**[T1] Food companies are increasing efforts to promote animal welfare, shows new report**

*Survey indicates a growing number of businesses moving away from the use of controversial caged eggs, both globally and in Asia*

[City][Date] - A report launched by the International NGO Sinergia Animal shows a promising trend: food companies are fulfilling their commitments to phase out the use of caged eggs in their supply chains, and moving towards higher-welfare production systems that better allow hens to move around and carry out their natural behaviors.

“In the last years, we saw dozens of food companies that operate in Asia pledging to reduce the suffering of egg-laying hens by stopping the sourcing of eggs produced in battery cages, one of the cruelest forms of animal confinement,” explains Phichamon (Amanda) Thamasook, Corporate Communications Manager at Sinergia Animal. “Now, we are pleased to see that most of them are taking these promises seriously by implementing the policies and reporting progress.”

Asia also shows progress. This year, 21 companies reported their progress in the region, compared to only 8 companies last year. Among those are Accor, Four Seasons, ISS WorldMarriott, Minor International, RBI, SaladStop!, The Peninsula Hotels, and Unilever. This represents a 162.5% increase in reporting compared to last year’s survey.

“We are pleased to see companies prioritizing transparency and listening to consumers that want their food to be produced in more humane ways,” says Thamasook.

**Fewer businesses are abstaining from reporting progress**

The report ranks food service, hospitality, and retail companies into four tiers (A to D). Tier A represents companies that reported fully transitioning to sourcing only cage-free eggs. The lowest tier, D, represents companies that have published cage-free commitments, but have not yet shared any progress in terms of implementing them.

This year’s report lists fewer companies in the lowest tier. Last year, 30% of companies were in Tier D, compared to 20% this year. Among those still in Tier D are multinational companies such as Best Western, Focus Brand, and Subway.

“While it is promising to see the higher reporting trend, it is also concerning that some companies have not yet shared any attempt to fulfill their cage-free promises. [A survey shows that consumers all over the world, including in Asia, have expressed their concerns for hens’ welfare](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fanim.2022.995430/full). These companies should do better for their customers,” says Thamasook.

***Asia is of utmost importance for the global move away from cages***

Asia is the [largest egg-producing region in the world,](https://www.fao.org/poultry-production-products/production/en/) accounting for more than [64% of global egg output according to the FAO](https://www.fao.org/poultry-production-products/production/en/). It is home to at least [3.1 billion egg-laying hens](https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QL), [the majority of which are confined in caged production systems](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/animal-welfare/article/improving-hen-welfare-on-cagefree-egg-farms-in-asia-egg-producers-perspectives/34BFB6794F73FF8AB9F19AF5B1340305). This system restricts hens from expressing natural behaviors (like walking freely, pecking, and fully spreading their wings) as they spend their entire lives cramped in small spaces.

Due to welfare concerns, conventional battery cages have been banned in the European Union and several other countries. In the corporate sector, [over 2,500 major food companies](https://assets.ctfassets.net/ww1ie0z745y7/5FJvFwKIYDwJHAzQxac8g2/8dcdb876ed3e569076fc4b3123d5d2bc/OWA-2023-ENG-cage-free-egg-fulfillment-report-final.pdf) worldwide have made commitments to only source and sell cage-free eggs, including [more than 250 specific commitments in Asia](https://chickenwatch.org/progress-tracker/).

“There is still a long way to go to get rid of cages in Asia. So we invite consumers and businesses to check our reports and support this move towards a kinder food production system,” concludes Thamasook.

In Asia, Thai egg producers are also making efforts to transition away from cages.

The survey collected data about cage-free production in Thailand, covering 15 egg producers. “Out of them, 2 companies reported that they are already 100% cage-free, and 2 have cage-free systems as part of their operations. Producers play a vital role by offering food companies adequate supply of cage-free eggs. We are excited to see this trend already happening in Thailand,” says Thamasook.

“There is still a long way to go to get rid of cages in Asia. So we invite consumers and businesses to check our reports and support this move towards a kinder food production system,” concluded Thamasook.

To read the full report and more details on companies operating in Asia, visit www.cagefreetracker.com/asia

**About Sinergia Animal**

Sinergia Animal is an international animal protection organization working in countries of the

Global South to reduce the suffering of farmed animals and promote more compassionate food

choices. We are an Animal Charity Evaluators (ACE) recommended charity.