

Alberto LEON

Mr. Alberto León is a PhD in Agricultural Sciences and is currently holding a position within Advanta as General Manager for Nutrisun Business Unit. He is responsible for the technical and business development of this new unit of Advanta which aims at making the company integrate vertically a step forward from its core business: now starting from Advanta's seeds, the company delivers high class special oils designed to meet and exceed chemical, food and agriculture industry needs.

Mr. Leon, with his vast experience in plant breeding and biotechnology, has also recently been appointed as Global Research Lead in Advanta. He will provide a strategic leadership to the global research organization as it moves into the future.

Mr. Alberto León started as a sunflower breeder and developed most of his technical skills in gene mapping technologies. Together with different teams he participated in building the first sunflower genetic map. From December 1993 to January 2006 he served the company as International Coordinator of Sunflower Biotechnology, cooperating directly in the development and achievement of renewed premium sunflower germplasm for the company worldwide.

In 2006 when Advanta decided to go a step ahead and created the Nutrisun Business Unit, he was appointed as general manager focused in worldwide operations. The purpose of the unit is to generate and transfer agro technology solutions to deliver special products and develop solutions to serve current and future industries demand.

High Stearic, High Oleic Sunflower oil, is the first novel and unique product delivered by this unit. The oil is currently being produced in South America (Argentina) and in Europe (Spain). It is expected to enter the Indian market in the coming years. Related to the Indian market, this unit has already started local high oleic sunflower oil production and commercialization to supply Indian consumers and industries with healthier alternatives for consumption.

Mr. Alberto León has also developed his career as university professor with different responsibilities, being currently an ad-honorem professor in a graduate course "Ecophysiology of state-of-the-art crops", and is a member of several organizations such as the Biotechnology and Environment Council, Argentina Seed Producers Association (ASA), Member of the Argentina Biotechnology Forum Board of Directors (Positions: prosecretary, secretary) from 2003 to date.

He has also been a member of the Agronomy Biotechnology National Assessment Council (CONABIA) Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, a member of the Biotechnology Unit Assessment Council (CABIA) at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food in Buenos Aires Province, Argentina and Advanta Semillas Representative at Argentina Biotechnology Forum, from 1994 to date.

He has published over forty scientific papers and has been the author of several patents of invention owned by the company.