**EQUITY RESEARCH - RESULTS FLASH** 

# **R&B FOOD SUPPLY**

**RBF TB** 

THAILAND / FOOD & BEVERAGE





TARGET PRICE	THB8.00
CLOSE	THB7.05
UP/DOWNSIDE	+13.5%
TP vs CONSENSUS	-13.6%

# 2Q24 results at first glance

# Disappointing 2Q24 net profit

#### **Highlights**

- RBF posted a 2Q24 net profit of THB102m, which missed our forecast and the Bloomberg consensus estimate by 24%. It was a six-quarter low, due to a lower gross margin.
- Total revenue declined by 11.7% q-q and 2.4% y-y in 2Q24. Domestic revenue grew by 9.8% y-y but decreased q-q due to seasonal factors. Meanwhile, overseas revenue slowed more than expected, down 23% q-q and 32% y-y, driven by a significant decline in China and decreased selling prices in India.
- The gross margin dropped to 34.7% from 37.3% in 1Q24 and 36.7% in 2Q23, due to changes in the product mix. The proportion of revenue from the flavor and fragrance segment fell to 31.6% from 35% in 2Q23, while the food coating segment's contribution increased to 49.1% from 46.5% in 2Q23. RBF also mentioned higher competition.
- Overall expenses remained high in the quarter, increasing the SG&A to sales ratio to 22.9% from 21.3% in 1Q24 and 19.4% in 2Q23.

#### **Outlook**

- RBF's 1H24 net profit equaled THB274m (-8.6% y-y), accounting for 41% of our full-year estimate.
- Even though RBF has started acquiring new clients, such as in Pakistan, which will begin contributing to revenue in 3Q24, this is unlikely to fully offset the slowdown in China. Meanwhile, the new potential client in Russia is still in the product testing phase and is expected to start contributing in 4Q24-1Q25. This suggests a potential downside of c15% to our estimates.

#### **KEY STOCK DATA**

YE Dec (THB m)	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Revenue	4,421	4,676	5,212	5,759
Net profit	649	670	809	910
EPS (THB)	0.32	0.34	0.40	0.45
vs Consensus (%)	-	3.7	4.4	1.8
EBITDA	1,068	1,138	1,383	1,579
Recurring net profit	666	670	809	910
Core EPS (THB)	0.33	0.34	0.40	0.45
EPS growth (%)	45.0	0.6	20.8	12.4
Core P/E (x)	21.2	21.0	17.4	15.5
Dividend yield (%)	2.5	2.6	3.2	3.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	12.6	11.8	9.7	8.5
Price/book (x)	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.4
Net debt/Equity (%)	(14.8)	(12.9)	(12.2)	(13.0)
ROE (%)	14.5	13.6	15.4	16.2



Share price performance	1 Month	3 Month	12 Month
Absolute (%)	(23.0)	(32.2)	(32.2)
Relative to country (%)	(21.6)	(28.4)	(20.1)
Mkt cap (USD m)			400
3m avg. daily turnover (USD m)			1.2
Free float (%)			28
Major shareholder	Ratanapoo	mpinyo Far	nilly (62%)
12m high/low (THB)			14.60/6.85
Issued shares (m)			2,000.00

Sources: Bloomberg consensus; FSSIA estimates



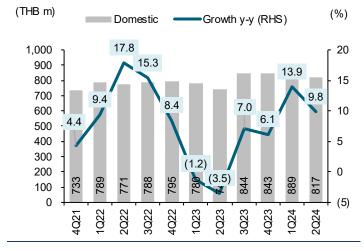
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Exhibit 1: RBF - 2Q24 results summary

