

Bergamo 17 March 2023

100% naturally sourced yarn: RadiciGroup launches Biofeel® Eleven

At Performance Days, the new sustainable product for luxury garments, sportswear and workwear

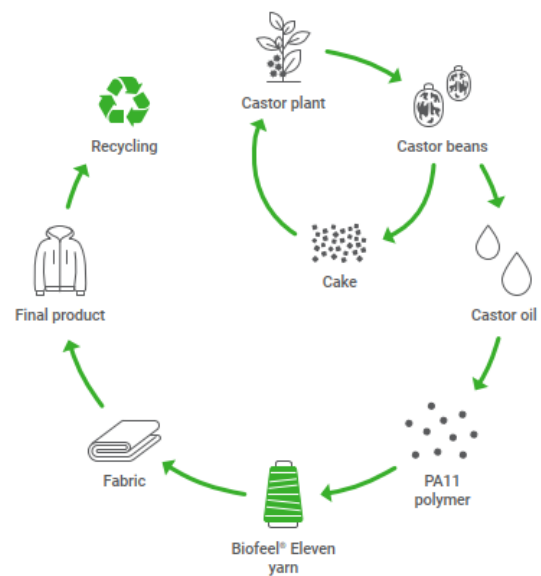
Biofeel® Eleven is a **natural-sourced** yarn born of a **story that begins in India**. In Hindi, "Eranda" is a small bean from which the perfect oil is extracted for the **bio-polymer** from which everything begins. And it is **Castor oil** that is the source of these new 100% sustainable yarns, which can be used for fabrics and fine garments in many sectors, from fashion to sports, from automotive to home textiles.

RadiciGroup, the **only European producer** of this material, has chosen the **"Performance days" trade fair** (that took place in Munich on 15 and 16 March) to unveil this yarn with excellent technical and environmental performance.

Today, **80% of the world's castor-oil plantations are in India**, particularly in the Gujarat region, due to its favourable climatic conditions. In this area, local people can earn an additional income by cultivating **semi-arid land that does not compete with food production**,

and by applying the skills they have acquired over time to this work. Over the years, thanks to **research, development and innovation** in the value chain, the seeds from which the oil is produced have been **selected and certified** to ensure the finest quality, also in terms of end uses.

Castor beans contain around 45% oil, rich in ricinolein, from which the bio-polymer polyamide 11 is derived. This is the polymer RadiciGroup uses for its Biofeel® Eleven yarn. What remains after the first pressing is a highly effective bio-fertiliser that is returned to the soil. In short, a true example of **circularity and "zero waste"**.



"Biofeel® Eleven - underlines Marco De Silvestri, sales and marketing head of the Advanced Textile Solutions Business Area. - has unique and special properties, such as low water absorption, increased lightness and improved strength properties. . This means being able to produce fabrics that are both durable and comfortable to the touch and skin. This translates into a wide range of applications, from sportswear to workwear, from fashion garments to textiles for luxury cars."

Biofeel® Eleven can also be **solution dyed**, i.e. dyed at the yarn production stage, **saving a great deal of water and energy** and also providing greater **colour stability**.

100% bio-based and **100% recyclable**, this yarn contributes to an increasingly sustainable textile sector that respects the principles of the **circular economy**.

"We have always stressed the importance of working as a team with all supply chain players, concludes De Silvestri - and we are delighted that Arkema, a multinational chemical company and our bio-polymer supplier, has chosen RadiciGroup as its exclusive European trusted partner to spin this valuable material. Biofeel® Eleven is not just yarn, it is a clear choice of environmental and social sustainability".

Significantly reduced CO₂ emissions from Biofeel® Eleven have been demonstrated through the ISO 14040 based **LCA* (Life Cycle Assessment) methodology**, which scientifically, analytically and systematically measures the impact of a product throughout its life cycle.

**LCA study 2022 of Arkema polymer PA11*

RADICIGROUP – With approximately 3,000 employees, sales revenue of EUR 1,508 million in 2021 and a network of production and sales sites located throughout Europe, North America, South America and Asia, RadiciGroup is one of the world's leading producers of a wide range of chemical intermediates, polyamide polymers, high performance engineering polymers and advanced textile solutions, including nylon yarn, polyester yarn, yarn made from recovered and bio-source materials, nonwovens and personal protective equipment for the healthcare field. These products are the result of the Group's outstanding chemical expertise and vertically integrated polyamide production chain and have been developed for use in a variety of industrial sectors, such as: automotive – electrical and electronics – consumer goods – apparel – furnishings – construction – household appliances – sports. The basis of the Group's strategy is a strong focus on innovation, quality, customer satisfaction and social and environmental sustainability. With its business areas – Specialty Chemicals, High Performance Polymers and Advanced Textile Solutions –, RadiciGroup is part of a larger industrial group that also includes textile machinery (ITEMA), energy (GEOGREEN) and hotel (SAN MARCO) businesses.

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