



Trendlines Group's portfolio company Celleste-Bio achieves breakthrough in sustainable cocoa production

- First chocolate-grade cocoa butter produced using plant cell culture technology
- Chemically and sensorially identical to conventional cocoa butter, with full scalability and zero-waste production
- Pilot facility under development to accelerate commercialisation and production scale-up

Misgav, Israel and Singapore, 17 October 2025 – The Trendlines Group Ltd. (the “**Company**” and together with its subsidiaries, “**Trendlines**” or the “**Group**”), the Israel- and Singapore-based investment company focused on building value through innovation-based medical and agrifood technologies, is pleased to announce an update from one of its portfolio companies, Celleste-Bio Ltd (“**Celleste**”).

Celleste, an early-stage cocoa innovation company, has successfully produced the **world's first chocolate-grade cocoa butter** using **plant cell culture technology**. This breakthrough marks meaningful progress in advancing a climate-resilient and sustainable cocoa supply chain. Celleste is among the pioneers applying cell culture to create authentic cocoa ingredients. Its breakthrough product marks a significant step forward for the chocolate industry, as it is:

- **Chemically and functionally identical** to conventional cocoa butter derived from cocoa beans.
- **Matches natural fatty acid composition**, ensuring genuine chocolate properties.
- **Replicates sensory experience** of premium chocolate, from melting behavior and smoothness to the signature “snap”.
- **Engineered for scalability**, supporting consistent, sustainable production independent of traditional agriculture.
- **Zero-waste by design**, utilizing all inputs efficiently throughout the production process.

This development comes at a time when the global cocoa industry is facing severe pressures. Cocoa prices have surged to record highs in 2024–2025 due to climate-driven crop failures in West Africa, disease outbreaks, and ageing plantations¹. Supply deficits are estimated at over 400,000 tonnes, while demand from both traditional chocolate makers and functional food

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/cocoa-market-grapples-record-prices-supply-crunch-2024-XX-XX/>



manufacturers continues to rise². These structural challenges have heightened the need for alternative, reliable and sustainable sources of cocoa ingredients.

“This is an important R&D achievement for Celleste, and we are very proud of the team,” commented Haim Brosh, CEO The Trendlines Group. “Celleste is in the process of building a pilot facility to accelerate R&D and scale production of its cocoa ingredients.

Nitza Kardish, PhD, CEO, Trendlines Agrifood Fund; Vice Chair, Trendlines Agrifood Innovation Centre added, “We were the founders and one of the company’s first investors, alongside Mondelez International to recognize the amazing potential in this field and are looking forward to their continued progress.”

-The End-

About The Trendlines Group Ltd.

Trendlines establishes, funds, and incubates innovation-based medical and agrifood technologies. As intensely hands-on investors, Trendlines is involved in all aspects of its portfolio companies from technology development to business building. Trendlines’ shares are traded on the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX: 42T) and in the United States as an American Depositary Receipt (ADR) on the OTCQX International (OTCQX: TRNLY).

*This press release has been reviewed by the Company’s sponsor, PrimePartners Corporate Finance Pte. Ltd. (the “**Sponsor**”). It has not been examined or approved by the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the “**Exchange**”) and the Exchange assumes no responsibility for the contents of this document, including the correctness of any of the statements or opinions made or reports contained in this document.*

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² <https://www.icco.org/statistics/>

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