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PRESS RELEASE

EXBERRY® color supplier GNT to expand into fermentation

GNT is working to develop new plant-based, sustainable EXBERRY® color solutions for food and drink using unique fermentation technologies.

The company has been creating EXBERRY® colors from fruit, vegetables, and plants since its foundation in 1978. It is now expanding into fermentation for the first time to increase innovation and sustainability in its plant-based solutions.

Producing colors through fermentation allows for improved functionality as well as highly efficient and sustainable year-round production. Once the raw materials have been cultivated, they can be scaled up in larger bioreactors for industrial production. This phase involves maintaining optimal conditions to ensure high biomass yield and pigment concentration.

To deliver on its aims, GNT has chosen to collaborate with Plume Biotechnology, a UK-based start-up focused on innovation in fermentation science and bioprocessing for natural colors.

Frederik Hoeck, GNT Group's Managing Director, said: "As pioneers in plant-based colors, innovation has always been crucial to GNT and we're fully committed to delivering cutting-edge solutions for our customers. As a family business, we understand the importance of acting responsibly and ensuring we are truly sustainable. This partnership with Plume will help us add new, futureproof options to our plant-based EXBERRY® portfolio."

Thomas Burns, CEO at Plume Biotechnology, said: "The rapid evolution of fermentation-based technologies is providing unprecedented opportunities within the realms of natural colors. Plume is passionate about translating these cutting-edge technological developments into healthy, exciting, and sustainable products for consumers. In GNT, we have found the perfect strategic partner with a shared commitment to delivering excellent products whilst keeping sustainability at the heart of everything we do."

The collaboration is designed to help GNT expand the options in its plant-based EXBERRY® portfolio while meeting its sustainability ambitions. In 2022, GNT announced 17 targets to optimize its environmental and social impacts by the end of the decade.

Its [Sustainability Report 2023](#) revealed significant progress on many of those goals, including a 22% reduction in carbon intensity at the company's factories since 2020 and a 13% improvement in water efficiency.

Finn Rieken, Strategy Director at GNT Group, said: “We are committed to leading the food coloring industry on sustainability. As well as promoting responsible agriculture and cutting emissions at our factories, we’re constantly exploring new options for highly sustainable colors that can deliver exceptional performance. We believe fermentation-based colors have huge potential to tick both those boxes. We are confident that working with Plume will allow us to deliver exciting new plant-based, sustainable solutions for food and beverage manufacturers around the world.”

For more information about EXBERRY[®], visit: www.exberry.com

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About EXBERRY[®]

EXBERRY[®] is a leading global brand of plant-based, sustainable colors for food and drink. The EXBERRY[®] portfolio includes a complete spectrum of shades created from non-GMO fruit, vegetables, and plants. They are available in a wide range of formats and suitable for almost any application, including confectionery, dairy, bakery, soft and alcoholic beverages, cereals, snacks, sauces, savory, and plant-based meat, seafood, and dairy. EXBERRY[®] colors are trusted by many of the world’s leading food and beverage manufacturers for their vibrancy, versatility, stability, ease of use, and strong sustainability credentials.

About GNT Group

Founded in 1978, GNT is a family-owned company pioneering in the creation of plant-based, sustainable ingredients. It is headquartered in Mierlo, The Netherlands, with additional offices in Europe, North America, Asia, and the Middle East. GNT’s family ownership provides stability and long-term commitment, enabling it to make strategic decisions to futureproof supplies. These include ambitious sustainability commitments and investments in long-term stockholding. The company supports its customers throughout every stage of the product development process, including concept innovation, color selection and matching, stability testing, upscaling, regulatory matters, and quality documentation.