

# News Release

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## First vegetable seeds grown in BASF's new state-of-the-art production facility in Ethiopia enter the global market

- Customers worldwide to benefit from year-round seed production
- Around €8 million investment
- Numerous social responsibility initiatives to benefit the local community

**Nunhem, The Netherlands** – The first seeds produced at BASF's new state-of-the-art production facility in Ethiopia enter the global vegetable seed market. Located in the country's Amhara region, the facility offers ideal year-round production conditions for sweet pepper, tomato and cucumber. It is BASF's first high-tech greenhouse complex in Africa.

"We invested around €8 million into this new facility. It will provide us with extra supply reliability and flexibility to serve our customers worldwide," said Vicente Navarro, Senior Vice President of BASF's vegetable seeds business. "Sustainable food production is very important to us and we want to do our part. That is why we are very proud of this new facility: It makes us a frontrunner in terms of establishing the first sustainable high-tech seed production site in Ethiopia with fully automated processes for climate control including humidity, heating and irrigation."

The premises cover a surface of 15 hectares: two hectares are occupied by state-of-the-art greenhouses while the rest is used for open field seed production facilities and infrastructure. Currently, around 70 permanent employees are working

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at the new site. In addition, BASF also provides employment to more than 100 seasonal workers. Most of the employees were recruited from the surrounding areas and trained in-house.

### **High sustainability standards and commitment to social responsibility**

The site fulfills BASF health, safety and environmental standards and goes beyond Ethiopia's common sustainability requirements. To reduce its carbon footprint, mainly renewable energy sources are used to generate electricity. The greenhouses are heated with solar panels. Furthermore, the facility has its own wastewater treatment plant and all the waste it produces can be recycled on site.

In addition, BASF is engaged in numerous social responsibility initiatives in the vicinity of the site. "I am very proud to see that apart from delivering seeds to Ethiopian smallholder farmers, we are also actively involved in projects for reforestation and soil erosion control in the area," stressed Ben Depraetere, Managing Director Nunhems Ethiopia PLC and Country Head of BASF's vegetable seeds business in Ethiopia. "We want the local community to benefit. That is why, for example, we also supply the community around our site with safe drinking water, have invested in building new road infrastructure and established a fund to create job projects for unemployed young people from the surrounding area."

### **About BASF's Agricultural Solutions division**

With a rapidly growing population, the world is increasingly dependent on our ability to develop and maintain sustainable agriculture and healthy environments. Working with farmers, agricultural professionals, pest management experts and others, it is our role to help make this possible. That's why we invest in a strong R&D pipeline and broad portfolio, including seeds and traits, chemical and biological crop protection, soil management, plant health, pest control and digital farming. With expert teams in the lab, field, office and in production, we connect innovative thinking and down-to-earth action to create real world ideas that work – for farmers, society and the planet. In 2020, our division generated sales of €7.7 billion. For more information, please visit [www.agriculture.basf.com](http://www.agriculture.basf.com) or any of our social media channels.

### **About BASF**

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. More than 110,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €59 billion in 2020. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the U.S. Further information at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).