

### **GLG LIFE TECH CORPORATION**

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### **ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM**

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

MARCH 31, 2015

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### **PRELIMINARY NOTES**

### **Currency and Exchange Rate**

Except where otherwise indicated, all references to currency in this Annual Information Form are to Canadian dollars.

# The noon rate of exchange on March 30, 2015, as quoted by the Bank of Canada for the conversion of one Canadian dollar into China Yuan Renminbi ("RMB") was 4.8294 RMB.

The following tables set forth the high closing and low closing exchange rates for one Canadian dollar expressed in RMB for the years 2012 to 2014, the average of such exchange rates during such periods, and the exchange rate at the end of such periods based upon the noon rate quoted by the Bank of Canada. Such rates are set forth as RMB per one Canadian dollar.

Year	High	Low	Average	End of Period
2014	5.3220	5.8411	5.5772	5.3505
2013	6.3251	5.6721	5.9701	5.6915
2012	6.1087	6.5147	6.3131	6.2617

# The noon rate of exchange on March 30, 2015 as quoted by the Bank of Canada for the conversion of one Canadian dollar into United States Dollars ("US\$" or "US dollar") was USD \$0.7881.

The following tables set forth the high closing and low closing exchange rates for one Canadian dollar expressed in US dollars for the years 2012 to 2014, the average of such exchange rates during such periods, and the exchange rate at the end of such periods based upon the noon rate quoted by the Bank of Canada. Such rates are set forth as US dollars per one Canadian dollar.

Year	High	Low	Average	End of Period
2014	0.8589	0.9422	0.9054	0.8620
2013	0.9348	1.0164	0.9710	0.9402
2012	0.9599	1.0299	1.0004	0.9949

### **Date of Information**

All information in this Annual Information Form is as of March 31, 2015, unless otherwise indicated.

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This Annual Information Form contains forward-looking statements and forward-looking information within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Such forward-looking statements or forward-looking information include, but are not limited to, statements with respect to:

- the market for stevia, Luo Han Guo, and our stevia- and Luo Han Guo-based products;
- our production capacity and availability of raw materials;
- our customers;
- legal and regulatory matters;
- currency fluctuations;
- trends and consumer preferences in connection with dietary and health products;
- competitors;
- requirements for additional capital;
- potential expansion; and

### general economic conditions.

Often, but not always, forward-looking statements and forward-looking information can be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "expects", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates", or "believes" or the negatives thereof or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved. With respect to forward-looking statements and information included in this Annual Information Form we have made numerous assumptions including, among other things, assumptions about consumer acceptance of stevia and Luo Han Guo, anticipated costs and expenditures and our ability to achieve our goals. While we consider these assumptions to be reasonable, the assumptions are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive and social uncertainties and contingencies. However, there are also known and unknown risk factors which could cause our actual results, performance, achievements or industry results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements and forward-looking information. Known factors include, among others, the following:

- operational risks;
- the effects of general economic conditions;
- changing foreign exchange rates;
- actions by government and other regulatory authorities;
- uncertainties associated with legal proceedings and negotiations;
- industry supply levels; and
- competitive pricing pressures.

Although we have attempted to identify factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements and forward-looking information, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. Forward-looking statements and forward-looking information are based upon management's beliefs, estimates and opinions at the time they are made and we undertake no obligation to update forward-looking statements and forward-looking information if these beliefs, estimates and opinions or circumstances should change, except as required by applicable law. There can be no assurance that forward-looking statements and forward-looking information will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements and information. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements and forward-looking information.

Specific reference is made to the risks described herein under the heading "*Risk Factors*" and to the MD&A incorporated by reference in this Annual Information Form for a discussion of these and other sources of factors underlying forward-looking statements. In light of these factors, the forward-looking events discussed in this Annual Information Form might not occur.

### **Industry and Market Data**

We have obtained the industry, market and competitive position data used throughout this Annual Information Form from industry journals and publications, data on websites maintained by private and public entities, including independent industry associations, general publications and other publicly available information. We believe that all of these sources are reliable, but we have not independently verified any of this information and cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. In particular, we have based much of our discussion of the sweetener industry, the market for alternative sweeteners such as stevia and luo han guo (monk fruit) and forecasted growth and demand, on information published by industry sources.

Industry publications and surveys generally state that they have obtained information from sources believed to be reliable, but do not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of such information. Further, because certain of these organizations are trade organizations, they may present information in a manner that is more favorable to the industry than would be presented by an independent source. In addition, forecasts are particularly likely to be inaccurate, especially over long periods of time.

References in this Annual Information Form to research reports or articles should not be construed as depicting the complete findings of the entire referenced report or article. The information in each report or article is not incorporated by reference into this Annual Information Form.

Any logos or other trademarks mentioned in this Annual Information Form are the property of their respective owners.

### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

The following is a glossary of certain terms used in this Annual Information Form:

"AHTD" means our wholly owned subsidiary Agricultural High Tech Developments Limited;

"Bengbu" means our wholly owned subsidiary Anhui Bengbu HN Stevia High Tech Development Company Limited;

"BlendSure<sup>TM</sup>", means our high purity line of proprietary blends of two of the sweetest glycosides, being rebaudioside A and stevioside;

"Canadian GAAP" means Canadian generally accepted accounting principles;

"Common Shares" means our common shares;

"**Exchange Act**" means the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the related rules and regulations;

"FDA" means the United Stated Food and Drug Administration;

"GLG", "we", "us", "our" or the "Company" means GLG Life Tech Corporation and its direct and indirect subsidiaries;

"GRAS" means generally regarded as safe, an FDA designation that a chemical or substance added to food is considered safe by experts, and is therefore exempted from the usual Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act food additive tolerance requirements;

"HFCS" means high fructose corn syrup;

"high-grade stevia extract" means high-grade stevia extract of rebaudioside A 80% purity or greater;

"high-grade Luo Han Guo extract" means extract from Luo Han Guo (also called monk fruit) containing at least 40% of Mogroside V (the most desirable sweetener component in Luo Han Guo);

"high intensity sweeteners" means sweeteners which provide a sweet taste but contain virtually no calories and do not have a nutritional role;

"JECFA" means the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives;

"MJDS" means the Multi-Jurisdictional Disclosure System adopted by the United States and Canada;

"MT or metric ton" means 1,000 kilograms;

"PFIC" means passive foreign investment corporation;

**"PRC"** or **"China"** means the People's Republic of China and for the purposes hereof, excluding the territory of Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong;

"RA" means Rebaudioside A, a glycoside that is extracted from stevia leaves for the purpose of its sweet taste;

"Reb A" means Rebaudioside A of 95% purity which has received GRAS status in the United States;

"rebiana" means Rebaudioside A of 97% purity which has received GRAS status in the United States;

"registered capital" refers to the total capital contribution that is registered with the relevant government agency;

"RMB" means the Renminbi, the lawful currency of China;

- "Runde" means our wholly owned subsidiary Qingdao Runde Biotechnology Co., Ltd.;
- "Runhai" means our wholly owned subsidiary Chuzhou Runhai Stevia High Tech Company Limited;
- "Runhao" means our wholly owned subsidiary Qingdao Runhao Stevia High Tech Company Limited;
- "Runyang" means our wholly owned subsidiary Dongtai Runyang Stevia High Tech Company Limited;
- "SAFE" means the PRC State Administration of Foreign Exchange;
- "SEC" means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission;
- "SEDAR" means the System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval in Canada which can be accessed at www.sedar.com;
- "STV" means Stevioside, a glycoside that is extracted from stevia leaves for the purpose of its sweet taste;
- "Tax Act" means the Income Tax Act (Canada);
- "TSX" means the Toronto Stock Exchange;
- "US GAAP" means accounting principles generally accepted in the United States; and
- "US Securities Act" means the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

### **CORPORATE STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS**

### Name and Corporate History

The Company was incorporated on June 5, 1998 as Cheng Tai Panoramic Mirror Inc., under the *Company Act* (British Columbia). On January 25, 1999, the Company amended its memorandum to increase its authorized capital to 100,000,000 common shares ("Common Shares") without par value. On March 1, 1999, the Company amended its articles to remove, in advance of the Company's initial public offering of Common Shares, restrictions on the issuance of securities and on share transfers. On June 18, 1999, the Company changed its name to Panoramic Mirrors Inc. and amended its memorandum accordingly.

On June 23, 2004, the Company filed a transition application to effect its transition under the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia) (the "BCA") and on July 9, 2004, the Company filed a notice of alteration to reflect the removal of the pre-existing company provisions and the adoption of new articles.

On June 16, 2005, the Company's authorized share structure was altered from 100,000,000 Common Shares to an unlimited number of Common Shares and the Company changed its name to GLG Life Tech Limited and amended its articles accordingly.

On March 14, 2007, the Company changed its name to GLG Life Tech Corporation and amended its notice of articles accordingly, and consolidated its issued share capital on the basis of three Common Shares of GLG Life Tech Limited for every one Common Share of GLG Life Tech Corporation.-On November 5, 2009, the Company consolidated its issued share capital on a four-to-one (4:1) basis.

On May 2, 2012, the British Columbia Securities Commission ("BCSC") imposed a Cease Trade Order ("CTO") on the Company's shares for failure to file its annual financial statements, its management discussion and analysis relating to its annual financial statements, its Annual Information Form and the CEO and CFO certifications (collectively, the "Required Documents") for the period ended December 31, 2011, beyond the prescribed deadline of March 30, 2012. Similar CTO's were imposed by the Ontario Securities Commission ("OSC") and the Manitoba Securities Commission ("MSC") on May 16, 2012, and July 9, 2012, respectively. On May 3, 2012, the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC) imposed a temporary suspension of trading in the shares of the Company. On August 15, 2012, the Company filed its Required Documents for the period ending December 31, 2011. The CTO was revoked on June 18, 2013 by the BCSC, on June 27, 2013 by the OSC and June 17, 2013 by the MSC. Trading resumed in the Company's shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on June 28, 2013.

### **Company Overview**

GLG is a vertically integrated producer of high-grade stevia extract, an all-natural sweetener extracted from the stevia plant, and high-grade monk fruit extract, an all-natural sweetener extracted from monk fruit (also known as Luo Han Guo). We also bring a third line of products, our Naturals+ line, which offers both functional ingredients complementary to the sweetener space as well as products tailored to meet particular market needs.

Through our vertically integrated business model, we specialize in the research and development, growing, refining, and production of these extracts for distribution to the global food and beverage industry. We have current production capacity of 1,500 metric tons of high-grade stevia extract of rebaudioside A 97% purity ("RA 97"), and production capacity of 130 metric tons annually of high-grade monk fruit extract. With corporate headquarters in Vancouver, British Columbia, and agricultural and processing assets in the People's Republic of China, we believe we are one of the world's leading producers of both stevia and Luo Han Guo. We have also leveraged our supplier network in China to offer ingredients and products complementary to these extracts.

Our registered office is located at 2900 - 550 Burrard Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6C 0A3 and our head office is located at Suite 2168 - 1050 West Pender Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 3S7. We own our material assets through eight subsidiaries. Figure 1 below sets out the place of incorporation or continuance of each of these subsidiaries.



Figure 1 – GLG Life Tech Corporation and its subsidiaries.

Agricultural High Tech Developments Limited ("AHTD") – AHTD was acquired by us on December 27, 2007. AHTD is a seed base operation possessing high quality proprietary technology and patent-pending stevia seeds which are currently used by Bengbu.

Anhui Bengbu HN Stevia High Tech Development Company Limited ("Bengbu") – Bengbu was established in November 2007 as a seed base and for our research and development operations in China. The seed base that was acquired from AHTD in December 2007 is part of the Bengbu subsidiary. Bengbu is a wholly-owned foreign enterprise under Chinese law.

Chuzhou Runhai Stevia High Tech Company Limited ("Runhai") – Runhai was established in September 2007 for the purpose of processing stevia leaf grown and harvested in the Mingguang region of China. The Runhai facility can process 18,000 metric tons per year of stevia leaf. A portion of the facility has been converted to process Luo Han Guo extract, and can produce 130 metric tons of Luo Han Guo annually. Runhai is a wholly-owned foreign enterprise under Chinese law.

Dongtai Runyang Stevia High Tech Company Limited ("Runyang") – Runyang was established in November 2007 for the purpose of processing stevia leaf grown and harvested in Dongtai, China. The Runyang facility can process 18,000 metric tons per year of stevia leaf. Runyang is a wholly-owned foreign enterprise under Chinese law.

GLG Life Tech US, Inc. ("GLG USA") – GLG USA was established in October 2009 to focus on direct sales and marketing opportunities for our products.

Qingdao Runde Biotechnology Company Limited ("Runde") – Runde was acquired by us on December 18, 2006. Its primary business is the processing of stevia leaf into different grades of stevia extract for sale to customers worldwide.

Qingdao Runhao Stevia High Tech Company Limited ("Runhao") – Runhao was established in May 2009 for the purpose of processing intermediate stevia extract into rebiana and other high grade stevia extract products. The first phase of its facility construction was completed in December 2009 and delivered 2,000 metric tons of high-grade stevia extract annual capacity or 1,000 MT of RA 97 annual capacity in its first phase of construction.

### Stevia Background

The stevia plant is indigenous to the rain forests of Paraguay and Brazil, and has been used as a sweetener in its raw, unprocessed form for hundreds of years. In recent years, it has been grown commercially in Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, parts of Central America, Thailand, China and the United States. The majority of global commercial stevia production occurs in China where growing conditions are highly favorable and labor costs support what has historically been a labor-intensive activity.

### **Stevia Regulatory Environment**

In May 2008, Cargill published studies in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Food and Chemical Toxicology that established the safety of rebiana. On May 15, 2008 Cargill submitted an application to the FDA in addition to scientific data that included years of study and clinical trials that supported the use of rebiana as a safe food ingredient. On December 17, 2008, the FDA stated that it had no objection to the conclusion of an independent expert panel which reviewed research on rebiana and Reb A and concluded that they were GRAS for use as general purpose sweeteners, including for use in food and beverages. This was a significant milestone in the stevia industry and has enabled food and beverage companies to use stevia products containing rebiana and Reb A in their products. Previously, stevia had only been permitted as a dietary supplement thereby limiting its market. Since that time, the Company has submitted filings and received eight Letters of No Objection from the FDA covering its Rebpure, PureSTV, BlendSure, Rebsweet, Rebaudioside C, and Rebaudioside M products as well as its Monk Fruit extracts. The Company has completed its GRAS work on high purity Rebaudioside D and is awaiting the FDA's final assessment.

In June 2008, the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (the "JECFA"), administered jointly by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, raised the acceptable daily intake level for stevia. JECFA is an international scientific committee that was established in 1956 to evaluate food additives and is widely recognized as the leading authority in risk assessment of food hazards. The committee has evaluated more than 1,500 food additives and established the main principles and guidelines of safety assessment for chemicals in foods. After over a decade of study, JECFA published its approval of stevia stating that "95 percent steviol glycosides are safe for human use in the range of four milligrams per kilogram of body weight per day". This doubled the average daily intake level previously set by JECFA from earlier studies.

In October 2008, the Australian and New Zealand food and safety regulatory body FSANZ also approved stevia for use in food and beverages as an ingredient. The approval was based on research and data published by JECFA as well as studies conducted by the Plant Science Group at Central Queensland University and Australian Stevia Mills.

In September 2009, the government of France approved RA 97 for use as an ingredient in food and beverages. This decision marked the first approval of RA 97 in the European Union.

In November 2011, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers formally adopted the regulation to allow the use of steviol glycosides in the EU. This decision by the EU Parliament and reinforced by their own European Food Safety Authority confirms the long standing position held by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) that steviol glycosides are safe for all populations to consume and that they are suitable as sweetening option for diabetics.

In October 2011, a panel within India's food safety regulator recommended the approval of stevia as a natural alternative to sugar for soft drink concentrates, chewing gums, and other food products. Approval is anticipated to occur in 2013.

In November 2012, Health Canada approved the use of stevia in food and beverages. Prior to this approval, stevia was available only within natural health product applications.

As of December 31, 2012, countries representing approximately 60% of global population had approved the use of stevia extracts in food and beverages, including China, the United States, Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Paraguay, Korea, Canada, Switzerland, Israel, Russia, South Africa and Turkey. We believe the petitions and subsequent approvals for the use of stevia in food and beverages in multiple markets around the world are part of a movement towards the development of healthier products in the food and beverage industry.

### Seed and Seedling R&D, Seed Base Operations

The leaf of the stevia plant contains compounds called glycosides, which taste sweet and do not contain calories. The glycosides in the stevia leaf are 30 times sweeter than sugar when in raw form and once refined can reach sweetness levels of 200-300 times that of sugar. The two major glycosides in stevia are Stevioside ("STV") and Rebaudioside A ("RA"). RA is the sweetest component of the stevia plant and is extracted from the leaves and then purified for use in food and beverages.

Our seed and seedling research and development efforts are designed for the continuous improvement of the RA yield and size of our stevia plants (larger plants means more RA per plant and greater leaf tonnage yield per acre). Additional activities include commercial plant development and commercial plot testing of new seed and seedling strains. We have invested heavily in intellectual property in the area of plant breeding. One of the patents granted in 2010, based on the work of GLG's stevia agricultural research and development team, led by Chief Agricultural Scientist Qibin Wang, relates to the proprietary breeding methodology of stevia plants that we have developed to protect our high-grade stevia plant strains. We have filed in several countries, including the US and Canada, for protection under the Patent Cooperation Treaty ("PCT") for this patent. This non-GMO hybridization process patent is a fundamental advantage for GLG's agricultural program and serves as the basis for all new stevia strain development.

