

Press release

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UPstage is Labor-Friendly and Vital from Start to Finish

■ **BASF presents experiences with new cucumber variety for the high-wire spring cultivation without artificial lighting**

Nunhem – 13 September – In 2020, BASF introduced a new variety for the high-wire spring crop without artificial lighting: UPstage. Now spring 2021 is over, it's time to share experiences with UPstage.

Wijnen Square Crops started trialing UPstage on location in 2019 and chose UPstage as their main variety for spring 2021. “The past two trial years saw different types of weather. Two years ago, the weather was sub-optimal, whereas last year the conditions were good. During those two years, UPstage consistently outperformed our main variety at that time. That's why we easily decided to switch over to this variety,” says cultivation manager Marcel Verdellen.

Evaluation of spring 2021

Verdellen evaluates this year's spring crop: “Comparing this year to previous years, we now see more healthy plants. UPstage is a stable variety that grows well and consistently – those are the traits you look for as a grower. When a variety grows as evenly as possible and is well-balanced, you can plan the corresponding labor accordingly. During the trials we conducted with UPstage in the previous years, we saw that the real gains came at the end of the season, as was the case this year as well. UPstage, which is now our main variety, performs well until the end of the season.”

Labor costs

In high wire cultivation labor is a high cost component. UPstage helps you save on labor while providing plenty of vitality from start to finish.

“We immediately noticed this variety's upright leaf position, which makes crop handling easier and faster. In addition, Upstage rarely suffers from split heads or double cucumbers in the axils. With other varieties, removing split heads and double cucumbers takes a lot of time that we can now save ourselves. We're happy that UPstage is not prone to these issues and therefore requires a lot less labor during cultivation.”



UPstage's upright leaf position results in better and faster crop handling



Upstage rarely suffers from split heads and is vital until the end of the season.

Challenge for the future

Wijnen Square Crops and BASF will continue to work together and carry out trials on location. According to Verdellen, the challenge lies in the labor costs. "If we can save on labor by growing a labor-friendly variety, we gain a lot. We are already seeing this progress with UPstage and we need to continue that trend in the coming years."

Rens Muusers, Cucumber Sales Specialist at BASF, is pleased with their collaboration with Verdellen. "The value of being able to conduct trials on location is a huge benefit to us as a company; it allows us to recognize and develop the good varieties much faster." "Because we carry out the trials ourselves, we know for sure that the variety adapts well to our environment, and that's an advantage for us," adds Verdellen.

For more information, please contact the cucumber sales specialists of BASF's vegetable seeds division:

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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 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.