

September 30th, 2024

To whom it may concern

## **Smartphone application “AcroSeeker™” released in Laos and Indonesia, expanded the distribution area**

We are pleased to announce that we released a smartphone application “AcroSeeker™” (hereinafter referred to as “The app”) in Laos and Indonesia on 26th October 2024, which is an overseas edition of “Diagnose Your Crops with AI!” which was released in April 2020 in Japan. The app is now available in over 160 countries and regions worldwide\*<sup>1</sup>.

The app is a crop protection support tool for smartphones, jointly developed by Nihon Nohyaku Co., Ltd. and NTT DATA CCS CORPORATION, with which diseases, pests, and weeds in crops and fields are diagnosed by AI. We released the app under the global unified name “AcroSeeker™”<sup>\*2</sup> in India, Vietnam, and Taiwan in October 2022, and in South Korea in January 2023, and have been developing AI and target crops tailored to the needs of each country, as well as supporting local languages.

JICA technical cooperation project “Project for Strengthening Food Value Chain in Laos PDR” is currently underway in Laos. The project requested the release of the app in Laos to support the improvement of agricultural productivity and quality, which is the basis for strengthening the food value chain, through smart agricultural technology. In response, we have been developing the app with the full cooperation of the Plant Protection Center, which belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (hereinafter referred to as “MAF”). After the release, the app will be widely distributed to farmers and agricultural extension workers across Laos, primarily through the Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives, which is part of MAF, so that it can be utilized as a solution for agricultural problems in Laos.

In Indonesia, we will work in collaboration with the promotion and sales business of crop protection products to popularize the app.

We will continue to develop solutions that meet the needs of agricultural fields around the world, such as adding more diagnosable crops and expanding functions in the app, and contribute to the development of smart agriculture.

(Note 1) Supported language is English only.

(Note 2) After the initial release of the app as “NICHINO AI DIAGNOSIS,” the name was changed to the global unified name “AcroSeeker™” in January 2024.