Two of these patent-protected high-grade strains are the Huinong 2 ("H2") and Huinong 3 ("H3") stevia strains, which were developed through natural propagation and contain higher levels of rebaudioside A, the sweetest component of the stevia plant leaf and the primary glycoside used to meet market demand for stevia sweeteners. The GLG H2 and H3 strains contain 66% and 76% rebaudioside A levels in the raw plant leaf, respectively. The naturally bred strains are a significant achievement for the GLG team as the average stevia leaf on the global market contains a significantly lower percentage of rebaudioside A. Higher yields enable not only improved land and resource utilization, but also reduce the cost of production. Further, the two varieties are larger in plant mass, yielding in excess of 22% more leaf per acre. GLG planted both H2 and H3 leaf in 2011 and both seeds grew successfully. The H3 plants have approximately 76% RA in the plant leaf, which is 26% higher than the first generation (H1) seeds and will produce 46% more leaf per acre than the earlier H1 plants. See further below for additional advancements GLG has made with its recent development of additional superior strains.

As an additional form of intellectual property protection, we have succeeded in the production of seed and seedling strains that cannot be used to grow other plants with high RA yielding stevia leaf (second generation plants grown from the seeds of our high yielding plants will only produce common stevia leaf with an average RA yield). Each year, farmers must sign new contracts with us to receive the high quality seedlings for the ensuing year's planting season. Because the plant strains cannot be used to recreate our high content RA stevia leaf, we protect the genetic characteristics of our proprietary high quality and high yielding stevia plants and maintain control and security of our high quality leaf supply.

Our seed base operations are designed for the propagation and growth of proprietary high RA content seed and seedlings to ensure sufficient seeds and seedlings are available for planting each year. Through our seed base operation, we will continue to control the development of breeding programs designed to produce improved strains of stevia that we believe will result in continually higher RA yield in our stevia leaf. These seeds are used in our growing areas located in 10 growing regions in China that has achieved national diversification of our stevia growing regions in China.

Huinong Four ("H4") is on track to be commercially available for distribution as seed to its contract farmers in approximately one to two years. It is available in its seedling format as of 2013. The H4 proprietary strain results show a 16% increase in leaf yield over the H3 plants, while maintaining a similar 76% RA content. The H4 seeds

will play an important role, as parents, in the advancement of the Company's next generation of seeds The GLG Agricultural R&D team has also developed a new Huinong Five ("H5") plant strain in 2011, which has a seed capable of producing a high amount of stevioside (STV). We believe the H5 plant strain's STV content of approximately 70% makes it the highest STV seed available in the world today, with a leaf yield between the H2 and H3 strains. H5 will help GLG further reduce its production costs of its BlendSure<sup>TM</sup> line of products.

GLG's agricultural team built on these successes in a 2014, with two significant agricultural developments being announced. In early December, the Company announced that its non-GMO patented breeding methodology had produced a high-purity Reb C strain – its H6 strain (RebCGold strain). Historically, conventional stevia leaf has had Reb C concentrations of around 1%. GLG's RebCGold plant contains Reb C concentrations verging on 7%. And lab tests show that Reb C comprises 53% of the glycosides in the leaf, compared to values of 6% to 8% in other strains of stevia leaf – a 600% increase. Furthermore, this strain also has very high Reb A content. Reb C (53%) and Reb A (41%) alone constitute very near 95% of the total steviol glycosides ("TSG"), and the TSG levels are nearly 13% of leaf content, which is on the high end for stevia leaf in the market today.

The other significant announcement, also in December 2014, was the development of its "Super RA" stevia leaf strain. This strain has the potential of decreasing the cost of producing high-purity Reb A stevia extracts by 50% to 60%. It contains double the amount of Total Steviol Glycosides and nearly triple the amount of Reb A glycosides than contained in conventional stevia leaf on the market today. With such a large increase in Reb A glycoside content, producing one ton of either intermediate or high-purity extract will require far less stevia leaf – the predominant cost factor – than is presently required. Other costs of production will also be reduced correspondingly. In sum, compared to the overall costs of producing Reb A extracts using today's conventional stevia seedlings, GLG expects costs for the production of Reb A extracts to be significantly reduced.

### Sources, Pricing and Availability of Raw Materials

We purchase our stevia leaf directly from local farmers in China. In recent years, the purchase of stevia leaf in China has been a process involving many buyers in the fields negotiating with thousands of farmers. This method to acquire the thousands of metric tons of necessary leaf is costly, involving a bidding process which resulted in higher prices and, in many cases, a poorer and lower RA yielding leaf. Indeed, we observed exactly this happening with the prior harvest, as relatively low-quality leaf was bid up by market buyers.

GLG pioneered the stevia farm cooperative model and this greatly improved the expansion of stevia during the "boom" supply years of 2009 to 2011. With the glut of supply of stevia leaf and extract on the international market from 2012 through the first half of 2014, and the fact that stevia leaf was on a material decline from 2012 through 2014, there was no stevia extract supply issue until stocks from earlier years were fully depleted. 2014 was the first year where the large increase in stevia demand finally faced the reality of a significantly reduced stevia supply in China. China has accounted for an estimated 80% of world supply so the estimated 70% reduction in stevia agricultural land compared to its 2012 peak impacted the availability of stevia supply for the international market starting in the fourth quarter of 2014.

The industry now faces the inverse of the supply glut situation. This resulted in stevia leaf prices significantly increasing in 2014. Going forward, the Company is in a strong position to use its agriculture advantages to increase stevia agriculture in China with its farmer friendly seed technology to grow larger stevia plants. The seeds for the farmers are more cost efficient and easier to work with than seedlings and the GLG plants are significantly larger than other China stevia plants available (approximately 30% larger), producing significantly more biomass per acre than typical leaf, and our leaf contains a greater concentration of key steviol glycosides than typical leaf. These agriculture advantages for the farmer make it desirable to work with GLG's seed, and is one of our strongest advantages for sourcing raw materials. We have leveraged this reputation for quality seed and seedlings to build long-term relationships with farmers, thus helping to secure our supply of leaf and add a degree of insulation from the market bidding effects. Furthermore, the seeds must come from GLG as they are grown from GLG seed bases from the parent plants and harvested each year. Seeds taken from a GLG hybrid plant will not grow the same large plant with high RA content so each year the farmers need to purchase new seed from GLG. Given the low supply of leaf and the need to incent farmers back into the market, GLG offers advantages over the commonly available stevia seedlings to the farmer.

We also have relationships with local Chinese provincial and central government agencies, which have allowed us to secure favorable access in three of China's largest stevia growing areas. The Company, with the assistance of

our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Luke Zhang, has extensive relationships with government officials in various stevia-growing regions of China. And the Company in recent years has diversified its growing operations across 10 different Chinese provinces.

We believe that helping local farmers improve their quality of life through contracts to promote income stability, while at the same time providing us with high quality leaf by growing our seed and seedlings, will result in benefits for both GLG and farmers. Part of that strategy is to continually improve the quality of the stevia leaf planted in our growing areas through continued development and improvement of our own high quality seed and seedlings, which will only be offered to farmers working in our growing areas and under a contract.

The ability to exercise control over all aspects of our raw materials from the development of the high RA yielding seed, plants, planting, growth and harvest to final extraction is expected to result in a consistent, reliable quantity of high quality stevia leaf, at attractive prices. We also employ a recognized quality standard in our leaf purchases to ensure that the lowest content of moisture and foreign material are present in the raw stevia leaf purchased from farmers.

We are also continual to develop additional growing areas (now 10 in total) in China and experiment with our new strains to evaluate their adaptability in varying regions.

### **Extraction and Refining**

Our extraction and refining operations consist of two components: primary processing of stevia leaf into intermediate stevia extract; and secondary processing into final high-grade stevia extract products. All of our extraction and refining operations are located in China and we have four wholly owned subsidiaries in China that undertake the primary and secondary extraction and refining operations.

### **Primary Processing Operations**

Our primary processing operations involve the conversion of raw stevia leaf to intermediate-grade stevia extract (approximately RA 60 grade). This generally follows the following process: (i) stevia leaves are dried, crushed and extracted with water; (ii) the resin is washed with food grade ethanol to release the glycosides; and (iii) the glycosides are concentrated with an absorption resin, and dried to formulate the primary extract.

Primary processing operations are the more capital intensive of the two extract production processes. In order to meet our customer's requirements and expected market demand, we have invested in the construction of two new facilities to expand our manufacturing capabilities. Operations commenced in the first quarter of 2009 at our two facilities in Dongtai and Mingguang, which increased our total potential raw leaf processing capacity by 720% to 41,000 MT. The facilities each have capacity of 18,000 MT per year, adding to our prior capacity of 5,000 MT.

We received two key patents in 2010 in China to protect the intellectual property developed at our primary processing facilities involving water purification and stevia extract soaking technology.

In addition to primary processing capacity and warehousing, our facilities in Dongtai and Mingguang include a significant research and development facility, office buildings and supporting infrastructure (water treatment facilities, etc.).

### Secondary Processing and Refining of Stevia

We have current production capacity of 1,000 metric tons of high-grade stevia (RA 80) or 500 MT of rebiana (RA 97) at our Qingdao facility (Runde) and we have current production capacity of 2,000 MT of high-grade stevia (RA 80) or 1,000 MT of rebiana (RA 97) at our other Qingdao facility (Runhao). We own or have access to certain proprietary technology for producing high-grade stevia extract.

Secondary processing of intermediate stevia extract to final product generally follows two steps:

(a) the primary extract is dissolved in a water-ethanol solvent mixture and further processed by filtration, crystallization, and centrifugation steps; and

(b) the resulting preparation of crystals is rinsed with food grade ethanol and vacuum-dried to yield the final high-grade Rebaudioside A product.

In May 2009 we entered into a long term investment agreement with the Qingdao Export Refine Management Committee. Pursuant to this investment agreement, a total area of 215 acres of land will be made available to our subsidiary Runhao at a discount of approximately 80% from market values. The first phase of the development occupies 60 acres of land where a secondary processing facility with capacity of 2,000 metric tons of high-grade stevia (RA 80) or 1,000 metric tons of rebiana (RA 97) or 2,000 metric tons of BlendSure<sup>TM</sup> was constructed and started operations in December 2009. Our obligations under this investment agreement require us to invest an aggregate of US\$30 million in registered capital by January of 2011 and as of December 31, 2011 we had invested US\$30 million of registered capital to meet the investment agreement commitment.

Historically, stevia was not processed to a high extract purity level, and as a result suffered from aftertaste or bitterness, which some have described as a licorice-like taste. However, isolating the glycoside RA has decreased this aftertaste. Our stevia processing capabilities enable the extraction of highly purified Rebaudioside A up to RA purity levels of 99% (RA 99).

### **Our Growth Strategy**

Our mission is to become the world's leading producer of zero calorie natural sweeteners including high-grade stevia extracts and monk fruit extracts. We will achieve this through the complete vertical integration of these two supply chains.

Our key business objectives for our stevia business include:

- continuous development of our high-grade stevia supply chain as one of the world's leading suppliers of high-grade stevia extract;
- continuing implementation of international sales strategies including selling direct to large ingredient companies, flavor companies, co-manufacturers as well as selling direct to large end users of stevia extracts, and leveraging our expertise in formulation.
- maintaining low cost production of high-grade stevia extract through process innovation and vertical integration (from seed development to high-grade stevia production);
- continuing to pursue research and development that will further improve the quality and yield of stevia seeds and seedlings;
- developing our seed research, development and growth operations to ensure an increasing percentage of stevia leaf comes from the highest quality stevia seeds and seedlings;
- ensuring we have the capacity necessary to meet forecasted customer demand;
- working effectively with provincial and county governments in China to develop key stevia growing areas to increase the annual harvest of high quality stevia leaf; and
- focusing on being a leader in social responsibility practices in China by its environmental practices and its focus on improving the livelihood of the farmers in China.

Our key business objectives for our monk fruit business include:

- continuous development of our high-grade monk fruit supply chain as one of the world's leading suppliers of high-grade monk fruit extract;
- continuing to focus on developing our main multinational customer relationships to develop increased sales and take advantage of this growing market by adding additional customers through direct sales efforts.
- maintaining low cost production of high-grade monk fruit extract through process innovation and vertical integration (from seedling development to high-grade production);
- continuing to pursue research and development that will further improve the quality and yield of monk fruit seedlings;
- ensuring we have the capacity necessary to meet forecasted customer demand;
- working effectively with provincial and county governments in China to develop key monk fruit growing areas to increase the annual harvest of high quality monk fruit and
- focusing on being a leader in social responsibility practices in China through our environmental practices and our focus on improving the livelihood of the farmers in China.

Our key business objectives for our GLG Naturals+ business include:

- sourcing and supply of complementary natural ingredients that provide a natural health benefit or other functional benefit and are complementary to our core stevia and monk fruit products.
- development and marketing of unique formulated products involving our stevia, monk fruit and other natural ingredients. Examples include our recently launched Bakezerocal and Bevsweet products, which combine, stevia, monk fruit and erythritol.

### **Our Business Model**

We have pursued a strategy of vertical integration to achieve the following objectives:

- develop and control the highest quality seeds, seedlings and stevia leaf supply in the industry, and replicate this business model in the Luo Han Guo (monk fruit) industry;
- achieve low cost production (seed and seedling technology and extraction processing);
- exercise a high degree of control over supply chain to enable rapid scaling and quality of final product;
- maintain ability to innovate across all key components of the supply chain to further reduce costs and improve quality;
- build a strong customer base spanning the food and beverage industry including large ingredient companies, flavor houses, OEM manufacturer, and end-user food and beverage companies;
- continue to innovate in food and beverage product formulation with stevia and monk fruit , and
- leverage our existing strengths to diversify into complementary natural sweetener products through GLG Naturals+.

### Monk Fruit (Luo Han Guo)

On December 2, 2013, Health Canada added Luo Han Guo ("Monk Fruit" and "LHG") to its List of Permitted Sweeteners, joining with the United States where the first products received US FDA GRAS status in 2011. Luo Han Guo is a calorie free, low glycemic index natural sweetener that is a new product line of the Company. The Company recognizes the merits of this natural sweetener when used alone and more importantly in combination with stevia to offer options for zero or reduced calorie formulations.

On February 3, 2014, the Company filed a patent with the State Intellectual Property Bureau of the People's Republic of China for its proprietary process for extraction and production of high-purity Luo Han Guo (LHG) extracts as well as Luo Han Guo formulations used in food and beverage applications. The Company is in the process of filing for International Patent Protection under the Patent Cooperation Treaty for this patent.

The patent filing has two components. The first addresses GLG's proprietary industrial scale purification processes for LHG and the second addresses LHG formulations. Both components lever patented and proprietary techniques developed for purification and formulation of high purity stevia extract products. GLG expects that its proprietary LHG technology covered in this patent will result in higher yields of mogroside from the fruit and greater purity of extracts. The company is currently capable of producing LHG extracts up to 60% mogroside V purity and is working on 70 to 80% mogroside V extracts. These products are expected to be the highest available in the marketplace. Formulations in the patent cover a range of formulations including stevia/LHG blends.

During 2014, the Company established its fully integrated supply chain for Luo Han Guo including obtaining high quality LHG seedlings, contracting with LHG growers and storage facilities, and developing patent pending processing technology for high purity LHG extract and quality assurance/quality control processes. The Company also completed its conversion of a portion of its Runhai stevia processing facility to produce the extracts.

In July 2014, the Company announced that it had secured an approximately \$12 million contract with a global food company for the supply of Luo Han Guo. Once delivery of monk fruit product is completed under this contract, the Company expects to be one of the leaders in the industry after only 12 months of development of this new vertically integrated supply chain.

For GLG's inaugural Luo Han Guo harvest, it successfully worked with local farmers and was one of the top three purchasers of monk fruit in 2014, and the Company commenced production of its first commercial batches late in the fourth quarter of 2014. The Company completed production of that harvest in the first quarter of 2015, and expects to ship the product under the contract it signed in July 2014 during 2015..

On December 9, 2014, GLG announced that it received a Letter of No Objection from the US FDA for its GRAS filing, covering its high-purity Monk Fruit (Luo Han Guo) extracts.

### GLG Naturals+

In September 2013 the company launched GLG Naturals+. The GLG Naturals+ product line is focused on sourcing high-quality/low-cost natural and functional food ingredients from China through a unique certification program designed to address the concerns of international food and beverage companies. GLG's many years of experience in delivering food ingredients to leading multinational customers results in deep familiarity with international food safety standards and the need for transparency in supply chains. The China-based GLG Naturals+ Team leverages strong relationships to rate and certify every supplier that we represent under a supplier evaluation program.

The Supplier program elements are:

- Verified quality through independent testing
- Competitive pricing
- Confirmed capacity and consistent supply of ingredients
- Factory site audits and routine facility visits
- International customer service standards
- Recognized international certifications from reputable third parties
- Commitment to environmental and safety practices
- Verification of manufacturer's assets and financial credit checks.

