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# Structural Reforms of Blommer

March 22, 2024

#### **Current Awareness**

- Acquired Blommer in January 2019. Planned for FY2023 EBITDA of US\$ 80m.
- COVID-19 impact delayed the investment in old production facilities. In addition, the profitability of Blommer deteriorated significantly due to changes in the U.S. labor market, a sharp rise in interest rates, and a sharp increase in manufacturing costs caused by skyrocketing cocoa prices.
- Recorded extraordinary losses of 10.1 billion yen (additional amortization cost of goodwill and impairment loss on tangible assets) for Q3/FY2023.

#### **Structural Reforms**

- Implement three structural reform measures to achieve EBITDA of US\$ 80m by FY2028.
  - STEP.1 Closure of Chicago Plant
  - STEP.2 Optimization of Cocoa Processing Business
  - STEP.3 Promotion of Differentiation Strategy
- No change in the brand strength and broad customer network Blommer has established in the U.S.
   Blommer reformation through structural reforms will improve profitability. We aim to be a company that contributes to our stakeholders.

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- 1. Current Awareness
- 2. Structural Reforms and Goals
- 3. Reference Materials

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## **Current Awareness**

## Background of Acquisition

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Acquired Blommer based on business evaluation and assumption of improvement through capital investments

Awareness of Blommer prior to Acquisition	
<ul> <li>Evaluation</li> <li>Brand strength on US industrial chocolate market</li> <li>Customer network, sales network</li> <li>Innovative cocoa beans procurement initiatives</li> <li>Pioneer in distinctive products like low-sugar chocolate</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Issues</li> <li>Plant productivity</li> <li>Old production facilities</li> <li>Earnings volatility due to impact of cocoa market prices</li> </ul>

#### Acquisition

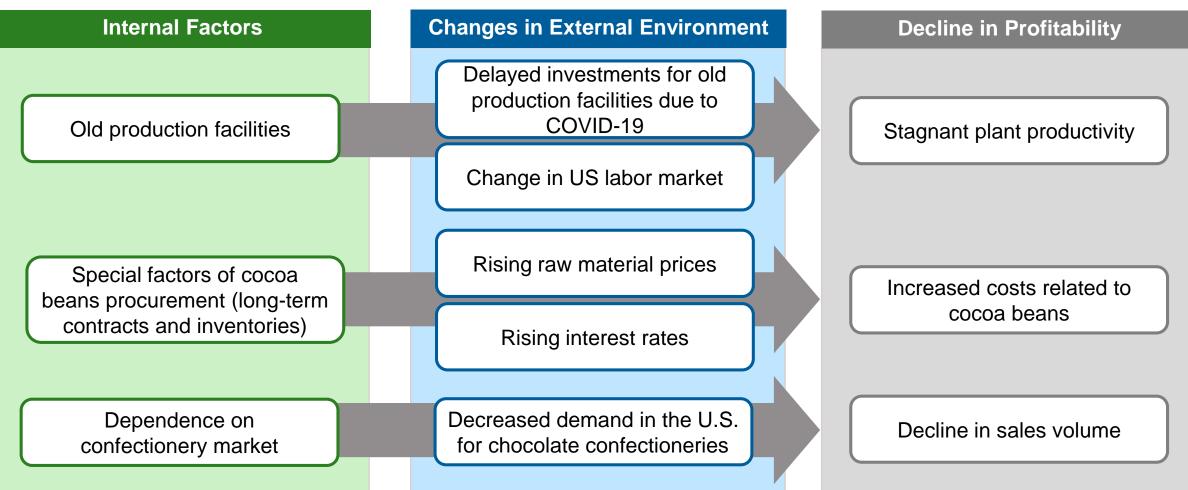
Despite issues with old production facilities in some plant, we judged that plant productivities could be improved with the implementation of early renewal investments.
 Acquired in January 2019 with assumed corporate value of 84.8 billion yen. \*calculated as US\$1 = ¥113

- Planned on EBITDA of US\$ 80m in FY2023 based on the plant productivity improvements, the expansion of high value-added products such as low-sugar chocolate which Blommer developed and the adoption of compound chocolate using oils and fats technology, which was Fuji Oil's strength.
- Maintained existing management team to promote stable business succession.