	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	1Q24	2Q24	Cha	nge	2024E	Change	% 1H24
	(THB m)	(q-q%)	(y-y%)	(THB m)	(y-y%)	to 2024E					
Sales	1,056	1,056	1,159	1,150	1,167	1,031	(11.7)	(2.4)	4,676	5.8	47.0
Cost of sales	674	668	702	715	732	673	(8.0)	0.7	2,899	5.0	48.5
Gross profit	382	388	457	435	435	357	(17.8)	(7.8)	1,777	7.0	44.6
SG&A	194	205	212	232	249	236	(5.4)	15.0	945	12.2	51.3
Operating profit	189	188	245	205	188	128	(32.0)	(32.2)	838	1.3	37.6
Interest expense	2.3	2.3	3.5	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.5	28.6	12	9.3	47.8
Tax expense	29	38	52	38	37	24	(36.4)	(38.2)	158	0.7	38.6
Profit (loss) sharing - India	0.96	1.44	3.31	1.34	1.20	1.02	(14.5)	(29.0)	7	(0.5)	31.7
Other gain	(12)	4	17	(26)	23	1	nm	nm	0	nm	nm
Reported net profit	147	153	209	140	172	102	(40.4)	(33.3)	670	3.2	40.9
Core profit	159	150	192	165	149	101	(32.0)	(32.4)	670	0.6	37.4
Key Ratios (%)							(ppt)	(ppt)			
Gross margin	36.1	36.7	39.4	37.8	37.3	34.7	(2.6)	(2.0)	38.0	0.4	
SG&A to sales	18.4	19.4	18.3	20.2	21.3	22.9	1.5	3.5	20.2	1.2	
Operating margin	17.9	17.8	21.1	17.8	16.1	12.4	(3.7)	(5.4)	17.9	(0.8)	
Net margin	13.9	14.5	18.1	12.1	14.7	9.9	(4.8)	(4.6)	14.3	(0.4)	
Core margin	15.0	14.2	16.6	14.4	12.8	9.8	(2.9)	(4.4)	14.3	(0.7)	
Operating statistics (THB m)											
Domestic revenue	780	744	844	843	889	817	(8.1)	9.8	3,596	12.0	47.4
Overseas revenue	276	312	316	307	278	214	(23.1)	(31.5)	1,080	(10.7)	45.5
Domestic contribution (%)	73.9	70.4	72.8	73.3	76.2	79.3	3.1	8.8	76.9	4.3	
Overseas contribution (%)	26.1	29.6	27.2	26.7	23.8	20.7	(3.1)	(8.8)	23.1	(4.3)	
Sales breakdown by product											
Flavoring & Food coloring	362	370	386	370	393	326	(17.2)	(12.0)	1,569	5.5	45.8
Food Coating	504	491	577	546	564	506	(10.3)	3.0	2,288	8.0	46.8
Other	190	195	196	234	209	199	(4.9)	2.1	819	0.5	49.8

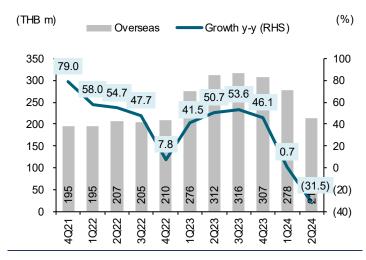
Sources: RBF; FSSIA's compilation

Exhibit 2: Domestic revenue and growth



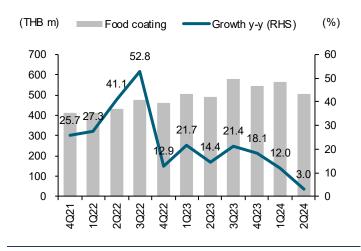
Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

Exhibit 3: Overseas revenue and growth



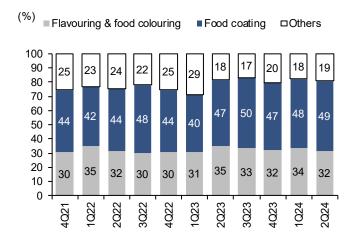
Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

## Exhibit 4: Revenue from food coating



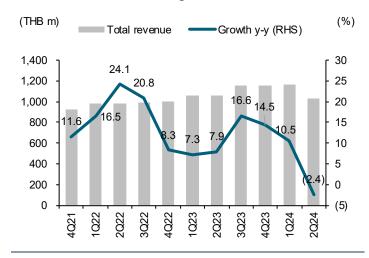
Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

