



SICIT GROUP: PRODUCTION OF ANIMAL HAIR PROTEIN HYDROLYSATE AT FULL CAPACITY

- **As expected, the innovative production process developed by the Company will improve Arzignano's plant overall capacity by 33%, equal to an increase in production of 4,000 tons/year of animal by-products protein hydrolysate, bringing the total to approx. 16,000 tons/year, compared to approx. 12,000 tons/year in 2019**
- **The operation will increase the characteristic value of biostimulants organic nitrogen, further qualifying SICIT's offer on world agricultural markets**
- **The recent plant will contribute to the evolution of plaster retardant's offer, further expanding the markets covered by the Company**

Arzignano (VI), June, 22nd 2020 – **SICIT Group** (the "Company") announces that, in the wake of the initiatives already planned in its strategic development plan, in recent weeks **it has completed the production of animal hair protein hydrolysate**, remaining from the Vicenza tanning business, at the **Arzignano plant**.

Animal hair is a product rich in keratin, an important protein suitable for producing agriculture biostimulants.

The **innovative production process, developed internally by the Company**, guarantees the complete safety of the operations and the possibility to obtain different types of final hydrolysate. A special system of reactors and grinding mixers (an exclusive SICIT's technology) guarantees the complete hydrolysis of keratin, following the necessary hydrolysis treatment, as required by Regulation (EC) no 1069/2009, allowing to obtain an **extremely safe and proven-effective product**.

All keratin-based products have largely passed the tests: both in vitro, under controlled laboratory conditions, and according to randomized protocols in open field, allowing to assist clients with essential information to use these new formulations in the most effective way possible.

The production capacity of the new plant is approx. **40 - 60 tons/day of processed hair**, for a total of **over 10,000 tons/year**, as originally planned. This will result in an **additional production of about 4,000 tons/year of protein hydrolysates**, bringing the total produced by SICIT Group at the Arzignano plant to approx. **16,000 tons/year**, compared to 12,000 tons/year in 2019. Overall, therefore, the process innovation will **increase the production capacity of animal by-products protein hydrolysate by 33%**.

Moreover, thanks to this initiative, the Company expects: i) an increase in the **characteristic value of organic nitrogen in biostimulants**, which will further qualify SICIT Group's offer on world agricultural markets; and ii) the **evolution of plaster retardant industrial products**, making SICIT Group's technical offer even more performing and competitive.

Massimo Neresini, CEO of SICIT Group, said: "*The circular economy has always led SICIT's action: this plant makes it possible to implement a further recovery of a residue from the tanning industry, providing a fundamental service for an extremely-important area for the economy of our country. SICIT is constantly working to guarantee high standards of agronomic performance in all the protein hydrolysates it produces, using the most advanced screening techniques*".





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SICIT Group

Founded in 1960 in Chiampo (VI), **SICIT** was one of the first companies in the world to introduce protein hydrolysates of animal origin into the world market of biostimulants. The company, one of the pioneers of the circular economy, through a process of hydrolysis of residues from the tanning industry, creates high-added-value products for agriculture (biostimulants) and plaster industry (retardants). Thanks to a qualified team, highly automated and technological production plants, state-of-the-art laboratories and constant investments in R&D, SICIT has become a reference operator at international level, supplying the main players in the agrochemical and industrial sectors.

Since June 2020, the company has been listed on the MTA (Italian Equities Market), Star Segment, of Borsa Italiana.

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