

New business segment: Nordzucker invests in plant-based proteins - new plant goes into operation in 2026

Nordzucker continues to grow and is expanding its portfolio. The company is investing more than 100 million Euro in the production of plant-based proteins. Nordzucker will put a new plant into operation for this new business segment at its site in Groß Munzel, Lower Saxony, by mid-2026. The expansion will create around 60 additional jobs.

Braunschweig, 20 November 2023 – "Plant-based nutrition will play an increasingly important role in the future. The market is growing rapidly. With plant-based proteins, we see a great opportunity to participate in this future market," says Lars Gorissen, Chief Executive Officer of Nordzucker. "We are supplementing our portfolio with a product that fits in well with our core competences and are thus consistently pursuing our growth strategy." In view of changing eating habits and the trend towards meat, egg and milk substitutes, entering this new business segment is a step with very attractive prospects.

The Supervisory Board of Nordzucker AG supports the entry into the new business segment and the expansion of production capacity at the site in Groß Munzel. "The market has enormous potential, Nordzucker has the expertise and close links to growers. The Supervisory Board therefore sees excellent growth prospects and is convinced of the company's investment," emphasises Jochen Johannes Juister, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Nordzucker AG.

Economical and sustainable production

Nordzucker relies in particular on the yellow pea from regional cultivation for the production of plant-based proteins. It fulfils all the requirements for economical and sustainable production, explains Gorissen. "It can be grown in many regions and fits well into the crop rotations of farms." Nordzucker can produce peas all year round due to their good shelf life.

Pea proteins: Ingredient for industrial processing

The pea proteins are to be marketed as a concentrate and dry texturate for further processing in the food and animal feed industry. Texturates, for example, can be used in a variety of ways, serving as a source of protein and as a texturiser in plant-based foods. "We will produce and sell pea proteins as an ingredient for further processing," says Alexander Godow, Chief Operating Officer. "Thanks to our roots in agriculture, we are able to reliably supply our customers with large quantities from regional and sustainable cultivation and in consistently good quality." Products for end consumers are not planned.

Double-digit growth expected

Nordzucker is planning to invest more than 100 million Euro in the development of the new business segment. "We expect double-digit growth rates per year in the pea protein concentrates and texturates segment. That is why we are now also setting a fast pace in terms of implementation," emphasises Chief Financial Officer Alexander Bott.

The choice of location plays an important role here. The construction of new production capacities in Groß Munzel is scheduled to begin in autumn 2024. "As this is a Nordzucker site, we benefit from the existing infrastructure," says Alexander Godow. The site has good transport links. This provides good access to raw materials from many arable farming regions and to sales markets. Commissioning is planned for mid-2026.

Nordzucker Group

Nordzucker, headquartered in Braunschweig, Germany, is an international sugar producer and one of the world's leading companies in this industry. Nordzucker extracts sugar products in various forms - such as white sugar, organic sugar, raw sugar, refined sugar, specialities and liquid sugar - from sugar beet and sugar cane. Nordzucker also produces animal feed, molasses, fertilisers and fuels from renewable energies as well as electricity. In the 2022/2023 financial year, the Group generated revenue of €2.3 billion. Making sugar production more sustainable along the entire value chain is a declared corporate goal. Growing beet and cane close to the factory results in short transport distances and already distinguishes the sustainability of the product. The sugar beet is used and processed as a whole - the process focuses on circularity and recycling. By 2050 at the latest, all production is to be CO₂-neutral. Nordzucker aims to be profitable and sustainable at the same time and offers jobs in rural areas as well. Excellent products and services, growth prospects and continuous improvements are the driving force for a committed and international team of 3,800 employees at 21 European and Australian locations - the basis for a sustainable future.

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