

Life Sciences

Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals



Aliments fonctionnels et nutraceutiques

Canadian functional food and nutraceutical companies are world leaders in quality and innovation. Canada is well positioned to become a leading supplier of functional foods and nutraceuticals to the world. Along with a food inspection system that is world renowned, Canada has an excellent international reputation for a pure, clean environment resulting in safe, high-quality food products. There are strong, cost-effective research capabilities across the country and a collaborative environment among governments, universities, health institutions and industry.

The functional food and nutraceutical industry holds significant potential to

- Improve the health of citizens
- Support environmental initiatives
- Reduce health care costs
- Support economic development in rural communities
- Help growers and the marine industry to diversify.

All regions, from British Columbia to Atlantic Canada, are actively pursuing opportunities in this sector.

Leadership in Action

The Canadian functional food and nutraceutical industry has over 300 companies, from small start up companies to multinational organizations, with an estimated market size of \$6.6 billion. The market for functional foods and nutraceuticals is being driven by a growing consumer understanding of the link between diet and health, aging populations, rising health care costs, advances in food technology and nutrition. The market is also driven by scientific and clinical research validating the effectiveness of functional foods and nutraceuticals in preventing diseases.

Value-added Processing

Along with enhancing the nutritive value and functional properties of crops, Canada has also developed an industrial capacity in the value-added processing and extraction of nutritionally valuable elements. For example, Canadian companies have developed specialized fractionation technologies for the processing of raw materials such as legumes, oats and other cereals into starch, protein and fiber. New companies have formed to commercialize novel processing techniques such as microwave enhanced drying (EnWaveCorporation), and microwave-assisted extraction (Radient Technologies Inc).

Canadian companies and researchers specializing in the standardization of herb and plant extracts have developed extraction, isolation, and purification expertise to fulfill Canada's stringent standards for foods, pharmaceuticals and natural health products. Companies have refined analytical methods to verify the potency and bio-activity of herbal extracts and other compounds.

Canadian companies have also developed technologies and expertise in the extraction, characterization, stabilization, modification, and enhancement of the flavonoid components of fruits. The food and food ingredient sector is a very important part of the Canadian nutrition industry. Examples of products produced by Canadian companies include milk and eggs with increased levels of omega-3 fatty acids; cereals and grains including wheat, oat, barley and fenugreek products with enhanced amounts of dietary fiber; yogurts containing probiotics; modified fatty acid vegetable oils; and vegetable proteins from soy, canola and hemp, legumes and fruit products.

Nutraceutical and Functional Food Producers in Nova Scotia

Acadian Seaplants Limited

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Acadian Seaplants Ltd. is a world leader in marine plant product technology applications for seaweed extract fertilizers; Ascophyllum kelp meal for feed supplements and soil amendments; edible sea vegetables; seaweed ingredients for food, health and beauty markets; and commercial brewing agents. Acadian Seaplants is a fully integrated company with over 35 years experience.

Ascenta Health Ltd.

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Ascenta Health Ltd. is an award winning manufacturer and distributor of high quality natural health products including a premium brand of pharmaceutical grade fish oil.

Ocean Nutrition Canada Ltd.

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Ocean Nutrition Canada is an innovator and supplier of quality marine-based natural ingredients to the global dietary supplements and functional food markets.

Ocean Produce International

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Ocean Produce International is involved in the development of unique lipids and other nutritional and pharmaceutical products from Sea Parsley™ and is a producer of kainic acid (KA) yielding algae.

Naturally Nova Scotia Health Products Ltd.

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Naturally Nova Scotia is a vertically integrated organic herbal products producer. The company's certified organic product line includes alcohol and glycerine based extracts as well as a variety of encapsulated herbs and teas.

Van Dyk's Health Juice Products Ltd.

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Van Dyk's Health Juice Products Ltd. Produces and all-natural 100% pure wild blueberry juice.

Valley Flax Flour Ltd.

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Rainbow Farms Ltd.

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The farm is located approximately 60 kilometres from Halifax, which is ideal for exporting blueberries from the Halifax seaport to foreign markets. They have the capacity to process up to (6) million pounds of blueberries and approximately 70% of their blueberries are exported to other countries. They also process freeze rhubarb.

Rainbow Farms prides itself in harvesting only the finest wild blueberries for their customers. They are HACCP recognized facility and have adopted the highly effective HACCP Program in their establishment. The HACCP program is a preventive approach to food safety and is the preferred quality assurance standard world wide.

Origin Biomedicals Inc.

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Origin BioMedicals Inc. brings needed biomedicinal natural products to professional caregivers and consumers. They use the highest quality active ingredients, but more importantly, they back up our products with documented scientific and clinical proof of their effectiveness.

Many natural health products on the market today lack high quality ingredients; sufficient quantity of the ingredients to provide a health benefit; and documented evidence of their effectiveness. With its access to qualified pharmacists, medical researchers and clinicians, Origin provides only those products which have a solid scientific foundation.

BioNova

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BioNova is Nova Scotia's Biotechnology and Life Sciences Industry Association. They're helping our members to develop their businesses as the sector grows in the province. They provide members with networking opportunities through meetings and workshops and participation in National and International conferences and tradeshows. Their members benefit from their strong strategic alliances with government and the private sector. They also help the industry as a whole through public education initiatives, training seminars and workshops and student programs such as the Aventis Biotech Challenge.

Hird's Ginseng Farm

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Hird's Ginseng Farm has been growing North American Ginseng (*Panax Quinquefolium*) since 1993. Their products are 100% pure Ginseng, nothing is added. Contents are free of artificial ingredients, preservatives, fillers or additives of any kind. All products feature a tamper evident safety seal to insure freshness and purity.

For more information on the Canadian Functional Food and Nutraceutical Industry, or the work of AAFC in this sector, please contact:

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