

## Miller® and Huber Share Vision of Sustainability and Responsible Agriculture



By Mike Fiery: Miller® Vice President International Sales and Product Development

iller® Chemical & Fertilizer, LLC (Miller®) has a long history of producing branded specialty crop protection adjuvants, additives, soluble fertilizers and bio-stimulants for the global agricultural industry, with a focus on fruits, nuts and vegetables. It has proven to be an innovator in the industry, creating safe adjuvant products and crop nutrients that reduce the environmental impact of crop protection and farm productivity measures. Its core values of Honesty, Integrity, Passion, Teamwork and Stewardship have structured the company's culture since its founding in 1937.

It was the combination of sustainable products and services as well as the overall ethical company culture that made Miller® attractive to the family-owned portfolio management company, J.M. Huber Corporation (Huber), when seeking to diversify its collection of services and explore growth opportunities. Huber is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and has operations in over 20 countries around the world. The Company operates a diverse portfolio of businesses. including Huber Engineered Materials (HEM), which acquired Miller® in April 2019. HEM is a global business focused on engineered specialty ingredients that enhance the performance, appeal and processing of a broad range of products used in industrial, agricultural and consumer applications. It has a portfolio of high value products: speciality alumina trihydrate, magnesium hydroxide and molybdate compounds used for fire retardant additives, agricultural nutrients and adjuvants, and industrial, food and United States Pharmacopeia grade calcium carbonate.

Other Huber businesses include CP Kelco, which offers nature-based ingredients for food and beverages, personal care and countless other products around the world; Huber Engineered Woods, which provides high performance building envelope solutions, and Huber Resources Corp, which practices and supports sustainable forestry services. Though the portfolio is diverse, the Huber Principles unify company culture across businesses. These principles are Environmental, Health & Safety Sustainability, Ethical Behavior, Respect for People, and Excellence. For the Huber enterprise, these principles are a source of inspiration and innovation for employees world-wide, and each of the

businesses promotes and develops these principles in its own way.

In August and September 2019, Miller® and its South African principal supplier, Hygrotech, were proud to sponsor the Integrated Pest and Disease Management Workshops of Citrus Research International (CRI) across South Africa (see article in this edition of the Hygrotech Forum). Being South Africa's largest exported fresh commodity, citrus plays a crucial role in providing employment opportunities. Miller® and Hygrotech are proud to have been able to contribute to these workshops with the purpose of finding appropriate solutions to various challenges and ensuring the future of the SA citrus industry. CRI's promotion of responsible and sustainable Good Agricultural Practices is in line with Miller® and Huber's business principles and generates a platform for the marketing of relevant Miller® products.

Huber is also involved in citrus across the Atlantic Ocean in Brazil. CP Kelco's brand promise is to "unlock nature-powered success". As one of the world's leading pectin (a viscosity building agent found in citrus peels) producers, CP Kelco is one of the largest buyers of Brazilian citrus. The limited availability of lemon and lime peels had historically hampered the sustainable growth of CP Kelco's pectin production. However, the company recently innovated a method to extract about 20% more pectin from citrus peels, reducing their raw material supply risk. Additionally, the process uses steam from biofuel as the heat source and minimizes water consumption, resulting in a more environmentally responsible and sustainable practice.

When the ultimate goal is to help customers win, a success for one of Huber's businesses is a success for the whole enterprise. Globally Miller® already provides products to farmers that support the healthy production of crops and assists crops to realize their genetic potential.

As part of Huber, Miller® will become even more focused on products that are both innovatively effective and sustainable towards the environment. Huber has the resources to support Miller® in achieving sustainable long-term growth while also providing more and enhanced sales and service channels, allowing Miller® and its business partners to serve customers better than ever before.

42 VOLUME 2 ≥ 2019 HYGROTECH