

Press release

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Nitten Develops a Sustainable Agricultural Tool The World's First Switch-Type Decomposable Paperpot®

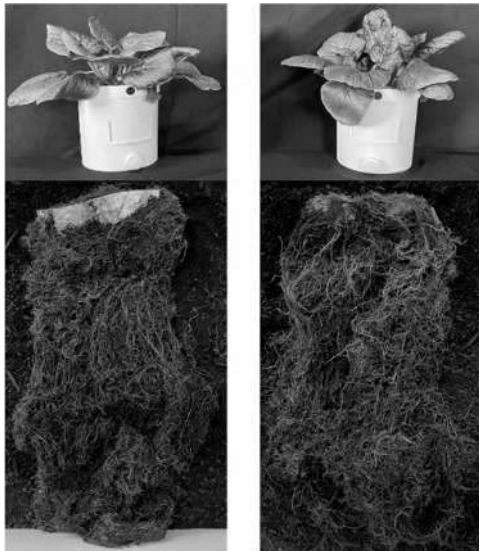
Nippon Beet Sugar Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Shu Ishikuri; hereinafter referred to as "Nitten") has developed a new type of paperpot®. The pot maintains its strength while raising seedlings, but its decomposition accelerates in the soil after transplanting. Nitten aims to expand the use of the pot in organic farming in various countries.

Paperpots, developed by Nitten, are paper containers for raising seedlings. These paper-based products are used for a variety of crops. They are designed to be durable for efficient transplanting, which makes them difficult to decompose in the soil after transplanting.

This time, Nitten developed a paperpot® made of paper cross-linked with citric acid that maintains high durability during the process of raising seedlings and, when alkaline treatment is performed beforehand, decomposition is promoted in the soil after transplanting. This is the world's first switch-type decomposition behavior. This new technology achieves both durability and decomposability, which was difficult with conventional paper materials.

Additionally, Nitten is aiming to eliminate plastic and comply with organic farming standards in various countries by changing the base paper to one that does not contain chemical fibers and by replacing the chemicals used to prevent paper decomposition with natural materials.

Photo of komatsuna (Japanese mustard spinach) harvest using a conventional pot (left) and the new pot (right) (*evaluation using a prototype pot)



Nitten will continue improving and expanding the applications of its new paperpot® while developing products that promote sustainable agriculture.

About Nitten

Since its founding in 1919, Nippon Beet Sugar Manufacturing Co., Ltd. has specialized in sugar beets, manufacturing and selling various products, including sugar, from sugar beets harvested in the fields of Hokkaido. As a leading domestic sugar company, Nitten operates in a wide range of businesses, including food, feed, agricultural materials, and real estate. While maintaining close ties with the local community in Hokkaido where it was founded, Nitten has earned the trust of many.

Guided by the purpose statement, "From the fields to the table. We explore the expanding possibilities of sugar beet. With the commitment to creating products that are both people and environmentally friendly, we contribute not only the future of Hokkaido but also to the future of Japan." Nitten aims to grow into a company that will continue to be supported by many in the future. Nitten will leverage its experience of over 100 years ensuring a stable supply of domestically produced sugar and contributing to the development of Hokkaido agriculture.

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