

The History of Nissan Chemical

1887-

Founded under the founding spirit "to dedicate ourselves to prosperity of the nation by agricultural fertility" aiming to solve food issues.

Dr. TAKAMINE Jokichi is referred to as the "Father of Biotechnology." Tokyo Jinzo Hiryo, Nissan Chemical's predecessor organization, was started in 1885 when the young TAKAMINE Jokichi brought phosphoric ore from the US back to Japan.

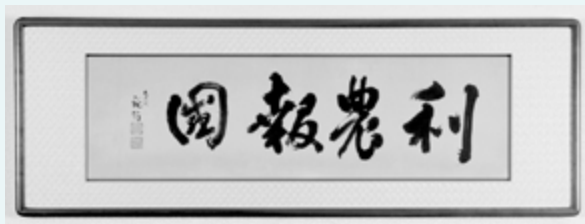
Takamine, who strongly felt the need for improve the fertilizer used in Japanese agriculture to help make Japan a modern nation, approached SHIBUSAWA Eiichi, known as the "Father of Japanese Capitalism," the following year with the idea of the commercialization of fertilizer. SHIBUSAWA Eiichi, who was from a wealthy farming family, deeply agreed with Takamine's proposal, and as a result established Japan's first chemical fertilizer company in 1887 becoming chairman (president) himself.

With the Company policy "to dedicate ourselves to prosperity of the nation by agricultural fertility," Japan's food production skyrocketed due to the enthusiasm and effort of the pioneers who led the Company in its early days.

(million yen)



1891 Jinzo Hiryo advertisement from an agricultural magazine



Calligraphy by MASUDA Takashi (first president of Mitsui & Co., Ltd) who served as an executive for Jinzo Hiryo, a position that his eldest son Taro would also hold.

1923-

Merging of three companies for business diversification

In the first half of the twentieth century, amid a variety of M&A activities by domestic corporates, we came to turning points with the three companies joint in 1923 and with the participation to Nissan zaibatsu in 1937.

The three companies joint was a merger of Kanto Soda, Nippon Kagaku Hiryo (renamed from Nippon Seimi Seizo) and Dainippon Jinzo Hiryo (surviving company).

The Company had been promoting business diversification and entered under the umbrella of Nissan zaibatsu in 1937, which was the 50th anniversary of its foundation, renamed Nissan Chemical Industries.

After World War II, under the separation directive based on the Corporate Reconstruction and Improvement Law, the fat and oil section was separated into Nippon Oil and Fats (current NOF) in 1949 and Nissan Chemical Industries newly started.

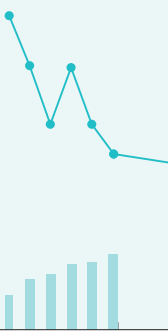


SHIBUSAWA Eiichi (second from left) visiting Oji Plant just after the completion of the threecompany merger.

Seen on the left is TANAKA Eihachiro who served as company president from 1923 to 1941.



The land in Ojima 1-chome, Koto-ku, Tokyo, now known as Kamayabori, had been selected for its convenience in transporting raw materials and products. In 1888, the production of superphosphate (fertilizer) started.



Worsening pollution issues

Post-war recovery

Food shortages in Japan

- The graph below shows changes in sales and operating margins for the Nissan Chemical on a non-consolidated basis from 1950 to 1976 and for the Nissan Chemical Group on a consolidated basis from 1977 to 2019.
- The figures for November and the following May or October and the following April are totaled so that the figures for the year are close to the March results.

1965-

Acquisition of new technological ideas through entry into the petrochemical business

In the 1950s, as domestic imports of petrochemical products expanded and the momentum for domestic production increased, we established Nissan Petrochemicals in 1965 and entered the petrochemical business, starting with the production of higher alcohol. However, the petrochemical industry experienced a structural slump due to the impact of the two oil crises of the 1970s. The Company worked to rebuild its business, but it was unable to improve its profitability and began rationalization. The company exited the petrochemical business in 1988. Although entry into the petrochemical business resulted in a large deficit, the development of this business brought the penetration of technological ideas to the Company, which led to the development of new technologies and businesses such as fine chemicals.

1989-

Becoming a future-creating enterprise that responds to social needs

In 1989, we launched our Five-Year mid-term business plan oriented with two pillars: high-tech fields such as agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals, and traditional technology fields such as functional products and chemicals. The results of continued R&D investment in this difficult situation emerged. By the early 1990s, we released a large number of agrochemicals on the market, and in the late 1990s, while our liquid crystal alignment material grew significantly, we entered the semiconductor field. In the 2000s, sales of Pitavastatin calcium, the active ingredient of LIVALO®, an anti-cholesterol agent, increased significantly and we acquired exclusive marketing rights in Japan to ROUNDUP®, the world's largest herbicide. Since then, new agrochemicals have been introduced, and in 2013, we began the shipment of fluralaner, an active ingredient for veterinary pharmaceutical, which is one of the main products at present. In 2018, the Company had already been transcending the framework of industry in the development of its business and will accelerate this effort toward the future. In order to clarify this stance, we changed our name to Nissan Chemical Corporation.



Nissan Petrochemicals Chiba Plant (1968)



Toyama Plant



GRACIA®

