

## Press release

Holzminden, Germany, June 16, 2022

# Symrise: First company in the industry to receive sustainability verification for hibiscus

- Company promotes sustainable agricultural practices
- Long term business relationship sets foundation for sustainable success

**As the first company in the industry, Symrise is sourcing Hibiscus verified at Gold level of SAI Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA). Symrise has committed itself to promoting sustainable agricultural practices in multiple crops and regions, including in its hibiscus supply chain. Its focus lies on working conditions and the sustainable use of water and soil. This brings the company one step closer to achieving its goal of sourcing all strategic biological raw materials sustainably by 2025.**

The SAI verification audit took place in December 2021. Now, Symrise can offer the first sustainable hibiscus in the industry. This represents an important milestone in the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. The plant grows in arid regions and its cultivation requires extensive manual labor. Both the harvest and the separation of seed from calyx for the plant's reproduction happen by hand.

Symrise sources its hibiscus from the Egyptian region of Aswan. The company has been working with a well-established local partner for over 25 years. Thanks to this long-term cooperation, Symrise has gained direct access to the raw material's source and can make use of the established practices. It can also identify opportunities that help secure sustainable supply chains. The use of a modern extraction process for the raw material results in an enormous reduction in water consumption and simultaneously increases the yield of the rich hibiscus color.

### Program supports farmers in the region

Symrise wants to use the program to address the needs of the next generation of hibiscus farmers by further advancing its holistic and collaborative approach. The company is involving more farmers in its program and is networking more closely with its customers, thereby increasing the positive effects that the partners can achieve together. "Our collaboration with the local farmers supports those directly involved and the entire region. In addition, the sustainable cultivation of hibiscus that we promote conserves resources and thus contributes to climate protection," says Laurence Briand, Sustainable Development Manager at Symrise.

### Verified hibiscus promotes the quality of many products such as cosmetics and beverages

To fulfill the criteria for verification and maintain them continuously, independent third parties audit the farms every three years. They ask the farmers and operating groups to evaluate and grade their social, environmental, economic, and general management practices.

With the sustainable cultivation of hibiscus, Symrise is continuing to pursue its goal of sourcing 100 percent of its strategic biological raw materials sustainably by 2025. As part of this goal, the company wants to generate added value along the entire supply chain and expand the portfolio of sustainable raw materials for its customers.

**About Symrise:**

*Symrise is a global supplier of fragrances, flavors, food, nutrition and cosmetic ingredients. Its clients include manufacturers of perfumes, cosmetics, food and beverages, pharmaceuticals and producers of nutritional supplements and pet food.*

*Its sales of € 3.8 billion in the 2021 fiscal year make Symrise a leading global provider. Headquartered in Holzminden, Germany, the Group is represented by more than 100 locations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the United States and Latin America.*

*Symrise works with its clients to develop new ideas and market-ready concepts for products that form an integral part of everyday life. Economic success and corporate responsibility are inextricably linked as part of this process. Symrise – always inspiring more ...*

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