

Realizing Sustainable Growth of Our Regional Economy

Regional Business Creation

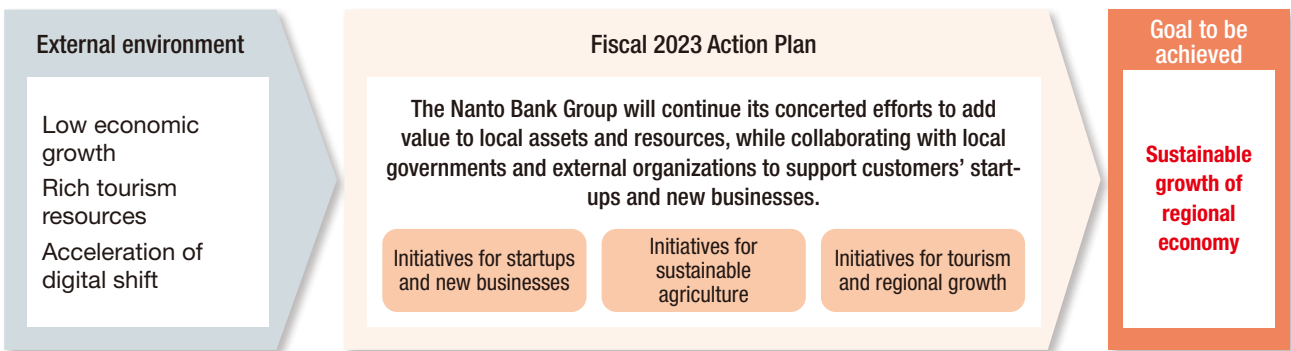
Basic Policy

At the Nanto Bank Group, we are convinced that the best way for us to contribute to sustainable growth of the regional economy is not only by generating regional earning power, but also by promoting Nara prefecture's revitalization through communication of its immense appeal to attract more visitors to the region.

Besides supporting customers and the regional community, the Group, which is itself a business entity, promises to work proactively to resolve local issues and contribute to regional development.

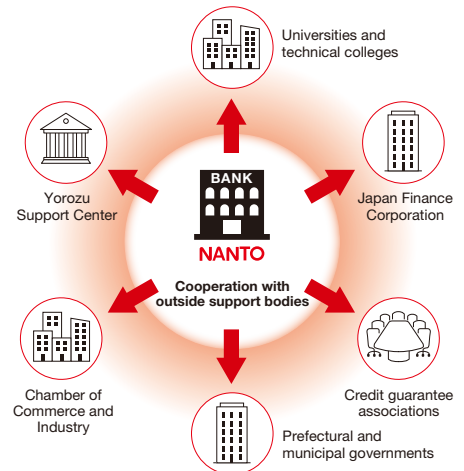


Fiscal 2023 Action Plan



Initiatives for startups and new businesses

- **Support for entrepreneurs and business developers**
The Nanto Bank Group members will work in unison to facilitate commercialization of our customers' businesses and expand their customer bases.
- **Stronger collaboration with the industrial, governmental, and academic sectors**
We are restructuring our support systems for start-ups to strengthen cooperation with external support organizations and extend support to larger numbers of start-ups.
- **Providing more effective support for business incubation**
We will consider operating business incubation facilities designed to foster a climate that makes it easier for entrepreneurs to start businesses in Nara prefecture.

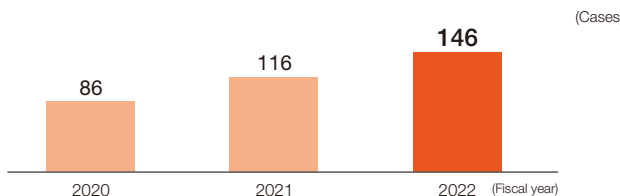


Nanto Success Road Awards

The Group has organized a total of nine "Nanto Success Road" Encouragement Awards for business plans formulated by individuals and companies seeking to develop or launch new businesses that are likely to contribute to the regional economy and society.

In addition to monetary awards, winners receive regular personal visits from representatives of Nanto Bank, which provides full support for early realization of their business plan, with its various types of available support often provided in collaboration with external institutions.

■ Total number of award-winning plans to date (cumulative)

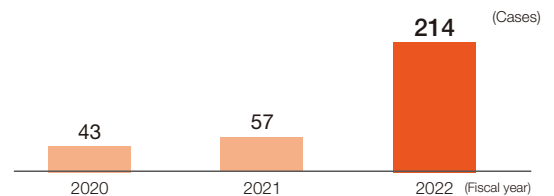


Startup support package

We offer startup support packages designed either for businesses or for individual business operators planning to build (or operating for a period of less than three years) a new business enterprise.

These packages are all tailored to the needs of entrepreneurs, and all offer six types of supporting services, including consultation on financing. The packages provide one-stop support for the period from pre- to post-startup.

■ Number of applicants (cumulative)





Initiatives for sustainable agriculture

- Our goal is to establish profitable and sustainable agriculture, reduce the amount of abandoned farmland, and increase the number of newcomers to the industry.

