Risk Factors Comparison 2024-02-21 to 2023-02-21 Form: 10-K

Legend: **New Text** ~~Removed Text~~ Unchanged Text Moved Text Section

~~Our~~ **There are many factors that could adversely affect our** business **, results of operations** and ~~assets~~ **cash flows, some of which** are **beyond our control** ~~subject to varying degrees of risk and uncertainty~~ . The following ~~are~~ **is a description of some important** factors that **may** ~~we believe could~~ cause our ~~actual~~ **business,** results **of operations, financial condition and cash flows in future periods** to differ materially from **those currently** expected **or desired** ~~and historical results~~ . ~~Additional risks~~ **Factors not currently known to us or** that ~~are~~ **we** currently ~~unknown~~ **deem** to **be** ~~us or that we currently view as~~ immaterial may also **materially and** ~~impair our business or~~ adversely affect our **business, results of operations,** financial condition ~~or results of operations. In addition, forward- looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws that are contained in this annual report on Form 10- K or in our other SEC filings or public statements may be subject to the risks described below as well as other risks~~ and **cash flows** ~~uncertainties. See the cautionary notice regarding forward- looking statements in Item 7. Management' s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations~~ . Risks Related to Our Business and Our Industry **Geopolitical conflicts and actions arising from them may have an adverse effect on the availability and prices of raw materials and energy supplies, cause supply chain disruptions, or contribute to volatility in foreign exchange and interest rates.** Our business may be adversely affected by **new geopolitical conflicts, including** impacts **from** ~~on the availability and prices of raw materials and energy supplies, volatility in foreign exchange and interest rates, and other effects of the conflict~~ **conflicts that** ~~between Russia and Ukraine. Our business may be adversely affected~~ -- **affect** ~~by~~ **shipping through** the ~~effects of~~ **Suez Canal, as well as** the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. **Our** ~~Although our~~ operations in Russia and Ukraine accounted for less than one half of one percent of our net sales in ~~fiscal year 2022~~ **2023** , **but** ~~the~~ **these locations are in** ~~region~~ **regions** ~~is a~~ **that provide** ~~source~~ **sources** of raw material and energy ~~supply~~ **supplies** for both us and certain companies whose products we distribute. Economic sanctions and export control measures imposed on Russia and designated Russian enterprises, Belarus and certain regions of Ukraine have resulted in increased volatility in the availability and prices of such raw materials and energy supplies. In addition, sanctions and macroeconomic effects of ~~the~~ **geopolitical** ~~conflict~~ **conflicts** have contributed to greater volatility in foreign exchange and interest rates that affect our financial results. Developments relating to ~~the~~ **geopolitical** ~~conflict~~ **conflicts** might result in a continuation of these impacts and in other impacts that could adversely affect our business or results of operations. Changes in consumer **practices,** preferences and perceptions may lessen the demand for our products, which could reduce our sales and profitability and harm our business. Food products are often affected by changes in consumer **practices and** tastes, national, regional and local economic conditions and demographic trends. For instance, changes in prevailing health or dietary preferences causing consumers to avoid food products **that** ~~containing~~ --- **contain** sweetener products, including high fructose corn syrup, in favor of foods that are perceived as being healthier, ~~could materially reduce~~ **have negatively affected** our sales and profitability. Increasing concern among consumers, public health professionals and government agencies about the potential health concerns associated with obesity and inactive lifestyles ~~(reflected, for instance, in taxes on certain beverages designed to combat obesity, which have been imposed recently in North America)~~ represent a significant cost to some of our customers, including those engaged in the food and soft drink industries, and ~~could~~ **continue to** materially affect demand for our products. ~~Current~~ **Similarly, the increasing availability, use and acceptance of weight loss medications, including the expanded use of medications designed for weight loss in people without diabetes, may reduce sales of food and beverage products that contain our ingredients since the medications regulate appetite and may reduce the overall amount of food and beverages consumed.** ~~economic~~ **Economic** conditions may adversely impact demand for our products, reduce access to credit, affect investment returns and cause our customers and others with whom we do business to suffer financial hardship, all of which could adversely impact our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. General business and economic conditions that could affect us include barriers to trade (including as a result of tariffs, duties and border taxes, among other factors), the strength of the economies in which we operate, unemployment, inflation and fluctuations in debt **and equity** markets. While currently these conditions have not impaired our ability to access credit **and equity** markets ~~and~~ **to** finance our operations, we are subject to the risk of a further deterioration in the financial markets. These economic developments could **negatively** ~~have a number of other effects~~ - **affect** ~~on~~ our **operations through** ~~business, including~~ reduced consumer demand for **our** products, pressure to extend our customers' payment terms, insolvency of our customers **and** ~~resulting in~~ increased provisions for credit losses, **product** ~~decreased customer demand, including~~ order delays or cancellations **, less attractive supplier finance terms and conditions,** and counterparty failures ~~negatively impacting our operations~~ . In connection with our defined benefit pension plans, adverse changes in investment returns earned on pension assets and discount rates used to calculate pension and related liabilities or changes in required pension funding levels may have an unfavorable impact on future pension expenses and cash flows. Volatile worldwide economic