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Company name: HOKUTO Corporation
Representative: President, Masayoshi Mizuno
(Stock code: 1379, Tokyo Stock Exchange Prime Market)
Inquiries: Public & Investor Relations : Satoshi Maeda
(TEL: +81-026-259-5955)
(URL: https://www.hokto-kinoko.co.jp/lang/en/)

Development of Mushroom Extract from Unused Parts with Riken Vitamin

HOKUTO Corporation (Head Office: Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture; President: Masayoshi Mizuno; hereinafter, “Hokuto” or the “Company”) has developed a mushroom extract utilizing unused parts and off-grade specimens of bunashimeji (brown beech mushrooms) in collaboration with Riken Vitamin Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo; President: Kazuhiko Yamaki; hereinafter, “Riken Vitamin”). The patent for this innovation was granted in November 2024. The extract is being used as an in-house ingredient in products by Riken Vitamin, and plans are in place to further expand its use in the future.



Examples of products using the extract



Photo of bunashimeji, the raw material for the extract

Based on its policy of effectively utilizing natural materials, Riken Vitamin offers a range of products across three sectors: food, improving agents, and health care, marketed through both B2C and B2B. Hokuto is one of Japan's largest comprehensive mushroom corporate groups, engaged in mushroom research and development, production, and sales, with operations expanding overseas.

The Company and Riken Vitamin each have mushrooms and wakame seaweed as their core products, both of which are highly regarded for their health benefits, and have maintained a collaborative relationship in research and development for some time. In this context, the Company considered whether it would be possible to process unused parts and off-grade specimens generated during the production of bunashimeji into an extract using Riken Vitamin's technology, and initiated joint development in 2018. The manufacturing method was later established, leading to the granting of Patent No. 7588471 in 2024. Riken Vitamin has already incorporated the extract into several of its own products and is working to further expand its use as a proprietary raw material.

The Company will continue to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society through mushrooms.