#### **Exhibit 6: Revenue contribution by product**



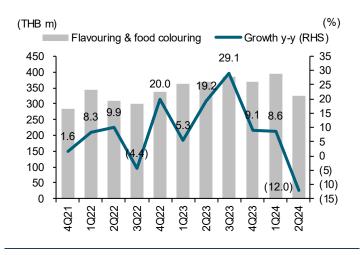
Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

#### Exhibit 8: Total revenue and growth



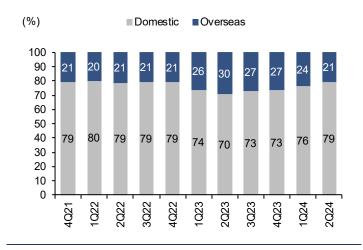
Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

Exhibit 5: Revenue from flavouring and food colouring



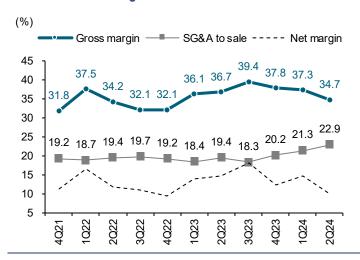
Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

## Exhibit 7: Revenue contribution by destination



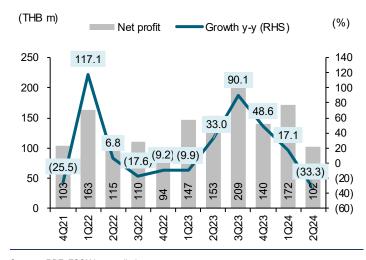
Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

## Exhibit 9: Gross margin and SG&A to sales



Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

## Exhibit 10: Net profit and growth



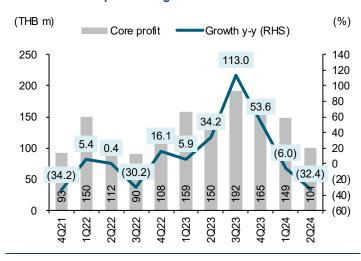
Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