conditions and market instability may make it difficult for us, our customers and our suppliers to accurately forecast future product demand trends, which could cause us to produce products in excess of demand ~~and~~ **,** increase our inventory carrying costs **, and incur additional charges for aged, obsolete or spoiled inventory** . Alternatively, this forecasting difficulty may cause a shortage of products that could affect our ability to satisfy the demand for our products. Our reliance on certain industries for a significant portion of our sales could have a material adverse effect on our business. Of our ~~2022~~ **2023** net sales, approximately 54 percent were generated by sales to the food industry, ~~11~~ **approximately 10** percent by sales to the animal nutrition industry, ~~8~~ **approximately 9** percent by sales to the beverage industry, and ~~8~~ **approximately 7** percent by sales to the brewing industry. If our customers in any of these industries were to substantially decrease their purchases, our business might be materially adversely affected. ~~The coronavirus 19 disease (" COVID 19") pandemic~~ **Pandemics** could have a material adverse effect on our business. ~~The ongoing COVID- 19~~ **Pandemics, such as the recent coronavirus** pandemic ~~has~~ **, have** had, and could continue to have, negative impacts on our business, including **by** causing significant volatility in the commodity and currency markets, changes in consumer demand, behavior or preference, disruptions in our supply chain and manufacturing capacity, limitations on our employees ~~'~~ **'** ability to work and changes in the economic or political conditions in markets we serve **,** which could constrain or halt shipments to customers. These risks individually and in the aggregate could have a material effect on our operating results, financial condition, cash flows and prospects. The uncertainty of acceptance of products developed through biotechnology could affect our profitability. The commercial success of agricultural products developed through biotechnology, including genetically modified corn, depends in part on public acceptance of their development, cultivation, distribution and consumption. Public attitudes can be influenced by claims that genetically modified products are unsafe for consumption or that they pose unknown risks to the environment, even if such claims are not based on scientific studies. These public attitudes can influence regulatory and legislative decisions about biotechnology. The sale of our products, which may contain genetically modified corn, could be delayed or impeded because of adverse public perception regarding the safety of our products and the potential effects of these products on human health, the environment and animals. Our future growth could be negatively impacted if we fail to continue introducing innovative new products and services **or if competitors or customers independently identify or develop new solutions that could compete with our products and services** . A significant portion of our growth depends on innovation in products, processes and services. Our R & D efforts may not result in new products and services at a rate or of a quality sufficient to gain market acceptance **. Increasing capabilities from generative artificial intelligence may increase the ability of competitors or customers to identify or develop new solutions that could compete with or reduce demand for our products and services** . It may be difficult to preserve operating margins and maintain market share in the highly competitive environment in which we operate. We operate in a highly competitive environment. Competition in markets in which we compete is largely based on price, quality and product availability. Many of our products compete with virtually identical or similar products manufactured by other companies in the starch and sweetener industry. In the U. S., our competitors include divisions of larger enterprises that have greater financial resources than we do. Some of these competitors, unlike us, have vertically integrated their corn refining and other operations. Many of our products also compete with products made from raw materials other than corn, including cane and beet sugar. Fluctuation in prices of these competing products may affect prices of, and profits derived from, our products. In addition, government programs supporting sugar prices indirectly impact the price of corn sweeteners, especially high fructose corn syrup. Furthermore, co-products such as corn oil and gluten meal compete with products of the corn dry milling industry and with soybean oil, soybean meal and other products, the price of some of which may be affected by government programs such as tariffs or quotas. Due to market volatility, we may be unable to pass potential increases in the cost of corn and other raw materials on to customers through product price increases, to purchase quantities of corn and other raw materials at prices sufficient to sustain or increase our profitability, or to supply product quantities and meet shipment delivery requirements that our customers demand. The price and availability of corn and other raw materials are subject to volatility as a result of economic and industry conditions, including supply and demand factors such as supply chain disruptions, crop disease and severe weather conditions that include drought, floods, frost and ocean currents. These conditions are difficult to anticipate, are beyond our control and could adversely impact our profitability by affecting the prices we pay for raw materials. Inputs to our procurement, production processes and delivery channels, such as raw material, energy, and freight and logistics, may experience price fluctuations, supply chain interruptions, and shortages that could adversely affect our results of operations. Our finished products are made primarily from corn. Purchased corn and other raw material costs generally account for between 40 percent and 60 percent of our finished product costs. Some of our products are based upon specific varieties of corn that are produced in significantly smaller volumes than yellow dent corn. These specialty grains cost more due to their more limited availability and require planning cycles of up to three years to ensure we receive an adequate supply. We also manufacture certain starch- based products from potatoes. Our current potato starch requirements constitute a material portion of the total available North American supply. It is possible