## Awareness of Issues Following Acquisition

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Addressed internal factors following acquisition but profitability decreased due to major changes in external environment



## **Improvement Activities**

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#### Saw results from activities but recognized need for structural reforms

Profitability Decline Factors	Stagnant plant productivity	Increased costs related to cocoa beans	Decline in sales volume
Implemented Activities	<ul> <li>Plant-specific management</li> <li>Implementation of production improvement program</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Price revisions reflecting raw material costs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Improvement of product mix</li> </ul>
Results	<ul> <li>Improved productivity at 3 plants excluding Chicago</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Achieved continual price revisions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Strengthened low-sugar chocolate sales</li> </ul>
Issues to be Addressed	Significant increase in costs at Chicago Plant	Increase in storage costs and operating capital due to higher cocoa inventory level	Further improvement of product mix and marketing mix

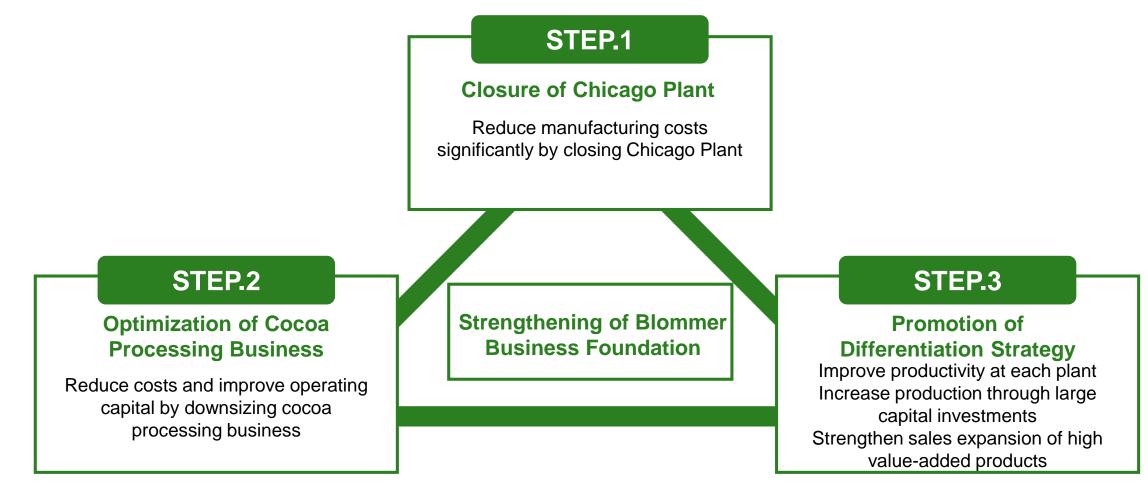
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## **Structural Reforms and Goals**

## Key Points of Structural Reforms

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Blommer strengths have remained intact, but will implement structural reforms to restore profitability



Steadily promoting structural reforms and strengthening of business foundation with the aim of profitability improvement