Examples of products in the portfolio include: crystalline fructose, erythritol, inositol, inulin, and lycopene, all synergistic with the Company's current stevia and Luo Han Guo products. China's food ingredient market is currently worth US\$96 billion and exports continue to gain market share in global markets. The challenge for international food and beverage companies has been to perform the required due diligence to identify dependable suppliers without a local team on the ground. GLG Naturals+ provides them the comfort they require in sourcing ingredients by providing a localized procurement and quality assurance team in China at significantly reduced expense.

### Sales and Marketing

We sell our stevia and monk fruit extracts to both large end users in the food and beverage markets as well as large ingredient companies, flavor houses and co-manufacturers. Some of our customers purchase GLG's finished products and resell them to their customers as a natural sweetener product or incorporate them into their own proprietary products. Through both direct customer relationships and through large ingredient customers, flavor companies and co-manufacturer swe sell our extracts to many customers globally.

GLG's international sales team is based in Vancouver and is focused on supporting our customer relationships. GLG also has a sales team responsible for the China and other Asian markets based in China. This team targets end customers and provides regional distributor sales support.

### MARKET AND OUTLOOK

More than 75 countries (representing more than 60% of global population) have approved stevia for use. Driving the demand includes the 371 million people worldwide living with diabetes, the 600 million who are obese (World Health Organization 2015), and those looking for a non-GMO, naturally based sweetener as an alternative to use of sugar, high fructose corn syrup, or chemically based sweeteners.

In their 2012 Food & Health Survey, the International Food Information Council reported that:

- More than half of Americans (55%) report that they are trying to lose weight.
- Two-thirds of Americans report that they have given some thought to whether foods and beverages they purchase or consume are produced in a sustainable way.
- When making packaged food or beverage decisions over the past twelve months, many Americans (51%) say they are trying to limit or avoid sugars.

• Four in ten Americans acknowledge the role low-calorie sweeteners can play in weight management, and one-third agree that they can be part of an overall healthful diet.

While consumers are seeking to limit their consumption of sugar, at the same time they are turning away from artificial sweeteners. According to the Wall Street Journal, while diet soda's share of consumption grew to 31% of the soda market by 2010, in recent years sales have flattened and then declined. Sales of artificially sweetened zero- and low-calorie sodas dropped 6.8% in dollar terms in the 52 weeks through November 23, 2013. In a March 2013 survey by Mintel, 46% of consumers agreed that diet soda is "Unhealthy."

Zenith International estimated that worldwide sales of stevia will reach 4,670 tonnes in 2014, a 14% increase from the previous year. Overall market value was estimated at US\$336 million. Combined, it is estimated that more than 2,000 products worldwide now contain stevia, ranging from yogurt to energy bars (Mintel). Applications of stevia have been diverse. Global new product introductions break down to 36% snacks, 30% beverages, 12% sweeteners, 5% dairy, 4% sauces and seasonings, and 13% other (Mintel). Coca-Cola alone has thirty products among its brands using the product. Starbuck's Refresher drinks, sweetened with stevia, is a newer entrant in the \$8 billion energy drink market. Zevia brand soda is sold in over 10,000 locations. Vitaminwater Zero outsells the previous version (which had 10 calories) capturing sales of over \$100 million per year. Zenith expects that the global stevia market will reach 7,150 tonnes by 2017.

Cargill's stevia tabletop sweetener has become the second biggest seller in the \$2 billion market (AC Nielsen), taking the place of Sweet'n' Low (saccharin) with 8.2% of the market. Cumberland, Merisant and other major manufacturers are marketing stevia tabletop sweeteners. Cargill estimates that more than 50 million US households have purchased products sweetened with Stevia.

An emerging trend is for stevia to be combined with sugar to lower the caloric content. Tropicana 50 juice has captured over \$300 million in sales. Coca-Cola is selling low-calorie Nestea and Sprite in France. Pepsi introduced Pepsi NEXT (30% stevia content) in September of 2012, marking the first use of stevia in a main-line brand, and Coca-Cola's Sprite was reformulated to incorporate stevia as a sweetener in the UK in March of 2013. Sprite is Coca-Cola's fifth most popular brand in the UK. In February 2014, Coca-Cola announced that Coca-Cola Life, its low-calorie cola sweetened with a blend of stevia and sugar would be introduced into other markets following its successful introduction in Chile and Argentina, and has since launched it in five additional countries, including the US, with several more countries on tap in 2015. Pepsi has similarly expanded the scope of its Pepsi NEXT and Pepsi TRUE (US only) products to seven different countries.

World sugar prices have fallen some during late 2014 into early 2015, presentl in the range of \$350 to \$400 per tonne. There are a number of conflicting forecasts for sugar moving forward. The OECD-FAO expects sugar prices to remain at these levels through to 2020, down from the peaks experienced in 2011, but considerably higher when compared with the last decade. While higher sugar prices will usually facilitate food and beverage companies interest in stevia when it can offer not only a zero calorie natural sweetener benefit but also a lower relative cost, consumer behaviour indicates that the previously important link between sugar prices and the attractiveness of stevia is decoupling.

### **GLG's International Stevia Sales Business Outlook**

We sell our high-grade stevia extract directly to a number of customers (including large food/beverage companies, food ingredient companies, and flavor houses) internationally. Additionally, we have partnered with distributors that resell GLG's products in a number of markets globally.

GLG's international stevia business sales team is based in Vancouver and is focused on supporting our regional distributors as well as direct relationships with food and beverage companies. GLG's China and Asian stevia sales team is based in Shanghai and Qingdao. This team targets both end customers as well as providing regional distributor sales support.

For competitive reasons we do not identify our customers. Over the past two years, we have successfully diversified our direct customers to include both global and national companies with applications in the tabletop sweetener, pharmaceutical, dairy, flavor, carbonated and non-carbonated beverages, health supplement and functional food segments. We have also made direct sales to other stevia extract providers. GLG has also

expanded its product portfolio with new products including a line of application-specific proprietary blends to target additional customers.

In late 2010 and throughout 2011, attracted to the growth in stevia consumption, many small entrants and traders entered the market, leading to an expansion of supply in advance of customer demand and downward pressure on stevia extract pricing. We did not see this as sustainable for the stevia industry as the impact of traders was to push the price down in advance of real cost reductions. Stevia extract producers and farmers had losses as a result of the low industry pricing. As 2015 unfolds, we have seen market prices increase due to the shortages we had previously predicted.

We see four key components aiding us in increasing sales as we move forward. Firstly, the successful growing and harvest of GLG's proprietary H3 and H4 leaf varieties are expected to significantly decrease our cost of stevia extract production through the higher yield from these stevia plant varieties. Moreover, the advent of our new Super RA strain of leaf, while in limited implementation in 2015, is expected to even more dramatically reduce our cost of production, particularly when it is grown on a large scale in 2016.

The second key component is the increased level of due diligence being undertaken on stevia suppliers by key customers which includes demands for product traceability, consistent product quality and commitment to corporate social responsibility including environmental issues such as waste water management and labor issues such as valuing the agricultural work force through fair treatment of farmers. GLG has been able to demonstrate its integrated supply chain capabilities during numerous factory visits by large customers, as well as demonstrate its commitment to corporate social responsibility. Our seed to shelf vertical integration leads to stevia extract consistency from batch to batch, a competitive price and scalability of both our agricultural operations and our production operations. These are very important supply chain attributes that our customers look for when selecting a stevia supplier.

The third key component is our access to leaf and modern 100% owned primary and secondary processing facilities. We believe that stevia will become a mainstream component of food, and as the market grows, food and beverage manufacturers will require a safe, secure, and reliable source of supply.

The fourth key component is our agricultural advantage, not only with respect to the H3, H4, and Super RA leaf varieties referenced above, but also with respect to development of other varietals with increased levels of desirable and otherwise scarce glycosides. Our H6 strain, with high levels of Reb C, is one example, and we plan on marketing the extracts derived from this leaf as our Reb C Gold product.

### **GLG's International Luo Han Guo Sales Business Outlook**

GLG initiated its Luo Han Guo business in 2014 with an approximately US\$10 million contract with a global leader in the food ingredient industry. The Company aims to build on this success by doubling its fruit purchase plans for 2015, potentially increasing its sales to this one customer, and expanding into the Luo Han Guo market to service additional customers. The same strengths that have facilitated GLG's growth in stevia will be leveraged in our efforts to grow our share of the Luo Han Guo market.

### **COFCO and China Sugar Reserve Opportunity**

China's continued growth in GDP and expansion of its middle class has resulted in strong growth in China's food and beverage industry which in turn, has resulted in strong growth in domestic sugar demand. Domestic production of sugar has not been sufficient to meet the growing demand which has resulted in a shortfall of sugar supply. A partner company based in Xiaogang in Anhui province has built capacity to provide low calorie sugar which fulfills the Central Governments' objectives of insulating the domestic market from supply shocks, promoting healthier eating patterns, and providing a high-value cash crop for farmers. \$20 million in initial orders were delivered to this partner in 2010/2011.

In 2013 the Company signed a Letter of Intent ("LOI") with COFCO Nutrition and Health Research Institute Co Ltd.("COFCO NHRI"), a 100% owned subsidiary of China National Cereals, Oils, and Foodstuff Corporation ("COFCO"), for a strategic collaboration for the Chinese market. The LOI focuses on the two party's cooperation on the research and development of food and beverage products and on the development, marketing and sale of stevia extracts and formulated products to promote the development of the stevia industry, nutrition, and the healthy food industry in China.

COFCO is China's largest food company with worldwide sales of \$28 billion in 2012. Between 1949 and 1982, COFCO was the only importer/exporter of food from China and it remains the largest supplier of food, grain, sugar and other grocery products. Domestic production includes 4.65 MMT of sugar and 6.5 MMT dairy with a focus on R&D and innovation ability in consumer products. It continues to be one of the 50 SOE that report to the SASAC and offers dozens of brands through over 50,000 distributors. Direct partner COFCO Nutrition and Health Research Institute formed to create nutritious and healthy foods and serves as the central R&D facility for all COFCO group companies.

To date, there has been no commercial activity arising out of the LOI beyond work towards product formulations utilizing stevia with COFCO. There have not yet been any product roll-outs or sales coming from this collaboration with COFCO as of December 31, 2014.

### **Significant Acquisitions**

The Company did not complete any significant acquisitions during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

### Specialized Skill and Knowledge

The production of high grade stevia and Luo Han Guo by the Company's subsidiaries, Runhao, Runde, Runhai and Runyang, requires specialized skill and technical know-how; the Company currently employs a technically advanced and diversified management team and technical staff. In addition to proprietary technology licensed from third parties, GLG has developed and owns proprietary manufacturing technology to produce high quality stevia with extremely high RA readings that meet and/or exceed the quality requirements used in its customers' products, as well as high quality Luo Han Guo extracts. GLG has not yet patented this proprietary manufacturing technology though the Company may elect to do so at some point in the future. Currently, the Company relies upon confidentiality agreements that have been entered into between the Company and its personnel who have access to the proprietary information.

### New Products & Regulatory Approvals

In September 2010, the FDA issued a Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) Letter of No Objection (Filing No. GRN000329) for GLG's highest purity stevia extract Rebpure<sup>™</sup> (RA97). Exceeding a total steviol glycosides reading of 95%, BlendSure<sup>™</sup> also meets the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) international standard for stevia extracts.

In July 2010, the Company formally launched BlendSure<sup>TM</sup>, a high purity line of proprietary blends of two of the sweetest glycosides, rebaudioside A and stevioside to create a market-changing product. GLG developed BlendSure<sup>TM</sup> to provide food and beverage companies and consumers a natural sweetener with zero calories, zero carbohydrates, and a zero glycemic index, at a price point that is comparable and competitive to sugar. The product can be used both in food and beverages, and as a tabletop sweetener, in order to reduce calories and provide a great tasting, stable sweetening system that offers flexibility and scope in formulation. BlendSure<sup>TM</sup> may also be combined with other natural sweeteners such as sugar.

BlendSure<sup>TM</sup> met all of the requirements for self-affirmed GRAS (generally recognized as safe) and the Company has received a Letter of No Objection (Filing No. GRN00349) for BlendSure issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in July 2011. BlendSure<sup>TM</sup> underwent and passed a rigorous safety review performed by GRAS Associates, whose panel of scientific experts specializes in the technical and regulatory aspects of obtaining and defending GRAS status for the food, supplement, and chemical industries in order to confirm the product meets the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) safety criteria. The GRAS process is a legal and FDAapproved process that allows companies to conduct their own GRAS determinations by consulting with an independent panel of scientists to determine if an ingredient meets the FDA's criteria for safety.

In addition to the GRAS Letter of No Objection issued by the FDA for Blendsure in July 2011, the FDA further issued a GRAS Letter of No Objection (Filing No. GRN00348) for PureSTV<sup>™</sup>. PureSTV contains greater than 95% steviol glycosides, meeting the JECFA international standard for stevia extracts. In December 2011, the FDA issued a fourth GRAS Letter of No Objection (Filing No. GRN00080) to GLG for its Rebpure<sup>™</sup> RA95 high-purity extract, which contains greater than 95% RA and 97% steviol glycosides.

GLG undertook a large amount of work in GRAS filings for its new products in 2014. The Company made four new GRAS filings in 2014 with the FDA. The Company received GRAS Letters of No Objection for its Rebsweet<sup>™</sup> and AnySweetPLUS<sup>™</sup> stevia extract products (Filing No. GRN00493), its high-purity Rebaudioside M stevia extract (Filing No. GRN00512), and its high-grade Luo Han Guo extracts (Filing No. GRN00522). In February 2015, the Company also received a GRAS Letter of No Objection for its high-purity Reb C stevia extracts (Filing No. GRN00536).

Regarding its entry into the Monk Fruit market, GLG launched its new monk fruit extract products under the trade names MonkGold<sup>TM</sup> (Mogroside V purities 40% and higher) and MonkSweet<sup>TM</sup> (Mogroside V purities under 40%). As noted above, these products have achieved GRAS status pursuant to the FDA's GRAS program. GLG also completed the establishment of its integrated supply chain and production capabilities for Monkk fruit (Luo Han Guo) in 2014.

In February 2015, the Company announced two new products specifically formulated for two industry applications. BakeZeroCal<sup>TM</sup>, for the baking industry, provides significant calorie reduction while also providing the bulking and browning attributes commonly desired by bakers and consumers alike. BevSweet<sup>TM</sup>, for the beverage industry, allows food and beverage companies to reduce calories and naturally sweeten their products with decreased formulation time and with no solubility issues. Each product is a special blend providing an improved taste profile, including a well-rounded sucrose-like sweetness, and ease of use. BakeZeroCal and BevSweet will enable companies to formulate new products and reformulate existing products with less complexity and lower cost.

In 2014, the Company implemented its GLG Naturals+ strategy, with limited sales in 2014, and with sales contracts that are expected to lead to higher revenues from this business line in 2015. Please see "GLG Naturals+ in the Corporate Structure and Development of the Business section.

### **Intellectual Property**

Our ability to compete effectively is dependent upon our ability to protect the proprietary nature of the seeds, seedlings, processes, technologies and materials owned by, used by, or licensed to us or our subsidiaries. However, our intellectual property related to the production of stevia includes proprietary process technology for the manufacture of high-grade stevia that is not fully covered by patents or other intellectual property protection in Canada, the US or China. In such cases, we rely on a combination of patents, trademarks, trade secret law and contracts with certain key personnel to protect our intellectual property rights. See "*Risk Factors*".

One of the patents granted in 2010 relates to the proprietary breeding methodology of stevia plants that we have developed to protect our high-grade stevia plant strains. As an additional form of intellectual property protection, we have succeeded in the production of seed and seedling strains that cannot be used to grow other plants with high RA yielding stevia leaf (second generation plants grown from the seeds of our high yielding plants will only produce common stevia leaf with an average RA yield). Each year, farmers must sign new contracts with us to receive the high quality seedlings for the ensuing year's planting season. Because the plant strains cannot be used to recreate our high content RA stevia leaf, we protect the genetic characteristics of our proprietary high quality and high yielding stevia plants and maintain control and security of our high quality leaf supply.

This patent was acquired through our acquisition of AHTD on December 27, 2007. The patent application is registered in the name of Mr. Wang Qibin, a former shareholder of AHTD and our Vice President of Agriculture in China. The patent was formally assigned by Mr. Wang to AHTD on July 8, 2007, prior to our acquisition of AHTD, and has since been further protected through filings in several countries under the Patent Cooperation Treaty ("PCT"). This work has produced patent-protected stevia strains, developed by GLG's stevia agricultural research and development team, led by Chief Agricultural Scientist Qibin Wang, for two significantly competitive stevia plant strains, Huinong 2 ("H2) and Huinong 3 ("H3"), which the GLG team developed through natural propagation. The two strains contain higher levels of rebaudioside A, the sweetest component of the stevia plant leaf and the primary glycoside used to meet market demand for stevia sweeteners.

The GLG H2 and H3 strains contain 66% and 76% rebaudioside A levels in the raw plant leaf, respectively. The naturally bred strains were a significant achievement for the GLG team as the average stevia leaf on the global market contains a significantly lower percentage of rebaudioside A. Higher yields enable not only improved land and resource utilization, but also reduce the cost of production. Further, the two varieties are larger in plant mass,

yielding in excess of 22% more leaf per acre. GLG planted both H2 and H3 leaf in 2011 and both seeds grew successfully in 2011, and it has continued to grow successfully since that time

In 2010, our previously filed patent application for a stevia leaf processing extraction device was granted full patent protection as well as its specially designed waste water treatment technology has also been granted full patent protection by the State Intellectual Property Bureau of the People's Republic of China. The stevia leaf processing extraction device is innovative technology that reduces, by approximately 30%, both the amount of water used in the soaking step of the extraction process as well as the cycle time required to complete this step. The waste water treatment system is a complex system that removes impurities in the water and cleanses it to a higher purity than when sourced before returning it to the environment. These technologies form a key part of GLG's ongoing efforts to utilize environmentally sustainable and socially responsible business solutions.