that, in the long term, continued growth in demand for potato starch- based ingredients and new product development could result in capacity constraints. Also, we utilize tapioca in the manufacturing of starch products primarily in Thailand, as well as pulses, gum, rice, stevia and other raw materials around the world. A significant supply disruption or sharp increase in prices of any of these raw materials that we are unable to recover through pricing increases to our customers could have an adverse impact on our growth and profitability, especially if such an event disproportionately affects us as compared to our competitors. Our business ~~could be~~ **in the past has been** adversely affected by fluctuations in our energy costs, which represented approximately ~~7~~ **8** percent of our finished product costs in ~~2022~~ **2023 ; and could be negatively affected by such fluctuations in future periods** . We use energy primarily to create steam required for our production processes and to dry products. We consume natural gas, electricity, coal, fuel oil, wood and other biomass sources to generate energy. Because we ship products worldwide, our business **in the past and has been, and in future periods** could be **,** adversely affected by fluctuations in freight and logistics costs, and disruptions in supply channels between parties and locations that include our suppliers, production and storage facilities, tolling and packaging partners, distributors and customers. Risks to our business include impacts from labor strikes or weather- related events that affect transportation by rail, air, shipping or **ground** ~~mobile transport~~ . The market prices for our raw materials, supply chain freight and logistics, and energy may vary considerably depending on supply and demand, world economies, trade agreements and tariffs and other factors. We purchase these commodities and services based on our anticipated usage and future outlook for these costs. We may not be able to purchase these commodities and services at prices that we can adequately pass on to customers, which could have an adverse impact on our growth and profitability **. An inability to contain costs and working capital could adversely affect our future profitability, cash flows, and growth. Our future profitability and growth depend on our ability to contain operating costs and per unit product costs and to maintain and**

implement effective cost control programs, while also maintaining competitive pricing and superior quality products, customer service and support. Our ability to maintain a competitive cost structure depends on continued containment of manufacturing, delivery and administrative costs, as well as the implementation of cost- effective purchasing programs for raw materials, energy and related manufacturing requirements. Our working capital requirements, including margin requirements on open positions on futures exchanges, are directly affected by the price of corn and other agricultural commodities, which may fluctuate significantly and change quickly . In North America, we sell a large portion of our finished products derived from corn at firm prices established in supply contracts typically lasting for a period of one year. To minimize the effect of volatility in the cost of corn related to these firm- priced supply contracts, we enter into corn futures and options contracts, or take other hedging positions in the corn **and soy** futures market. These derivative contracts typically mature within one year. At expiration, we settle the derivative contracts at a net amount equal to the **change in** ~~difference between the then~~ - **the** ~~- current~~ price of the commodity ~~and~~ **from the date we entered** the derivative contract **, with the intention of offsetting the change in commodity** ~~price~~ **prices from the time we entered the firm- priced supply contracts** . The fluctuations in the fair value of these hedging instruments may adversely affect our cash flow. We fund any unrealized losses or receive cash for any unrealized gains on futures contracts on a daily basis. While the corn **and soy** futures contracts or hedging positions are intended to minimize the effect of volatility of corn costs on operating profits, the hedging activity can result in losses, some of which may be material. In addition, our hedging activities may not be fully successful in limiting the effect of volatility in the cost of corn ~~. An inability to contain costs could adversely affect our future profitability and growth. Our future profitability and growth depend on our ability to contain operating costs and per unit product costs and to maintain and implement effective cost control programs, while also maintaining competitive pricing and superior quality products, customer service and support. Our ability to maintain a competitive cost structure depends on continued containment of manufacturing, delivery and administrative costs, as well as the implementation of cost- effective purchasing programs for raw materials, energy and related manufacturing requirements~~ . If we are unable to contain our operating costs and maintain the productivity and reliability of our production facilities, our profitability and growth could be adversely affected. Operating difficulties at our manufacturing facilities and liabilities relating to product safety and quality could adversely affect our operating results. Producing starches and sweeteners through corn refining is a capital- intensive industry. We conduct preventive maintenance and de- bottlenecking programs at our manufacturing facilities designed to maintain and improve grind capacity and facility reliability. If we encounter operating difficulties at a facility for an extended period of time or start- up problems with any capital improvement projects, we may not be able to meet a portion of our sales order commitments and could incur significantly higher operating expenses, both of which could adversely affect our operating results. Furthermore, we use boilers to generate steam required in our production processes. An event that impaired the operation of a boiler for an extended period of time could have a significant adverse effect on the operations of any manufacturing facility in which such event occurred. In addition, we are subject to risks related to such matters as product safety and quality **issues, product recalls,** and customer **claims, including** product liability claims. The liabilities that could result from these risks may not always be