

The difference we make for

Our partners

Reaching out beyond our business is essential for scaling innovation and solving complex sustainability challenges. From academia and trade associations, to suppliers and regulators, by working together we harness each other's strengths and improve the outcomes for everyone involved.

Collaborators and consultants

Innovation is a key pillar of our business model. Our Open Innovation and Smart Partnering Programmes, where we collaborate with world leading academics, universities, start-ups and technology specialists, are a crucial part of this. At any one time we are working on more than 80 of these partnerships, with almost every one having the potential to deliver a sustainability benefit.

All parties involved in these collaborations gain significant benefits: universities and other institutions gain experience and expertise in commercialising intellectual property; together we develop the unique ingredients, effects, applications and processes that add value to customers' products and can have the potential to provide solutions to some of the world's most pressing needs.

In addition, we make the difference by providing essential funding for academic research, sponsoring PhD students and giving them vital industrial experience, and carrying out workshops across our operations to inspire undergraduates and grow the next generation of industry experts.

The supply chain

Assured supply chain integrity is a pre-requisite to operating responsibly and it is vital that we source from suppliers who share our own values and standards, in terms of transparency, traceability and ethics. We are engaging with our suppliers through our membership of the CDP (formally Carbon Disclosure Project) Supply Chain initiative, influencing our suppliers and encouraging them to set GHG emissions reduction targets. We are also investigating opportunities for offsetting unavoidable carbon

emissions through investment in projects that are relevant to our business and supply chain.

We are working with Sedex (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange) and EcoVadis to use their systems to gather supplier data on environment, labour, fair business and sustainable procurement practices to identify risks in our upstream supply chain. This is directly empowering ethical supply chains and managing risk as we, in some areas, need to support our suppliers in raising their standards in order to continue our working relationship. Our Corporate Ethics Committee sponsors our engagement and assessment of suppliers in countries where there is higher risk of modern slavery.

Associations and peer companies

By sharing our expertise via panels, committees, forums and associations, and aligning with like-minded peer companies, we can influence positive change in sustainability. We contribute to thought leadership with government panels, regulators and trade associations in order to help establish and influence legislation, principles and standards.

For instance, we have helped to develop guidance for compliance with the Nagoya Protocol, an international agreement that aims to fairly share benefits that come from using genetic resources (GRs), the final objective being the sustainable use of biodiversity globally. We have been a constant voice in driving industry transformation to RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) certified physical supply chains, contributing to over 30 industry presentations, panel debates

and media interviews on the issues around sustainable palm oil.

We have also contributed to the development of a series of European Standards that define and measure the bio-based content of materials. This allows the renewable carbon content to be unambiguously determined and declared along the supply chain, thereby providing consumers with definitive information concerning the provenance of the products they purchase and use.

In Focus: Growing our innovation partnership network

Our Open Innovation and Smart Partnering Programmes continue to evolve, giving us access to experts and facilities in universities, specialist research laboratories and small and medium size enterprises around the world.

We now have more than 450 partners, comprising over 100 completed and 85 ongoing projects, with activity balanced across our three core market sectors of Personal Care, Life Sciences and Performance Technologies.

Our partnership with pigments innovator Glassflake enabled the development and launch of a range of Moonshine™ ingredients in 2018, which is a new offering in colour cosmetics. We also agreed a commercial arrangement with SiSaf, a pioneering UK based bio-pharmaceutical company, which involves the use and development of SiSaf's patented bio-courier, ProSilic®, a novel drug delivery technology. Following our original investment in July 2017, we increased our holding in the multi-award-winning digital device company Cutitronics, providing an opportunity to develop design updates for its innovative CutiTron™ device.