



Ingredion's Mike Natale Talks Plant-based Proteins with PPTI

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Mike Natale, Ingredion's global lead of our plant-based protein platform, recently sat down with Protein Production Technology International (PPTI) to offer his expertise on the state of the industry, Ingredion's continued development in the space and the considerable growth potential manufacturers can take advantage of by offering more plant-based protein products.

"We place a strong emphasis on data analysis and closely monitor consumer trends," Natale told PPTI. "Over the past five years, we've witnessed remarkable growth, with estimates from the Plant Based Foods Association valuing it at over \$8 billion. This translates to a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 12-13%, indicating a rapid ascent in this technological shift within the food industry."

And while the trends give plenty of reason to be optimistic, there's still important work to be done. Critical to continued growth in the plant-based protein space is the ability to improve taste, quality and performance.

"Our primary focus has been on innovation, recognizing that we are in the early stages of the plant-based protein movement, where innovation holds the key to delivering an exceptional consumer experience," Natale said. "These three facets guide our day-to-day operations and the collaborative efforts with our R&D teams worldwide. In the startup world, it's common knowledge that the path from point A to point B is rarely a straightforward one. Instead, it's characterized by constant adaptation and course correction. We navigate this dynamic journey through a series of zigzags, working closely with our suppliers, customers and consumers to achieve success. This process demands tremendous dedication and effort from our team, but it's an exciting endeavor, representing a startup within a multinational corporation."

To read the full article and to learn more about Ingredion's work in plant-based proteins, [click here](#).