

## **Nagase & Co., TOWING Co., Ltd., and Yazaki North America Begin Joint Proof of Concept for Soil Improvement in Mexico—Aiming to Achieve Sustainable Agriculture with High-Performance Biochar Soratan**

Nagase & Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, President and CEO: Hiroyuki Ueshima), with the aim of improving soil quality and productivity for agricultural production in Mexico, together with TOWING Co., Ltd. (Nagoya, Aichi; CEO: Kohei Nishida) and Yazaki North America, Inc. (Michigan, US; President and CEO: Kenichi Fujisawa), began a proof of concept in November 2024 using Soratan, a high-performance biochar developed by TOWING that improves soil quality and can simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the amount of chemical fertilizers used/transition to organic.

As part of the growth strategy in its Medium-Term Management Plan ACE 2.0, Nagase has specified the four quadrants of Foundation, Focus, Development, and Improvement, and is carrying out its businesses along the axes of the trading, manufacturing, and R&D functions. This initiative is part of the expansion of business in a new area (the global south), as part of the Development quadrant. By supporting sustainable agriculture in Mexico through local support for commercial deployment of Soratan, Nagase's goal is to prevent soil degradation and promote decarbonation, contributing to global issues such as climate change.

Chemical fertilizers are widely used for cultivating agricultural products in Mexico, which is believed to be a factor in soil degradation and declining agricultural productivity, and achieving sustainable agriculture is an important issue. This proof of concept uses Soratan (developed using Mexican materials) along with locally-sourced organic fertilizer, and the lettuce crops grown for the proof of concept will be harvested in February 2025, at which point the effect of Soratan on soil recovery and improvement to the amount of crops harvested will be examined.

The NAGASE Group, as a company which solves manufacturing issues through materials, will contribute to achieving sustainable agriculture in Mexico through preventing soil degradation and increasing agricultural productivity.



Soratan



Application



Proof of Concept Site

### **What Is High-Performance Biochar Soratan?**

Soratan is a high-performance biochar developed by TOWING using microbiology, available as an agricultural product to improve soil quality.



**Delivering next.**

- The activity of microorganisms in the soil makes it easier for crops to absorb nutrients, encouraging the healthy growth of crops.
- Unlike standard biochar, soil acidity is close to neutral, making it possible to maintain a soil environment preferred by crops (pH 5.5–6.5). This prevents a reduction in harvest amounts, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.
- By increasing the water and nutrient retention of soil, soil can be converted to high-quality farmland in only one month as opposed to over multiple years, contributing to sustainable agriculture.



Soratan

For more information about TOWING's Soratan, see here:

<https://towing.co.jp/blogs/en-products/soratan>

#### ■TOWING Profile

- Company Name: TOWING Co., Ltd.
- Head Office: Nagoya, Aichi
- Representative: CEO Kohei Nishida
- Business Overview: Manufacture and sales of Soratan, and support for introducing its use
- URL: <https://towing.co.jp/>

#### ■Yazaki North America Profile

- Company Name: Yazaki North America, Inc.
- Head Office: Michigan, US
- Representative: President and CEO Kenichi Fujisawa
- Business Overview: Research, development, design, manufacture, and sales of automobile parts
- URL: <https://www.yazaki-na.com/>

#### ■Nagase & Co. Profile

- Company Name: Nagase & Co., Ltd.
- Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
- Representative: Representative Director, President and CEO Hiroyuki Ueshima
- Business Overview: Import/export and domestic sales of chemicals, plastics, electronics materials, cosmetics and health foods
- URL: <https://www.nagase.co.jp/>

#### <Business Inquiries>

Nagase Enterprise Mexico S.A.de C.V. [takumi.nakagawara@nagase.com.mx](mailto:takumi.nakagawara@nagase.com.mx)

#### <Media Inquiries>

PR Section, Corporate Relations Div., Corporate Management Dept., Nagase & Co., Ltd.

Tel: 080-8828-8676 <https://www.nagase.co.jp/>