covered by, or could exceed the limits of, our insurance coverage related to product liability and ~~food safety matters~~ **the other applicable forms of insurance that we carry** . In addition, negative publicity caused by **these types of risks** ~~product liability and food safety matters~~ may damage our reputation. The occurrence of any of the matters described above could adversely affect our revenues and operating results. Global climate change and legal, regulatory, or market measures to address climate change, may negatively affect our business, operations and financial results. We are subject to risks associated with the long- term effects of climate change on the global economy and on our industry in particular. Extreme weather and natural disasters ~~within or outside~~ **that occur around** the **globe** ~~United States~~ , such as drought, wildfires, storms, changes in ocean currents and flooding, could make it more difficult and costly for us to manufacture and deliver our products to our customers, obtain raw materials from our suppliers, or perform other critical corporate functions. In particular, if such climate change impacts negatively affect agricultural productivity, we may be subject to decreased availability or less favorable pricing from certain commodities that are necessary for our products, such as corn, specialty grains, rice, stevia, peas and sugar. Adverse weather conditions and natural disasters could reduce crop size and crop quality, which could reduce our supplies of raw materials, lower recoveries of usable raw materials, increase the prices of our raw materials, increase our costs of storing and transporting raw materials, or disrupt production schedules. Our manufacturing operations also could be adversely affected by reduced water availability resulting from droughts. There is a growing societal concern that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere may have an adverse effect on global temperatures, weather patterns and the frequency and severity of natural disasters. The increasing concern over climate change could result in new domestic or international legal requirements for us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts of our operations, improve our energy efficiency, or undertake sustainability measures that exceed those we currently pursue. Furthermore, such measures may result in the taxation of greenhouse gas emissions. Any such regulatory requirements could cause disruptions in the manufacture of our products and result in increased capital, procurement, manufacturing and distribution costs. Our reputation and brand could be harmed if we fail, or are seen as having failed, to respond responsibly and effectively to changes in legal and regulatory measures adopted to address climate change. In addition, changing customer preferences may result in increased demands regarding packaging materials and other components in our products and their environmental impact on sustainability. ~~Further~~ **Moreover** , customers may place increasing importance on purchasing products that are sustainably grown and made, requiring us to incur additional costs for increased due diligence and reporting. These demands may cause us to incur additional costs or make other changes to other operations to respond to such demands, which could adversely affect our financial results. We **are or soon will be obligated to comply with new climate- related reporting requirements under SEC rules, California climate- related reporting statutes, laws of member states of the European Union implementing the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, and other laws and regulations. These sustainability reporting frameworks will require us to provide, at least**

annually, detailed public disclosures about the greenhouse gas emissions and other climate- related effects our activities produce, the climate- related operating and financial risks we face, and the strategies we pursue to reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change. We expect to incur substantial costs to prepare these disclosures. If we fail to compile, assess and report the required operating and accounting information in a timely manner and in accordance with mandatory reporting standards, we could be exposed to fines and other sanctions and sustain harm to our reputation. We may not successfully identify and complete acquisitions **, divestitures,** or strategic alliances on favorable terms or achieve anticipated synergies relating to any acquisitions or alliances, and such transactions could result in unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures and require significant management resources. We regularly review potential acquisitions of complementary businesses, technologies, services, or products, as well as potential **divestitures or** strategic alliances **. We have completed several such acquisitions and strategic alliances in recent years, and divested our business in South Korea on February 1, 2024** . We may be unable to find suitable acquisition candidates **, divestiture investors,** or appropriate partners with which to form partnerships **, sell operations** or **assets, or form** strategic alliances. Even if we identify appropriate acquisition **, divestiture** or alliance candidates, we may be unable to complete such acquisitions **, divestitures** or alliances on favorable terms, **on time, on budget,** or at all **. The failure to consummate proposed transactions may result in the diversion of substantial resources, including management time and cash used for transaction- related expenses, that otherwise would be available for developing our ongoing business. Due diligence performed prior to an acquisition may fail to identify a material liability or an issue that could have an adverse impact on the Company' s reputation or reduce or delay the anticipated benefits resulting from the acquisition** . In addition, the process of integrating an acquired business, technology, service, or product into our existing business and operations **, or of divesting certain operations or businesses,** may result in unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures **, including with respect to the retention of strategic talent, systems integration, and internal control effectiveness** . Integration of an acquired company **or transitioning a divested business or operations** may also require significant management resources that otherwise would be available for **developing our** ongoing ~~development of our~~ business. Moreover, we may not realize the anticipated benefits of any acquisition **, divestiture** or strategic alliance and such transactions may not generate anticipated financial results. Future acquisitions **or divestitures** could also require us to issue equity securities, incur debt, assume contingent liabilities, **impair assets,** or amortize expenses related to intangible assets, any of which could harm our business **. Additionally, we participate in several joint ventures, some of which are intended to be long- term investments, in which we have limited control over governance, financial reporting, and operations. As a result, we face operating, financial, legal and other risks relating to these investments, including risks related to the financial strength of our joint venture partners or their willingness to provide adequate funding for the joint venture, differences in objectives between us and our partners, legal and compliance risks relating to actions or omissions of the joint venture or our partners, and the risk that we will be unable to resolve disputes with the joint venture partner. As a result, these investments may contribute significantly less than we anticipate to our earnings and cash flows** . We operate a multinational business subject to the economic, political and other risks inherent in conducting operations in foreign countries and with foreign currencies. We have operated in foreign countries and with foreign currencies for many years, and our results are subject to foreign currency exchange fluctuations. We primarily sell products derived from world commodities. Historically, we have been able to adjust local prices relatively quickly to offset the effect of local currency depreciation versus the U. S. dollar, although we cannot guarantee our ability to do this in the future. The anticipated strength in the U. S. dollar may continue to involve risks, as it could take us an extended period of time to fully recapture the impact of a loss of foreign currency value versus the U. S. dollar. We may hedge transactions that are denominated in a currency other than the currency of the operating unit entering into the underlying transaction. Our hedging activities may not be fully successful in limiting the adverse impacts of our currency risks. Our operations are subject to political, economic and other risks. There has been and continues to be significant political ~~uncertainty~~ **instability** in some countries in which we operate. Economic changes, terrorist activity and political unrest may result in business interruption or decreased demand for our products. Country capital controls, such as those in Pakistan **and Argentina** , may prevent the repatriation of dividends **or payments due to us** from ~~owned entities~~ **our subsidiaries** in the country. Protectionist trade measures and import and export licensing requirements could also adversely affect our results of operations. Our profitability could be negatively impacted if we fail to maintain satisfactory labor relations. We have employees domiciled in the U. S. as well as worldwide who belong to labor unions. Strikes, lockouts ~~,~~ or other work stoppages or slowdowns involving our unionized employees, or attempts to organize for collective bargaining purposes among non- unionized employees, could have a material adverse effect on our business. For example, from September 2022 to January 2023, we experienced a strike involving approximately 103 employees at our production facility in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, although this incident did not have a material impact on our business. The inability for us to attract, develop, retain, motivate ~~,~~ and maintain good relationships with our workforce, including key personnel, could negatively impact our business and our profitability. Our future success depends on our ability to attract, develop, retain, motivate ~~,~~ and maintain good relationships with qualified personnel, particularly those who have extensive expertise in the ingredients solutions industry and who may also have long service with our company. Such personnel are members of our senior executive leadership and work in key areas throughout our U. S. and international operations such as manufacturing, sales, and innovation, all of which are critical to our future growth and profitability. We face intensive competition in retaining and hiring individuals with the requisite expertise, both within and outside the ingredients solutions industry, including from companies that have greater resources than we do. Changes in labor markets as a result of ~~COVID- 19~~ **the recent coronavirus pandemic** and other socioeconomic and demographic changes ~~,~~ have increased the competition for hiring and retaining talent. As a result of this competition, we may be unable to continue to attract, develop, retain, motivate ~~,~~ and maintain good relationships with suitably qualified individuals at acceptable compensation levels who have the managerial, operational, and technical knowledge and experience to meet our needs. Furthermore, any failure by us to manage internal succession or to effectively transfer knowledge from departing employees to others in the organization could adversely affect our business and results of operations. Even if we succeed in hiring new personnel to fill vacancies, lengthy training and orientation periods might be required before new employees are able to achieve acceptable productivity levels. Any failure by us to attract, develop, retain, motivate ~~,~~ and maintain good relationships with qualified individuals could adversely affect our business and results of operations. Natural disasters, war, acts and threats of terrorism, ~~pandemics~~ and other significant events could negatively impact our business. The economies of any countries in which we sell or manufacture products or purchase raw materials could be affected by natural disasters. Such natural disasters could include, among others, earthquakes, floods, or severe weather conditions; war, acts of war or terrorism ~~; or the outbreak of an epidemic or pandemic such as COVID- 19~~ . Any such event could result in disruptions to operations, asset write- offs, decreased sales and ~~overall reduced~~ **a negative impact on our** cash **position** ~~flows. The impacts of COVID- 19 adversely affected our results of operations in periods since the first quarter of 2020~~ . The recognition of impairment charges on goodwill or long- lived assets could adversely impact our future financial position and results of operations. We have $ 1. 