



**natraceutical
group**

Study on the functional properties of pectin

UK study contributes new evidence on the benefits of pectin against cancer, of which Natraceutical is the sixth world-wide producer

- This product line represents 13% of the Ingredient Division's total turnover and is expected to grow by 21% in 2008.

Valencia (Spain), 30th October 2008. - The Institute for Food Research (IFR), a non-profit company sponsored by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council of the United Kingdom, has recently published a study⁽¹⁾ that brings further evidence to the anticancer properties of pectin. According to this paper, certain bioactive fragments of pectin, a carbohydrate found in fruits and vegetables, may bind and inhibit galectin 3 (Gal3), a protein that plays a key role in cancer progression.

Previous studies had already shown that pectin may prevent tumours by reducing metastasis (dissemination of malignant cells) and favouring the inhibition of carcinogenic cells. Nevertheless, this study's novelty is that it tested the molecular mechanism of the pectin in the organism, instead of only the effects of food on a population sample, as is commonly done in most anticancer claims.

Pectin is a carbohydrate that is not absorbed in the intestine and whose interesting properties make its consumption beneficial in the treatment of certain pathologies. Natraceutical Group has their own scientific research on the functional benefits of pectin, which state that in addition to the anticancer properties, pectin has shown to slow down the absorption of simple sugars by the intestine, a reason why pectin is able to improve the intolerance to glucose. The consumption of pectin may also be beneficial for diabetics as it may slow down the passing of sugar from the stomach to the duodenum, thus preventing a sharp increase of the sugar level in blood (hyperglycaemia).

Natraceutical Group is the sixth largest world-wide producer of pectin in a market with an estimated production of approximately 35,000 tons per year. In the food industry, pectin is commonly used as a thickening additive in food and jams. Natraceutical provides international food producers not only with the ingredient, but with the technical support essential to the ingredient's application.

In addition to this, Natraceutical is entering the food supplements market through commercial agreements with US companies which include it in their supplements due to the prebiotic properties referred to above.

The biotech company is also studying launching their own pectin-based food supplements through their Food Supplements division, which Natraceutical commercialises in Europe under the brand Forté Pharma.

The pectin product range, whose gross margin exceeds 50%, represents 13% of the total turnover of Natraceutical's Ingredients division and it is expected to grow by 21% in 2008.

The scientific evidence on the functional properties of pectin guarantees the business strategy that Natraceutical has been undertaking over the last months regarding their Ingredients division, mainly based on the optimization of the product portfolio to specialise in those ingredients with higher operative margins or with which the company may reach a strong market share.

Natraceutical Group

Spanish multinational corporation Natraceutical Group is at the forefront of biotechnology applied to nutrition, a leading reference in Europe in the sector of research and development of naturally-sourced functional / active ingredients and nutritional complements for the foodstuffs, pharmaceutical and cosmetics sectors. The company streamlines its industrial activity through two divisions (Ingredients and Nutritional Complements) with the purpose of contributing to the prevention of diseases and improving quality of life through nutrition.

The Ingredients division has today own production facilities in Spain, UK, Switzerland, Australia, Canada and Brazil; and is operating actively in over 60 countries, running branches in Europe, US and the Asia Pacific region, plus several sales networks worldwide. Natraceutical provides products and services to over 1,000 companies worldwide, including eight of the world's ten leading food corporations.

Later, in October 2006, Natraceutical expanded its sphere of activity by penetrating the nutritional complement sector following the acquisition of Monaco-based company Laboratoires Forté Pharma, specialised in nutritional complements for health, beauty and weight-control, thanks to which the company can now supply products directly to end consumers.

Natraceutical Group closed the financial year 2007 with earnings of € 158.6 million, and EBITDA of € 19.2 million, representing an organic growth of 16% in turnover and 40% in EBITDA as compared with the previous year.

Natraceutical quotes in the Spanish stock exchange under the *ticker* **NTC**. Total outstanding shares: **328,713,946**.

www.natraceuticalgroup.com

(1) "*Recognition of galactan components of pectin by galectin-3*"; A.P. Gunning, R.J.M. Bongaerts, V.J. Morris

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