



Press Release
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UF Grants Exclusive Worldwide License to BioTork

Gainesville, FL -- The University of Florida has granted BioTork a license to patent rights for an enzyme that could revolutionize the animal feed industry when developed by BioTork.

UF researchers have discovered a naturally occurring thermotolerant phytase. The most heat-tolerant of these enzymes known today, it reportedly retains activity at temperatures up to 100°C. BioTork, with its strain development expertise and an exclusive license to use this phytase, will maximize the efficiency of the production of the heat-tolerant enzyme, the ultimate goal being to provide an accessible source of thermotolerant phytase to the feed industry around the world.

Phytase is an enzyme used in the processing of animal feed and food in order to increase nutrient availability by breaking down phytate, a non-accessible form of phosphorus with antinutrient properties. By adding phytase to animal feed, phosphorus, iron, zinc and calcium are made more bioavailable, and less inorganic mineral additions to feed are needed. Not only does this shrink the costs of processing animal feed, it also decreases environmental eutrophication by reducing the amount of nutrients released through waste and contaminating the environment.

The major hurdle in using phytase is that, like most enzymes, phytase is deactivated by the high temperatures used in the processing of animal feed. This poses challenges that increase the costs of production tremendously. A low-cost source of heat-tolerant phytase enzymes that are unaffected by processing conditions, as UF and BioTork are working to create, will have a huge beneficial impact on the production of animal feed, and consequently, our planet.

BioTork CEO Eudes de Crecy emphasizes, "Access to the most heat-tolerant enzyme of this kind, combined with our expertise, is an extraordinary opportunity to greatly advance the feed industry and is a step forward in creating a more sustainable world."

About BioTork

This project is in line with BioTork's core philosophy, as the strain development company focuses on renewable chemicals and sustainability. Using a state-of-the-art patented proprietary technology, it develops robust microorganisms as the cellular factories to optimize fermentation processes; the company is particularly interested in using microbes to convert low-value carbon sources and waste products into high-value chemical commodities.

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