System Solutions Division to support food sustainability.

*Monozukuri: Japanese concept of craftsmanship and manufacturing

Visit our website
Discover the story behind
trehalose and our R&D



Fueling Innovation, Enriching Lives — Trehalose's Path Forward

Preserving food quality while
reducing food loss



Enhancing the taste and quality of
care foods and prepared meals



Stabilizing pharmaceutical formulations
to support universal health



Promoting sustainable agriculture by
increasing plant stress resilience



Expanding Possibilities
—Inspiring external applications—



A Legacy in Bloom—
Cloning a Historic Cherry Tree



Mongol Invasion Relics—
Conserving a Profound History



Photo courtesy of the Matsuura City Board of Education

Main Offices

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



Fujisaki Institute



Okayama Plant I



Okayama Plant II



Okayama Functional
Saccharide Plant



Fujita Pharmaceutical Plant



Fukuichiama Plant



Okayama Laboratory, L'Plaza



Tokyo Laboratory, L'Plaza

Company Profile

(As of April 1, 2025)

Company Name	Nagase Viita Co., Ltd.
Founded	1883
Established	July 10, 1932
Representative Director	Takahiko Mandai
Headquarter	Nihon-Seimei Okayama Bldg.II Shinkan 1-1-3 Shimoishii, Kita-ku, Okayama-shi, Okayama 700-0907, JAPAN TEL:+81-86-224-4311 FAX:+81-86-224-8492
Capital	500 million yen
Shareholder	Nagase & Co., Ltd. 100%
Number of employees	788
Principle Business Activities	R&D, manufacturing and sales of functional ingredients for food, pharmaceuticals, personal care, health foods, functional dyes, enzymes and phospholipids

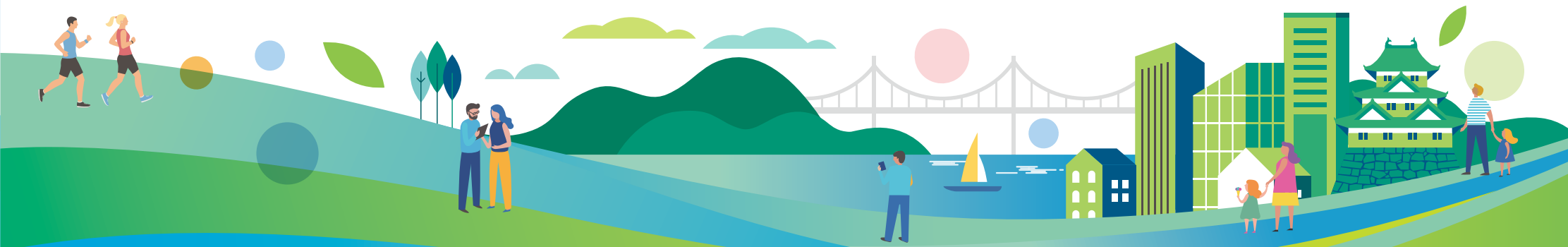
Nagase Viita's
official website



Our latest
news and press release



About
Nagase & NAGASE Group





**Nagase Viita received the highest
Platinum rating for sustainability
from EcoVadis for two consecutive years.**



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Nagase Viita Sustainability Website
<https://group.nagase.com/viita/en/sustainability/>
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