In 2010 and 2011, the Company filed a number of patent applications in China, both for the separation methodologies of rebaudioside B, rebaudioside C, rebaudioside D and steviolbioside, and for formulations involving various glycosides and other compounds; these were accepted by the State Intellectual Property Bureau of the People's Republic of China and GLG has since filed for PCT protection in a number of countries. These extraction technologies and formulations, designed by the Company's research and development experts, are part of an ongoing effort to improve the taste and quality of its stevia extract products and to continually improve processing efficiencies. The PCT filing regime provides GLG with the ability to capture extensive worldwide patent filings for these key proprietary technologies and formulations.

Five patent applications were approved by the State Intellectual Property Office in China in 2010. These patents relate to our stevia breeding and processing technologies. In late 2011 and early 2012, we filed PCT International Patent Applications which claimed priority back to the previously submitted patent applications in China in the fields of agriculture, stevia extraction and stevia blends formulation.

We are also in the process of applying for trademark protection for our branded stevia products and have filed numerous trademark applications in the North American and European markets. In addition, we have filed for the protection of our logo mark and our corporate name "GLG Life Tech" in both the United States and Canada. All applications are in various stages of the registration process and there can be no guarantee that registration will occur.

In addition, we have entered into an agreement with International Biotechnology Group Ltd. ("International Biotechnology") which provides for the license to us of certain technology used to manufacture stevia products refined to the RA 97 level. Pursuant to the terms of the license agreement, we have a license to use this technology for a five year term. As consideration for entering into the license agreement, International Biotechnology received 250,000 Common Shares as well as a basic royalty payable in connection with RA97 and STV 97 products produced at our Runhao facility starting in year two of the five year term of the license. Following the five year term, the technology will be transferred to us and the obligation to pay a royalty to International Biotechnology will terminate.

In May 2014, the Company filed a patent with the State Intellectual Property Bureau of the People's Republic of China for its proprietary process for extraction and production of high purity Luo Han Guo (LHG) extracts as well as Luo Han Guo formulations used in food and beverage applications. The Company is seeking International Patent Protection under the Patent Cooperation Treaty for this patent. The patent filing has two components, the first addresses GLG's proprietary industrial scale purification processes for LHG and the second addresses LHG formulations. Both components lever our patented and proprietary techniques developed for purification and formulating high purity stevia extract products. GLG expects that its proprietary LHG technology covered in this patent will result in higher yields of mogroside from the fruit and greater purity of extracts. The company is currently capable of producing LHG extracts up to 60% mogroside V purity and is working on 70 to 80% mogroside V extracts. These products are expected to be the highest available in the marketplace. Formulations in the patent cover a range of formulations including stevia/LHG blends.

In November 2014, the Company filed for patent protection for sweetener blends involving Rebaudioside A, Rebaudioside C, Rebaudioside D, and at least one other non-steviol sweetener. In December 2014 and January 2015, respectively, we filed for patents covering our latest agricultural advances – our SuperRA and RebCGold stevia strains. See the "Seed and Seedling R&D, Seed Base Operations" section above.

The Company expects that it will continue to file patent, including PCT, and trademark applications on an ongoing basis to protect its intellectual property.

### Seasonal or Cyclical Business

The stevia manufacturing business is seasonal only to the extent that the leaf for the next year needs to be purchased, or funds for the purchase of stevia leaf confirmed available, in June of a given year with harvest taking place during late July and August. The processing operations can therefore slow down significantly before a new harvest is completed during the months of July and August each year. See "*Sources, Pricing and Availability of Raw Materials*" Similar to almost all companies with operations in China, activity is substantially reduced during the Chinese New Year celebrations in Q1.

### **Financial and Operational Effects of Environmental Protection**

The Company carefully adheres to environmental requirements and the cost of such adherence is factored into the manufacturing costs. The Company does not foresee any increases in compliance that cannot be offset with an increase in the sale price which will allow existing margins to continue.

There are no environmental protection requirements affecting the other segments of the Company's business.

### Employees

As at December 31, 2014, the Company employed 293 people.

### **Foreign Operations**

The Company conducts business internationally and in particular in China where the Company's production of stevia is centered. International operations are subject to a number of special risks, including currency exchange rate fluctuations, trade barriers, exchange controls, national and regional labour strikes, political risks and risks of increases in duties, taxes and governmental royalties, as well as changes in laws and policies governing operations of foreign based companies, including subsidiaries of the Company. See "*Risk Factors*".

### Competition

We are a leading producer in the high-grade stevia market and currently benefit from several competitive advantages. There are different levels of players in the stevia industry, ranging from fully vertically-integrated, to partially-integrated (primary or secondary processing only), to distributors or brokers. We believe that the players who are fully vertically-integrated with agriculture are more likely to be longer term participants. In terms of production capacity, GLG is the largest of the approximately 10 to 12 companies within China with stevia refining and extraction capabilities. There are also stevia processors based in Japan, Korea, Malaysia, South America and the US that are capable of producing high-grade stevia extract. We estimate that the manufacturing costs to produce high-grade stevia in these countries are significantly higher than the cost of producing the same product in China due to factors such as: (i) proximity of our manufacturing operations to stevia growing areas in China where the majority of the world's stevia leaf is grown; and (ii) lower manufacturing wages in China as compared to these other countries.

Publically traded stevia companies generally have posted losses in the 2012, 2013, and 2014 calendar years. We believe that our lower costs, combined with our current processing capabilities, provide us with a competitive advantage, as does our Corporate Social Responsibility commitment, which includes supply chain traceability, which is becoming increasingly important to Food and Beverage companies. Through our partnerships with local Chinese governments, as well as our proprietary seeds, we expect to control a large percentage of the high quality stevia seeds and leaf grown in China. Leaf supply is one of the most important components of our business. Major global companies are expected to enter the market as demand for stevia grows, but we believe it will take competitors several years to reach our current stage of development. As an example, the seedling development process takes several years and is only the first phase of the vertically integrated process for developing a high quality finished product.

Other market participants include Sweet Green Fields, a supplier of stevia extract based in the US; Blue California, an ingredient company based in Southern California with extraction operations in China; Sunwin Stevia International, which sells wholesale to customers in Asia and in the US under the brand name OnlySweet; Cargill, an international producer and marketer of food and agricultural products that launched the TRUVIA tabletop stevia brand; and PureCircle, a supplier of stevia based in Malaysia for the Pure Via<sup>®</sup> tabletop stevia brand developed jointly by Merisant Company and PepsiCo. Ingredion Incorporated entered into a long-term agreement with Morita Kagaku Kogyo Co., Ltd. of Japan for access to its strain of stevia. Morita has been growing stevia in Brazil since 2007 and marketing a high-grade RA product called Enliten.

The main challenge in the adoption of stevia by food and beverage companies has been the difficulties that they have experienced in formulating with stevia to develop a good tasting product. Improvements in extraction technology and advancements in understanding of stevia formulation have enabled launches of products that have overcome the aftertaste issues.

With respect to Luo Han Guo extract, which is produced only in China, we believe we have the greatest production capacity of any of the other Luo Han Guo companies at 130 metric tons of MV 50 extract per year. While smaller companies exist, the market is predominated by two companies in addition to GLG - Guilin Layn and BioVittoria. While these two companies have a longer history in Luo Han Guo, GLG's production capacity and agricultural expertise developed in the stevia industry can be leveraged to accelerate GLG's competitive position with respect to both companies.

Monk fruit (Luo Han Guo) is highly desirable for its sweet taste profile, either on its own or as part of blended formulations with stevia or other ingredients. Its adoption has been slower than stevia due to the higher cost of producing the extract, due almost entirely to the relatively high cost of Luo Han Guo fruit.

### RISKS RELATING TO GLG LIFE TECH CORPORATION AND ITS COMMON SHARES

### Our Common Shares may experience price and volume fluctuations.

In recent years, the global securities markets have experienced a high level of price and volume volatility, and the market price of securities of many companies has experienced wide fluctuations which have not necessarily been related to the operating performance, underlying asset values or prospects of such companies.

Our Common Share trading price could be subject to significant fluctuations in response to numerous factors, including: reports of new information; changes in our financial situation; the sale of our Common Shares in the market; the addition or loss of customers; our failure to achieve financial results in line with the expectations of analysts or our published financial guidance; conditions or trends in our industry; additions or departures of key personnel and other events or factors, many of which may be beyond our control. As of December 31, 2014, the 52-week trading price of our Common Shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange ranged from a low of \$0.16 to a high of \$0.69. See "*Market for Securities*". There is no guarantee that the market price of the Common Shares will not be subject to any such fluctuations in the future.

In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, shareholders have often instituted class action securities litigation against those companies. Such litigation, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs and diversion of our management's attention and resources, which could significantly harm our profitability and reputation. The Company is currently subject to shareholder lawsuits in Canada. See *"Legal Proceedings"*.

### Our actual financial results may vary from our publicly disclosed forecasts.

Our actual financial results may vary from our publicly disclosed forecasts and these variations could be material and adverse. We periodically provide guidance on future financial results. Our forecasts reflect numerous assumptions concerning our expected performance, as well as other factors, which are beyond our control and which may not turn out to be correct. Although we believe that the assumptions underlying our guidance and other forward-looking statements were and are reasonable when we make such statements, actual results could be materially different. Our financial results are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, including those identified throughout these risk factors. If our actual results vary from our announced guidance, the price of our Common Shares may decline, and such a decline could be substantial. We do not undertake to update any guidance or other forward-looking information we may provide.

### We do not expect to pay dividends on the Common Shares in the foreseeable future.

We have never paid cash dividends on our Common Shares. We currently intend to retain our future earnings, if any, to fund the development and growth of our business, and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on the Common Shares for the foreseeable future. If we were to decide to pay dividends, foreign exchange and other regulations in China may restrict our ability to distribute retained earnings from China or convert those payments from RMB into foreign currencies. See "*Dividend Policy*". As a result, the return on investment in the Common Shares will likely depend upon any future appreciation in their value. There is no guarantee that the Common Shares will appreciate in value or even maintain the price at which shareholders have purchased their shares.

# The availability of new Common Shares for sale, or future sales of a substantial number of our Common Shares, could materially adversely affect the market price of our Common Shares.

Sales of substantial amounts of our securities, or the availability of such securities for sale, could adversely affect the prevailing market prices for our securities. A decline in the market prices of our securities could impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of securities should we desire to do so.

# If we are characterized as a passive foreign investment corporation ("PFIC"), US Holders may be subject to adverse United States federal income tax consequences.

We must make an annual determination as to whether we are a PFIC based on the types of income we earn and the types and value of our assets from time to time, all of which are subject to change. Based in part on current operations and financial projections, we do not expect to be a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes for our current taxable year or in the foreseeable future. However, there can be no assurance that we will not be a PFIC for our current taxable year or any future taxable year. A non-United States corporation generally will be considered a PFIC for any taxable year if either (1) at least 75% of its gross income is passive income or (2) at least 50% of the value of its assets (based on an average of the quarterly values of the assets during a taxable year) is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income. The market value of our assets may be determined in large part by the market price of our Common Shares, which is likely to fluctuate. If we were to be treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold Common Shares, certain adverse United States federal income tax consequences could apply to US Holders.

### As a foreign private issuer, we are subject to different United States securities laws and rules than a domestic United States issuer, which may limit the information publicly available to our shareholders.

We are a foreign private issuer under applicable United States federal securities laws and, therefore, we are not required to comply with all the periodic disclosure and current reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. As a result, we do not file the same reports that a United States domestic issuer would file with the SEC, although we will be required to file or furnish the SEC with the continuous disclosure documents that we are required to file in Canada under Canadian securities laws. In addition, our officers, directors, and principal shareholders are exempt from the reporting and "short swing" profit recovery provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act. Therefore, our shareholders may not know on as timely a basis when our officers, directors and principal shareholders purchase or sell our Common Shares, as the reporting periods under the corresponding Canadian insider reporting requirements are longer. In addition, as a foreign private issuer we are exempt from the proxy solicitation rules under the Exchange Act.

### Certain Canadian laws could delay or deter a change of control.

The *Investment Canada Act* (Canada) subjects an acquisition of control of GLG by a non-Canadian to government review if the value of our assets as calculated pursuant to the legislation exceeds a threshold amount. A reviewable acquisition may not proceed unless the relevant Minister is satisfied that the investment is likely to be a net benefit to Canada. This could prevent or delay a change of control and may eliminate or limit strategic opportunities for shareholders to sell their Common Shares.

### **Risks Relating to GLG Life Tech Corporation and Our Business**

# If we are unable to acquire sufficient raw materials or produce sufficient finished product, we will not be able to meet the demands of our customers.

We currently must acquire sufficient stevia leaf so that we can meet the demands of our customers. A stevia leaf shortage could result in loss of sales and damage to our reputation. While the risks of a Luo Han Guo shortage appear less likely, the same concerns hold true.

If we and our subsidiaries become unable to produce the required commercial quantities of high-grade stevia extract on a timely basis and at commercially reasonable prices, and are unable to find one or more replacement manufacturers with the necessary expertise, regulatory approvals and facilities capable of production at a substantially equivalent cost, in substantially equivalent volumes and quality, and on a timely basis, we will likely be unable to meet customer demand. In addition, we have entered into agreements that provide for fixed price and quantity commitments. If there were a raw material shortage and we were unable to deliver the committed quantity under these purchase orders, we could be responsible for any amount paid by such customers to third parties, above what the customer would have paid if we were able to deliver their order at the agreed price.

# The loss of key employees or the failure to attract qualified personnel could have a material adverse effect on our ability to run our business.

The loss of any of our or our subsidiaries' current executives, key employees, or key advisors, and in particular, Dr. Luke Zhang, or the failure to attract, integrate, motivate, and retain additional key employees could have a material adverse effect on our business. We do not have "key person" insurance on the lives of any of our management team. Also, as we develop additional capabilities we may require more skilled personnel. These personnel must be highly skilled and have a sound understanding of our industry, business or technology. Recruiting personnel is highly competitive. Although to date we have been successful in recruiting and retaining qualified personnel, there can be no assurance that we will continue to attract and retain the personnel needed for our business. The failure to attract or retain qualified personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business.

# We do not have a history of consistent profitability and our ability to achieve consistent profitability in the future is subject to uncertainty.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, we had a net loss after income taxes and non-controlling interests of \$32.6 million compared to a net loss for fiscal 2013 of \$26.4 million. Our revenue increased to \$20.0 million in 2014 compared with \$16.0 million in 2013.

Our ability to achieve consistent profitability is subject to uncertainty due to the nature of our business and the markets in which we operate. In particular, our revenues and operating results may fluctuate significantly in the future because of the following factors:

- volatility in the price we must pay for stevia and Luo Han Guo, as well as the stevia leaf quality, all of which vary from period to period;
- the price per kilogram for which we are able to sell our stevia extract;
- our ability to manage personnel, overhead and other expenses;
- our ability to effectively manage our capacity utilization;
- our water and power consumption, and the prevailing prices for water and power; and
- consumer acceptance of stevia and stevia-related products, and Luo Han Guorelated products, in China, the United States and other key markets.

# If we fail to increase our production and manufacturing capacity, we will be unable to continue to grow and our ability to produce new products, expand within our existing markets and enter into new markets will be limited.

Global growth and demand for our products has increased the utilization of our production and manufacturing facilities. If we are unable to successfully expand our production and manufacturing capacity, we will be unable to

continue our growth and expand within our existing markets or enter into additional geographic markets or new product categories. In addition, failure to successfully expand our production and manufacturing capacity will limit our ability to introduce and distribute new products, or otherwise take advantage of opportunities in new and existing markets. Further, increasing our production and manufacturing facilities requires significant investment and build times. Delays in increasing capacity could also limit our ability to continue our growth and materially adversely affect our business.

# Any ill effects, product liability claims, recalls, adverse publicity or negative public perception regarding our products or the food and beverage industry in general could harm our sales and cause consumers to avoid our products.

As a manufacturer and distributor of products designed for human consumption, the Company could be subject to product liability claims if the use of its products is alleged to have resulted in injury. In addition, although the Company and the Company's manufacturers maintain quality controls and procedures with respect to products that the Company sells, these products could contain contaminated substances. The Company currently has not obtained indemnities from its raw material and product suppliers. The Company does carry liability insurance to cover product recalls and worldwide product liabilities. Such insurance, however, may not be available in the future at a reasonable cost, on favourable terms, or at all, and may not be adequate to cover liabilities.

# We rely extensively on third-party distributors, which could affect our ability to efficiently and profitably distribute and market our products, maintain our existing markets and expand our business into other geographic markets.

