# The Development of the Bean Sprout Market in Japan & the Activities of the Bean Sprout Grower's Association of Japan

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ISGA Las Vegas Convention The Bean Sprout Grower's Association of Japan

# 1. The Japanese Bean Sprout Market

### Quantity of Bean Sprout Seeds Imported



• Japanese Bean Sprout Market More than 90% mung bean sprouts (3 types: black matpe & small-seeded soy beans)

- Bean Sprout Production in Japan 1200 ~ 1300 tons per day (Based on assumed raw material import)
- Yield (sprouts / seeds)

Increase due to modernization of factory production

# 2. Trends in Bean Sprout Consumption



- Bean sprouts purchased (annually per person) 1970: 1,672g  $\Rightarrow$  2010: 2,969g (1.8 times)
- The "Miso Ramen" trend since 1965
- · Since 2007, expanding market due to various new ways of consumption

## 3. The Reevaluation of Bean Sprouts as a Vegetable

1) FUNCTION	Recognized anew as a functional vegetable
	Prevents Obesity/ Fights Arteriosclerosis/ Recovery
	from Fatigue/ Dieting effects, etc

2) SAFETY No chemicals: A safe vegetable grown only with water

3) VARIETY Can be used in various dishes: Chinese, Western, Japanese

4) EASE OF COOKING Can be cooked in 30 seconds

5) TASTE Goes great with meat/ brings out the flavor of dishes

6) **DIETING** Almost zero calories- a great food for dieting

Worldwide trend for "safe" and "healthy" foods

# 4. Increasing Consumption of Bean Sprouts



Outor eating out for lunch 49% (12% increase since 2004) (16% increase for women)

• not eating out for dinner 62% (19% increase, 24% WOMARK) JF(infacts 260 independent Survey Increasing supporters of bean sprout recipes







# 5. Bean Sprout Supporters

## (1) Bean Sprout Cookbooks

Published 2011

• April 2008: "Bean Sprout Recipes," a cookbook specialized in bean sprouts, is published.

 Sept. 2009: NHK/ Nippon TV Network Cooking Program broadcasts special on "bean sprouts"

#### Published 2010







## (1) The Web and Activities

# < Main Activities >

- 1. Promote popularization of bean sprouts
  - Introducing functionality of sprouts
  - New menus/ recipes
  - Promotional activities, etc.
- 2 . Bean sprout industry  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{PR}}$ 
  - Industry information, etc. PR activities
- 3. Educational activities
  - Lectures/ study groups
  - Label guidelines

## http://www.moyashi.or.jp/

5. Bean Sprout Supporters

(2) Sauces for Cooking

After 2008, new sauce products developed for bean sprouts appear



Distributing bean sprouts for free in Tokyo's Ginza at the end of the year (Approx. **100 thousand bags**)





## (2) Promotion 1/5

Distribution of poster for sales promotion in the ramen industry



Survey about Bean Sprouts (Around 2002)

• 1,057 Valid responses



< Cooking Methods >

	Stir- fry	Toppings (ie: Ramen)	Boiled	Steamed	Other	in
# replies	724	502	230	55	40	
Ratio	68%	Oth <b>er</b> %h	otpot2	Q, saladş <sub>%</sub>	4%	

(2) Promotion 2/5

< Survey Results >
Q: Do you like bean
sprouts?
 Yes: 96%
 No: 1%
Q: What do you like about
them?

- Great taste
- Goes well with ramen
- Crisp texture
- Light, freshness
- Rich vitamin content
- High nutrition content
- Healthy (low calorie)
- Flexibility: can be used

various recipes

- Easy to cook
- Inexpensive
- Works with any flavoring

(2) Promotion 3/5

Creation/ distribution of a cooking video using well-known chef



(2) Promotion 3/5

Creation/ distribution of a cooking video using well-known chef



#### Creation/ Distribution of Sales Promotion Pamphlets



functionality of bean sprouts

#### (2) Promotion 4/5

# Improving image of bean sprouts by holding ISGA Tokyo Convention





Lecture meeting held in cooperation with sauce makers





Creation of label guidelines, ex: cook prior to eating



## (3) PR Activities 1/2

## <2011 PR response to O104 Outbreak in Germany>

 Lesson learned from the 1996 *kaiware* (radish sprout) O157 outbreak (extreme damage caused by rumors & spread of misinformation)

