

Press release

Mannheim, 4 March 2022

Südzucker becomes member of the EIT Food Accelerator Network co-funded by the European Union

Following its Group Strategy 2026 PLUS Südzucker is increasing its investments and activities leveraging plant-based solutions. One building block for increased innovation efforts are strong open innovation and close cooperation with agrifood and circular economy startups. Südzucker Group therefore joins the European EIT Food program EIT Food Accelerator Network (EIT FAN) from 1st March 2022 on as a new member of EIT Food. EIT Food is the world's largest and most dynamic food innovation community, supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

The 2022 EIT FAN program has started only recently. Scouting for the new Food Accelerator Network cohort has been running until 28 February 2022. The Südzucker Group innovation team has already been involved in defining search fields, will soon evaluate first startup applications and is planning for impactful interactions with startups from April 2022 onwards. Beyond the activity in the FAN Südzucker will also involve itself in the early-stage seedbed program and the later stage Rising Food Stars program of EIT Food which primarily supports commercialization of new solutions in the market.

Südzucker Group is open for a wide range of products and technologies in all segments

Florian Weber, Head of New Business Development, states a broader purpose. "Südzucker Group is passionate about innovation that is leveraging the power of plants across the whole value chain from farm to fork. We are active in very diverse markets and produce a wide range of plant-based products and circular economy solutions. This diversity is represented through all our segments so there are plentiful possibilities for cooperation or co-developments."

Dr Wolfgang Kraus, Director Central Research & Development of Südzucker Group explains "We are committed to jointly scale products and technologies especially in the domain of plant proteins, bio-based chemicals, natural sweetening solutions, sustainable agriculture, industrial decarbonization and circular economy. As we process numerous crops and raw materials in our factories at highest efficiency levels, leveraging synergies in operations and sustainable valorization of side-streams are traditionally our core competence."

A video with Dr Wolfgang Kraus and Florian Weber describing the Südzucker Group engagement in the EIT FAN is available here: <https://vimeo.com/somersaultvp/review/684371447/39a254b761>

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About the Südzucker Group

Südzucker is a major player in the food industry with its sugar, special products, starch and fruit segments, and Europe's leading ethanol producer with its CropEnergies segment.

In the traditional sugar business, the group is Europe's number one supplier of sugar products, with 23 sugar factories and two refineries, extending from France in the west via Belgium, Germany and Austria, through to Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bosnia, and Moldova in the east. The special products segment, with its consumer-oriented functional ingredients for food and animal feed (BENEÓ), chilled/frozen products (Freiberger) and portion packs (PortionPack Europe), operates in dynamic growth markets. Südzucker's CropEnergies segment is Europe's leading producer of renewable ethanol, with production sites in Germany, Belgium, France and Great Britain. Other products in this segment are protein food and animal feed products as well as biogenic carbon dioxide. The new starch segment comprises AGRANA's starch and ethanol activities. The group's fruit segment operates globally, is the world market leader for fruit preparations and is a leading supplier of fruit juice concentrates in Europe.

In 2020/21, the group employed about 17,900 persons and generated revenues of EUR 6.7 billion.

About EIT Food

EIT Food is the world's largest and most dynamic food innovation community. We accelerate innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all.

Supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, we invest in projects, organisations and individuals that share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system. We unlock innovation potential in businesses and universities, and create and scale agrifood startups to bring new technologies and products to market. We equip entrepreneurs and professionals with the skills needed to transform the food system and put consumers at the heart of our work, helping build trust by reconnecting them to the origins of their food.

We are one of eight innovation communities established by the European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT), an independent EU body set up in 2008 to drive innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

About the EIT Food Accelerator Network (EIT FAN)

The EIT Food Accelerator Network (EIT FAN) is a four-month program that aims to fast-track science and technology-based innovations that are helping to solve global food system challenges. The program is managed by our leading EIT Food partner organizations, operating from different regional hub locations Europe. Each hub connects impactful agrifood startups with industry-leading corporate and research partners, to pilot innovative technology and drive the ultimate goal of every business: a successful market adoption. For more information visit: <https://entrepreneurship.eitfood.eu/accelerate/>

Backdata Links:

Branding:

<https://www.eitfood.eu/branding>

video library:

<https://eitfood.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/80000483820-how-to-use-the-eit-food-asset-library>