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Cargill-DSM’s stevia sweetner EverSweet offers environmental advantages

Transparency is at the heart of two new initiatives from Cargill, a comprehensive Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of EverSweet stevia sweetener by Avansya and a first-of-its-kind look inside the company’s leaf-based stevia sustainability efforts.

By **Pooja Yadav** | May 25, 2021



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To complete the LCA, Cargill and joint venture partner DSM compared the environmental impact of their ground-breaking EverSweet sweetener to other stevia-based solutions, as well as conventional sugar. The third-party-verified LCA study found EverSweet offers significant environmental advantages over other sweetener choices.

Stevia leaves contain dozens of sweet components. However, two of the best-tasting, Reb M and Reb D, comprise less than 1 per cent of the stevia leaf. Cargill and DSM pioneered an innovative and more sustainable approach, using fermentation to produce EverSweet, a Reb M and Reb D stevia sweetener, with less water, less land, and a smaller carbon footprint.

As part of the LCA review, Cargill and DSM compared EverSweet to three production pathways: leaf-based Reb A, leaf-based Reb M, Reb M produced through bioconversion, and for benchmarking purposes, beet sugar and cane sugar. EverSweet significantly outperformed the other sweeteners.

When compared to the bioconverted Reb M, EverSweet:

- Produces 60 percent lower carbon footprint.
- Requires 70 percent less land.
- Results in 60 percent lower ecological footprint, delivering additional benefits related to land use, including biodiversity, ecosystems impact, and reduced need for water for irrigation.

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