# Exhibit 12: Historical P/E band



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

# Exhibit 11: Core profit and growth



Sources: RBF, FSSIA's compilation

#### Exhibit 13: Historical P/BV band



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

# **Financial Statements**

R&B Food Supply

Profit and Loss (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Revenue	3,961	4,421	4,676	5,212	5,759
Cost of goods sold	(2,615)	(2,760)	(2,899)	(3,179)	(3,484)
Gross profit	1,346	1,661	1,777	2,033	2,275
Other operating income	7	8	6	6	7
Operating costs	(763)	(842)	(945)	(1,016)	(1,123)
Operating EBITDA	809	1,068	1,138	1,383	1,579
Depreciation	(219)	(240)	(300)	(360)	(420)
Goodwill amortisation	Ò	Ó	Ò	Ò	Ó
Operating EBIT	590	827	838	1,023	1,159
Net financing costs	(9)	(11)	(12)	(15)	(17)
Associates	0	7	7	10	17
Recurring non-operating income	0	7	7	10	17
Non-recurring items	23	(17)	0	0	0
Profit before tax	604	806	833	1,018	1,159
Tax	(113)	(157)	(158)	(204)	(243)
Profit after tax	491	649	675	815	915
Minority interests	(9)	0	(5)	(5)	(6)
Preferred dividends	0	0	0	0	0
Other items	-	-	-	-	-
Reported net profit	482	649	670	809	910
Non-recurring items & goodwill (net)	(23)	17	0	0	0
Recurring net profit	459	666	670	809	910
Per share (THB)					
Recurring EPS *	0.23	0.33	0.34	0.40	0.45
Reported EPS	0.24	0.32	0.34	0.40	0.45
DPS	0.10	0.18	0.18	0.22	0.25
Diluted shares (used to calculate per share data)	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Growth					
Revenue (%)	17.1	11.6	5.8	11.4	10.5
Operating EBITDA (%)	(0.1)	32.0	6.6	21.5	14.2
Operating EBIT (%)	(2.0)	40.2	1.3	22.0	13.3
Recurring EPS (%)	(3.3)	45.0	0.6	20.8	12.4
Reported EPS (%)	14.8	34.6	3.2	20.8	12.4
Operating performance					
Gross margin inc. depreciation (%)	34.0	37.6	38.0	39.0	39.5
Gross margin exc. depreciation (%)	39.5	43.0	44.4	45.9	46.8
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	20.4	24.1	24.3	26.5	27.4
Operating EBIT margin (%)	14.9	18.7	17.9	19.6	20.1
Net margin (%)	11.6	15.1	14.3	15.5	15.8
Effective tax rate (%)	18.7	19.5	19.0	20.0	21.0
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%)	43.5	52.6	55.0	55.0	55.0
Interest cover (X)	64.5	76.0	70.4	70.3	67.7
Inventory days	168.0	174.2	178.3	183.3	184.9
Debtor days	85.2	84.3	85.8	85.4	85.7
Creditor days	77.3	79.6	79.2	75.5	76.1
Operating ROIC (%)	13.7	17.4	16.6	(4.8)	(31.7)
ROIC (%)	13.0	16.4	15.6	(4.4)	(28.1)
ROE (%)	10.7	14.5	13.6	15.4	16.2
ROA (%)	9.3	12.3	11.7	13.2	13.5
* Pre exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted					
Revenue by Division (THB m)	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Domestic	3,143	3,211	3,596	3,974	4,371
Overseas	818	1,210	1,080	1,238	1,388
Sources: R&B Food Supply: FSSIA estimates		,=	,	,=	-,