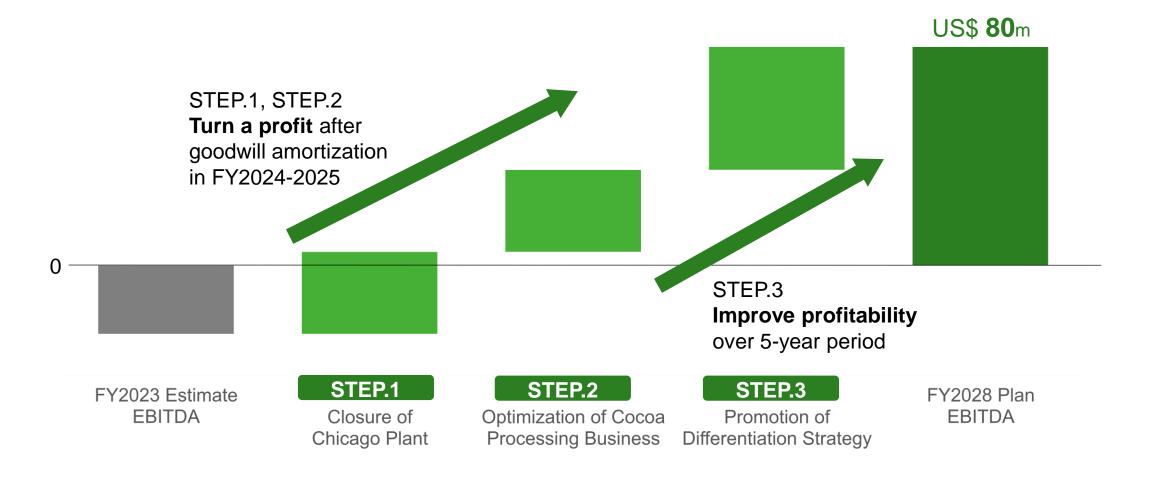
2. Structural Reforms and Goals

### Effects of Structural Reform

#### Aim to achieve EBITDA of US\$ 80m in FY2028

Blommer 5-year EBITDA Image

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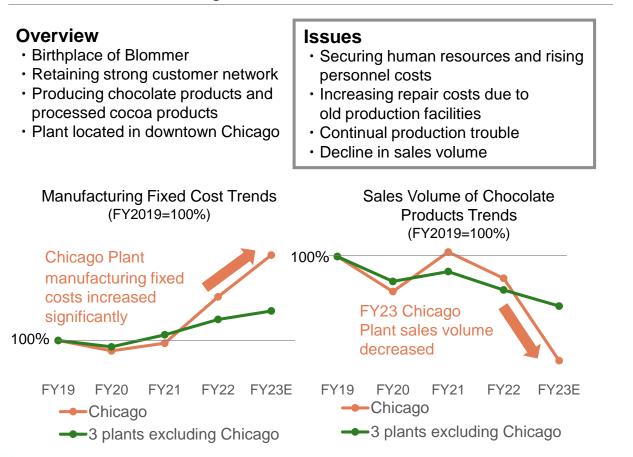


STEP.1

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#### Projecting that closure of Chicago Plant will lead to significant fixed cost reduction

Chicago Plant Overview / Issues



Closure of Chicago Plant and Effects

**Decided closure of Chicago Plant in March 2024** after consideration of significant increases in repair costs for old production facilities and personnel costs, as well as declining sales volume.

#### Effects

- (1) Reduce manufacturing fixed costs by approx. US\$ 50m\* in FY2024.
- (2) Reduce Blommer staff by approx. 20%.
- (3) Increase production volume of the other 3 plants by approx. 22%.\*

**Improvement effect of approx. US\$ 30m\*** will appear in FY2024.

\*vs. FY2023 estimate

STEP.2

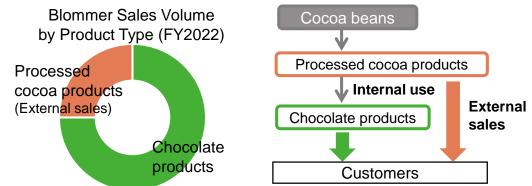
## **Optimization of Cocoa Processing Business**

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#### Promote reduction of exposure and management costs related to cocoa beans

Blommer Products and Strengths and Issues of Cocoa Processing Business

- Blommer manufactures/sells chocolate products and processed cocoa products.
- Processed cocoa products are sold to external customers and used as raw materials for internal manufacturing.

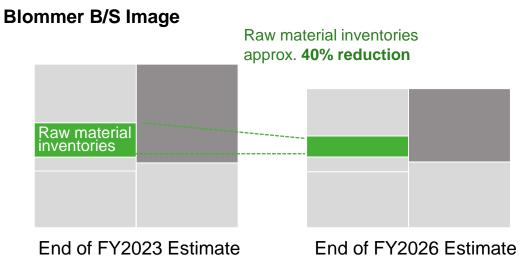


#### **Cocoa Processing Business Strengths and Issues**

<ul> <li>Strengths</li> <li>The largest processor in the U.S.</li> <li>Stable supply to customers</li> <li>Cocoa beans procurement and sustainability initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Issues</li> <li>Long-term contracts and inventories in cocoa beans procurement</li> <li>Profit volatility</li> <li>Trend towards commoditization</li> </ul>
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#### Cocoa Beans Exposure Reduction

Cocoa beans inventories will be reduced by closure of Chicago Plant and switch to focus on mainly internal use as raw materials.



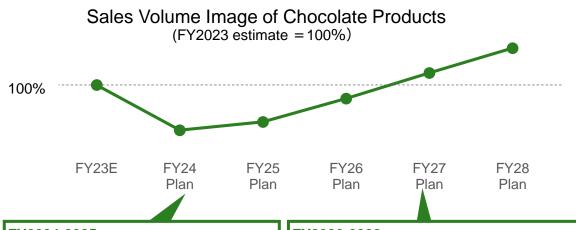
Reduce raw material inventories by approx. 40% in FY2026 and reduce management costs. (vs. the end of FY2023 estimate)

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#### Corporate reformation from volume to quality through differentiation strategy

Establishment of Increased Production System

Establish increased production system and **aim to increase sales** volume by FY2028 to exceed the level before the closing of Chicago Plant.



#### FY2024-2025 Establishment of increased production system at 3 plants Implement productivity improvement at each plant to accommodate the

transfer of production of some

products from Chicago Plant.

