

Arcadia lines up funds for safflower venture

By Jim Downing

Davis-based Arcadia Biosciences Inc. has raised an additional \$15 million in private investment, primarily to commercialize the oil from its genetically modified safflower plants, the company said in a news release this week.

Arcadia has created a safflower plant that yields seed oil rich in gamma linolenic acid, or GLA, an omega-6 fatty acid commonly used as a nutritional supplement.

Producing GLA in the modified safflower plants is expected to cut production costs dramatically, compared with current sources.

Arcadia, founded in 2002, is developing a number of other customized crops, from rice that uses nitrogen more efficiently to tomatoes that tolerate salty soil. The high-GLA safflower oil would be the first product to reach consumers.

The company plans to begin marketing the oil with Canada-based Bioriginal Food and Science Corp. later this year.

The funding round was led by Arcadia's existing major shareholders.

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