We will rely extensively on third-party distributors for the sale and distribution of our products. We plan to sell our products through an extensive nationwide sales and distribution network in China. To the extent that our distributors are distracted from selling our products or do not expend sufficient efforts in managing and selling our products, our sales will be adversely affected. Our ability to maintain our distribution network and attract additional distributors will depend on a number of factors, many of which are outside of our control. Some of these factors include: (i) the level of demand for our brand and products in a particular distribution area; (ii) our ability to price our products at levels competitive with those offered by competing products and (iii) our ability to deliver products in the quantity and at the time ordered by distributors.

# We have limited financial resources. We had negative operating cash flow for the year ended December 31, 2014. If we are unable to raise additional capital, we may be unable to complete the planned expansion of our business on our preferred timeline.

We have limited financial resources and had negative operating cash flow for the year ended December 31, 2014. Because of our negative cash flow from continued operations, our reliance on external sources of funding, and our cumulative deficit, we have noted in our audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, and for prior periods, that there is uncertainty about our ability to continue as a going concern.

We will continue to utilize some of our available lines of credit in China and seek to renew such loans on maturity and there can be no assurance that we will continue to have access to these short term loans and if we are unable to find additional funding sources, we may be unable to complete the planned expansion of our business on our preferred timeline.

We may require additional funds in order to continue to develop our manufacturing capacity and fund our planned expansion on our preferred timeline. Additional funding may not be available on terms that are acceptable to us, or at all, or may require the issuance of additional Common Shares or other securities which would dilute our current investors. Our future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including:

- costs of manufacturing and supply;
- revenues from the sale of stevia and Luo Han Guo; and
- our ability to obtain revolving debt facilities for stevia leaf and/or Luo Han Guo purchases

# We are heavily reliant on the production and distribution of stevia, Luo Han Guo, and related products. If they do not achieve sufficient market acceptance, it will be difficult for us to achieve consistent profitability.

A large portion of our revenue is derived from the sales of stevia and stevia related products, and we expect that stevia and stevia related products, along with Luo Han Guo and Luo Han Guo-related products, will continue to account for a large portion of our revenue for the foreseeable future. If the non-nutritive sweetener market declines or stevia or Luo Han Guo fails to achieve substantially greater market acceptance than it currently enjoys, we will not be able to grow our revenues sufficiently for us to achieve consistent profitability.

Even if products to be distributed by us conform to international safety and quality standards, sales could be adversely affected if consumers in target markets lose confidence in the safety, efficacy, and quality of stevia or Luo Han Guo. Adverse publicity about stevia, Luo Han Guo, or stevia- or Luo Han Guo-based products that we sell may discourage consumers from buying products distributed by us.

### We may not be able to manage our expansion of operations effectively.

We expect to continue to expand our business to meet the expected growth in demand for stevia, as well as Luo Han Guo. If we are unable to manage our growth effectively, we may not be able to take advantage of market opportunities, execute our business strategies or respond to competitive pressures and we may have difficulties maintaining and updating the internal procedures and the controls necessary to meet the planned expansion of our overall business.

Our management will also be required to maintain and expand our relationships with customers, suppliers and third parties as well as attract new customers and suppliers. We expect that our sales and marketing costs will increase as we grow our product lines and as we increase our sales efforts in new and existing markets.

There is no assurance that our current and planned operations, personnel, systems, and internal procedures and controls will be adequate to support our future growth. We expect that our general and administrative costs will increase as our operations grow to meet existing sales orders for our products and for future growth as we increase our sales efforts in new and existing markets.

# Our raw material supply has a finite life and could potentially be subject to natural disasters and adverse weather conditions. Any shortage of stevia leaf or any increase in the price we pay for stevia leaf, and similarly for Luo Han Guo, may adversely affect our revenue growth and decrease our margins.

Our raw material supply is perishable and, by nature, could potentially be subject to a high degree of exposure to the risks of natural disasters and adverse weather conditions such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, hailstorms, windstorms, pests, and diseases. The occurrence of a natural disaster in our growing areas could severely reduce our ability to procure the raw materials necessary to produce our products. Moreover, our production and manufacturing operations are, at present, all located in China which concentrates these risks.

A shortage of available stevia leaf or increase in the price we pay for stevia leaf, and similarly for Luo Han Guo, could adversely affect our revenue growth and decrease our margins. Any of these adverse consequences could have a material adverse effect on our business operations and financial condition.

# We currently face, and will continue to face, significant competition. Additional competitors may enter the stevia or Luo Han Guo business if the value of either market, which may result in a decrease in the market price of the respective extracts.

The industry has attracted different levels of players, ranging from fully vertically-integrated, to partiallyintegrated (primary or secondary processing only), to distributors or brokers. Our major competitors for our core stevia business are existing stevia producers in Japan, Korea, Brazil, the US, China and Malaysia. These competitors include Blue California Inc., Corn Products International, Inc., Sweet Green Fields, Cargill Inc., and Pure Circle Limited. Our major competitors for Luo Han Guo are Guilin Layn and BioVittoria. In addition, additional competitors may enter the stevia or Luo Han Guo business if the value of either market grows, which may result in a decrease in the market price of the respective extracts.

These competitors may have significantly greater financial, technical and marketing resources, and may have a more established customer base. There is no assurance that we will be able to compete successfully against our competitors or that such competition will not have a material adverse effect on our business operations or financial condition. See "*Industry Information – Competition*".

# We rely upon proprietary technology which is not patented in Canada, the United States or elsewhere outside of China and may not be protected under the Chinese legal system.

Our ability to compete effectively is dependent upon the proprietary nature of the seeds, seedlings, processes, technologies and materials owned by, used by or licensed to us or our subsidiaries. Our intellectual property related to the production of stevia and Luo Han Guo includes proprietary process technology for the manufacture of high-grade extracts that is not fully covered by patents or other intellectual property protection in Canada, the United States or elsewhere outside of China. If any competitors independently develop any technologies that substantially equal or surpass our patent pending process technology, it will adversely affect our competitive position. See "Corporate Structure and Development of the Business – Intellectual Property".

The protection of our seed technology relies on patent-pending stevia seedlings. We have succeeded in the production of seed and seedling strains that cannot be used to grow other plants with high RA yielding stevia leaf (second generation plants grown from the seeds of our high yielding plants will only produce common stevia leaf with an average RA yield). However, the Chinese legal system in general, and the intellectual property regime in particular, are relatively weak compared to Canada and the United States and it may be difficult for us to enforce our intellectual property rights in China.

In relation to the intellectual property used by or licensed to us and our subsidiaries, there can be no assurance that we will continue to be able to use such intellectual property on terms that are acceptable to us, or at all. If we are unable to agree to terms to use this technology in the future or are unable to obtain the right to use other similar technology, we may not be able to offer the products we currently offer.

# If we do not adequately ensure our freedom to use certain technology, we may have to pay others for rights to use their intellectual property and there can be no assurance that we will be able to obtain licenses to use such technology on favorable terms or at all.

We have not undertaken any studies as to whether our patents provide us with the freedom to use our technologies in China or any other jurisdictions.

If we do not adequately ensure our freedom to use certain technology, we may have to pay others for rights to use their intellectual property, pay damages for infringement or misappropriation and/or be enjoined from using such intellectual property. Our Chinese patents may not guarantee us the right to use our technologies if other parties own intellectual property rights that we need in order to practice such technologies. Our patent position is subject to complex factual and legal issues that may give rise to uncertainty as to the validity, scope and enforceability of a particular patent. There can be no assurance that:

- any of the rights we have under patents owned by us or other patents that third parties license to us will not be curtailed, for example through invalidation, circumvention, challenge and being rendered unenforceable or prohibiting our licensed use;
- we were the first inventors of inventions covered by our issued patents or pending applications or that we were the first to file patent applications for such inventions;
- any of our pending or future patent applications will be issued with the breadth of claim coverage sought by us or issued at all;
- our competitors have not or will not independently develop or patent technologies that are substantially equivalent or superior to our technologies;
- any of our trade secrets will not be learned independently by our competitors; or
- the steps we take to protect our intellectual property will be adequate.

In addition, effective patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret protection may be unavailable, limited or not applied for in certain foreign countries. Any of these adverse consequences could have a material adverse effect on our business operations and financial condition.

Claims by third parties that our technology or products, or those of our subsidiaries, infringe their intellectual property rights may result in litigation which could be costly and time consuming and would divert the attention of management and key personnel from other business issues. The complexity of the technology involved and the uncertainty of intellectual property litigation increase these risks. In addition, if we or our subsidiaries are found to have infringed upon the intellectual property rights of another party, licenses for such intellectual property may not be available on favorable terms or at all.

# Circumstances outside of our control could negatively affect consumer perception of and demand for our products.

Even if stevia-based and Luo Han Guo-based products distributed by us conform to international safety and quality standards, sales could be adversely affected if consumers in our target markets lose confidence in the safety, efficacy, and quality of nutritional supplement products. Adverse publicity about stevia, Luo Han Guo, or steviaor Luo Han Guo-based products may discourage consumers from buying products distributed by us. We may not be able to overcome negative publicity within a reasonable period of time.

### Exchange controls that exist in the PRC may limit our ability to utilize our cash flow effectively.

We are subject to the PRC's rules and regulations on currency conversion. In the PRC, the State Administration for Foreign Exchange, or SAFE, regulates the conversion between RMB and foreign currencies. Currently, foreign investment enterprises, or FIEs are required to apply to the SAFE for "Foreign Exchange Registration Certificates for FIEs." With such registration certificates, which need to be renewed annually, FIEs are allowed to open foreign currency accounts including a "current account" and "capital account". Currency conversion within the scope of the "current account", such as remittance of foreign currencies for payment of dividends, can be effected without requiring the approval of the SAFE. However, conversion of currency in the "capital account," including capital items such as direct foreign investment, foreign currency loans and securities, still require approval of the SAFE. We cannot assure you that the PRC regulatory authorities will not impose further restrictions on the convertibility of the RMB. Any future restrictions on currency exchanges may limit our ability to use our cash flow for the distribution of dividends to our shareholders or to fund operations we may have outside of the PRC.

In August 2008, SAFE promulgated Circular 142, a notice regulating the conversion by FIEs of foreign currency into RMB by restricting how the converted RBM may be used. Circular 142 requires that RBM converted from the foreign currency-dominated capital of an FIE may only be used for purposes within the business scope approved by the applicable government authority and may not be used for equity investments within the PRC unless specifically provided for otherwise. In addition, SAFE strengthened its oversight over the flow and use of RMB funds converted from the foreign currency-dominated capital of an FIE. The use of such RMB may not be changed without approval from SAFE, and may not be used to repay RMB loans if the proceeds of such loans have not yet been used. Violations of Circular 142 may result in severe penalties, including substantial fines as set forth in the SAFE rules.

### Currency exchange rate and interest rate fluctuations could significantly increase our expenses.

Our financial results will be affected by the foreign exchange rate between US dollars and RMB because, while our expenses are denominated in RMB, the majority of our sales are denominated in US dollars. On July 21, 2005, the Chinese government changed its decade-old policy of pegging the value of the RMB to the US dollar. Under the new policy, the RMB is permitted to fluctuate within a narrow and managed band against a basket of certain foreign currencies, including the Canadian dollar and the US dollar. This change in policy has resulted in approximately 24% appreciation of the RMB against the US dollar between July 21, 2005, when the policy was enacted, and February 24, 2012. The Chinese government may decide to adopt an even more flexible currency policy in the future, which could result in further and more significant appreciation of the RMB against the US dollar.

As of December 31, 2014, assuming that all other variables remain constant, a change of 1% in the Canadian dollar against the RMB would have an effect on other comprehensive income of approximately \$85,577 (December 31, 2013 - \$488,491).

As of December 31, 2014, assuming that all other variables remain constant, an increase of 1% in the Canadian dollar against the US dollar would have an effect on net income of approximately \$234,519 (December 31, 2013 - \$146,484).

### Our international operations subject us to additional risks.

We are subject to the risks inherent in conducting business across national boundaries, any one of which could adversely impact our business. These risks include:

- currency exchange rate fluctuations;
- trade barriers;
- national and regional economic downturns;
- changes in governmental policy or regulation;
- restrictions on the transfer of funds into or out of particular countries;
- import and export duties and quotas;
- domestic and foreign customs and tariffs;
- political risks and nationalization of foreign assets;
- increases in duties, taxes and government royalties;
- protectionist measures enacted by the United States and/or other markets where our products are sold; and
- potentially negative consequences from changes in tax or other laws.

# We may not be able to increase brand recognition necessary to materially increase revenues and may not be able to create an infrastructure necessary to support the increase in demand.

We have established limited brand recognition in Canada, the United States and other international jurisdictions. We cannot be sure that we will successfully complete the development and introduction of current products, new products or product enhancements or that any products developed will achieve acceptance in the marketplace necessary to materially increase revenues and achieve consistent profitability. We may also fail to develop and deploy new products and product enhancements on a timely basis. There can be no assurance that we will be able to expand our production and distribution capabilities in the future to meet further market acceptance or that any such expansion will be successful. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that any expansion will not have a material adverse effect on our operating results, particularly while we are implementing such expansion and the costs associated with any expansion.

In addition, consumer preferences evolve over time and the success of our products depends on our ability to identify the tastes and nutritional needs of our customers and to offer products that appeal to their preferences. We introduce new products and improved products from time to time and we may incur significant development and marketing costs which may not lead to a product that is accepted by consumers. If our products fail to meet consumer preferences, then our sales and profits from new products will suffer.

### We could become subject to product liability claims.

As a manufacturer and distributor of products designed for human consumption, we may be subject to product liability claims if the use of our products is alleged to have resulted in injury. For example, we may be subject to allegations that our products include inadequate instructions for use or inadequate warnings concerning possible side effects and interactions with other substances. In addition, although we and our manufacturers maintain quality controls and procedures with respect to products that we sell, the substances that make up these products could become contaminated. We currently have not obtained indemnities from our raw material and product suppliers. We carry liability insurance to cover product recalls and worldwide product liabilities and also hold liability insurance in respect of Sweet Naturals. Such insurance, however, may not be available in the future at a reasonable cost, on favorable terms, or at all, and may not be adequate to cover liabilities.

### Litigation may adversely affect our business.

All industries, including the industry in which we operate, are subject to legal claims with and without merit. We may be or become involved in disputes with other parties which may result in litigation. The results of litigation cannot be predicted with certainty. If we are unable to resolve any material disputes favourably, it may have a material adverse impact on our business and results of operations. We currently have no legal claims outstanding. See "*Legal Proceedings*".

### We could become subject to environmental claims.

We are subject to environmental regulations which require us to minimize impacts upon air, water, soil and vegetation. If our operations violate these regulations, government agencies will usually require us to conduct

remedial actions to correct such negative effects. Such actions could substantially increase our costs and potentially prevent us from producing our products.

### Recent global economic and financial market crisis could have a negative effect on our results of operations.

Current global economic conditions could have a negative effect on our business and results of operations. Economic activity in China, Canada, the United States and throughout much of the world has undergone a sudden, sharp economic downturn following the recent housing downturn and subprime lending collapse in both the United States and Europe. Market disruptions have included extreme volatility in securities prices, as well as severely diminished liquidity and credit availability. The economic crisis may adversely affect us in a variety of ways. Access to lines of credit or the capital markets may be severely restricted, which may preclude us from raising funds required for operations and to fund continued expansion. It may be more difficult for us to complete strategic transactions with third parties. The financial and credit market turmoil could also negatively impact suppliers, customers and banks with whom we do business. Such developments could decrease our ability to source, produce and distribute our products or obtain financing and could expose us to risk that one of our suppliers, customers or banks will be unable to meet their obligations under our agreements with them.

While it is not possible to predict with certainty the duration or severity of the current disruption in financial and credit markets, if economic conditions continue to worsen, it is possible these factors could significantly impact our financial condition.

### Technological changes in stevia production could result in lower cost producers.

The traditional methods of production of stevia extracts are, with the exception of certain process improvements, fairly similar between all producers. Research is being undertaken that indicates that the use of a modified yeast organism to produce stevia extract through distillation might result in greater yields from raw materials, although with uncertain taste ramifications and requiring the use of genetically modified organisms. Although it is uncertain if new technology will lessen the economic viability of the Company's operations, it is possible that the new technology could result in lower-cost competitors.

### **Industry Related Risks**

# If demand for stevia does not increase, there will be excess capacity which will decrease the market price of stevia and reduce our revenues.

We and other stevia producers have developed a large manufacturing capacity in expectation of a large demand for stevia products and we expect that demand for stevia will increase significantly in the future, particularly in light of the fact that certain stevia products have received GRAS status in the United States. However, there can be no assurance that this will be the case and if demand for stevia does not increase, the stevia market may be subject to significant excess capacity, which would put downward pressure on the market price of stevia and reduce our revenues.

### Stevia and Luo Han Guo compete with sugar and other high intensity sweeteners in the global sweetener market and the success of these products will largely depend on consumer perception of their positive health implications relative to other sweeteners.

The continued growth of stevia's share of the global sweetener market depends upon consumer acceptance of stevia and stevia related products and the health implications of consuming stevia relative to other sweetener products; similarly for Luo Han Guo. The publication of any studies or revelation of other information that has negative implications regarding the health impacts of consuming stevia or Luo Han Guo may slow or reverse the growth in consumer acceptance of either product, which may have a material adverse effect on our business operations and financial condition.

# Government regulation of our products could increase our costs, prevent us from offering certain products or cause us to recall products.

