



Grain-free ingredient solutions for today and tomorrow

Representing about one third of the global pet food market, grain-free ingredients have become high in demand amongst pet parents avoiding wheat, rice, corn, and other grains as starch sources in the diets of their four-legged companions. As to help brands and manufacturers offering a variety of petfoods, IQI offers several grain-free starch solutions – each with different characteristics and benefits. All of these are based on pure, sustainably sourced products, and can come in both gelatinized and non-gelatinized variations for maximum applicability.

Potato

Thanks to their natural richness in starch (as well as other important nutrients), potatoes can be applied to improve the structure and texture of pet food and serve as an excellent binding agent for pet food applications. All current IQI's potato solutions are upcycled from side streams of French fries production, and come in three variations: potato flakes, potato mix, and potato flakes mix. As one its most important ingredients, IQI initiated an LCA for potato mix together with Blonk consultants. IQI's potato solutions typically contain around 73% starch.

Thai sweet potato pellets

Of the various grain-free ingredients available on the pet food market, sweet potato has grown to become an especially popular one. Although China historically dominates the worldwide sweet potato market, IQI deliberately sources sweet potato in Thailand since farmers there meet the highest quality standards that multinationals demand. All of their production has the required GMP and HACCP quality certification for sweet potato, while our agreements with farmers guarantee sufficient supply. IQI's Thai sweet potato comes in pellets, with a starch content of at least 58%.

Tapioca pellets

IQI's tapioca comes from the same farmers as those that supply us Thai sweet potato. Therefore, the product – which has a similarly high starch content and comes from multiple harvests per year – has the same traceability and GMP and HACCP quality certification – representing a sustainable, clean and reliable source that guarantees a consistent quality with neglectable pesticide residues, while also bringing more stability to the local farming community.

Pea starch pellets

Over the last couple of years, pea starch has become one of the more popular starch sources for application in grain-free pet foods. IQI's pure pea starch is locally sourced in Europe, and provides a source of carbohydrates in pet food, which can be an essential energy source for dogs and cats. It can also function as a binder in formulations, for instance to hold kibble together and provide the desired texture in wet pet foods. IQI's pea starch comes as a pellet and typically contains 65% starch.

Future grain-free starch sources: upcycled green banana

Keeping up with current and future demand in grain-free pet food and in order to maintain a varied ingredient portfolio overall, IQI is continuously exploring completely new and sustainable sources of grain-free starch for pets. One of the most promising examples for the nearby future is green banana from the Philippines. These 100% fresh yet unripe fruits are an upcycled side stream from harvests for human consumption. Instead of being discarded as waste, the green bananas are washed, sliced, pulverized and sieved – resulting in beige to light brown 'whole green banana powder' which is packed as an ingredient for further processing. The ingredient is naturally rich in starch (>60%), has a neutral taste and a low sugar content.

	Potato-Mix	Sweet Potato	Tapioca	Pea
Appearance	Coarse meal	Pellets	Pellets	Pellets
Starch (typical)	> 73 %	58 %	65 %	65 %
Protein	4 %	4 %	3 %	9 %
Fiber	< 3 %	< 6 %	< 5 %	< 3 %
Ash	< 3 %	< 6 %	< 3 %	< 3 %
Origin	Netherlands	Thailand	Thailand	Europe
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Available in different sub types (protein & degree of gelatinization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Integrated production system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Similar vendor as the sweet potato	



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