Customer Safety and Health

GRI 416-1/417-1

Improved access to more nutritious foods

In April 2023, our Functional Foods Division was given a new Japanese name with the aim of growing through contributions to people and society based on the functions of foods. We are working on shifting to new business areas to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society and helping people be healthy through the functions of food products. Firstly, regarding the realization of a sustainable society, we believe that it is essential to resolve issues such as global population growth and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We are focusing on developing products that can contribute to the reduction of food loss and the spread of meat-substitute proteins by extending the shelf life of breads and pastries by prolonging their texture, and improving the juiciness of processed foods made with plant-based proteins. With regard to helping people be healthy, accelerating the development of effective health foods, such as foods with functional claims, will play an important role. On the other hand, some materials for health food have significant problems with their flavor and physical properties that make their use in health food products difficult. We are conducting research to improve the flavor and physical properties of ingredients through our division's oil and fat coating technology, which will contribute to the further spread of health foods.

Participation in industry initiatives on processed food safety

NOF has joined the Japan Margarine Shortening & Lard Industries Association, whose basic philosophy is food safety and security and stable supply, and whose activities are aimed at enriching the daily lives of consumers through the use of edible oils. In particular, the Technology Committee conducts surveys and research on the safety of edible oils, and actively provides information on edible oils to consumers.

Improving access to pharmaceuticals

DDS is a technology that enhances the effects of drugs by adjusting their physiological activity, targeting lesions, yielding chemical stability, adjusting metabolic activity, and other means, so that they act at the required place in the body in the required amount for the required time. This technology makes it possible to reduce the side effects of drugs and the frequency of daily injections. NOF is advancing this research and contributing to improving the quality of life (QOL) and access to pharmaceuticals for patients who need them.

In addition, PCR test kits and antigen test kits were widely used as diagnostic pharmaceuticals for COVID-19, which spread aggressively worldwide. As global warming progresses and new infectious diseases emerge, the demand for diagnostic pharmaceuticals is expected to increase. Therefore, NOF is promoting the development of technologies that contribute to improving the quality and performance of diagnostic pharmaceuticals. We make it possible to rapidly provide these to a wide range of people, thereby contributing to improved access and people's health and hygiene.