Initiatives for smart farming and sixth-sector industrialization

The Bank has been providing support to maximize the value of agricultural products by introducing organic farming techniques and so-called “sixth-sector industrialization” and to implement smart farming, which makes the process of agriculture more efficient while reducing production costs by utilizing robotics and ICT.



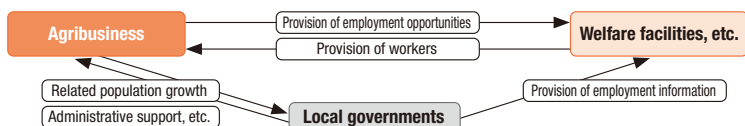
“Aigamorobo” automatic weed inhibitor robot
Inhibits weed germination in rice paddies



Cultivation of Yamato vegetables
Yamato Sanjaku cucumbers are cultivated for use in making Nara pickles

Securing new workers by combining agriculture and welfare

Besides providing opportunities for people with disabilities to work energetically, we find new work for them in the agricultural sector, where the working population is aging and declining.



Initiatives for tourism and regional growth

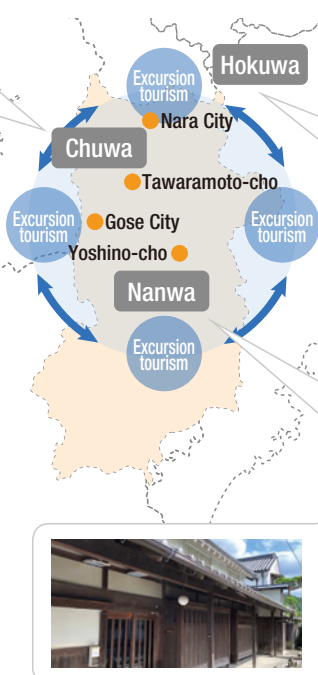
- We are pursuing Nara prefecture’s transformation from a “daytrip” tourist destination to a longer-stay destination, with the aim of increasing the prefecture’s GDP by raising spending on tourism.

Transformation to a longer-stay tourism destination

We are developing tourism hubs that provide lodgings throughout Nara prefecture to make it easier for travelers to stay longer and tour the prefecture from north to south.

Nipponia Tawaramoto Maruto Soy Sauce
The town of Tawaramoto-cho in Isogi-gun, Nara prefecture, retains the original rural landscape of ancient Japan. Established here in 1689 by Maruto Co., Ltd., Maruto Soy Sauce is Nara prefecture’s oldest soy sauce brewery. In its heyday, the company extended its sales channels nationwide, but its success ended when raw materials supply problems in the postwar years forced it to close in 1949. Almost 70 years later in 2020, the brewery was renovated and reopened as an old private residence hotel, Nipponia Tawaramoto Soy Sauce. The warehouse, brewery, living quarters, and many of the old tools have been retained and renovated to create unique accommodation and restaurant facilities.

Gose Sento Hotel
We have revived an abandoned public bathhouse in the town of Gose-machi as a bathhouse and renovated a nearby traditional private house into a facility that can be used for lodging, working vacations and dining.



Nipponia Hotel Nara Naramachi
The Nipponia Hotel Nara Naramachi opened for business in November 2018 in a renovated 130-year-old sake brewery formerly operated by long-established sake maker Nara Toyosawa in the historic township of Naramachi. The hotel restaurant was renovated using the original building materials in both the exterior and interior construction to involve the brewery’s beams and ceilings in its retro atmosphere.

Sakamoto Ryumon Library
In 2021, the Nanto Bank Group acquired an old private house in Yoshino, a town in southern Nara prefecture. The house was formerly the primary residence of Senji Sakamoto, the founder and one-time president of the Yoshino Zaimoku Bank, which has special significance for Nanto Bank as one of the institutions from which it was formed. We are planning to transform this library into a tourist accommodation facility over the next few years to create a regional tourism hub.

Efforts toward tourism DX

We are digitalizing information on tourist attractions to improve convenience for travelers and to promote excursion tours by providing timely recommendations and eliminating visitors’ dissatisfaction caused by a shortage of available information. We are introducing this initiative first in Nara City, which already attracts large numbers of tourists, with the intention of extending it throughout the prefecture after verifying its effectiveness.

VOICE

I am working to achieve sustainable agriculture by applying the knowledge and knowhow I acquired at the Bank.

My family are small-scale rice farmers, and I have helped them with their work since I was a student. I often wondered about the profit and expense balance of this business, and felt doubts about the prospects for my carrying on their work. My participation in local festivals made me aware that revitalization of agriculture and training of successors would be essential for maintaining our community and the original landscape of the region. This experience made me want to work full-time to improve small farmers’ profitability and train a new generation of farmers.

I have put the communication and problem analysis skills I developed at the Bank to good use in building relationships, not only with local farmers, but also with local governments, agricultural equipment manufacturers, and research institutes.

I hope to continue trying new techniques, free from the restrictions of conventional practices, for the purpose of establishing a model case that allows newcomers to enter the farming industry without worries. My goal is to make agriculture an attractive industry and contribute to regional revitalization.

Nara Mirai Design Co., Ltd.
Department Chief **Hiroshi Yoshimura**