While stevia and/or stevia products, as well as Luo Han Guo products, have been approved for use in food and beverages in certain countries, including the United States, there are a number of major regions, where they have not been approved for use. While France has taken advantage of a provision that allows individual member states

of the European Union to approve ingredients for a limited two year period, full European Union approval for stevia sweeteners will be dependent on a scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Authority. Luo Han Guo is not yet approved in the European Union. Global demand for stevia and stevia products, as well as Luo Han Guo, may be limited if stevia is not approved for use in these and other regions.

The processing, formulation, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, advertising and distribution of our products is subject to regulation by one or more federal agencies, and various agencies of the states and localities in which our products are sold. These government regulatory agencies may attempt to regulate any of our products that fall within their jurisdiction. Such regulatory agencies may not accept the evidence of safety for any new ingredients that we may want to market, may determine that a particular product or product ingredient presents an unacceptable health risk, may determine that a particular statement of nutritional support that we want to use is an unacceptable drug claim or an unauthorized version of a food "health claim," may determine that a particular product is an unapproved new drug, or may determine that particular claims are not adequately supported by available scientific evidence. Such a determination would prevent us from marketing particular products or using certain statements of nutritional support on our products. We also may be unable to disseminate third-party literature that supports our products if the third-party literature fails to satisfy certain requirements.

In addition, a government regulatory agency could require us to remove a particular product from the market. Any future recall or removal would result in additional costs to us, including lost revenues from any products that we are required to remove from the market, any of which could be material. Any such product recalls or removals could lead to liability, substantial costs and reduced growth prospects.

If any of our products contain plants, herbs or other substances not recognized as safe by a government regulatory agency, we may not be able to market or sell such products in that jurisdiction. Any such prohibition could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. Further, if more stringent statutes are enacted for dietary supplements, or if more stringent regulations are promulgated, we may not be able to comply with such statutes or regulations without incurring substantial expense, or at all.

Government regulatory agencies may also adopt more stringent rules regarding the manufacturing of dietary supplements, which may apply to the products that we or our subsidiaries manufacture. In the future, such regulations may require dietary supplements to be prepared, packaged and held in compliance with strict rules, and may require quality control provisions similar to those in the Good Manufacturing Practice regulations for drugs. We may not be able to comply with such new rules without incurring additional expenses, which may be significant.

We are not able to predict the nature of future laws, regulations, repeals or interpretations or to predict the effect that additional governmental regulation, if and when it occurs, would have on our business in the future. Such developments could, however, require reformulation of certain products to meet new standards, recalls or discontinuance of certain products not able to be reformulated, additional record-keeping requirements, increased documentation of the properties of certain products, additional or different labeling, additional scientific substantiation, or other new requirements. Any such developments could have a material adverse effect on our business operations and financial condition.

### **Risks Relating to Our Operations in China**

# Our agricultural and processing assets are located in PRC and the Chinese government's involvement in the economic system could have a materially adverse effect on our operations and financial condition.

The economy of the People's Republic of China differs from the economies of most developed countries in many respects, including the extent of government involvement. Over the past three decades, China's economy has been transitioning from a planned economy to a more market-oriented economy. Although in recent years the Chinese government has implemented measures emphasizing the utilization of market forces for economic reform, the reduction of state ownership of productive assets and the establishment of sound corporate governance in business enterprises, a substantial portion of productive assets in China are still owned by the Chinese government. In addition, the Chinese government continues to play a significant role in regulating industrial development. It also exercises significant control over China's economic growth through the allocation of resources, controlling payment of foreign currency-denominated obligations, setting monetary policy and providing preferential treatment to particular industries or companies. Economic control measures may be adjusted or modified without

warning and may be applied differently from industry to industry. Economic controls and reforms are often adopted on an experimental basis and are subject to reversal or revocation with little or no warning. Because these economic reform measures may be inconsistent or ineffectual, there are no assurances that:

- we will be able to capitalize on economic reforms;
- stevia or Luo Han Guo production will remain a priority for Chinese governments;
- the Chinese government will continue its pursuit of economic reform policies;
- the economic policies, even if pursued, will be successful;
- economic policies will not be significantly altered from time to time; and
- business operations in China will not become subject to the risk of nationalization.

Any negative impact from economic reform policies or nationalization could result in a total investment loss in the Common Shares.

To date, reforms to China's economic system have not adversely impacted our operations. There can be no assurance, however, that China's economic reforms will continue or that we will not be adversely affected by changes in China's political, economic, and social conditions and by changes in policies of the Chinese government, such as changes in laws and regulations, measures which may be introduced to control inflation, changes in the rate or method of taxation, changes in employment restrictions, imposition of additional restrictions on currency conversion and remittance abroad, and reduction in tariff protection and other import restrictions.

# Changes in the laws and regulations in the People's Republic of China may significantly impact our methods and costs of doing business.

The Chinese legal system is based on written statutes. Prior court decisions may be cited for reference but are not binding on subsequent cases and have limited precedential value. Since 1979, China's legislative bodies have promulgated laws and regulations dealing with such economic matters as foreign investment, corporate organization and governance, commerce, taxation and trade. However, because these laws and regulations are relatively new, and because of the limited volume of published decisions and their non-binding nature, the interpretation and enforcement of these laws and regulations involve uncertainties. Additionally, Chinese laws are generally drafted in such a way as to allow interpretation to accord with changing policy demands and are implemented differently from region to region. The Chinese legal system has inherent uncertainties that can seriously limit legal protections to shareholders in companies with Chinese operations.

Our subsidiaries are subject to corporate laws in the People's Republic of China. Additionally, as a food manufacturing corporation, we and our subsidiaries are subject to the laws and regulations governing food and health products in the People's Republic of China. Our processing facilities and products are subject to periodic inspection by national, provincial and local authorities in China. We believe that we are currently in substantial compliance with all material governmental laws and regulations and maintain all material permits and licenses relating to our operations. Nevertheless, we may fall out of substantial compliance with current laws and regulations or may be unable to comply with any future laws and regulations. To the extent that new regulations are adopted, we will be required, possibly at considerable expense, to adjust our activities in order to comply with such regulations. Our failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations could subject us to civil remedies, including fines, injunctions, recalls or seizures, as well as potential criminal sanctions, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, operations and finances.

# The Chinese legal and accounting system may force us to incur additional costs and may not provide us with the same level of protection as United States and Canadian laws.

The legal system in the People's Republic of China differs from those of the United States and Canada. Our subsidiaries in China are considered "Foreign Invested Enterprises" or "FIEs", and are subject to certain laws and regulations designed to regulate foreign investment in China. The Foreign Invested Enterprise laws provide certain protections from government interference. In addition, these laws guarantee the full enjoyment of the benefits of corporate articles and contracts to Foreign Invested Enterprise participants. These laws, however, do

impose standards concerning corporate formation and governance. Similarly, our Chinese subsidiaries account for transactions in accordance with Chinese GAAP and the accounting laws of the People's Republic of China mandate accounting practices that are not entirely consistent with Canadian and US GAAP. Converting Chinese GAAP financial statements into Canadian GAAP can be complex, and there is a risk that material differences between the standards will not be identified. Chinese accounting laws require that an annual "statutory audit" be performed in accordance with the People's Republic of China accounting standards and that the books of account of Foreign Invested Enterprises be maintained in accordance with Chinese accounting laws. Article 14 of the PRC Wholly Foreign-Owned Enterprise Law requires Wholly Foreign-Owned Enterprises (such as our subsidiaries in China) to submit certain periodic fiscal reports and statements to designated financial and tax authorities, at the risk of business license revocation. There is no guarantee that we and our subsidiaries will be able to continue to comply with the legal and accounting systems in China without incurring additional expense, or at all, which would restrict our ability to do business and would have a material adverse effect on our business operations and financial condition.

The enforcement of substantive rights in China differs from Canadian and United States procedures. Foreign Invested Enterprises and Wholly Foreign-Owned Enterprises are Chinese registered companies and enjoy the same status as other Chinese registered companies in business-to-business dispute resolution. Although, as a practical matter, the Chinese legal infrastructure should not present any significant impediment to the operation of Foreign Invested Enterprises, there is no guarantee that we or our subsidiaries will be able to enforce our rights in the same manner and to the same extent as in Canada or the United States.

In addition, the understanding of and respect for intellectual property rights in China is still developing, and there are uncertainties involved in their protection and the enforcement of such protection. Our failure to adequately protect our intellectual property could lead to the loss of a competitive advantage that could not likely be compensated by a damages award.

### We may not be successful in restructuring outstanding Chinese debt either before or after it becomes due.

The Company holds significant debt in China from several different banks, collateralized through its assets in China, which it may not be able to repay as originally scheduled. While historically it has had success in restructuring such debt, there is no guarantee that it will be able to do so in the future. The Company continues to maintain positive relationships with the banks to help mitigate this risk, and while we succeeded in restructuring a significant portion of debt in 2014, we cannot ensure that we will continue to do so with other debt currently due or that may become due in the future.

### New Chinese tax laws may subject us to significant additional taxes in China.

Under China's Enterprise Income Tax Law, or the New EIT Law, and its implementing rules, which became effective in 2008, an enterprise established outside of China may be considered a "resident enterprise" if its "place of actual management" is situated in China. If so, the enterprise would be treated in a manner similar to a local Chinese enterprise for enterprise income tax purposes. Under the implementing rules of the New EIT Law, "place of actual management" means the place where substantial and overall management and control over the production and operations, personnel, accounting, and properties of the enterprise are located. Because the New EIT Law and its implementing rules are new, it is unclear how tax authorities will determine tax residency based on the facts of each case.

If the Chinese tax authorities determine that we are a "resident enterprise" for Chinese enterprise income tax purposes, unfavorable Chinese tax consequences could follow. First, we may be subject to enterprise income tax at a rate of 25% on our worldwide taxable income as well as Chinese enterprise income tax reporting obligations. Second, although under the New EIT Law and its implementing rules dividends paid to us from our Chinese subsidiaries would qualify as "tax-exempt income," such dividends may be subject to a 10% withholding tax, as the Chinese foreign exchange control authorities, which enforce the withholding tax, have not yet issued guidance with respect to the processing of outbound remittances to entities that are treated as resident enterprises for Chinese enterprise" classification could result in a situation in which a 10% withholding tax is imposed on dividends we pay to our non-Chinese shareholders and with respect to gains derived by our non-Chinese shareholders from transferring our Common Shares. We are monitoring the possibility of "resident enterprise" treatment and are evaluating appropriate organizational changes to avoid this treatment, to the extent possible.

If we were treated as a "resident enterprise" by Chinese tax authorities, we would be subject to tax in both Canada and China, and our Chinese tax may not be creditable against our Canadian tax. In addition, we have not accrued any tax liability associated with the possible payment of dividends from our Chinese subsidiaries. Such a tax would be an added expense appearing on our income statement, which would reduce our net income.

### We may become subject to additional compliance costs in the People's Republic of China.

Our operations in China are subject to laws and regulations in the People's Republic of China relating to the processing, packaging, storage, distribution, advertising, labeling, quality, and safety of food products. The failure by us and our subsidiaries to comply with applicable laws and regulations could subject us to administrative penalties, injunctive relief, civil remedies and even criminal responsibilities, including but not limited to fines, injunctions, recalls of our products suspension of operating activities and cancellation of our business license. It is possible that changes to such laws, more rigorous enforcement of such laws or our current or past practices could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition. Further, additional environmental, health or safety issues relating to matters that are not currently known to management may result in unanticipated liabilities and expenditures.

# We may have difficulty establishing adequate management, legal and financial controls in the People's Republic of China.

The People's Republic of China has historically not had the same standard as Canada and the United States in terms of management and financial reporting concepts and practices, as well as modern banking, computer and other control systems. Our subsidiaries may have difficulty in hiring and retaining a sufficient number of qualified employees to work in the People's Republic of China. As a result of these factors, we may experience difficulty in establishing management, legal and financial controls, collecting financial data, preparing financial statements, books of account and corporate records and instituting business practices that meet Canadian and United States standards which would adversely impact our ability to effectively manage our future growth.

### We may be subject to regulations relating to acquisitions of Chinese companies by foreign entities and if we are unable to comply with such regulations we may be subject to fines or sanctions imposed by the Chinese government.

On October 21, 2005, the China State Administration of Foreign Exchange, or SAFE, issued a notice, known as "Circular 75," which sets forth a regulatory framework for acquisitions of Chinese businesses involving offshore companies owned by Chinese residents or passport holders, known as "round-trip" investments or acquisitions. Among other things, Circular 75 provides that if a round-trip investment in a Chinese corporation by an offshore corporation controlled by Chinese residents occurred prior to the issuance of Circular 75, certain Chinese residents were required to submit a registration form to the local SAFE branch to register their ownership interests in the offshore corporation prior to March 31, 2006. Circular 75 also provides that, prior to establishing or assuming control of an offshore corporation for the purpose of obtaining financing for that offshore corporation using the assets or equity interests in an onshore enterprise in China, each Chinese resident or passport holder who is an ultimate controller of such offshore corporation, whether an individual or a legal entity, must complete certain registration if there is a material event affecting the offshore corporation, such as, among other things, a change in share capital, a transfer of shares, or if such corporation is involved in a merger, acquisition or a spin-off transaction or uses its assets in China to guarantee offshore obligations.

At present, it is unclear whether Circular 75 requires Chinese shareholders of our corporation to register. We will attempt to comply, and attempt to ensure that all of our shareholders subject to these rules comply, with the relevant requirements. We cannot, however, assure the compliance of all of our China-resident shareholders. Any failure to comply with the relevant requirements could subject us to fines or sanctions imposed by the Chinese government, including restrictions on certain of our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends to us and our ability to increase our investment in those subsidiaries.

In 2006, six Chinese regulatory authorities, including the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Chinese Securities Regulatory Commission, jointly promulgated regulations entitled Provisions Regarding Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors (the "M&A Rules"). The M&A Rules established additional procedures and requirements that make merger and acquisition activities by foreign investors more time-consuming and complex, including, in some circumstances, advance notice to the Ministry of Commerce of any

change-of-control transaction in which a foreign investor takes control of a Chinese domestic enterprise. Compliance with the M&A Rules, and any related approval processes, including obtaining approval from the Ministry of Commerce, may delay or inhibit our ability to complete acquisitions of domestic Chinese companies, which could affect our ability to expand our business or maintain our market share.

# We may be subject to Chinese regulations relating to employee stock options granted to Chinese citizens and if we are unable to comply with such regulations, we may be subject to fines and legal sanctions in China.

On March 28, 2007, SAFE issued the Application Procedure for Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Employee Stock Holding Plans or Stock Option Plans of Overseas Listed Companies, also known as "Circular 78". Under Circular 78, Chinese individuals who participate in an employee stock option holding plan or a stock option plan of an overseas listed corporation are required, through a Chinese domestic agent or Chinese subsidiary of the overseas listed corporation, to register with SAFE and complete certain other procedures. We and our Chinese employees who have been granted restricted stock or stock options are subject to Circular 78 because we are an overseas listed corporation. However, in practice, significant uncertainties exist with respect to the interpretation and implementation of Circular 78. We cannot provide any assurance that we or our Chinese employees will be able to comply with, qualify under, or obtain any registration required by Circular 78. In particular, if we or our Chinese employees fail to comply with the provisions of Circular 78, we or such Chinese employees may be subject to fines and legal sanctions imposed by SAFE or other Chinese governmental authorities, which could result in a material adverse effect to our business operations.

### Our ability to provide loans or capital contributions to our Chinese subsidiaries may be limited by Chinese law.

Chinese regulation of direct investment and loans by offshore holding companies to Chinese entities may delay or limit us from making capital contributions or loans to our Chinese subsidiaries. Any capital contributions or loans that we, as an offshore entity, make to our Chinese subsidiaries are subject to Chinese regulations. For example, any loans we make to our Chinese subsidiaries cannot exceed the difference between the total amount of investment our Chinese subsidiaries, and must be registered to make under relevant Chinese laws and the respective registered capital of our Chinese subsidiaries, and must be registered with the local branch of the SAFE as a procedural matter. In addition, capital contributions from us to our Chinese subsidiaries must be approved by the PRC Ministry of Commerce or its local counterpart. There is no assurance that we will be able to obtain these approvals on a timely basis, or at all. If we fail to obtain such approvals, our ability to make equity contributions or provide loans to our Chinese subsidiaries or to fund our operations may be negatively affected, which could adversely affect their liquidity and our ability to fund our working capital and expansion projects and meet our obligations and commitments to local Chinese governments related to establishing our stevia operations.

### Pursuing or enforcing shareholder actions against our Chinese subsidiaries may be limited.

Because many of the directors and executive officers of our subsidiaries are Chinese citizens and reside in China, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to acquire jurisdiction over these persons in the event a lawsuit is initiated against our subsidiaries, or their directors and officers by a shareholder or group of shareholders. Furthermore, because the majority of our subsidiaries' assets are located in the People's Republic of China it would also be very difficult to access those assets to satisfy an award entered against us or our subsidiaries in a Canadian court.

# Businesses operating in China may be subject to greater risk of violating US or other anti-corruption legislation.

We are subject to the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which generally prohibits US public companies from engaging in bribery or other prohibited payments to foreign officials for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business. Non-US companies, including some that may compete with our company, are not subject to these prohibitions. Corruption, extortion, bribery, pay-offs, theft and other fraudulent practices may occur in China. We can make no assurance, however, that our employees or other agents will not engage in such conduct for which we might be held responsible. If our employees or other agents are found to have engaged in such practices, we could suffer severe penalties and other consequences, including adverse publicity and damage to our reputation that may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

# The Chinese government has been adopting increasingly stringent environmental protection and safety in production requirements which could hurt our business.

