

PRESS RELEASE

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RESILIENCE AND TRANSFORMATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024

On October 29, 2024, the General Meeting of Shareholders of Royal HZPC Group considered and adopted the 2023/2024 financial statements. The 2023 crop year was characterized in Europe by a late start due to high rainfall, followed by a hot and dry period. As a result, seed potato growers' yields were significantly lower than normal. Despite these challenges in volume and yield, the potato breeder showed its resilience.

Royal HZPC Group's gross margin decreased to EUR 67.3 million. This was caused by lower volumes, which were not fully offset by higher prices. Nevertheless, by closely controlling costs, a net profit of EUR 6.1 million was realized before deducting the costs of the Connecting Growers program. The dividend was set at €5.20 per certificate by the General Meeting of Shareholders.

The total volume of sales and licenses in the fiscal year reached 940,963 tons, almost equal to the previous year (944,293 tons). Despite the lower harvest in northwestern Europe, this was offset by an increase in license growing in Asia and the Americas. Total sales for the fiscal year amounted to €415 million.

Resilience and adaptability

Former CEO Gerard Backx reflects on the past year: "In 2023/2024, we were not able to achieve the growth we had estimated. However, in the special year 2023/2024 we showed how important resilience and adaptability are to our employees, growers, customers and partners. We pushed boundaries and saw a new balance emerge, with our strategy of focusing on different segments and regions paying off."

Excellent starting position

As of September 1, 2024, Hans Huistra has taken over the role of CEO. He looks optimistically to the future: "Royal HZPC Group has built an very good market position over the years. A lot has been invested in new, promising varieties and there is a strong international organization with a solid home base in the Netherlands. With our employees, growers, clients and partners, we have an excellent starting position to grow in the coming years."

Royal HZPC Group is committed to sustainability and innovation, with the conviction that internationally there is still a world to be won in seed potato growing. For more information on Royal HZPC Group's financial statements and future plans, check out our new English annual report which will be published end of this week.

About Royal HZPC Group

Founded in 1898, and rooted in Dutch soil, Royal HZPC Group has expanded to become the international market leader when it comes to potato breeding, seed potato trading and product concept development. Royal HZPC Group offers innovative potato varieties that are optimised for local growing conditions. The business also shares expertise and solutions that relate to the climatic, cultural and commercial challenges facing the food industry. With around 400 employees in 16 different countries, and with exports to over 90 countries, Royal HZPC Group makes a significant contribution towards the availability of responsible food and the well-being of millions of people worldwide.

Royal HZPC Group B.V.

Hans Huistra

E: info@hzpc.com

T: +31 (513) 48 98 88