

FINLAND

arm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

Location
Kauhava

Programming period
2014 – 2020

Priority
P2 – Competitiveness

Measure
M04 – Investments in
physical assets

Funding (EUR)
Total budget 4 500 000
RDP contr. 1 575 000
Private 2 925 000

Project duration
2018 – 2018

Project promoter
Härkis Oy

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The construction of a new production facility to process minced fava beans and to take advantage of the market shift from meat to plant-based protein foods.

Summary

The demand for plant-based protein foods is growing rapidly around the world. Verso Food Ltd. is a well-known manufacturer, seller and marketer of bean products, such as Härkis and Verso, which are market leaders in Finland in new plant-based protein foods. In order to meet the demand for Finnish markets and, above all, to move towards export markets, increased production capacity was needed.



Verso Food Ltd. is the main owner of Härkis Ltd., which was set up to serve the chain of Verso Food Oy's subcontractors around the world. It received Rural Development Programme (RDP) support for the construction of a factory to produce minced fava beans in Kauhava. The new facility will support the whole chain of plant-based protein food products.

Results

After two years of operation the estimated turnover will be 4 000 000 EUR.

20 new employees will be contracted for production once the factory is up and running.

Context

The demand for plant-based protein foods is growing rapidly around the world. Verso Food Ltd. is a well-known manufacturer, seller and marketer of bean products, such as Härkis and Verso. Härkis products are market leaders in Finland in new plant-based protein. In order to meet the demand for Finnish markets and, above all, to move towards export markets, increased production capacity was needed. Verso Food Ltd. is the main owner of Härkis Ltd., which was set up to serve the chain of Verso Food Oy's subcontractors around the world. HÄRKIS® Original is a pre-cooked fava bean mince. It is made from Finnish fava beans and is rich in protein and fibre and can be used in cooking as an alternative to minced meat. Härkis fava bean mince is ready to eat, high in protein, vegan, free from soy.

Objectives

This investment aimed to increase the competitiveness of the companies and take advantage of new business opportunities, while creating new jobs.

Activities

Härkis Ltd. received RDP support in order to build a new factory to process fava beans (*Vicia faba*) in Kauhava. The factory processes Finnish fava beans so that they can be used as raw material components in plant-based protein food products. Constructing the factory required a huge local investment of 4.5 million euros, of which 1.75 million euros came from the RDP.

Main results

After two years of operation the estimated turnover will be 4 000 000 EUR.

20 new employees will be contracted for the production once the plant is up and running.

According to Oxford University and the Swiss agricultural research institute, replacing meat with plant-based products has a significant effect on the environment. High-impact beef producers create the equivalent of 105kg of CO² and use 370m² of land per 100 grams of protein. This is 12 and 50 times greater than low-impact beef producers. Low-impact beans, peas and other plant-based proteins can create the equivalent of just 0.3kg of CO₂ (including all processing, packaging and transport) and use just 1m² of land per 100 grams of protein produced.

Additional sources of information

n/a