

June 28, 2022  
Otsuka Foods, Co., Ltd.

## Otsuka Foods Obtains JAS Certification for Soy Meat Foods for Zero Meat Ham and Sausage Retail Products, Adding to Previously Certified Hamburger Products

TOKYO, Japan, June 28, 2022—Otsuka Foods Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Chuo Ward, Osaka; President: Koichi Shiraishi) announced today that three of its products, Zero Meat Ham, Zero Meat Sausages, and Zero Meat Herb Sausages obtained the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) certification for soy meat foods\*<sup>1</sup> on June 21, 2022. Starting in October, the company will gradually introduce new packages for these Zero Meat soy meat food products featuring the JAS mark.



In November 2018, Otsuka Foods launched the Zero Meat series of meat-free products made from soy meat.\*<sup>2</sup> Since then, the company has continued its research to bring out the deliciousness of plant-derived ingredients and has greatly improved the texture and taste. Today, the entire product lineup uses no animal-based ingredients.\*<sup>3</sup>

In recent years, the market for plant-based products has been expanding, driven by rising health consciousness, diversification of dietary lifestyles, and efforts to achieve a sustainable world. In order to meet the ever-increasing demand from consumers for soy meat, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries established the standard on February 24, 2022.

Otsuka Foods obtained Japan's first JAS Certification for soy meat foods for Zero Meat Demi-Glace-Type Hamburger and Zero Meat Cheese-Filled Demi-Glace-Type Hamburger on May 2022. Now that three more Zero Meat products have received JAS certification for soy meat foods, consumers have even more choices for soy meat products with the JAS mark.

Going forward, Otsuka Foods will continue to do its part to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by communicating the value of plant-based products, including soy meat.

\*1 Zero Meat is a brand name for which Otsuka Foods is the distributor. The manufacturer, Starzen Co.,

Ltd., has obtained “JAS certification for soy meat foods” from Japan Food Research Laboratories, a registered certifying organization.

\*2 The Zero Meat series products are made with a soy-based processed food.

\*3 Animal-based ingredients include beef, pork, chicken, eggs, milk, honey, and other livestock products, as well as seafood.