

## Press release

Mannheim, 26 April 2022

### **Südzucker plans production plant for protein concentrate from Faba beans**

Südzucker Group is expanding its existing protein portfolio as part of the group's strategy 2026 PLUS. The goal is to obtain proteins from regionally grown Faba beans for processors in the food and animal nutrition industries. To this end, the cultivation of Faba beans is to be significantly expanded and, in the medium term, an own production facility for protein concentrate is to be built at the Offstein site (Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany). An investment of around EUR 50 million is planned.

Südzucker's subsidiary BENE0, a specialist in functional food ingredients, is thus expanding its plant-based protein portfolio, which was previously based on wheat and rice. Südzucker Group is thus significantly intensifying its involvement in this business area. Until the new production plant in Offstein is fully operational, the Faba beans will initially be processed at intermediate production facilities. In this way, customers will already benefit from the products in the short term.

Since the natural site conditions are particularly suitable for growing Faba beans there, Südzucker will be holding talks with farmers in the German regions Wetterau and Kassel in the coming months. The first contract areas are planned for 2023; Faba bean cultivation is to be increased to several thousand hectares in the coming years.

With its protein content of around 30 percent, the Faba bean provides a natural ingredient for the manufacture of meat and dairy alternative products, for example. Its starch content also benefits other customers in the food and animal nutrition industries. With the protein concentrate from the Faba bean, BENE0 is not only serving the trend towards a plant-based nutrition, but is also making an important contribution to climate protection. The Faba bean can be grown and processed regionally and, as a legume, also binds the nitrogen present in the air for natural nutrient supply in arable farming. The planned processing plant at the Offstein site is also designed to be particularly sustainable with a low energy footprint.

Press photos: [Image and media library | Südzucker AG \(suedzucker.de\)](#)

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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 (BENEEO), 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 Beneo**

BENEEO has long-term experience in developing and producing ingredients from natural sources for food, feed and pharmaceutical products. These plant-based functional ingredients help improve the nutritional and technical properties of a wide variety of products, by supporting health and optimising taste and texture. The company's portfolio includes functional carbohydrates from sugar beet, prebiotic chicory root fibre, plant-based proteins and speciality ingredients from rice.

Through a unique chain of expertise, including the BENEEO-Institute that provides decisive insights into nutrition science and legislation, and the BENEEO-Technology Center that consults in application technology, BENEEO supports customers by providing ingredients that promote a healthy lifestyle in a holistic way.

Formed in 2007, BENEEO is active in over 80 countries, employs more than 1000 people and has five state-of-the-art production sites in Belgium, Chile, Germany and Italy.