

September 25, 2018 AEON CO., LTD.

"Visualization" of agricultural products supplied from farms committed to food safety and sustainable production management

# Aeon will become the first to sell GLOBAL G.A.P. Number (GGN)-labeled products in Asia



Aeon will become the first to sell GLOBAL G.A.P. Number (GGN)-labeled products in Asia, thereby showing that the products are supplied from farms that have obtained GLOBAL Good Agricultural Practice (G.A.P.) certification.

Starting on October 10, Aeon and AEON STYLE general merchandise stores, MaxValu supermarkets, and other Aeon Group stores across Japan will sequentially begin selling GGN-labeled bananas, potatoes, and onions under Aeon's private brand "Topvalu." Moreover, some Aeon Group stores located in Kanto and Tohoku will begin using GGN labeling on *komatsuna* (Japanese mustard spinaches) and tomatoes harvested in nearby Aeon Farms and sold at their stores. Please note that GGN-labeled product items on sale will differ by store.

GLOBAL G.A.P. certification is an international certification for farms that are committed to food safety and sustainable production management while also giving consideration to the environment and occupational safety. The GGN label-based "visualization" of products supplied from such farms will help consumers easily identify and select agricultural products made by producers who comply with the international G.A.P. standards. Moreover, in November, purchasers of GGN-labeled products will be able to check where in the world the product was made and by whom it was made by checking the product label GGN certification number on the special website launched for this purpose.

Aeon formulated the 2020 Sustainable Procurement Goals based on the Aeon Sustainable Procurement Policy in April 2017. The purpose is to make the sustainability of natural resources compatible with the sustainable development of its business activities.

Aeon's 2020 goal for agricultural products is to aim for the 100% implementation of the GFSI\*-based Good Agricultural Practice (G.A.P.) for its private brand products. In order to achieve this goal, Aeon is striving to increase the number of GAP-certified product items sold at Aeon Group stores, receiving support from partner producers. All the 21 Aeon Farms, which are operated by Agri Create Co., Ltd., are already GLOBAL G.A.P.-certified, and the company is also giving support to producers who are aiming to obtain this certification.

Aeon will continue conducting a range of measures in addition to those mentioned above, so that the labeling of GGN on products will help not only producers but also customers of Aeon to raise their awareness of Global G.A.P. and give more support to the initiative for the further expansion of sustainable agriculture.

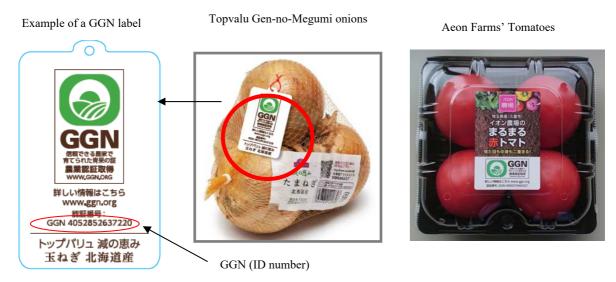
\*GFSI: Global Food Safety Initiative

Food safety promotion organization established under the Consumer Goods Forum, which is composed of global retailers and food manufacturers. The GFSI's activities include giving approval to food safety standards.

- <GGN-labeled products>
- Topvalu Best Price Banana
- Topvalu Gen-no-Megumi Potatoes
- Topvalu Gen-no-Megumi Onions

#### [Products sold in some areas]

- Japanese mustard spinaches from Aeon Chiba Kashiwa Farm, Aeon Saitama Matsubushi Farm, and Aeon Iwate Hanamaki Farm
- Tomatoes from Aeon Saitama Kuki Farm
- \*\*Aeon will gradually increase the number of GGN-labeled products sold at Aeon Group stores.



- < Items that can be checked with the GGN (planned) >
- Information about the production area
- Information about the producer
- Measures implemented in the production process, and more
  - **\*\*GGN** information search will be available starting in this November.

GGN Website address: http://aeon.ggn.org/



The website Image

## Reference

# [Aeon Biodiversity Principle]

## **Aeon Biodiversity Principle**

Aeon's business depends on living products, such as agricultural and marine products. Recognizing this, Aeon formulated the "Aeon Biodiversity Principle" in March 2010, towards the conservation of biodiversity are essential to form a sustainable society.

