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Australia's Wide Open Agriculture (WOA) to establish a production facility for Buntine Protein enhanced oat milk

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Wide Open Agriculture (WOA) has secured a non-dilutive AUD$5 million grant from the Western Australian Governmentâ??s Investment Attraction Fund to establish a production facility for Buntine Protein enhanced oat milk.

The facility will be located in Western Australia and will initially produce oat milk in various formats using the Company's proprietary lupin-based plant protein, Buntine Protein, with initial production to potentially begin this calendar year, with further expansion anticipated across 2024 and 2025.

The new facility is projected to potentially increase WOA's domestic production capabilities, enhance manufacturing efficiencies, and reduce costs, while enabling the company to navigate evolving consumer beverage markets effectively. Recently, WOA has also successfully manufactured an RTD prototype of its Buntine Protein oat milk â?? which it describes as a nutritional, versatile, and sustainable alternative to traditional dairy milk and other oat milks.

Located strategically adjacent to the Buntine Protein pilot plant, the new facility is expected to produce a range of Oat milk in 1 litre and Ready to Drink (â??RTDâ??) formats, featuring the Companyâ??s lupin-based Buntine Protein as an ingredient.

When fully operational, WOA will gain the ability to introduce a novel beverage into global markets, rivalling traditional dairy in protein content, yet maintaining a coveted creamy mouthfeel.

The new facility is also anticipated to bring about significant cost reductions. These savings would likely stem from enhanced manufacturing efficiencies, improved supply chain operations, and reductions in tariffs on exports to key markets such as SE

Asia. Beyond cost savings, the facility should also speed up the new product development process for future product releases.

Wide Open Agriculture CEO, Jay Albany said â??we are harnessing this opportunity to champion a new era of sustainable, innovative, and delicious plant-based nutrition.
The grant will be disbursed in stages based on the achievement of defined milestones and fulfillment of reporting requirements. The first critical milestone involves the successful execution of the Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA). Following that, other milestones include obtaining the necessary regulatory and planning approvals for the construction and operation of the plant-based milk plant. Upon the successful completion of all the prescribed project milestones, the company will have accessed the total grant sum.