

***Euglena gracilis* obtained GRAS status in the United States,  
major ingredient of our food products is certified for sale  
in the United States as a food materials**

Contribute to health promotion of people worldwide including the United States

euglena Co., Ltd.

euglena Co., Ltd. (headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo; Mitsuru Izumo, CEO; “euglena Co.”) announces that *Euglena gracilis*, a main ingredient of our food products, had its safety approved in GRAS, a food safety certification system in the United States and attained GRAS status.

GRAS is an abbreviation for Generally Recognized As Safe, an internationally recognized certification system for food safety unique to the US. GRAS status is needed to be acquired to sell food materials in the US.

*Euglena gracilis* is a kind of microalgae. Among more than 100 kinds of *Euglena*, particularly *Euglena gracilis* has a wide range of nutrients; therefore, it is suitable as a raw material for foods and dietary supplements. We cultivate *Euglena gracilis* in Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, which is named as “Ishigaki Island Euglena.” It is used in various products including a core brand of our food products and has been sold in Japan.

This time, we acquired the status of Self-determined GRAS\*<sup>1</sup>, an evaluation system reviewed by a panel of renowned experts in the US regarding “whether it is safe to use in food.” By this GRAS status, *Euglena gracilis* has been recognized to be safe as food and has become possible to be sold in the US. The healthcare market in the US is growing. In addition, as an alternative to animal protein, algae are gaining more attentions year after year. We consider that the acquirement of GRAS status under such a circumstance is a great opportunity to provide *Euglena gracilis* to more people.

\*<sup>1</sup>The GRAS consists of GRAS Affirmation based on FDA evaluation, GRAS notification system (voluntary), and Self-determined GRAS or Self-affirmed GRAS (evaluation of the company itself). In the case of Self-determined GRAS or Self-affirmed GRAS, notification for FDA is not necessary, and evaluations of safety are executed by self-judgment. However, the basic judgment criteria are equivalent to those for acquirement of GRAS Affirmation.

For reaching our goal to realize a sustainable society, we will provide sustainable foods which are safe and secure, and contribute to extending healthy life expectancy, to people worldwide including the US,

<About Ishigaki Island Euglena>

*Euglena* belongs to a group of algae. Ishigaki Island Euglena, which is cultivated in Ishigaki Island, contains 59 kinds of nutrients (e.g., vitamins, minerals, amino acids, DHA, unsaturated fatty acids such as oleic acid, and paramylon\*<sup>2</sup>; an ingredient unique to *Euglena*). Also, it does not have cell wall and is a superfood that is characterized by high digestion and absorption rate. In addition, Ishigaki Island Euglena acquires the seaweed certification designed by both ASC (an international certification system for aquatic products cultivated using environmentally and socially responsible methods), and MSC (an international certification system for aquatic products caught by sustainable and environmentally conscious fisheries).

\*2Paramylon is an ingredient unique to microalgae *Euglena* and is a polysaccharide composed of glucose molecules linearly linked by  $\beta$ -1,3-glycosidic bonds.

Information on health functioning and the latest research results of Ishigaki Island *Euglena* and various materials is available at “euglena Healthcare Lab.”

■euglena Healthcare Lab: <https://euglab.jp/>

<About euglena Co., Ltd.>

euglena Co. listed on the first section of Tokyo Stock Exchange (Ticker: 2931), is the first biotechnology venture company in the world

that succeeded in outdoor mass cultivation of microalgae “*Euglena*” in 2005. We currently operate a Healthcare Business for marketing “Euglena” functional foods/cosmetics and an Energy & Environment Business promoting R&D for biofuel production. Moreover, we expanded our products subject to “Euglena GENKI Program,” which has been running since 2014 for providing children in Bangladesh with nutrient-rich *Euglena* cookies, into all group products including cosmetics from April 2019. We define the “Sustainability First” as the corporate philosophy.

<https://euglena.jp>

