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Sustainability is a hot topic in personal care. Consumers are increasingly demanding products which care for the environment as well as satisfying personal care needs. How can chemistry help to improve quality of life? How is Lamberti contributing?

We are pleased to see increased consumer interest about the environmental effects, or externalities, of their purchasing decisions; and we see this interest in the Personal Care space as well as in many others segments. Clearly, as a key raw material supplier, sustainability metrics are a key performance indicator.

Chemistry has historically helped improve quality of life, in the realms of food preservation, advances in medicine and pharmaceuticals, even transportation and heavy manufacturing, etc. Now with the generational-defining challenges of climate change, Chemistry once again must be part of the solution. We often say that we want to offer chemistry solutions to chemical challenges.

At Group level, we are committed to limiting our scopes 1 and 2 GHG emissions below 2019 levels, which demand special attention to our emissions intensity. Additionally, we have a specific waste reduction target to achieve 30% of our total waste to be either recovered, reused, or recycled by 2023. To this end, we have obtained a Zero Waste certification at our Spanish site. Furthermore, we will have 40% of all our global sites ISO 14001 certified this year.

At product level, we have acquired internal expertise to perform full life cycle assessments (LCA) of our products by focusing on impact categories such as water consumption, wastes generation, land-use, or carbon emissions. We perform these studies following internationally accepted standards such as ISO 14040 (LCA), or ISO 16128 for the natural content, etc. to provide consistency and accuracy. These studies help us gain insight about our own products and work with our upstream suppliers to help them improve their environmental impact as well thus ensuring we supply our customers the best possible performing products in terms of quality and sustainability credentials.

All of these commitments, along with others of environmental, social and governance nature are connected with specific UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and can be found in the Sustainability section of our corporate website lamberti.com.

Water has become a global issue as consumption for domestic use has increased by +600% in 50 years due to population growth. Any strategies that Lamberti is taking into account to face these shortages?

We are fully aware of the importance of water, not only in terms of domestic consumption as the question correctly illustrates but also in industrial processes and in our sector in particular. We feel a particular sense of responsibility and accountability and have taken a direct and active strategic stance to optimize its use.

Since our very first Sustainability Report for year 2019, we identify water as a key universal metric by which to measure our entire Group's Sustainability journey. One of our key commitments specifically targets the issue of water consumption, targeting to reduce it by 15% from 2019 levels. In addition to this reduction commitment, we do not use water from stressed areas. We also understand our influence with our stakeholders, namely our supply-chain; this is why we implemented a Sustainable Procurement Policy, which includes the code of conduct defining the basis of our collaboration based on the responsible use of natural resources and the environmental impact of products including manufacturing processes and services.

As manufacturing processes respond to product design and innovation, we have set up internal mechanisms with our R&D teams to use Sustainability KPI's at the product design stages. In addition to traditional metrics such as product performance, these KPIs take into consideration sustainability related issues such as natural origin, renewability content, and water consumption upstream as well as in our own gate-to-gate processes.

Surfing your website I was struck by this sentence "We design a new alliance between environment and human behaviour, nourishing respectful science and good chemistry". What does this mean?

This phrase tries to encapsulate what we are trying to do in two key dimensions:

scientific research and environmental stewardship. An alliance is a coalition or partnership of two or more strong beliefs or ideals, thus the convergence of environmental stewardship and scientific research. We believe that as a scientific research company in the field of chemistry we play an important role in advancing and strengthening the crucial alliance between nature and science, after all, nature including humans consist of mostly chemical processes.

As a specialty chemicals manufacturer founded on scientific research and innovation, product design is the visible part of this balance.

The pandemic increased sensitivity to environmental issues and attention to the effect of human activities on the planet. What is Lamberti's commitment?

I believe the pandemic accelerated this increased environmental sensitivity and attention to the human effect implications on our planet as the question correctly indicates.

Although this acceleration phenomenon is a fact, I should mention that much prior to the pandemic, about twenty years ago, Lamberti adhered to the Responsible Care framework to assume its environmental responsibilities.

In 2018, we formed a Sustainability working group and in a voluntary fashion decided to publish our first Sustainability report for year 2019 in mid-2020. The pandemic had, and continues to have, a profound effect in our operations, communities, and teams. Some of our company's key manufacturing sites are located in northern Italy, an area heavily affected by the pandemic during the early months of the outbreak. As the question implies, most people understood the impact of our actions to our planet and how disrupted our lives would be with an environmental disaster of pandemic proportions.

In addition to the specific environmental commitments mentioned earlier in this interview, at Lamberti we assumed

several other commitments such as our "Engage Nature" program where we are helping plant trees in India, Colombia, and Italy. We have increased engagement with key stakeholders such as employees and suppliers. With employees, we have created a voluntary group called Global Sustainability Ambassadors (GSAs) which promote sustainability-related actions locally. For example, we will eliminate single-use plastic from our facilities and install efficient LED lighting in several sites across our company's global footprint. With suppliers, we have developed a Code of Conduct and Sustainable Procurement Policy to promote our company's values reflecting environmental responsibility among others.

Additionally, we are increasing the number of global sites with the ISO 45001 certification that promotes occupational health and safety.

A comprehensive list of our commitments can be found at our website.

Today it is difficult for consumers, companies and other market actors to make sense of the many environmental labels and initiatives on the environmental performance of products and companies. There are more than 200 environmental labels active in the EU, and more than 450 active worldwide. How does Lamberti stand out from the crowd?

This is a topic of special relevance and great attention at Lamberti. Sustainability, or environmental stewardship, should not be viewed as a communication or marketing opportunity only. The phenomenon known as Greenwashing is real and has devastating consequences to those who practice it, namely credibility and reputational destruction, not to mention that it is counterproductive and therefore against everything environmental responsibility practices aim to achieve.

At Lamberti we differentiate between sensationalist or fact-less "green" claims and scientifically-backed and standard-supported claims. When approaching labels, we focus on relevancy and credibility. Which normative or standard is relevant to the particular issue of interest to the market? Is this normative or standard from a reputable and internationally recognized issuing body? To avoid confusion, we pay attention to the communication strategy citing the standard used.

Customer engagements and employee trainings are key to avoid further confusion and to stay focused on relevant environmental issues, product performance, evolving regulation, etc.

Sustainability is a concept no more related only to products and environment but is also based on respecting and valuing people and life. Can you tell us more about the project "She Dares"?

The "She Dares" project is a demonstration of Lamberti's specific determination to achieve real impact. The project's concept came from a joint team in which representatives from our Personal Care division led the effort. We wanted to spark real impact in the communities in which we operate. The Lamberti India plant works closely with rural, mostly farming communities where the guar legume crops, a predecessor of cationic guar gum, are cultivated. For Personal Care division guar is a precious seed that allows Lamberti to transfer sustainable value to our customers. We learned from our local teams in India about issues such as gender inequality and lack of quality education for children. We partnered with a local NGO and with the valuable help of our local colleagues got to work. The stories we read about the "She Dares" program have been incredibly powerful and impactful. Women, many of them very young, are learning skills and earning a place in their society and their children have a tendency to stay in school instead of having to drop out to get a job. We have helped refurbish the local school and have increased the length and size of women cohort of the program. Please read and follow these impactful stories on our website www.lamberti.com.