3 billion of total net intangible assets as of December 31, ~~2022~~ **2023** , consisting of $ ~~900~~ **918** million of goodwill and $ ~~401~~ **385** million of other net intangible assets, which constitute 12 percent and 5 percent, respectively, of our total assets as of such date. Additionally, we have ~~approximately~~ $ 2. 9 billion of long- lived assets, or ~~39~~ **38** percent of our total assets, as of December 31, ~~2022~~ **2023** . We perform an annual impairment assessment for goodwill and our indefinite- lived intangible assets and as necessary for other long- lived assets. If the results of such assessments were to show that the fair value of these assets were less than the carrying values, we could be required to recognize a charge for impairment of goodwill or long- lived assets, which could be material. The future occurrence of a potential indicator of impairment, such as a significant adverse change in the business climate that would require a change in our assumptions or strategic decisions made in response to economic or competitive conditions, could require us to perform an assessment prior to the next required assessment date of July 1, ~~2023~~ **2024** ~~. Our profitability may be affected by other factors beyond our control. Our operating income and ability to sustain or increase profitability depend to a large extent upon our ability to price finished products at a level that will cover manufacturing and raw material costs and provide an acceptable profit margin. Our ability to maintain appropriate price levels is determined by a number of factors largely beyond our control, such as aggregate industry supply and market demand, which may vary from time to time, and the economic conditions of the geographic regions in which we conduct our operations~~ . Risks Related to Our Regulatory Compliance Government policies and regulations could adversely affect our operating results. Our operating results could be affected by changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies, laws and regulations, and other activities of the U. S. and foreign governments, agencies and similar organizations. These conditions include, among others, changes in a country' s or region' s economic or political conditions, modification or termination of trade agreements or treaties promoting free trade, creation of new trade agreements or treaties, trade regulations affecting production, pricing and marketing of products, local labor conditions and regulations, **including regulations regarding child labor,** reduced protection of intellectual property rights, changes in the regulatory or legal environment, restrictions on currency exchange activities, currency exchange rate fluctuations, burdensome taxes and tariffs, and other **trade disputes or** trade barriers. International risks and uncertainties, including changing social and economic conditions as well as terrorism, political hostilities and war, could limit our ability to transact business in these markets and could adversely affect our revenues and operating results. Furthermore, the national and global regulation or taxation of greenhouse gas emissions could negatively affect our business, operations and financial results. Our operations could be adversely affected by actions taken in connection with cross- border disputes by the governments of countries in which we conduct business. Changes in our tax rates or exposure to additional income tax liabilities could impact our profitability. We are subject to income taxes in the U. S. and in foreign jurisdictions. Our effective tax rates could be adversely affected by changes in the mix of earnings by jurisdiction, changes in tax laws, ~~or~~ tax rates changes in the valuation of deferred tax assets and liabilities and material adjustments from tax audits. The recoverability of our deferred tax assets is dependent upon our ability to generate future taxable income. In addition, we are subject to ongoing audits in various jurisdictions and final determinations of prior- year tax liabilities are dependent upon many factors, including negotiations and dispute resolutions with tax or other governmental authorities. The outcome of these final determinations could have a material effect on our profitability and cash flows. ~~Pillar One~~ - **On** ~~and Pillar Two of~~ **October 8, 2021,** the ~~base erosion and profit shifting (" BEPS ") project undertaken by the Organisation~~ **Organization** for Economic Co- operation and Development (" OECD ") **members approved a framework for reform** ~~could result in significant tax law changes in jurisdictions in which we do business. An OECD- led coalition~~ of **the** ~~countries is contemplating changes to long- standing~~ international tax ~~norms~~ **rule (" Inclusive Framework Statement "). The Inclusive Framework Statement sets forth key terms for a two- pillar solution designed to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy. Pillar One focuses on nexus and profit allocation and would apply to multinational enterprises with annual global revenue above 20 billion euros and profitability above 10 percent. Based on these thresholds, we would currently be outside the scope of Pillar One. The Pillar Two rules, which would apply to us, are designed to ensure certain multinational enterprises, with consolidated revenues of at least 750 million euros in at least two out of the last four years, pay a global minimum effective corporate tax rate of 15 percent in each jurisdiction in which they operate. On February 1, 2023, the U. S. Financial Accounting Standards Board indicated** that **it believes the minimum tax imposed under Pillar Two is an alternative minimum tax. Therefore, deferred tax assets and liabilities associated with the minimum tax will not be recognized or adjusted for the estimate future effects of the minimum tax but instead will be recognized in the period incurred. Pillar Two legislation has been enacted in certain jurisdictions in which we operate. The legislation will be effective for the financial year beginning January 1, 2024. We have performed an assessment of our potential exposure to Pillar Two income taxes. This assessment is based on the most recent tax information available regarding the financial performance of the constituent entities in our group. Based on the assessment performed, we do not expect Pillar Two, as currently enacted, to have a material impact on our effective tax rate. The OECD continues to release additional guidance on Pillar Two, and**

