



## Plant Sensory Systems Receives Patent for Taurine Production in Cells

*Plant Sensory Systems Proprietary Technology Could Improve Sustainability of Aquafeed*

Baltimore, MD, Mar 9, 2016—Plant Sensory Systems announces the issuance of US Patent No. 9,267,148 that relates to the production of taurine in cells.

Taurine is a sulfonic amino acid that is found in animal muscle and seafood but not plants. The technology is a biosynthetic pathway that when moved into plants can deliver taurine in its seeds. Taurine is required in the diets of cats and carnivorous fish and has health benefits for shrimp and many freshwater fish species.

The technology can help advance the sustainability of the fastest growing feed market—aquafeed by providing a cost-effective, healthy, and environmentally safe source of taurine. Traditionally, small fish catch is made into fishmeal and used as protein in aquafeed. The diminishing supply of the small fish population has led producers to turn to alternative protein sources, such as plants, to partially replace fishmeal. Because plants do not contain taurine, producers must either limit the amount of fishmeal they replace or supplement the feed with taurine to meet the fish nutritional requirements. Most supplemental taurine is chemically synthesized in China using carcinogenic and hazardous substances, and samples have been shown to contain arsenic.

Plant Sensory Systems' proprietary technology applied to plants can produce an economical, healthy, sustainable, environmentally safe and secure source of taurine in plant seeds, such as soybeans. Soybean meal made from the taurine-containing seeds would allow a higher fishmeal replacement rate in aquafeed and reduce the amount of supplemental taurine required.

The technology is also applicable in other organisms, such as bacteria.

### **About Plant Sensory Systems**

Plant Sensory Systems, LLC is a privately held agricultural biotechnology company that develops proprietary plant technologies for sustainable food, feed, fiber, biofuel and bio-based products. PSS has expertise in modifying plant metabolic pathways and selects those pathways with real commercial value to develop into high-value products. The company is located in Baltimore, Maryland at [bwtech@UMBC](mailto:bwtech@UMBC) Research and Technology Park.

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