Sources: R&B Food Supply; FSSIA estimates

# **Financial Statements**

R&B Food Supply

Cash Flow (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026
Recurring net profit	459	666	670	809	910
Depreciation	219	240	300	360	420
Associates & minorities	0	(7)	(7)	(10)	(17
Other non-cash items	(254)	(6)	7	(207)	(217
Change in working capital	(354) <b>335</b>	25 <b>918</b>	(282) <b>689</b>	(207) <b>954</b>	(217 <b>1,09</b> 1
Cash flow from operations Capex - maintenance	333	910	009	334	1,03
Capex - new investment	(456)	(459)	(363)	(300)	(300
Net acquisitions & disposals	(400)	(400)	(505)	(500)	(000)
Other investments (net)	(109)	(34)	(25)	(209)	(209
Cash flow from investing	(565)	(493)	(388)	(509)	(509
Dividends paid	(295)	(200)	(369)	(445)	(500
Equity finance	0	0	0	0	(000
Debt finance	19	24	(21)	(11)	(11
Other financing cash flows	(3)	4	7	8	` ;
Cash flow from financing	(278)	(171)	(382)	(448)	(503
Non-recurring cash flows	, , , -	• •			•
Other adjustments	0	0	0	0	
Net other adjustments	0	0	0	0	
Movement in cash	(508)	254	(82)	(2)	8
Free cash flow to firm (FCFF)	(220.64)	435.73	312.18	460.20	606.09
Free cash flow to equity (FCFE)	(213.05)	453.51	286.82	443.04	585.92
Per share (THB)					
FCFF per share	(0.11)	0.22	0.16	0.23	0.30
FCFE per share	(0.11)	0.23	0.14	0.23	0.3
Recurring cash flow per share	0.34	0.45	0.49	0.58	0.60
Select Object (TUB as) Very Finding Ber	0000	0000	00045	00055	0000
Balance Sheet (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026
Γangible fixed assets (gross)	3,133	3,525	3,825	4,125	4,42
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,092)	(1,269)	(1,569)	(1,930)	(2,350
Tangible fixed assets (net)	2,041	2,256	2,256	2,196	2,07
ntangible fixed assets (net)	6	5	11	11	1
ong-term financial assets	-	- <del>-</del>	<del>-</del>		
nvest. in associates & subsidiaries	180	214	221	431	64
Cash & equivalents	668	921	839	837	92
A/C receivable	998	1,045	1,153	1,285	1,42
nventories	1,217	1,188	1,350	1,481	1,62
Other current assets	44	64	51	57	6
Current assets	2,927	3,219	3,394	3,660	4,02
Other assets Fotal assets	51	55 5 7 5 0	75 5.057	83	9
	5,204	<b>5,750</b> 4,819	<b>5,957</b> 5,057	<b>6,382</b> 5,421	<b>6,85</b> 5,83
Common equity Minorities etc.	4,373 23	4,619	5,057	26	2,03
	4, <b>397</b>	4,836	5,081		5,85
Fotal shareholders' equity Long term debt	<b>4,397</b> 157	<b>4,636</b> 185	174	<b>5,447</b> 163	15
Other long-term liabilities	58	63	70	78	8
Long-term liabilities	215	247	244	241	23
VC payable	528	571	556	610	66
Short term debt	10	21	11	11	1:
Other current liabilities	54	74	65	73	8
Current liabilities	593	666	632	694	76
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	5,204	5,750	5,957	6,382	6,85
Net working capital	1,676	1,652	1,933	2,140	2,35
nvested capital	3,954	4,183	4,496	4,862	5,18
Includes convertibles and preferred stock which is bei		,	,	,	-, -
den elsere (TUD)					
Per share (THB)	0.40	0.44	0.50	0.74	0.0
Book value per share	2.19	2.41	2.53	2.71	2.9
angible book value per share	2.18	2.41	2.52	2.70	2.9
Financial strength	(44.4)	(44.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)	/40.6
let debt/equity (%)	(11.4)	(14.8)	(12.9)	(12.2)	(13.0
Net debt/total assets (%)	(9.6)	(12.4)	(11.0)	(10.4)	(11.1
Current ratio (x)	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.3	5.
CF interest cover (x)	27.5	84.1	55.2	51.6	52.
aluation	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026
Recurring P/E (x) *	30.7	21.2	21.0	17.4	15.
Recurring P/E @ target price (x) *	34.8	24.0	23.9	19.8	17.
Reported P/E (x)	29.2	21.7	21.0	17.4	15.
Dividend yield (%)	1.4	2.5	2.6	3.2	3.
Price/book (x)	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.
Price/tangible book (x)	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.
EV/EBITDA (x) **	16.8	12.6	11.8	9.7	8.
EV/EBITDA @ target price (x) **	19.2	14.3	13.5	11.1	9
- · · · · · ·					
EV/invested capital (x)	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.