## ⇒ Quick and precise response

2011.6.6

#### German Bean Sprouts to be blamed? News Report

**Association:** contacted the Ministry of Agri. Forestry & Fisheries asking for their cooperation and explaining the source to be undetermined and sprouts to be safe. They asked that the media cover the incident only after the source had been confirmed.

#### Inquiries from various media

**Association** : Explained the fact that in Japan, bean sprouts are eaten cooked and explained their safety.

2011.6.7 Association : Published a document stating that there is no influence on the safety of sprouts in Japan.

This was sent to: **Supermarket related industries : 504 Media : 68** 

# Result No damage due to misinformation

## (3) PR Activities 2/2

Many TV programs are planned to introduce bean sprout production factories

◆ Due to the wide range of dishes made available by the publication of various cookbooks.

◆Also due to the attention given sprouts as their consumption increased 30% in 2 years. (Family Income & Expenditure Survey )

< Examples of production factories shown on TV  $\,$  after 2010>

2010.03.02	(tv asahi)	Super Morning	"A Friend to the People: Changes in the Popular
Eood" 2010.05.06 Vegetable in Price:	(TBS)	N Sta	"The Model Changes in that
2010.07.18	(tv tokyo)	Tokyo Magazine	"New Bean Sprout Recipes to Help the Family Budget"
2010.11.15	(NHK)	Asa-Ichi	"The Real Power of Bean
<b>ହି</b> ୭୮ <b>୩</b> ୩.୭୬୩.29	(fuji tv)	Real Scope	"The Hi-Tech Bean Sprout Factory"
2011.03.22	(fuji tv)	FNN Super News	"Introducing the Realities of the Bean Sprout Scarcity"
2011.07.25 Know"	(NHK)	Asa Ichi "Food P	oisoning Pitfalls You May Not

# 7. Future Issues

## (1) Classification Proposal

### Proposal: Reclassify sprouts, setting common group names to be used worldwide.

		C lassification			
Item	А	H	3	C	
	Bean Sprouts <mark>M O Y A S H I</mark>	Young or M iniSprouts		Green Sprouts or Micro Greens	
Seed	Mung bean, Soybean, Black matpe	Alfalfa, Broccoli, Radish, Clover, etc.		Radish (Kaiware daikon), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cress, Sunflower, etc.	
G row ing M e thod	Darkened Room s	Darkened Rooms		- Green House	
		sometimes using light to green them			
	Container growing or Floor growing	(a) Rotary drum or container growing	(b) Tray growing (germinated seeds)	Tray growing	
Processing	Dehusking— (De-rooting) — Washing— Draining	Dehusking - Washing - (Disinfection) -Draining	No processing	No processing	
Man packaging Style	Mostly film bag (sealed)	Plastic tray pack	Plastic tray pack	Plastic tray pack	
	Some plastic tray pack	I LASULE LEAY PACK			
Main style of consumption	Cooked	Raw	Raw	Raw	

# 7. Future Issues (2) Promotion of International Cooperation

**Proposal** : Exchange of information for the popularization and spread of bean sprouts in various countries

- $\bigcirc$  Exchange information on ways of consumption
  - Ex) Popular recipes in various countries

\* In Japan, cooking prior to eating is recommended, widening the range of recipes and leading to increased consumption.

Ex) Historic information : Research and reporting on soybean sprouts undertaken in the U.S. 60 years ago.

- Exchange of information related to research on functionality
  - Ex) Cooking before eating will not only make it easier to absorb nutrients, but will improve taste as well.
- Exchange in information related to safety

Ex) In Japan, to alert consumers, MOYASHI (bean sprouts) are labeled "please cook before eating."