#### FY2026-2028 New facilities operation of Campbellford Plant (Canada)

The new facilities are scheduled to start operation in FY2026 with large capital investments of approx. US\$ 60m. The plant's production capacity will be expanded to approx. 1.5 times that of the previous facilities.

#### **Differentiation Strategy**

Change focus from volume to quality. Reduce sales of low-profit products and focus on markets and products with growth potential.

• Reorganized R&D and sales into market-specific organizations Strengthening proposals and marketing for priority markets.

#### • Opening of a new R&D center

Expanding existing lab functions, a new R&D center in Chicago is scheduled to open in the fall of 2024. To support customers and develop new products in the mid- to long-term.

#### • Expansion of production capacity for high value-added products New facilities at Campbellford Plant will produce high value-added products such as compound chocolate.

Accelerate sales expansion of high value-added products through development and proposal activities for problem solution.

## Strengthening of Business Foundation to Achieve Structural Reforms

To achieve structural reforms, execute sweeping measures that consider risks

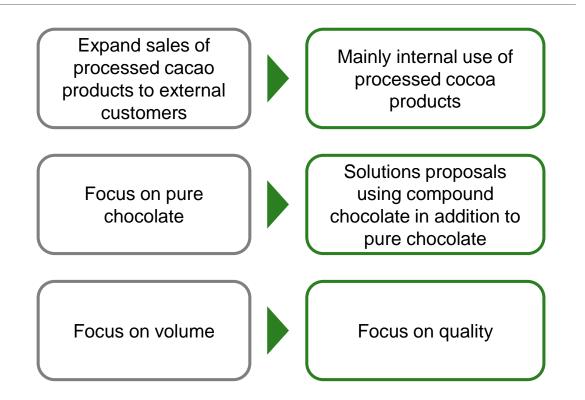
Cooperation between Manufacturing, Sales and R&D	<ul> <li>Smooth shift to a 3-plant structure and improve productivity</li> <li>Strengthen marketing for priority market</li> <li>Establishment of production system for high value-added products</li> <li>Shift in mindset from volume to quality</li> </ul>
Strengthen Management Structure	<ul> <li>Procurement: Inventory management for volatility reduction</li> <li>Manufacturing: Analysis and measures using the Fuji productivity index</li> <li>Human resources: Revision of personnel evaluation system, use of engagement survey</li> <li>Strengthen monitoring of KPIs by division</li> </ul>
Groupwide Support for Blommer	<ul> <li>Strengthen dispatch of chocolate development experts and plant manufacturing engineers</li> <li>Further promotion of hands-on management system</li> <li>Strengthen business management by introducing a globally integrated ERP system</li> <li>Deployment of know-how from group-wide</li> </ul>

## Achieve Blommer Reformation

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No change in the brand strength and broad customer network Blommer has established in the U.S. Improve profitability through structural reforms

**Blommer Reformation** 



A company that contributes to stakeholders with a strong business foundation and profitability through Blommer's brand, Fuji Oil technology and production.

Grand Design





Molded Chocolate





Ice Cream Coating

Coating for Bakery and Confectionery

## Aim to achieve EBITDA of US\$ 80m by FY2028

### New Blommer after Reforms

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#### Talent

Be a company where employees are energetic, motivated, and proud

#### Technology

Contribute to customers by quality and proposal

#### **Sustainability**

Further develop sustainable and positive relationships with raw material producer regions

Achieve Blommer reformation and grow into a core company in Industrial Chocolate Business

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## **Reference Materials**

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## FUJI OIL HOLDINGS/ Industrial Chocolate Business

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#### Industrial Chocolate Business **FUJI OIL HOLDINGS** Strength in compound chocolate using vegetable fats for chocolate Established 1950 made by Vegetable Oils and Fats Business Number of Employees (consolidated)\* 5,799 Consolidated Subsidiaries\* 39 Share No. 3 worldwide, No. 1 in Japan (Company estimates) Annual Production Volume\* Approx. 400,000 tons FY2022 Results by Businesses **Operating Base**\* 8 countries, 11 companies Net Sales (outer circle), Operating Profit (inner circle) Japan, The U.S., Brazil, Indonesia, Australia, Unit: billion yen Malaysia, China, Belgium **Soy-Based Ingredients Business** 34.3 **Compound Chocolate** Pure Vegetable Oils and Chocolate 1.3 **Emulsified and** Fats Business 91.2 Fermented 203. Ingredients Net Sales **Business** ¥557.4 billion 7.0 **Operating Profit** Filling Molded chocolate ¥10.9 billion Couverture Chocolate Industrial Note: The operating profit in the pie chart 228.5 Chocolate does not include Group administrative **Business** Coating expenses and consolidation adjustments.