Sources: R&B Food Supply; FSSIA estimates

# **Disclaimer for ESG scoring**

ESG score	Methodolog	у			Rating					
The Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) By S&P Global	process base from the ann	ed on the comunity	transparent, rules-based panies' Total Sustainabil al Corporate Sustainabili anies within each industr	ity Scores resulting ty Assessment (CSA).	Sustainability A ESG Score of I	ssessment (Cess than 45% are disqual	he annual S&P (SA) for DJSI. Coof the S&P Globified. The constitutions.	ompanies with oal ESG Score	an S&P Globa of the highest	
Sustainability Investment List (THSI) by The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET)	managing bu Candidates n 1) no irregula float of >150 up capital. So 70%; 2) indep wrongdoing r	siness with tr must pass the ar trading of the shareholders ome key disquenced pendent direct related to CG,	ility in Environmental and ansparency in Governand preemptive criteria, with he board members and extended of a and combined holding in ualifying criteria include: tors and free float violation, social & environmental in earnings in red for > 3 year	ce, updated annually. two crucial conditions: kecutives; and 2) free nust be >15% of paid- 1) CG score of below bn; 3) executives' mpacts; 4) equity in	nature of the relevant industry and materiality.					
CG Score by Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD)	annually by tl Thailand (SE	he Thai IOD,	h in sustainable developr with support from the Sto ts are from the perspectiv s.	ck Exchange of	Good (80-89), 3 and not rated for equitable treatr	B for Good (70 or scores belowent of shareh (5%); 4) disclo	ories: 5 for Exce 1-79), 2 for Fair ( w 50. Weighting olders (weight 2 sure & transpare	60-69), 1 for F s include: 1) th 25% combined	Pass (60-69), ne rights; 2) and l); 3) the role of	
AGM level By Thai Investors Association (TIA) with support from the SEC	treatment are transparent a out of five the criteria cover date (45%), a circulation of su exercised. The and verifiability	It quantifies the extent to which shareholders' rights and equitable treatment are incorporated into business operations and information is transparent and sufficiently disclosed. All form important elements of two out of five the CG components to be evaluated annually. The assessment criteria cover AGM procedures before the meeting (45%), at the meeting date (45%), and after the meeting (10%). (The first assesses 1) advance circulation of sufficient information for voting; and 2) facilitating how voting rights can be exercised. The second assesses 1) the ease of attending meetings; 2) transparency and verifiability; and 3) openness for Q&A. The third involves the meeting minutes that should contain discussion issues, resolutions and voting results.)								
Thai CAC By Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC)	establishmen policies. The (Companies de Declaration of I Certification, in managers and	nt of key contr Certification is eciding to becon Intent to kick off cluding risk ass employees, est	Checklist include corruptions, and the monitoring a is good for three years. The a CAC certified member store an 18-month deadline to subsessment, in place of policy are ablishment of whistleblowing at the stakeholders.)	nd developing of  art by submitting a  mit the CAC Checklist for ad control, training of	passed Checklist will move for granting certification by the CAC Counc approvals whose members are twelve highly respected individuals in professionalism and ethical achievements.					
Morningstar Sustainalytics	based on an risk is unman	assessment of aged. Sources	sk rating provides an ove of how much of a compar s to be reviewed include corp	ny's exposure to ESG orate publications and			score is the sun higher ESG risk		ed risk. The	
	information, col		her media, NGO reports/webs k, ESG controversies, issuer i iews.		NEGL 0.10	Low	Medium	High	Severe	
					0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40+	
ESG Book	positioned to the principle helps explain	outperform o of financial m future risk-ad ng features wi	sustainable companies the tower the long term. The materiality including inform djusted performance. Mat th higher materiality and trly basis.	ethodology considers ation that significantly teriality is applied by	scores using m	ateriality-base	ated as a weigh d weights. The s dicating better p	score is scaled		
<u>MSCI</u>			measure a company's mand laggards according to						nethodology to	
	AAA	8.571-10.00	0							
	AA	7.143-8.570	Leader:	leading its industry in n	nanaging the most si	gnificant ESG ris	sks and opportuniti	es		
	Α	5.714-7.142	2							
	ввв	4.286-5.713	Average:	a mixed or unexceptior industry peers	nal track record of ma	anaging the mos	t significant ESG ri	sks and opportu	nities relative to	
	ВВ	2.857-4.285	5	, , ,						
	В	1.429-2.856	Laggard:	lagging its industry bas	ed on its high evacs	ure and failure to	n manage significa	nt ESG rieke		
	ccc	0.000-1.428	B Laggara.	agging its industry bas		a.o ana ialiule li		200 11303		
Moody's ESG			gree to which companies							
solutions			ntegrating ESG factors into or shareholders over the i		d relatively outpe	rforming its pe	ers is better pos	sitioned to miti	gate risks and	
Refinitiv ESG rating	based on pul	blicly available	and objectively measure e and auditable data. The ta publicly. (Score ratings a	score ranges from 0 to	100 on relative E	SG performan	ice and insufficie	ent degree of t		
S&P Global			re is a relative score mea				of ESG risks, op	portunities, ar	nd impacts	
Bloomberg	ESG Score	,	Bloomberg score evaluations score is based on Bloom	ating the company's agg	regated Environn ancial materiality.	nental, Social The score is a	a weighted gene	ralized mean	(power mean)	
		SG Score  Bloomberg score evaluating the company's aggregated Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance. The score is based on Bloomberg's view of ESG financial materiality. The score is a weighted generalized mean (power mean) of Pillar Scores, where the weights are determined by the pillar priority ranking. Values range from 0 to 10; 10 is the best.								

