

## **Utilization of vegetable raw materials in cosmetics**

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Since the end of the 80s consumers' and manufacturers' interest upon vegetable ingredients in cosmetics, in particular hydrolysed proteins, has been deeply increased.

This interest is firstly due to a major concern about animal and environmental care. Secondly, many studies confirmed good technical and cosmetic performances of vegetable proteins, comparable to traditionally used animal proteins, such as collagen and keratin.

In the first part of this essay, general characteristics of hydrolysed proteins in cosmetics are exposed. In particular cosmetic and functional performances of these ingredients and their utilization in the most common cosmetic products are described.

In the second part, the main features of the manufacturing process of vegetable hydrolysed proteins are shown. Basic characteristics of the raw materials and the key points of the process (different kinds of hydrolysis and product recovery) are discussed.

In the last part a case history of our company, the development and production of hydrolysed rice proteins, is shown to exemplify the matters exposed above.