

## Research Network Focusing on the Acquisition of Dandelion Rubber Includes Additional Plant Breeder

- The aim is to achieve a greater impact in the breeding of dandelion plants suitable for industrial use
- Kartoffelzucht Böhm is a recognized specialist in the breeding of cultivated plants
- The long-term aim is the industrialization of rubber from dandelions
- Joint project with the Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology and partners Julius Kühn Institute, University of Münster and ESKUSA

Hanover, Germany, September 27, 2022 - The Taraxagum project, which focuses on the acquisition of natural rubber from dandelions, has expanded its research network with the plant breeder Kartoffelzucht Böhm. The aim of the reinforcement is to gain even greater clout in the breeding of dandelions. "We are pleased to welcome another plant cultivation specialist to our network. The internationally active company Böhm has great experience in the breeding of cultivated plants. These are ideal prerequisites for our Taraxagum project," says Dr. Carla Recker, Head of the Expert field Materials Chemistry and Taraxagum at Continental Tires.

The aim of the long-term Taraxagum project is to industrialize the cultivation of dandelion rubber. In addition to the Urban Taraxagum bicycle tire, which is already available on the market, dandelion rubber is to be used for numerous other future products including car and truck tires, tires for the agricultural sector and technical rubber goods. The Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology IME, the University of Münster, the Julius Kühn Institute and the plant breeders ESKUSA and Kartoffelzucht Böhm form a network of key partners for the project. This network is supported by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry for Economics, Labor and Tourism of the State of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania and receives funds from the European Union.

**Continental** develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation. In 2021, Continental generated sales of €33.8 billion and currently employs more than 190,000 people in 58 countries and markets. On October 8, 2021, the company celebrated its 150th anniversary.

The **Tires group sector** has 24 production and development locations worldwide. Continental is one of the leading tire manufacturers with more than 57,000 employees and posted sales of €11.8 billion in 2021 in this group sector. Continental ranks among the technology leaders in tire production and offers a broad product range for passenger cars, commercial and special-purpose vehicles as well as two-wheelers. Through continuous investment in research and development, Continental makes a major contribution to safe, cost effective and ecologically efficient mobility. The portfolio of the tire business includes services for the tire trade and fleet applications, as well as digital management systems for tires.

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## Pictures/captions



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Dandelion

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