Rating regarding the sustainable development of Thai listed companies, both on the SET and MAI, are publicly available on the website of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand (SEC). Currently, ratings available are 1) "CG Score"; 2) "AGM Level"; 3) "Thai CAC"; and 4) THSI. The ratings are updated on an annual basis. FSSIA does not confirm nor certify the accuracy of such ratings.

Source: FSSIA's compilation

#### **GENERAL DISCLAIMER**

## ANALYST(S) CERTIFICATION

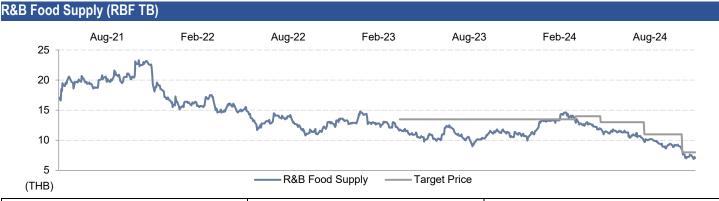
#### Sureeporn Teewasuwet FSS International Investment Advisory Securities Co., Ltd

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#### History of change in investment rating and/or target price



Date	Rating	Target price	Date	Rating	Target price	Date	Rating	Target price
20-Mar-2023	BUY	13.50	28-Feb-2024	HOLD	13.00	13-May-2024	HOLD	11.00
16-Jan-2024	HOLD	14.00	19-Mar-2024	BUY	13.00	17-Jul-2024	HOLD	8.00

Sureeporn Teewasuwet started covering this stock from 20-Mar-2023

Price and TP are in local currency

Source: FSSIA estimates

Company	Ticker	Price	Rating	Valuation & Risks
R&B Food Supply	RBF TB	THB 7.05	HOLD	Downside and upside risks to our P/E-based TP include 1) a slower or faster-than- expected consumption recovery; 2) high or low volatility in raw material costs; 3) a stronger or weaker THB than expected; and 4) a slower or faster-than-expected India expansion.

Source: FSSIA estimates

#### **Additional Disclosures**

Target price history, stock price charts, valuation and risk details, and equity rating histories applicable to each company rated in this report is available in our most recently published reports. You can contact the analyst named on the front of this note or your representative at Finansia Syrus Securities Public Company Limited.

All share prices are as at market close on 09-Aug-2024 unless otherwise stated.

#### RECOMMENDATION STRUCTURE

#### Stock ratings

Stock ratings are based on absolute upside or downside, which we define as (target price\* - current price) / current price.

BUY (B). The upside is 10% or more.

HOLD (H). The upside or downside is less than 10%.

REDUCE (R). The downside is 10% or more.

Unless otherwise specified, these recommendations are set with a 12-month horizon. Thus, it is possible that future price volatility may cause a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock based on market price and the formal recommendation.

\* In most cases, the target price will equal the analyst's assessment of the current fair value of the stock. However, if the analyst doesn't think the market will reassess the stock over the specified time horizon due to a lack of events or catalysts, then the target price may differ from fair value. In most cases, therefore, our recommendation is an assessment of the mismatch between current market price and our assessment of current fair value.

#### **Industry Recommendations**

Overweight. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be positive over the next 12 months.

Neutral. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be maintained over the next 12 months.

Underweight. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be negative over the next 12 months.

#### **Country (Strategy) Recommendations**

**Overweight (O).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on two or more of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

**Neutral (N).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on one of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

**Underweight (U).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst does not expect the market to score positively on any of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.