The continuance of our operations depends upon compliance with the applicable environmental, safety in production and other regulations. Any change in the scope or application of these laws and regulations may limit our production capacity or increase our cost of operations and could therefore have an adverse effect on our business operations, financial condition and operating results. Our failure to comply with these laws and regulations could result in fines, penalties or legal proceedings being commenced against us. There can be no assurance that the Chinese government will not impose additional or stricter laws or regulations, compliance with which may cause us to incur significant capital expenditures which we may not be able to pass on to our customers.

### **DIVIDEND POLICY**

We have not declared or paid any dividends on the Common Shares since incorporation, and it is not anticipated that any dividends will be declared or paid in the immediate or foreseeable future. Any decision to pay dividends will be made by our board of directors on the basis of earnings, financial requirements and other conditions existing at such future time. An agreement we have with a customer relating to their prepayment for stevia extract contains a provision preventing us from paying dividends during the term of the agreement.

### **DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CAPITAL**

The Company is authorized to issue an unlimited number of Common Shares, of which 37,740,336 Common Shares were issued and outstanding as at the date of this Annual Information Form.

All of the Common Shares rank equally as to voting rights, participation in a distribution of our assets on liquidation, dissolution or winding-up and the entitlement to dividends. The holders of the Common Shares are entitled to receive notice of all meetings of shareholders and to attend and vote the shares at the meetings. Each of the Common Shares carries with it the right to one vote. We have authorized no other class or series of our share capital.

In the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of us or other distribution of our assets, the holders of the Common Shares will be entitled to receive, on a pro rata basis, all of the assets remaining after we have paid out our liabilities. Distributions in the form of dividends, if any, will be set by our board of directors.

Provisions as to the modification, amendment or variation of the rights attached to the Common Shares are contained in our articles and the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia). Generally speaking, substantive changes to the share capital require the approval of the shareholders by special resolution (at least 2/3 of the votes cast).

### **MARKET FOR SECURITIES**

As of the date hereof, GLG Life Tech's Common Shares are listed on the TSX under the symbol "GLG". The following sets out the price range and volumes traded or quoted on the TSX on a monthly basis for each month of 2014.

Month	High	Low	Close	Volume
December	0.45	0.265	0.425	280,820
November	0.42	0.24	0.33	140,557
October	0.485	0.28	0.425	552,598
September	0.54	0.205	0.40	470,570
August	0.32	0.22	0.24	1,212,789
July	0.30	0.225	0.265	771,929
June	0.46	0.22	0.285	583,083
May	0.67	0.24	0.40	438,961
April	0.69	0.35	0.62	366,872
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March	0.56	.305	0.50	309,539
February	0.61	0.40	0.40	345,028
January	0.59	0.43	0.54	84,178

# **PRIOR SALES**

The following table summarizes the issuance by us of Common Shares within the 12-month period before the date of this Annual Information Form.

Date of Issue	Number of Common Shares Issued	Issue Price (\$)
April 20, 2014	100,000	0.55
October 27, 2014	4,295,532	1.00
March 6, 2015	150,000	0.38
Total	4,545,532	

The following table summarizes the issuances by us of stock options within the 12-month period before the date of this Annual Information Form.

Date of Issue	Number of Options Issued	Option Exercise Price (\$)
April 14, 2014	25,000	0.55
April 20, 2014	334,400	0.55
May 20, 2014	15,000	0.56
March 6, 2015	792,000	0.38
Total	1,166,400	

# ESCROWED SECURITIES AND SECURITIES SUBJECT TO CONTRACTUAL RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER

To the knowledge of the Company, there are no securities of the Company in escrow or subject to contractual restriction:

# **DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

The directors are elected by the shareholders at each annual general meeting and typically hold office until the next annual general meeting at which time they may be re-elected or replaced. Casual vacancies on the Board are filled by the remaining directors and the persons filling those vacancies hold office until the next annual general meeting at which time they may be re-elected or replaced. The officers are appointed by the Board and hold office at the pleasure of the Board.

Collectively, as at the date of this Annual Information Form, the directors and executive officers of GLG Life Tech, as a group, own 5,668,405 Common Shares, representing approximately 15.0% (13.6% on a fully diluted basis) of the issued and outstanding Common Shares.

Name and Municipality of Residence	Position with GLG Life Tech	Principal Occupations for the past 5 years	Director Since
Dr. Luke Zhang Heze, Shangdong Province China	Chief Executive Officer, Chairman and Director	Chief Executive Officer, Chairman and Director of GLG Life Tech Corporation	June 21, 2005
Brian Palmieri <sup>(1) (2)</sup> Cody, Wyoming United States	Vice Chairman and Director	Vice Chairman and Director of GLG Life Tech Corporation	June 21, 2005
He Fangzhen <sup>(1)(3)(4)</sup> Jinan, Shangdong Province, China	Director	Retired Chief Engineer	May 7, 2008
Dr. Hong Zhao Guang <sup>(1)</sup> Beijing, China	Director	Director & Commissioner with the Aged Chinese Healthcare Association	August 5, 2010
Paul Block, Connecticut United States	Director	Former CEO, Merisant Inc.	March 11, 2015
Sophia Leung <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup> Vancouver, British Columbia Canada	Director	Board Director of ExGen Resources Inc.	February 2, 2007
David Hall <sup>(1)</sup> Vancouver, British Columbia Canada	Director	CEO and President of RepliCel Life Sciences	August 5, 2010
Liu Yingchun <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup> Heze, Shangdong Province China	Director	Credit Director, Heze Industrial and Commercial Bank (1997 – 2000)	June 17, 2008
Brian Meadows Delta, British Columbia, Canada	President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary	President, Chief Financial Officer of GLG Life Tech Corporation	N/A

The following table sets forth the names and municipalities of residence of all the directors and executive officers of the Company, as well as the positions and offices held by such persons and their principal occupations.

Notes:

- (1) Independent Director
- (2) Member of the Audit Committee
- (3) Member of Compensation Committee
- (4) Member of Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

The following is a brief description of the background of the directors and executive officers of GLG Life Tech Corporation.

#### **Directors and Executive Officers**

#### Dr. Luke Zhang (Director, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman)

Dr. Zhang is a Canadian citizen and currently resides in China. He was appointed as our Chairman and as director on June 21, 2005 and as our President on September 6, 2007. On May 15, 2008, Dr. Zhang was named our Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Zhang received his PhD in Pharmacology from Vanderbilt University and has worked in international business for over 20 years. Dr. Zhang received his medical degree in China previously. He is a non-independent director.

## Brian Meadows (President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary)

Mr. Meadows resides in Delta, British Columbia and was appointed as our Chief Financial Officer on October 9, 2007. Mr. Meadows has 20 years' experience in the telecommunications industry in both North America and Europe and prior to his engagement as our Chief Financial Officer Mr. Meadows worked for Telus Corporation. He has held senior financial and business development roles in several start-up companies in Europe earlier in his career (1996-2001) as well as having worked with large public companies in Canada in both financial and operational roles. Mr. Meadows holds both the Certified Financial Analyst (CFA) designation as well as the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation. He obtained his international MBA from the University of Glasgow in 1995 and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1987. Mr. Meadows was appointed as our Corporate Secretary on May 19, 2009. Mr. Meadows was appointed as our President in November, 2011.

## Brian Palmieri (Director and Vice-Chairman)

Mr. Palmieri resides in Cody, Wyoming and was appointed as our Chief Executive Officer and a director on June 21, 2005. On May 15, 2008, Mr. Palmieri relinquished his role as our Chief Executive Officer and was named our President and Vice-Chairman. On October 1, 2010, Mr. Palmieri relinquished his role as our President. Mr. Palmieri is an independent director.

Prior to his involvement with us, Mr. Palmieri's time has been divided between the following businesses in which he is a principal:

American Tool and Die Inc., the principal business of which is metals manufacturing and of which he is president,

Palco International Inc. and AAFAB International Inc., the principal business of both being international trading and consulting and of which he serves as president.

## He Fangzhen (Director)

Mr. Fangzhen was appointed as one of our directors on May 7, 2008. Mr. Fangzhen is a specialist in manufacturing and production. With over 40 years of experience, his expertise as a chief engineer lies in optimizing manufacturing plant and personnel, particularly in China. His specialties include planning, operational structure, maintenance, safety, quality control and risk management as well as the assignment, training and supervision of production and technology personnel. Mr. Fangzhen graduated from Taiyuan Polytechnic University in China. Mr. He is an independent director.

## Dr. Hong Zhao Guang (Director)

Dr. Hong Zhao Guang is an active leader in both the academic and business communities in China. Receiving his degree from Shanghai First Medical College, he has been the vice president of Beijing Anzhen Hospital and the vice director of the Cardiovascular Disease Expert Consulting Committee for the Ministry of Public Health in China. Currently Dr. Hong is directing commissioner with the Aged Chinese Healthcare Association and the vice group leader for physicians at Capital Medical Science University, one of the top ranking academic medical institution in China. Dr. Hong has written and edited more than ten books and published more than one hundred academic theses and five hundred articles for the scientific community. During the last 15 years, Dr. Hong has devoted his time to the education of citizens throughout China on the importance of wellness, health and an active lifestyle, including the prevention of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. His books have been read by more than 70 million people and his lectures heard by over 200 million people in China. Dr. Hong is an independent director.

#### Paul Block (Director)

Paul Block was appointed as our newest director on March 11, 2015. He brings to GLG's Board a wealth of senior executive experience in the global food and beverage and high intensity sweetener industries, particularly in the areas of sales, marketing, and business development. Most recently, Mr. Block served as Chief Executive Officer of Merisant Worldwide Company, Inc. and the Whole Earth Sweetener Co., LLC. While at Merisant, Mr. Block oversaw the company's well-recognized line of sweeteners, including the Equal® sweetener brand. Prior to joining Merisant, Mr. Block held C-level positions at Sara Lee Coffee and Tea Consumer Brands, Allied Domecq Spirits USA and Groupe Danone. Mr. Block has been a key figure in developing the global stevia tabletop market

through his role as CEO at Merisant and the Whole Earth Sweetener Co., LLC., launching the successful Pure Via® line of tabletop zero calorie stevia sweeteners. Mr. Block is an independent director.

## Sophia Leung (Director)

Madame Leung resides in Vancouver, British Columbia and was appointed as one of our directors on February 2, 2007. Madame Leung has served in political positions on a national level, including as special advisor in international trade to Canada's prime minister from 2004-2006, parliamentary secretary for National Revenue of Canada from 2000-2004 and Member of Parliament of Canada 1997–2004. Madame Leung is currently a director of ExGen Resources Inc. Inc. She is an independent director.

## Liu Yingchun (Director)

Madame Yingchun was elected as one of our directors on June 17, 2008. Madame Yingchun graduated from Shandong Economical College and has over 20 years of experience in finance and accounting. She has worked for several major banks and insurance companies in China including China Bank and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. She is a certified economist and financial analyst. Mrs. Liu is currently audit director and controller of HeZe Industrial and Commercial Bank. She also has experience in internal control and investment management. Madame Yingchun is an independent director.

## David Hall (Director)

Mr. Hall is currently CEO and President of RepliCel Life Sciences. He is a past business founder, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer of Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, and an active advocate for the British Columbia life sciences industry. During Mr. Hall's tenure with Angiotech, he was involved in \$1.2 billion in financing, 11 acquisitions and established one of Canada's first dedicated Sarbanes-Oxley compliance programs. Mr. Hall is the Past Chair and a current board member of Life Sciences BC and leads the organization's public policy initiatives. He is the author of Life Sciences BC's position papers for the Premier's Competition Council Report and Conversation on Health. Mr. Hall was also a member of the BC Task Force on PharmaCare and serves on the board of directors of Advantage BC as well as the Tech Equity Committee at UBC. Mr. Hall also serves as Chairman of the Board for Perceptronix, Inc. Mr. Hall holds an Honours degree in Economics and an Honours degree in Finance from the University of Manitoba. Mr. Hall is an independent director.

## **Corporate Cease Trade Orders**

Except as described below, during the ten years preceding the date of this Management Proxy Circular, no proposed director of the Corporation has, to the knowledge of the Corporation, been:

- (a) a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of any company that:
  - (i) was the subject of a cease trade or similar order or an order that denied such company access to any exemption under securities legislation that was in effect for a period of more than thirty consecutive days (an "Order") while the proposed director was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer; or
  - (ii) was subject to such an Order that was issued after the proposed director ceased to be a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer in the company that is the subject of the Order and which resulted from an event that occurred while that person was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer; or
- (b) a director or executive officer of any company that, while that person was acting in that capacity, or within a year of that person ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold the assets of that company.

On April 10, 2012, Mr. Meadows and Dr. Zhang were the subject of a management cease trade order ("MCTO") issued by the BCSC as a result of the Company having not filed its audited financial statements, management's discussion and analysis and annual information form. The CTO was revoked on June 18, 2013, by the BCSC.

#### **Individual Bankruptcies**

No director or executive officer of the Company, or a shareholder holding a sufficient number of securities of the Company to affect materially control of the Company, (i) is, or within ten years prior to the date hereof has been, a director or executive officer of any company (including the Company) that, while that person was acting in that capacity, or within a year of that person ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets; or (ii) has, within ten years prior to the date hereof, become bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankrupt or insolvency, or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors, or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets; or (ii) has, within ten years prior to the date hereof, become bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankrupt or insolvency, or become subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors, or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold the assets of the director, executive officer or shareholder.

#### **Penalties and Sanctions**

No director or executive officer of the Company, or a shareholder holding a sufficient number of securities of the Company to affect materially the control of the Company, has been subject to (i) any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory authority or has entered into a settlement agreement with a securities regulatory authority; or (ii) any other penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable investor in making an investment decision.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

There are potential conflicts of interest to which the directors and officers of GLG will be subject with respect to the operations of GLG. Certain of the directors and officers of GLG also serve as directors and officers of other companies. Situations may arise where the directors and officers will be engaged in direct competition with GLG. Any conflicts of interest will be subject to and governed by the law applicable to directors and officers conflicts of interest, including the procedures prescribed by the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia).

If a conflict of interest arises at a meeting of the Board of Directors of GLG, any director in a conflict will disclose his interest and abstain from voting on such matter.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Board of Directors of the Company is responsible for the supervision of the management of the Company's business and affairs. The Board of Directors is currently composed of seven directors, six of whom the Company considers to be independent as set out below. The Board of Directors considers a member to be independent if he has no direct or indirect material relationship with the Company which, in the view of the Board of Directors, would reasonably be perceived to materially interfere with the exercise of the director's independent judgment. The Board's current composition is as follows:

Dr. Luke Zhang – non-independent

Brian Palmieri – independent

Dr. Hong Zhao Guang – independent

David Hall – independent

Sophia Leung - independent

Paul Block - independent

He Fangzhen – independent

Liu Yingchun - independent

Dr. Luke Zhang is an executive officer and significant shareholder of the Company, hence he is not considered to be independent of management.

## **Committees of our Board of Directors**

We have three board committees, being the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

## Audit Committee

The Audit Committee assists the board of directors in fulfilling its responsibilities for oversight of financial and accounting matters. In addition to recommending the auditors to be nominated and reviewing the compensation of the auditors, the Committee is responsible for overseeing the work of the auditors and pre-approving non-audit services. The Committee also reviews our annual and interim financial statements and news releases containing information taken from our financial statements prior to their release. The Committee is responsible for reviewing the acceptability and quality of our financial reporting and accounting standards and principles and any proposed material changes to them or their application.

The current members of the Audit Committee are Madame Sophia Leung (Chairman), Madame Liu Yingchun, and Brian Palmieri. Each member of the Audit Committee is "independent" within the meaning Canadian Securities laws. The Audit Committee has a published charter which is attached to our AIF and is attached as Appendix A to this Annual Information Form. The Charter is available at <u>www.sedar.com</u> and is also posted on our website, <u>www.glglifetech.com</u>.

## Education and Experience of Members of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee reports to the Board of Directors, and is responsible for assisting in the Board of Directors' oversight of the reliability and integrity of the accounting principles and practices, financial statements, other financial reporting, and disclosure practices followed by management of the Company and its subsidiaries.

All members of the Audit Committee members are independent.

All of the members of the Audit Committee are financially literate based on their experience as a chief executive, financial officer or officers and directors of public and/or private organizations.

#### Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures of Non-Audit Services

The Audit Committee's Charter sets out responsibilities regarding the provision of non-audit services by the Company's external auditors. As a matter of practice the Audit Committee, and or the audit committee chairman acting on behalf of the Audit Committee, will generally pre-approve all audit and permitted non-audit services to be performed by the external auditors and identifies and reviews the types of non-audit services or mandates that it considers to be incompatible with the principles underlying the independence of the external auditors.

