Note: This document has been translated from the Japanese original for reference purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between this translated document and the Japanese original, the original shall prevail.

March 4, 2025

For immediate release

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Maitake Mushrooms Certified by SCFA Promotion Association

HOKUTO Corporation (Head Office: Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture; President: Masayoshi Mizuno; hereinafter, "Hokuto" or the "Company") has received certification from SCFA Promotion Association* for its maitake mushrooms and has been granted the Society's short-chain fatty acid (SCFA) certification mark ("SCFA Certification Mark").

In conjunction with this, at a press event held on March 4, 2025, designated as SCFA Day, at TRUST CITY CONFERENCE Kamiyacho in Tokyo, the initiative for a SCFA Certification Mark ecosystem was announced. During the event, Hokuto's maitake mushrooms were introduced as one of the first product groups to receive the certification.

The SCFA Certification Mark is awarded to products that possess evidence suggesting their potential contribution to the production of SCFAs in the human intestine, based on the standards set by the Society. The Company's maitake mushrooms will have their packaging updated to include the SCFA Certification Mark, with changes planned to be implemented gradually starting in May 2025.



Maitake packaging with the SCFA Certification Mark

SCFA Certification Mark

・This SCFA Certification Mark is awarded to products that have undergone research meeting the criteria established by SCFA Promotion Association.

・This does not guarantee the production or increase of SCFAs in an individual's intestinal environment or any associated health benefits.

Through joint clinical research with Metagen, Inc. (Head Office: Tsuruoka City, Yamagata Prefecture; President CEO: Shinji Fukuda), the Company demonstrated that the plentiful dietary fiber found in mushrooms is utilized by intestinal microbiota, leading to an increase in SCFAs in the intestine. Hokuto will continue to promote the health benefits of mushrooms through SCFAs and help all consumers lead healthy and happy lives.

* SCFA Promotion Association is a general incorporated association that aims to establish new health literacy through the promotion of SCFAs. Led by Representative Director Professor Shinji Fukuda (Specially Appointed Professor, Keio University), the Society includes Ezaki Glico Co., Ltd., Calbee, Inc., Mizkan Co., Ltd., Meiji Co., Ltd., and Hokuto as full member companies supporting its mission.