

June 21, 2016  
SPREAD Co., LTD.  
Kyoto, JAPAN

**“Vegetable Factory™” IS NAMED  
A 2016 GOLD EDISON AWARD WINNER**



“Vegetable Factory™” by SPREAD Co., LTD. (Head Office: Kyoto City. President & CEO: Shinji Inada) won the Gold Edison Award in the Horticulture category at the 29th annual Edison Awards held in New York City. The distinguished awards, inspired by Thomas Edison’s persistence and inventiveness, recognize innovation, creativity and ingenuity in the global economy.

“The Edison Awards prides itself on identifying innovation globally across all markets. More than 7,500 companies, products and services were vetted to find the few hundred accepted nominations this year. Of those, 134 were chosen as Edison Awards Finalists, and only 45 received the honor of Gold. We are excited that “Vegetable Factory™” is among the very few thought-leaders defining the future of their space selected at the Gold level this year!” – Justin Starbird, Director of Nominations of the Edison Awards.

## News Release

SPREAD's "Vegetable Factory™" is the groundbreaking, low-cost vegetable production system that is environmentally friendly. This system, which is not influenced by climate, can contribute towards providing food security and industrial development for many countries and regions in order to create the possibility of stable production anywhere in the world. CEO Shinji Inada stated that, "SPREAD will continue to further pursue innovations for the realization of sustainable farming."

### ◆"Vegetable Factory™"

This is the most advanced vegetable production system, completed with the cooperation of technology equipment manufacturers while taking advantage of the plant factory cultivation techniques and know-how of SPREAD. This new innovation uses no pesticides or chemicals while recycling 98% of the water used, to produce delicious and safe lettuce. The birth of many new technologies such as automated cultivation, water recycling systems, specialized LED lighting for vegetables created in-house, an air-conditioning control system, and information systems using IoT technology were created for the world's first large-scale plant factory. In addition, the construction is progressing with the goal of significantly cutting costs such as labor costs by 50% and energy costs by 30% compared to our existing plant factory. SPREAD's mission is to bring food security to future generations around the world in a sustainable, eco-friendly way.

### ◆About the Edison Awards™

The Edison Awards is a program conducted by Edison Universe, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering future innovators. The Awards have been recognizing and honoring the best in innovations and innovators since 1987. They honor game-changing innovations that are at the forefront of new product and service development, marketing and human-centered design, and are one of the highest accolades a company can receive in the name of successful innovation. For more information about the Edison Awards complete program and a list of past winners, visit [www.edisonawards.com](http://www.edisonawards.com).

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