



Basic approach

The Hodogaya Chemical Group believes that as corporate citizens contributing to the sustainable development of the community is an important activity in carrying out its business. We are engaged in various community contributions including the nurturing of children through chemistry, environmental conservation activities in the regions where the Group's plants are located, and the provision of tangible and intangible objects that are useful for the rich lifestyles of people.

In addition, if a disaster is designated as a major disaster by the Cabinet Office, where one of our key bases is located, and the damage to the area around the base is severe, we donate a certain percentage of the previous fiscal year's earnings to the impacted prefecture. Most recently, when the damage sustained by Koriyama City from Typhoon Hagibis was designated a major disaster in October 2019, we donated money to Fukushima Prefecture to support reconstruction.

Volunteer Weeding for Niida Honke Koriyama Plant Asuka Hara

Starting this year, Koriyama Plant personnel volunteered to take part in volunteer weeding for Niida Honke.

A sake (rice wine) brewery in Koriyama City, Fukushima Prefecture, Niida Honke brews and sells sake and fermented foods that include Niida Shizenshu, a 100% pure sake made from brewer's rice grown without the use of any pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

On the day of the volunteer event, 21 people from the Koriyama Plant took part and borrowed Nakano-type weeding implements to weed three rice fields.

A Niida Honke staff member taught us directly how to use the

weeding implements and provided us with details of how sake is made. It was very refreshing and fun to work in a rice field for the first time and talk directly with local people. Through this volunteer work, we were able to interact with local people. It was also a valuable opportunity to experience nature and Japanese culture. I would like to continue to actively participate in activities that are of benefit to the local community and to society as a whole.



Column

— Protecting forests with the power of chemistry — HODOGAYA AGROTECH Co., Ltd.'s role in smart forestry*

Accounting for two-thirds of Japan's land area, forests contribute greatly to people's lives, including by recharging sources of water, conserving the country's land, mitigating the effects of global warming, and supplying timber and forest products. Cyclic use is made of man-made forests in a cut, use, and plant sequence, but there is a serious shortage of forestry workers to take on this work, and securing a workforce is becoming a major problem. For several years after planting, it is a battle against weeds and trees that hinder the growth of the seedlings. Mechanization having not progressed that far, clearing weeds under the scorching sun in midsummer can be said to be the most difficult task.

Engaged in the manufacture and sale of agricultural chemicals, HODOGAYA AGROTECH Co., Ltd. has established a new technology that sprays herbicides developed for use in forests by drone. Devised to save labor, this development has led to an improvement in the working environment by freeing workers from a sweaty, physically draining task. Also protecting seedlings from wild animals by supplying repellents and seedling protection materials, we are working to support sustainable forestry with the power of chemistry.

* The term smart forestry refers to forestry that utilizes digital management and/or information and communication technologies (ICT) as well as to forestry by means of safer, more efficient automated machinery. (Forestry Agency)



— Collaborating and co-creating with local communities, connecting to the future — Contributing to regional revitalization through corporate hometown tax donations

With the aim of returning to society a portion of the profits earned by its OLED materials business, the Hodogaya Chemical Group has donated to a corporate hometown tax program. Manufacturing those OLED materials, our Koriyama Plant is located at the east exit of JR Koriyama Station in Fukushima Prefecture, and donating to the prefecture's corporate version of the hometown tax—named Project to create a sustainable local agricultural model in collaboration with Fukushima University—aids in its recovery. The decision was made for two other reasons: In the hope of countering the misinformation surrounding agricultural products and to thereby contribute to their promotion and, as stated under Hodogaya Chemical's management philosophy, to contribute to the creation of an environmentally conscious society.

To contribute to the regional revitalization of Fukushima Prefecture, to which we are indebted on a daily basis, the Hodogaya Chemical Group will continue to collaborate with all local residents while striving for sustainable regional development.