#### **Basic Principle**

Grasping the impact our overall corporate activities have on the ecosystem, we actively focus on reducing the impact on the ecosystem and conservation activities, working in collaboration with our stakeholders, including our customers, local authorities and non-profit organizations. We focus on the following points related to the ecosystem in our corporate activities:

Through our corporate activities, we

- 1. Remain conscious of blessings and burdens.
- 2. Engage in initiatives that protect and nurture.
- 3. Disclose information on our activities.

#### Action Guidelines (Excerpt)

- Products: We will set sustainability targets for resource managed fresh seafood and processed products, engage in their purchase and sale while sharing those targets with our business partners, and communicate related information to customers.
- Stores: We will continue to promote tree-planting campaigns with local customers at new store sites and continue to develop Eco Stores with less environmental impact than conventional facilities
- With Customers: Through tree-planting campaigns and other programs, we will share environmental awareness and learn together with all of our customers.

# [Aeon Sustainability Principle] (revised April 2017)

Realization of a low-carbon of biodiversity

Conservation of Resources

# Aeon Sustainability Principle (revised April 2017)

Aeon aims to realize a sustainable society and Group growth based on our basic principle of "pursuing peace, respecting humanity and contributing to local communities, always with the customer's point of view at its core."

From the dual perspectives of "environment" and "society," we will think globally and advance projects locally as we actively pursue initiatives alongside stakeholders.

Responding to Diverse Consumers Issues

Carry out Fair Business Practices

Create Workplaces that Emphasize Human Rights and Diversity

Create Workplaces that Emphasize Human Rights and Diversity

# [Aeon Sustainable Procurement Policy and Goals for 2020]

Target	Aeon Sustainable Procurement Policy	Sustainable Procurement Goals for 2020
Agricultural products	Committed to procuring agricultural products in a sustainable manner that is in harmony with nature, natural ecosystems and society.  Also cultivating and providing safe and delicious vegetables, thereby contributing to future food safety and helping people go about their daily lives with peace of mind.	<ul> <li>For the private brand, aiming for 100% implementation of the GFSI*1-based Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)</li> <li>Aiming to increase the sales ratio of organic products to 5% of the total agricultural products</li> </ul>
Livestock products	Committed to procuring livestock products in a sustainable manner that is in harmony with nature, natural ecosystems and society. Also cultivating and providing safe and delicious beef, thereby contributing to future food safety and helping people go about their daily lives with peace of mind.	For the private brand, aiming for 100% implementation of the GFSI-based Food Safety Management System (FSMS) or the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
Target	Aeon Sustainable Procurement Policy	Sustainable Procurement Goals for 2020
Seafood	Carrying out regular risk assessments from a resource depletion prevention and biodiversity conservation perspective. Also, in order to mitigate risks, reviewing feasible countermeasures and striving to procure sustainable seafood. (Note 1)	<ul> <li>Aiming for 100% acquisition of MSC*2 /ASC*3 Chain of Custody (CoC) certification by Aeon's consolidated subsidiaries operating general merchandise stores or supermarkets</li> <li>Providing sustainability-proven private brand products in all major fish species</li> </ul>
Paper, pulp and timber	Utilizing store materials and product raw materials made of lumber and pulp produced from properly managed forests, and strive to prevent deforestation. (Note 2)	Aiming for 100% use of sustainability-certified (by FSC*4 or equivalent) materials for the private brand in the major product categories
Palm oil	For palm oil used as a product material, aiming for procurement that gives consideration to the prevention of deforestation and conservation of biodiversity.	Aiming for 100% use of sustainability-certified (by RSPO*5 or equivalent) materials for the private brand

Note 1: Regarding the procurement of fishery products, Aeon formulated the Aeon Sustainable Seafood Procurement Policy earlier in 2014.

Note 2: Regarding the procurement of paper, pulp and timber, Aeon formulated the Aeon Forest Resources Procurement Principle (Paper/Pulp/Timber) earlier in 2016.

- \*¹ GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative): GFSI is an industry-driven global collaboration to advance food safety powered by the TCGF, which is composed of food manufacturers and global retailers. GFSI also recognizes food safety certification program.
- \*2 MSC (Marine Stewardship Council): MSC is non-profit organization that manages and promotes the MSC certification program which certifies sustainable fisheries.
- \*3 ASC (Aquaculture Stewardship Council): The ASC is an independent not for profit organization implementing the world's leading certification and labelling program for responsibly farmed seafood.
- \*4 FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) :FSC is an independent, not for profit, nongovernmental organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.
- \*5 RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil): RSPO was formed to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.