#### External Auditor Service Fees

The aggregate fees for professional services rendered by the Company's auditors for the years ended December 31, 2014, and December 31, 2013, are as follows:

Fiscal years ended December 31	2014	2013
Audit Fees (for audit of the Company's annual financial statements for the respective year and assistance with the Company's quarterly financial statements)	\$600,000	\$225,000
Audit-Related Fees	\$55,000	\$0
Total Audit and Audit-Related Fees	\$655,000	\$225,000

Tax Fees (for preparation of tax returns)	\$0	\$0
All Other Fees	\$0	\$0
Total Fees	\$655,000	\$225,000

Fees paid to Davidson & Company, LLP for 2014 and Calvista, LLP for 2013

#### **Compensation Committee**

The Compensation Committee was established on March 18, 2008 and assists the board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to compensation. The Committee's role includes establishing a remuneration and benefits plan for directors, executives and other key employees and reviewing the adequacy and form of compensation of directors and senior management. The Committee oversees the development and implementation of compensation programs in order to support our business objectives and attract and retain key executives. The Committee also reviews and makes recommendations to our board of directors regarding our incentive compensation equity-based plans.

The members of the Compensation Committee are, Madame Sophia Leung, Madame Liu Yingchun, and Mr. He Fangzhen. Each member of the Compensation Committee is "independent" within the meaning of Canadian Securities laws.

#### Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee was established on March 18, 2008 and assists the board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating the board of director's relationship with senior management. The Committee's role includes developing and monitoring the effectiveness of our system of corporate governance, assessing the effectiveness of individual directors, the board of directors, and various board committees, and is responsible for appropriate corporate governance and proper delineation of the roles, duties and responsibilities of management, the board of directors and its committees. The Committee is responsible for recommending to the board of directors a set of corporate governance principles and reviewing these principles at least once a year. The Committee oversees our investor relations and public relations activities. In addition, the Committee is responsible for identifying and recommending candidates qualified to become directors and board committee members and to ensure that an effective Chief Executive Officer succession plan is in place.

The members of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee are Madame Sophia Leung, Madame Liu Yingchun and Mr. He Fangzhen. Each member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is "independent" within the meaning of Canadian Securities laws.

## **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

On December 14, 2011, a putative class action lawsuit was filed against the Company, its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer ("defendants") in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. On January 26, 2012, a very similar putative class action lawsuit against the same defendants was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. These lawsuits were consolidated into a single case on March 21, 2012, and a consolidated complaint was filed on May 10, 2012. After the defendants moved to dismiss the consolidated complaint, the plaintiffs filed an amended consolidated complaint on March 15, 2013. The defendants filed a motion to dismiss the amended consolidated action with prejudice. The deadline to appeal this dismissal ruling has passed, and the judgment in defendants' favour has become final.

On August 31, 2012, the company was served with proposed class action law suits filed in the Supreme Court of British Columbia and in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice which named the Company, its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. A tolling agreement had been executed to hold these matters in abeyance pending developments in similar litigation in the United States. After the United States litigation was resolved in

GLG's favour, both the B.C. lawsuit and the Ontario lawsuit have been discontinued, bringing an end to the Canadian shareholder lawsuits.

The Company has commenced arbitration as Claimant against a US based stevia extract provider with whom it entered a one-time supply agreement (the "Agreement") in 2012 to provide a specific volume of product at set prices in 2012 and 2013. The purchaser refused to take delivery of the agreed to amount of product. As a result, the Company was unable to realize the anticipated revenues or profits from the sale or the Agreement, which significantly affected revenues in 2013. The dispute was set for hearing in October 2014 in a confidential arbitration process provided for under the Agreement, and has since been adjourned, pending amendment of the parties' pleadings. The hearing will be rescheduled for a date in 2015. The Company expects to be successful and recover damages in respect of the lost revenue from the product not purchased in accordance with the Agreement.

## INTERESTS OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS

Other than as disclosed herein, the Company is not aware of any material interest, direct or indirect, of (i) any shareholder that is a direct or indirect beneficial owner of, or who exercises control or direction over, more than 10% of the voting rights attached to the Common Shares, (ii) any of our directors or executive officers or our subsidiaries' directors or executive officers, or (iii) any associate or affiliate of any of the foregoing, in any transaction which has been entered into within the three most recently completed financial years or during the current financial year, that has materially affected or will materially affect the Company.

## AUDITORS, REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER AGENT

## **AUDITORS**

Davidson & Company, LLP was appointed as the auditors of the Corporation effective September 15, 2014.

## **TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR**

The Company's transfer agent and registrar is Computershare Trust Company of Canada at its principal offices at 510 Burrard Street, Second Floor, Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 3B9.

## **INTEREST OF EXPERTS**

The Corporation's auditors are Davidson & Company LLP, who have prepared an independent auditors' report dated March 31, 2015, in respect of the Corporation's consolidated financial statements as at December 31, 2014 and 2013. Davidson & Company has advised that they are independent with respect to the Corporation within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia and the rules of the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

# MATERIAL CONTRACTS

Except for contracts entered into in the ordinary course of business or as otherwise disclosed herein, there are no other material contracts entered into within the most recently completed financial year or before the most recently completed financial year that are still in effect.

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information, including directors' and officers' remuneration and indebtedness, principal holders of the Company's securities, options to purchase securities and interests of insiders in material transactions, where applicable, is contained in the most recent Management Proxy Circular dated May 27, 2013 for the Company's annual general meeting of shareholders that involves the election of directors to be held on June 27, 2013. Additional financial information is provided in the Company's most recent audited financial statements. A copy of these documents may be obtained upon request from the Chief Financial Officer or may be obtained from SEDAR at www.sedar.com under the company name, GLG Life Tech Corporation.

#### APPENDIX A

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

# GLG LIFE TECH CORPORATION (THE "COMPANY")

The Audit Committee (the "Committee") is a committee of the board of directors (the "Board") of the Company. The role of the Committee is to provide oversight of the Company's financial management and of the design and implementation of an effective system of internal financial controls as well as to review and report to the Board on the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, its subsidiaries and associated companies. This includes helping directors meet their responsibilities, facilitating better communication between directors and the external auditor, enhancing the independence of the external auditor, increasing the credibility and objectivity of financial reports and strengthening the role of the directors by facilitating in-depth discussions among directors, management and the external auditor. Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining those controls, procedures and processes and the Committee is appointed by the Board to review and monitor them. The Company's external auditor is ultimately accountable to the Board and the Committee as representatives of the Company's shareholders.

The Company shall provide appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, to permit the Committee to perform its duties under this Charter, to compensate its advisors and to compensate any registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of rendering or issuing an audit report or related work or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company. The Committee, at its discretion, has the authority to initiate investigations, and hire legal, accounting or other outside advisors or experts to assist the Committee, as it deems necessary to fulfill its duties under this Charter.

### **Duties and Responsibilities of the Audit Committee**

#### External Auditor

- To be directly and solely responsible, subject to shareholder approval, for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of any independent auditor (including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting) engaged by the Company for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work, with each such auditor reporting directly to the Committee.
- To obtain and review annually a report from the independent auditor describing (i) the independent auditor's internal quality-control procedures, (ii) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review or peer reviews or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the preceding five years respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm, and any steps taken to deal with such issues, and (iii) all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company.
- To review with the independent auditor any accounting adjustments that were noted or proposed by the independent auditor but that were "passed" (as immaterial or otherwise), and communications between the audit team and the independent auditor's national office respecting auditing or accounting issues presented by the engagement, and any "management" or "internal control" letter or schedule of unadjusted differences issued, or proposed to be issued, by the independent auditor to the Company, or any other material written communication provided by the independent auditor to the Company's management.
- To oversee the work of the external auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditor regarding financial reporting.

- To evaluate the audit services provided by the external auditor, pre-approve all audit fees and recommend to the Board, if necessary, the replacement of the external auditor.
- To pre-approve any non-audit services to be provided to the Company by the external auditor and the fees for those services.
- To review and approve the Company's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditor of the Company. The Committee has adopted the following guidelines regarding the hiring of any partner, employee, reviewing tax professional or other person providing audit assurance to the external auditor of the Company on any aspect of its certification of the Company's financial statements:
  - (a) No member of the audit team that is auditing a business of the Company can be hired into that business or into a position to which that business reports for a period of three years after the audit;
  - (b) No former partner or employee of the external auditor may be made an officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries for three years following the end of the individual's association with the external auditor;
  - (c) The CFO must approve all office hires from the external auditor; and
  - (d) The CFO must report annually to the Committee on any hires within these guidelines during the preceding year.
- To ensure that the head audit partner assigned by the external auditor to the Company, as well as the audit partner charged with reviewing the audit of the Company, are changed at least every five years, to consider issues related to the timing of such rotation and the transition to new lead and reviewing partners, and to consider whether, in order to assure continuing auditor independence, there should be regular rotation of the audit firm, and report any conclusions on these issues to the Board.
- To review with the independent auditor the critical accounting policies and practices used by the Company, all alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that the independent auditor has discussed with management, the ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor.
- To review, at least annually, the relationships between the Company and the external auditor in order to establish the independence of the external auditor.

## Financial Information and Reporting

- To review the Company's annual audited financial statements with the CEO and CFO and then the full Board.
- To review the interim financial statements with the CEO and CFO.
- To review and discuss with management and the external auditor, as appropriate:
  - (a) The annual audited financial statements and the interim financial statements, including the accompanying management discussion and analysis; and,
  - (b) Earnings guidance and other releases containing information taken from the Company's financial statements prior to their release.

- To review the quality and not just the acceptability of the Company's financial reporting and accounting standards and principles and any proposed material changes to them or their application.
- To review with the CFO any earnings guidance to be issued by the Company and any news release containing financial information taken from the Company's financial statements prior to the release of the financial statements to the public. In addition, the CFO must review with the Committee the substance of any presentations to analysts or rating agencies that contain a change in strategy or outlook.

## Oversight

- To review the internal audit staff functions, including:
  - (a) The purpose, authority and organizational reporting lines;
  - (b) The annual audit plan, budget and staffing; and
  - (c) The appointment and compensation of the controller, if any.
- To review with management its assessment of the effectiveness of and adequacy of the Company's internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting (the "Internal Controls"), review with the independent auditor the attestation to and report on the assessment made by management, and consider with management and the independent auditor whether any changes to the Internal Controls are appropriate in light of management's assessment or the independent auditor's attestation.
- To review and monitor the Company's major financial risks and risk management policies and the steps taken by management to mitigate those risks.
- To meet at least annually with management (including the CFO), the internal audit staff, and the external auditor in separate executive sessions and review issues and matters of concern respecting audits and financial reporting.
- To review with the CEO and CFO of the Company any report on significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the Internal Controls that could adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process, summarize or report financial data, any material weaknesses in Internal Controls identified to the auditors, and any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's Internal Controls.
- To review and approve any related-party transactions, after reviewing each such transaction for potential conflicts of interest and other improprieties.
- To establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters. To adopt, as necessary, appropriate remedial measures or actions with respect to such complaints or concerns.
- In connection with its review of the annual audited financial statements and interim financial statements, the Committee will also review the process for the CEO and CFO certifications (if required by law or regulation) with respect to the financial statements and the Company's disclosure and internal controls, including any material deficiencies or changes in those controls.

## <u>Membership</u>

- The Committee shall consist solely of three or more members of the Board, each of whom the Board has determined has no material relationship with the Company and is otherwise "unrelated" or "independent" as required under applicable securities rules or applicable stock exchange rules.
- Any member may be removed from office or replaced at any time by the Board and shall cease to be a member upon ceasing to be a director. Each member of the Committee shall hold office until the close of the next annual meeting of shareholders of the Company or until the member ceases to be a director, resigns or is replaced, whichever first occurs.
- The members of the Committee shall be entitled to receive such remuneration for acting as members of the Committee as the Board may from time to time determine.
- All members of the Committee must be "financially literate" (i.e., have the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements such as a balance sheet, an income statement and a cash flow statement). In addition, if required by applicable additional securities regulators or stock exchange rules, at least one member of the Committee shall qualify as a "financial expert" within the meaning of such rules and regulations.

## **Procedures**

- The Board shall appoint one of the directors elected to the Committee as the Chair of the Committee (the "Chair"). In the absence of the appointed Chair from any meeting of the Committee, the members shall elect a Chair from those in attendance to act as Chair of the meeting.
- The Chair will appoint a secretary (the "Secretary") who will keep minutes of all meetings. The Secretary does not have to be a member of the Committee or a director and can be changed by simple notice from the Chair.
- No business may be transacted by the Committee except at a meeting of its members at which a quorum of the Committee is present or by resolution in writing signed by all the members of the Committee. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, provided that if the number of members of the Committee is an even number, one-half of the number of members plus one shall constitute a quorum.
- The Committee will meet as many times as is necessary to carry out its responsibilities. Any member of the Committee or the external auditor may call meetings.
- The time and place of the meetings of the Committee, the calling of meetings and the procedure in all respects of such meetings shall be determined by the Committee, unless otherwise provided for in the bylaws of the Company or otherwise determined by resolution of the Board.
- The Committee shall have the resources and authority necessary to discharge its duties and responsibilities, including the authority to select, retain, terminate, and approve the fees and other retention terms (including termination) of special counsel, advisors or other experts or consultants, as it deems appropriate.
- The Committee shall have access to any and all books and records of the Company necessary for the execution of the Committee's obligations and shall discuss with the CEO or the CFO such records and other matters considered appropriate.
- The Committee has the authority to communicate directly with the internal and external auditors.

## Policy for Reporting Violations and Complaints

The Company's policy for reporting violations and complaints is attached as Annex A.

## **Reports**

- The Committee shall produce the following reports and provide them to the Board:
  - (d) An annual performance evaluation of the Committee, which evaluation must compare the performance of the Committee with the requirements of this Charter. The performance evaluation should also recommend to the Board any improvements to this Charter deemed necessary or desirable by the Committee. The performance evaluation by the Committee shall be conducted in such manner as the Committee deems appropriate. The report to the Board may take the form of an oral report by the Chair or any other member of the Committee designated by the Committee to make this report.
  - (c) A summary of the actions taken at each Committee meeting, which shall be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting.

## ANNEX A

## GLG LIFE TECH CORPORATION POLICY FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

## I. Introduction

One of our Company's most valuable assets is its integrity. Protecting this asset is the job of everyone in the Company. We have established the GLG Life Tech Corporation Code of Ethics to help our employees understand and comply with the laws and regulations applicable to our business and to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct. This policy is meant to supplement our Code of Ethics by encouraging employees to report any suspected violations or concerns as to compliance with laws, regulations, public disclosure requirements, our Code of Ethics or other Company policies, or any complaints or concerns regarding the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters.

## II. Obligation to Report Suspected or Actual Violations; Anonymous Reporting

#### A. Reporting Generally

It is every employee's obligation to report suspected or actual violations of laws, government rules and regulations, the Company's Code of Ethics or other Company policies. You should also report any suspected violations of the laws and rules that govern the reporting of the Company's financial performance, and any complaint or concern regarding the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls, public disclosure requirements, or auditing matters.

You may report any such matters directly to your supervisor or manager or by the procedures set forth below. As noted below, supervisors and managers are required to report to a Compliance Officer any time they receive a report of a concern about our compliance with laws, the Code of Ethics or other Company policy, any notice of any suspected wrong-doing by any Company employee, officer or director, or any complaint or concern about the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls, public disclosure or auditing matters. The Compliance Officers who should be notified are either of the following:

Brian Meadows President and Chief Financial Officer GLG Life Tech Corporation Suite 2168 – 1050 West Pender Street Vancouver, B.C., V6E 3S7 Canada

Georald Ingborg Legal Counsel of the Company Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP #2900 – 550 Burrard Street Vancouver, B.C., V6C 0A3 Canada

#### **III. Treatment and Retention of Complaints and Reports**

Each supervisor and manager shall report any suspected violation, concern or complaint reported to such person by employees or other sources to a Compliance Officer to assure proper treatment and retention of complaints, concerns or notices of potential violations. In addition, employees should take note that persons outside the Company may report complaints or concerns about suspected violations, or concerns regarding internal accounting controls, accounting or auditing matters. Any such concerns or complaints should be reported immediately on receipt to a Compliance Officer.

Supervisors and managers as well as the Compliance Officers shall promptly consider the information, reports or notices received by them under this policy or otherwise. The Compliance Officers shall take appropriate action, including investigation, if appropriate, in accordance with the law, governmental rules and regulations, the Company's Code of Ethics and otherwise consistent with good business practice.

Upon a report to a Compliance Officer, all notices or reports of suspected violations, complaints or concerns received pursuant to this policy shall be recorded in a log, indicating the description of the matter reported, the date of the report and the disposition thereof, and the log shall be retained for five years. The log shall be maintained by the Compliance Officers.

## **IV. Statement of Non-Retaliation**

It is a federal crime for anyone to retaliate intentionally against any person who provides truthful information to a law enforcement official concerning a possible violation of any federal law. Moreover, the Company will not permit any form of intimidation or retaliation by any officer, employee, contractor, subcontractor or agent of the Company against any employee because of any lawful act done by that employee to:

- provide information or assist in an investigation regarding any conduct which the employee reasonably believes constitutes a violation of laws, rules, regulations, the Company's Code of Ethics, or any Company policies; or
- file, testify, participate in, or otherwise assist in a proceeding relating to a violation of any law, rule or regulation.

Any such action is a violation of Company policy and should be reported immediately under this policy.

#### V. Statement of Confidentiality

The Company will, to the extent reasonably possible, keep confidential both the information and concerns reported under this policy, and its discussions and actions in response to those reports and concerns. In the course of its investigation, however, the Company may find it necessary to share information with others on a "need to know" basis.