additional countries are expected to enact legislation. Although is is difficult at this stage to determine ~~each country' s right to~~ **with precision the impact future Pillar Two proposals would have, their implementation could adversely impact our effective** tax **rate** ~~cross- border transactions~~ . **During 2023** ~~These contemplated changes~~ , ~~if adopted~~ **the Brazilian Government published Law 14. 789, effective January 1, 2024, that eliminated the exclusion of certain tax incentives provided** by **federal** ~~countries in which we do business~~ , **state** ~~could increase tax uncertainty and the risk of double taxation~~ , ~~thereby~~ **and municipal authorities from taxable income and modified the interest on net equity instrument. This law will** adversely ~~affecting~~ **impact** our provision for income taxes. Risks Related to Our Financing Activities ~~Increased interest rates could increase our borrowing costs. We continue to issue debt securities to finance capital expenditures, working capital and acquisitions, and for other general corporate purposes. An increase in interest rates in the general economy could result in an increase in our borrowing costs for these financings, as well as under our revolving credit facility, which bears interest at an unhedged floating rate.~~ We may not have access to the funds required for future growth and expansion. We may not have access to additional funds we need to grow and expand our operations. We expect to fund our capital expenditures from operating cash flow to the extent we are able to do so. If our operating cash flow is insufficient to fund our capital expenditures, we may either reduce our capital expenditures or utilize borrowings under our revolving credit facility, which also provides liquidity support for our commercial paper program. For further strategic growth through mergers or acquisitions, we may also seek to generate additional liquidity through the sale of debt or equity securities in private or public markets ~~or~~ **,** through the sale of assets **, or through the sale or divestiture of certain businesses or operations** . Our cash flows from operations may not be sufficient to fund anticipated capital expenditures and, in such an event, we may not be able to obtain additional funds from financial markets ~~or~~ **,** from the sale of assets **, or from the sale or divestiture of certain businesses or operations** at terms favorable to us. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flows or raise sufficient additional funds to cover our capital expenditures or to finance strategic growth opportunities, we may not be able to achieve our desired operating efficiencies and expansion plans, which may adversely impact our competitiveness and, therefore, our results of operations. ~~Our~~ **Increased interest rates could increase our borrowing costs. We continue to issue debt securities to finance capital expenditures,** working capital ~~requirements, including margin requirements on open positions on futures exchanges, are directly affected by the price of corn~~ and **acquisitions, and for** other ~~agricultural commodities~~ **general corporate purposes. An increase in interest rates in the general economy could result in an increase in our borrowing costs for these financings, as well as under our revolving credit facility** , which ~~may fluctuate significantly~~ **bears interest at** ~~and~~ - **an** ~~change quickly~~ **unhedged floating rate** . Risks Related to Our Information Technology Systems Our information technology systems, processes and sites may suffer interruptions, security ~~breaches~~ **incidents** , or failures which may affect our ability to conduct our business **and cause significant damage to our reputation** . Our operations rely on certain key information technology systems, which are dependent on services provided by third parties and provide critical data connectivity, information and services for internal and external users. These interactions include, among others, ordering and managing materials from suppliers, risk management activities, converting raw materials to finished products, inventory management, shipping products to customers, processing transactions, summarizing and reporting results of operations, human resources benefits and payroll management, complying with regulatory, legal and tax requirements, and other processes necessary to manage our business. Increased information technology security and social engineering threats and more sophisticated computer crime, including advanced persistent threats, pose potential risks to the security of our information technology systems, networks and services, as well as the confidentiality, availability and integrity of our third- party and employee data. **The frequency, sophistication and unpredictability of cybersecurity events globally have increased, and can be acute during times of geopolitical tension or instability between countries or when we make changes to our information technology systems or implement new ones.** We **have been subjected in the past, and may be subjected in the future, to incidents including phishing, e- mails purporting to come from vendors making payment requests, malware, and communications from look- alike corporate domains, as well as security- related risks resulting from our use of third- party software and services. The use of generative artificial intelligence is increasing the sophistication and effectiveness of these types of social engineering attacks. Future data security incidents could compromise or lead to the loss of material confidential, proprietary or otherwise protected information, seize, destroy or corrupt data, or otherwise disrupt our operations or affect our customers or other stakeholders. Insider or employee cyber and security threats are also a significant concern for all companies, including ours. Despite our substantial investment in physical and technological security measures, employee training and contractual precautions, our information technology networks and infrastructure (or those of our third- party vendors and other service providers) are potentially vulnerable to unauthorized access to data, loss of access to systems or breaches of confidential information due to criminal conduct, attacks by hackers, employee or insider malfeasance or human error. Although we** have put in place security measures to protect ourselves against cyber- based attacks and disaster recovery plans for our critical systems **that are designed to protect our data and customer data and to prevent data loss and other security incidents, these security measures cannot provide absolute security. In some cases, it is difficult to anticipate, detect or identify indicators of such incidents and assess the damage caused by the incidents. In addition, a failure to promptly disclose such material incidents as required by law may result in additional financial or regulatory consequences** . If our information technology systems are breached, damaged, or cease to function properly due to any number of causes, such as catastrophic events, power outages, security ~~breaches~~ **incidents** , or cyber- based attacks, and if our **cyber security response plans and** disaster recovery **and our cyber incident response** plans do not effectively mitigate the risks on a timely basis, we may encounter significant disruptions that could interrupt our ability to manage our operations, cause loss of valuable data **,** and ~~actual~~ **damage** ~~or~~ **our** ~~threatened legal actions and cause~~ **reputation. Any such incidents also could subject** us to **government investigations** ~~suffer damage to our~~ - **or** ~~reputation~~ **private litigation** . These factors may adversely impact our revenues, operating results and financial condition. **We could also experience delays in reporting our financial results.**

The third- party data management providers and other vendors that we rely upon may have ~~For~~ - **or** ~~example, we reported~~ **develop security problems or security vulnerabilities which may also affect our systems or data. We cannot guarantee that** a ~~malware incident~~ **data security or privacy breach of their systems or other form of cyber- based attack will not occur in the future. In addition, we use external vendors to perform security assessments on a periodic basis to review and assess our information security. We utilize this information to audit ourselves, monitor the security of our technology infrastructure, and assess whether and how to prioritize the allocation of scarce resources to protect data and systems. However, we cannot ensure** that ~~occurred~~ **these security assessments and audits will identify or appropriately categorize relevant and contemporary risks or result in the protection of our computer networks against security intrusions. Although we require our third- party vendors contractually to maintain a level of security that is acceptable to us and work closely with key vendors to address potential and actual security concerns and attacks, we cannot ensure that all confidential, proprietary, or personal information will be protected on their systems. Regardless of whether incidents result** from **an attack** ~~October 2019 to December 2019, although this incident did not have a material impact~~ on **us directly** ~~our~~ - **or** ~~business. The~~ **on third- party vendors upon which we rely, the** costs to address the foregoing security problems and security vulnerabilities before or after a ~~cyber~~ **cybersecurity** incident could be significant. Remediation efforts may not be successful **or timely** and could result in interruptions, delays or cessation of service and loss of existing or potential customers that may impede our sales, manufacturing or other critical functions. Breaches of our security measures and the unapproved dissemination of proprietary information or sensitive or confidential data about us, our employees, our customers or other third parties could expose us, our employees, our customers or other affected third parties to a risk of loss or misuse of this information ~~, result in regulatory enforcement, litigation and potential liability for us, damage our brand and reputation or otherwise harm our business. We rely in certain limited capacities on third- party data management providers and other vendors whose possible security problems and security vulnerabilities may have similar effects on us~~ . Risks Related to Investment in Our Common Stock Volatility in the stock market, fluctuations in quarterly operating results and other factors could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. The market price for our common stock in the past has been, and in the future may continue to be, significantly affected by factors such as our announcement of new products or services or such announcements by our competitors; technological innovation by us, our competitors or other vendors; quarterly variations in our operating results or the operating results of our competitors; general conditions in our or our customers' markets; and changes in earnings estimates by analysts or reported results that vary materially from such estimates. In addition, the stock market has experienced significant price fluctuations that have affected the market prices of equity securities of many companies that have been unrelated to the operating performance of any individual company. We may not continue to pay dividends or to pay dividends at the same rate we have paid in our most recent fiscal quarters. ~~The~~ **Our** payment of dividends, as well as the amount of any dividends, is solely at the discretion of our Board of Directors. Future dividend payments, if any, also will be subject to our financial results and the availability of statutory surplus funds to pay dividends. These factors could result in a change to our current policy of paying dividends. Any failure by us to maintain effective control over financial reporting could result in loss of investor confidence and adversely impact our stock price. If we experience material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting and are unable to remediate such material weaknesses, or are otherwise unable to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting or our disclosure controls and procedures, our ability to record, process and report financial information accurately and to prepare financial statements within required time periods, could be adversely affected, which could subject us to litigation or investigations requiring management resources and payment of legal and other expenses, negatively affect investor confidence in our financial statements **,** and adversely impact our stock price. For example, we previously reported a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting, which we fully remediated in fiscal 2021, related to ineffective information technology ~~general~~ controls ~~(" ITGCs")~~ related to user access over certain information technology ~~(" IT")~~ systems.