\* As of March 31, 2023

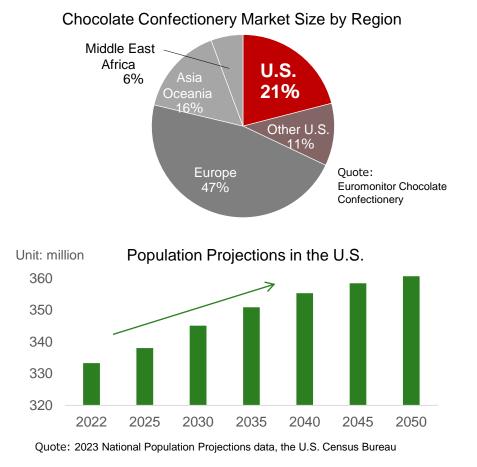
## Blommer

	Summary		History		Product Composition
Established	d 1939			Volu	me Proportion by Products Type (FY2022)
Business	Industrial Chocolate Business	1939	Blommer brothers established the	Pro	Chocolate Products
Plants*	3 plants in the U.S., 1 plant in		Company in Chicago		coa Pure Chocolate
04 *	Canada, 1 plant in China	1970	Union City Plant established		
Share*	The Largest cocoa processor and the 2nd industrial chocolate supplier in the U.S. The 3rd largest industrial chocolate	1980	East Greenville Plant established		
	manufacturer in the world * As of acquisition	2002	East Greenville Plant Facility Expansion		
Plants in tl	he U.S. and Canada			-	hocolate Products compound Chocolate
	Campbellford	2006	Campbellford Plant purchased		
	(Canada)	2017	China Plant established	Pι	urpose of Acquisition and Significance
	Chicago (Illinois) East Greenville	2019	Joined Fuji Oil Group	1.	Expand the Industrial Chocolate
Union City- (California)	Union City (Pennsylvania)	• 2020	Reorganization of Blommer China to Fuji Oil China	2. 3.	Business Strengthen our cocoa supply chain Generate synergy

## Growth Potential of the U.S. Chocolate Market

#### U.S. Market

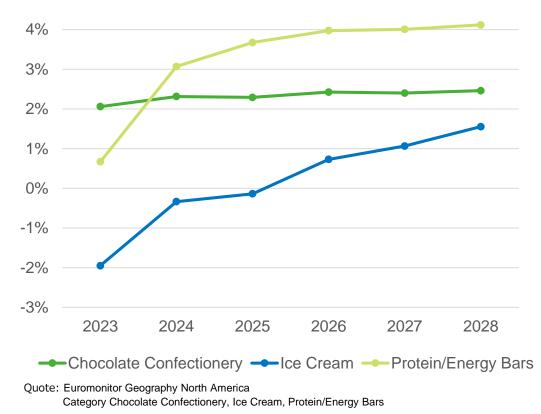
In chocolate, the U.S. is the largest single nation market in the world, and the prospects for growth are good.



#### Expansion of the Chocolate Market

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In addition to continued growth in the Chocolate Confectionery market, the related Protein Bar, Ice Cream, and other markets are also expected to expand.



North American Market Growth by Category

### Sustainability

Sustainable cocoa beans procurement to accelerate, Blommer's program has a ripple effect on the Group

#### **Responsible Cocoa Beans Sourcing Policy (2018)**

Improve living conditions of farmers

Elimination of child labor in the supply chain

Deforestation prevention and forest conservation

Medium- to Long-Term Goals	Elimination of Child Labor	Reforestation
FY2022 Results	<ul> <li>CLMRS* operational in 100% of farmer groups from which the Fuji Oil Group directly procures cocoa beans</li> <li>89% of farm plots mapped within direct supply chain</li> </ul>	60,000 trees planted
2025 KPIs	No worst forms of child labor	500,000 trees planted
2030 KPIs	Elimination of child labor	1 million trees planted

#### **Major Activities**

- Mapping with GPS
- Introduction of CLMRS\* and provision of education opportunities to children
- Support for cocoa farmers
- Community development and women's empowerment initiatives
- Conservation and restoration of forests

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Provides financial support by purchasing cocoa beans through Sustainable Origins, a sustainability support program conducted in collaboration with Blommer. Sells chocolate incorporating the program.





CACAO QUALY chocolate based on Sustainable Origins program



Ivory Coast Representative Office Blommer

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