# Experiences of Salvest Ltd. exporting to China in the post-COVID era

Martin Flink



## Salvest – 74 years of food production history

- Established in 1946 as a state owned company, privatized in early 90s.
- Owner Mr. Veljo Ipits
- CEO Ms. Triin Kõrgmaa
- Main products canned food (soups, vegetables, baby food, smoothies etc.)
- Number of employees 190



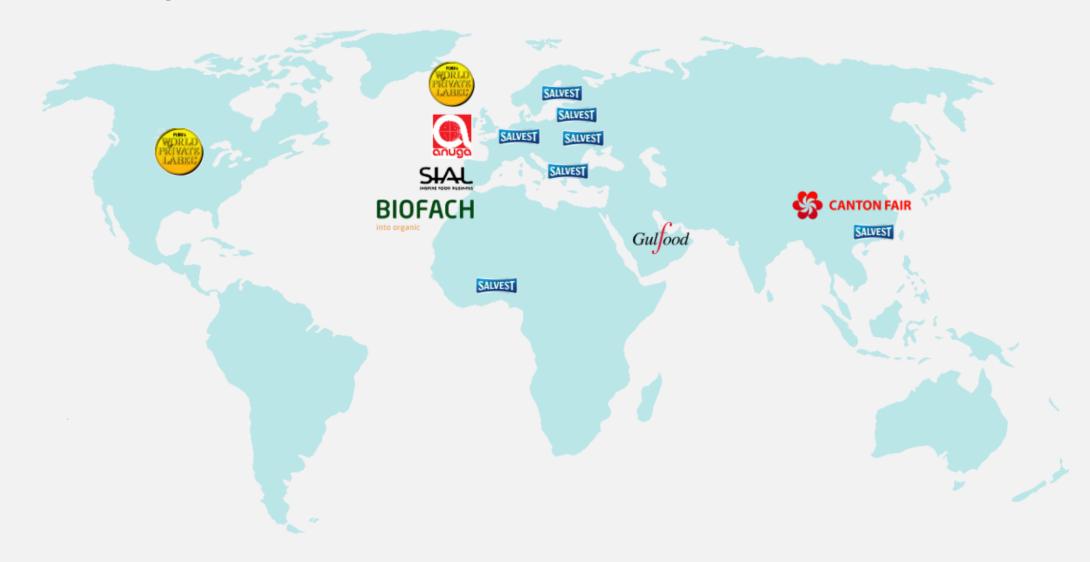
#### **Portfolio**







#### Main export markets and exhibitions





#### China baby food tragedy in 2008

- 300,000 children were poisoned and six babies were killed after drinking infant milk formula that contained melamine, a chemical used in plastic.
- China's parents haunted by melamine baby milk scandal still favour foreign brands. South China Morning Post 22.02.2020.
  - Foreign brands are seen as "way more trustworthy" and this reputation is likely to last for very long time
- Ten years after China's infant milk tragedy, parents still won't trust their babies to local formula. Quartz 2018



#### Our first steps in entering the Chinese market

- 2015 Canton Fair in Guangzhou
  - focused on the internal market
  - few contacts
  - new partners from EU market
- Entering the Chinese market was put on hold.





#### Next steps

- More and more examples of EU baby food brands entering the Chinese market.
  - Little Freddie entered the market in 2015, quickly became one of the topselling baby food brands in China.
- We needed a local agent from our own network we found one.
  - Couple of meetings, setting the strategy ect.





#### Next steps

- On 11th of October 2019 meeting in Estonia with Yiming food co,.ltd.
  - Key to success be an excellent host!
- In January 2020 meeting in China with New Born Group.
- First container agreement signed with Yiming in April 2020.
- Container sent out in the beginning of June, arrived in the end of August.

















### Thank you for listening!

Martin Flink

Martin.Flink@salvest.ee

